



# The Church Mouse

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Lakebay Community Church

January-February 2012

## Small Change

By Dan Whitmarsh

In the last week, we've been through significant change at Lakebay. We completed a couple of projects that we've been working on for some time, and both affect us greatly. But you'd hardly ever notice either one.

The first change is the new roof over my head. In only two days, the team ripped off the old roof, replaced rotting timbers, laid down new plywood and a new roof, installed vents to help with airflow, cut out some ventilation holes, and then went on their way. We are now better protected from winter storms. Our play yard is accessible again, and we are free from the fear of falling chunks of wood. We shouldn't have to worry about the roof for a long time to come.

The second change deals with our phone system. For many years we've had three lines coming in to the church, and we've used an answering machine to catch calls when the office is closed. But we were paying for those three lines, and if you called when we were on the phone, you got a busy signal. This week we got rid of the two extra lines, and entered the 20<sup>th</sup> century by setting up voice mail. We're saving money by cancelling those extra lines, and now if you call while the line is busy, you can leave a voice mail for Jayne to answer later.

Neither change is all that obvious. Nobody is going to drive by the church and say "Look! They have a new roof!" We probably won't have a surge in attendance just because of the new phone system. Both of these changes will have a positive impact on our church; however, both are pretty invisible to the casual observer.

It occurs to me that this is a reflection of the Kingdom of God. What people often want are impressive signs and wonders. But Jesus compares the Kingdom to a little bit of yeast working through the dough to affect the whole loaf. Nothing fancy, nothing exciting; sometimes invi-

ble. Yet over time history is changed.

Changing our lives can be difficult, but by taking a few small steps, we alter the pathway on which we walk. Move the rudder a degree or two now, and in a hundred miles you'll be at a completely different place.

Sure, it's only a small change in our phone system. It's only a new roof that few people will ever see. But we're saving money, we're better connecting with people who call, we're safer. And those things are important. Who knows how they'll pay off in the years to come?

So as this new year begins, I ask you: what small change can you make? Ignore the resolutions to lose 100 pounds or to broker peace in the Middle East – those things are usually impossible. Instead, think of one or two small things you can work on. It could be skipping dessert more often, or taking a regular walk. It could be waking up five minutes earlier and using that time to read a Psalm. It could be making regulars lists of the blessings in your life. It could be memorizing one scripture a month. It could be upping your tithe by a percentage point. It could be sending thank-you notes to people who bless you. It could be regularly praying for a friend or neighbor who needs to know Jesus.

A little bit of yeast leavens the whole dough. One smile can brighten everybody's day. The price of a cup of coffee can feed a whole family. God's word, hidden within your heart, can keep you on the straight and narrow path. The prayers of a righteous person avail much.

So get to it – find one or two small things to change, things that most of us would probably never notice, but see if it doesn't just end up changing your whole life. It's only a roof – but it keeps our kids safe. It's only a phone – but it allows us to connect with you. It's only small change – but in God's hands, it can change the world.

## Mission and Outreach Ministries

We are in the season of ADVENT, a season of waiting and anticipation. We also anticipate the blessings of **Mission and Outreach** events at Lakebay. I wish to thank Rebecca Robert for six years of leadership as chair. Rebecca has traveled the world, walked in the footprints of many around the world, prayed and had a heart for God's people everywhere. It was wonderful to sit under her care and thoughtfulness.

In the annual report, there was a list of Mission and Outreach completed projects for 2011. As I write this, sandwiches, hats and warm clothing are being prepared to take to the homeless on the streets of Seattle tomorrow, December 9. Each week **M & M Ministries** and **Harvest Share**, in total feed and care for more folks than we have sitting in our congregation on most Sunday mornings. Many of those who came for food now give back in major ways to help these programs run smoothly. Thank you faithful ones.

In 2012 we will have **Five-Fifth Sundays** to serve the seniors at the community center. Delores Leigh heads up that delicious meal. That ministry was started to serve anyone in need for food and fellowship. Now it is a ministry for those in need and seniors, for a warm meal and fellowship. Even though the emphasis is now more on fellowship, it fills a great need for those 50 who come.

Another blessed Outreach program has been a **Worship Service to Manor Care** once a month. A message is given and the group is led through a time of worship and song. Thank you Linda Anderson for making that come to pass.

Everyone is needed; we want everyone to feel that they have a place in helping others in our community. You can see there is something for everyone and we always want to do more. Join us.

Cathlee James, 2012 Mission and Outreach Committee Chair

## 2012 Church Board

In January, we will welcome a new church board—with some returning and some who are new. Our Board members for 2012 are:

Chairman Ron James

Vice Chairman Doug Paterson (and Chairman of the Pastoral-  
Personnel Relations Committee)

Secretary Carol Sicotte

Treasurer Dave Roe

Building & Grounds Chairman Ron Morgan

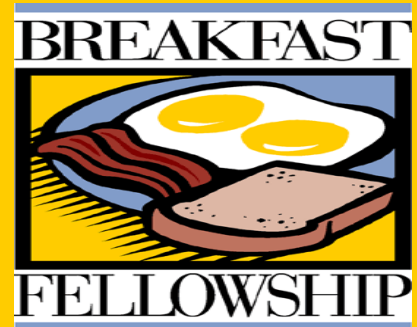
Christian Education Chairman Elaine Forch

Fellowship Chairman Linda Anderson (and chair of the H.E.L.P.  
Committee)

Missions Chairman Cathlee James

Stewardship Chairman Bonnie Graddon (and Financial Secretary)

If you have an idea or a concern, you are encouraged to talk to one of the Board members who deals with that area.



### Men Meet

2nd SATURDAY: Jan. 14 & Feb. 11  
9 a.m. at the church

4th THURSDAY: Jan. 26 & Feb. 23  
10 a.m. at the Roadhouse

### Women Meet

2nd Thursday: Jan. 12 & Feb. 9  
10 a.m. at the Roadhouse

### The Church Mouse

is the bi-monthly newsletter of  
Lakebay Community Church  
PO Box 130, Lakebay, WA 98349.

The Church Mouse is delivered to all who are interested. Please contact the church office to add or delete your name from our e-mail list.

We welcome encouraging and educational articles. Letters to the editor and material for the Church Mouse are to be in the office by the 20th of the month. Please limit all copy to 500 words or less. The editor reserves the right to edit copy as needed. Editor: Jayne McCourt

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## To Contact Us

[www.lakebaycovenant.net](http://www.lakebaycovenant.net)

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**The Evangelical Covenant Church  
information, news, and updates:**

[www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)  
[www.covchurch-npc.org](http://www.covchurch-npc.org)

## Weekly Schedule

Sunday	9:00 am	Gathering (Worship in Song & Praise)
	9:30 am	Worship Celebration
	10:45 am	Fellowship (Birthdays celebrated 3rd Sunday)
	11:00 am	Second Course & Sunday School
	2:30 pm	Outreach to Manor Care, Gig Harbor (3rd Sunday every month)
	6:30 pm	Church Board Meeting (2nd Sunday)
Monday	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Youth Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Worship Team
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Harvest Share has something for everyone
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study, Potluck meal, Prayer
Thursday	10:00 am	Bible Study for Everybody
	10:00 am	Men Breakfast (4th Thursday)
	10:00 am	Women Breakfast (2nd Thursday)
	3:00 pm	M&M has fellowship & food to share
Saturday	9:00 am	Men Breakfast (2nd Saturday)

Lakebay Community Church  
General Fund Budget Report  
as of November 30, 2011

Budget to date     \$ 131,654  
Income to date     108,350  
Expenses to date    120,585  
Net Income (Loss) (\$-12,236)

2011 New Property \$10,000  
Matching Fund Campaign  
Donations to date:    \$ 1,014

Roof Fundraising  
Donations to date:    \$ 15,030

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

*God bless each of you  
and give you many reasons to celebrate!*

### January

1 Zach Johnson-Lewis  
15 Mike and Nora Miller  
18 Shirley Bustad  
24 Teresa Smith  
24 Ron Morgan  
26 Trevor Greetham  
27 Jackson Lathan  
29 Jeff Hixon  
31 Joseph and Sarah  
Lindhartsen

### February

6 Helena Gohrick  
7 Ralph Haun  
15 Tammy Lathan  
16 Bertie Haun  
21 Nora Miller  
22 Duncan Fisher  
27 Robert and Anna Lee

**Our Mission: to bring the truth of God's Word and a demonstration of Jesus' Love to the Key Peninsula.**