



**Volume 78 Issue 1**

**January, 2013**

Happy New Year everyone.

Hope this year will bring you all you that you are searching for, and take you away from all the things you are trying to lose (that be a little weight for me, lol). Bring you joy deeper than the ocean, and love higher than the highest mountain. 2013, who would have thought, it wasn't too long ago when we were saying 19 hundred something...and here we are 2013. What is this year going to bring us? Will there be tougher Gun-laws or armed Kindergarten teachers? Did we survive the Mayan calendar? What will happen to us in the world? Will there be peace on earth or more wars? All of these are very important questions for sure.

There is however another important question we need to ask ourselves. What are we personally willing to put into this New Year? What are our goals our dreams, what is the one thing we want to change, or do more of? What motivates us, scares us, drives us into our own personal hell, or lifts us into the Kingdom of God? What opens us up to trust others, to love and risk and share intimate moments? Who will we be this year? After all it is a New Year, a great time for change. In fact every day is a New Day. Every day we have the opportunity to re-create ourselves, we do not have to stay stuck were we are today, thank you Jesus. We can start over. So who will you be? What will you create this year and this day. Start maybe by getting to know yourself a little better, start with being honest with yourself, start with seeing yourself for who you really are, and then start by loving yourself like God loves you, and let Him help you to re-create yourself.

These same questions are also true for our church. What new ministries will we be doing here in 2013, what has to change for us to be more inviting, to reach our community better? How will you help Longview UMC to re-create itself? Will you pray more often, give a little more money, a little more time, share your gifts? Will you join a class, or become part of the leadership? Will you show up more often or invite some friends? Will you check up on someone who has been missing a while at church, with a phone call or a visit? Or take on a ministry that we so desperately need to have but no one has been willing to tackle? Will you talk about our church at work or school?

One way each one of you can help is by showing up on **Jan the 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm** here at the church to visit with Curtis Brown from the Conference office to talk about just these questions. Then if you want to go deeper, come join us at Ocean Park on the **26<sup>th</sup> of January from 10am to 3pm** for a one day retreat to make some decisions on the direction we will be taking as a church. We need you, all of you; your voice needs to be heard, your dreams and hopes need to be shared. Think about it, and pray about it. Look for more info and a sign up sheet for both events.

So my prayer is that each of you had a nice and peaceful passage into 2013, and that God's blessing be on all of you.

Peace, Rene

## Finance Committee

United Methodist Church-wide Special Sundays are a long standing tradition allowing all UMC congregations the opportunity to reach out and help their neighbors. These offerings take place over the course of a year to support many missions in the U.S. and around the world. The following is a brief explanation of the special collections.

**Human Relations Day -- Jan., 2013**, -- supports neighborhood ministries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

**One Great Hour of Sharing -- Mar., 2013** -- lays the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the cost of doing business.

**Native American Ministries Sunday -- Apr., 2013** -- develops and strengthens Native American ministries within the annual conference.

**Peace with Justice Sunday -- May, 2013** -- funds programs that advocate for peace and justice.

**World Communion Sunday -- Oct., 2013** -- funds racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships.

**United Methodist Student Day -- Nov., 2013** -- supports U.M. scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund.

We will be holding "Special Offering Sundays" on our communion Sundays. There will be a basket on each of the front pews where one may put an offering if so inclined. These offerings will go directly to the appropriate collection site. The finance committee of the Longview church thought this would be a great way for us to reach out in mission and carry out Jesus' command in Mark 12:31, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Cynda Webb, Finance  
Committee

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## United Methodist Men

All is well with the men's group.

The new upper rooms are out and ready to be picked up.

We have been working on the mowers and I am happy to report we now have three that will start and run. All we need now is a few dry days to try them out.

I would like to thank Gary for doing all the leg work for the Christmas Eve bags. The ones we had left over went to Community House. Also, thanks to Frank and Gary for helping clear a fallen tree at Janie's home.

We are still looking for a good community project so if you have one let me know.

Gene Fosburg, President UMM

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## Habitat for Humanity Update

ABwK (A Brush with Kindness) DAY PROJECT (S)

Cowlitz Habitat for Humanity is looking for groups and individuals that can assist with one or two-day outdoor/exterior repair construction projects and/or our regular new home construction SATURDAY construction build sites. We will occasionally have a weekday build day. Contact the office at 360-425-6177 or email [volunteer@cowlitzhabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@cowlitzhabitat.org) to let them know of your interest and availability.

This is a chance for individuals/small groups to get involved with this organization.

Byron Held

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## Staff Parish Relations Committee

We at LUMC have enjoyed the music Philip Portwood has brought to us on Sunday mornings for the past several years. He has enriched our worship service, bringing us great joy. Philip is moving on to serve another local church where he can play both piano and organ. We wish Phil the very best in his new endeavor.





## United Methodists In the News

December was a very impressive month in the life of Longview United Methodist Church! Here are some of the highlights.

- December 2nd - Charge Conference was one of the best we've ever had!
- December 6th - Barbara and Niis, Eileen and Diana were the first two same gender couples in Cowlitz County to apply for marriage licenses! Pictures on front page of Dec. 7th newspaper.
- December 9th - Gary and Robert were the first same gender couple to be married in our church! Pictures on the front page of Dec. 10th newspaper
- December 10th - LUMC Diversity Task Force and Lower Columbia PFLAG sponsored concert by Portland Gay Men's Chorus at Lower Columbia College! Attendance was great - performance was excellent!
- December 23rd - We were treated to beautiful music from the choir formed just for this Christmas event. It was wonderful! Thanks to Robert and all who worked so hard to make our Christmas special
- December 23rd - We said good bye and thanked Philip for 6 1/2 years of faithful & beautiful accompaniment. We will miss you!
- December 24th - Our Pastor's wife, Jen, was stricken with a gall bladder attack, hospitalized and had surgery Dec. 26th.
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*With all that happening in one month, we can only wonder what 2013 has in store for Longview United Methodist Church!*  
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### United Methodist Women

- All women of the church are welcome and

### 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

- Watch this space for a new study for Sunday evenings @ Fosburgs
- "Walk with Jesus"  
Sunday 9:30 am

### Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

**LONGVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Check out our brand new  
website!**

**[www.umclongview.com](http://www.umclongview.com)**

**SAVE THE DATES!!**

**Jan. 13th 2:00- 4:00 pm**

**Pre-retreat planning**

**With**

**Curtis Brown**

**Director of**

**Faith Community**

**Development**

**Pacific Northwest**

**Conference**

**Fellowship hall**

**January 26, 2013**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Planning retreat**

**Ocean Park Camp and**

**Retreat Center**

**Ocean Park, WA**

**Lunch provided**

**\$5.00 per person**