



Volume 78 Issue 5

May, 2013

Longview United Methodist Church will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our becoming a reconciling congregation, welcoming all to our church, and joining the Reconciling Ministry Network (RMN) which seeks full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the life of the church. To celebrate our anniversary, the church is having several special events.

The Shower of Stoles Project is an ecumenical traveling exhibit which will be coming to our church with a showing of up to 80 handmade stoles, commemorating clergy and laity who cannot fully participate in the life of their churches. We had this exhibit five years ago and opened it up to the public with very positive response. We will open the sanctuary to the public to show the exhibit on Friday, May 17 from 6pm to 8pm. and Saturday afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm.



There is also a documentary titled So Great a Cloud of Witnesses which will be shown at the same time as the exhibit. Donations for the upkeep of the exhibit will be welcomed. The exhibit will remain in the sanctuary until Monday.

ON Sunday, May 19, our conference's past Lay Leader, Amory Peck, (*see page 2*) will be the guest speaker at our service. As one who has heard her speak before, I know that you will be in for a treat. She was the lay speaker at General Conference last summer. There will also be some special music that morning. There will also be a special presentation of the Jay Gregory Memorial in honor of those who have worked for full inclusion of GLBT individuals in the life of the church and community at large.

Topping off our celebration will be a lunch provided by the GLBT folks in our congregation.

Please plan to join us if you are able for this truly special occasion.

Barbara Vining

Social Justice Chair



Amory Peck was born into a Methodist family, in a small town in the Midwest. Her early years included Sunday school, children's choir, vacation Bible school, and church camp. Junior high and high school included more choir, MYF, and church camp counseling. That small church taught her that she was loved – by God and by the congregation.

Amory's participation in the church has continued ever since. As an adult, she's sung in the choir, taught Sunday school, and held most all of the administrative offices in the church. She extended her service beyond the local church, holding office at the district, conference, jurisdictional and General Church level.

Amory served eight years as the PNW Conference Lay Leader, and on the board of the General Board of Church and Society for four years. She was the head of the PNW delegation to General Conference in 2008 and the first elected layperson in 2012.

Throughout those years, she has never doubted God's love. The love, the acceptance, of the church has been more of a question. Amory and her wife Linda live in Bellingham, and are members of Garden Street UMC, a reconciling congregation. Garden Street, as well as most churches in the PNW and the Western Jurisdiction, is supportive of them, and of other LGBT persons. Garden Street was the location of Amory and Linda's March 16, 2013 joyful wedding service. The General Church, though, continues to affirm its stand that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

Amory works to turn that discriminatory stand around. She has served on the national board of Affirmation (United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns) and coordinated the PNW Reconciling Ministries Network. She also attempts to make a difference by living her life truthfully and openly, and speaking out whenever she can.

Thank you God for tulips

There is no greater assurance of God's abiding love and presence in our world than spring flowering bulbs. You put these insignificant looking bulbs in the ground in the fall and never need to give them another thought. Then in spring they burst forth with a display of color and beauty for which there is no equal.

We especially need to admire the tulip. After the crocus and daffodils have done their thing, which is a marvelous thing as well, the tulips bloom. They are glorious and beautiful on a sunny day, but when it is dark or stormy they know to close up and protect themselves from the elements. Then when the sun comes out again, there they are open and bright and beautiful. Shouldn't we all be like tulips?



Book Club

The next book club group will meet on May 8, 2013 at home of Sharon Fosburg. Our book is "The Slave Across the Street" by Theresa Flores and Peggy Sue Wells.

We have a long list of suggested books for next year and need input from book club readers on which ones to select. There is plenty of time to add additional books.

Remember that the club is open to all the ladies. We have good discussions and learning opportunities. Please come and join us for a fun and informative evening.



Sharon Klump

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The SPR Committee passed resolutions at the April meeting to increase our musician and accompanist's, Dave Wilson, weekly pay to \$100. This resolution was approved by the Finance Committee and by the Administrative Council. We recognize Dave's musical gifts which he has shared with us and which have enriched and enlivened our worship services. In addition, with his help we have been able to grow our music team to include a drummer.

In addition, SPR passed a resolution to hire a sound person at the rate of \$35 per week. We know of a person who has expertise to improve our sound system, especially work for the appropriate sound balance among our musicians. The Finance Committee and Administrative Council also approved this resolution.

We recognize that investing in our music program enriches our worship experience. We have already seen our congregation's positive reception to the exciting spirit brought by these gifted musicians.

Barbara Vining

SPR chair

Welcome Carter Campbell Simon
born to Stephanie and Terrance

April 12, 2013

7 lbs 15 oz

21 inches long



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
- Next meeting: April 17th 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 Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Hello everyone

So, I am about to send out a prayer e-mail (right after I am finished with this Newsletter article, which is a day late, sorry Sharon), and as I look at the prayer list and listen to the news talk about Boston I am reminded that there are so many people in need of prayer inside and outside of our church. So I said to myself, self why not write some thoughts about prayer.



Well we have all heard the stories and the debates about some prayers being answered and others not. We've heard that God surely answers all prayers, some with yes, some with not yet, and others with no. We have even listened to country songs asking us to thank God for unanswered prayers. We have heard people talk about the need to face the right direction, say the right words, bow your head, close your eyes, and oh yes, to have enough faith for your prayers to be answered. Prayer is definitely a controversial subject. It is not a new subject. People for generations have pondered the how's and why's.

One thing is for sure, prayer is not reserved only for clergy and the religiously devout. Prayer is simply communicating with God—listening and talking to him, hopefully more listening than talking. We should pray from the heart, freely, spontaneously, and in our own words. If prayer is a difficult area for you, check this out...

...the bottom line is this: there is no correct or certain posture for prayer. In the Bible people prayed on their knees (1 Kings 8:54), bowing (Exodus 4:31), on their faces before God (Matthew 26:39), and standing (1 Kings 8:22). You may pray with your eyes opened or closed, quietly or out loud—however you are most comfortable and least distracted. It is simply between you and God, how, when and where you do it.

So why should we pray? One reason to pray is that prayer develops our relationship with God. Communicating with God—helps us to grow closer and more intimately connected with God (and that we need). Another is simply the fact that God wants our prayers and even instructs us to pray. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Ephesians 6:18)

That leaves us with the question of which prayers God will answer or not. Matthew 6:7-13 (MSG) says...

7-13 "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best— as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge! You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty!



My simple prayer for you, our church
and this world comes out of Matthew...

"God, do what is best...amen."

Peace, rene

Finance

We are one-fourth of the year into our special offerings for a variety of charities, that are over and above your offerings for the church. These are the special offerings taken on Communion Sundays; half of the Sunday offerings go to charities that the greater United Methodist Church subscribes to, and half go to local in-church charities.

So far this year we have supported One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Ministries Sunday, and Church World Service Sunday. These are all for the greater UM Church and are collected worldwide. We have had one collection for local support of Camperships. Others this year will include Tide Me Over, Angel Fund, and another Campership Sunday. In addition, the United Methodist Women had a Blanket Sunday collection which raised \$247.

Our Communion Sunday offerings have distributed another \$247 to the other charities. Thank you to everyone for taking part in this additional fund-raising to support the mission work of the UMC.

Cynda Webb

Finance Chair

Remember
Mother's Day
May 12th



Trustees

Thanks to all who helped on March 23 for a church clean-up day. We were able to burn brush, blow the parking lot, edge and clean up around the side walks, prune, weed, pressure wash cemented areas and clear out last year's ferns. Good job and many, many thanks for all the help!

The newest project is the painting in the hallway by the kitchen. Most of the preparation work has been done and now on to the painting. Again, we are looking for volunteers.

Thanks to Gene and Frank for taking the old organ with the stuck key to its new home.

The roof seems to have stopped leaking for which we hope will last for years and years.

Sharon Klump

Trustee chair

Update on Missionary Dr. Guy Kasanka

Global Board of Global Ministries Missionary Dr. Guy Kasanka is back home. Dr. Guy Kasanka became seriously ill while on itineration in the Pacific Northwest Conference a few months ago. The following update was sent to us from the General Board of Global Ministries to pass along.

"Thank you so much for all your support and prayers for Dr. Kasanka. He has returned home to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is recuperating. Please continue to keep him in prayer. We appreciate the support of Pacific Northwest and your faithful commitment to mission."

Melissa Hinnen, Director of Content and Public Information | General Board of Global Ministries



LONGVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2851—30th Ave.

Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net



**Check out our brand new
website!**

www.umclongview.com

Celebrate with us

**Our 10th Anniversary as a
Reconciling Congregation**

May 17 - 19, 2013

Shower or stoles: Friday 6 - 8 pm

Saturday 2 - 4 pm

Worship :

Sunday 10:30 am

Lunch following