

# Pass It On

## News and Announcements

### September 21, 2008

#### **September 20-October Birthdays:**

Sept. 20 – Jason Maners; 26 – Linus Toy; 27 – Peggy Anderson; 29 – Nick Shoemaker  
October 1 – Noah Blakney; 5 – Merle Bond; 12 – Norm Baullinger; 15 – Natalie Duchaine; 24 – Ben Smolke; 27 – Bonnie Wilson; 28 – Matt Smolke.

#### **Reception for Our New Bishop, Grant Hagiya**

Today at Bellevue First UMC. All are welcome and invited.

#### **Pastor/Poet Book Reading and Signing**

Island Books announces a Book Reading and Signing with Mercer Island's Pastor/Poet Greg Asimakoupoulos and his latest book "Rhymes and Reasons." Sunday, September 28, from 2:30-4:00.

#### **Sunday School Schedule Clarification**

Sunday School for both the young and old begins right at **10**. The adult class, *Expressions of the Soul*, enjoys fellowship at 9:45, then class begins at 10. Choir rehearsal begins at 9:30. Childcare is available for children of choir members.

#### **Choir Changes**

Due to a job change for Anca Wilson, our choir will have some shifting. Brian Wilson will direct on the first Sunday, and Anca Wilson will direct on the third Sunday. The other Sundays, Elisabeth will lead and accompany the choir. Choir rehearsal is at 9:30 Sunday mornings, and newcomers and young people 12 and over are welcome.

#### **New Study on Wednesday Evenings, 7:00: *The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray***

**6 sessions**, Wednesdays September 24 - October 29

"Prayer is natural, prayer is our life, prayer is like breathing. Yet at the same time, prayer is hard, prayer is like a foreign language, prayer is frustrating . . . Our desire is to get beyond a superficial, unsatisfying prayer life, and to begin to discover the fullness of prayer. . . . Learning to pray should be something profound and mysterious, yet learning to pray is utterly practical."

Prayer is not easy, yet prayer can be learned. *The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray* is a brief, but probing guide for those who want to begin, or to deepen their relationship to God through prayer.

We will examine the barriers to prayer (such as our busyness, our discomfort with silence, and our doubts and fears) and be invited to take a fresh approach.

If you are interested, but cannot participate, you may order the book. *The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray* will also be available in the library. In addition, two classics on prayer will be added to the library: *Dimensions of Prayer* by Douglas Steere. This is a warm and wise book first published in 1962, and now regarded as a classic. A small book, but major in its impact for a reader. *Prayer and the Common Life* by Georgia Harkness, a classic in prayer, widely regarded as a manual of practical Christianity.

### **Bill Blakney to Speak in Worship October 5**

Bill has graciously agreed to ponder on a message, listening for a word, for the congregation. Pray for his preparation work.

### **Parents' Night Out**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, October 3. Contact Carla Neames (275-4941, [Carla@neames.com](mailto:Carla@neames.com)) or Aleta Toy (230-0414, [aletat@mindspring.com](mailto:aletat@mindspring.com)) to register that you are bringing youngsters, and to confirm the location.

### **Communion Change**

Communion will be celebrated October 12 rather than October 5 due to Pastor Knight being out of town. We will be one week late (or a year early) observing World Communion Sunday.

### **World Communion Church-wide Offering for Crusade Scholars**

We will receive a special offering on Oct. 12 which provides Crusade scholarships for ethnic students studying for ministry in the UMC, and for international graduate students preparing for ministry of various kinds in their home countries in the UMC. When we have special offerings, \$1/member will do wonders. Give more when a cause is dear to your heart, but otherwise \$1/member is just fine.

### **Pass It On Meal, Sunday, October 19**

To support our World Service Fund apportionment. The WSF is each local congregation's first and primary mission obligation. WSF is the general ministry budget for our denomination. More information will follow. Sponsored by the Finance Committee: Bill Parker, Linus Toy, John Smolke, Larry Numata, Susannah Lake, Skip Melberg, Jim Ogilvie.

### **Equity and Social Justice: Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness**

#### **Keynote by King County Executive Ron Sims**

Saturday, October 11, 9:30-3:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (8501 SE 40th St., Mercer Island, WA). \$25 donation or what you are able to donate. To register: 206-525-1213 x 3950. Or e-mail [itfh@comcast.net](mailto:itfh@comcast.net). Sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

### **Hurricanes**

Financial donations can be made to UMCOR. Make the check out to MIUMC, designate UMCOR: Hurricanes. Credit card donations can be made at <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate>

### **Coffee Fellowship and Justice**

Soon we will be switching our Sunday morning coffee to Equal Exchange, which is Fair Trade coffee. The coffee is purchased directly from small-farm coops, and the farmers are given the fair purchase price without the middlemen. This is an ecumenical project with many denominations involved. Watch for more information.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

Mercer Islanders need to be prepared to shelter in-place and sustain ourselves for 7-9 days in the event of a disaster such as an earthquake. Church buildings will be prepared as warming/cooling shelters, or distribution points. A guide is found on the City of Mercer Island web site which you can download. We will also make copies available at the church. More information will be coming, and we will work on this through the year. Let us set a goal that each one of our homes will be ready to sustain in place for 7-10 days.

## **Recognitions and Prayers**

Our congratulations go to: Brian Wilson, who has accepted a position at the Mercer Island Covenant Church on their office staff. . . . and to Carla Neames, whose company has been recognized for two straight years as one of the 500 fastest growing companies. She recently became CEO.

Prayers are extended to Caleb Neames, upon the death of a friend's teenage daughter; and to Jan Numata, who is experiencing health problems.

## **Tent City Update**

### **The Lawsuit**

The lawsuit continues to wend its way through the process. The church is still named as a defendant, with the suit petitioning for a permanent injunction against TC4 coming to our property again, and petitioning for us to pay damages (attorney and court fees) along with SHARE and the City of Mercer Island. On September 26, there will be a ruling on the City's motion to dismiss all charges. In the UMC, when you sue one church, you sue all, and so lawsuits are always handled by the conference. Let us pray for a good resolution in a timely manner. Bishop Hagiya will be helping serve a meal at TC Tuesday evening (Sept. 23).

### **A Record of Tent City and Its Impact**

The monthly newsletter from the conference, Channels, will have three depth articles on our experience with TC4. Video interviews were also completed with TC4 residents and members of our congregation. Soon there will be another television program prepared out of Wesley Homes (United Methodist retirement community) for their closed-circuit tv. We will be able to view those before long.

### **Meals, Voting, etc. at TC4**

Meals have been going very well. If you are here to see one of the groups who has just finished, you will see them walking up the walkway laughing, very happy and relaxed. One of the most joyful evenings was when the city served. They used our kitchen and the building was busy from about 3:00 on. Police chief, mayor, city manager, city council members, all kinds of city employees came looking relaxed and ready for a party. . . . Just about every day people also come with supplies. . . . Voter registration will be held for residents soon. Ever think how being homeless means you lose voting rights because you don't have an address? Shelters don't offer an address. TC4 residents will be able to register with the church address, and then vote absentee.

### **Families with Children and Youth Invited to Serve Tent City Meal**

If you are a family who has not had an opportunity to serve a meal to tent city, contact Rev. Arienne Davidson at Emmanuel Episcopal Church for a late October time. She is putting together a young group with children and youth.

### **Tent City Finances**

No general operating funds have been used for TC4. The costs for meals and power/water have been donated and/or taken from the mission endowment interest fund. The power and water will cost us an estimated \$300/month, perhaps less. Because we can sustain this cost, I have asked the other churches to turn their resources to TC4's other utilities: honeybuckets and servicing, and garbage. – Leslie Ann

### **Gifts to the Congregation**

David Garcia has been working on our garden beds. He says he needs to do this, that it does him good. Four other men have agreed to help him lay down bark this next week, and one of our congregation is ordering the bark. . . . Brian Battenburg (?) used to have a house with high windows and he enjoyed cleaning them. He asked if we have window-washing tools, which we do. Next week

he will be working on the windows for us. . . . Some of the men and women get restless and need physical things to do, and some want to say thank you for being here.

### Finance Update

	Actual (August)	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date (Aug 31)
Income	9,788	87,333	88,594
Expenses:	9,032	113,029	93,762
Difference	+ 756	- 25,696	- 5,168

Reserves on hand as of August 31: \$23,000 for operating expenses; 2,800 in prepaid pledges; \$18,000 for maintenance and building improvements.

Summary: This does not include special giving or expenses for TC4. Nor does it include the theological fund or mission endowment. This is the summary for the operating budget: salaries, utilities, program, maintenance. Our bills are up to date. We still have a negative cash flow, but it is much slower than it was. We are paying half our apportionments for the time being. Thank you for your generous giving of time and money (and cheerful patience) which is keeping us moving along in a positive direction.

### Calendar

\*Denotes Weekly Event

<b>SUN</b>	9/21	4:00pm 7:00pm	<b>Welcome Reception for Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bellevue First UMC Serenity AA* (library)</b>
<b>TUE</b>	9/23	9:30am 10:00am 7:00pm	<b>Men's Prayer and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall Library* Women's Prayer Group, at Irene Fleming's* Staff-Parish Relations Committee</b>
<b>WED</b>	9/24	7:00pm	<b>Wed Evening Study – The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray*</b>
<b>THU</b>	9/25	6:30am 7:00pm	<b>Men's Prayer and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall Library* MIUMC Cleaning Crew, Both Buildings*</b>
<b>SAT</b>	9/27	8 – 2	<b>Beit Messiah – both buildings*</b>
<b>SUN</b>	9/28	9:30am 9:45am  7:00pm	<b>CHOIR Rehearsal* Sunday School*     Elementary: Live BIG (Belief in God)     Adult: Expressions of the Soul Serenity AA* (library)</b>

**Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight, Pastor**

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