



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 2009

Pastor's Column

We are well into the new year and, in some ways, we are experiencing newness around us. But so much of life finds us stuck in old ruts, especially when we fear an uncertain future. I see fear in the eyes of many around me. The best way to be a part of the solution, rather than the problem, is to look beyond our fears. Look to God who loves us and promises to bring us through our difficulties into fresh ways of relating to needs--ways that bring us joy and hope and stronger relationships with each other. Each day offers new opportunities. We can turn these hard times around if we will trust that tomorrow holds goodness equal to or maybe even better than anything we have had before, even though we do not know right now what that will be. If we would be instrumental in the Continuing Story of Love, we must sing a new song, as the great religious poet Howard Thurman writes:



The Untried Melody

Howard Thurman

I will sing a new song.

I must learn the new song for the new needs

I must fashion new words born of all the new growth in my life ---of my mind---of my spirit.

I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine before,

That all that is within me may lift my voice unto God.

How I love the old familiarity of the wearied melody,

How I shrink from the harsh discords of the new untried harmonies.

Teach me, my Father,

that I might learn with the abandonment and enthusiasm of Jesus,

The fresh new accent, the untried melody,

To meet the need of the untried morrow.

Source: from "I Will Sing a New Song" in Meditations of the Heart

Shalom,

Carol

Missions:

Greta Gleydura

I want to thank you all for the Christmas gifts you bought. We made five families very happy.

The food baskets were also very much appreciated. We could not do it without all of you.

We are now into mission dinners, every third Sunday of the month. If you would like to help out with one please talk to Greta Gleydura and I will see if someone needs help.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor update: Heather is having an inspection on the house this week and, pending the outcome, she will be ready for our help with insulation and sheet rock on February 7th.

\$

Financial Update as of Dec. 31, 2008

Budget for 2008 General Funds \$79,962

Needed monthly (average) \$6,664

Received in Dec. \$6,575

Disbursed in Dec. \$6,746

\$

Prayers

- Betty Degeberg, just beginning chemo for stage four cancer.
- Bob Gardella, moving from his home into Willows Retirement Center.
- Wayne Olson, Arnie's brother hospitalized with complications from ALS.
- Keith Michelsen, Rosalie Gronka's son-in-law who is looking for work.
- Shut-ins: Margaret Eilers, Harrison Ford, Helen Larson, Howard and Jean (Webster) Pitts, Anne Spangler, Rosemary Todd.
- Helen Larson had a stroke and is recovering at Lynden Grove. Cards and visits are welcome.

Thank You

- We had some wonderful moments this past Christmas season, despite the snow and cold weather that did its best to shut us down. We did not shut down, though attendance was pretty sparse the Sunday before Christmas and we postponed the pageant until the following Sunday. Thank you to Cheryl Dyson, Denise Mabry and the choir for some very fine Christmas music, to Denise Mabry and others who helped with the Christmas pageant, to Keith Dyson for the Hanging of the Greens, to the ten brave souls who went out Christmas caroling to shut-ins: Mark and Greta Gleydura, Nancy and Hunter Lillie and Hunter's friend Chayton, Patty Chouery, Bob Carper and Mary and Jamie Roden, Alicia Chase, and Pastor Carol, and to Dave Lillie who stayed at the church and prepared dinner for the carolers.
- Thank you George Bauman and Brian Kolar for shoveling snow and spreading salt.
- Worship leaders in January--Denise Mabry, Keith Dyson, Nancy Lillie, Cheryl Dyson.
- Sue Fletcher for preparing the Sunday bulletins.
- Rosalie Gronka for supplemental church cleaning.
- Dave Lillie for yard work.
- John Downs for labeling the electrical box to meet the fire code.
- George Bauman for fixing the pilot light in the kitchen range.
- Newsletter mailing--Lila Lee and Nancy Lillie. Labels--Emma Ford. Newsletter editor--Sharon Starr.
- Youth Coffee House workers--George Bauman, Mark Gleydura, John Downs, Pastor Carol.

Address Change

Muriel Doolittle
Heritage House
860 W. Main Ave., #40
Morton, WA 98356

Lectionary

February 1st

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

February 8th

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Psalms 147: 1-11, 20

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1: 29-39

February 15th

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 5: 1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

Mark 1: 40-45

February 22nd

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Psalms 50: 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9



Volunteer Opportunities

Where will your talents and interests lead you in service?



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.



February Birthdays

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



Thank you from Pastor Carol and Sulmo

- For your gifts and many expressions of caring during the holidays. You are a wonderful congregation and we give thanks to God for your kindness and generosity of spirit. The gift certificate to the South Hill Mall will be well utilized and is much appreciated.

You Are Invited: to a date with the Bishop!!!

Mark this on your Calendar now!!!

On Sunday, February 22nd, Bishop Grant Hagiya will be speaking at a kick off event for our East Pierce County Circuit Lenten study. This event will take place at Puyallup UMC at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend, whether or not you will be participating in the study.

...But we hope you will go on to join in a Lenten study group at the church each Thursday of Lent. We will meet for a light supper at 6:30. The supper will be followed by a study of Ruben Job's book, Three Simple Rules for Christian Living, led by Pastor Carol. We will close with a short time of worship, prayer and song.

...Or you can be a part of the study on your own by purchasing the book and doing individual study at home.

Please let Pastor Carol know if you want her to order a book for you--we get a better rate if we order in bulk. Cost of the book is approximately \$7.00.

Socks - Socks - Socks

"Ask and ye shall receive"

Thanks to all of you! Our "Sock Box" was filled to the brim. Can you believe we collected 140 pairs of socks?

It is always surprising what we can do as a Congregation. We may be a little on the small size, but when we give we are generous and unselfish.

The socks will go to the Mission House and be so appreciated. They were in dire need. For many of the homeless warm feet are such a blessing. Thank you all again.

Now, its on to hats and gloves, old or new, just be sure they are clean.

God bless you all.

Shirley Olson

All Church Planning Meeting

On Saturday January 17th sixteen members met to talk about our church and what they would like to see changed or improved upon or left just as it is and be thankful for all that we have.

Pastor Carol led the meeting with questions and read to us from the Book of Acts and Corinthians. She emphasized the need to be a warm welcoming member, to introduce ourselves, show them around, and invite them to coffee.

A decision was made by the members to change the time and day of the Administrative Counsel meeting to the third Sunday immediately after the Mission dinner in hopes of attracting more people to the meetings. Other committees will meet and decide when they will meet.

A great lunch was served. Every one had a chance to participate. More details are included in the January Administrative Counsel meeting notes.

Shirley Olson

District Events

Choir Festival March 15, 7:00 pm Mason UMC in Tacoma

District Training March 7
Des Moines UMC

Food Drive

Sunday School to have Food Drive for Food Bank throughout the month of February. Ask Nancy Lillie or Stacey Straughn for details.

Youth Group off to a good start!

We began our middle school youth group Jan. 11 with eight youth present and added four more on Jan. 18. At this time they are using the PRAY curriculum put out by the Scouts of America and if they complete the program they will get a Scout patch (God and Duty). The patches will be presented in worship on February 22.

We could use some help to pay for materials for the youth group. Your contributions to the OUMC youth fund are welcome and will go to cover costs of curriculum and food.

Thank you to Charlene Lovelace and Patty Chouery for their leadership in this program.

John Wesley's Advice on the Economy

In 1772, John Wesley wrote to Lloyd's Evening Post regarding the causes of and cures for high unemployment, food shortages and dismal economic conditions. He starts: "Why are thousands of people starving--perishing for want, in every part of England?"

More than two centuries later, the United States is struggling with dropping stock prices, rising unemployment, home foreclosures and inadequate health care. But our diminished economy scarcely rivals that of 1772 England.

Wesley believed a growing disparity between the rich and the poor caused most of the economic problems in England. His cure was to repress "luxury, either by example, by laws, or both." He asked for laws prohibiting the distillation of alcohol. He lamented high taxes upon the poor and middle class and called for additional taxes on luxury items. He suggested that people be taxed on their purchases rather than their earnings.

Concerned about future generations, Wesley also called for a reduction of the national debt.

In short, he called for higher taxes upon the wealthy and laws prohibiting the wasting of natural products.

Contemporary application of Wesley's advice suggests that the U.S. Congress should reduce taxes on the poor and middle class, add taxes to luxury items, eliminate taxes upon necessities, introduce laws governing the use of natural resources, and take steps to reduce the \$10 trillion nation debt. A record 28 million Americans are now receiving food stamps.

In the same time he wrote to Lloyd's Evening Post, Wesley organized groups of Methodists to visit the London workhouses where poor people were housed and employed. They also led worship for the inmates, most of whom were children and elderly people.

John Wesley's life serves as an example to United Methodists about our personal obligation to care for poor and vulnerable people through a variety of means.

The Rev. J. Richard Peck, retired clergy member of the New York Annual Conference

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