



Volume 78 Issue 4

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Hello everyone,

Helen Rice's Easter poem has been appreciated by people from all walks of life. The beauty of spring merged with the grace of God makes this poem a delightful read.

Easter Reflections

With OUR EYES we see
The beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear
The birds sing sweetly
to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick
the golden daffodils
and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS
can we feel the MIRACLE of GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our 'pilgrimage to God'
and inherit His Easter Gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

(by Helen Steiner Rice)

It is always easier for me to reflect back on what has happened, rather than to anticipate ahead, if that makes any sense. We may have gone thru a period of deep and quiet reflection on Jesus' journey to the cross. We may have given up watching TV or munching on French Fries, or even eating chocolate (Nooooo). We may have added a special time with God into our days. Maybe even mourned thru Lent, cried on Good Friday and celebrated new life on Easter morning. But now that Easter has come and gone, what is left? How will this time of Easter, this time of new life and of celebration and resurrection (not just Jesus') impact our days to come?

We can't just be people of the past, but we have to look ahead as well. We have to remember and learn and reflect about the past, yes, but the question is...how will we let God take those events and transform us, give us new life? How can we use those moments to transform the world around us? I would challenge us as we move towards our 10th Year anniversary as a Reconciling congregation on May 19th which also falls on Pentecost (the churches birthday) to connect those two events. To connect the past and what has been, with the future and what is still to come. What is it about the cross and Jesus' love for us and our celebrating and embracing diversity that go so well together? How do these two events feed each other? I know there are many more questions than answers...sorry (not really). Maybe read the poem again.

Peace, rene

Reconciling Anniversary

Ten years ago the people of Longview United Methodist Church voted to join the Reconciling Ministries Network, which works for full inclusion of LGBTQs in the life of the church here and at large.

LGBTs of our church are emphasizing the importance of our congregation in taking that action on the 10th anniversary, which will be observed on Sunday, May 19th.

We want to recognize you by hosting a lunch in your honor. During church, special music will be featured, including songs we have sung before at our anniversaries; and a brief reading. In the May edition of the newsletter we will announce the keynote speaker. You won't be disappointed.

We also are hosting the Shower of Stoles, open to the public, dates and times to be announced. This is from the website:

The Shower of Stoles Project is an extraordinary collection of over a thousand liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith. (We won't be borrowing ALL the stoles!)

These religious leaders have served in twenty-seven denominations and faith traditions, and come from six countries on three continents.

The collection celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Niis Bue

Social Justice Committee



Trustees

Trustee committee is happy to report the wall behind the cross has been painted the color of "egg shell wave". Gene Fosburg was able to get a friend to donate the use of scaffolding and Sharon Pedersen bought the paint and did all the painting. Next the larger lighted cross was installed and the rainbow ribbons attached. The results are a new and clean cross area. Many thanks to all who helped with this project.

So far no new leaks have been found with this last few days of hard rain. Hopefully we have the problem fixed. We are grateful to The Roof Doctor for many trips to fix the problems.

Saturday, March 23rd was church yard clean up day. Several people turned out to trim edges, weed flower beds, burn trash, power wash sidewalks and many other tasks. Our church has a nice fresh look inside and out!

Sharon Klump, trustee chairperson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our sanctuary has a fabulous new look with the new color at the front of the sanctuary and the larger, back lit cross in place. It looks wonderful! Thanks go to Sharon Pedersen for painting the wall. She did all the painting and did it all in one day. It would not have been possible without a lot of work on the part of others; Gene, arranging for the use of the scaffolding at no cost, Frank and Gene putting it together and helping along the way, Ed and Bev helping get the big cross in place, get the scaffolding down and cleaning up after that big project. I am still amazed that it could be done in one week. No small part of the job was maintaining the ribbon rainbow in the sanctuary. It has become our "trademark" and we didn't want to lose it. Thanks to all these people, it is still showing the way to the cross in our beloved sanctuary.

Dear LUMC Family,

Hello everyone! So nice to receive your newsletter. I hope this finds you all happy and doing well.

I am doing pretty good. After 3 restful months, I have been offered a part time job as a nanny. I will be working on Monday, Tuesday & Friday from 9 to 5. That leaves me time to still help out around the house and week ends off. I am excited!

You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Take care and God bless you all.

Tina Bacon

Help Wanted

Our church is in need of someone who loves to put bulletin boards together. We have several bulletin boards throughout the church, most of which are not being used at this time. They could be used to promote your ministry or any group within the church. They can also be used to promote special events within the church or in the community.

If you are someone who loves to do this sort of thing (it's kind of like scrapbooking on a larger scale) let me know and we can make a plan

Sharon Fosburg



United Methodist Women

- All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- 1st Thursday of each month 10:30 am

United Methodist Men

- All men of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- Next meeting: April 17th 7:00 pm

Women's Book Group

- Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (except July and August) in member's homes.

Sunday School

- Each Sunday Sept through May
9:30 a.m.

Adult studies

- Sundays 6:00 pm at Fosburgs 2673 42nd Ave. Watch for a new study to begin
- "Walk with Jesus"
Sunday 9:30 am

Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

From the Vancouver District office

2012 was a really tough year across the United States. Natural disasters of all kinds caused massive damage to the infrastructure and personal property. The need for trained volunteers far out stripped the supply. Fortunately, we escaped a major disaster in the Pacific Northwest this year. However, we need to be prepared in the event one does strike us.

One of ways the United Methodist Church provides support to survivors of a natural disaster is the Early Response Teams. These seven member teams deploy at the request of a church, a district, a conference or an emergency management agency as soon as the emergency phase is over. Their mission is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. Their goal is to make the survivor's residence safe, secure, and sanitary; and to prevent further damage. Early Response Teams do not do repair or rebuild.

Does this sound like something you'd be interested in? To become a member of an Early Response Team you must be at least 18 years old, attend an eight-hour Early Response Team basic training class, pass a national background check, and be physically capable of doing demanding work.

Three Early Response Team basic training classes are scheduled for 2013. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jim Truitt at umvimdisasterresponse@comcast.net. The class schedule is:

April 27, 2013

8:30 - 4:30

Olympia First UMC

1224 Legion Way SE

Olympia, WA

June 22, 2013

8:30 - 4:30

Riverview UMC

Pasco, WA 99302

October 26, 2013

8:30-4:30

Bellevue First UMC

1934 108th Ave NE

Bereavement Support Group

The Spiritual Care Department of St. John Medical Center is sponsoring a Bereavement Support Group. The group is open to all adults and will be held on:

- Thursdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm beginning 4/18/2013 for 4 weeks in Conference Room A/B

The Conference rooms are on the 2nd floor and down the hall from the Terrace Espresso.

The purpose of these groups is to enable participants to work toward the successful understanding and resolution of grief resulting from the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, relative or friend.

Chaplains Elizabeth Meharg, a Certified Bereavement Facilitator, and Michael Wright will be facilitating the support group. Dr. Stephen Meharg, Clinical Psychologist, will be a guest speaker during the sessions.

The sessions will combine an educational and supportive approach to grief resolution and are open to all persons. Participants will be provided with a notebook, reading materials, and presented with skills they can use to assist them in coping during this time of change.

There is a suggested donation of \$10.00, however scholarships are available. All other costs are underwritten by The Friends of St. John as part of the hospital's healing mission. Call 360-414-7575.

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**Check out our brand new
website!**

www.umclongview.com