



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.*

August 2009

Mark Sargent, a United Methodist pastor in Atlanta, GA, speaking on Day 1 radio (Protestant Hour) this week said this:

When he talks with people who don't attend church he gets some pretty negative responses. They tend to think Christians are narrow-minded, bigoted, judgmental and uneducated. He recognizes that some kinds of Christians are "ethnocentric, anti-scientific, homophobic, imperialistic, defensive, condemning, rejecting and afraid." But he points out that many Christians are "open-minded, well-educated and accepting, spiritually mature, intellectually honest and psychologically savvy."

Another problem for Christianity in our times is that there are people who have been wounded by Christian religion, by some of the earlier mentioned attitudes and practices. So there is a gap between Christianity and the world. He suggests there are things we can do to close the gap.

1. Acknowledge that religious wounding exists--some people have been hurt by the church when it has become involved in oppressive and faulty religious teaching.

2. Apologize for the ways Christianity has been hurtful and not helpful and try to make amends to those who have been hurt.

3. Articulate a "Christianity that is smart and kind, that is honest and in touch with the scientific and historical discoveries...." He says, "It is past time that we articulate a Christianity that is focused on just action and not on right belief, that acknowledges that Charles Darwin was correct, that moves away from original sin and blood atonement and back to the just and ethical teachings of Jesus.

4. Act to bring an end to teachings and policies in our churches that "damage genuine human blooming."

I wonder what you are thinking as you read this. Do you agree with Rev. Sargent? I would like to hear your comments. Let's talk about what it means to be living the Continuing Story of Love.

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Carol*

## Prayers:

Wayne Olson, Arnie's brother on life support.

Jean Hart, hospitalized with cancer of the Liver.

Christina Warner who has been evicted from her home.

Shut-ins: Betty Degeberg, Margaret Eilers, Harrison Ford, Howard and Jean (Webster) Pitts, Rosemary Todd.

## Thank you for your prayers for:

Beverly Gonzalez--her blood clot was successfully removed and she is doing well.

Cheryl Dyson--she is recovering well from surgery for endometriosis.

Emma Ford--she is getting back to normal after kidney and gall bladder removal.

Neil Schweitzer--his condition has been identified and is being treated and he is feeling much better.

Janet Bjork--she has recovered from her episode of MRSA.

## Thank You:

Peggy DeMent for preaching and to all who were faithful to keep things running smoothly while Pastor Carol was away on study leave.

Cheryl Dyson and Denise Mabry for filling in as organist/pianist for Judy White who can't come because of the summer time change. We will return to the 11:00 am hour for worship the Sunday following Labor Day.

Dave Lilly for lawn care.

Greta Gleydura for watering.

Rosalie Gronka, supplemental church cleaning.

Youth Coffee House volunteers: George Bauman, John Downs, Mark Gleydura.

## Financial Update

(General expenses)

Budget for 2009 \$84,634

Needed monthly (avg.) \$ 6,886

Received in June \$ 4,936

Disbursed in June \$ 6,339

Income Jan-June \$ 40,767

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## UMW Collections for Tacoma Community House

The UMW collection box for the Tacoma Community House has been kept well filled by your generous donations.

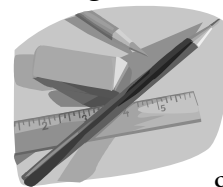
During the month of August we are asking for sweaters, jeans and pants (new or only gently used, please).

There is no yard sale this year. It has become too big a task for the number of volunteers. It is with sadness that we have had to let go of this because it has become a social event for our church and community...but there comes a time when we have to let go of things.

## School Supply Drive

Did you know that there are many kids, right here in Orting that start school without the necessary school supplies?

These kids need notebooks, pencils, pens, backpacks, pencil boxes, rulers, stick glue, scissors, crayons, paint and



markers. A child who shows up to school well prepared to learn has better attendance, grades and a more

positive attitude in the classroom. Bring your donations of these items to the box in the chancel area of our church.

Distribution will take place August 29, at the Eagles hall.

## Lectionary

### 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11: 26-12: 13a

Psalm 51: 1-12

Ephesians 4: 1-15

John 6: 24-35

### 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4: 25 - 5:2

John 6: 35, 41-51

### 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2: 10-12: 3: 3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5: 15-20

John 6: 51-58

### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6: 10-20

John 6: 56-69

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 or 72

James 1: 17-27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23



## August Birthdays

7	Don Anderson
13	Judy Cash
14	Jamie Roden
19	Roger Downing
29	Mary Roden



## Volunteer Opportunities

Where will your talents and interests take you today?



Scripture Reading



Coffee House

helper



Church Cleaning



Yard Work



Office Assistance



Special Music

Please call the church office to express your interest in any of these areas.

360-893-2740

Do you have an idea that is not listed?

Great—let us know.

## Pastor Parish presents Church Covenant

On July 26 following worship Keith Dyson, chair of the Pastor Parish Committee presented some elements of the new evaluation procedure for pastor and congregations that has been put out by our Conference. This method of doing evaluations requires the making of a covenant by the congregation. What will our congregation agree to work on in the next year to carry forward the mission and ministry of the church? What do you think we should do, or continue to do? Keith charged everyone with the task of taking this question seriously and either speaking to him about it or giving him your written response in the next few weeks. Thank you for your engagement with this process. It will help us be a vital and alive church.

## Camping Sunday

On August 23 when you come to church things will look different. We are going to move the pews around and have a "campfire" in the middle. It will be a taste of being at summer camp. We will sing camp songs and tell stories like ones you might hear around the campfire. Come prepared for camp Sunday on August 23--dress informally if you wish (but you don't have to sit on the ground).

## Missions

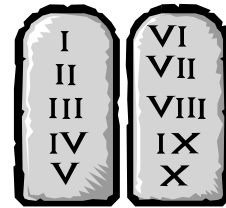
Heather has moved into her rebuilt house and we helped her celebrate with an open house on August 1. Several of us went to see how our hard work paid off for Heather and Kendrick. Thank you for making this possible through your participation on one of our mission trips or through financial support of mission dinners.

## Summer Vacation Bible School

The time is fast approaching for Market Place 29 AD:



The Great Commandment.



It will be August 24-28. If you have not yet signed up and would like to help, talk to Jamie Roden or Nancy Lillie. This is a great way of bringing the words and life of Jesus to the children of our community--and besides that, it's fun!

## Stained Glass Window

It was last August that we held the training workshop with Michael Smith that began the Windows of the Soul project to build a stained glass window for our fellowship hall. Under the guidance of Frank Shride, we have worked faithfully every Sunday morning on the "Jesus and the Children" window. In addition to Frank, workers



included George Bauman, Bob Carper, Greta Gleydura, Lyla Lee, Cheryl Dyson and Pastor Carol. Cheryl and Carol led the Bible study.

The window is now nearing completion and we plan to install it during August. In September we hope to have a service of dedication.

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