



## JOY TO THE WORLD

It has become grey, cold, and wet outside. This is the season when days are short and we have more darkness than light. For many of us, this may seem like a metaphor for the world we live in or the circumstances we find ourselves in. Jesus spoke of a time when the world would be in great upheaval, like it is now. This is what He said:

*Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matt 24:12-13 NIV)*

Jesus' words are always timely. And although the skies are grey and the days dark, we will stand firm and celebrate the Good News. God loves us so much that He sent us His Son. And:

*Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. (Heb 12:2)*

We look forward to celebrating the gift of Emmanuel this month. The light of the world. Our King whose love for us will never grow cold. Let us focus our eyes on Him and His love, and in turn share the Good News of His love with those around us.

~ Pastor Tom

## FALL SERVICE PROJECT

We praise God for yet another joy-filled workday of fellowship, care, love, protection, gratitude and great weather as 27 women, men and youth together served our church family and neighbors at the Fall Service Project. On Saturday, November 23, we served a record 18 families with the cleaning of gutters, raking and dumping of leaves, and removal of blackberries and branches, among other needed fall cleanup. Much appreciation and gratitude for one another was shared. We pray that as we love one another, God is glorified and that the world will know we are His disciples.

~ Craig Crandall





On Saturday, November 9th, 19 of us went up to Camp Jonah to work on their craft storage room. We emptied the room for the first time in memory. Then, we organized everything into new bins and built shelves and racks to hold everything. We had a great time working together, tackling and completing a daunting task. Thanks to all who came along to help out!

*-Pastor Patrick Vestal*



Isela Figueroa and her daughter, Anahi, help distribute free fresh salmon on Nov. 5. Hundreds of people came to our campus for three separate giveaways sponsored by Outgrowing Hunger. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped!

## FROZEN FOOD MINISTRY

I received the diagnosis of breast cancer in October 2004. Facing the holidays and family seemed impossible while worrying about what this diagnosis would do to our family with young daughters. Suddenly, dreams of Holiday cheer and worries about how to afford Christmas gifts went out the door. Instead, worry and anxiety set in along with the practical side of treatment and doctor appointments. Normal life was pushed aside to deal with this diagnosis.

One shining light in the midst of this season in my life was that I did not go through this alone. I had Jesus to comfort me with His Words and I had His church to show me love in tangible ways.

When the cancer was removed, I had church family praying for me. They sent me cards of encouragement and listened to me and my concerns. The most unforgettable yet practical help they did for me was to bring us meals. At a time of crisis, any meal is appreciated but especially one that was delivered by a fellow church member who would pray with us or, on certain hard days, deliver the meal and go.

We want to be a church that helps one another. Meal trains are often accomplished through a member's Life Group or Bible Study. Women's Ministry gets to assist with families with new babies. But what about those church members that are no longer linked into either of these groups due to

inability to travel, chronic illness, or age? Our church is starting a ministry called Frozen Meals. We will deliver meals to those who need to feel Jesus' love in this tangible and practical way. We have those who will deliver the meals in place. We just need people to volunteer to make one recipe that freezes well once a month. You could be part of a ministry that helps to deliver love to someone who needs it. Please contact Jennifer Miles, Arlene Laughlin or Eilene Roecker if you want to learn more about this vital ministry.

*~ Jennifer Miles*

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**