

Believers

FELLOWSHIP



EPI

GALA

SUCCESS!!!

W

This year's student ministries Gala was a success! The evening was full of laughs, photo opportunities, and great food! There were bidding wars but all of the hippies in the area encouraged them to make peace, not war! There was awareness made about the summer ministries at Believers Fellowship through the Middle School and High School students putting on skits about Summer camp and the Mission trip to San Francisco. Some would measure the success in numbers...like the 150+ people that were there, or the over 14,500 dollars raised! But I see the success in one of our students mentioning something like this...

hat a night!

"I don't know some of you (talking to the adults present), and that's a shame! Its my fault that I haven't left my comfort zone to know you and befriend you. I look forward to doing yard work so that I can get to know you more!"



Yuri Knighten

That made the night a success! Thank you to all of you who could join us for the evening, it was truly remarkable to see God provide for the summer ministries in a BIG way! But how great was it that we could rub shoulders and be goofy in a multigenerational church!



Amiee & Bill Hayes

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Issue 2

April/May 2012

Believers Fellowship

4112 Hunt St NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

(253) 851-9286

www.believersfellowship.net

Good Friday Service

April 6th at 7:00 pm

Easter Services

April 8th at 8:00, 9:30 am & 11:00 am



Little girls all dressed up on a date with their daddy—does it get any cuter than that? With a soda fountain, sock hop, games & crafts, our bi-yearly event provided opportunities for about 50 sets of dads and daughters to make memories. Grandpas got in on it, too! So fun!



Top to bottom, L to R:
 Morgan & Finley Hepfer,
 Yvonne Edmonson, Allan
 Cail & Isabel, Rich &
 Janelle Repp, Chris &
 Olivia Scime, Jason &
 Katie Bodnar, Scott &
 Coco Teodoro



Children's Ministries at Believers Fellowship

15 YEARS OF FUNDRAISING FOR JOSH ON THE GO

DEEDEE LOUX

Team Josh on the Go is celebrating a big milestone this spring. Family and friends have been a part of raising money for research and development for the Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk for the past 15 years and Believers Fellowship has been a large participant for many of those years. The CF Great Strides Walk will be **Saturday, May 5th** in Gig Harbor—Cushman Trail/Park Plaza building at 10:00 am.

**Our team goal is:
\$15,000 for 15 years!!!**

This year's walk is especially meaningful as we celebrate our 15 year milestone, but also in light of the AMAZING progress that has been made in research recently. A new drug, Kalydeco, was made available in March to those who carry a particular mutation of the CF gene (a small percentage of the CF population), and it essentially relieves the patient of CF symptoms.

This is beyond exciting for the CF community! Another drug is in the research and development stage, which will do the same thing for the majority of CF patients. Research and development are made possible by fundraising and walks like ours. It's exciting to know we are a part of something that is impacting and changing lives!

For years our hearts have ached as new babies/patients have been diagnosed with CF...our desire is to make it stop and for other kids like Josh to live a normal and healthy life, free of the myriad of medications and treatments they must endure each day. We have witnessed firsthand this last year, the fury of CF as it waged war on Josh and has left another close CF friend waiting on a transplant list for new lungs.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may

spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:23-24

Please join Team Josh on the Go in making a difference and celebrating 15 years of WALKING on Saturday, May 5th. Help us reach our team goal of raising \$15,000!!! You can register to walk or make a donation online at www.cff.org/great_strides/deedeeloux or call for more information: 253-858-1869. Thanks for your love and support throughout the years!



Deedee Loux

A ROUTINE TASK

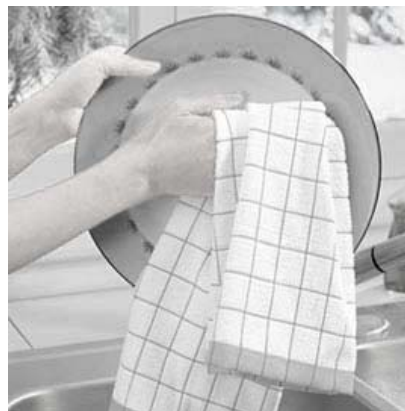
SUE WRIGHT

Sometimes even the most mundane of life's tasks can become something that is decidedly more than mundane. For instance, how many times in the many (okay, *very* many) years of my life have I picked up a towel to dry off a freshly washed pan? Who counts? It is part of the routine of life, a task so ordinary that one's mind cannot help but wander while the hands work. This time, however, as I carefully polished the pan dry with my towel I actually thought about what I was doing.

I marveled how I have never really appreciated that I even own a pan, let alone a nice shiny one. Who is ever grateful for a fry pan?? (Try cooking without one or cooking in one that is warped!) The same generous, thoughtful Father who provided my pan has also provided soap and water to clean it, a towel to dry it, and the detergent and water to later wash the towel. The pan

had needed cleaning because I cooked food for dinner – food that was also a gift, provided in plenty.

Yes, we say grace before our meals, offering thanks both for the food and



"hands that prepare it," but do we remember that the "hands that prepare it" also include the hands that prepare the soil, plant the seed, till, water and

harvest? How about the hands that drive the harvest to the cannery or market? How about the hands that work a cash register at the grocery store? I don't think of all of these hands when I say grace, but God is intimately aware of each and every one.

As I dry my pan, I am awed once again at how unobservant I am of the sheer volume of God's blessings and His humility in consistently providing for every need when most of the time there is no gratitude nor thanks because this recipient is blindingly unaware. Sometimes He teaches using very ordinary things, such as a towel and fry pan, or a towel and basin of water....

ON MISSION 2012

MATT EDWARDS

We just finished a sermon series on the Patriarchs called *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*. I really enjoyed diving into the world of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph to see how God uses imperfect people. I was challenged and stretched as I studied the lives of these great men, and I hope you were, too.

God began his relationship with Abraham by telling him, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3 ESV). God blessed Abraham *so that* he might be a blessing to others, and He promised that *all of the families of the earth* would be blessed through Abraham. Theologians call God's mission to bless the earth the *missio Dei*, Latin for "the mission of God."

We believe that God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Abraham's descendant Jesus (Galatians 3:16). When Jesus rose from the dead, He sent forth the Holy Spirit and created a new humanity, called the church. The church has been entrusted with the *missio Dei*, as God seeks to bless all people through the reign of his Son Jesus.

We take this mission seriously, and we believe it has two parts. First, it means living out the kingdom of God as if Jesus were already king. Second, it means announcing to all people Jesus' death and resurrection, and challenging them to become a follower of the coming King. While what goes on within the walls of Believers Fellowship is important, we never want that to be *all* that we are about.

We are on mission.

There is a lot going on in the next few months, so I wanted to take a minute to let you know how you can get involved in the *missio Dei* outside of the walls of Believers Fellowship.

Habitat for Humanity of Pierce County

Habitat for Humanity of Pierce County is building two houses in Gig Harbor this year, and we have the opportunity to bless our community by helping with both.

Homelessness and substandard housing *are* issues in Gig Harbor, and Habitat for Humanity leads the way in helping people get into affordable homes. Homeowners are selected based on income and need, and they are required to put in 500 hours of "sweat equity" as part of purchasing their home.

Habitat builds are fun and rewarding! You can contribute meaningfully regardless of your skill level. Plus, working side by side with another person is a great way to get to know them. Look for sign-up sheets in the upcoming weeks. Builds will be on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer.



For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Pierce County, go to <http://www.tpc-habitat.org/>.

Tacoma Youth for Christ

Tacoma Youth for Christ (YFC) is looking for small group leaders and those willing to bless the youth of Tillicum by serving dinner at the Tillicum Youth and Family Center.

Tacoma YFC built the Youth and Family Center to transform the community of Tillicum by investing in its youth. Tillicum is one of the poorest areas in Pierce County, and many of the youth there encounter dysfunctional families, drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence daily. The center is a safe place for youth to drop in for after-school programs, meals, mentoring, Bible studies, and recreation.



The Tillicum Youth and Family Center is a great way to make a difference in

the life of a teen who may not have many adults caring for him or her. We have a team that makes meals for their after school program. They are also looking for small group leaders.

Contact Matt Edwards (matt@believersfellowship.net) to get involved.

For more information about Tacoma Youth for Christ, go to www.tacomayfc.org.

Continued on next page

ON MISSION 2012 *CONTINUED*

4US

This summer, 4US has two main events raising money to purchase ultrasound machines for crisis pregnancy centers.

Studies show that 96% of pregnant women who see an ultrasound of their baby choose life. These medical instruments are invaluable to pregnancy centers, but they are very expensive. 4US is a bike ride, run, and walk that raises money to purchase ultrasound machines for centers like Care Net.

The first 4US event this year is The Beat, a concert featuring Addison Road and SuperChick. The show is at Fort Steilacoom on July 27th, and the proceeds benefit 4US. Tickets are \$20 ahead of time and \$25 at the gate.



The second 4US event is their flagship bike, run, and walk. This year it is on July 28th at Fort Steilacoom. It's a great course and the weather is sure to be beautiful! Go to <https://www.4us.org/events/2012-4us-flagship-event> to register, and make sure you join the Believers Fellowship team!

For more information about 4US, go to www.4us.org.

FH Bolivia

This summer, we are building a childcare center in Ushpa Ushpa to give the kids there a chance to have a childhood.

We are in the third year of a ten-year, Community-2-Community relationship with Ushpa Ushpa through Food for the Hungry (FH). Ushpa Ushpa is an impoverished periurban area on the outskirts of Cochabamba, Bolivia. FH works with kids, teaching them biblical principles and life skills, to help them break out of the cycle of poverty.

We will be in Bolivia July 10-18. The team is set, but you can pray for us and for the FH staff.

There will be a recap of the trip on September 2, when you will have the opportunity to sponsor a kid in Ushpa Ushpa through FH. We will

return to Ushpa Ushpa in 2013. We would love to have you on the team, and if you sponsor a kid you can meet him or her on the trip!

For more information about Food for the Hungry, go to www.fh.org.

I am excited about what the summer holds for Believers Fellowship! It's been awesome to partner with such amazing organizations. I hope you take advantage of the opportunity to get involved.

Finally, I want to remind you that 100% of our Easter offering will go toward supporting these and other organizations. We are committed to the *missio Dei* in Gig Harbor, Pierce County, and beyond, and we hope you join us on the mission!



Matt Edwards

FISH Food Bank

Daniel Ortiz

Daniel Ortiz's Senior Project!

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Fish Food Bank is in need of your help! Donations have been at a low and the community needs your help. A food drive is being set up in order to fill the need of donations.

There is a red bin with plastic bags that have the food bank's information as far as what the food bank needs. Take as many bags as you want distribute them to your friends and neighbors. The



food drive will be held through the **12th of April**. Thank you for serving your community.

If you have any questions contact Daniel Ortiz at 253-381-4413.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



GRANDPARENTS

EMILY ROY

My friend's four year old son, Gavin, was looking through a photo album with his grandma of pictures from his birth. They came upon a photo of her holding him for the first time. "Grandma," Gavin asked, "is that when you fell in love with me?" "Oh yes, Gavin, that is when I fell in love with you." "I'm falling in love with you too, Grandma," Gavin said.

Such sweet words. Such beauty in this relationship between child and grandparent. Someone once said that had there been no grandparents, children still would have invented them. This relationship is so precious and paramount; children would create it of their own accord. Children sense that perhaps their grandparent doesn't have to love them like their parents do so it is a greater gift, the love of a grandparent. And as a grandparent, life has taught you that time is fleeting and that the only way to capture it is to slow down and so you do. You focus on what is important. Children long to feel important. Nobody shows a child they are important better than a grandparent. Wisdom has shown



you that you can't manipulate a person to be who you want them to be and so in the arms of a grandparent a child is free. Free to share opinions, express thoughts, try on new ideas and discover themselves - but above the safety net of someone they know won't let them fall. Grandparents are the first to acknowl-

edge and accept growth in a child. Because you don't see your grandchild every day, you are quicker to recognize their subtle changes and delight in them. A grandparent can teach just by sharing. To a child you

are so old you have actually stopped being irrelevant because you are living history. Who better to teach them about the Vietnam War? That bulbs should be planted in clumps not rows? As a grandparent you are an unconditional friend, trusted confidant and supplier of all things sticky and delicious. Grandma. Grandpa. Nana. Papa. Tutu. Boppy. I even know a "Lillie" and a "Grandma Spike"! Whoever you decide to be, you are a gift to a child wrapped in laugh

lines, floured aprons, a ready lap and a tight squeeze.

There is no right or wrong way to be a grandparent where there is love. I think about my children's three sets of grandparents and two GiGi's (Great Grandma's), each of them could write the book on grandparenting. We are so blessed by them. They are vastly different from one another in their grandparenting style but for the thread of love that weaves its way into the lives of each of my children.

Fall in love. Someone's small beating heart will steal yours away completely.

*Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild.
~Welsh Proverb*



Emily Roy

This article was published in Vintage Magazine in May of 2011.

THANKS MOM!

Dad came home to find toys all over the living room, dirty dishes stacked in the sink, clothes piled in the laundry room, beds unmade and kids still in their pajamas. The house was a wreck, like nothing he'd seen before.

Worried, Dad rushed upstairs to find Mom reading a book in bed. "Are you okay?" he asked. "What happened?"

"You know how you always ask what I do all day?" Mom replied. "Well, today I decided not to do it."

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."

To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

NEW FACES AMONG US

“Trust in the *Lord* with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. —Proverbs 3:5-6

This is the verse that comes to mind as I reflect on the journey God has taken my wife Sara and I on over the past few years. At times I wonder just how we did it as some relationships would have broken in the face of the many challenges we faced early on.

Both born and raised in Iowa, Sara and I met a little over 5 years ago during our first year of medical school at Des Moines University in Iowa. As medical students, we had the pleasure of taking many of the same classes that first year of school. Eventually, my attention became focused on the beautiful podiatry student that was always late to class carrying her usual cup of coffee to get her through the endless morning lectures that medical school demands. What started out as casual conversation quickly became lab partners and eventually something much more serious. I'll never forget the day when our relationship first began. It was April 8th, 2007, Easter Sunday, and it was our first date. You might be thinking, wow, you fell in love on your first date and eventually "lived happily ever after"? Not exactly. Sure I was excited and nervous to take that beginning step in a relationship but with the constant pressures and demands of medical school, neither of us was entirely sure if we could handle a relationship on top of the already present burdens medical school was throwing our way. Despite the doubts and fears that I had, I took the invitation Sara and her family offered me to join them that Easter Sunday but to my surprise, another relationship was about to begin as well. It was during this day that I would turn my life over to Christ.

My relationship with God and my desire to learn more about my new Christian faith grew exponentially along with a blossoming of sorts with Sara's and my relationship. Her patience tenderly

guided me with the endless questions I had for my growing faith. My innocence was also a means I believe for challenging Sara's beliefs allowing her to grow stronger in her faith. She had grown up in a strong Christian home as an only child and went to Christian schools her whole life. I, on the other hand, grew up in a Catholic home and went to a Catholic elementary school, but quickly abandoned any sort of relationship with God when I entered high school and college. It



wasn't until I was 24 years old that the Lord opened my heart and filled me with the Holy Spirit to accept him into my life. As my faith grew, a foundation was being laid for what would be the base and support for our relationship and the journey we were about to embark on together. It wasn't long before we were attempting to spend every waking hour with each other at school or the countless hours at night studying together. However, as our relationship became more serious, the pressures of graduation and residency were looming in the distance. Our faith and trust in God that we would be together were challenged many times as doubts would always linger as a result of the unknown future of where we would continue our respective medical training. To complicate things further, prior to meeting Sara and shortly after starting medical school, I joined the Navy and was commissioned shortly thereafter. As a result, following my time in medical school, I was obligated to a 7 year commitment in the years to follow.

Knowing all of this, Sara remained committed to our relationship and the inevitable struggles that we were to face, including our eventual separation from family and friends in Iowa.

As medical school progressed, our commitment and love for each other was becoming inseparable and we were going to do anything to be together. Exactly two years from our first date, on Easter Sunday, I asked Sara to be my wife and continue the path that was being set for us by God. Later that year, within a month's timeframe we would be married, graduate medical school, take a honeymoon, and move to Washington to begin our respective residencies (Family Medicine at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton; Podiatry at St. Francis in Federal Way) and marriage with little support from family and friends. How we ended up with residencies near each other is a story in and of itself. All I can say is God

is awesome and took a near impossible situation and made it possible. With Sara and I working in near opposite directions, Gig Harbor was really the only logical place to live as it divided our respective commutes equally in half. Eventually, after desperate searching, we came across a townhome that would be our first home. It was this townhome, however, that would eventually lead us to the wonderful community of Believer's Fellowship. Our new neighbors were the Bergstrom family. Sam and Linnea and their two beautiful children Soren and Eva were so inviting and showed us tremendous love and support. It wasn't long after asking about local churches that we came to find out that Sam was a member of the worship team at BF and they invited us to the church to see what it was all about. From that moment on, a bond was formed and our relationships within the church grew exponentially as we began getting plugged into small groups.

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Believers Fellowship Youthline

(253) 851-9291

Available 24 hours daily with current information. also...Check out our website at believersfellowship.net

High School - Johnny Pearson

Middle School - Scott Schubert

Believers Fellowship exists to glorify God by living and sharing the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. If you desire more information about who we are, how we started, our faith and our ministries, please pick up an introduction brochure from the Welcome Desk in the foyer or call the office. If you call while we are away from the office or both lines are busy, you will be connected to our voice mail system. Please leave a message so we can call you back to answer any questions you may have.

Office hours: Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

(253) 851-9286

Believers Fellowship Youthline

(253) 851-9291

Available 24 hours daily with current information.

Website: believersfellowship.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BelieversFellowshipGH

NEW FACES AMONG US - CONTINUED

DAVID & SARA ZELINSKAAS

Our first group shortly after beginning our walk at BF was a marriage group led by John and Cindy Pleau. As newlyweds, we felt this would be a good opportunity to meet other young adults and grow spiritually within our marriage. Little did we know that our two months of marriage would be dwarfed by the hundreds of years of marriage experience by the other couples in the group. It was such a wonderful experience to witness such incredible marriages and learn from their wealth of experiences. I don't know if we contributed much to the group other than providing some of that "young love" we spoke of but we will never forget the guidance the Pleau's and the other couples provided us in those early months.

Since that time, we have continued to meet so many amazing individuals within the church despite our busy schedules as resident physicians. An incredible amount of love and support was evident recently when Sara and I welcomed God's newest addition to our family, Charley Mae who was born on January 30th. We are still so amazed at how blessed we are to have such a loving community at BF. We would like to thank everyone for all love, support, and gifts toward our growing family. It will be

tough to leave Gig Harbor next summer following the completion of our residencies as we must go to where the Navy sends us. However, we will never forget Believer's Fellowship and the community of Gig Harbor and will really miss it. We trust that God will



continue to bless our path in the coming years as BF will always have a special place in our heart as our "first home" as a family.