

Volume 8 Issue 11

April, 2014



I hope this note finds all of you well. Every third Monday or so I get to go to Vancouver and join a group of clergy who have made a covenant to share this particular space and time with each other. All of us willing to share on this journey, if only for a moment our paths shall cross. Yes there is much talk about church stuff and family and institution, the future of the church, there is also quiet time and reflection time, a time to ask questions and some days even receive some answers. However what has struck me the most at our last meeting in March was where I was today and where I've been. I think about Abram in Genesis chapter 12 when God asks him to pack up and go...

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 4 So Abram went...

I remember back 15 years, when my life was a total mess, no plan, no future, and no direction, following every pleasure that came around. Life was slowly falling apart around me even though I had no idea. I just didn't know any better. Looking back I can see that God showed up one day, came beside me, and walked with me. Like Abram I had no idea where I was heading, but there was no question God was asking me to leave. So I did, I moved painfully some days, slowly most days, but I left.

On this journey I had gifts that came along side me; some only stayed for a short time some a little longer. Some of those gifts I was able to appreciate, others unfortunately I left behind in flames or at least smoldering, to the latter I ask for forgiveness...but I also want to give thanks to all of you who helped me find a clearer path to God, you know who you are...I do want to mention Steve who saw something in me nobody else had ever seen before, the many friends I had the joy to share music with, and Doug, my spiritual dude who was never afraid to be honest with me and who came to visit me all the way in WA. He taught me about right and wrong (I'm still learning Doug, but getting closer). I'd also like to thank those who became family to me, it wasn't all pretty and it didn't all end well...but you all have become part of who I am today, God has a funny way of letting us use situations and people to learn about ourselves and come closer beside God. I am sharing all of this because looking back I have received so much from raising a couple of daughters in Texas. I thought that I had learned it all; it was far from easy that's for sure. But I grew in the midst of it, and I also often failed and I tried again and again...and I learned about love and about forgiveness...thank you Jessica and Kari. My hope is that the time we got to share would lead you both closer to God and filled with thoughts of love.

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When I thought I had learned it all, or at least enough...along came Ryan. And as hard as it is some days to take care of him, I apologize for my whining at times, and Jennifer, I apologize for my negativity at times. Ryan has a whole other level of unconditional love and forgiving spirit, wow, Ryan must be on the top of my list of people to thank. I can only hope that I can learn from him and be more like him in many ways. I also want to thank Jennifer for trusting me with her precious little baby boy, I almost feel like Joseph taking on raising Jesus.

I am sharing all of this in the hope that each of you reading this will take some time to reflect on your life. Where has God met you? Where are you going? Who has joined your journey along the way? What are you learning? What are you missing? Whom should you thank? Lent is a wonderful time to lose yourself and then be raised again, new...refreshed...filled.

Peace to all of you, rene'

Easter egg hunt



Amberjean and Skyler are again organizing the Easter egg hunt for our "little people" as well as children from the community. Tell your friends and family!

It will be Saturday April 19th, the day before Easter, at 11:00 am. Weather permitting, it will be on the back lawn.

Items still needed to make this a success:

Wrapped candy that will fit in a plastic egg

Toys, also small enough for the egg

Some plastic eggs are still needed

Your help on the day of the event for crowd control, supervising games, etc. Ask Amber for other ways you can help!

Trustees

As you have noticed the church still struggles with a leaky roof. Gene and Ed have met with the Roof Dr. who is looking at ways to fix the leak. Ed Hilliard called Carlson's heating and had the furnaces checked out and repaired with new filters and adjustments. The small hot-water tank in the handicapped bathroom was replaced thanks to Ed. Frank and Gene replaced a light sensor that controls lighting around the church sign in the planter on the parking lot side of the church. Now all the outdoor lights seem to be working properly. Coming and going in the evenings should be easier.

We have been approached by Boy Scout Troop #702 about meeting in our church on two Wednesday evenings. We are in process of working out the details.

A new sound booth is in process of being built in the back of the sanctuary. Many thanks to generous donations from church members for funds to do this.

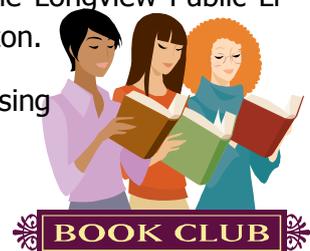
There are still three lawn mowers we need to get rid of. If you need one or know someone who does talk to Gene.

Sharon Klump, Trustee Secretary

Our next book club is scheduled for April 9, 2014 at the home of Niis Bue and Barbara Vining 1516 24th, Longview. We will be discussing, "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor. This is the heart-warming story of a bright young woman who set her goals early and worked very hard to become a judge. She saw her role as helping others and bringing order to judicial matters. It is well written and easy to read. The book can be found at the Longview Public Library as well as on Amazon.

We will also begin discussing books to read next year.

Sharon Klump





Gifts

Our next Communion Sunday special offering is **Native**

American Ministries Sunday.

One of John Wesley's major missions was outreach to American Indians. He went where others would not go. The Native American Ministries Sunday offering nurtures the Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. It provides support for urban outreach ministries and provides connection across the conference. The offering also provides a means to maintain and re-establish cultural traditions, regalia and other needs for the tribes. It provides for worship outreach. It provides for medical needs and services. Thus, the monies are greatly needed.

Many of our native peoples in this state live in substandard conditions. There is great need within our own state.

With these reasons in mind, we are asking you to share what you are able to do on Communion Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Cynda Webb, Finance Chair

Blankets Plus

Longview United Methodist Church will take up a special offering on Sunday, April 6th for this very important mission. When tragedy strikes, Church World Services (CWS) is prepared to help immediately. The CWS distributes winter and summer-weight, or heavy-duty blankets to those displaced by disaster and also to those who are homeless or economically disadvantaged.

A \$5 donation will fund the cost of one blanket that can be shipped to someone who is in great need of it. Please consider giving to this mission. Envelopes will be provided and you can put "Blanket Sunday" on the memo line. Please consider joining the United Methodist Women in this project. We will have a short DVD power point to further explain this worthy project.

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
- Third Wednesdays 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

- Adult Sunday school class
- "God Has Left the Building"
Sunday 9:30 am in room 1

Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Why I Love This Church

by Mona Petersen



My husband Floyd and I were married in the Hillsboro, Oregon Methodist Church in 1948. He traveled a lot with his employment, so when we got to Longview I started coming to Longview UMC, about 1959.

My two boys were little guys and we were greeted with open arms.

The fellowship hall was the sanctuary at that time and Rev. Edward Knight was the pastor.

I was not involved the "workings" of the church at first. Being a young mother, I ran out of the much needed thing called "time". I did help with Sunday school and vacation Bible school, which was a fun time.

About 1970 we built a new home in Kalama and I transferred to the Kalama Methodist Church. I stayed there until I lost my husband in 1978. After I lost Floyd I moved back "home" and have been here ever since.

The new sanctuary was built while I was in Kalama (1967-69) and Rev. David Knighton was pastor when I returned from Kalama about 1993.

Both my boys went into the military, Dennis to Marines and Gary to Army, so this church and congregation have been my family for approximately 21 years.

I have been involved in nearly every committee/team that this church has ever had: Financial Secretary, Worship, Trustees, SPRC, Lay Leadership, United Methodist Women (President for 8 years and Treasurer forever). I am very proud of the UMW as we have been very successful in our fund raisers and able to help LUMC at times when special funds are needed.

In 2002-32 when Rev. Carlyle Martin led us into a discussion about becoming a Reconciling Church I could not have been happier. Then when we actually made the move, what a time that was! I have a gay nephew and many gay friends who need a welcoming safe church home.

I remember many of the beautiful and decorative dinners of past years here, when the fellowship hall was filled to overflowing. Good food, entertainment and fellowship! Everyone pitched in and fun was had by all.

The past couple of years have been a real stressful time for me and it has been a time that has really made me realize what we all have here with our LUMC church family cannot be found everywhere. I personally could not "have made it" without the faith, love and support of "MY CHURCH FAMILY". I LOVE MY CHURCH!!!! GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!!

The colorful oval stain-glassed picture now hanging in the sanctuary in the new window was made by Jackie Down Menthe who belonged to our church during the early 1980's. She had very much wanted to explore becoming a Methodist pastor and moved to California to do this. She made this stain-glassed picture and sent it to our church as a thank you for all the support our church gave her. It hung in the narthex for years and then was put in the closet. We recently found it and ask the worship committee if we could hang it again in a new spot. It is my understanding that Jackie now lives in Hawaii with her husband.

Sharon Klump



Welcome Back

We welcome Willis and Gale Williams as they transfer from Ocean Park UMC. Before moving to Ocean Park to serve at the Ocean Park Retreat Center and Camp the Williams were long time members at Longview UMC and we are so happy to welcome them back. Willis served as Director of Ocean Park Retreat Center and Camp until his retirement last October. Gale worked with him as food service manager, office manager and in many other ways. They both served so capably, they will be missed at the camp, but we are so happy to have them back!

We also welcome newly transferred member David Wilson. David has been our music director for more than a year and has now officially transferred his membership from Kelso UMC, where he served previously. He has become a very vital part of our congregation and a good friend. We are so happy that he has "officially" joined the Longview United Methodist Church!



We need to bid farewell to another part of the worship team. Drummer Mike Williams is having to leave us for "more gainful" employment. He has been travelling from Vancouver each Sunday morning to be part of our praise team. We will miss Mike and wish him the best as he completes his education at WSU Vancouver.

Mudslide in Oso, Washington

The news from this disaster changes daily, but what we know for sure is that people's lives have been lost and other's lives have been changed forever.

Our first question should be "How can we help?" Here is information on where to send monetary donations, which is all that is really helpful at this time.

You can make a donation to the PNW Disaster Relief Fund by sending a check to:

PNW Conference Treasurer

P.O. Box 13650

Des Moines, WA 98198

If you want your donation to be used only for this event, put **'PNW Disaster Response Advance Special #352'** on the memo line.

Please keep all of those impacted by the mudslide in your prayers.

There is a basket on the prayer candle table at the back of the sanctuary in which you may place your donation to this fund and we will send them on. Make checks payable to **PNW Disaster Relief Fund and Advance #352 on the memo line.**

General Conference 2016

Dear Vancouver District,

General Conference 2016 will be held in Portland, Oregon, April 10-18, 2016. That may seem like a long way off but plans are already ramping up as the Portland Metro area gets ready to host this gathering of nearly 1000 United Methodists from around the nearly every continent on the globe.

For those who are unfamiliar, General Conference is the legislative body for the United Methodist Church. Any changes in our rules or polity (all the stuff written down in our Book of Discipline about how our church is organized) can only be made by the General Conference. It works much like our own Annual Conference with delegates coming to work legislation together to strengthen our United Methodist Church.

Because this General Conference is in our backyard, we, in the Vancouver District, will play a key role in helping to provide the sense of hospitality and welcome that is a hallmark of our churches. There are many thousands of volunteer hours that go into hosting a General Conference. The host Annual Conference is Oregon-Idaho, and since we are just next door, we have the opportunity to come alongside our brothers and sisters south of the Columbia River to serve our larger connection.

There are many areas of responsibility that are required to pull off a General Conference. Some areas will be supported by staff persons; however, almost all areas will need volunteers to make them operate well. Some areas are as follows: Greeting/Hospitality Services, Housing, Local Transportation, Convention Center Services, and Program Services. Within each of these areas there are many specific opportunities to volunteer. At this point, what we're asking for are names to be lifted up who may be interested in helping at some level during the lead up to and/or production of General Conference. It is still early as General Conference is over 2 years away; however, I wanted to get this in your minds. There would be many possibilities for churches to bring whole teams to Portland to volunteer. Bill Haden, a lay person at Portland First UMC, is the Chairperson of Local Host Teams.

I ask you to be in prayer regarding these volunteer opportunities and also for the entire General Conference in prayer as we move into the future. If the spirit leads you at this point to put your name forward, please contact Jonathan at the District Service Center (Vancouver@pnwumc.org) to submit your interest. There will be other emails and invitations to serve as the time draws closer. Thanks for the good work you all do on behalf of Christ in your communities. This is our chance to serve those who serve our entire denomination as we host General Conference 2016.

Your Superintendent,

2851—30th Ave.



Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net

Check out our website!
www.umclongview.com

Lent and Holy Week activities

Tuesday April 1, 8, 15 Study at Bowers Down restaurant 6:00 pm to eat, 6:30 for study.

Good Friday April 18th Good Friday service and "meal" observing Jesus' last days.

Saturday April 19th Easter egg hunt 11:00 am on the church lawn (fellowship hall if weather is bad)

Sunday April 20th 9:00 am Easter breakfast served by our praise team

10:30 am Celebrate the Risen Christ in worship