



Hello from Leslie Ann

Dear Members and Other Friends of MIUMC,

Arriving as the new parsonage family is a bit like marrying into a family. After one month, Vic and I are still at the introductions stage with you, but we are so glad to be becoming part of the family. We look forward to the time when we realize that we have become part of you, and you of us. “When did it happen?” we will ask one day. “When did our lives become so deeply entwined?” We won’t know. But we already know that this first summer will remain vivid in our memories as a time of good beginnings.

My primary goal for the summer has been to meet as many of you as I can, and to begin to know this community. Bev Spiegelberg has been doing a great job of setting up introduction visits, and I have enjoyed being in people’s homes. Sometimes Vic and I have visited together, other times I have visited alone. Some visits have been in my office. Every visit has been unique, and it has been a rich time.

It is a joy to work with Lee, and I am sorry to see her go, but I realize that this is a good and necessary transition for her. She will be a gifted pastor if she discerns that is the path God is calling her to follow, and Mercer Island has enthusiastically confirmed her gifts for ministry and offered her many opportunities to exercise them. She will be preaching on August 19 while I am on a week’s vacation. Lee is inviting the church family to her home for a Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 25. That Sunday, August 26, will be her last Sunday with us, and we will celebrate her ministry at MIUMC and send her off with blessings.

My priority for the fall is to provide an in-depth Bible Study: *Invitation to the New Testament*, based on the Gospel of Matthew and the question “*Who is Jesus and what is his significance for our lives?*”

This study will provide grounding for our shared life and ministry together. I especially welcome newcomers to the congregation to take part. You may have a friend who is spiritually hungry who would like to participate, and they are welcome.

This is not too hard for beginners. But neither will it be too easy for people experienced with the Bible. More information is in this issue of *Passing It On*. And I’d be glad to talk with you about it.

Grace and Peace,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight



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News from the Pews



Farewell Celebration for Lee Carney Hartman!

Mark your calendars now, and plan to be here after worship on Sunday, August 26, to give a big MIUMC Thank You to Lee for all she has done for us! (And as Lee says, "We'll have cake!")

Vacation

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight will be on vacation August 13-19. Linda Hodge (ph. 232-8078) and Bob Hughes (ph. 232-0598) will provide pastoral coverage. Call them if there is a hospitalization, or other pastoral need.

Name Pins

It is a great help to Leslie Ann and Vic if you wear your name tags at worship. It will help them to learn your names. The pins are also hospitality for newcomers and guests in worship. When you give them your name by wearing the pin, it helps them feel more at ease and welcomed. If you've lost your pin, we'll order a new one.

New Member

Vic Bode is married to Leslie Ann. You'll see Vic at both men's study groups, and singing bass in the choir. He is looking forward to attending the Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Men's Gathering in Tacoma in August. Vic enjoys fishing and music. His email address: vhbode@q.com, or phone: 206-371-8743 cell; 206-236-9980 parsonage.

Lawn Care

Bill and Diana Blakney have given a new lawn mower for the parsonage. Thank you so much!

Emergency Feeding Program

Non-perishable foods carried to the altar during our worship offering are distributed by the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle and King County.

Foods of the month for August are C-Enriched Pineapple Juice (46-oz. cans or small pull-top cans) and Canned Chunk Pineapple (20-oz. cans, packed in juice, no sugar added). Or, \$15 to buy a whole case of 46-oz. juice helps homeless families stay cool on warm days.

September's foods of the month are rice (16-oz. packages) and fish sauce (23-oz. bottles). Alternatively, a \$13 check to Emergency Feeding Program will buy a large sack of rice.

"You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!" – *Isaiah 55:1b*

Pastor Jack

We received this great news from **Pastor Jack Sullivan, Jr.**: On Sunday, July 8, I was called to be senior pastor of Fifth Christian Church of Cleveland, OH. When I start on August 1, I'll become Fifth's third pastor in the congregation's 43-year history. Please inform my dear and loving friends of MIUMC of this news. Thanks to all for your kindness and support. Blessings on you all! --Jack

He will continue to use his current email address for now, JSullivan@gonzaga.edu. The address of his new congregation is: Fifth Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 14109 Benwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44128 Ph: 216.752.5996 Fax: 216.283.5294

August birthday wishes to...



- 2nd ◦ Diana Blakney
- 3rd ◦ Colton Lake
- 6th ◦ David Knoll
- 28th ◦ Cosmo Neames
- 30th ◦ Steven Duchaine

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

Thanks from Lee

The Lame Walk and More

As I finish my time on staff with MIUMC I am grateful for many moments and relationships: Easter sunrise at Luther Burbank, barefooting through a prayer labyrinth full of children, cookie productions for Kairos Prison Ministry (including that triple batch with way too much butter), Christmas pageants (let there be light!) and neighborhood carolling, recitals at the care center, gathering for worship, listening to the choir with my eyes closed, Sunday school, the Holy Smokes, Pentecost Bible study and buried treasure on Maury Island, a 100th birthday party!, moonlight sledding at Crystal Mountain, a homeless woman's powerful prayer as we served dinner (and socks) in Pioneer Square, fresh baked (and not so baked) communion bread...So begins a long and varied list of memories - made meaningful through our relationships with God and each other.

During a youth retreat at Lazy F in April we sang a song based on Matthew 11:5. "The blind see, the lame walk...the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and the good news is preached to the poor." I was standing there with my leg in a brace and crutches nearby, singing my heart out with new appreciation around what it truly means for the lame to walk! At that point in my achilles healing I was indeed starting to walk again, and MIUMC's ministry toward me had been a powerful means of grace in that direction.

As my recent term among you comes to an end, I am grateful for the grace-full power of the Holy Spirit known by way of the flesh you all give it. MIUMC is truly a community through which the lame can walk, the deaf can hear, dis-ease can be cleansed, the dead can be brought to life, the good news can be preached.... metaphorically and beyond. Shine on!

My love too is with you,

Lee Carney Hartman

Midsummer Financial Report

June Monthly Overview:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Total Income | \$16,358 |
| Total Expenses | 11,974 |
| Balance Remaining | 4,384 |

Year to Date (January – June 30)

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Total Income | \$77,760 |
| Total Expenses | 83,212 |
| Shortfall | 5,552 |

Year to Date Pledges and Giving of Record

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Budgeted through June 30 | \$75,000 |
| Given as of June 30 | 70,244 |
| Shortfall | 4,756 |

Year to Date Denominational Mission & Ministry (Apportionments)

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Budgeted January-June 30 | \$13,550 |
| Paid through June 30 | 4,580 |
| Shortfall | 8,970 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| Funds available for Church Operations (Reserves) | \$11,660 |
|--|----------|

Volunteer Service

Opportunities in Life
Tennis Clinic with
 Atlantic Street Center kids!

Aug 13 – 17, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Help with tennis, face painting, snacks, games, be a buddy, share a talent, have fun! Daily guest speakers will inspire all. Please RSVP in advance to Lee, (425) 444-5556, or leecarneyhartman@yahoo.com. (We'll carpool from church to Seattle tennis courts.)

What does the Bible say about *giving*?

by Elaine Dondoyano

Giving is an important act all throughout the Bible. In the early part of the Old Testament, Abraham set a precedent of giving 10%, called a tithe, to the priest Melchizadek. The tithe spoken of in the Old Testament included 10% of one's livestock, crops, grain, wine or other goods.

A tithe was not to be given only in abundant years, or only when there was excess. It was not to be cut back to 5% in lean times. It was not okay to give what was hanging around in the closet that you were no longer using. No, the people were to give "the best and the holiest" (Numbers 18:29). The 10% was not a *part* of the budget, but was the *leading item* of the budget! It was the cream of the crop. It was a *good* thing to give to God, and there are numerous accounts of the Israelites coming together to rejoice and celebrate because of the giving. Giving was the reason for the party.

If the tithe seems to you like a large amount to give, the New Testament followers blew the tithe out of the water. After the Holy Spirit landed in the book of Acts, the believers gave *all* their possessions, selling land and their goods and taking care of each other and anyone in need.

Ironically, the only time that Jesus mentioned the tithe was in condemnation. He spoke woe to the self-righteous Pharisees and teachers who were strict tithers, even down to portioning out the spices they grew in their gardens. It was a case of meting out tiny herbs when they were overlooking the mountainous issues of justice, mercy and faithfulness. Basically Jesus was saying that if your heart and actions are not clean, the act of giving does not make you righteous.

So what about us? How much? And why?

In Nehemiah, the people of Israel state, "We will not neglect the house of our God." Money was needed for maintenance and upkeep of the temple as well as those who tended it, the priests. The case remains so today—we need to keep on the power, pay staff, and purchase equipment and supplies to run our church. This is the infrastructure of our ministry, which then extends to supporting our church family, our community and the wider world in outreach.

How much? Many Christians nowadays still believe in and practice tithing. Billy Graham noted, "We have found in our home, as have thousands of others, that God's blessing upon the nine-tenths, when we tithe, helps it to go farther than ten-tenths without His blessing."

Also, there are even individual churches which, of the money they receive from offerings, send 10% to worldwide missions.

Beneath this lies the broad, provocative question—Does God need our money? Psalm 50 tells us no, God is the creator of the world. "I have no need of a bull from your stall . . . for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills." Wow, God owns it all in the first place! The act of giving is not because God is needy in any way, or because we are *supposed* to (woe to you!), but in celebration and generosity to honor Him, give thanks and demonstrate our love for Him. Does it warm your heart to choose a special present for someone you love at Christmas? Isn't it great to anticipate how much he or she will enjoy or appreciate it? Think about giving to God this way—it's about love, and it's a blessing and a joy for you.

Choir Members Welcome!

Come Fall, our chancel choir will again provide music for Sunday worship. Any and all interested in joining this ministry are most welcome! Please consider: "Whether it's a gospel choir, a community chorus, or an informal a cappella get-together with friends, several studies suggest that participating in choral singing may reduce stress, improve mood, and increase lung function. Singing may also boost immunity." So, besides being good for your soul, it's also preventative medicine! *Make a joyful noise!* (source: www.ConsumerReportsonHealth.org)

**Invitation to the New Testament
Fall Class Starts Wednesday, September 12
Led by Pastor Knight**

Using Matthew’s Gospel as a starting point, we will explore how the New Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus – his life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection – and the implications of his arrival for their lives and their communities of faith.

We will move through the Gospel of Matthew, taking the overarching themes from this story of Jesus for the conversation topics for each of the eight sessions. Each theme will then be traced through other related passages in the New Testament.

Who is Jesus and what is his significance for our lives? We are invited to join this conversation, to study afresh this story of Jesus, and to learn more about our calling to discipleship and to community. Scholars and other thoughtful people will come to us through video presentations.

The class is open to all who wish to participate. However, *Invitation to the New Testament* is not a drop-in study. The expectation is that all will be present except for illness or if you are unavoidably out of town. The study requires 30 minutes of preparation each day.

Sessions: Sept. 12, 19, 26; Oct. 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7 & 14
(*The class will not meet October 3 or October 31.*)

1. Jesus Calls Us Into God’s Redemption Story
2. Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life
3. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World
4. Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith
5. Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another
6. Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship with Tradition
7. Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again
8. Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Participant Workbook: \$9 (Each participant needs one; it doesn’t work to share between friends or spouses)

Register by calling or e-mailing the office, or signing up on the list at the back of the sanctuary so Leslie Ann can order the workbooks. **Childcare** will be arranged if there is a request for it.

(*Invitation to the New Testament* is one of the in-depth Bible studies produced by *Disciple Bible Study*, published by the UM publishing house.)

Family Fun Day in North Bend, August 25th



Choose from a number of recreational options, followed by **BBQ dinner at the Hartman house**. We eat at 6 pm! Hotdogs, hamburgers, beverages provided. Bring side dish/salad/chips/fruit/dessert to share if you like.

Recreation suggestions:

Hike and or swim at Rattlesnake Lake. Bike or walk on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Golf. Pick blueberries at Bybee-Nims Blueberry Farm. Enjoy the river at Three Forks Park. Fish. Go antiquing... (Ask Lee for any details you need! 425-444-5556.)

Or, just come for dinner and hang at the Hartman house! (trampoline, basketball, archery, sandbox, croquet, pool, fire bowl, hammock...)

Directions to Hartman's - 629 NE 10th Street, North Bend 98045, 425-444-5556.

From Mercer Island take I-90 East to exit 27. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left under the highway onto what will become North Bend Way. Follow this road into town (North Bend) and about halfway through downtown take a left onto Ballarat. Follow Ballarat about three blocks distance and go right on NE 8th Street. Follow 8th about 1/3 mile and go left onto Borst. Borst quickly ends, coming to a T with NE 10th. Go left onto NE 10th and follow toward the end of the street. We are the third house from the end, with a rooster on the mailbox and basketball hoop at the end of the driveway: small blue/gray ranch.

Tutor Reflections and Thanks (by Lee Carney Hartman)

When kids enter the library for reading and workbook time as part of Atlantic Street Center's Summer Academy, they get to pick their tutor. The week several of us volunteered there, kids were drawn to hip tutors like Mac and Clay Dudley and to wise warm tutors like Becky Dudley and Vicki Smolke. Chick and Linda Hodge, Sue Ogilvie, and Jean Strasburger also got plenty of action!

I was the last tutor available one day when a third grader came in. She clearly didn't want to work with me and took her book to an empty table. (Perhaps she preferred someone closer to her own age or ethnicity, I thought. Fair enough.) After a few minutes I asked if I could read at her table, each of us quiet with our own book. That seemed OK with her. A short while later she looked up at me and said out of the blue, "Church is my favorite place." I smiled. "Me too," I said.

It seemed the Holy Spirit breathed on us in that moment. Right away she began reading aloud to me and asked for help opening her snack. It became a very enjoyable session! We weren't in church and we didn't talk about church yet somehow we *were* church for those remaining minutes together.

Thanks to the staff and children of Atlantic Street Center and to our troop of tutors for a fun and often inspired time!

Coming Soon - Indianola Retreat Weekend

October 12-14 will be MIUMC's Indianola Retreat Weekend. Save the date! Thanks to Elaine Dondoyano, Linus Toy, and Bill Parker for inviting a wonderful weekend experience. More to come, but go ahead and mark those calendars!

August 2007

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

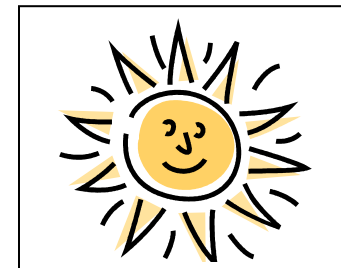
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|---|--|-----|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 5 10am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step | 6 | 7 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* | 8 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 9 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 10 | 11 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 12 10am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step | 13 | 14 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* | 15 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 16 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 17 | 18 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 19 10am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step | 20 | 21 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* | 22 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 23 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 24 | 25 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah All Day: Family Fun Day! |
| 26 10am Worship 11:15 Celebrate LEE! 7pm Adult 12-Step | 27 | 28 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* | 29 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 30 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 31 | |

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: *Lower Level* Room 8

Boy Scout Troop: *Lower Level*, Room 3
Mens Prayer: Library
*Womens 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: Lee Carney Hartman

Design & Production: Brian Wilson

Please note: there was no July newsletter... Congratulations go to **Elaine Dondoyano** as the first to guess June’s mystery person who was, of course, the **Rev. Jack Sullivan, Jr.!**



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**Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church**

Doers of the word



AUGUST’S MYSTERY PERSON

Our mystery person for August played for a diaper company’s softball team known as “The Poops”?

Can you name this mystery person?

Good luck.