

# A Friday e-pistle from Pastor Greg



Dear MICC Family,

Can you believe the number of folks from our church that are "on the road?" It seems like everybody is either coming or going. That reality touches our home too.

We are thrilled to have our middle daughter Allison (who teaches school in Chicago) with us for a couple weeks. Wendy and I dropped daughter #3 off at Sea-Tac yesterday. Lauren is going with her Illinois Young Life group to camp in Minnesota and then participating in a wedding in Wheaton.

Meanwhile, our MICC Agros team is serving our village in Guatemala. Pastor Jim is ministering at a music camp in Haiti. Judith Baxter is attending a church administrators' conference in Florida. Pastor Jeff and Chris Campbell are in Portland on the high school missions trip. (Pray for the students and leaders as they travel back home today.)



Scott Campbell

Tim Krell

Speaking of Portland.... Last weekend our elder chair Tim Krell and Scott Campbell (Chris' dad) pedaled from Seattle to Portland in the STP bike race. That's 200 miles! Whew! I understand that Tim Steege also biked in the pack. Way to go, guys! We're proud of you!

Our wonderful congregation is in the news once again. Can you believe it? I hope you saw Donna Palmberg's article in the Mercer Island Reporter this week? It chronicles the beginnings of our church as part of the recent Mercerversary celebration.

If you missed it, go to

[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/east\\_king/mir/lifestyle/98839544.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/east_king/mir/lifestyle/98839544.html)  
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Donna and six others from our congregation are in Washington D.C. this weekend for our denomination's Women Ministries Triennial Conference. This amazing gathering occurs every three years as women from Covenant churches across North America gather for teaching, worship and fellowship. You can listen to the evening worship celebrations "live" on the internet. Go to [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)



I was honored to be asked to write a hymn for Triennial. Why not use the following lyrics to guide your thoughts as you pray for our women in attendance?

With unveiled faces they are reflecting  
God's awesome glory for all to see.  
They are a mirror of grace and goodness  
and of the power by which we're free.

With upraised arms they humbly acknowledge  
a transformation from what they were.  
God's endless mercy new every morning  
is ever faithful, steadfast and sure.

With outreached hands they join with each other,  
sisters united in God's great cause.  
Theirs is His mission birthing potential  
in those now victims of broken laws.

With grateful hearts they worship the Savior  
who by His Spirit makes us all new.  
We are His body remade to serve Him  
in what we say and in what we do.



Although Thelma Ritchie from our church is not at Triennial, her accomplishments are being touted in our broader Covenant family. The reason? Yesterday, she was featured in the online Covenant news service. It's quite likely there is much about Thelma (just retired from Island Park Elementary School) that you did not know. Check out <http://www.covchurch.org/cov/news/item7855>

One thing the article didn't acknowledge is that Thelma is the mother of Heather Richardson who (with her husband Adam) serve on our behalf in Moscow Russia as missionaries.

Aren't you enjoying the combined worship services this summer? It is a great opportunity for people from the early and later services to worship together and meet each other. This Sunday we will again have a Family Joys and Concerns segment in the service. If you have guests with you from out of town (or in your neighborhood), you will have a chance to introduce them.

My message for this week is titled "Making Sense of Forgiveness." It is based on Psalm 85. Kent Lottis will be sharing why "Blessed Be Your Name" is his favorite worship song. Then Chris Campbell and the worship team will lead us in singing it. It promises to be a great morning. (Plan to stay for the intergenerational Sunday school class "An Inductive Approach to PROVERBS" in Fellowship Hall from 11:00 - 12 noon).

Remember to support the Mercer Island Farmers Market this Sunday after church. This is a very practical way to "flood our island" and boost our local economy. If merchants and vendors ask, tell them you're from the church across the street.

Congratulations to Cory Brewer (son of Dr. Craig and Susan Brewer) who will be married this weekend to Jennifer Martens. It will be my joy to officiate at that ceremony as well as at the family baptism of Chuck and Marilyn Venskus' grandson Jack. So a busy weekend indeed.

Nonetheless, I'll be looking forward to seeing you this Sunday... with joy!

*Pastor Greg*