



The Lamplighter

September
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The Newsletter of the Castle Rock United Methodist Church

From Our Pastor's Desk...



My Mother's Church and an Avocado

For many years I searched for my mother's Mother Church—The Methodist Episcopal Church. My mother told me she attended the M. E.M. Church in her home town in China. Amazingly, it was a lay preacher of the M.E.M. Church, Mr. Wong, that led a group of Methodist members to Borneo Island, and established the M.E. M. Church there. There I attended the Methodist school and accepted Jesus Christ.

The name of the M.E.M. Church was changed and replaced with Methodist Church. I dreamed that someday, somewhere I may visit my mother's "Mother Church"

To me, the M.E.M Church must be good. My friend told me that the taste of M.E.M. Church is like an 'avocado.' But I never ate an avocado be-

fore I came to the U.S. so there were two things I wanted to find;- - the M.E.M. church and an avocado.

For a half century I have not found an M.E.M Church, but a great thing happened when I came to this place. Two days upon my arrival I walked along the sidewalk. A big surprise, the words "METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH" appeared in my sight. I almost shouted out, "Mom, here is your Mother Church."

There were so many good things that the M. E.M Church did in the East two centuries ago that I can't tell them all. But one thing that I must emphasize:-- the Methodist Episcopal Missionary brought Salvation to my mother's home. The M.E.M. missionaries had changed the life of my mothers' family and the villagers and also my family.

Almighty God had helped the Asian people through the hands of the Methodist Episcopal Mission from the USA. Without the M.E.M outreach, my mother's and my family's lives would be different.

Therefore I hope that we, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Castle Rock, now Castle Rock United Methodist Church, would continue to reach out. Let's not merely care for our own community, we should also share our love from our "Jerusalem to Samaria and throughout Judea' and to the other side of the world."

My plea is that all members will stay together and love to tell the story of the Lord to the world. Because of your love and care many people's lives will be changed.

Love in Christ,
Andrew Hu

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Administrative Board



The following are highlights from the August 18th Administrative Board meeting. A complete copy of the minutes is posted in the foyer. The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Rutherford. Pastor Andrew led in prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Janet Kolk presented the budget and balance pages. We have everything paid for this month except for our apportionments. Different ways of recording a few items were suggested.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Andrew would like to reach out to those members who have not attended in a while. If you know of any one who would like a home visit, please let Pastor Andrew know and perhaps you could go with him to meet with these people. He suggested a committee retreat with each committee setting goals to share at that time, also suggested that this be a half day event with lunch. Each committee would be able to share what they have achieved in the past year. The youth group will be meeting on Saturdays at 6:00 P.M.; they will be discussing ways to invite their friends to the group. These meetings will be held at the parsonage with Pastor Andrew leading the group. They will be appointing officers also. Pastor Andrew thanked Rodger and Terry Dana for putting up the TV antenna.

Finance: Rodger Dana reminds us that budget time is approaching. Committee chair persons need to work up a budget to present.

Trustees: Chairman Charlie Rutherford reported that the Trustees decided to release funds from the memorials to fulfill the current contract for The Answer magazine until the end of the year. New door bells at the front and side doors have been installed. The stump in the front flower bed was dug out and new dirt put in the bed. They are still looking at outdoor light fixtures. The shrub beside the side door needs to come out so that Pastor Andrew can see who is at the door. Discussion on purchasing a safe for the church was tabled for now. The new closet and cabinets have been installed in the blue room and have been painted with primer, but need a final

coat of paint.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Scott received an e-mail from Tim Jones saying he was resigning as the youth leader effective August 6th. It was suggested that a two week or 30 days notice of resigning be added to the job descriptions.

Evangelism Committee: A Chinese dinner is being planned for October. The date has not been decided upon. David Whitt from the VOM [Voice of the Martyrs] will be at our church September 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Education: About 500 balloons and bracelets were passed out during the Castle Rock Fair parade. With the cost of postage so high it has been decided to send \$200.00 to Mulungwishi so they can buy their own school supplies instead of sending the supplies ourselves. A offering was taken to add to the \$200. The kids who attended the church camp all had a wonderful time.

United Methodist Women: The women are still collecting pocket goodies to be sent out to our troops.

Old Business: Barbara and Jan Mercer worked on updating the church history book, finding a gap from 1969 to 1992. The membership book needs to be found for the work to continue.

New Business: It was decided to purchase a TV/VCR combination for the Sunday School for \$150. It is to be paid for by monies given as a gift for use by the Sunday School.

Those Present: Barbara and Charlie Rutherford, Pastor Andrew, Mert Durham, Janet Kolk, Rodger Dana, Dorothy Miller, Scott and Julie Bear, Dave Kessner, and Jan Mercer.

June	\$5985.25
July	\$5730.01
August	\$5614.24

(Our budgeted monthly needs are about \$ 6900 per month. Some of these above funds are not a part of our regular income but are designated to certain areas.)

Thank You!

News from the Pews

This and That:

A new grandson was born into Pastor Andrew and Kiew's family on August 20, 2004. **Thaddeaus** joins two year old brother Tobias. The new baby boy is 20 inches long and weighs 7 1/2 pounds. Grandmother Keiw is in Antelope, California to help her daughter, Esther and son-in-law Terry Lee.

Pastor Andrew's office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. He is available other times by phone and will be happy to schedule appointments. Drop by his office and get acquainted. I have enjoyed getting to know him and you will too.

President Ronald Reagan... "Our coins bear the words 'In God We Trust'. We take the oath of office asking His help in keeping that oath. And we proclaim that we are a nation under God when we pledge allegiance to the flag. But we can't mention His name in a public school or even sing religious hymns that are nondenominational..."

Our Annual Charge Conference has been set for Sunday, October 17, at 7 p.m. Each committee chairperson needs to have their report of 2004 in by Sunday, September 26.

Church Basement Floods

The heavy rains last week appeared to cause the city storm sewers to over-flow into the streets and water backed up into a sump which overflowed into our basement. The entire basement was flooded with around three inches of water all over, and 30 gallons of mud. Our insurance agency recommended a water restoration company that came and sucked up the water and put seven heavy duty fans to work. Two days later the basement flooded again because of more heavy rain.



We are most grateful to Rodger Dana who contacted the insurance agency and has been working with the water restoration expert. We give thanks to those who spent hours cleaning up and fixing the problem- - Rodger, Don Lansing, Jim Hubbard, Charlie Rutherford, Pastor Andrew, and the professional cleaner, Don. They removed the old sump and cemented the hole in an effort to stop further water damage.

Opportunities in September

Each Week at the Church:

- Monday: 7 p.m. Choir practice
- Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Quilting...all are welcome
- Saturday 6:00 p.m. Youth meet at the parsonage

Each Sunday:

- 9:15 a.m. Opening of Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery through Adult Sunday School
- 10:25 a.m. Focus time followed by
Worship Services (nursery care)
- 11:40 a.m. Coffee Hour

September

- 1 12 p.m. United Methodist Women meet
- 4 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Hattie's

- 5 Communion, food bank
 - 11 6:30 p.m. We will have a guest speaking on the topic "The Conflict of Islam" in sanctuary
the public is invited
 - 12 8:45 a.m. Sunday School Kick-off Breakfast
 - 14 7 p.m. Administrative Board meets
 - 16 2 p.m. Friendly Callers meet
 - 17 7 p.m. Evangelism Committee meets
 - 18 5:30-8:00 p.m. the youth group is planning to have a "Welcome New Friends Party"
 - 30 7 p.m. Education Committee
- Charge Conference is October 17 at 7 p.m.**

More News from the Pews



This picture was taken in about 1983
left to right: Don Lansing, Michele Cunningham
Hanke, Bill Todd, Janet Kolk, Rob Elam, Sheila
Speck, Doug Hubbard

Sheila Speck joined our church after being invited to a lay witness mission held during the time George Hanke was our pastor. She has been an active participant ever since. She and Wayne have two boys, Jeff and Chris, who were also active in the church as they grew to manhood. Jeff is married to Amanda and lives in Everett. Chris is married to Heather and they have a three year old and are expecting a daughter in September. Chris will be going to Iraq in October and Sheila covets your prayers for him.

Did you know that Sheila comes to church early each Sunday morning and turns on the heat for us? She has been in choir for over 20 years and leads the Sunday morning opening praise time along with Charlene Kettwig and Janet Butler. She led the opening of Sunday School for many years. She is an active member of the Worship Committee. She serves with Peggy Goodfellow and Julie May on the Wedding Committee and is a regular volunteer as a liturgist. She is one of the assistant financial secretaries. Sheila, a certified teacher, substitutes at the elementary school and on all the days she is not substituting she volunteers there. She sells Avon. One can depend on Sheila to do what she says she will do in a timely, responsible manner. Her presence among us is very much appreciated.

Kid's Corner

At the opening of Sunday School one of our sweet, young boys wanted to sing a song about how Jesus sets us free. He told me later that prisoners would really like this song. He went on to say that we should go to a jail and sing it for them because they would really like it." (I agreed with him and thought that we are all prisoners in our own way, and we all should like to be reminded that Jesus sets us free.)

A second grader comes home from school. His mother asks him, "What did you learn at school today?"

"We learned how to make babies," was the child's reply.

Hiding her anxious thoughts, the mother asks, "Well, how do you make babies?"

Without hesitation the second grader says, "Change y to i and add es."



Monya Pohahau is putting her five pennies in the church birthday box.

Our Faith

The Bible says to have an answer for why you believe, to those who ask you. This is a good example of an answer to one of the most common reasons people give for ignoring God and His goodness.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens, is people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" - affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

from Rodger

Dear Vancouver District UM friends,

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face . . ."

So goes the song, and with it the encouragement to focus our lives on Jesus. This week brought to a conclusion our family's 2004 camping week. Out in the woods I had an experience I'll never forget. We were at beautiful Tahklahk Lake on the west slope of Mt. Adams, very close to the mountain. The setting sun was shining bright golden on the mountain. We stood there together on the banks of the small lake and stared. What a splendid sight. Missy, Bethany, Kimber, Daniel and I were awed. Just as I turned to go back to our site I happened to look around the lake. At every opening of the trees near the lake, an individual or a group of people were standing with their faces upturned just as ours were, gazing at the mountain. Perhaps two dozen people spread over 100 yards, having the time of their lives looking at Mt. Adams. The setting sun upon a mountain is beauty that draws the attention of almost everyone.

I thought of how the love of God is so compelling to us when we behold it in some pure form. The way we go about living our everyday lives, in some way changed and drawn upwards by our experience of worship at church on Sunday, will be that pure form of God's love for someone this week. When our neighbors and friends catch a glimpse of God's love through us, they can't help but stop and stare. They turn their eyes upon Jesus just like the campers turned toward the mountain at sunset. Your ministry IS changing lives!

Be sure to take time to notice God's beauty and love this week, and minister the love you see there. I'm a different person after being at Tahklahk Lake.

Blessings to you and yours, Mike Graef
(Vancouver District Superintendent)



Happy September
Birthday



- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Joseph Barkdoll | 20 Murray Hyde |
| 3 Hattie Bauska | 23 Ann Hubbard |
| 7 Peggy Goodfellow | 25 Joel Todd |
| 8 Bonnie Frey | 28 Mary Ellen Johnson |
| Russ Erbstoesser | Betty Nelson |
| Ginger Fickett | 30 Jenny Bauska |
| 10 Jan Mercer | |
| Rebecca Woeller | |
| 12 Anna Christine Gorley | |
| Amy Karnes | |
| 16 Nathan Roubicek | |
| Seth Stanley | |

***You are a gift from
God!***

Sarah Woeller bought
this cross at camp to
thank us for sending
her to camp!



Adventures in Prayer

"Every work of God can be traced to some kneeling form." Dwight L. Moody

Prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of reward.

St. Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within....

May you trust your God and Savior that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith....

May you use those gifts that your have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you....

May you be content knowing you are a child of God....

Let this presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of you.

Submitted by Karen Roubicek

Could it be that God brings people to our minds so that we can pray for them?

Please Remember in Prayer

- For our Pastor, Andrew and Kiew
- Karen Roubicek and her parents,
- Wilma and Leon Foulk in Nebraska
- Dave Knoeppel, blood clot in leg
- Ann Hubbard, Polly Ross, Brian Dahl
- Martha Stepp, Dorothy Kurkinen
- Gary Mercer, knee surgery
- For Esther Folquet and Granddaughter
- Church basement situation
- Our country's leaders
- Presidential Elections
- Our military
- That Law and order will come to Iraq
- For the persecuted church
- Spiritual growth for each of us
- "Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the LORD,*
- for he is good! His faithful love endures*
- forever. Psalm 106:1*

“Understanding Islamic Terrorism – For the Love of Muslims”

Castle Rock United Methodist Church will be hosting Pastor David Witt from The Voice of the Martyrs on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at 6:30P.M. This talk examines the basic tenets of Islam as taught in the Koran and Hadith. The foundations of Islam are compared to the foundations of Christianity. Some key issues are: Allah vs. Jehovah; Muhammad vs. Jesus; Salvation; Judgment Day; Martyrdom; and Jihad. Does Islam really teach peace and love?

Pastor Witt shares the answers to these questions through personal stories from trips to Islamic nations, and compares the fruit of Islam to the fruit of the Gospel of Jesus. The talk concludes with practical ways that we can begin to witness to Muslims and support Christian Gospel work around the world. If time permits there will be a question and answer time at the end of the talk.

The Voice of the Martyrs is an interdenominational organization working with Christians around the world who are being perse-

cuted for their faith in Christ.

Pastor Witt is the Western Regional Mission Representative for The Voice of the Martyrs. His travels with The Voice of the Martyrs have taken him to many restricted nations. He has brought support and encouragement to believers in Laos, Sudan, Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. He has preached in underground church meetings and taught in Bible schools in Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. In China, he met with house church leaders and personally witnessed their triumphant faith and courage. Most recently, he met with persecuted Christians in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Indonesia. His heart has been touched, and his life changed, by their actions of love and faithfulness to Jesus, even when facing death. Pastor Witt desires to share their stories.

This event is open to the public and will be followed by light refreshments. An offering will be taken to help offset Pastor Witt's travel expenses.

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AMAZING
THE BEST WORD TO DESCRIBE
THE GRACE OF GOD!