



Orting United Methodist Church

The Messenger



A neighborhood church in the heart of the community

Our Mission is to serve God, the Church, and the Community by raising the Christian awareness of every individual by caring and sharing God's Love.

March 2003

The Continuing Story of Love

Lent is upon us--that time before Easter when the days begin to get longer, but we are still under the shadow of winter. Incessant rain, the flu season, the threat of war. It's all enough to make you want to crawl back into bed and forget everything. A pastor friend of mine, Rebecca Parker wrote an article in her newsletter that can help us deal with these feelings. She begins by quoting an Indian saying:

"Sometimes I go about pitying myself, and all the while, I am being carried by great winds across the sky." (Ojibwa)

Rev. Parker continues by expanding on this saying: Sometimes I go around despairing that I cannot overcome grief, and all the while, the cells in my body are being rejuvenated. Sometimes I go about walking as if I were made of lead, and all the while I am breathing in the buoyant air. Sometimes I go about clutching my pains in my hands like precious treasures, and all the while, there is One who is taking these pains and scattering them as if they were seeds, and meadows of flowers are blooming around me. Sometimes I go about blind with anger, and all the while, truths are being revealed to me in my rage, and I can see things I couldn't see before. Sometimes I go about feeling that Earth has been cast adrift in the outer edges of an insignificant galaxy, discarded as a failure, and all the while the heart of Love enfolds us all.

Thank you, Rebecca, for these words that have the power to transport us and to remind us of the CONTINUING STORY OF LOVE.

Shalom,
Carol



Ash Wednesday is coming on March 5. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes at 7:00pm and a light Dinner at 6:00pm. Then throughout Lent we will have our weekly Lenten Activity Nights on Wednesday's with dinner, craft, and informal worship. Palm Sunday will be celebrated on April 13, the Maundy Thursday service will be on April 17 and Easter Sunrise and Service of the Resurrection is April 20.

Spring cleaning

March 5th, 2003, is Ash Wednesday. From that day until Easter we will be into the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us. More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into springtime for our spirit.

For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our Creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us, and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.
(reprinted from) the Newsletter Newsletter 3/2003)



MISSION DINNER TO BE HELD

This March 9th at Orting United Methodist Church two missionaries from the Congo will be at the church for a mission dinner. This will be our normal mission dinner, but just a couple of weeks early. This will be held after our regular services as usual. These are the missionaries that took care of the camps that we visited and took food and bought seeds, shovels, and hoes for, so they could grow their own food. These people are United Methodists, who continually work under very primitive conditions to help the war victims survive. They deserve our support and our participation. I hope that all of our congregation will plan to join in the festivities. Please come and meet Claude and Dieudo. They plan to bring their drums and sing, and they are great singers.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Want to take a trip? Make the world a better place? Serve God? A VIM team is going to Mitrovica, Kosovo, to work with young people for about two weeks in August. If you would like to be a member of this team or would like more information, contact Cindy Roberts-Fierro at cgrf@richpoor.net or at (360) 659-0443.

NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Shirley Olson, Chairperson

There is good news to report! We have received a letter from Craig Parrish, Conference Treasurer informing us that the Conference has granted us salary support for the next six months to cover the mandatory health insurance payment of \$450 per month and provide an additional \$54 per month for MPP (Ministerial Pension Plan) and \$19.80 for CPP (Comprehensive Protection Plan) for a total of \$523.80. Our District Superintendent will let us know the status of the second half funding. However, the conference has made it clear that this will be available for this year only and we will be faced with this expenditure next year. So now is the time we must make plans to meet this obligation and funds should be set aside for the coming year. If any of you have thoughts or ideas of how to accomplish this goal we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Our request for a reduction in our Apportionment payment has not yet been decided by the Conference. Hopefully, we will receive an answer sometime this coming month.

United Methodist Women

By Bette Scott - U.M.W. President

We will be putting up our talent table again in March. We have some interesting articles for sale. We discussed some new mission projects. We will be making and selling Easter cookies on April 12-20. We invite you ladies to join us. Summit U.M.W. is having a Spring Salad Luncheon Saturday March 29. The Rainier Philharmonics will entertain.

ATTENTION!!

Young Women have changed their meetings to the first Thursday of the month. We meet at 7:00pm at the Parsonage. We have a very informal, fun, relaxing bible study. Anyone interested in a night of fun is always welcome to attend.

Attitude

Attitude is pretty much everything. This is a great story for any age:

The 92-year-old, petite, well posed and proud mother-in-law of my best friend, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. Maurine Jones is the most lovely, gracious, dignified woman that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. While I have never aspired to attain her depth of wisdom, I do pray that I will learn that I will learn from her vast experience. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. "Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room...just wait." "That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged; it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have, the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away – just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account – you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories."

A Special Thanks to...

- ◆ Those who provided for our HIGH TEA Mission benefit. We raised \$442.00 and everyone had a Wonderful Time. Dorothy Bosshart said, "Why don't you do this every week"! But Shirley Olson thought this is one occasion where once is enough for a while -- at least as long as she is making the sandwiches.
- ◆ Thank You George & Mardell Bauman, Roger Downing, Vernon & Mary Lou Lewis, Arnie & Shirley Olson, Janet Bjork and Mary Lou Geels.
- ◆ To the newsletter mailing crew: Mary Jo Walker, Bea Lewis, Anne Spangler, Liz Larkins.
- ◆ Church Cleaners in February: Roger & Janet Downing, Vernon & Mary Lou Lewis, George & Mardell Bauman, Phil Fabel, and Arnie & Shirley Olson.
- ◆ To Arnie Olson for removal of our diseased shrubs -- this was no easy job and we appreciate it very much.
- ◆ To Coffee House Workers: Roger & Janet Downing, George & Mardell Bauman, John & Theresa Downs, and Pastor Carol.
- ◆ To Arnie Olson for painting on the roof edges so we could install new gutters on the back part of the church and deck.
- ◆ George Bauman for work on the church van.

Please Pray for...

- ◆ Pat Mc Mullan in treatment for a brain tumor.
- ◆ Shyanne Phillips, three year old daughter of Dave and Ellen Phillips. Shyanne has stomach & bone cancer and is being given chemotherapy at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane.
- ◆ Kathy, daughter of Mardell & George Bauman, who is struggling with depression, and Marti, their daughter-in-law's sister, who has lung cancer.
- ◆ Shannon Scott who has developed complications in her pregnancy in the reappearance of a childhood disease of rheumatoid arthritis.
- ◆ Shannon's friend, Michelle and her two daughters, temporarily staying with Shannon while looking for a job and a place to live.
- ◆ Shut ins: Ernie Thompson, Louise Hause, Hazelle Woods, Dorothy Bosshart.

Lectionary for March

March 2	Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
March 9	Psalm 25:1-10 Genesis 9:8-17 1Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
March 16	Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38
March 23	Psalm 19, Exodus 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22
March 30	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Numbers 21:4-9 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Celebrating Birthdays in March

15 Monique Barteaux Michelsen
31 Greg Zirkle



VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

We are in the process of creating a website for our church. Although it still needs some work, you can visit our website at www.gb-gm-umc.org/ortingumc. The site is being created for us by Pastor Carol's sister, Kathy Bruni. Your comments and suggestions may be given to Pastor Carol (revmariano@aol.com).



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I arise today

St. Patrick's prayer is often called "Saint Patrick's Breastplate" because it was thought to protect him from hostile powers. Here are some portions of the prayer:

I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's
birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his
crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his
resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his
descent for the judgment of
Doom. ...

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven:
Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind,
Depth of sea,
Stability of earth,
Firmness of rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me...



How to Treat Others

How does God want us to get along with other people? Ephesians 4:32 tells us. To find out what it says, use the code to fill in the blanks.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14												

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Answer: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."