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Hello my friends. I pray that wherever this Newsletter may find you this day that it finds you well and at peace.

The other week I had a marvelous idea of what to write about in this month's newsletter, you all would have been so flabbergasted and delighted (haha). So as I was puzzling about what it was (never did remember), I was thinking about how glad I was to have my I-phone as a constant companion and reminder, because some days I wonder where I live, and how to get there, lol. Thank you Apple for my I phone friend. The calendar on my I-phone keeps me moving and showing up just at the right time and right place. All of this to say that last week I was having coffee with one of our newer folks here at Longview UMC, and I was talking to her about Methodism, explaining the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. And for the life of me, I could only remember the last one. We have Scripture, Tradition and Experience and...and nothing...blank (I am sure I made a pretty good second impression). So I thought why not write about it. So here it is.

There is no doubt that the Bible is a bizarre and beautiful ancient book. Within it we read about the experiences. It is not a book that is to be taken totally literal, because in its pages we find that it expresses different opinions in different places, not because it disagrees with itself but because this is the way it needs to be. The Bible is a book jam-packed with religious truths where we can still find our own story today. A book where God still has a voice, it is a love letter filled with pages of God wooing us back to be present, to be alive, to be whole and holy, to be co-creators in this marvelous place and time. We are living in a time when we should be able to speak of God without abandoning modern science, and have an uncluttered and flexible way of understanding and interpreting the Bible.

One colossal reason I am really happy to be a part of the United Methodist Church is John Wesley, not only because he was very passionate about social justice issues and big on small group accountability, but also because of how Wesley took a slightly different approach to discerning God's will. This Quadrilateral method rings so true to me, and it should be an undeniable part of who we are as Methodists. I believe that we need a faith that makes sense to us, I know that I do.

Wesley's Quadrilateral is a methodology for theological reflection. Wesley himself did not coin the phrase however, It was Outler (20th century theologian) who upon examination of Wesley's work, theorized that Wesley used four different sources in coming to theological conclusions, naming it the Quadrilateral. They include...
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Scripture

Wesley insisted that scripture is the first authority and contains the only measure whereby all other truth is tested.

Tradition

Wesley wrote that it is generally supposed that traditional evidence is weakened by length of time, as it must necessarily pass through so many hands in a continued succession of ages. Although other evidence is perhaps stronger, he insisted: "Do not undervalue traditional evidence. Let it have its place and its due honor. "It is highly serviceable in its kind and in its degree". When Wesley speaks of "Tradition," he does not merely refer to ancient Church Tradition and the writings of the great theologians and Church Fathers of days past, but also of the immediate and present theological influences which contribute to a person's understanding of God and of Christian theology. "Tradition" may include such influences as the beliefs, values, and instruction of one's family and upbringing. It may also include the various beliefs and values which one encounters and which have an effect on one's understanding of Scripture.

Reason

Although scripture is sufficient unto itself and is the foundation of true religion. Wesley wrote: "Now, of what excellent use is reason, if we would either understand ourselves, or explain to others, those living oracles". He states quite clearly that without reason we cannot understand the essential truths of Scripture. Reason, however, is not a mere human invention. It must be assisted by the Holy Spirit if we are to understand the mysteries of God.

Experience

Apart from scripture, experience is the strongest proof of Christianity. "What the scriptures promise, I enjoy". Again, Wesley insisted that we cannot have reasonable assurance of something unless we have experienced it personally. Although traditional proof is complex, experience is simple: "One thing I know; I was blind, but now I see." Although tradition establishes the evidence a long way off, experience makes it present to all persons.

Can Wesley's way of approaching God, and the Bible, as sensible as it is fit with our Christian faith? You bet it does. Come on Sunday morning and see for yourself.

Peace rene'

THANK YOU!!

We owe a big thank you to Scott O. Davis CPA of Davis & Associates for donating our new copier. It is a wonderful upgrade for us. The new copier is digital and is networked to our computers so that we can print directly from the computer to the copier, bypassing the far more expensive printer.

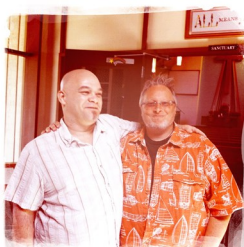
Also, thanks to Alyn Monroe owner of Longview Office Machines for making the arrangements for the donation and for installing the new equipment. We've had a maintenance contract with Alyn for 9 years and he has always given us wonderful service.

We are grateful for the support of our community.

Welcome New Members

If you have not already done so, please make an opportunity to welcome the newest members to our congregation.

Thom Gillman has been connected to our church for a long time. He moved to Hawaii for several years and is now back living in Castle Rock and attending worship with us. He has now placed his membership with us. Please make an opportunity to welcome Thom into full membership in our church.



Sharon Hestdalen has been attending worship here for the past couple of years. She comes to us from the Lutheran church. Don't look for her during the winter months—she "snowbirds" in southern California!



Rosalinda Murillo joined our church July 21st. She has been attending with her son Mario.



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

- 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 Sundays at 9:00 am through the summer

Connecting Generosity to Faith by David McAllister-Wilson

Several of my family members have worked as restaurant servers. They give me a hard time **about** church people being terrible tipplers. It seems that Sunday afternoon is the most ungenerous time in America. This is a big topic on the web. You may have seen online the picture of an actual restaurant tab. The restaurant had added an 18 percent gratuity. The diner was a pastor who scribbled on the bottom, "I give God 10 percent. Why do you get 18?" The tip was marked through, leaving nothing for the server. The server who posted the picture was fired.

What will it take to help church members practice what Bishop Robert Schnase calls "extravagant generosity"? To get from here to there we have to know what "there" looks like. Here's one description from the book of Acts. It is the time after Pentecost. The earthly Jesus is gone but the Holy Spirit descends in force, and here is how those days are described: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts." (Acts 2:44-46). If that's what our churches were like, not only would we be tipping generously; we'd have a family of homeless people at our table and would ask the server to take our seat. I don't know how to get there from here; it seems unattainable. But we can ask how to take the next faithful step. What would that look like? How can we better connect faith and generosity? I'd like to suggest that we begin by asking three key questions. Are we worshiping God as the source of all blessings?

Be honest with yourself. When was that last time you said "Thank God" and meant it? I mean you really felt it? My guess is it was a time when you almost lost something precious. Thornton Wilder said, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." And I think it is only then that we truly appreciate them as gifts. Even though we sing all the right things and say all the right words at the offering time, when I think about why we don't actually give that much away, I have to be honest and say it's probably because we think it really all belongs to us. The German mystic Meister Eckhart said, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice." Are we lifting up Christ as a model?

Think of the person in your life you most admire. Now, think of the person in your life who is most generous. My guess is, for most of you, they are the same person. The ones who give generously of their time, their talent, and their treasure are the ones we would want to be like. God knows this. God knows we are more like sheep than we are like cats. We follow. And so, as an exercise in practical theology, God became flesh and dwelt among us as the good shepherd. And in that shepherd's teaching, from the widow in the temple who gave all she had to the father of the prodigal son, Jesus provides us with role models of generosity. How can we model that ourselves? Most of the strong Korean churches I know have a rule from which others could learn. You can't hold a position of leadership if you don't tithe. As a consequence, more people tithe. It is not about pride or privilege, but a way to fall humbly in line behind Jesus. Are we proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God?

Sometimes our evangelism teams resemble the sales force for a health club. But Jesus said that the Good News is the Kingdom of Heaven drawn near and taught us to pray saying, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And then he demonstrated what that meant by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. Big things. Generous people give to things bigger than themselves. Churches dream too small. The Christian faith is about mountains that we've turned into speed bumps; it is a march to Zion that we have treated like a trip to the mall. Maybe, if we want to foster a culture of generosity, we need bigger dreams about what our church is doing in the world. The relationship of faith to generosity is the relationship between question and answer, between gift and gratitude, between today and tomorrow in a life of discipleship.

See more at: http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2013/130717_article.html#sthash.7Vw7xcAR.dpuf

Pacific Way/Glenwood Drive/Huntington Place Monday July 21, 2013



This was the scene across the street from the church Monday morning. The truck took out the power line and pole and caused the area to be without electricity from about 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. In case you were attempting to call the church that day, this is why no one answered the phones.

Terry Taylor sales

The United Methodist Men will again be parking cars in our lot on Aug 2nd during the annual Terry-Taylor sales. People parking cars in our lot will be invited to make a donation. This is an easy way for the UMM to make some money and a great way for them to meet new people! Call Gene @ 430-6881 if you would like to help.

United Methodist Women

Our annual rummage sale is carefully timed for the weekend following the Terry-Taylor sales. Our sale will be Friday & Saturday, August 9th & 10th. If you haven't brought your clean, reusable items for the sale, please do so no later than Monday August 5th. We can use your help! Please let Sharon F. know that you can help set up, price, work during the sale and/or clean up afterward. Any items not sold will be donated to ARC.

After a summer break from meetings, they will resume Thursday September 5th at 10:30 a.m. All women involved in the life of this congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. We work hard and also have a good time together. We are planning many great projects for the coming year, including a women's retreat at Ocean Park Camp for all women of the church in October. Come join us!

Sharon Fosburg
UMW President

50 Ways to Strengthen Ministry with Children Honor the Spiritually of Children

1. Regularly lift up children as persons of worth with a unique place in God's Kingdom. Scripture teaches that adults should be like children, not that children should be like adults.
2. Understand children as participants in ministry, not objects of ministry.
3. Teach children to pray. Encourage them to share joys and concerns, participate in prayer chains, and have prayer partners. Have children write devotionals for use at home or in corporate worship.

Demonstrate your Congregation's Love and Respect for Children

4. Don't guess at children's needs. Listen to children. Solicit input and feedback from children themselves, not just parents and adults leaders.
5. Give children real responsibilities.
6. Showcase children's artwork. Hang framed photos of children throughout your building.
7. Advocate for children. Hold a children's Sabbath service that highlights issues concerning children.
8. Celebrate the arrival of new babies.

Welcome Children in Worship and Involve them Actively

9. Always have a creatively presented children's sermon.
10. Include at least one hymn every Sunday that children love and can sing with the congregation.
11. Have children serve alongside their parents as greeters and ushers.
12. Invite children to assist in worship.
13. Design a special weekly service for children or children and families.
14. Give small children entering worship a small activity packet with crayons, pipe cleaners, and other items.
15. Have a cry room.
16. Print a booklet for parents to use in explaining elements of worship to their children.
17. Designate special times for children and their families to visit the sanctuary to ask questions and learn the stories behind symbols and stained glass windows.
18. Plan special communion services for parents and children to make them comfortable with the ritual. Have "love feasts" in Sunday School classes.

(Continued next month. See the September Soul Tender issue for more!)

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**Check out our brand new
website!**

www.umclongview.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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.