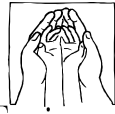




**Anne's Corner**

353-1325

anorton@blueridgechurch.org

**Forgiveness**

Most of you know by now that I will admit I'm not perfect. I have made my fair share of mistakes and bad choices, but God has shown me forgiveness.

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." Phil 3:12-13

Refusing to admit our mistakes locks us in the past. Acknowledging our faults releases us to be forgiven and to make things right. It's true that we need to learn from our mistakes, but we're not required to live by them. When we admit our mistakes, we demonstrate that we are a work in progress, living by God's grace. Once we admit our mistake, we are open to God's forgiveness. Once we are forgiven, focus forward. Don't linger on the past. Let it go, and walk through it into a new beginning.

With love and care overflowing,  
Anne

**ACQUIRE THE FIRE 2009 "Here Comes Trouble"**

Some of the youth will be attending this event in the upcoming weeks and ask that you keep them in your prayers as they go through this weekend. Last year proved to be a life changing weekend and helped us all think about what our purpose was.



This year, parents also have the opportunity to attend. Acquire the Fire has set up special sessions just for you!

If you would still like to come there is one more chance. I have 3 extra tickets that need to be used. Please contact me for information, anorton@blueridgechurch.org

**FAMILY CORNER**

How many of you are constantly running from one thing to the next and the closest you get to talking with your family is "Hi" and "Bye"? Then all of a sudden you seem to get out of touch with your family and you're blindsided by an event that changes everything. Too late? It's never too late for God. Here are a few keys to pulling your family together.

- Seek scripture for direction in every situation, and follow God's instructions on how to respond.
- Recognize that all of us have strengths and weaknesses and that God encourages us to be tenderhearted, gentle and compassionate with each other.
- Ask God for wisdom. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."
- Remember how God has helped your family in the past. Talk about His goodness and faithfulness and how He helped you through each challenge.
- Trust God to work out your circumstances for good, even if you can't imagine how that might be possible (see Romans 8:28).
- Purposefully draw closer to your family by communicating and praying together.

(Tips come from an article in Focus on the Family Magazine July 2008)

**Notes From Linda**

353-4826



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"Too blessed to be stressed." Have you ever heard that one? Well, I am very blessed, but still stressed! Guess it's time to stop, drop and pray to smother those flames of stress! Youth Sunday is fast approaching and we are making great strides, but always lots to do! Remember that **EVERY REHEARSAL FROM NOW ON IS EXTREMELY important!!!!!!**

Beginning on Feb. 22 and continue on until March 15 - check youth calendar for:

**Instrumental ensemble** begins!

**Choir & drama** rehearsal times are extended

**March 1** times are different because of evening conflict for Linda and Hoot

**Watch for** notes in the mail/phone messages, etc., for weekly schedule updates!!

**Looking ahead** - bells and choir on Easter Sunday, April 12—let me know if you'll be gone!

**Final Sunday rehearsal** March 8, 5:30-8:30 - specific times for each group TBA

**Dress rehearsals on weekend of Youth Sunday?**

Friday pm? Saturday morning am? Saturday pm? Please check your calendars for availabilities and we will discuss.

Take care of your hands and feet—you need them to spread God's word and love!

Linda

**Sunday, Feb. 22 Calendar Notes:**

- ✓ 4:30-5:30pm, 30 Hour Famine Meeting at Youth Group with Anne
- ✓ 5:30-5:30, Instrumental Ensemble
- ✓ 5:30-6:00, Bells
- ✓ 6:00-7:30, Choir/Drama

