



## Carus United Methodist Church

We journey together to seek Christ's Truth  
through love, fellowship and service.

### January 2007 Newsletter

[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/carus\\_umc/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/carus_umc/)

22765 South Highway 213, Oregon City, OR 97045

#### **RANDOM NOTES**

Back in 1977, I met the person who later became my wife. I was a Summer Intern at her home congregation in Seattle. Late in the three months that I spent there, we discovered that we had some very strong bonds between us. A few dates gave way to a sense that *Kathleen Davis* might just be the one. As all this was coming to be realized by both of us, it was time for me to go back to Pasadena for my last year in Seminary. It was *hard* to say goodbye, even for a little while!

During those months of separation, we kept in touch by a weekly long-distance phone call & especially letters. *Kathleen* was really good at writing and these letters had a wonderful effect on me. About the middle of each week, I would rush into the Mail Room to check my box. When I saw her envelope, my heart would start beating faster! I would drop everything else I was doing to open it up & I read *her* words. It was just like having *her* speaking them to me out loud.

As you might guess, we found some ways to get together a couple of times during that year. I would start counting the days until we could see each other in person long before that date ever came. I did not like to wait out the delay, but doing so made our meetings even sweeter! Eventually, we wed because we wanted to spend our lives *with* each other.

If this is how a person feels when they are deeply connected to a special someone, it also helps us understand how God the Father has blessed us with His Son, *Jesus* the Christ. We meet *Jesus* and discover a strong bonding between us. He may have gone away for a time, but reading His messages in Scripture is like having *Him* there to tell me Himself. His Word helps me know His Person accurately, binding us ever deeper together.

In that Word, Jesus promises to return one day as Lord of All. Waiting for His return in the flesh may not be something we like to have endure, but it is part of the realization that one day we will see Him as He is. That will be wonderful indeed! On that day, Jesus the Bridegroom will wed His Bride, the Church, because all of us want to spend our eternal lives with each other.

As you wrap up your Christmas celebrations, remember that God's gift to you in Jesus wants to keep communicating all through the days. Open up your life, His Word & discover how *He* will tell you about His love for you. It is a journey that will lead you to an eternal relationship with *Him*.....

By Grace Alone,

Pastor Rand

#### **INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CARUS UMC?**

*Pastor Rand* would like to offer a Membership Orientation Class to those interested. If you would like to explore about the congregation, the Christian Faith, & what becoming a Professing Member of **Carus UMC** means, please contact him @ **503/829-5508**. This opportunity is also open to current Members who would like to grow in their discipleship as well.

#### **CARUS CHRISTMAS TREE**

We wanted to thank the Miller family for the donation and the set up of the beautiful Christmas tree at the church. The Christmas tree was decorated on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all that participated in creating the beautifully decorated tree.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

The Carus Caroling Choir did a great job as always singing to the individuals that we visited this year on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. We visited the Lois Bain Foster Home, McLoughlin Place where Betty Drew and Harold Misner are living, and Barbarajean Gribble's home. We did not have the opportunity to visit Betty Carlile and Ruth Cunningham this year and we missed them both!

## MISSION PROJECT – CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thank you to everyone that helped to pack the 85 Christmas food boxes for our mission project on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. We were finished in a little over an hour – great job! A special thank you to everyone that helped pick up canned food from the Carus School. Delores Gleich had promised to take on this part, but broke her right hand and wasn't able to do this part herself. She appreciates those that stepped in to help her out. All the food boxes were delivered on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> to Human Services in Clackamas County. Any left over food was delivered to the food pantry at the Beaver Creek United Church of Christ. This project was a success thanks to all of you!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

New Year's is traditionally a time for resolutions: drop a few extra pounds, get in shape by walking each day, keep the garage clean and orderly all year. Most are good choices that are hard to keep without good preparation, strong determination and discipline. Carus United Methodist Church has been working hard to prepare for active discipleship in our community. This preparation began with our work on the mission statement: *We journey together to seek Christ's truth through love fellowship and service.* This service includes making disciples of Christ, and the journey includes growing and maturing to become more like Jesus. The "Design for Discipleship" series, in Book 3 "Walking with Christ", is helping us to learn biblically about this spiritual maturing process.

Here are a few points from the end of chapter one, "Maturing in Christ":

- God intends Christians to mature and become like Jesus Christ. God has saved Christians from the penalty of sin. They are presently engaged in a conflict with sin, but can anticipate a sinless future with Christ.
- Faith in Jesus Christ marks the beginning of Christian growth. The believer has God's resources available to him to help him grow.
- Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. It takes time as God works in the believer's life. Christians should reign in life, recognizing that God is bringing to fulfillment the work he began in them.
- Growing in Christ is similar to walking. Led by the Spirit, Christians are to walk in faith and love and in fellowship with Christ
- A mature Christian is one who continues to follow Christ, abounding in his work and experiencing his grace and love. God does not forget the work of the believer and will one day reward him.

Perhaps it is time for New Year's resolution that includes actively working to mature in Christ, or to be a disciple working to help others mature in Christ. Perhaps it is a good time to resolve to spend time each week in our bible study small group. All adults are welcome. Sunday School for all ages meet at 9:30 AM.

## UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY

United Methodist Women held their Christmas party on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Nancy Pogue's house. Thank you to Nancy who provided all the great food to go with the festivities of the evening. Secret Prayer Pals were revealed for the past year and gifts exchanged. New Secret Prayer Pals were drawn for 2007. Remember your Secret Prayer Pals with a card or prayers. Brainstorming was done to pick a theme for the 2007 All Daughters Tea. The theme that was picked for 2007 was salt and pepper shakers. So keep this in mind and bring your favorite salt and pepper shakers to the tea on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 1pm.

## THANK YOU FROM THE SARGENT'S

Once again, Kathleen & Rand wish to thank the large number of thoughtful folks in our congregation who have blessed us with many expressions of this Christmas time. We really appreciate your sharing with us & wish you the most blessed of seasons.

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

As we pray for the community around our church, and the community that will be moving into the houses across the road from our church, offer special prayers for single parents with children. Keep in mind that buying a new home, perhaps also selling a home full of memories, is a huge stress across a lengthy amount of time for a family. Ask for:

- blessings for their health and well-being,
- prayer for blended families and their relational health,
- and in January we are adding prayers for families/family members who are feeling down/depressed after the Christmas Season.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Regis Peregrin wants to thank all of you for your constant prayers on behalf of her son, Dustin, and his military service. This is his life of choice and his job of choice, so it seems hardly fair to ask so much of everyone, but you all are so supportive and kind in your generosity. It is by the grace of God that he survived the last deployment in Ramadi, Iraq, and your prayers and supplications were no small part of that. By the sound of things, this deployment to Ar Rustamiyah District of Baghdad is not much easier or safer, so your prayers of support mean so much our family and are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**January Birthdays**

- 1 Harold Misner
- 1 William Fulton
- 2 Nara Deller
- 11 Leslie McKay
- 11 Meghan Monzon
- 15 Carol Johns
- 18 Erin Uhl
- 20 Tony Foix
- 28 Mary Foix
- 29 Audrey Houtz

**January Birthday Sunday Sign-up**

Ann Krupa

**LOOKING TO RECYCLE GREETING CARDS?**

Ann Krupa has found a non-profit that can make good use of the front page of greeting cards. As you pull down your Christmas decorations, please remember this small mission opportunity and bring the front page of your greeting to cards to Carus UMC. There is a collection box under the narthex table. Ann Krupa can tell you more about the charity and what use the cards to make.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>31 Dec</b> December Birthday Sunday	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Communion Sunday	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> UMW Meeting at Arlene Pearson's 7 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Church Council at 7 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship Team Meeting 12:15pm	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Newsletter deadline	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> January Birthday Sunday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>2 Feb</b>	<b>3 Feb</b>

**January 2007**