



Volume 8 Issue 10

October, 2013



As the weather turns cooler and leaves begin to fall, a good Methodist knows what is about to come, lol, budgets talks, pledge campaigns, the needs of the church and sermons on giving. It seems our church is a little different though. It

seems like we talk about giving much more often throughout the year. We have talked about making time to visit, or clean, time for study and prayer, and yes even about money. We've talked about the needs within our church as well as the needs of our community, and together we have explored the concept of giving in many different areas and many different ways. In fact at this very moment we are in the middle of a sermon series about social justice issues and what we can do to change the world. At the end of which we will decide what particular social issue we will focus on next year. It seems only appropriate to have a pledge day right in the middle of that series. So please mark your calendars, because on November 17, 2013 you will have the opportunity to prayerfully decide what your pledge for this next year will be.

Now I could write of the needs of the church, but if you have paid any attention to our finances at all, you already know what our needs are. I could tell you of the needs of the people in the church, but I assume you are aware that there are some big needs. I could tell you about our childcare, our apportionments, and our music program and the needs present there. One thing is for sure, even Jesus told His disciples, there will always be needs. I could also talk to you about tithing, we could argue about what the bible says or doesn't say about it, and after all it is a bit vague if you ignore the Hebrew Testament.

What I would like to do instead is thank you all, thank you to those who have been so faithful about giving and sticking to your pledges from last year. Thank you to those who have continually kept our church, our leadership, myself and my family in your prayers. Thank you to those who have giving countless hours in practice or meetings, taught, scrubbed, shopped, drove, talked, set up and broke down, collected, called, wrote, visited, greeted and ushered, swept and vacuumed, cut, chain sawed, and smiled. You are the foundation of this church, you are the hands and feet, and I do not need to talk to you about why you should give.

What I would like to talk about is that giving is all about our own personal relationship with God, it is a direct result of our own stewardship at home and our thankfulness for what God has and is providing in our life. I believe that a pledge or a tithe is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow deeper in our own relationship with God. It is a way for us to learn to trust God more completely. I understand that we can talk about trusting God all we want, but where the rubber meets the road is when God breaks through into our everyday world and says "trust Me". There is also the opportunity to be blessed. In 1 Kings 17: 10-16 (look it up) we read the story of the widow who trusted and gave all she had at that time. She and her family would be saved and not die of starvation. Let me leave you with this story I read the other day.

(continued next page)

The cheerful girl with bouncy golden curls was almost five. Waiting with her mother at the checkout stand, she saw them: a circle of glistening white pearls in a pink foil box. "Oh please, Mommy. Can I have them? Please, Mommy, please?" Quickly the mother checked the back of the little foil box and then looked back into the pleading blue eyes of her little girl's upturned face. "A dollar ninety-five. That's almost \$2.00. If you really want them, I'll think of some extra chores for you, and in no time you can save enough money to buy them for yourself. Your birthday's only a week away and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma."

As soon as Jenny got home, she emptied her penny bank and counted out 17 pennies. After dinner, she did more than her share of chores and she went to the neighbor and asked Mrs. McJames if she could pick dandelions for ten cents. On her birthday, Grandma did give her another new dollar bill, and at last, she had enough money to buy the necklace.

Jenny loved her pearls. They made her feel dressed up and grown up. She wore them everywhere Sunday school, kindergarten, even to bed. The only time she took them off was when she went swimming or had a bubble bath. Mother said if they got wet, they might turn her neck green.

Jenny had a very loving daddy and every night when she was ready for bed, he would stop whatever he was doing and come upstairs to read her a story. One night when he finished the story, he asked Jenny, "Do you love me?" "Oh yes, Daddy. You know that I love you."

"Then give me your pearls." Oh, Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have Princess the white horse from my collection. The one with the pink tail. Remember, Daddy? The one you gave me. She's my favorite." "That's okay, Honey. Daddy loves you. Good night." And he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

About a week later, after the story time, Jenny's daddy asked again, "Do you love me?" "Daddy, you know I love you." "Then give me your pearls." "Oh Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have my baby doll. The brand new one I got for my birthday. She is so beautiful and you can have the yellow blanket that matches her sleeper." "That's okay. Sleep well. God bless you, little one. Daddy loves you" And as always, he brushed her cheek with a gentle kiss.

A few nights later when her daddy came in, Jenny was sitting on her bed with her legs crossed Indian-style. As he came close, he noticed her chin was trembling and one silent tear rolled down her cheek. "What is it, Jenny? What's the matter?" Jenny didn't say anything but lifted her little hand up to her daddy. And when she opened it, there was her little pearl necklace. With a little quiver, she finally said, "Here, Daddy. It's for you." With tears gathering in his own eyes, Jenny's kind daddy reached out with one hand to take the dime-store necklace, and with the other hand he reached into his pocket and pulled out a blue velvet case with a strand of genuine pearls and gave them to Jenny. He had them all the time. He was just waiting for her to give up the dime-store stuff so he could give her genuine treasure.

So it is with our Heavenly Father. He is waiting for us to give up the cheap things in our lives so that He can give us beautiful treasure. Here's the question: Are we holding on so tightly that we are missing our opportunity to be blessed.

My prayer is that all of us would prayerfully look at our personal stewardship at home, see where we can make a few changes. Ask God to help us to make good choices, He will. Then let's look at our pledge from last year, and see where we stand. Maybe you didn't pledge last year, and this year will be your first time. It definitely helps our church to have an idea where we stand in terms of what things we can plan for in the next year. We have a lot of great ideas, lots of ministry opportunities, but it does take planning and yes, money. Thank you all for being part of this wonderful family here at Longview UMC. If you have any questions about tithing, or budgets or stewardship, please do not hesitate to ask. You are welcome to call me or e-mail me, also available for questions are Eileen, Cynda or Sharon Fosburg. Peace my friends....rene'

Baby Shower

Join us after worship service on October 13th for a baby shower for Jessica & Jason Palmer. Jonathon's baby sister is due a little later in October.

The United Methodist Women will host a baby shower for the family. Watch for a list of items they need/want for the new baby.



Disability Awareness Month

On Monday, October 28th the Sprout Film Festival will be held at the Kelso Theatre Pub at 6:30. Doors open at 6:00. There is NO COST to the public! This is a collection of films specifically related to the lives, performances, and accomplishments of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each film is chosen to provide thought-provoking entertainment. Concessions will be available for purchase. For more information, call The Arc of Cowlitz County at 360-425-5494.

School supplies

Students need supplies throughout the school year are we want to help be sure they all have the supplies they need. There is a large bin in the narthex with school supplies. Please bring new supplies at any time and place them in the container. All things children use is school will be appreciated and put to good use.

Thank you!

Delorse Chadwick

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



Life is moving at an Überspeed, fast...fast and faster...the sun has started hiding its warmth, there is a hint of coolness in the air, the Timbers are still in the

playoff hunt (yeeaa) u-10 girl soccer season is on its way, Willis and Gale Williams will be back with us soon, and we are talking charge conferences and thinking about Advent.

Church is going awesome; the first two weeks of "Go-Be-Do" our Change the World sermon series coupled with the study by Mike Slaughter have been very well received. An average of 20 some people in the study and 60 in worship this month so far. Rick (from the Community House) did a great job of sharing his story about being hungry and homeless, and how he is now giving back by managing the kitchen at the Community House. We went for a tour and were able to take some money and a ton of food over there. Thank you all for giving so generously. We heard some great testimonies of how you engaged some people in our community when you noticed the need of food. Of course it seems Matthew, who is 10 years old and enriched with Fragile X and Autism carrying the slightest touch of an angel took the cake when he gave his \$5.00 set aside for Cheez-its and Gummi worms and instead gave it to a young man who was hungry to buy popcorn. He truly has a deep sense of people's needs, and the gift of unselfish giving, I know I could learn much from him.

We also received tons of ideas on how to fight hunger and how we can make a difference in our community. Be looking for my report on that. Below you will find the schedule of messages still to come. On the 29 of September our very own Mike Jackson will share his story of healing, both from the being healed as well as the healer's perspective. Don't miss it! So I bid you peace my friends, and may the healing touch of Jesus be on your spirit as well as on your heart. C u in church. Rene'

09.22.13 & 09.29.13 Heal me... – (Matthew 15.23-33)

10.06.12 & 10.13.13 Clothe me... – (Luke 8.30-40)

10.20.13 & 10.27.13 Welcome me... - (Romans 15.2-12)

11.03.13 & 11.10.13 House me... – (Colossians 4.10-18)

11.17.13 Pledge Day

11.24.13 Social Justice Fair

Dave Wilson Rocks the Spirit here at Longview

United Methodist Church.



This prodigy started taking piano lessons at age 4 and began entering contests four years later. Nine-year-old Dave "was trying to be very cool and piano wasn't cool." So he played in a trumpet ensemble.

His parents adopted Dave and his twin sister Debbi when they were eight months old. He credits them with ensuring they received the education and training they needed. His mother was a shop owner and tole painter. His father was an anesthesiologist. They were advised to adopt Debbi but not Dave because of his health problems at the time. They refused to break up the twins.

At age 10, Dave took organ lessons until his instructor said he needed more specialized training. That's when his mother drove him 150 miles round trip between Sandy and Salem weekly and sometimes more often. She also drove him around Oregon, Washington and northern California to give concerts and compete.

Dave performed a concert tour of Europe, and Princeton offered him a scholarship while he was in Italy. His parents, who were somewhat conservative, wouldn't allow it. They wanted him to attend a church school. Dave decided to play rock and roll. He admits he has "made some immature decisions", adding that every time he has thought, "I'll show you", it hasn't worked out well. While he was rockin' and rollin' he also played in churches and that kept "my head pointed in the right direction", he said. "That has been a big blessing to me."

At an early age, music became "a kind of refuge" for him, Dave said. "If it had anything to do with music it was like breathing."

Dave is studying for his bachelor's in music and plans to go for a master's degree. His ultimate goal is to become a music director/producer for "large group live performances and perhaps teach part-time at the college level." He would like to land a position "in a big church with the resources to do big productions."

Presently, Dave is planning to play tuba in the symphonic band and piano in the jazz ensemble, along with accompanying the LCC concert choir. He plays once or twice a month for a community church in Portland and at the Electric Bean in Longview. He also plays in a local rock band.

"I really enjoy being here at LUMC," he said. "It's a great group with a vision that I find easily embraced." Dave and his wife Bettina, and David, 9, and Branson, 2, live in Longview. He has four biological children and three "stepkids" ranging in age from eight to 23.

Niis Bue

By Sam Hodges*

The Rev. Emily Flemming, in her first pastoral appointment and with a 4-month old baby, found herself having to flee Lyons, Colo., this weekend because of epic flooding that took out bridges and roads and shut down utilities and the local water system.

She'd done all she could to help residents before authorities gave a general evacuation order. Now it could be weeks or longer before she's able to get back to her family's residence and open Lyons Community (United Methodist) Church again for worship.

"I told my husband, 'We're homeless,'" Flemming said. "He said, 'No, we're town-less.'"

Across the Denver area, particularly the Front Range communities by and in the Rocky Mountains, United Methodists are coming to terms with damage sustained and needs to be addressed.

The Rev. Scott Schiesswohl, 59-year-old pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Boulder, is a fifth-generation Coloradoan who has seen major floods and wildfires grip the state. But he's shaken by the flooding that began Wednesday and continued through Sunday, destroying bridges and roads and cutting off whole communities. "It's the worst disaster we've faced in my time in ministry," he said.

Touched by death of teens

The flood-related death toll stood at seven Monday, though officials said hundreds of others remained unaccounted for. Though no United Methodists were known to have died or suffered major injuries, Schiesswohl's church was touched by the much-publicized drownings of two teens in a flash flood early Thursday. According to news reports, Wesley Quinlan, 19, died in a futile effort to save his girlfriend, Wiyanna Nelson, also 19. Quinlan's grandmother is Mildred Coleman, 99, a lifelong member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. "She obviously is quite devastated by his loss and especially under the circumstances," Schiesswohl said.

St. Paul's United Methodist had major flooding in its basement, damaging the offices of various church ministries as well as choir robes. But on Sunday, even as rain continued, the church held worship. A service that usually draws from 80 to 100 drew about 65. Among them was Denver Area Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky.

"Her presence represents the whole church praying for us and being connected to us," Schiesswohl said. The pastor estimated that at least a third of his congregation faces flood damage at home. His parsonage was so hard hit that he's moved into a camper trailer in the driveway. He lost his home office, which included photos and other memorabilia of his late daughter, Leslie, his personal library and research materials he used for his doctoral dissertation.

Schiesswohl said he and his congregants have fared better than many. Still, he changed his Sunday sermon to address the feelings of loss. "We have to let go of our past, and we don't know what our future holds," he said, summarizing the message. "We just have to be in the moment and present with God as we walk through these terrible situations."

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Unexpected 'security'

Though the community of Lyons has been evacuated, the United Methodist Church there came appears to have come through with no damage, except to doors that swelled so from humidity that they became next-to-impossible to open. "I called the trustees and said, 'I think we're secure,'" Flemming said, laughing at the one unexpected benefit of the flooding. Flemming had opened Lyons Community Church as a relief center about 2 a.m. Thursday, as the seriousness of the flooding became clear. "Those first few hours were people streaming in soaking wet," she said. "They'd woken up with water lapping at their beds. They showed up at the church in their pajamas."

Within a few hours, authorities had moved those at the church to an evacuation center. Flemming continued to volunteer through Saturday, when she and her family had to leave with other residents. The town had lost power and its water supply, and various bridges and roads were out of service. She and baby daughter Lillian are staying in Denver. Her husband is part of a National Park Service response team working in flood-damaged areas. When they'll get back to Lyons is unclear. She's heard estimates ranging from two weeks to three months. "We're not sure how many structures are compromised, how many bridges might be broken," Flemming said.

Assessment still going on

Another town essentially cut off by flooding is Estes Park. The Rev. Walter "Skip" Strickland, superintendent of the Peaks and Plains District, said Monday that he'd had an email from the pastor of the United Methodist Church of Estes Park, the Rev. Donna Patterson, saying the church building had escaped serious damage.

Rocky Mountain Annual (regional) Conference officials reported various other churches with a range of flood-related issues, and in some cases, assessments still were going on. The Rev. Nancy Boswell is pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Fort Collins and serves as a relief official for her district. She said the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is sending cleaning buckets to a distribution center in Loveland, Co. For now, Boswell is encouraging United Methodists who want to help to give to UMCOR or the Rocky Mountain Conference's relief fund. "There will be plenty for us to do in the coming weeks and months," she said.

On Monday, Highlands United Methodist Church in Denver used Facebook and other means to ask for contributions for cleaning buckets. "I saw four different folks drop things off just in the first three hours of this morning," said the Rev. Bradley Laurvick, pastor. "I am excited and hopeful for what will be a blessed and generous week of outreach and service with our entire community."

Hodges, a United Methodist News Service writer, lives in Dallas. Contact him at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. **Wall of water hits Frasier Meadows*

For information on how you can donate to UMCOR for Colorado flood relief:

www.UMCOR.org



VITALITY TRUMPS EVERYTHING!

The Vancouver District Academy and Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 5, 2013

10am - 3pm 2851 30th Avenue

Guest Speaker Dr. Jack Levison, *Professor of New Testament at Seattle Pacific University*



REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Cost is \$5 per person and includes lunch. **Childcare is available if requested by September 20, 2013.**

To register call 360-695-8598 or

e-mail vancouver@pnwumc.org

Please register by September 30, 2013

Book club

October: "The Orchardist" by Amanda Coplin

November: "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom

December: "If you lived here, I'd Know your name" by Heather Lende

January: "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLean

Books selected but not assigned to a month:

"My beloved World" by Sonia Sotomajor

"Out of Order" by Sandra Day O'Connor.



I also have an extended list of other suggested readings. If you have any interest, please come and join us.

Sharon Klump

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

Four Longview United Methodist Women attended the annual District UMW meeting September 21st at the Winlock United Methodist Church. It was a great day, filled with good fellowship, worship and learning.

October 18-20 is our 4th annual women's retreat to Ocean Park Camp. (See registration form below.) All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Rev. Ruth Mathis will again be our spiritual leader for the weekend. We will gather Friday evening (dinner is "on your own") at the camp. We'll have devotions each evening and morning, concluding Sunday and then attending worship at Ocean Park UMC. Three meals are provided Saturday as well as breakfast Sunday.

The time will be very relaxed and loosely structured. There will be time for walking on the beach, reading, working jigsaw puzzles, exploring the peninsula or taking naps! We find that most women really appreciate a chance to relax and just enjoy each other's company and being at the beach.

Please join us!

Our annual holiday bazaar is scheduled for November 16th at the church. If you have hand made items to donate for sale, that would be great! We are emphasizing baked goods this year so those contributions will be appreciated as well. This big UMW fundraiser is one of the main ways we earn the money to support many charities in our community .

Sharon Fosburg, UMW President

Longview United Methodist Women
WOMEN'S RETREAT October 18-20, 2013
Ocean Park Retreat Center and Camp

Name _____

Special diet requirements? _____

I will need a ride _____ I can provide a ride for _____ people

Registration fee is **\$100.00** for 2 nights and 4 meals

2851—30th Ave.



Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net

**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.