



## Reflections on Our Garden

It seems like Vic and I have been here for longer than two months. We feel at home, among friends, and that comfort level feels great. Worship attendance has been sturdy, and that has been a great encouragement to me. I look forward to the choir being back in place.

Each day I enjoy a walk through the plantings around the church. Yes, I notice the weeds that pop up so tall overnight, and the sneaky blackberry vines that think they can stay hidden until they're too tough-rooted to pull, and I notice that certain plants have rudely intruded on others' space. Water has been a challenge in this dry summer while sprinklers have been down, and some plants have struggled.

But a garden is not for perfection, but for life. It is a living thing, and naturally enough, it is not ever perfectly disciplined and balanced, and rarely perfectly tended. It is always becoming and in the midst of transition, and therefore it is always a bit unpredictable - just as we are. Part of the delight of varied plantings is the surprise of what you find.

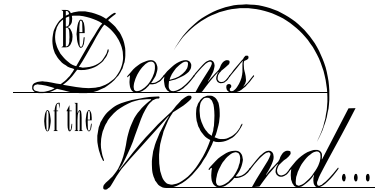
This is a living call to worship: recalling us to put roots down deep in the "ground of our being" and to drink deep and often from the "waters of life."

"Doers of the Word" need to have moments of refuge and retreat. Walk slowly, breathe deep. Let these walkways be a healing and centering passage.

Grace and Peace,

*Leslie Ann*

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight



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**Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday!**

Grab an umbrella if it's raining and come over for conversation and refreshments after worship.

*Vic Bode is the Coffee and Cookie Man.*



# News from the Pews



## ***Rally Day and Back-to-School Sunday***

This past Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, was a wonderful kick-off to the new church season and the new school year. Folks seemed pleasantly stuffed after a copious brunch, the choir returned to its customary duties, and Pastor Knight led a moving blessing for all those adults, youth, and children returning this fall to the hallowed halls of academia. By all accounts, everyone had a marvelous time!

## ***Worship Survey***

For four Sundays, beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>, everyone over age 21 in worship will be asked to fill out a survey each Sunday. If you're here four times, you'll fill out the same survey four times. This is very quick and easy (and painless, too). The survey will be used as part of a larger congregational study as we plan for the future. Thanks for your cooperation and your input!

## ***Meetings, Meetings, Meetings***

Please make note of the following dates and times:

- Finance Committee Meeting, Fellowship Hall Library, on Tuesday, September 11, 7pm.
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting, Fellowship Hall Library, on Thursday, September 13, 7pm.
- Administrative Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall Library, on Tuesday, September 18, 7pm.
- Board of Trustees Meeting, Fellowship Hall Library, on Sunday, September 30, noon (after worship).

## ***Christian Education Offering***

September is Christian Education Month. We will be celebrating Christian Education Sunday on September 23. In every region (or conference), United Methodists receive a special offering in September for the support of Christian education projects and resourcing in their region. This offering is used within the Pacific Northwest region for church school teacher training and resources. This funds our Conference Resource Center, including a very large video library that we are able to use for the cost of postage. Your support is encouraged and appreciated.

## ***Young Mind on the Move***

Be sure to congratulate Ben Shoemaker when you see him next. Ben is a Semi-Finalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program! In early September, students are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists. To ensure that academically able young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the materials provided to each Semifinalist.

Of course, your congratulations must go to his proud parents, Paul and Lori, as well!

## ***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.* The theme this month is *Asian Excursion*. September's foods of the month are Rice Noodles (16-oz. packages) and Fish Sauce (23-oz. bottles). Or, a \$13 check to Emergency Feeding Program will buy a large sack of rice to help provide Asian families with nutritionally balanced meals. Thank you for helping your Asian neighbors!

## September birthday wishes to...

- 3<sup>rd</sup>     ◦ Irene Fleming
- 4<sup>th</sup>     ◦ Andy Bassetti
- 8<sup>th</sup>     ◦ Mary Lou Lake
- 8<sup>th</sup>     ◦ Becky Dudley
- 8<sup>th</sup>     ◦ Liam O’Cain
- 13<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Jamie O’Cain
- 14<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Skip Melberg
- 17<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Dottie Hughes
- 20<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Jason Maners
- 26<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Linus Toy
- 27<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Peggy Anderson
- 29<sup>th</sup>  ◦ Nick Shoemaker



(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!)

## Finance Summary

July Giving & Other Income	\$11,577
July Ministry Expenses	\$11,843
July Shortfall	\$ 286

Thank you to all who have given generously over the summer months! We have had to hold off on our denominational apportionments payments this summer, but so far this year, we have paid \$4,580 on our apportioned funds for mission and ministry in the Pacific Northwest.

## Thanks from Lee

Thanks for such a great send off as I completed my time on staff with MIUMC. Even the cake was excellent! Your many gifts, letters and well-wishes leave me greatly encouraged, and also humbled. And your support toward my tuition blesses me beyond the finances. I’ve received far more than I’ve given or deserved – but God will do that sometimes! I am deeply grateful. THANK YOU.

It sure seems there is a great season ahead for MIUMC. May it be so.

Shalom,

*Lee*

Lee Carney Hartman

## Parents’ Night Out

Know any parents that need a night out? On the first Friday of each month, we are inviting kids to come and play here. Games, pizza, and movies for the kids, while their parents enjoy their own together time!

Parents’ Night Out begins the first Friday of October. Children ages 3-12 are welcome from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. This is a children’s ministry for families of MIUMC, and also an outreach for community families. Your friends and neighbors are welcome. First Friday of each month.

Reservations are needed. Please call the church office at (206) 232-3044. Thanks to Carla Neames and Aleta Toy for this opportunity!

## Africa University

In this month celebrating Christian Education, here is an educational ministry you can be proud of as a United Methodist. Did you know that there is a vibrant, United Methodist-related, international university on the continent of Africa? The university is located near Mutare, Zimbabwe's largest city.

The vision of Africa University is "improved quality of life, peace and prosperity for the peoples of Africa through quality higher education that includes teaching, research, community service and leadership development." Its mission is "to provide quality education within a Pan-African context through which persons can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics, and leadership qualities." (see [www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu))

The student body is diverse, coming from many African cultures, tribes, and nations. Degrees are granted in the fields of government, business, education, agriculture, theology and music. The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Choir endowed a chair in African church music.

United Methodists support Africa University through special gifts, and our apportionments. Our congregation's fair share is only \$54. Your gifts may be given any time throughout the year. Gifts designated to the Africa University apportionment above the \$54 asking will also be sent for Africa University unless you specify otherwise.

## Mercer Island United Methodist Church All-Church Weekend



Please put October 12-14 on your calendar. Mercer Island United Methodist Church will be gathering at Indianola Camp, near Seattle, from Friday evening through Sunday morning for inspiration, fun, and a time to grow together. All ages are invited, and your friends are welcome to come. For those who do not attend the retreat, Mary Furer will be the Sunday Speaker at the church. Meantime, save the date and invite a neighbor.

Our retreat leader is a master story-teller, song leader, artist, retired UM missionary, community developer, and full-blooded Native American. Dayton Edmonds has been with MIUMC at Camp Indianola in the past, and we are delighted he can be with us again. Add to this the rich setting of Camp Indianola with the beach, forest, streams, and wetlands to explore (and dry cabin and lodge if it rains) and it will be a memory-maker. The camp staff will cook for us. We'll gather at night for campfire sharing.

Whether you're a regular, or this will be your first time, please come. Camperships are available to lessen the cost. Retreat registrations are needed before October 5. Forms with registration details and more retreat information can be found as an insert in this newsletter.

# September 2007

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

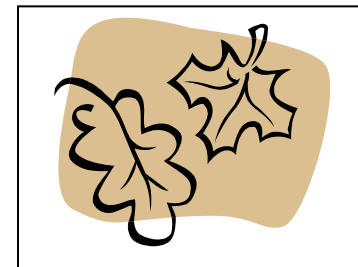
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 10am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	<b>3</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer*	<b>5</b> 7-9pm Beit Messiah	<b>6</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
<b>9</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am RALLY DAY 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Finance Comm Mtg	<b>12</b> 5-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Bible Study 7pm Cub Scout Troop	<b>13</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group 7pm Staff-Parish Comm Mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
<b>16</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Ad Council Mtg	<b>19</b> 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	<b>20</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	<b>21</b> 5pm- 10pm Beit Messiah	<b>22</b> 9:30am-8pm Beit Messiah
<b>23 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Fall</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Sons of Norway	<b>26</b> 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah	<b>27</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
<b>30</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 12pm Trustees Mtg 7pm Adult 12-Step						

MIUMC Tel: (206) 232-3044 Fax: (206) 236-2281 [miumc@hotmail.com](mailto: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, upstairs

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](mailto: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

Any submissions you might have for the upcoming newsletter should be delivered to the church office (preferably via email) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. That means 9/20 for publication in the October newsletter. Thanks!



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**Mercer Island  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

*Doers of the word*



## ***SEPTEMBER MYSTERY PERSON***

Our mystery person for August was apparently a mystery to all. The correct answer was Becky Dudley! (Thanks go to Lee for providing the question which stumped the panel.)

Our mystery person for September is notable for his/her friendly demeanor, faithful attendance, and exuberance on display during Sunday worship. This person is also known to frequently host church-related events. And he/she is a centenarian.

**Can you name this mystery person?**