

The United Methodist Church of Anaconda  
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The Newsletter of The United Methodist Church of Anaconda, Montana  
Kent H. Elliott, Pastor 406/563-5390

## LENT & EASTER 2008

The **Lenten Season** begins with **Ash Wednesday** is February 6. We'll have a service for penitence and healing in the Memorial Fellowship Room at 6:00 PM. Companions in Christ will meet after the service at 6:45. Lent is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays, the Lord's Day in every season). In the old traditions, during this time new converts would receive instruction in preparation for their Baptism into the faith at Easter. It is a time for reflection and renewal of our commitment to be persons in Christ, that we may know Christ alive in us.

**Companions in Christ:** The Way of Grace continues through Lent, each Wednesday evening from 6:45 to 8:30. To save on heating, we meet in that room that we don't have a name for that's between the fellowship room, kitchen and rest rooms.

During **Holy Week**, we share in morning prayer for a few minutes, beginning at 7:45, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Then, on **Holy Thursday**, we'll share in remembrance of the Last Supper with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM.

The United Methodist Church (that's us) will host the **Community Good Friday** Service on March 21 at Noon.

**Easter Sunday** will begin with Praise and Brunch in the Memorial Room at 10 AM, Celebration Worship at 11:00 AM

## Meditation

(three margin quotes from our current study, *The Way of Grace*)

“Just as Jesus was taken into the wilderness after his baptism, so we are taken into the experiences of discipleship that we do not necessarily choose for ourselves.” – Reuben P. Job

“The fact is that, into all of our lives, things enter unannounced, unpredicted, often unprecedented. They change the whole structure of our living.” – Howard Thurman

“The grace of God invites all but compels none.” – Timothy Ware

## Following Our Dreams

John and Paula Ruth Ketcher

Dreams are gifts from our Heavenly Father. God spoke to Jacob, Solomon and Joseph through dreams to communicate divine messages for each of them. Over the years God has been communicating a divine message to me and Paula Ruth. Those dreams involve stepping out on faith and becoming totally dependent on the Provider of Life. Our new spiritual journey is leading us to thirty acres of hills, trees and rocks in northeastern Oklahoma, just outside Spavinaw, the birthplace of Mickey Mantle. God has provided plenty of building material on our land to build our dream log house and spiritual retreat center. In some ways we will be like the Desert Fathers of ancient times because there will be no running water, electricity or the comforts that we take for granted. Yet, in spite of all these seemingly overwhelming problems, Paul Ruth and I know that God is the producer and director of making dreams come true. It will be rough for the first year or two, but our Lord will provide us with our daily needs to accomplish what He has started. We ask your prayers and support as we faithfully follow our dreams for the glory of our Heavenly Father.

In Christ,

John and Paul Ruth Ketcher

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Dear Friends,



Is this how it happens? Recently I was in the kitchen of another local church, and I admitted that I know where things are in the Anaconda United Methodist Church kitchen now. For years, whenever someone has asked me where some item is located, I've replied with ignorance, on my theory (Irrational superstition? Karma?) that as soon as I know where the knives are kept the DS calls with word that it is time to move on. And, sure enough, four days later she called. That is where we are today, but for much better reasons than too much knowledge about cupboard contents.

On July 1, I will move to a pastoral appointment with the Clancy United Methodist Church. We'll have a few months for moving through the transition. I pray that this can be a grace-filled time for us to be together exploring where we are as a church in Christ, and get ready for what comes next for all of us. I invite us to be together in prayer for our congregation and me, for the Clancy congregation and their current pastor Lowell Uda, for our District Superintendent Su DeBree and the Appointive Cabinet as the work begins with you to toward your next pastoral appointment. In your prayers you'll be seeking God's guidance, too, about how to answer the question, "What do we want to find in a new pastor?"

May God bless us to make this time a blessing for all. For a while yet – see ya in church!

Kent

## Calendar of Events

### Every Week

#### **Sunday –**

10:20 AM, prayer for our pastor

10:30 AM, Choir Practice

11:00 **Worship** (Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

Noon, fellowship and refreshments.

**Tuesday –** 10:00 AM, **Quilters**. All are welcome to gather for fellowship while doing some mission work. After the work we share lunch. Join us to quilt, and/or for lunch.

#### **Wednesday –**

10:00 AM, **Bible study** at Donivan's (look for us in a back booth)

Noon, at First Presbyterian Church, Lunch Bunch for high school students

6:45 PM (Through mid-March), Companions in Christ

**Friday –** Pastor Kent's **reading day**. If you need to reach him, leave a message. He will try to get back to you later in the day.

**Saturday –** pastor's **day off**.

### Coming Up

See the outside page for Lenten and Holy Week services and events

#### **Worship Plans**

February 6 **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Psalm 95 (UMH 814)

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

*Greeter:* Lucille Vauthier

*Liturgist:* Mary Alice McKinney

*Sermon:* A brief meditation, then a larger

Mission Moment(s) with John Rich of

Intermountain Children's Home and Services

February 10 **First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32 (UMH 766)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

*Greeter:* Linda Nicholes

*Liturgist:* Ruth Gustafson

*Sermon:* Temptation, Freedom, Life

March 2 **Fourth Sunday in Lent; One Great Hour of Sharing**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

*Sermon:* Jesus Still Causes Trouble for Pharisees

February 17 **Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121 (UMH 844)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

*Greeter:* Jean Wilson

*Liturgist:* Barb Eveland

*Sermon:* The Wind Blows Where It Will

March 9 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130 (UMH 848)

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

*Sermon:* Jesus, If You Had Been Here

February 24 **Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7

March 16 **Passion/Palm Sunday**

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 27:11-54  
*Sermon:* Expectations

March 20 **Holy Thursday**  
– **7:00 PM, Communion Service**  
Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31 b -35

March 21 **Good Friday**  
– **Community Service, Noon, United  
Methodist Church**  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22 (UMH 752)  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

March 23 **Easter Day**  
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-18  
*Sermon:* The Risen One Calls Our Name

### **From Death to Life Eternal -- Jim Strang**

James B. Strang departed this life on November 2, 2007. Services and Interment were held on Nov. 10 from Jim's home church in Oelwein, Iowa, the town of his birth on Dec. 20, 1936. A memorial remembrance time was held in conjunction with our Sunday worship in Anaconda on Nov. 18.

### **Mission Moments**

*"God's glory, God's voice. . . . You'll do well to keep focusing on it. It's the one light you have in a dark time as you wait for daybreak and the rising of the Morning Star in your hearts." --2 Peter 1:19b, The Message*

Since opening in 1992, Africa University has grown at an astounding rate, with 1,300 students now enrolled at the United Methodist-related school in Zimbabwe. This year Africa University's first satellite campus opens in Maputo, Mozambique. The project is a collaborative effort of the Methodist University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

"Africa University was designed to serve all the people of Africa," said Ken Yamada, special assistant to board chief executive the Rev. Jerome King Del Pino. "We hope to create a model in Mozambique."

The Mozambique Distance Learning project, housed in the annual conference offices, has 20 new computers, with plans for expansion. Classes will be beamed to Maputo via Very Small Aperture Terminal, a two-way satellite ground station with a dish antenna. Enrollment will begin with about 40 students focusing on theological education and public health. Since Mozambique's native language is Portuguese, curriculum was developed at the Methodist University in Sao Paulo.

"Satellite learning gives students the freedom to work and attend classes at the same time," said Eduardo Namburete, satellite campus coordinator. One key goal is to serve students "in the rural areas who cannot afford higher education."

*from United Methodist Communications*

**MARCH  
2, 2008**

**Share the goodness of life with those who hurt.**



**Giving to One Great Hour of  
Sharing enables the United  
Methodist Committee on Relief to  
keep our promise that 100 percent  
of your designated gift goes  
entirely to specific causes.**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

### **THE CONNECTION**

Yellowstone Conference  
News. To read all about the  
happenings around our  
Conference go to  
[http://yacumc.org/The\\_Connection/](http://yacumc.org/The_Connection/)