



A Welcoming, Come-As-You-Are, Christ-Centered Community Church

Agate Windows Newsletter

And I will make thy windows of agates Isaiah 54:12

NOVEMBER 2018 EXTRA

Friendship Groups at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center

Saturday, November 3, YCPC Friendship Groups got together for a "field trip" to the 2017 Fall Creek Festival of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. (continued on page 2)



The outing included crowding in for peak inside a tent studying fish crowding, constructing wind chimes, and painting fish. In addition to workshops, lunch was provided by The Thyme Garden.



YCPC Friendship Groups. Depending on the number of people who wish to participate, there are 8 to 10 people in each group, and the members are changed periodically. Each Friendship Group tries to meet monthly for an activity—the date, time and place are decided by each group.

Questions? Interested? See Pam Luderitz.



Flickers from the Flame

Jon Nestor

The Merchant in the Marketplace (Part #1)

Merchants conduct business. The marketplace is where the merchant conducts her/his business. Whenever the issue of the church in the world comes up, I often think that the church in the world is much like the merchant in the marketplace. For instance, the church has a mission. That's like the merchant having a product to sell. For another example, the church has an agenda. That's like the merchant having a plan for selling her/his products. For a third example, the church has an ethical stance. That's like the merchant declaring how she/he intends to expedite her/his plan to sell her/his products. There are many more ways of drawing these comparisons.

Of the three examples mentioned above, the most important is the church's ethical stance (how the merchant plans to sell her/his products). Essentially, while the other considerations are important, they pale in comparison to how business is conducted. Arguably, how business is conducted – especially the practice of compassion – is the distinguishing mark of the church in the world. However, because the church's business is conducted by human beings, the challenge of carrying out business in the church is no different than (is under the control of the same forces at play in) conducting business in the world. This means that whether the church maintains its distinction from the world depends on whether people representing the church avoid submitting to these common forces.

Should the church maintain its distinction from the world? Some would say that the church is already not distinct from the world, and that to claim – let alone aim - for such a distinction is hypocritical on the part of people in the church. After all, people are people. Others will say that the church's responsibility is to be distinct from the world. On the one hand, these statements come from people who have experienced (or know someone who has experienced) unfair treatment in the world. They are looking for a different model to live by than that offered by the world and expect the church to set that example. On the other hand, these statements come from people in the church who, in effect, say "We can do a better job of addressing that issue than the world can." That's because they're aware of, have experienced, and to varying extents live in a New Dimension.

(To be continued next month.)

New Directory of YCPC Members and Friends

Jeannine will soon begin work on a new Directory of Members and Friends.

Please e-mail Jeannine at agatechurch@peak.org . . . IF . . .

- ◆ You have changes/corrections for your listing;
- ◆ You are not in the current directory but would like to be in the new one;
- ◆ You don't wish to be listed in the new directory; or
- ◆ You have any questions.



Sunday, December 9, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
YCPC Annual Community Christmas Concert

December 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship

For some, the wonder, joy and celebration of Christmas with its carols, parties, decorating, baking, gift-giving, and family time, can be overwhelming.

It can be a difficult time of intense sorrow and loneliness for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. We offer this special service of remembrance of those loved ones, of hope and assurance that the Lord is with us at these difficult times and longs for our healing to come through the love of God in Jesus Christ.



Thursday Evening Advent Study, December 6, 13 and 20, 6:00 p.m.



Join us Thursday evenings during Advent as we examine, the “Advent Conspiracy” as posed by the book *Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?* by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder.

Advent Conspiracy shows how to substitute consumption with compassion by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts:

- Worship Fully because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!
- Spend Less and free your resources for things that truly matter.
- Give More of your presence: your hands, words, time, heart.
- Love All: the poor, forgotten, marginalized, and sick in ways that make a difference.

A light supper will be provided.