

November Focus: The Stewardship of Bread

Our 2007 stewardship theme, *The Stewardship of Bread*, will be central for our worship services on November 4, 11, and 18. The Worship Themes are Growing, Making, and Sharing.

You will also receive several letters, so please watch for them.

In our world and in each of us lies a deep hunger: a hunger for hope, a hunger for justice, a hunger for joy to fill our empty sadness, a hunger for bread. We live in a culture with many false offers to appease this hunger, urging us to pursue and clutch.

Bread is the great symbol for our basic human need, and Jesus understands this. To our deepest longings Jesus responds, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry." With just a handful of the ordinary things of life, Jesus changes everything.

Stewardship recognizes that life is a cycle where faith leads naturally and urgently to the receiving and sharing of the abundant bread Jesus offers. The bread Jesus gives nurtures us and helps us to grow in faith. The bread Jesus gives helps us to recognize our gifts, make life-giving choices, and build community. The bread Jesus gives challenges us to open our hands to receive and to share the bread of life. In the communion meal Jesus prepares, all are welcome, all are fed, and all are sent back into the world to love and serve.

Come and be part of these Stewardship Sundays on November 4, 11, and 18.



Inside This Issue:

Page	Item
1	• November Focus • Thanksgiving Eve
2	• Stewardship • Emergency Feeding
3	• November Birthdays • N.O.W. • Parents' Night Out • Mystery Person
4	• Atlantic St. Center • Finance Report
5	• November Calendar
6	• UMCOR Response

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be hosted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church this year. The service is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21st. The church is at 8501 SE 40th Street on Mercer Island. Their phone: (206) 232-3270.





Reflections on Stewardship

I am deeply moved by the numbers of you who are giving faithfully and generously in proportion to what you have. That is a blessing to the congregation that goes far deeper than the monthly financial report.

Some words on giving: A biblical and traditional standard is 10% of our income. In Jesus' day there were criticisms of the 10% tithe. It was the rich man's easy way out, and a burden on the poor. People who have a large amount of discretionary income will not feel the pinch of 10%, while persons who have no discretionary income do. The tithe should not be viewed legalistically, and it should not be viewed as a ceiling, at which our stewardship obligation is met.

Not only our incomes, but our needs are different. A family with several children and a mortgage has more needs than an empty-nest couple carrying no mortgage. An elder with high medical bills has more need than a younger person has. We also have different thresholds for feeling economically safe. That is why the tithe is a guide, but it cannot be rigid.

If you are below the tithe, consider your needs and then consider taking a step toward a tithe. You may try adding 1% a year to your current giving. For instance, if you have \$70,000 annual income, increase your giving by \$700 this year, and add an additional 1% the next year.

We can't look to one another to see if we are giving too little or too much. Instead, we ponder our gratitude to God, our desire to empower the church's whole ministry, calculate our resources and our financial needs and obligations. It is a prayerful exercise done with paper and pencil, and a calculator.

Grace and Peace,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight

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 *Share the Bounty!* November's foods of the month are Beef Stew (24-oz. can) and Instant Pudding (3-oz. box). Or, a \$15 check to Emergency Feeding Program buys a whole case of food to help ensure that your less fortunate neighbors don't go hungry this holiday season. Thanks for sharing these gifts with others.

November birthday wishes to...

- 3rd ◦ BJ Dondoyano
- 4th ◦ Leslie Ann Knight
- 6th ◦ Sarah Waller
- 11th ◦ Bennett Dondoyano
- 11th ◦ Amy Melberg
- 16th ◦ John Smolke
- 18th ◦ John Strasburger
- 18th ◦ Jim Luckman
- 23rd ◦ Jim Lake, Jr.
- 25th ◦ Lois Berry
- 26th ◦ Jennifer Baullinger ◦ Jill Baullinger
- 30th ◦ Jason Spiegelberg ◦ Vicki Smolke



(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!)

<> *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: **Nov 2**, and **Dec 7**
 Reservations are needed. Please call the church office at (206) 232-3044.

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

NOVEMBER MYSTERY PERSON

Congratulations go to Bonnie Wilson for being the first to identify October's mystery person: Brian Wilson. And of course, she ought to know! (To be fair, Bonnie was the only one who called to guess...)

Our mystery persons for November are a couple who after returning from one of their travels (to Bolivia, in fact) presented the church with the lovely mahogany cross that now graces the church office.

Can you name these mystery persons?

Nurture, Outreach, Witness: Organizing System for Our Church

Responding to concerns that we need a more simplified and streamlined way of organizing, we are going to shift to a system which is United Methodist, and designed primarily for small-membership churches with under 100 in worship.

You will see this on the 2008 Nominations sheet at the fall Charge Conference.

What they mean

The **Nurture** Ministry Area will cover education, worship, fellowship, small groups, welcoming new persons. The **Outreach** Ministry Area covers mission and social issues. **Witness** Ministry Area includes faith-sharing experiences, telling our stories, evangelism training, publicity, and visibility of presence in the community (like giving out cold water at SeaFair, erecting a cross on the lawn during Lent, etc).

What will not change

The Council, Finance, Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations Committee all remain intact and work as they are now.

What will change

We will have three ministry areas: Nurture, Outreach and Witness. All of our program, ministry, and mission will fall into those areas. A coordinator for each area will be on the Council, or the Council itself will do the work of the ministry area.

Nurture, Outreach and Witness (**NOW**) will be flexible. One might take the shape of a committee. Another might exist only as a coordinator. Another might be a cluster of task forces or teams.

Help a Child This Holiday Season

by Becky Dudley

Imagine not being able to provide toys or other gifts for your kids during the holidays. For many of the families served by Atlantic Street Center, this is a reality. ASC helps make the holidays happier for these families by providing toys, books, games, and gift certificates for children and teens through the Holiday Assistance Program. Parents shop at the “toy store” selecting gifts for each child, at no cost to them.

A Pass-It-On meal will be hosted after worship on Sunday, November 18th, by friends of ASC. All are invited to attend and give generously. The funds raised will be used to purchase toys for the “toy store”, which will be held on Wednesday, December 19th, at the Rainier Beach Community Center. Last year, 1,300 children received gifts, and our congregation was overwhelmingly generous with their donations of time and presents (and presence). New, non-violent and unwrapped toys will be dedicated on Sunday, December 16th.

For the early shoppers, gifts appropriate for older youth aged 12-17 and multi-ethnic dolls are needed. Stockings, gift wrap, ribbon, bows and scotch tape are also appreciated. Volunteers can help at the event, or for set-up or clean-up. Also, don't forget that our annual mitten and hat tree will be on-going through the holidays. These items will reach the kids of ASC in time to guard them against the cold winter days.

Please consider supporting these children in need. Ho-Ho-Hoping you can join in contributing to this worthy event. You will receive many rewards from the holiday experience. Please call Becky Dudley, (206) 236-2621 with any questions. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Financial Summary September 30, 2007

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	20,025	121,452
Expenses	16,822	123,108
Income Less Expense	3,203	-1,656

The Conference is providing a total of \$10,000 through December to reimburse the additional costs of housing allowance paid to interim pastor, Jack Sullivan.

Our Fair Share of denominational ministry (apportionments) is short by \$13,000. We have paid \$6,776 out of \$20,325.

Thank you for your response to The World Communion Offering. We collected \$240 on 10/7 for this special offering. This will help ethnic persons in the U.S. and international persons study for service and ministry in the United Methodist Church.

November 2007

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

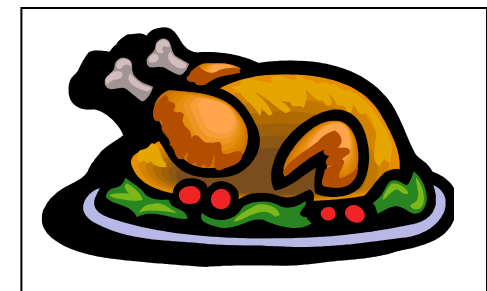
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	2 6:30pm Parents' Night Out	3 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
4 Fall Back 1 Hour 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	5	6 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer*	7 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Cub Scout Troop	8 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	9	10 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
11 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	12 Veterans Day	13 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Finance Comm Mtg	14 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	15 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	16	17 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
18 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 12pm Pass It On Meal 7pm Adult 12-Step	19	20 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Ad Council Mtg	21 7-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Ecumenical Svc. at Holy Trinity (NO Bible Study)	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
25 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	26	27 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Sons of Norway	28 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	29 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	30	

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 might have for the upcoming newsletter to the church office (preferably via email) by the 20th of the prior month. So, that’s 11/20 for publication in the December newsletter. Thank you!



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**Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church**

Doers of the word



UMCOR Responds to California Wildfires

Wildfires fueled by the hot Santa Ana winds continue to consume large portions of Southern California, particularly heavily-populated areas surrounding San Diego and Los Angeles. Please hold the people of Southern California in your prayers in the coming days as no relief from the Santa Ana winds is in sight.

Cash gifts will help provide for recovery. Checks can be mailed to the United Methodist Committee on Relief at: UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Please write “UMCOR Advance #901670, Domestic Disaster Response,” on the memo line of your check. Or, please put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday! One hundred percent of every donation to any appeal, including appeals for California wildfires, goes to support the designated program.

Please visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives07/20071023/> for more info.