

SEWING KITS UPDATE

Mercer Island Kids hosted a Pass-It-On meal last Sunday to raise money for the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) sewing kit project. Sewing kits foster independence rather than dependence. Women can make clothing in their own size and in the style of their culture. Cottage industries often grow out of the sewing classes where women use these kits to practice valuable income-generating skills.

The following kit is used in places where people do not have ready access to many essential supplies for everyday life. Please follow the directions exactly. Include all items; do not add items that are not on the lists. Extra gifts, even though given with the best of intentions, render a kit unusable and must be removed. Note: All items sent must be new!

A kit contains:

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

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

The cost for a kit is about \$18. The Pass-It-On meal raised \$620 for kits - that's almost 35 kits! Thanks to all who attended and contributed. Special thanks to Darolyn and Will Quayle for doing the research and working behind the scenes to make the kid's project very successful. We will celebrate Mother's Day with the dedication of the sewing kits on May 11.

(Please see photo of Dottie Hughes with some kits!)



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Thanks to Servants!

Thanks to the Cleaning Team! This is working. We're finding it takes about 60 to 90 minutes to do the Thursday evening tasks starting at 7:00pm. That is helped by people who drop by to do a task or two earlier in the day.

We do the most important things first, then quit when we feel done, whether everything is finished or not. Pick up a cleaning apron (for men as well as women), a tote, and your job, and off you go. If you have an hour, great! If you have 15 minutes to do one thing and then scoot off, that's great, too!

Servants the past three weeks have included:

Bill and Diana Blakney
Vic Bode
Mary Furer
Bob and Dottie Hughes
Ann Knoll
Mary Lou Lake
Jim & Sanny Lake
Jim Maners
Jim & Sue Ogilvie

Blessings on you!
Leslie Ann



Administrative Council Issues Invitation to Tent City

The congregational meeting held last Sunday evening (April 20) with representatives of Tent City 4 and Elizabeth Maupin, Outreach Minister of the Issaquah Community Church, was positive and uplifting. The Beit Messiah congregational leaders were invited, and Paul Stein, congregational leader, and two board members attended. They gave their support gladly.

One of the representatives is a former resident. She lived at TC4 for 2 ½ years. She is a special education teacher, and now she is living in her own home. A couple expecting a baby has recently lost their home in the mortgage foreclosures. They are regrouping, rebuilding to get back into their own housing. Shelters do not take couples, and they are grateful to be together in this difficult time. Another shared how hard it is to be hired or to carry out work or study when you have to carry all your stuff with you. He is able to be gone during the day and know his belongings are safe because there is 24 hour security.

Skip Melberg commented, “If everyone could hear what we heard, and see who we saw, there wouldn’t be any issue about Tent City.” Skip has already discovered that there is a network of skilled volunteers who are able to help with electric hookups, water, and all sorts of things. We will not be on our own.

Jim Maners thanked the group for their presence, saying that they were each doing valuable community service.

The Administrative Council made the decision to issue an invitation to Tent City 4 to encamp in our lower parking lot for 90 days, starting in August 10. The Mercer Island Clergy Association will support and partner with us.

Your Sister in Christ,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight

A Prayer: Dear Jesus, during this day help me quiet all the thoughts that fill my head – where I must go, whom I must see, and what I must do. In their place, give me a sense of your order, your peace, and your time. Help me to understand that you are in control, and I can trust you with my day. Help me to realize that nothing on my to-do list is important if it is not what you want me to do. I give all my tasks to you and trust you to bring order to them. In these moments, dear Jesus, come to me, be with me, and free me from the tyranny of “to do.”
 – from *Quiet Spaces* by Patricia F. Wilson

Emergency Feeding Program

*Non-perishable foods carried to the altar during our worship offering are distributed by the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County. The theme this month is **May Fiesta!** Help us celebrate Cinco de Mayo by donating these foods for the Emergency Feeding Program’s Latino Pack: 2-lb. Packages of Dried Pinto Beans and Canned Diced Tomatoes. Or if you prefer, a cash donation of \$14 will buy a whole case of tostadas. Thank you for helping your Hispanic neighbors!*

(More info can be found at: www.emergencyfeeding.org .)

May birthday wishes to...

- 10th ◦ Sam Shoemaker
- 13th ◦ Carena Toy
- 17th ◦ Linda Hodge
- 18th ◦ Lori Shoemaker
- 23rd ◦ Julia Wilson
- 31st ◦ Sanny Lake
- 31st ◦ Joe Iwano



(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

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: **May 2 & June 6.**
Reservations needed. Call (206) 232-3044.
*Our thanks to Carla Neames
and Aleta Toy for this opportunity!*

MYSTERY PEOPLE for MAY

Congratulations go to Ann Knoll who was the first to identify April's mystery person: Mary Lou Lake! (Not a surprise, as she is the friend Mary Lou likes to walk with every day...) Our thanks to Anca Wilson and Bonnie Wilson who also answered correctly.

For May, we have a mystery couple! They have been going together since age 16, were married at 21, and will soon celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary.
Both were raised in Helena, MT.

Can you name this mystery couple?

You Can Be Proud

General Conference is underway! The denomination-wide, global gathering of The United Methodist Church happens once every four years.

Our Pacific Northwest delegates have set up a General Conference webpage at : www.pnwumc.org/generalconference
You'll find blogs and reports there to get a feel of what it is like for them, and what their experiences are. The Pacific Northwest's own Matt Lockett of Fairwood UMC was one of six young people delivering the first ever Young People's Address at General Conference.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson delivered a powerful sermon lifting up God's abundance in the midst of scarcity. She was pastor at several congregations in our region, including Wenatchee First UMC, and superintendent of the Puget Sound District, so it was great to see and hear her again.

The site is certainly worth exploring, and a daily schedule is available.

Prayer List

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Jan Numata, for continued healing after having treatment for liver failure.

Joe & Ann Iwano, for continued healing after Joe's bout with pneumonia.

Helen King (mother of Sue Ogilvie), as she grows accustomed to her new residence.

Jon & Wilma Tucker, for continued healing as Jon has returned home from the hospital.

Lord, be with your children. Thanks be to God!

Directory Corrections

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

Mary Lou Lake's email should read jamesandmarylake@comcast.net.

Church Finances

Our first quarter of operations is very similar to that of 2007. We have a net loss of \$3685 for 2008 compared with a net loss of \$3580 for 2007. However for 2008 we have paid the administrative part of our Conference Apportionments in full (\$4185), which is about one-half of our total Apportionments for the year. We were able to do this because our Pastor expense for this year was \$4247 less than last year, because of a parsonage allowance for Dr. Sullivan in 2007.

With the projected savings of eliminating our Office Manager position and janitorial service, we should reduce our deficit by a little over \$14,000 for the rest of the year. This would result in a deficit for the year of about \$18,000. We would appreciate any suggestions or thoughts on how we might achieve a balanced budget. Our present assets would cover this loss but leave us with no reserve for future years. Our quarterly results were:

	<u>2007</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>
Income:			
Contributions	\$33,603	\$33,756	\$ 153
Property income	2,600	3,465	865
Other	<u>359</u>	<u>405</u>	<u>46</u>
Total	<u>36,562</u>	<u>37,626</u>	<u>1,064</u>
Expenses:			
Apportionments	0	4,185	4,185
Pastor	18,605	14,358	(4,247)
Lay staff	8,938	8,220	(718)
Program	710	1,148	438
Administration	4,320	3,865	(455)
Property	<u>7,569</u>	<u>9,535</u>	<u>1,966</u>
Total	<u>40,142</u>	<u>41,311</u>	<u>1,169</u>
Net income (loss)	(3,580)	(3,685)	(105)

Our property expenses were higher mainly because of higher power costs during December and January for the flood damage, which used up a lot of power drying out our basement. The total cost to us after insurance reimbursement will be about \$2000. If you haven't had a chance yet to look at the newly decorated rooms, please do so. It's a very attractive and peaceful setting with good carpeting. Please remember your church in your will, too. God loves a cheerful giver. Give until it hurts! – real good.

Funding for Tent City: "But if we are so short on funds, how can we support TC4?"

Our shortage of funds is in our General Operating Fund. We pay our utilities, salaries, program, and denominational funds out of this. Your pledges and offerings are for the General Fund.

TC4 will not be supported by the General Fund. It will be supported from another pocket--the Mission Endowment Fund. Mission Endowment cannot be used for our general operating expenses. It is solely for mission, and it is where we will fund any TC4 expenses. Currently, we have \$84,000 in principal, and we have \$8,000 in interest available for 2008. A portion has been designated for the OIL youth mission/service program, and mission apportionments will be supported by another portion. But, if we have needs that cannot be met in other ways, we will meet the TC4 expenses with this fund.

The expenses we will have are the metered electricity and the metered water use. We do not have responsibility for any other costs.

Several congregations already have funds set aside in their mission budgets to support partnership for TC4. We are not expected to bear the costs alone.

These are the MI congregations who will be partners with us, to varying degrees and abilities: Baha'i Faith; Christian Science; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Covenant Church; Congregational Church; Emmanuel Episcopal; Holy Trinity Lutheran; Presbyterian Church; Redeemer Lutheran; Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation. We are also supported in our decision by the Beit Messiah Messianic Congregation which uses our buildings on Saturdays.

This will not cause us financial distress. The witness of other hosting congregations is that they have always had enough, and that money has not been a problem.

May 2008

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 7pm Trustees Mtg 7pm Cleaning Crew	2 6:30pm Parents' Night Out	3 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
4 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	5	6 8am-1pm BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop	7 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Cub Scout Troop	8 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 7pm Cleaning Crew	9	10 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
11 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	12	13 8am-12pm BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Finance Comm Mtg	14 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	15 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 7pm Cleaning Crew	16	17 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
18 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	19	20 8am-12pm BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Ad Council Mtg	21 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	22 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 7pm Cleaning Crew	23	24 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
25 9:30am Chancel Choir 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Sons of Norway	28 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	29 6:30am Men's Prayer 9:30am Twins Group 7pm Cleaning Crew	30	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: 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 5/20 for publication in the June newsletter. Thank you very kindly!



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**Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church**

Doers of the word



Pentecost – Mother’s Day – May 11

Wow! Rushing wind, dancing flames, dreams and visions, everyone wearing RED - it must be Pentecost! Come and expect the unexpected. Come and be surprised by our awesome God and that wonderful, transforming Spirit!

May 11 is a wonderful collision -- or collusion -- of two great wonders in our lives. It is the day to give thanks for our mothers, and to honor them; and it is the day we celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit to bring forth life and power. We will receive flowers for Mother's Day. And we will celebrate Mother's Day with the dedication of the Sewing Kits for UMCOR.

And for Pentecost, in recognition of the tongues of fire,
wear something RED, orange, or yellow.