

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 2

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

On behalf of the United Methodist Church, UMCOR brings hope and aid when a catastrophe strikes.

We rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid.

And, along with food, clothing, shelter, and medical help, we stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love.

From helping soldiers reintegrate into their communities as productive citizens to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, we are hope for millions in over 80 of the poorest countries in the world.

Here's Why Your Gift Is So Important

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 2, 2008, is absolutely essential to UMCOR. UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Through their gifts to the offering, United Methodists can assure that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

For more information, visit the UMCOR website at www.umcor.org.

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Our Lenten Journey

Lenten Art Gallery: Signs of Lent

Take time to look at the art posters in the sanctuary. You will receive an insert in the bulletin with the same picture on it each Sunday, and with reflection questions for devotions during the week.

Ash Wednesday February 6 3pm & 7pm

We mark the beginning of Lent with a smudge of ash on our forehead, remembering our mortality. Following Jesus, we begin the 40-day journey to the cross. The Service of Ashes centers on prayer, scriptures, and reflection.

Scouting Sunday February 10

Cubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Camp Fire girls and boys are invited to wear their uniforms. Current and former Scouts are encouraged to do so as well. We'll take some time to recognize and honor those in Scouting programs.

One Great Hour of Sharing March 2

Palm Sunday March 16

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae March 20 7pm
"Maundy" comes from the Latin "Mandatum," "Command." On this night Jesus gives us the commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It is the night of the Last Supper. We will share communion, and the story will be heard as a dramatic reading. "Tenebrae" means "Shadows." This is an ancient service, in which candles are extinguished and the shadows lengthen as we tell the story.

Good Friday March 21 1pm

Jesus dies on the cross, and is buried. The Good Friday service will be held at 1:00. The sanctuary will be open until 9 p.m. for prayer and meditation, and people will be able to come and go.

Easter March 23

He Is Risen!



The 40 Days of Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 6 this year) and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday, March 23 in 2008). *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*)

I am also intrigued with the fact that, in Europe, spring was usually a long time before gardens and fields began to produce. The winter food reserves were at their lowest, and living was lean. I believe fasting was a necessity for most people as well as a spiritual task. So on Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, they feasted on the remainder of the meat and fat (pancakes were a way to use up the fat forbidden in Lent), and then got ready to tighten their belts and to spend time on their knees. Hence Mardi Gras – Fat Tuesday.

Did you know pretzels were a Lenten food invented by a monk for children in the middle ages? The “loop” is arms folded over the chest in prayer.

With various practices and meanings, Lent calls us to strip ourselves of illusions and false hopes and expectations. It confronts us with the need to turn around our attitudes and our habits. Lent calls us to soften the callouses on our consciences and our hearts, and to renew ourselves in faith. It is time to get hungry – to whet our appetite for righteousness, integrity, compassion, and hope. It is a time to recall ourselves to who we are – and whose we are.

If you fast for Lent, you may find welcome relief to know that Sundays are always mini-Easters, and Sunday is a day you may break your fast.

As much as “giving up” is part of Lent, it is also a time of “taking up.”

- Use the enclosed guide to read through the gospels over Lent.
- Save your coins and dollars for One Great Hour of Sharing as you “give up” something else, like your drive-through coffee.
- Observe worship with consistency.
- Use your imagination. What might God be calling you to do this Lent?

See you in church,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight

February birthday wishes to...

- 4th ◦ Nicholas Luckman
- 6th ◦ Anca Wilson
- 8th ◦ Vicki Duchaine
- 8th ◦ Shirley Carney
- 10th ◦ Karen Gray
- 10th ◦ Ryan O’Cain
- 12th ◦ Aleta Toy
- 18th ◦ Karrie Hungerford
- 24th ◦ Lance Hungerford
- 25th ◦ Christine Weiser



(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!)

<> *Parents’ Night Out* <>

A community service of
Mercer Island United Methodist Church
 7070 SE 24th Street

First Fridays of the month

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: **Feb 1, Mar 7, & Apr 4**

Reservations are needed. Please call the church office at (206) 232-3044.

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

End of Year Financial Report

The general fund ended the year amazingly well. We paid all the apportionments, and fell short by only \$900.

Giving to Special Causes During 2007:

Burtenshaw Theological Educ Fund	4,536
Christian Education Day (Conference)	45
Extra giving for MIUMC Christian Ed	300
Emergency Feeding	798
Lee Hartman Departure Gift	1,051
Memorials for Ruth Fricke and Lucille Worth	910
Opportunities in Life	100
Parkinson's Program at MI Youth and Family Services	1000
Pass It On Meals <i>for causes not listed here</i>	1370
Jack Sullivan Departure Gift	895
Peace with Justice Offering	125
Toy Drive for Atlantic Street Center	1280
United Methodist Committee on Relief	665
Church of Mary Magdalene	590
Union Gospel Mission	231
World Communion Offering	45

FEBRUARY MYSTERY PERSON

Congratulations go to Bill Parker who was the only one to correctly identify January’s mystery person: our mystery pilot is none other than Peggy Anderson!

February’s person is an MIUMC member who has been an integral part of our church choir since the very beginning. As a result, he/she recently had their photo published in the Mercer Island Reporter.

Can you name this mystery person?

Vince Picozzi Starts New Study

The Adult Sunday Class led by Vince Picozzi is completing its current study, and will begin *Care of the Soul* by Thomas Moore. The class is open to all interested at any time, and meets at 10 a.m. Sundays.

In Our Prayers

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers:

Bob Pierce and wife June for Bob's recovery from a fall and fracture of his neck. He is in Swedish/Old Providence Hospital. No visitors permitted at this time, but cards would be welcome.

Becky Dudley's sister, Joyce, as she continues with cancer treatment.

Welcome Newcomers!

We want everyone to feel welcome in our Church family, especially visitors. To help our newcomers become comfortable, meet more members, and learn about what's going on in the life of the Church, we are assigning a host/hostess to each one.

We are also updating our directory (HONEST!) It should be available very soon, with email addresses & cell phone numbers. This will help all of us in learning to know one another and communicating better.

Linda Hodge, Nurture Coordinator

Newcomer News

The Thomas and Beatrice Durkee family, with children Angelina (3) and Alex (2), are newly arrived on Mercer Island. Thomas is a graduate student working on his doctorate in business economics. Beatrice is a neo-natal intensive care nurse at Swedish Hospital.

Have you met Brenda Davie yet? She is the cheerful woman with a smile and a British accent.

Mother Teresa

After a great deal of thought and prayer, the portrait of Mother Teresa has returned to Kaufer's Catholic Supplies. The portrait has hung in the back of the sanctuary in the "Doers of the Word" alcove. She was a special purchase Pastor JoAnn made with memorial funds.

While Mother Teresa is much admired and respected among UM's, her portrait, unbalanced by an equivalent portrait of Christ, or portraits of persons important to our own tradition, seemed not quite right for us. It was out of balance. She has had an uneasy tenure in her alcove.

On a more practical level, since we don't spend our Sunday coffee time in the education building, we need to have space in the sanctuary for news and information. The "Doers of the Word" space will have a handsome bulletin board eventually. Mary Furer and Diane Blakney are working on that. A bulletin board is not as beautiful as a painting, but its beauty will be in how it keeps our faith family in touch and informed, and our life visible to those who visit.

Kaufer's said they would take the painting on consignment and repay what we paid. There is a new Catholic community in Woodinville that is calling itself Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and Kaufer's will let them know about her. Keep this in your prayers as that would be a wonderful home for her. Sue attached a letter to the back of the portrait so the next buyer (perhaps the new congregation named for her) will know her history of blessing the Mercer Island United Methodists.

Sue Ogilvie & Leslie Ann Knight

Emergency Feeding Program

The theme this month is *Heart to Heart Day For the Homeless!* February's foods of the month are 7-oz Cans of Luncheon Meat and 15-oz Cans of Pork & Beans. If you prefer to give financially, \$10 will buy a whole case of pork and beans. These gifts will provide easy-to-use food for people with no place to cook. For all those who rely on this service to help feed themselves and their families, thank you very much for your help!

(More info at: www.emergencyfeeding.org .)

February 2008

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

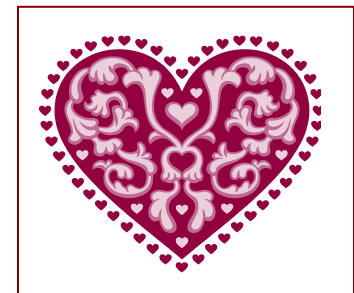
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30pm Parents' Night Out	2 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
3 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	4	5 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Finance Comm Mtg	6 Ash Wednesday 3pm Ash Wed Service 7pm Ash Wed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

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, *Lower Level*

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 2/20 for publication in the March newsletter. Thank you kindly!



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**Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church**

Doers of the word



Atlantic Street Center’s 98th Annual Dinner, “Open Your Heart to a Child”, will be held on **Friday, February 8**, at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 – 19th Ave, Seattle. At 6:00pm, Reception and Silent Auction Review.

Then from 6:30-8:30pm, Dinner and Program. Cost is \$35 per person.

\$20 of the ticket price and proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit the Youth and Early Education Programs at Atlantic Street Center. Have questions?

Becky Dudley can help, 206.236.2621. More info at www.atlanticstreet.org .

Please join ASC as they celebrate 98 years of service to the community!