



Volume 7 Issue 6

August, 2012

My friends,

I believe that God calls us to be a community of healing here at Longview United Methodist Church. As we move out of the recent storm and chaos that has been part of the life of this church, I invite each of you to take a deep breath. Just sit for a moment and be one with the Creator, one with the Universe. As we move into calmer waters it is, at times, hard for us to find focus - hard to let go of some of the fears or hurts. Harder even to trust each other. I would say that a time of rest and healing is in order. One way to move ahead is to forgive, and to create some closure. Make a phone call, visit over a cup of tea, or at the very least write an e-mail. Go ahead, forgive...perhaps it is time?

Be in prayer, for yourselves (yes that's ok), for the fractured relationships left behind, for those who have left this sanctuary, and that they might find peace wherever they are. Pray for this church trying to move on, for the leadership trying to find direction, organization, vision and grace and for all those people who will be knocking at our doors in the next two or three years.

And share a touch, a simple touch, there isn't much to it, right? But take that simple touch away from an infant, and you have a condition that is referred to as Maternal Deprivation Syndrome. This lack of physical contact creates problems, including "Basic Trust," "Affection," and "Intimacy." A touch is so important, it can save our life, prolong it, make it amazing and worth living. One of the most amazing aspects of Jesus' life was the healings he performed. Many of these healings were done by the laying on of hands. Luke 4:40 *"When the Sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hand on each one, he healed them."*

Can we come face to face with Jesus without that the false piety and humility that we Christians are at times so good at: *"If you choose, you can make me clean"*. We must know and believe in the touch of Jesus before we can contemplate the call to be a community of healing. The sort of community we must be is not self-righteous, judgmental and exclusive, but humble and welcoming. All means all, right? I must, as one touched by Jesus, accept the person next to me with all of his or her imperfections; we must accept if we are truly to be channels of the touch of Jesus, the healing love of God. Look for a healing service to be held in the near future.

Thank you all for a wonderful reception here in Longview, you have a totally awesome and very amazing group of people gathering here, can't wait to see what the next few years will have in store for us.

Peace to you all, rené

by Niis



*If music be the soul of love, play on.
Shakespeare*

Music is as important to me as the air I breathe, which is probably true for many. Some of us like traditional church music, others like the new, and still others don't mind a mix.

Vern Klump says he's a "give me that old-time religion" kind of guy but that didn't keep him from enjoying a church service he and Sharon attended at the hugely social service oriented Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco: "I really enjoyed it except for the brass band." (Barbara and I have visited there. It rocks.)

I asked him what prompted him to volunteer as our new lay leader and he denied volunteering: "Barbara twisted my arm." Getting serious again, Vern noted that the church has been "going through turmoil and I figured I might be able to help smooth things out." He was raised in the Methodist Church and joined our church, with Sharon, in 1967 or 1968.

Vern jokes that the minimum age in our youth group is 50. He's anticipating change. He says our church service is similar to the pentecostal style, and added later that he thinks "Rene just might be what the church needs."

Sharon and Vern married in 1967 at the Methodist Church in Chehalis. "Our first date was on her first day of work," Vern said. "There was an office picnic that night so I talked her into going out with me." They worked for the Department of Social and Health Services.

Vern is a Marine Corps veteran with a degree in psychology and sociology, with a minor in criminology, from the University of Oregon. He's on two military honor guards for veterans' funeral services. He also chairs the Cowlitz County Advisory Committee for Veterans' Services and is active in a move to create a local service center for all veterans.

But Vern isn't all seriousness. He has a playful side, said Barbara, who watched him act in comic roles in a number of plays put on by the Cascade Players.

At age 10 or 11, his sisters took music lessons and he studied drama. His last play was three or four years ago in "Inherit the Wind". Vern also played the arch rival who got run out of town on a rail in "The Music Man". He acted in the comedy "The Solid Gold Cadillac" in which he played the chairman of the board, and there were many other performances.

It's customary to end these interviews by asking someone in the church to describe -- in one word -- the person being interviewed. After some thought Barbara came up with "mischievous".

Social Justice/Mission Committee to Form

There will be a new, combined Social Justice and Mission group meeting in September under the co-leadership of Barb and Niis. If you have a heart for those areas of service, please show up. We want to ensure Tide Me Over, Habitat for Humanity and the church recycling campaign continue. We also want to share what we learned at the School for Mission this summer about immigration, poverty and Haiti and to see if there are effective and meaningful ways to serve the community. We have many resources available to us, especially the Social Principles of the UMC. If you have ideas, please share them with Niis or Barbara. Look for the meeting day and time in the September newsletter.



The SPR committee is thankful to Gale Grossman, and thirteen church members, for spending a Saturday morning with us talking about "transition." It's not an easy time in the life of a congregation, but one that happens regularly in the United Methodist system. Thank you to all who are helping make the transition go smooth.

The new finance committee will be meeting soon to plan for our annual stewardship drive and budget development. Pastor Rene hopes that most of our budget will be raised without a lot of fundraising events. This will definitely make more time available to put into the missions that LUMC fosters. September will bring announcements that will let you participate in the spiritual growth of the church.

Cynda Webb

Lay Leader Vern Klump reports:

I urge all who receive this report to make contact with the new Pastor. We are looking forward to a long and mutually successful relationship with Rene and his family.

New Address

Ann Ford

P.O. Box 146 Romney, IN 47981

Email: annford146@yahoo.com



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
- 2nd Wednesday of each month 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 at 6:00 pm at Fosburgs.
- Watch for information about a new study beginning this fall

Praise team

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 pm. New voices and instruments are welcome!

Wow! What a musical restart.... I hope I can keep up with it!

So we have gone back to go forward! Let me explain. You may remember years ago when I was organizing and directing music. You all were very brave, trying out newer contemporary music and even learning new hymns that I had suggested to the pastor. I remember well that sometimes you expressed some feeling of being overwhelmed by the new material. Hopefully this time around I will be more cognizant of that factor. So then, I backed out of leading the music and you got a little "comfort zone time" during my time away from being the music minister. So hold onto your britches 'cause it is "Back to the Future" (I know this phrase kind of dates me, but it fits so well) in our church music.

To begin with, I want you all to know that this time presents a few more challenges in some ways. We have semi-lost our accompanist, Phillip Portwood -- at least part of the time -- to a job in Castle Rock. However Sharon Pederson has made great strides and along with the very energetic and versatile pianist, Scott Gregory, we are making a great go of it! Then to top it off our new pastor Rene, has given his heart to making music an enhancement for our worship experience. He joins the praise and worship portion with his guitar and drums. In addition Rene has provided a preliminary list of themes for his sermons so we can have songs that enhance and prepare us for an inspired message and, hopefully a full spectrum spiritual experience. To me that is the purpose and beauty of worshipping together.

Another challenge we hope to resolve is that our regular choir membership was quite minimal and we had stopped a regular choir rehearsal. With our congregante numbers being down and the loss of a few of our other members who supported the choir we will have a struggle to put together a full choir. However I am hopeful this dilemma will be solved and we can again reconstitute a full choir by the time our Christmas season rolls around and we could continue on through the rest of the year (at least until the next summer break). Please let me know if you would like to be a part of that effort.

Next, we have started a new project. The new project is open to anyone who wants to be up front during the praise and worship music of our services. We need singers and instrumentalists! The team is now called "The Unity Crew". The Unity Crew will be the group to introduce and lead the contemporary portion of services. The practice for this is set for 7-8:30 PM on Thursdays. The intent is that the group will practice together and then take turns being the "up-front" smaller group of singers with instrumentalists at each worship service. Along with more percussion, guitar, etc. instrumentalists the group is also looking for someone who can come to practice and run the sound board to improve the balance and quality of the group's sound. If you or someone you know wants to do any of the above please give me a call or just come to the practice time.

As always, please volunteer if you have any special music presentations that you would be willing to share. Also, all you actors/actresses out there, if you have short skit, dramatic reading, or dance you would like to share the Worship Committee would certainly welcome the variety when it fits with the overall direction of the service.

So between the music ministries and the Worship committee we are gearing up for great things. So hang on as there will be more to come! Music is both a prayer for the Mind and the Heart that uplifts the Soul and we want you to feel it!!

Good Passages,

Robert Mumford

360-425-0430

RobertMumford@msn.com



Diversity Task Force

The task force has been busy with several events this summer. We marched in the Longview Fourth of July and in the Cathlamet Bald Eagle Days parades in support of marriage equality. Both of these events had the same effect on me. Before the march I had fear that the crowds would rise up in revolt against us. When we first started marching, I thought "they are saying terrible things about us." But as the marches progressed I found that the crowd cheered us, encouraged us to continue the fight. Yes, there were those who disagreed; they looked the other way and some made negative comments or gave us the thumbs down, but they were in the minority. I was filled with a greater sense that the public "gets it". They understand that gays and lesbians in committed relationships need the protection and the stability that comes with marriage. It did my heart good.



So what else do we have planned to support the LGBTQ community? The annual Picnic in the Park is this Sunday 7/29 after church. It's our monthly potluck and we hope that everyone comes out to enjoy this event.

In October, we have our annual Halloween Ball and we are working on the plans for that now. We are also hopeful that we can work with LCC in creating their Gay-Straight Alliance. The college has made a commitment to reach out and support their LGBTQ students and LUMC and PFLAG will be there to lend support.

Eileen Arnold

Angel Fund

The Angel Fund (formerly known as the "Love Fund") is nearly depleted. This fund exists to try to meet some needs of people in our community who need assistance with utility bills and basic needs. The need is great in our area. Rare are the days that a call doesn't come into the office asking for assistance. This help is given at the Pastor's discretion and is paid directly to the utility company or, in some cases, a gift card is given. People are never given cash or checks directly. This fund is available to members of the congregation who find themselves in need of help as

well as to those who call the church office with requests. While the Pastor is the one who approves requests, he is not authorized to sign on the account. Every attempt is made to be sure your gifts are distributed wisely and carefully.

There is now less than \$100 in the Angel Fund account. I have been regretfully informing callers requesting help that we are not able to help at this time. You have always been so very generous in the past when you know there is a need. I am hoping you will be able to respond this time as well. You may mail donations to the church or place them in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Just indicate on the check or envelope that the donation is for the "Angel Fund".



Thank you for your generosity.

Sharon Fosburg

Administrative Assistant

United Methodist Women

The UMW has enjoyed a little bit of a break this summer but we are just about ready to get back to work! Our one big summer event is the rummage sale. Some of you have already brought items to donate to the church. The choir room is filling up nicely but now it is time to shift into high gear and really clean out those closets! The rummage sale is scheduled for August 17th & 18th. You can place your donations in the choir room at any time. Call the church office if you need help. This is one of the main fundraisers the UMW does each year. Doing well on this sale means we are able to contribute to local and global missions as well as providing necessities for the church.

We are planning our 3rd annual women's retreat at Ocean Park Retreat Center and Camp! It will be October 19-21. The cost will be just \$100 for 2 night's lodging and 4 meals. Rev. Ruth Mathis has agreed to be our spiritual leader again, so you know it will be special! Plan now to attend and watch for registration forms to be available soon. **All women of the church are invited to attend!**



Sharon Fosburg

UMW President

United Methodist Women's Book Club 2012-13

For those of us who love to read and plan ahead - here is the list of books we plan to read and discuss in the coming year.

September	"Starvation Heights"	by Gregg Olsen
October	"State of Wonder"	by Ann Patchett
November	"The Girl Who Fell From the Sky"	by Heidi W. Durrow
December	"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"	by Barbara Robinson and Laura Cornell
January	"Wild"	by Cheryl Strayed
February	"Same Kind of Different As Me"	by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
March	"The Salvage Bones"	by Jesmyn Ward
April	"Easier to Reach Heaven than the End of the Street"	by Emma Williams
May	"The Slave Across the Street"	by Theresa Flores and Peggy Sue Wells

All women involved in the life of our congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. We strive to select a wide variety of material. You are even welcome to drop in when a book is of particular interest to you. We always have wonderful stimulating discussions - and we always manage to discuss the book as well!



Starvation Heights: A True Story of Murder and Malice in the Woods of the Pacific Northwest Greg Olsen, author

In 1911 two wealthy British heiresses, Claire and Dora Williamson, came to a sanatorium in the forests of the Pacific Northwest to undergo the revolutionary "fasting treatment" of Dr. Linda Burfield Hazzard. It was supposed to be a holiday for the two sisters. But within a month of arriving at what the locals called Starvation Heights, the women were emaciated shadows of their former selves, waiting for death. They were not the first victims of Linda Hazzard, a quack doctor of extraordinary evil and greed who would stop at nothing short of murder to achieve her ambitions. As their jewelry disappeared and forged bank drafts began transferring their wealth to Hazzard's accounts, Dora Williamson sent a last desperate plea to a friend in Australia, begging her to save them from the brutal treatments and lonely isolation of Starvation Heights.

In this true story—a haunting saga of medical murder set in an era of steamships and gas-lights—Gregg Olsen reveals one of the most unusual and disturbing criminal cases in American history.

LONGVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2851—30th Ave.

Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net



Check out our brand new website!

www.umclongview.com

Longview United Methodist Church is a beacon of diversity in our community. We encourage each individual in their spiritual journey as they become a disciple for Jesus Christ

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Longview United Methodist Women's
Annual rummage sale
August 17 & 18, 2012
9:00 - 3:00 Friday
9:00 - 1:00 Saturday**