

EASTER EXPERIENCE

Our Thursday Tenebrae was well attended, and a small group gathered for Good Friday observance the next afternoon. . . . Easter morning, a large and expectant crowd gathered for an abundant brunch organized by Carla Neames and Aleta Toy. Aleta and Carla provided eggs and ham, and the rest was a potluck extravaganza. Some said it was the largest brunch crowd we've had in quite a few Easters.

Festivities continued with an Easter egg hunt organized by Jim Maners, held inside this year due to the rain. Jim's helpers included Jason Spiegelberg, Chandler Neames, and Dean & Elise Picozzi. Our egg hunters included Liam & Brady O'Cain, Cosmo Neames, Cosmo's friend Marco, Julia Wilson, Sam Shoemaker, and Carena & Kendal Toy.

The sanctuary welcomed us with a bright Easter banner, fresh pulpit and altar cloths, the altar flowers, and candles fresh and ready to light for the first time. The congregation opened the service by decorating the Easter cross with greens, tulips, roses, carnations, and daffodils. The sanctuary was full with 100 worshipers. The music was especially good, thanks to Anca Wilson, Elisabeth Chowning, and our faithful choir. For the many tasks in getting ready, thanks to Vic Bode, Ann Knoll, Mary Lou Lake, Jim Maners, Sue & Jim Ogilvie, and Darolyn Quayle.

Christ is risen indeed!

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PASS-IT-ON DINNER FOR SEWING KITS

by Dottie Hughes

Most of us don't do much sewing these days. But in many parts of the world, sewing is a skill that can encourage independence and generate income. To that end, the Sager Brown warehouse of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) collects Sewing Kits which are distributed to women throughout the world who need help in crises or in sustaining everyday life.

On April 27th the children of our Sunday School, with their adult leaders and Outreach Coordinators, will host a Pass-It-On dinner after worship service to raise funds to purchase the specified items for sewing kits and to cover the cost of shipping the kits to Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana. After the materials are assembled by the children, the kits will be dedicated in the worship service on Mother's Day and shipped to the depot for distribution.

In the meantime, if you would like to prepare kits yourself, requested items are described below. (All kits are planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items and nothing more.)

A kit should contain:

- 3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric
- 1 pair sewing scissors
- 1 package of needles
- 1 spool of thread
- 5-8 matching buttons

Wrap the notions in the fabric and place in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Pass-It-On Dinner on April 27th.



Putting the Flood Behind Us

Trying to get everything back to normal after the flooding in December has given me a taste of what the MIUMC congregation has dealt with over the decades with the education building. It is hard to invest energy in carpets and paint when I know the rooms were refurbished only a couple of years ago in some exciting ways, and the little voice says, “Who knows when the next flooding will be?”

The trustees are shoring up the dependability of the sump pumps with generators, and are moving the electrical switches inside. We lost the pump because the switch had corroded outside. And, if we had doors that sealed better, the water would not have come in in such amount. We would have had dampness, not sopping carpets and wet walls.

Insurance covered all but about \$2,000 of the damage. Drying the walls out, new carpet, and new paint – this has run to \$33,000.

The painting is complete, and the carpets are ordered. By mid-April, we may finally have everything back to original. The colors are new. That will disappoint some who liked the previous colors in a favorite room. Some rooms are more colorful than they were, others are less. The colors are warm, inviting, earthy, and comfortable. What has changed is that there is a flow from room to room as the same colors repeat in different patterns. The trim and walls are satin, so they will be easy-wash. The carpet is nylon, and will resist dirt and be easy to clean. The carpet colors will also camouflage dirt and stains.

“I love the new nursery wall colors! The wall painted warming peach is gorgeous! The nursery has such wonderful karma now and the colors are so pleasing to the eye!” -- *Inna Brayman, Nursery Attendant*

Soon there will be posters up and projects will appear, and soon the rooms will look more individual and lively. And what will make them beautiful will be the children, youth and adults who use them for Sunday School, Scouting, and community meetings.

Grace and Peace,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight

Visitors are coming! Please be on the look-out for new faces worshiping with us. Introduce yourself and ask whether they would like to sign a visitor card so we may keep in touch. Let’s all make a commitment to be the best welcoming committee possible, overflowing with “Radical Hospitality!” (When people sign a Visitor Card, they will receive a phone call or letter acknowledging their visit and telling them a bit more about the church. They will receive the newsletter for several issues.) -- *Linda Hodge, Nurture Coordinator*

Emergency Feeding Program

The theme this month is *Baby Shower!* April’s foods of the month are 28-oz Iron-Enriched Powdered Infant Formula and Jars of Baby Food: squash, peas, peaches, pears, chicken & beef (No “junior” food please.) Or if you prefer, a cash donation of \$28 will buy a week’s supply of iron-enriched baby formula. For all of those whom you help so generously with your donations, thank you very much!

April birthday wishes to...

- 3rd ◦ Kristin Numata
- 6th ◦ Elaine Dondoyano
- 7th ◦ Joseph Bassetti
- 15th ◦ Anne Luckman
- 19th ◦ Bryan Maruhashi
- 22nd ◦ Alice Dowdy
- 22nd ◦ Dick Decker



(So sorry if we've missed yours! Please be sure to update the **BIRTHDAY BOOK** in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you, and many more!)

UMC Turns 40 !

Forty years ago this spring, The United Methodist Church became *The United Methodist Church*. On April 23, 1968, delegates from the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches voted to merge their denominations at a Uniting Conference in Dallas. Four decades later, as United Methodists return to the Dallas area for the 2008 General Conference, many former EUB members remain active in ministry and have differing opinions on how best to remember the denomination of their youth. "It seemed to fit the mood of the times-ecumenical coming together as one body of Christ," said the Rev. James Skinner, who was ordained by the EUB Church in 1965. "I remember people discussing how they were afraid of being swallowed up. Others saw great opportunity in the broader field of Methodism." At the time of the merger, EUB's numbered fewer than 1 million. The Methodist Church, with more than 10 million members in the United States at the time, was one of the nation's largest Protestant denominations.

<> *Parents' Night Out* <>

A community service of
Mercer Island United Methodist Church

First Fridays from 6:30pm-9:30pm
(Open house style)

Games, dinner, and movies for the kids,
while parents enjoy their own together time.
Ages 3-12 are welcome.

Upcoming dates: **Apr 4, May 2, & June 6.**

Reservations needed. Call (206) 232-3044.

*Our thanks to Carla Neames
and Aleta Toy for this opportunity!*

Bishop Paup accepts role within GBGM

United Methodist Bishop Edward Paup has been elected to lead the church's General Board of Global Ministries, which oversees global missions and is the denomination's largest agency. He will assume the post of General Secretary on Sept. 1. Until that time, Bishop Felton May will continue as the interim top executive. Paup, 62, is bishop of the Seattle area, which includes the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference and Alaska Missionary Conference, and is president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops. He said he will tender his resignation from the episcopacy, effective Aug. 31, when the United Methodist Council of Bishops meets in April.

APRIL MYSTERY PERSON

Congratulations go to Sue Ogilvie who was the first to identify our intrepid Coast Guardsman: Skip Melberg! (Thanks to Jim Maners and Anca Wilson who were also able to answer correctly.)

April's person is an MIUMC member born in Chicago, who loves music & museums, especially Natural History ones. She met her husband at an Engineering Society function. She now likes to walk everyday with a friend, and she has 7 grandkids.

Can you name this mystery person?

Vote on Tent City Pending

The MIUMC Council has voted to move ahead with the project of hosting Tent City 4. Because it is a major decision, the Council is moving to a Church (Charge) Conference. There will be residents of Tent City and SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resources Effort) present with us, and people from other congregations who have hosted will be invited to share their experiences. It will be a time to get questions and concerns out on the table. Once the body feels it has the information it needs, we will move to a vote.

The single agenda item for vote: Shall we issue an invitation to Tent City 4 to locate their encampment on our lower parking lot for a period of 90 days? The priority date will be August 10-the first week of November, but if Holy Trinity Lutheran issues an invitation for that time, we will work with SHARE for their next needed date. Participants and members of the Congregation will have voice in the discussion, but only members have a vote. A date for an All-Church Conference is in the process of being set with our district superintendent. Watch for an April meeting date.

Seeds of Compassion

Bob Hughes reported on the upcoming Seeds of Compassion Gathering in Seattle. It will be held from April 11 through 15, 2008, and will include appearances by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is described as, "an unprecedented gathering to engage the hearts and minds of our community by highlighting the vision, science, and programs of early social, emotional and cognitive learning. Anchored by the deep wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this community-focused event will celebrate and explore the relationships, programs and tools that nurture and empower children, families and communities to be compassionate members of society." Volunteers are welcome and needed. Due to overwhelming response, tickets for virtually all Seeds of Compassion events are sold out. There are still tickets for the Music & Dance Concert on April 14 at McCaw Hall, featuring the Yuval Ron Ensemble. And there are free workshops available at the Seattle Center. For the latest news and availability, visit www.seedsofcompassion.net.

Thank You for Your Gifts

The special offering for UMCOR, One Great Hour of Sharing, on March 2nd resulted in \$500 for that agency of our church that responds to crises all over the world and here in the U.S. Our Easter Offering, in addition to our customary giving, collected Easter Gifts totaling \$925. As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

Happy Purim!

Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the Book of Esther. Purim is characterized by public recitation of the Book of Esther, giving mutual gifts of food and drink, giving charity to the poor, and a celebratory meal. The Congregation of Beit Messiah shared their celebration of Purim and wished us a joyous Easter in the gift of a large Purim basket of goodies which we enjoyed during coffee time after worship.

Directory Corrections

Please note the following corrections for the listings in your MIUMC church directory:

Irene Fleming's telephone number should be listed as 275-3129. (Sorry, Irene!)

Claudia Espinosa's email should read claudiaespinosa@cable.net.co.

Your Gifts at Work

The canned goods collected during the offertory at each Sunday morning worship service go to the Emergency Feeding Program, and Dick and Becky Dudley have delivered 8 grocery bags full of food to that facility since the beginning of this year.

In addition to food, the Sunday morning offering also includes children's books. These new and gently-used books are used by the Atlantic Street Center in several of their programs to encourage reading by their young clients. One of the more imaginative efforts is the Parent-Child Home Program, in which a trained worker goes directly to homes of 2 to 3-year old children twice a week. The donated books are also used in Atlantic Street Center's Summer Academy and as a part of the "merchandise" at the holiday toy store at Christmastime. In 2007, MIUMC donated approximately 250 books for Atlantic Street Center's programs.

April 2008

Except for Worship & unless otherwise noted: Groups meet in the Fellowship Hall for 1-hour

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer*	2 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	3 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group	4 6:30pm Parents' Night Out	5 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
6 9:30am Chancel Choir 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	7	8 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Finance Comm Mtg	9 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Cub Scout Troop	10 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 12p-11p Beit Messiah	11	12 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
13 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	14	15 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Ad Council Mtg	16 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	17 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group	18	19 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah 1pm-3pm April Garden Party
20 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	21	22 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Sons of Norway	23 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	24 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group	25	26 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
27 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 12pm Pass-It-On Meal 7pm Adult 12-Step	28	29 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer*	30 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah			

MIUMC Tel: (206) 232-3044 Fax: (206) 236-2281 miumc@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am-1pm

BSF Women: Fellowship Hall, *Both Levels*
Beit Messiah: Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
Bible Study: Fellowship Hall Library

Cub Scout Troop: *Lower Level*, Room 3
Men's Prayer: Fellowship Hall Library
*Women's Prayer @ *Irene Fleming's*



“Passing It On” Online

Join our online newsletter list.

E-mail miumc@hotmail.com to receive an online version of our newsletter.

Passing It On

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight

Editor: Brian Wilson, church office manager

Please deliver any submissions you may have for the upcoming newsletter to the church office (preferably via email) by the 20th of the month prior. So, that’s 4/20 for publication in the May newsletter. Thank you very kindly!



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Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church

Doers of the word



APRIL GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, April 19 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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We made **great** progress last month. Now, the next crop of cold-weather weeds is coming in. Bring your gardening tools and weed buckets. There will also be extras on hand. Bags of bark mulch appreciated. If we are on top of this spring weeding, things will look better all summer and be easier to maintain.

Refreshments provided.