

Northwest FOCUS

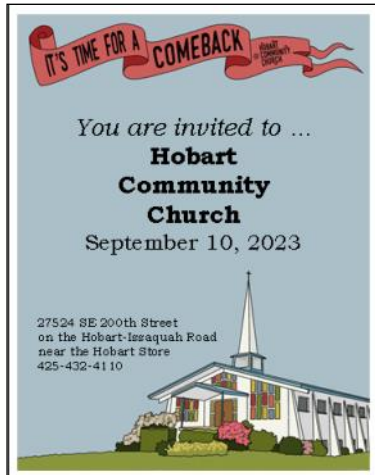
God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

OCTOBER 2023

It's Time For A Comeback!

Early in September, Hobart Community Church held a special event called "It's Time For A Comeback". This was a Sunday focused on encouraging people to "Come Back" to church. The target audience was two-fold: those who had previously attended regularly but had drifted away, and those in the community who had never attended.

Preparation began two months prior and involved several workdays to give the building and grounds a spruce up. Bulletin inserts each week kept the coming event fresh on the minds of the church family. A "Save the Date" insert in the bulletin, was followed by additional inserts on how to pray for the Comeback Sunday, making a commitment to pray and invite someone, and how to go about inviting a friend or neighbor. Posters were put up, and invitations were created. A team was formed to go through past church directories to pinpoint those no longer coming to church. A personal note along with a printed postcard invitation was sent to those individuals, encouraging them to come. The church family took the postcard invitations to hand out, and a stack of the postcards were at the local store.



and the Family Devotion prior to the message, and a BBQ lunch and pie social. One woman in the church brought 20 vases of fresh flowers to add color throughout the building. Friends from three other churches graciously volunteered to prepare the BBQ lunch and work in the kitchen so that the Hobart Church family could focus on their guests and building relationships. In the bulletin an insert entitled, "My Comeback Story", had testimonies from several of the church family. Ministries that had been on summer break began again that week.

NICE Missionary, Pastor Rob Morris was thrilled to see unexpected results from this endeavor: "The church family took ownership of this outreach. They looked at the building with the eyes of a newcomer, and worked hard to make it spotless and welcoming. I sensed a spirit of excitement and anticipation for what God would do. We wanted to reach others, but we benefitted from it as well!" NICE Missionary and church Elder, Bob Allen added, "We reached both of our target audiences, and had three times the number of people attending that day! There is a fresh spirit among our church family, and a renewed commitment to reaching our community. We're getting reports back of God working in the hearts of our visitors!"

Several features made the Comeback Sunday special: a guest speaker for Adult Sunday School

Thank you for your prayer support of NICE and its missionaries. God is at work!



So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. I Corinthians 3:7