



Connections

Bridge Disability Ministries



Spring, 2016

It was a memorable moment. The fellowship hall was packed with about 80 people sitting at round tables, some still finishing dessert. About half were using wheelchairs or with walkers or canes waiting beside them. Two musicians played guitar and sang on a small stage in front of the room, and led the guests in a sing-a-long. Then, as the final strains of "Rock of Ages" faded away, a musician put down her guitar and asked the room if anyone had any prayer concerns or praises they'd like to share.

First, a guest went up to the mike and thanked the cooks who had prepared the delicious meal we had just enjoyed together. Another went up to ask for prayer for a friend who was in the hospital. And then a third raised her hand. The musician walked the mike over to where she sat, and she raised her hands in the air as she shared that she had a BIG praise to tell us about. She said she'd been praying for over 20 years to be a part of the worship team at her church, and just the day before she'd received an invitation to join!

This was happy news to everyone in the room. We understood the significance of her announcement. Her face, her voice and her body language were brimming with irrepressible excitement, joy and gratitude - she looked as though she might explode right out of her wheelchair! The whole room shared in this holy moment of belonging. The Body of Christ was made whole by her inclusion. A joyful experience for us all.

For our friends who live with disabilities, finding a faith community where they feel they belong can be very difficult. There are often physical and cultural barriers that marginalize and isolate people with differences. It is common for them to experience a deep sense of loneliness and isolation, even when they "belong" to a church. So news from one of their own that an isolating barrier is overcome is worthy to be shouted out from the mountain tops! Praise be to God!

What does it mean to belong? What does it mean to be accepted, included, valued and loved as an individual and a child of God? Just exactly what it means to belong is unique to each individual and affected by our life experiences. But it generally means being accepted and included in something greater than ourselves. When we connect with others, we discover the commonalities that exist between us despite our differences. And it's in our commonalities that we discover - we are not alone.

Please join us at our annual

Building Bridges Luncheon on *June 9th, 2016*

to learn more about our Spiritual Connections Ministry and support this wonderful program for adults living with developmental and/or physical disabilities. There will be spiritual and edible refreshments!

For more information: events@bridgemin.org or (425)885-1006.

Our Mission

Bridge Disability Ministries honors the God-given dignity and giftedness of people with disabilities; therefore we build relationships to alleviate isolation and enrich our churches and communities.

What We Do

- Spiritual Connections
- Guardianship & Case Management
- Medical Equipment
- Community Connections
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Disability Advocacy

give
BIG



S-T-R-E-T-C-H

your donation to Bridge by donating through the Seattle Foundation website this one day only!

[Click here on May 3rd](#)

Bridge Disability Ministries

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Bellevue, WA 98005-1956



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Mark Your Calendars...

Sunday Evening Celebrations (4pm - 6pm)

- April 10th** John Knox Presbyterian Church
109 SW Normandy Rd, Seattle, 98166
- May 1st** Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island, 98040
- June 12th** St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
3604 NE 10th Ct, Renton, 98056

Save the Dates!

for our
2016 Annual Building Bridges Luncheon

Thursday, June 9th

and our

2016 Annual Building Bridges Auction

Saturday, September 17th