

Volume 8 Issue 10

October, 2013



I am just awe struck at the amount of people who are giving of their time and money in this community, and still there are so many more needs out there. When Jesus said that there will always be poor people to take care of he wasn't kidding.

We are currently in the middle of our Social Justice Sermon Series, and I am so excited about the dreams and possibilities that are floating within our church and within your hearts these days. The other day I was talking to Dave who was so touched by the Sole to Soul talk a couple of weeks ago when we talked about "Clothe Me" that he is planning a fundraiser and is wanting to collect money for a thousand shoes and go to Hattie next March, and at the same time Jennifer is talking to me in a totally unrelated conversations about that same thing. And just this afternoon I met with Mike Jackson and George Robertson from "Fish" to see what it takes to become a Fish church. If you have never looked at that program you need to, they touch thousands of lives here in our community every year.

Last Friday I got to take all of the soaps and socks we have collected here at the church to the Community House. I could have been Santa Clause by the reception and gratitude I received. There are also lots of talks about a community garden and taking meals to the Habitat for Humanity Houses. So many of you have stopped me in the past few weeks and shared stories about emptying closets and garages and taking things to the ARC or the Community House or Goodwill. You guys make me so proud. So proud that I get to serve here with you guys. By the time you get to read this Paul Spears will have shared about Goodwill Industries and how we can make a difference there as well...amazing, amazing, amazing...keep it up my friends..."for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35, 36)

And when you did these things, you did them to me...

Peace my friends...rene'





Marilyn Ford, a very active leader of our church, retired and moved away some years ago. She is admired by all of us. Marilyn and her husband Ernie may be found in North Dakota, California, or Washington state. It just depends! She recently wrote the following piece about her experience with Gilda's Club. It's a cancer support community, active for 30 years, that offers support, education, and hope to people impacted by cancer. The club is named for Gilda Radner, the loudmouth newswoman character, Roseanne Roseanadanna, on the original Saturday Night Live show. Gilda died of cancer.

What Gilda's Club Means to Me

by Marilyn C. Ford, member since 2011

No, the red door is not the entrance to a fancy spa. It is a place better than facials, hot rocks, perfumed oils and a long, soaking bath -- although that works too. What I needed and found at Gilda's removed worry wrinkles. Those are replaced by laugh lines and a smile. The "hot rocks" of anger have cooled to piles of sand. I've learned playing is a significant part of healing. I've explored painting, drama, improv, storytelling and writing poetry. Each program has enriched my life.

My nose, which had appreciated Chanel No. 5, finds that lunches and potluck dinners reinforce my belief that good food nourishes the body, mind and soul. Guest professionals come to teach and answer questions, leaving us with the gift of knowledge and hope. Behind the red door, there are many other doors (just like heaven); it is safe to tell the "hush" stories. It is a place safe for the body, mind and spirit.

When I leave Gilda's after a "brain workout," I have a sensation of restoration. I feel human again with new friends. Thank you to Gilda's Club volunteers, donors, support staff, and a special thank you to Ted Luciani and the Creative Writing poetry group. I am blessed by Gilda's and friends.

Nuns on the Bus

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland is hosting a talk by Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, and founder of the 2012 Nuns on the Bus movement, at 7 p.m., November 16. The title of her talk is "Journey of Faith, Journey of Justice: Spirituality of Faith & Politics." She is an attorney, a nationally recognized leader and advocate for peace-building, immigration reform, health care, and economic justice. She has appeared on 60 Minutes, The Colbert Report, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

If you are interest in hearing her speak, let Barbara or Niis of our church social justice team know or check with the office. It's free and open to the public. Car pool, anyone?



Ways You Can Feed the Hungry and Help the Poor by Diana Lewis

Pray, first of all, for God to show you any attitudes about the poor that need adjusting.

Look and Impact Your Area

Look at your community with fresh eyes. Where are the needs? What do you see, hear, smell, touch?

Invite the Missions Ministries Team to help your church do a community needs assessment to really look at some of the greatest needs in your area.

Give out Bibles in your area through all kinds of businesses and organizations.

Sponsor a yard sale, with the proceeds going to a poverty ministry.

Examine Your Church's Present Resources

Think about the vehicles your church has: Could they be used to help transport needy people to appointments, interviews, outings and to church?

Think about the senior adult or youth trips that your church takes. Could a free scholarship be offered to an unchurched needy senior or youth each time?

Think of your kids' summer camp outings. Could a needy kid or two get to go every summer with your kids? Think of the impact on their life.

Think of all your regular weekly activities for children and youth. Could you bring in unchurched kids for choir, mission activities, and other special activities?

Does your church have Mother's Day Out? Is there a way a scholarship could be provided occasionally for a low income mother to have a day off?

Does your church serve a Wednesday night meal? Are there needy people that could be brought in to that and then they also will experience Bible study and fellowship with believers? Could your leftovers after a meal be sent to a shelter or other ministry? Does your church have parents' night out or parenting seminars? Invite the community to come to these. *(continued)*

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
- "Change the World"
Sunday 9:30 am in the fellowship hall

Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Sundays at 9:00 am and Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Get Out Into the Community

Do a door to door survey. Find out about people in a needy part of town- a mobile home park, or other low income area.

Survey and ask "What are some of the needs of people in this neighborhood?" Value their comments. They know the area better than we do.

Go door to door and simply ask, "How can we pray for you or your family?" This will open doors of opportunity for your church.

Offer to pick people up for church and take them home.

Sponsor a block party in a needy part of town. Get to know the people and let them get to know your church.

Hunger Ministries

Read up about hunger in the United States and then look around for it where you live.

Learn about the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Get your church involved in observing World Hunger Sunday every year.

Host a carnival, meal, or gather change for world hunger.

Check with your school and see if it has the Food 4 Kids program offered by Rice Depot. If not, call Rice Depot 501.565.8855 and find out what is involved in getting this free service into your schools that helps send food home with needy kids in backpacks.

Collect food items that are needed most for an existing food pantry.

Volunteer to go help sort and bag food for them.

Ask your pastor or church staff if you could fix little bags of non perishable, easy to open food for them to keep on hand in the church office (peanut butter crackers, pop top fruit cans, juice boxes, peanuts, oatmeal cookies, other items that don't have to be cooked).

Buy fast food gift certificates to give out to people you see who need a meal.

Start a pantry in your church.

Fix sack lunches for needy kids in the summer or senior adults for the weekend.

Deliver meals on wheels to seniors. Churches can go in together and divide up the days.

Serve a hot meal once a week for the needy in your town.

Housing and Other Home Ministries

Join Habitat for Humanity and help build houses for needy families.

Volunteer to paint the home of a needy person (call DHS or a home health agency for a name).

Do yard work: rake leaves, trim limbs, clean up yard of a needy person.

Mow the grass for a needy person who is elderly or disabled.

Build a ramp for a needy person.

Teach basic home repairs (fixing a leaky faucet, a toilet, a roof leak, etc.)

Volunteer to clean house for someone.

Employment Ministries

Call Employment Security office or a Community Action Agency in your county and ask if they need business clothing, shoes, jewelry for women getting job training.

Start a job search/help wanted matching service.

Provide transportation for low income people to get to job appointments/interviews.

Be a mentor to someone out of work.

Start a Christian Women's Job Corps and/or Christian Men's Job Corps in your association.

Provide classes on how to get a job and keep a job.

Teach life skills and goal setting to adults who need a job.

Senior Adults

Involve your children and youth in sending cards to nursing home residents.

Get floral shops to give you flowers they are getting rid of & deliver to home bound seniors or nursing home residents.

Have a senior adult VBS in a nursing home or senior adult housing area.

Call your local home health agency and find out who needs a visit that never has company?

Fix an extra meal for seniors who live alone and deliver it for the weekend.

Find a way to help seniors buy part of their medicines. Any little bit helps.

Help seniors change light bulbs, take down their curtains to wash, etc.

Make a phone call to an unchurched senior every week.

Donate fans for the summer heat for needy seniors.

Build a ramp/rail for a senior.

Help them write letters, write out bills.

Homeless Ministries

Call your local homeless shelters, domestic abuse shelters and find out what kinds of programs they could use.

Call and find out what they need donated: washcloths, shower caps, shampoo, underwear, whatever their greatest need might be.

Literacy Missions

Start an English as a 2nd Language ministry. Call your state Baptist office and find out how to have a training session for your church.

Get trained in Adult Reading and Writing ministry. Call your state Baptist office and find out how to get trained.

Start an after school Tutoring Children & Youth ministry. Call your state Baptist office and find out how to have a training session for your area.

Gather school supplies, prizes, flashcards, learning games for a tutoring ministry.

Health Care Ministries

Provide free health screenings at your local church.

Start a free medical/dental clinic with the churches of your area.

Donate used medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, etc.).

Donate old reading glasses to an organization that works with low income people.

Migrant Ministries

Take bottles of water out to the fields where migrants are working.

Have a "Cottonpatch" VBS for the migrant children out by the fields where parents are working.

Donate gloves, warm shirts in the winter.

Other Ministries

Offer free haircuts.

Offer parenting training.

Fix the cars, do oil changes for needy people.

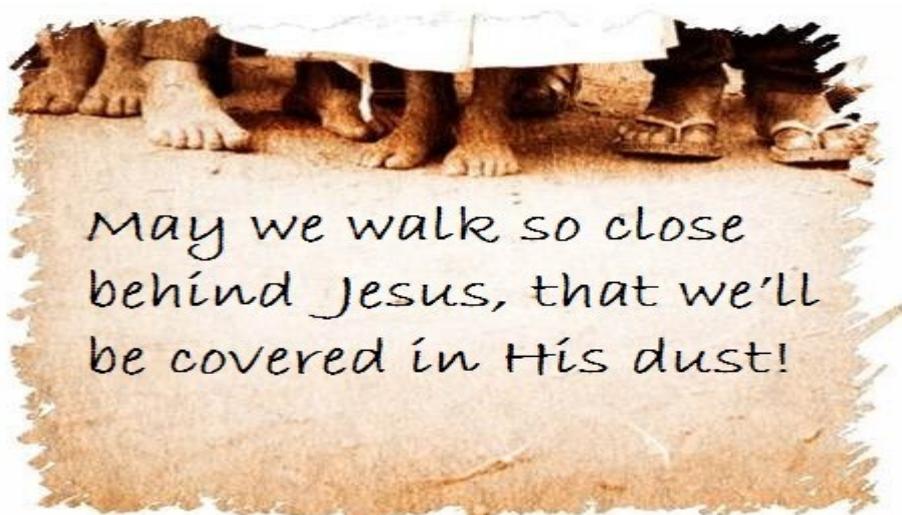
Donate furniture.

Sew unusual sizes of clothing for clothing ministries.

Donate your good used shoes and clothing.

Donate maternity clothes and baby items to a local Pregnancy Care Center.

The preceding pages are some ideas of how we can "GO — BE—DO" as we have been learning about throughout September and October. Pastor Rene has challenged us to take on new projects and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Our task is to begin a new ministry in 2014 that lines up with what we have been hearing about. These pages will be on the board inside the door to the sanctuary. Look them over each time you come in or go out and give serious consideration to what our church should be doing. Then make sure you are part of the action!



May we walk so close
behind Jesus, that we'll
be covered in His dust!

Many people struggle with "Why am I here?" Somehow, **Delorse Chadwick** always knew. "God has a use for me -- to take care of other people," she said.

A caregiver for 30 years, including 18 years for C.D.M. Services (the letters stand for Caring Dependable Meaningful) and five years at Woodland Community Center, Delorse grew up east of Portland, graduating from David Douglas High School in 1964.

Some clients seem embarrassed to ask for help. "Everybody needs help in their life some time," she said, her friendly smile coming easily. She'd still be doing it, if not for the physical challenges of the job.

Delorse -- the spelling of her name is unusual -- grew up in a family of 14 children, nine boys and five girls. After six boys, she was born, the eldest sister. Not so long ago, a relative showed her a photograph of the house where her family lived. She didn't recognize it, and blurted out, "I never lived in that house!" "I never knew we were poor," though she said the five sisters shared one bedroom, two younger girls on either side of her. "My other sister, the one who got everything, got her own bed," she remembered with a smile.

The family raised cows, pigs and chickens, and cultivated a garden. "We never went hungry," she said. Nor uncaring of others. When the weather turned cold, she and her siblings took blankets to homeless people who had none.

Delorse grew up a Mormon, committed to her church. One Sunday morning, she and her then-16-year-old grandson were side by side in church when the minister began preaching against homosexuals. She thought, "How can my grandson be taught that? His mother is gay. This is the way God made us, accepting all of us just the way we are." She thought, "I wonder what God thinks of this?" "I just walked away."

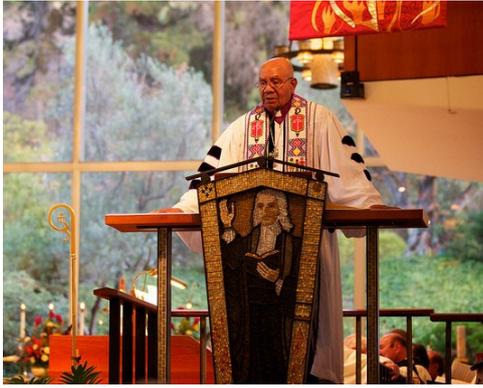
Daughter Susie was the one who brought her to Longview United Methodist Church, and it was another former Mormon, Robert Mumford, who smoothed her transition and taught her we are saved by grace.

"I feel good about being here," Delorse said. "I feel welcome. The music goes to your heart." Today, she extends that caring for others by being a part of the welcoming committee and leading the church's ushers and greeters. She drives from her Woodland home during the week to clean the bathrooms. "I feel so good being here, I wish we had church every day."

Her life has not been without sadness. An early marriage ended, and she lost two baby boys; one was premature, the other a crib death. But she has had many happy years with husband Thomas, himself from a family of 12 children. They will celebrate 43 years together on Jan. 25.

-- Suzanne Martinson





In the recently released, "Good News Statement Regarding Bishop Talbert's Blessing," the Good News leaders, including Rev. Rob Renfroe, president and publisher, and Rev. Tom Lambrecht, vice-president, refer to what has become a common refrain on their part. According to their assertion, Bishop Talbert's actions at the RMN Convocation, and the action of all clergy who officiate at ceremonies blessing the relationships and sacred commitments of [couples](#) of the same gender, causes some kind

of nebulous harm to the "clergy covenant." They write, "Good News laments the fact that, once again, leaders in our church are advocating for disobedience to our United Methodist covenant..." Renfroe, commenting on the response he and other clergy received to an earlier letter about Talbert that they wrote to the Council of Bishops, echoes, "The response evidenced little concern about Talbert's encouragement of disobedience and what it would do to our covenant and our connection." Over and over again, I hear about this "violation" of the covenant from leaders on the Right in relation to providing pastoral care on an equal basis to all persons. The point of contention occurs, of course, when pastoral care includes officiating at wedding ceremonies for couples who deeply love each other, but dare to do so when they are of the same gender. This context led me recently to look up the "clergy covenant" and try to get a better understanding of that covenant and the harm that is being done to it. In ¶ 303.3 of *The 2012 Book of Discipline*, clergy are said to exercise their ministry in "covenant with all Christians"; it also says clergy "live in covenant of mutual care and accountability" with all other clergy, particularly United Methodist clergy of the same annual conference. It also adds, "The covenant of ordained ministry is a life-time commitment, and those who enter into it dedicate their whole lives to the personal and spiritual disciplines it requires." That's it. That is all the *Discipline* says about the "clergy covenant." Returning to the earlier quotes from Good News, I will assume "accountability" to mean to them, "accountability to upholding the *Book of Discipline*," and I will take "upholding the *Discipline*" to mean specifically upholding ¶ 2702.1 (concerning chargeable offenses). Personally, I don't see this particular understanding expressed in ¶ 303.3, but if I did, I understand the *Book of Discipline* to consist of more than one paragraph, as I recently wrote about [here](#). Focusing on the paragraph itself, it seems to me more reasonable to think of "accountability" in relation to the "personal and spiritual disciplines." Turning to the matter of "harm," I understand harm to clergy, to the clergy covenant, and to the covenant with all Christians in the following ways:

- Harm is done to the clergy covenant of mutual care when complaints are filed against clergy related to their pastoral care efforts.
- Harm is done to that covenant of mutual care when complaints are filed against clergy related to their loving, covenanted relationships.
- Harm is done to the clergy covenant with all Christians when our members are denied pastoral care.

Harm is done to that covenant when members of The United Methodist Church see their pastor dragged into [complaint](#) procedures and put on trial because that pastor dared to marry them.

(continued next page)

I argue that *all people are harmed* by these unjust church laws and policies and the resulting persecution, and our *clergy are harmed* when such church laws are used to persecute them. So, the Good News leadership and I disagree as to what "harm" is. Is harm caused by dissenting from church laws, or is harm caused by espousing biblical interpretations and upholding denominational statements that have been used to provide cover for hate and discrimination, that have resulted in broken relationships with God, broken lives, broken homes, and sometimes

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Their response to this "disagreement" has been that General Conference is the body that determines what harms and what (or whom) is harmed.

They are effectively saying that what constitutes "harm" should be put to a vote. This would mean that *the majority determines when it is and when it is not committing harm*, when it is and when it is not committing *injustice and cruelty to the minority*.

In the world of the oppressed, that is what is known as *tyranny*, and history shows us that *majorities tyrannize minorities*.

To sum up, *nebulous harm* to a covenant with other clergy pales against the harm that is done to the clergy's covenant to be in ministry with all Christians, and with the actual physical, emotional and spiritual harm that results from this tyranny and is done to fellow children of God.

A Transgender Guide

Trans-Kin: A Guide for Family and Friends of Transgender People is out in paperback. The book, edited by Dr. Eleanor A. Hubbard and Cameron T. Whitley, won a 2013 international book award in the gay and lesbian non-fiction category. It's a thought-provoking collection of stories from significant others, family members, friends and allies of transgender persons (SOFFAs). It's available online or may be ordered through your favorite book store.

Staff Parish Relations

We are entering budget planning season. The Staff Parish Committee has drafted a proposed budget for 2014 which will go to the Finance Committee for review and approval and then to the Administrative Council. We are recommending some changes for 2014.

The Conference has made changes to the pension plans. Pensions for full time pastors remain in a defined benefit plan, while pensions for less than full time pastors will be defined contribution plans (401k). We have not been able to support a pastor at full time status. Rene is currently at three quarter time status. You are invited to learn more by attending the November Administrative Council meeting and participate in the necessary business of the church.

Barbara Vining, SPR chairperson



October 31st marked the 98th birthday of Leona Bovard, pictured here holding Lily Dillman, born last spring to Amber Taylor and Skyler Dillman.

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**Check out our brand new
website!**

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Longview United Methodist Women

Holiday Blessings Bazaar

Saturday November 16th

9:00 am—3:00 pm

**Baked goods, quilts, afghans, wood crafts,
many other gift items Christmas shopping!**