



*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.*

**June/July 2007**

June is a time of transition. Youth and children are graduating, people are getting married, there are job changes taking place around us, pastors are moving.

The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will hold its 134th Annual Session at the University of Puget Sound June 12th through 16th. There will be many pastoral changes this year and pastors have very little time to prepare for their moves, since the new appointments start July 1. In our Pierce County Circuit of UMC's half of the pastors will be going to new locations. As United Methodists we believe that churches and pastors are well served by having periodic changes in appointments--a fresh start, a new point of view, a different style of leadership. The Annual Conference is where these changes are formalized.

Annual Conference is also a time of celebration, of assessing where we are as a United Methodist Church, of making decisions about the ways we organize and carry out business. Worship services are a highlight of the Conference: the Memorial Service recognizing those who have died during the year, the service honoring those who are retiring, the Ordination Service blessing new pastors to serve in our churches. In addition, each day there is an early morning service of Communion to help us start the day in tune with God.

Each member of Annual Conference is on one of six legislative committees to consider matters relating to social issues (domestic), social issues (international), organization of the church, property and finance, missions, and programmatic offerings. One of the items of business will be to consider a petition to re-instate the Tacoma District.

In addition, this year we will be electing delegates to the General Conference to be held next Spring and we will be taking action on legislation to send to that conference, which is held only once every four years.

I invite your prayers as Roger Downing, our lay member from Orting UMC, and I attend Conference this year, that we will serve you well in the actions we take and the decisions we make.

This, too, is important in the Continuing Story of Love.

Shalom,

*Pastor Carol*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:**

- Cheryl Dyson, choir director, and Denise Mabry, accompanist, and to the choir for another wonderful season of worship music.
- Worship leaders in May--Denise Mabry, Keith Dyson, Cheryl Dyson, Stacy Nagy.
- Praise Music Team--Cheryl and Keith Dyson, Nancy Lillie, Pastor Carol.
- Rosalie Gronka for flower arrangements on the altar.
- Karen Moroney for cleaning the office and weeding in the church yard.
- Mary Lou and Vernon Lewis, and Rosalie Gronka for supplemental church cleaning.
- Arnold Olson for lawn care.
- Newsletter:  
mailing--Liz Larkins  
labels--Emma Ford  
editor--Sharon Starr
- Coffee House volunteers George Bauman, John Downs, Nancy Lillie, Pastor Carol.
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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Budget for 2007	\$74,958
Needed monthly (avg.)	\$6247
Receipts in April	\$6783
Disbursements in April	\$7710

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Randy Larson, undiagnosed medical problems.
- Helen Kundert, unexplained sudden kidney and liver failure.
- Our shut-ins: Dorothy Bosshart, Mary Lou Geels, Anne Spangler, Margaret Eilers, Rosemary Todd, Harlan and Ethel Ford, Harrison and Vonnie Ford.
- Our men and women in military service.
- Our nation and its leaders.



**HOUSE TO BE BUILT BY WOMEN**

All women are invited to participate in building a Habitat House in Tacoma. Building will begin in mid-May, and finish in early August. This group will be a mixture of church women and not, some with construction experience, and most with limited to no experience. We will be building on Saturdays, starting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and then on June 28<sup>th</sup> we will add Thursdays and Fridays to the schedule. Habitat for Humanity is founded on biblical principals and devotions will be a part of each work day.

"This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> Women Build project - the previous three were tremendously successful. We have a LOT of fun!" says Alison Paradise, Team Leader.

Pastor Carol has registration forms and more detailed information, so talk to her if you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile mission project.

## June Lectionary

**June 3, 2007**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

**June 10, 2007**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Kings 17:8-24  
Psalm 146 (UMH 858)  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

**June 17, 2007**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Father's Day**  
1 Kings 21:1-21a  
Psalm 5:1-8  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36-8:3

**June 24, 2007**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Psalm 42  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39



## July Lectionary

**July 1, 2007**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

**July 8, 2007**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:1-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**July 15, 2007**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

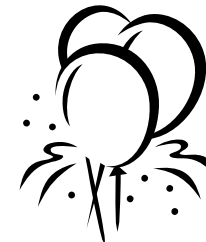
**July 22, 2007**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

**July 29, 2007**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6-19  
Luke 11:1-13

## June Birthdays



3      Kassandra Kalina  
5      Deana Reese  
9      Harrison Ford  
          Mark Gleydura  
17     Elise Kirk  
18     Billie Braddock  
19     Jane Miller  
23     Bette Scott



## July Birthdays



2      Oralyn Fleming  
4      Anne Spangler  
12     Helen Larson  
15     Stacey Straughn  
18     Randy Larson  
25     Jeff Straughn  
27     Harlan Ford  
29     June Berk  
31     Diane Tomaso



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are excited about plans for VBS this year. We will be doing the Market Place, with a focus on the Lord's Prayer. Dates are August 13-17. Helpers are needed.



Please sign up in the fellowship hall to be a family leader, craft leader or to help in one of the other areas. Also, we will need tents and awnings and

men's shirts (used) to make into children's costumes.

Summit UMC is going to join with us this year and they have been coming to planning meetings.

## SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE



Now is the time to register for summer camp. Early registration (reduced price) cut off is May 1. Online registration closes one week prior to the start of the camp you are registering for. The United Methodist Church owns camps at Indianola (Bainbridge Island), Lazy F (Ellensburg), Ocean Park, and Twinlow (North Idaho). Some campership money is available. If you are interested contact Pastor Carol.

## YARD SALE - IT'S BAAAACK!!



Its time to start cleaning out your closets, giving away some nice knick-knacks and ask around the neighborhood to see if you can help them find good things for our yard sale.

There are a few no-no's: No electronic, i.e. computers, old radios, TVs, UEDs (Unidentified Electronic Devices), household equipment, worn out pots and pans, toilets, sinks, or furniture you wouldn't keep yourself.

Because . . . it costs money to get rid of things that aren't biodegradable or recyclable. Last year it cost us between \$50 and \$75.

We need to make money on our yard sale to supplement and use for special improvements during the year.

If you have ideas on what you would like to see us include in the sale, maybe some homemade goodies, or fresh Venice's from your garden (easy on the zucchini) or farming yourself out to someone who needs help in their yards or home for a set amount let Pastor Carol or Janet Work or Shirley Olson know and we can discuss it.

We do have people who will pickup your donations. They will need help to load the pickups and we can start storing things in the Education Building starting June the. Please don't just drop things off at the back of the building. We never know who was kind enough to donate and sometimes what ever is there usually gets picked over before we get it inside. Bring it with you on Sundays, or give one of us a call and we will come and open the door for you.

Thank you. Our Church has been blessed by so many generous people and we have a blessing to many Orting families with children who truly need clothing and toys.

## JUBILATE SUMMER FESTIVAL ON WORSHIP AND THE ARTS

Every summer our United Methodist Pacific NW Conference offers an opportunity for people to come together for a week to learn about and experience inspiring worship in a retreat setting. Workshops are offered in several areas including choir, music, scripture reading, dance, preaching, altar design, hand bell ringing, banner and stole making, responding to scripture with art, the labyrinth, use of technology in worship.



This year Jubilate will be at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane July 23-28. Pastor Carol is dean and she would love to have you come to Jubilate this year. You can find out more about it by visiting the website [www.gbgn-umc.org/jubilate!/](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/jubilate!/) or pick up one of the bright pink Jubilate information cards in the fellowship hall.

### THE GENDER OF GOD

What does The United Methodist Church believe about the "gender" of God? Would a person be going against church belief if she were to stop using the pronoun "he" in hymns, substituting the word God instead?

God is a spirit; as such God is neither male nor female. However, because God is personal, it would be inappropriate to refer to God as "it."

It is natural for humans to invest God with human personal qualities, like gender.

There are many places in the Bible where God is portrayed with masculine characteristics and pronouns, but there are also biblical images where God is portrayed with feminine characteristics: Deuteronomy 32:18 refers to God as the one who gives birth to creation.

Isaiah 42:14 reveals God crying aloud like a woman in labor.

Hosea 13:8 refers to God acting like a mother bear defending her cubs.

Psalms 131:2 shows the psalmist calmed "like a weaned child with its mother."

Psalms 22:9, Psalm 71:6 and Isaiah 66:9 use images of God as a midwife.

Isaiah 49:15 speaks of God being more faithful than a woman is to her nursing child.

Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34-35: Jesus longs to gather the people as a "hen gathers her brood."

While the use of a variety of names and images might seem contradictory and confusing, such a practice enables understanding the incomprehensibility of God. The use of a variety of names and images serves as a corrective measure against our tendency to take any single image literally.

--The Rev. J. Richard Peck is four-time editor of the Daily Christian Advocate of General Conference.

Orting United Methodist Church  
Pastor Carol Mariano  
P.O. Box 537  
109 Train St. S.E.  
Orting, WA 98360  
(360) 893-2740

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