



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.

February 2008

THE CONTINUING STORY OF LOVE

After Jesus was baptized he retreated into the wilderness and fasted for forty days to prepare for his ministry. This was for him a time of contemplation and reflection--he did some serious soul searching. As we approach the church season of Lent, we may want to join in the spirit of what Jesus did by making this a time of contemplation and reflection for ourselves.



So ashes became a sign of mourning, or remorse and repentance and the practice of putting ashes on your forehead as a sign of mourning developed. You can find biblical examples of this in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6 and Jeremiah 6:26. During Lent, early Christians mourned their sins and repented of them. They showed their sincerity by having ashes on their foreheads.

Lent consists of the forty days before Easter, excluding Sundays. Sunday is considered a joyful celebration anticipating the Resurrection that is to come. Therefore the first day of Lent in the western Church is always a Wednesday, and we call it Ash Wednesday. Why ashes? you might ask. Here is one explanation.



At some point they started using the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service that came from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and this became a tradition.

Biblical societies relied heavily on wood fires for heating and cooking. This meant trying to keep those ashes under control. Then, as now, if a person was preoccupied with something serious, they didn't always tend to the housekeeping details--this was the least of their concerns. Imagine that there is a death in the family. A friend stopping by to pay their respects might gently say, "Did you know you have ashes on your face?"

On Ash Wednesday we remember Jesus' cruel death on the cross, and we begin a period of somber reflection, self-examination and spiritual redirection. Some people only celebrate the happy times in Jesus' life--Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and Christmas. But I think, if we are sincere in our faith, we should also watch and pray with him on Maundy Thursday, stand by him at the cross on Good Friday, and retreat with him into the wilderness during Lent.



See you on Ash Wednesday --February 6, at 7:00 pm.

A BIG THANK YOU:

- All who gave so generously to the church in December. We ended the year in the black thanks to you.
- Those who helped with Christmas Baskets and the Giving Tree. We provided gifts and food to five families in need and made their holidays brighter.
- Those who contributed to the Pastor's Fund so we could give energy assistance to three families.
- Those who went caroling to bring Christmas Joy to our shut-ins-- Nancy and Hunter Lillie; Dana, Ally and Emma Rose; Alicia Chase; Greta and Mark Gleydura; Keith Dyson and Christopher Underwood; Dana, Sarah and Emily Robinson; Patty Chouery; Cheryl Riehl; Carol Mariano; and to Dave Lillie for preparing a meal for the group when we returned to the church.
- Rosalie Gronka for supplemental church cleaning and Karen Moroney for cleaning the pastor's study.
- Nancy Lillie for directing the Christmas Children's Choir.
- Janet Bjork for preparing a fabulous dinner on the day of our Charge Conference/Annual Meeting with the District Superintendent.
- United Methodist Women for decorating (and undecorating) the Christmas tree and to Keith Dyson for the hanging of the greens.
- Worship leaders in December-- Denise Mabry, Mike Bettis and Nancy Lillie.
- Denise Mabry and Stacey Straughn for their work on the Christmas Pageant.



- Cheryl Dyson, Judy White, Denise Mabry and the Choir for special Christmas music.
- Muriel Doolittle for preparation of communion elements and changing paraments and to Janet Bjork for decorating for the Christmas Eve candlelight service.
- Stacey Straughn for office help.
- Shirley Olson for sending out hospitality cards.
- George Bauman, John Downs and Pastor Carol for volunteering at the Youth Coffee House.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

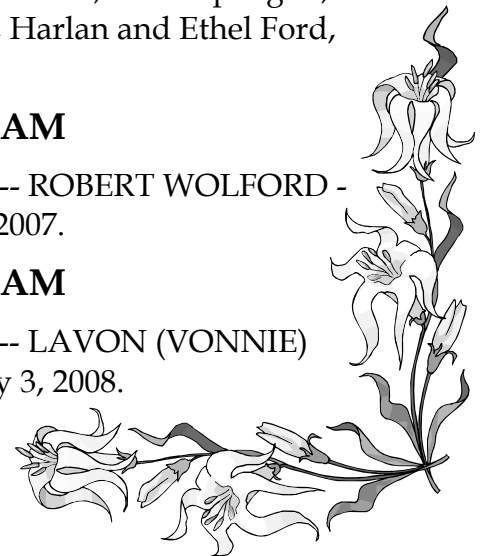
- Jeanne Wolford as she grieves the loss of her husband Bob.
 - Harrison Ford, grieving the passing of his wife LaVon.
 - Mary Lou Geels, hospitalized with kidney problems.
 - Keith Dyson, recovering from mouth surgery.
 - Joshua Olson, Shirley and Arnie's grandson with diabetes and other complications.
 - Dana Robinson, struggling with cancer.
 - Jason Chase and all those in military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Shut-ins Dorothy Bosshart, Rosemary Todd, Mary Lou Geels, Anne Spangler, Margaret Eilers, Harlan and Ethel Ford, Harrison Ford.

IN MEMORIAM

Into life eternal -- ROBERT WOLFORD -
- December 10, 2007.

IN MEMORIAM

Into life eternal -- LAVON (VONNIE)
FORD -- January 3, 2008.



Lectionary

February 3rd

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

February 10th

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11

February 17th

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4

Psalm 121

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

February 24th

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5: 1-11

John 4: 5-42

March 2nd

Sunday after Advent

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41



February Birthdays

- 5 Keri Archie
5 Hunter Lillie
5 Johnathan Kalina
10 Hans Nothstein
13 Patricia Chouery
17 John Kalina
23 Darlene Gilbertson
16 Justin Poitra



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.

YOUTH DRAMA PRODUCTION



Espresso Drama youth theatre ensemble presents the original production "From The Mind Of Dr. Seuss Too!" Friday, February 29th at 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 1st at 3:00 pm. Prices: 6 and under, free; 7-12, \$1.00; 13 on up, \$3.00; Families, \$5.00. Production takes place on the Ptarmigan Intermediated School stage, 805 Old Pioneer Way NW in Orting. For more info call 253-359-4980 or 360-893-2740. Concessions available during intermission.

Note: This production is directed by L. William King of Parkland UMC and includes cast members from Bethany UMC and Orting UMC as well as other youth from the community of Orting.

ADULT STUDY ON INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

A six week study exploring similarities and differences between the Abrahamic Faiths: Christianity, Islam and Judaism is being led by Markus Dennis in our fellowship hall on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.



Markus Dennis, an engaging speaker, has served as Pastor of Education in the Nazarene church and has also done doctoral work in Jewish studies in Jerusalem. He now makes his living as a competitive international runner. He lives in Puyallup, but we got to know him through his leadership of the Rails to Trails Program.

The class started January 20 and will continue throughout February. You are invited to come to any or all of the sessions. We have had much stimulating discussion and I'm sure you would find the class enriching.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dick Ford writes: Hi All, Most of you know that Mom and Dad are together at Silhouette Adult Family Home. They are adjusting and doing quite well, even Dad, and that's a relief. They have a new phone number--253-770-1117 and their address is 12218 98th Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98373. They love to get phone calls.... thanks dick

NEW PRAYER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM IS LAUNCHED



We are expanding our prayer chain to include those who want to be notified online. Mark Gleydura has taken on the position of Coordinator of Prayer Requests. He will call those who want to be notified by telephone and/or he will email those who want this kind of contact. Prayer requests should be called into the church office, 360-893-2740. If you want to be put on the Prayer Notification List, you may sign up with Mark on Sunday morning, indicating how you want to be contacted, or you may call him at 360-893-0099.

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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Budget for 2007	\$74,958
Needed monthly (avg.)	\$6247
Receipts in December	\$12,634
Disbursements in December	
	\$6,108

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WE GET LETTERS

Dear Pastor, I believe in God and miracles. When you stop and look at the birds, trees even the bees they never go hungry. He takes care of them. He loved us all first. Those who have chosen to follow him show his love in many ways. Thank you for the Safeway gift card. It was truly a miracle: an answer to a silent prayer. Love, Jenny, Joey and Ivy. Happy New Year!

Thank you for your help in my time of need. You are so appreciated. God's love shines through you. Of all the churches I called for help that day, you were the only one to return my call. Thank you so very much (for energy assistance from the Pastor's Fund). Terrie

Pastor Mariano and Members: A heartfelt thanks for your generosity in helping those displaced by last year's severe weather. It is generosity like yours that enables us to help our fellow human beings. God Bless, Brad Dell

Thank you for your gifts. It is during this sacred season when we turn gratefully to you who have made our progress possible and say with spirit...**THANK YOU**..... From all of us at Associated Ministries of Pierce County.

Dear Pastor Carol, Words cannot express my gratitude to you for the beautiful service you did for Bob. I know he was smiling down and thanking you as I do from the bottom of my heart. Since you wouldn't accept a fee, I am donating \$300 to the church to use as you see fit. Love, Jeanne Wolford.

HAVE A CELL PHONE?

If you were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending you might have your mobile phone, but not know who to call. There is a new campaign, called the "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) campaign. All you need to do is store the number of a contact person who could be contacted during an emergency, putting it under the name of ICE.

The idea was created by a paramedic. When he went to the scenes of accidents, there were usually mobile phone with patients. However, he didn't know which of the many numbers to call. He thought it would be helpful if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, etc. This is a small thing that could make a big difference for you.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

At our all church planning meeting on January 27, we agreed that we would like to help people who are still struggling to recover from the recent severe flooding in Lewis County. Greta Gleydura, our new Missions chairperson is willing to work with Pastor Carol on a project of the East Pierce County Circuit of United Methodist Churches to adopt a family together. Are you interested in helping? Please read the following excerpts of a letter from our Presiding Elder, Jim Simpson.

Hey, Right off the top, this is Jim Simpson, pastor of Parkland UMC and the Presiding Elder for the East Pierce County Circuit of United Methodist Churches.

I just talked to Shirley Renault. She is the coordinator for a pretty incredible project in the Boistfort Valley. That is one area of flood devastation west of Chehalis and south of Adna (Highway 6). her project is the Neighbor helping Neighbor Project. What she is working on is getting a church, or maybe several churches, to come alongside a family that is working to rebuild their lives after this terrible flood. It will be like an adoption. I am suggesting that we, as the EPCC, adopt a family. So, this won't just be a one time Volunteer in Mission trip, but an ongoing healing and nurturing mission, helping a family rebuild physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

...We will work to provide volunteer help, financial help, and even just our presence as people of God. I can see how we might group together to do projects that need doing. I can also see how one church or another might take on a certain project and make that project happen.

I really like this idea because we don't just go somewhere and do some work and then come home. This will require us to get involved with people, people who are living in some pretty stressful circumstances....

We will let you know as more information becomes available. Please consider how you might like to be involved in this.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Reprinted from Spanaway UMC newsletter)

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied--or even documented--when the tradition originated.

Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a PhD from Harvard.



The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population--and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it

marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

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