

Youth Update



Irish Kidnapping!



According to history (that I researched at www.StPatricksday.com & Wikipedia) St. Patrick wasn't even Irish. He was actually British and kidnapped by Irish raiders when he was 14 years old where he was taken as a slave. After six years he escaped and made it back to his country and family where he entered the church. Later he returned to Ireland as an ordained bishop of the Catholic Church and was one of the earliest cross-

cultural missionaries of the church shaping missions and inspiring others to do the same.

As a Flaherty (originally O'Flaherty till my ancestors dropped the O' in America) Irish blood runs in my veins and I'm a little proud to be Irish and it's slightly disappointing to discover that St. Patty isn't Irish But as a Christian, with Christ living in my veins, I am so much prouder that St. Patrick was actually a British Christian who loved God and followed His will even if that meant leaving his home to literally love his enemies. What genuine faith and love to go and minister to the very people who raided and kidnapped and enslaved you! He wasn't Irish and he probably didn't think himself a saint, but he is a Christian inspiration without a doubt.

27"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, *28*bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. – Luke 6:27,28

This year celebrate not the Irish culture St. Patrick embraced as much as the Christian love that he demonstrated by embracing it. And follow his example and the teachings of Christ by loving and serving those difficult people in your life; though they will probably never kidnap or make a slave out of you.

-Martin W. Flaherty, youth pastor

St. Patrick's Day Youth Party – March 17th – At youth group that Wednesday we will be joining forces with Chehalis First Christian Church's youth group to have a "green" bash. So, be sure to show up and invite your friends! Games and food provided.

Lewis County Youth Workers Network – March 18 – We will be hosting a luncheon for county youth ministers and workers that Thursday at 11am to pray for each other and plan a possible area wide youth conference.

Northwest Ministry Conference – March 19 & 20 – Martin will be attending both days and encourages any youth leaders to attend. This will be a great time of training, growth, and fellowship as a team.

Spring Break – March 29 – April 2 – Activities under construction include a service day at Pleasant Valley Camp, a Youth All Nighter at the church, and/or a beach day. Watch for more information to come.

"The Honest Truth" Sunday Morning – classes for both Jr. High and Sr. High.

Jr. High meets @ 9.45am upstairs with Lisa Dallas & Carolyn Nugent.

Sr. High meets @ 9.45am in room 301 by the kitchen with Martin Flaherty.

Bring your Bibles and your questions with an open heart for God to speak to you.

"Honesty" Wednesday Evening – Youth Group is 6:30pm - 8pm we begin with a meal and it is open to all Junior high & Senior high youth who want to participate in worship, fellowship, prayer, & small groups. Parents are welcome to visit any activity...as long as it's okay with your youth!

Serving youth & their families,

Martin W. Flaherty

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