



Volume 7 Issue 7

September, 2012



Our Gifts and Tithes

Giving to the Church, whether in the form of money, of time, of prayer or talents, is something that we are told in the Scriptures we should do. Longview United Methodist Church is a mission post here in our community, a beacon, a sanctuary for those not accepted in other places. That involves struggling hard to do God's work, ministering to those we come in contact with. It is our mission to be vital, to be ready to make a difference in people's daily lives, thereby forming a Christian Community where all really means all.

There are many signs of Christian commitment within the Church—some are Sacramental and some are not. Baptism is a sign of our commitment to Christ and the Faith; Prayer and Church attendance are other ways we show our commitment to church. Our pledge is a sign of our commitment to carrying out the work, which Christ has commanded us to do in the world. It is a sign that we recognize the many blessings we share here at Longview UMC, and that they are important to us. It says that we realize where these Blessings come from.

But the word pledge often becomes a dirty word in our society. We become nervous, even scared to make a financial commitment to the church, or God. But pledging actually helps us to become better stewards. Stewardship is often defined as "the proper management of our daily life for the glory of God." I think this is incomplete. Stewardship is wider and deeper than a Sunday school definition. Stewardship is whole life stewardship. It is our time, talents and treasures, but it is also our relationships, including a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jonathan Falwell preached a sermon series on these principles that included the inclusion of "temple" and "testimony" to the traditional three (Falwell, 2008). I think that is getting closer to what stewardship demands. Stewardship is certainly managing everything because it all belongs to God.

- Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own**, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, ESV).

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1, ESV).

However, if one looks closely at Matthew 25:14-30, the servants were not rewarded for just *managing* the money. They were rewarded (well done, enter my joy) for *investing* what belonged to the master and producing a profit for him (Matt. 25:21, 23). The man with one talent "managed" the single property entrusted to him and rather than rewarded, he was condemned as being wicked and slothful and then was sentenced to "outer darkness"—a place "where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30, ESV). He returned what was given to him. He managed it.

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Stewardship is greater and more expansive than just managing time, talent, treasures, testimony and temple for the glory of God. Upon further examination of the Scripture passage in Matthew 25, it could be argued that it is more than just the *management* of everything in our life; but the *investment* of everything in our life. Stewardship is better defined as **investing every aspect of our life for the glory of God.**

I invite you this October to be in prayer with us, to be present in worship, to become thankful for all of the blessings God has granted us. We will take the month to talk about Stewardship, and what it means, how it works, what it looks like. And on October the 28th we will celebrate, sing and eat as we prayerfully commit ourselves to the mission of this church, with our pledges of prayer, of time and talent and yes, even of money.

Thank you all, peace...rene'

Many of you have already learned that Dr. Guy Kasanka, missionary from the Democratic Republic of Congo suffered a stroke a few days after he shared a potluck with us and told us about his work at his clinic. He was in Randle at the time of his stroke.

He is now at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup where he is in extensive rehab. He can talk and wants to use his computer in the evening. He is also tired after all that they put him through during the day, so can only do so much.

His wife is being brought to the United States to be at his side.

Please keep Dr. Kasanka and all his family in your prayers.



Our Piece of the Peace

Christian/Muslim

Conversation

With Ann Holmes Redding of

Abrahamic Reunion West

Friday evening, October 19,

7:00 pm - Lecture

Saturday, October 20 - Workshops,
luncheon, practice of mid-day prayers

Sunday, October 21, 10:00 am - Worship

St. Stephen 's Episcopal Church

Sslv.org adminis@sslv.org

360-423-5600

1428 22nd Ave. (at Louisiana)

Longview, WA 98632

Also at St. Stephen's Church:

Jessie Dye of Earth Ministry

Sunday October 7th

11:30 am worship

In addition to preaching, Jessie will meet with us after church to talk more about the meaning of Eco Justice and how we can engage in that work here in Longview. She serves as Program and Outreach Director for this Earth Ministry, founded "To inspire and mobilize the Christian community to play a leadership role in building a just and sustainable future."



Angelic Sounds

It's time to look forward to the Christmas season and our traditional special musical presentation. I have selected a "Cantata" for this occasion and the Pastor and I have talked about practice times. However, it is getting a little bit concerning because Wednesday seems to no longer be a good option for a couple of reasons. In addition, Thursday is the Unity Crew's practice time and we need to maintain that effort. So Pastor Rene and I talked about doing a Tuesday evening practice. That seemed to be the solution, but I have talked to a couple participants (one of whom is a "foundation" alto) and found out that it conflicts with a couple other commitments including the practice time of the Community Choir where two of our people are engaged. Sunday afternoon was suggested. I think that puts folks into a long day and for me isn't going to work because of the study on Sunday evening. So that leads us to Monday which I have not talked to the Pastor about yet. Feedback anyone?? I can't imagine not doing this for Christmas! I am totally willing to do it, but I have a fair amount to deal with right now, even if it is a lot of things I enjoy. For me: Sunday worship service, Sunday evening book study (at least until the end of November), a busy job (employment) through the week, planning music for service and Unity Crew practice prior to Thursday, Thursday evening Unity Crew practice, plus involvement in Worship Team, attending an occasional "other" meeting, etc. So I will not say one more word about giving up another evening away from home and my partner for Choir Practice, but I just need to know it will be well attended and reasonable for all your schedules too. I welcome your feedback. :) Call me at 360-425-0430 or send me an email at RobertMumford@msn.com

Robert Mumford

Veteran's Stand down

Remember to donate new or gently used shoes for the entire family to be given at the Stand Down on October 22nd. Donations (they can certainly use cash too!) are due October 12, 2012

Vern Klump



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
- 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 & 6:30 pm

Praise team

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 pm. New voices and instruments are welcome!



So you want to be like Jesus?

Hello everyone, hope this note finds you well...so I'm listening to some of the election commentaries on TV, the promises made, the undermining of the opposition that is being done. I'm trying to look at our Country from a Christian viewpoint; as I listen to Christians discussing which way their vote will fall next month. I am looking at the physical, the spiritual needs and the hunger for freedom here in our own country, and it boggles the mind, even without looking to Africa or the Middle East. Hunger, illness, and war are daily routines in to many places in the world today. I am thinking how are we doing within the church, is Christ the head? And how am I doing in my own life? Am I living out Jesus' commandments, if my head wasn't spinning yet...?

Not easy, it is not easy to always know what Jesus would do. As we try to understand who Jesus was. We see that He came to "give life and that more abundantly". That grace was the foundation of all His decisions. That He turned water to wine so the wedding celebration could continue (with a little help from mom). That He hung around Tax collectors and prostitutes, and He touched those who were untouchable. I love the fact that He loved children and that they were comfortable around Him. He never condemned someone who was asking for help. He honored people's faith above everything else. He prayed. He wept, and He got a little bent out of shape when we abused what God had blessed us with (Temple). There is so much to the life of Jesus Christ that it is almost incomprehensible. What would life be like, if we were more like Jesus?

I know what you are thinking...well rene' you are a pastor...this is what you are supposed to think about, and do. Well, I would have to say that we are all supposed to think about that, and do. Jesus' commandment to love God, love neighbor, to go out and make disciples of all nations was not a commandment to pastors or Sunday school teachers or Trustees, but to all of us.

There is a great book out there. Evangelical pastor Ed Dobson had a radical idea...'Live one year as Jesus lived. Eat as Jesus ate. Pray as Jesus prayed. Observe the Sabbath as Jesus observed. Attend the Jewish festivals as Jesus attended. Read the Gospels every week.' In *The Year of Living Like Jesus*, Dobson chronicles his humbling and inspiring year in Jesus' sandals. His transition---from someone who follows Jesus to someone who lives like Jesus---takes him into bars and voting booths, inspires him to pick up hitchhikers, and deepens his understanding of suffering. As Dobson discovers, living like Jesus is quite different from what we imagine. Funny, challenging, and provocative, written with great candor and wisdom, you are invited to join in on a year of revelation---a year that will change your spiritual life forever.

So you want to be like Jesus? I believe that we're not going to become like Jesus by simply eliminating bad things, but also having to add good things. You can't simply take things out of your life. Some folks want to be like Jesus, so they make a list of sins and try to eliminate them from their lives, this is good, but not good enough. When we do this we become proud of what we don't do, but we're not one bit more like Jesus. A rock doesn't steal, cheat or tell lies; but it's not like Jesus. It is by reflecting Jesus nature, by becoming like a mirror that we become less and less our self-absorbed self and more and more self-less like Jesus . Just as John the Baptist knew that "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30), so the Christian grows to reflect more of Christ and less of his own nature. Like Michael Jackson said, we need to begin that process with ourselves, not looking and judging others around us.

I'm Starting With The Man In The Mirror - I'm Asking Him To Change His Ways - And No Message Could Have Been Any Clearer. If You Wanna Make The World A Better Place. Take A Look At Yourself, And Then Make A Change.

So you still want to be like Jesus? Then I challenge you this month, take a good look in the mirror, pick one thing that you will add to your repertoire to be more like Jesus...may the peace of Jesus fill and surround each and every one of you, and may the dirt of his sandals be scattered on your faces, hope to see you Sunday.

rene'

Finance Team

As the summer ends, and the days get shorter, it reminds me that the end of the year is fast approaching. Your finance committee is making plans for 2013 by addressing the needs of the church. Our stewardship drive will be happening in October, and Pastor Rene has some inspiring ideas about using our gifts for God.

We are also planning the 2013 list of "counters" for each Sunday's offering. If you would like to be on the list, as a regular or as a substitute, please let me know.

Cynda Webb,
Finance chair.



United Methodist Women

Your UMW is busy, as usual this fall. We traveled to Vancouver Heights UMC for the District Annual meeting where we received recognition as a "Gold Star" unit and highest accomplishment in the "Mission Today" area, which reflects our involvement in many mission areas in and beyond the church.



We look forward to our annual retreat at Ocean Park Camp Oct. 19-21. The retreat is open to all women of the church. Please consider coming. It will be great. Rev. Ruth Mathis will be our spiritual leader and Sharon Dietel will lead us in singing. There will be lots of time to explore the beach, the towns, the camp or just relax and wait for the next meal to be served! We all work hard and deserve a bit of pampering. The theme for the retreat is "Joy, Humor and Laughter: The heart of spiritual life." You are encouraged to bring your sense of fun and creativity and a joke or two to share! The cost for 2 nights lodging and 4 meals is just \$100. Some scholarship money is available - just ask me about it.

After the retreat we will be refreshed and ready to do the work of our annual bazaar, which is scheduled for November 10th. We'd love to have your crafts and baked donations

Sharon Fosburg



I would like to thank everyone in the church for the food, cards, phone calls and love that was shown to me in the loss of my dear husband!

I also have to ask for more help. I need to have a work party to help clean and organize John's shop, so that I can have an estate sale. I need lots of muscle and advice on the best way to display everything! It is pretty overwhelming to tackle alone. If we had it on a Saturday I could get my son-in-law and son to help.

God bless you all!

Janie Polm

United Methodist Men



All is going well with the men. We are getting ready for the bazaar by building all kinds of wooden things. We've built planters, spice racks, hot pads, coaster holders and wine glass holders. Our regular meeting night is the second Wednesday of the month but my shop is open if you want to come by any Wednesday night or other time. Give me a call at 4306881.

Thanks to Gary and Robert for their help with parking cars for the Terry/Taylor garage sales. \$360 was donated.

Gene



The current Sunday evening study is going very well. It gives a unique look into what it really means to be homosexual and still know that you are a beloved child of God and deserve all the grace that comes with it. It's the story of how one man lived that journey.

The book is easy to read and to understand and is full of scripture references. It's not too late to join us on Sunday's at 6:00pm @ 2673 42nd Ave. Robert may still have a book or two and they are available on Amazon. We have a great group and room for more people!

Sharon Fosburg

"Where's Molly?"

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

Monday, October 15th

Kelso Theater Pub, 214 S Pacific Ave, Kelso

6:30 (Doors open at 6:00, 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 for the evening.

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

St. Francis of Assisi day is October the 4th this year. So on Sunday October the 7th at 2pm we invite you and your friends who are pet owners or caregivers to bring their pets in for a blessing.

Who Was St. Francis?

by Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit and without a mite of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up every material thing he had, piling even his clothes before his earthly father (who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor) so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious "nut," begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, bringing sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (see Luke 9:1-3).

Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no idea of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

He was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life (he died at 44) he was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, he said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior to have his clothes removed when the last hour came and for permission to expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.



LONGVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2851—30th Ave.

Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net



**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

