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OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY



There are moments in life that can change you forever. Kelly and I got to experience one of those moments in 2000 when we attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Bavaria; neither of us had previously spent such a concentrated, artistically stimulating and spiritually challenging time focused on Jesus' death and resurrection – it is powerful.

The Passion Play Story: A Promise Kept Through the Ages. “In 1633 the Black Plague swept through Europe leaving in its wake untold misery, panic and hunger. In a small village nestled amidst Germany’s Bavarian Alps, the townspeople of Oberammergau made a solemn vow to God that if they were spared from this plague they would present a day-long play every 10 years depicting the last week in the life of Christ. Since the first play was performed in 1634, the villagers have kept their promise and will again present their Passion Play Masterpiece in 2010.”

Kelly and I are excited to offer you some moments like ours as the 2010 Passion Play draws closer. We are hosting a trip to The Passion Play July 16-27, 2010. We will be touring the most historically significant cities in Italy, experiencing the beauty of Bavaria, including the Passion Play, and concluding our journey in the breathtaking city of Lucerne, Switzerland. We anticipate an adventure where we all grow spiritually, connect with history and have a lot of fun in the process. Make plans now to join us and let’s share some moments that could change us forever. Brochures about this trip are available on the information counter.. Please contact either Cindy Berger, administrative assistant or me at Mountain Park Church.

Gregg Borrer
Senior Pastor



May 31, 11 AM, Gym



The MPC offices and facility will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day



Mother's Day
May 10



Hymn Sing
May 31
12 to 1:30 PM

FAMILY NEWS

VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER: Myrna Soule



Myrna found the Lord in Sunday School when she was 6 years old and gave her life to Him at camp when she was 12. She met her husband, Tom, in the 7th grade, and they got married between their junior and senior years in college. Myrna had begun at Whittier, but transferred to Westmont College, where she received a BA in Education. She got a call from her childhood school in La Puente, asking her to come and teach a 4th grade class there. She ended up teaching 6th grade instead, then middle school for three years, and then Tom was drafted and sent to Germany in 1962. She went with him, pregnant with their first child, and taught GIs, many of whom had never finished middle school, or high school. When her mother became very ill, the Red Cross sent Myrna home to California to care for her. Myrna was now 25 years old, with two children. Her youngest sister was five years old, and with the death of their mother, Myrna got custody of her sister and raised her as her own.

Tom had finished his military obligation by now and was head of the Art Department at Westmont College, so Myrna brought her kids with her to teach preschool for three or four years. Then she was asked to teach a variety of age groups at a Christian school in Santa Barbara, where she found children she didn't know how to teach. This was in the early 1970's and there was a growing awareness about learning disabilities, so Myrna began to explore other teaching methods to reach these children by observing others – one example was a teacher who used the Orton-Gillingham method at Juvenile Hall with good results. She took a course at night and eventually received her Masters in Special Education from the University of Santa Clara in San Jose. Myrna had five children by now, because in 1977, they had adopted Caleb, a mixed race, “hard to place” six-week old baby.

Myrna received an offer to teach at a private school for children with learning disabilities in the Bay Area, so they moved the family there and Tom went to Berkley to get his doctorate. During their 15 years there, Myrna earned her second Masters degree, this one in Public Administration, and opened her own private school, Stellar Academy, in Fremont. She had seven Westmont college kids living with them, ran Vacation Bible School, sang in the choir, and taught all ages of Sunday School, too! Whew!

They moved to Oregon in 1989 because two of their daughters had married Oregonians. In the process of obtaining her certification to teach here, Myrna tutored 28 students and eventually created Woodmont School for Dyslexics to accommodate 30 students. She hired two other teachers, but they had no classroom, so they taught outside in Washington Park for three weeks before they were offered the use of the Catholic Rectory at St. Claire's. She and Tom came to MPC on Pastor Gregg's first day preaching, after having shopped around at twelve different churches. Unfortunately, after 43 years of marriage, Tom left her. But the church family here rallied around her, gave her love and support and she continues to serve in many ministries today. She is involved in Awana, Women's Bible Study, Community Group, choir, and is a Pastor Prayer Partner. She has been on the board of directors for the Learning Disability Association of America for six years, and treasurer for two years. She is also president of Learning Disabilities of Oregon, which supplies families with resources. Myrna has proven to be a very resourceful woman, and we are honored to have her as a member of the MPC family.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

DONUTS & GAMES

Saturday, May 2, from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PM, we'll be making raised donuts with every member of your family participating. While we wait for the donuts to rise, we'll play some fun family games in the gym. This will be a great event to bring friends with you. Please call Lynne Dee and Larry Bricker at 503-452-4588 to RSVP. Then we'll know how much dough to make and each family can take home their leftover donuts. Nursery care will be provided for children under 3.



May 31, 2009 **Portland Christian Center**
7-9pm **thriveyouth.net/merge**

RENT-A-TEEN

Rent-A-Teen, the youth group's annual spring fundraiser, started last Sunday, April 19. They would love your help. Visit them at the table in the lobby. You tell them when to come and what to do when they get there and they'll take care of the rest. All donated funds go toward their service trip to Esperanza, B.C.

May Events Calendar

May 2, Saturday

Donuts & Family Games,
5:45 PM to 7:30 PM,
Family Center

May 7, Thursday

Awana, Awards Night
for Cubbies, Trek & Journey,
6:30 PM
(Regular club for Sparks and T&T)

Thursday, May 14

Awana, Awards Night
for Sparks and T&T, 6:30 PM

Sunday, May 17

Awana planning meeting
for Great Wolf Lodge,
12:15 to 2 PM

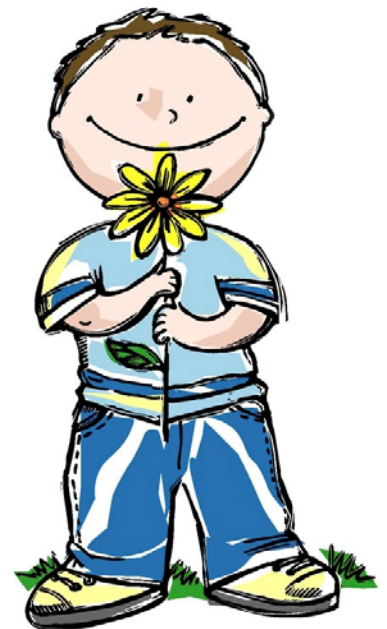
Saturday, May 30-31

Awana Handbook Completion
Camp at Great Wolf Lodge
(T&T, Trek, Journey)

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

On Sunday, May 10, we pray for and celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, friends, and all of the women of MPC who illuminate our paths, literally and figuratively, every day. While I could fill an entire page with my own personal thanks and praise, I give voice, instead, to the children of MPC who collectively praise their Moms for being: "good cooks, kind, caring, playful, nice, athletic, genius, prayerful, and (my favorites) lovers of fireworks and clean bedrooms." Space constraints limit me to a couple of specific quotes, but straight across the board our mothers make us "smile and laugh while they wipe away our tears when we are sad or hurt, and they always make time to play and take us to our favorite places." Joshua Bell's favorite memories of his mom, Christina, involve a trip to China to meet family and explore his heritage, while Vincent Dingman describes his mom, Terrell, as "his favorite teacher, spiritual, and a talented Lego architect." Victoria Espinoza reminds us how important it is to express our love and appreciation for the special women in our lives when she wrote these words to her mom, Susana, "Thanks so much for introducing me to music. It has helped me so much!" However you choose to remember the extraordinary women in your life on Mother's Day, don't forget that a smile, a hug, and a prayer on their behalf are gifts all of them will treasure and remember!



Thanks Mom!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY:

The Four Best Places to Live

Are you aware that Portland has often made the Top 10 Best Places to Live list? Recently, while on a trip, I sat with a young man from New Orleans who was headed west to Portland because he had heard what a wonderful place it is to bike, hike and work.

Beginning May 26, Women's Ministries will begin a four session study of the "Four Best Places to Live." You will need to come and find out where those places are. Bring a friend to a great time of making new friends with great women, of being in the Word and of learning a new life skill.

Some of the questions we will be looking at are: Where are the best places to live according to the Bible? What are God's criteria for determining that? Where do we become the most alive, most fully ourselves? Where do we find the greatest joy, peace and wisdom? Where do we experience the deepest sense of belonging? Where is it safe and yet abounding with adventure? Where do true riches reside?

You will not want to miss this four week study which requires no homework and each unit stands alone. You may come to all or just one, as time allows. Join us on Tuesday mornings, May 26, June 2, June 9, and June 16, from 9:15-11:30 a.m. in the Family Center Fireside Room. Child care provided at time of registration only. Register on May 17 and 26 or the week prior to each study. Cost varies per week.

CONNECTIONS: Bunco Rescheduled

Our last Bunco evening was cancelled due to snow. On Tuesday, May 12, Women's Ministries will host another Bunco evening. Those of you who have played know all the fun and laughter that goes on in this non-thinking game! It is a great mixer and it is always fun to meet new women as you rotate through the tables. Bring a snack to share, and a friend, and join us, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Family Center Fireside Room. If you have any questions, call Gloria Bremner at 503-635-3319.



LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

USED BOOKS WANTED (Christian, secular, fiction, etc.) for a book sale in June. Drop off your boxes anytime in front of the library door. The office staff is also available to open the library door, so boxes are not out in the open. Attach a post-it with your name on the boxes, if you want to receive a donation receipt. Questions? Contact Patti Russell at 971-244-2544 or library@mtnparkchurch.org



LOVE INC

LOVE INC GOLF BENEFIT

We are pleased to announce the First Annual Love INC Golf Benefit to raise funds and awareness to help the less fortunate in Clackamas County. This exciting and fun-filled event will be held Friday, June 26 at the Charbonneau Golf Club in Wilsonville. Please join us to show your support to this worthy and important cause. Please feel free to contact the Love INC office at 503-655-4223 or info@clackamasloveinc.org with your questions, to volunteer for the Golf Committee or to register by phone.

EASTER ALL YEAR



Who of us as little children didn't wish we could have Halloween (or any holiday) all year 'round. Think about it: The idea of traipsing around from one stranger's house to another, pillow case open like the jaws of a wide-mouthed frog eagerly preparing to capture its next meal, the weight of several pounds of candy – from Jolly Ranchers to full-sized Three Musketeers bars – weighing heavily upon tiny frames, hardly noticed because of the anticipation of mouthwatering tastes and flavors to come... is staggering.

Little Johnny, who normally wouldn't walk from the dining table to deliver his empty cereal bowl to the nearby kitchen sink, is suddenly motivated to walk, even briskly, for up to several hours in order to procure his Halloween booty of miniature chocolate bars and hard fruity candy that in the end explode in your mouth with something so fizzy and sour, common words cannot describe.

So, why all this allusion to Halloween? Though the holiday is certainly derived from secular, if not pagan traditions, for some it is no doubt all about the hope and attainment of something that can transport the average participant and his taste buds out of the routine doldrums of life to a higher level of enjoyment and satisfaction, albeit temporarily. It is a "high," a "rush."

Now, for a moment, let's compare this rush that one may experience in the anticipation of savoring tasty treats to the realities of the hope and impact of Jesus Christ crucified, then risen from the dead to secure for those who believe an eternal relationship with Him in Glory, based on a promise made multiple generations ago... the essence of Easter; no more pain, no more sorrow, no more guilt over vices you can't seem to shake, no more broken relationships, no more death, only eternal life with creation's Premiere Designer, God Himself. Talk about a "rush"!!!

The main difference between Halloween and Easter is not the accompanying sense of hope and anticipation – which is intrinsic to most holidays - but rather, its **source** of hope and anticipation, and its enduring sustainability. Halloween is but one night, with an accompanying bellyache in the morning; Easter is an everyday, every second, all-the-time self-perpetuating event because of Christ living in you, with joy anew in the morning!

This article is simply a reminder to be thankful every day for what Jesus did for you, and that the power of the resurrection outshines, outlasts, and outlives anything that any other holiday has to offer, save for Christmas, where it all began. New Years Day promotes the freedom to relinquish bad habits, Valentine's Day promotes the freedom to love, the Fourth of July promotes the freedom to live in this great country, Halloween promotes the freedom to indulge and to dress oddly, Thanksgiving promotes the freedom to give thanks for harvests reaped and for brotherhood among men. Most of these holidays are capable of yielding great and noble things. Easter, however, promotes something internal, eternal... **the freedom to LIVE**; to live life confidently each and every day with a view to perfect life eternal with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Now, that's a year 'round holiday!

Steve West

Pastor of Adult Ministries & Worship

THANK YOU

Noel Flynn

Thank you for your prayers, cards, enjoyable phone calls and visits bestowed upon me recently while acquiring a new knee. All were greatly appreciated.

Jerry & Carol Crow

Thank you for all the lovely flowers, your prayers, and your expressions of concern and sympathy. You have been a great comfort to us.

Oregon Department of Human Services

To Pastor Chris, Mary Nelson and six members of the MPC Youth: thank you for your generously volunteered time to provide child care for several foster children. Because of your support, parents were able to attend a foster parent support group. Pastor Chris and his youth are a fabulous example of the quality of citizens at MPC.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN MEMORIAM



Marv, Carol Crow's brother

March 2009

Jim, Sean Karp's father

April 15, 2009

Marilyn Beyer's nephew, Landon

April 2009



www.mtnparkchurch.org