

Volume 7 Issue 8

November, 2012

We Welcome All

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

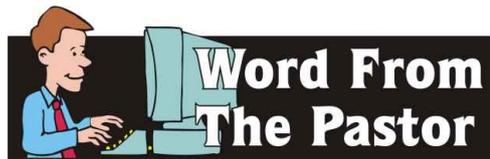
We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!





With Thanksgiving just around the corner, soon we will be, or already have been busy buying or making Christmas gifts for friends and family. So before we get too deep this year, let me ask you a question. Ever stopped and wondered why we give gifts? Is it just something we do and our goal is to get the job done, or is there more to it? Christmas, of course, isn't the only time of the year we give gifts (as far as major holidays are concerned). There are other opportunities of course. We help our economy with gifts to mark special days, such as birthdays and anniversaries; there are also other holidays, ranging from Valentine's Day and Easter to Mother's and Father's Days; there are graduations and retirements; and religious events, including baptisms etc. Sometimes we even give gifts when no special occasion is involved, just because. These are probably the best kind of gifts.

So why do we give? Well, tradition is one reason, a job well done is another, and of course our own joy when we watch others receive our gifts. History traces the practice of giving gifts to pagan times. The Bible goes back even further, revealing that the source of all gift-giving is God, our Creator. From the moment of creation, God has continually showered us with gifts and will never stop doing so. Because we are made in the image of God, there is a generosity in us that moves us to want to give to one another. Our gifts to others, like God's gifts to us, are a way of showing our love to each other. We are saying, "I love and care about you. I was thinking of you when I bought or made this gift."

In this material world we live in today, we need to understand that material things are not the most valuable gifts we can give to each other. Looking back at your own life, what are some of the most special moments you can recall? God gives Himself to us as the Savior who gave His life for us, as the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, and as the Creator waiting to welcome us into eternal life. Just like that gift God gave us, we too are the gifts to be given, even though our wrapping may not be very appealing at times, and the gift inside is not perfect. We are priceless because within us lives God, who loves us all. We are the greatest gift of all; we are also the gift God would cherish more than any other. So as we prepare for Christmas and Thanksgiving this year, think of some ways we could give more of ourselves to each other, and to this wonderful God who gives so kindly to us.

Peace my friends, rene'

\$Gifts

Thank you for your thoughtful and contemplative giving to the church. As we all listened this past month to Pastor Rene telling about the many forms of stewardship that all of us have the possibility of sharing, and listened to our own hearts for our Consecration Sunday pledge, the church can move forward into 2013 with confidence. Our missions are important ones. Your gifts make our missions possible.

Cynda Webb and the Finance Committee

United Methodist Women

We had a wonderful time at our annual retreat at the Ocean Park Camp! We all really enjoyed the fellowship time, the time to relax and the chance to explore some of what the Long Beach Peninsula has to offer. We experienced all sorts of weather during the weekend and were even treated to a beautiful rainbow Sunday morning! We booked the same 3rd weekend of October for next year. This weekend is available to all women of our church, so set the time aside right now to join us next year.

The annual UMW holiday bazaar happens Saturday November 10th. We would love to accept your donations to sell at the bazaar. We especially hope many of you will be willing to donate baked items for us to sell. Please let me know that you will bring. The bazaar is one of our main fund raisers that allow us to contribute to many areas of our church life, as well as local and global mission causes. We are able to be generous in the church and community because of your support. Even if you don't feel that you can contribute items to be sold, you can shop the bazaar and encourage your friends and family to do the same!

We all appreciate the support we have from the congregation! We couldn't do what we do without all of you.

Sharon Fosburg

UMW President

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

- "Over the Wall"
Sundays at 6:00 pm at Fosburgs.
- "Walk with Jesus"
Sunday 9:30 am - Tuesdays 10:00 am

Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.
- Christmas choir rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 pm



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As your Bishop, I am called to serve and lead churches with faithful people who too often stake out their respective corners in the big tent we call United Methodism. While my personal beliefs may align with the majority who strongly affirmed Washington State's Marriage Equality bill in Pasco this past June, I also experience deeply my call to serve those who stand in faithful opposition to the voice of that majority.

Washington state's Marriage Equality bill has my support because it does not mandate anyone to do anything they do not want to do, and this is in harmony with my own stance on religious freedom. I believe that it is also consistent with our United Methodist heritage and our shared practice of honoring the deeply held beliefs of others, even when we do not fully agree with them.

As your Bishop I am committed to defending and supporting the rights of all people, even when their "political persuasion" might be different from the majority, or even my own. To those who are currently disappointed, I hope you know that I hear you even as we must disagree in this area.

It is my belief that the future of The United Methodist Church, if it is to have one, is not to be found in dogmatic conformity to one possible expression and understanding of faithfulness. Instead, it will be discovered as we open our hearts to the pain present in world around us, our minds to revealed truth and the Spirit's continued work through the church, and our doors to all of God's beloved children.

I shall continue to pray for all sides of this challenging issue. I ask you to do the same, and to keep me in your prayers as we each seek God's Spirit and a fullness of truth that is always beyond our understanding. Let me leave you with a few *refreshed* words of Wesley's as a blessing and a prayer.

In the name, then, and in the strength of God, let us resolve not to hurt one another; to do nothing unkind or unfriendly to each other...

Let us, with God being our helper, speak nothing harsh or unkind of each other...

Let us endeavor to harbor no unkind thought, nor to allow anger or resentment to remain, which is contrary to tender affection...

Finally, let us work to help each other on in whatever we are agreed leads to the creation of the just society Jesus preached of. As much as possible, let's rejoice when we have common cause to do God's work together...

Above all, let us each take personal responsibility (since each must give an account of themselves to God) so that we do not fall short of the religion of love, each accountable to the Gospel they received.

I am,

Your affectionate servant, for Christ's sake,

Grant Hagiya



Trustees

Gene and Frank, have been redoing flooring in the parsonage, room by room, replacing all of the carpet with nice wood-like flooring. Today (Oct. 24) they are on the last bedroom. This has been a significant project with the removal of the old carpet and cutting of the new flooring. A big thank you to both Frank and Gene. Rene and Jennifer have been so patient with us and we thank them also.

Shirley Paterson and I did a walk through of the church for the Charge conference and I will continue to work on completing the necessary paper work. I have heard of new ideas for the "Rose" garden area. Let us know if you also have ideas. It would be nice to make the Pershing street side of the church more attractive. Please let one of the trustees know of any needed repairs to the church.

Sharon Klump, Trustee's Chairperson

November Sermons & Scripture

- November 4th
"The Nature of God"
Mark 1:40-45
- November 11th
Barbara Vining sharing information from School of Missions.
- November 18th
"The Power of God"
Mark 1:21-28
- November 25th
"The Power of a Touch"
Mark 1:29-39

United Methodist Men

It is almost time for the bazaar we have a lot of things made and need some help selling on November 10th. We will be setting up on Thursday if anyone has time. If you can help, call me @360-430-6881. The next meeting will be at the church hope to see you all there.

Gene Fosburg, UMM President

"Where's Molly"

Join us for a free community showing of "Where's Molly" (rated PG)

Sunday, November 4th

Kelso Theater Pub, 214 S Pacific Ave, Kelso

2:00 (Doors open at 1:00, pizza and concessions available for purchase)

Where's Molly?" Since he was 6-years-old, Jeff Daly kept asking that question. When his sister, Molly, was not yet 3 years old, she was taken from their "perfect" home, never to return. While his parents refused to talk about Molly, Jeff was left to wonder and to mourn the sudden and mystifying loss of his only sister. Now, 47 years later, Jeff finally learns the truth to the family secret that kept him from his sister, in a reunion that will warm your heart and give you hope for the future of "less than perfect" people like Molly. For a preview, visit www.wheresmolly.net

A discussion, facilitated by film producers (and Molly's family members), Jeff and Cindy Daly, will be held after the movie. *If available*, Molly will also join us before the movie.

For more information, please email sallybartlett@lifeworkswa.org or call 425-5494.

****This film was shown at the Kelso Pub October 15th and is being shown again since people had to be turned away because the theater was full.*

Christmas Choir – come join in!

There is room for more voices in the choir! Make this a special part of your Christmas celebration. The plan is to present this cantata Sunday December 23rd during the worship service.

- Rehearsals are Thursday s at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary
- Beautiful, easy to learn music
- Wouldn't be Christmas without it!



Byron Held Interview by Niis

Whether it's serving on the local Habitat for Humanity board or volunteering with the Red Cross in Iowa, retired chemist Byron Held walks the Christian walk. His work with the Red Cross involved fires and floods with one major exception. He spent three weeks in Manhattan after the twin towers went down in 2001.

Three blocks from his work place, a resource center for victims, debris was being loaded on barges and hauled away. "Within the time those two planes hit, 50,000 jobs disappeared," Byron said. But the human cost went beyond that. As a hotline staffer he answered calls for which he frequently had no answer. "That was the hardest part," he said.

A New Jersey woman whose husband worked in Manhattan called a number of times. Her husband physically could not cross the river back into Manhattan. He just couldn't do it. He wound up under psychiatric care. He was denied unemployment benefits because jobs were available. "There was nothing I could do," Byron said. "That's the hard part. It stays with you." Their 9-11 experiences sent some vulnerable individuals over the edge, he said.

When Byron and his wife Betty visited Manhattan later on, police had established a perimeter about four or five blocks away from Ground Zero and those who trespassed were subject to fines of something like \$10,000, Byron said.

He and Betty met in junior college at Mason City, Iowa. She is a retired GED instructor. They have two grown sons, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild who is a bit over a year old. Byron isn't fond of the rainy season here. Family drew them to Longview. One son works here and the other lived in Beaverton until Intel sent him and his family to Phoenix, thereby ending monthly visits. The little girls in our congregation are drawn to this quiet guy with the twinkling eyes. "They're cute," he said. We were talking by phone but I swear I heard him smile

His church in Iowa was more formal than ours. Rene is taking a more casual approach, Byron said, "and is working hard at trying to increase membership." In the last 30 years, the Methodist Church has lost 30 to 50 percent of its members, he said, adding, "The whole church needs to look at what's wrong -- it needs to change because it obviously isn't reaching people. Conferences need to take a hard look."

These Interviews traditionally end with asking someone to describe the person interviewed in one word.

In a Word: Frank Webb, a fellow Habitat for Humanity volunteer, describes Byron as "dependable".

LONGVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**Check out our brand new
website!**

www.umclongview.com

Longview United Methodist Church
is a beacon of diversity in our com-
munity. We encourage each individ-
ual in their spiritual journey as they
become a disciple for Jesus Christ

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

All-Church

Thanksgiving dinner

2:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day

November 22, 2012

Potluck

**Bring a dish to share and have
Thanksgiving dinner with your
church family**