



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.*

**MAY 2005**

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## FROM THE PASTOR

"Sometimes I've believed six impossible things before breakfast," declared the White Queen in *Through the Looking Glass*.

The White Queen has nothing on us. We Christians believe at least six impossible things before breakfast every day.

1. God's saving grace shown to us in Jesus
2. The incredible power of prayer
3. God's deep love for the world
4. Jesus' unique love for each one of us
5. The Holy Spirit working in us to bring us comfort and hope
6. The Holy Spirit working through us to change the world

Now, let's take it the next step. Not only do we believe six impossible things, we do six impossible things, if not before breakfast, well then, before lunch or at least before the end of the day, for "With God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26) Here are my six impossible things for now.

1. Get up an hour earlier and walk three miles
2. Spend an hour in prayer and meditation
3. Email or telephone a family member or friend or help someone in need
4. Read something, beyond what I have to read for work, to enrich my soul
5. Write or draw in my journal
6. Practice my harp and/or sing

By believing and doing these things I am feeding my soul. What six things are you doing to feed your soul? Much has been said in the news lately about what we eat and how we take care of our bodies. There is no doubt that this is important. But we must also remember how valuable it is for us to take responsibility for the care and feeding of our own souls in this, our Continuing Story of Love.

Shalom,

Carol

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## EDUCATION

*Stacey Straughn—Education Chair*

We have been very busy in Christian Education. On Palm Sunday, the kids sang songs written by Cheryl Dyson. Nancy is now rehearsing the group to sing in church Sunday, June 12, celebrating our last day of Sunday School before the summer break. We have been very blessed this past year with four teachers, and want to thank Janet Downing, Nancy Lillie and Kim Kalina for their hard work and dedication.

We are now planning our summer vacation Bible School, scheduled August 15-19. The summer program will be "Market Place 29 AD, Along the Road with Jesus."

## MISSIONS

*Roger Downing*

We now have 12 people signed up for the mission trip to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Heart butte, Montana. We will be doing construction work, gardening and leading Vacation Bible School. Plans for this mission are well underway. We ask you to pray for our group: Roger and Janet Downing, George and Mardell Bauman, Muriel Doolittle, Shirley and Arnie Olson, Judy White, Billy Jean Stevens, Janet Bjork, Phil Fabel and Pastor Carol.

Thank you supporting our mission dinners. The money raised will be used to purchase supplies for this mission.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*Muriel Doolittle*

To help celebrate Easter, the UMW made decorated Easter cookies and ordered special gift booklets for Mother's Day. In addition, we ordered memory boxes to be presented during visits by the Visitation Group. During the monthly meeting, we had a scavenger hunt, with items on the Talent Table used as prizes. The talent table was then put away for a few months.

Pastor Carol and President Muriel Doolittle attended a leader training session sponsored by the Tacoma District. During the session, Muriel attended an interesting class on multi-cultural issues. Several UMW members will participate in the Montana mission project. We will also assist in conducting the Mother's Day worship service.

## NOTICE

In preparation for the annual conference, we are collecting empty ink jet printer cartridges and old cell phones. These items will be recycled for use in Mulungwishi, Congo. These items may be left in the Pastor's study any time between now and June 12.

## A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

The recent tragic case of Terri Schiavo brought much controversy. What should be done when someone is in a "persistent vegetative state" as she was for 15 years? We may wish she had made a living will so the situation could have been solved more easily, relieving us of the responsibility of making a decision over her life and death. People ask if the Bible gives us direction about what should be done in a case like this. Of course, those in the Bible never had to face this dilemma. Still there are Biblical principles that can be applied. They are outlined here by Charlie Mackey of First Christian Church, Palo Alto, CA.

1. Stewardship of life is our job. Some say that we shouldn't be making decisions of life and death--that's playing God; let nature take its course. However, Jesus pictures all of life, its talents and its limitations, as what we have been entrusted to manage. While doing nothing is a possible management decision, it's not highly praised by Jesus (see Matthew 25:14-30). If we have the power to affect outcomes we have the duty to do right. We can't abdicate our stewardship.
2. There are more important things than preserving life at any cost. As one example, the Apostle Paul could have avoided martyrdom by recanting his faith. Instead we read: "The time of my departure is at hand," (II Tim.4:6). The purpose of life is to give itself--sometimes by the way we live; sometimes by the way we die.
3. Suffering is not without value. It's never fun, but sometimes suffering is the path to the good, the right, and the true. Yes, Jesus did pray, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me" (Matt.26:39). But the Bible also says that Jesus "for the joy that was set before him endured death on the cross," (Heb.12:2).
4. Prolonging dying is not the same as prolonging living. There's a touching phrase about the death of Abraham, that he died "old and full of years," (Gen. 25:8). One hears a sense of completion in that. This life is supposed to come to an end. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints," (Psalms 116:15). Dying is natural at some point. When that point comes, needlessly stretching out the dying process is not natural.

Oh, God. . .

## OUR PRAYERS FOR—

Thelma Hansen, hospitalized for diagnosis; Viola Bush, stroke; Dan Stark, lymphoma; Chad Gunderson; Sharon Starr, gestational diabetes; Rosalie Gronka, scheduled for cataract surgery; Shut-Ins: Louise Hause, Rosemary Todd, LeRoy Bush, Lynn Johnson and Dorothy Bosshart; our nation and its leaders; our men and women in military service.

## IN MEMORIAM

Mary Jo Walker  
Lucille Bentley (Sue Mett's mother)

## TAKE A WALK AROUND THE CHURCH AND . . .

Things look pretty good at eye level—  
don't look too high.

The lawn and the new Sign looks really great—don't look  
too high.

The church interior is clean and inviting—  
the windows could use some caulk.

The Treasurer looks at the checkbook—  
and wonders what to do.

We can volunteer to paint the building exterior.

We can volunteer to caulk the windows.

We can volunteer to clean the church.

But, can we look closer at the offering plates and add to  
the contents?

Then, the Treasurer can look at the checkbook and know  
what to do!

Again this year we are falling behind in our pledges and  
giving, and are experiencing financial difficulties in  
paying our operational and administrative  
requirements. If you have been gone or on vacation, this  
would be a good time to catch up. If you can, this is a  
good time to give a little more. THANK YOU!

## Thanks to—

**Arnie Olson** for yard work.

**Rosalie Gronka, Phil Fabel, Karen Moroney** for  
church and office cleaning.

**Denise Mabry, Roger Downing, Keith Dyson,  
Nancy Lillie**—worship leaders in April.

**John Downs, Patty Chouery, Mike Perzel,  
Roger Downing, Carol Mariano**—Youth Coffee  
House volunteers in April.

**Stacey Straughn**, office volunteer and **Jeff  
Straughn** for help on the computer system.

**Shirley Olson** and **Cheryl** and **Keith Dyson** for  
special music.

**Leigh** and **Sharon Starr, Cheryl** and **Keith  
Dyson, Carol Mariano** for leading  
congregational praise music.

## May Birthdays

8	Joan Cook	17	Muriel Doolittle
9	Janet Bjork	24	Karen Moroney
	Corey Roberts	25	Brian Kolar
11	Sulmo Mariano	28	Vernon Lewis
	28	Elizabeth Starr	

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MARCH 31, 2005

Budget for year	\$ 68,165
Needed Monthly (1/12 Annual)	5,680
March Receipts	4,081
March Disbursements	6,658
Balance as of 3/31/05	(831)

## May Lectionary

*May 1—6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter—White or Gold*

Psalm 66:8-20 (UMH 790)

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

*May 5—Ascension of the Lord—White or Gold*

Psalm 47 (UMH 781)

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

*May 8—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter—White or Gold*

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (UMH 792)

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

*May 15—Day of Pentecost—Red*

Psalm 104:24-34 (UMH 826)

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

*May 22—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—White*

Psalm 8 (UMH 743)

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

*May 29—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—Green*

Psalm 46 (UMH 780)

Genesis 6:11-22; 7:24; 7:14-19

Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31)

Matthew 7:21-29

## SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

**Summer Camps**—Brochures are available in the Fellowship Hall. Register early for the discounted price.

**Jubilate Workshop on Worship and the Arts**—At Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma July 18-23. Pastor Carol is one of the leaders. Save if you register before May 31. Check out the Jubilate web site: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/Jubilate>.

**School of Missions**—July 18-22 at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah.

## CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION WITH BISHOP PAUP

Since last fall, our East Pierce County Circuit of United Methodist Churches have been working cooperatively on a Confirmation Training program for youth, meeting twice a month on Saturday mornings, with the pastors taking turns leading the two-hour sessions. Alex Jones of Orting has been participating in the training.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, at 3:00 pm, Bishop Paup is coming to Puyallup United Methodist Church for a service of Confirmation for attendees, who will also be received into membership in their individual churches. Everyone is invited to the service to welcome the Confirmed into church membership and to hear Bishop Paup's sermon.

Orting United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 537  
109 Train St. S.E.  
Orting, WA 98360

Carol Mariano, Pastor  
Phone: 360-893-2740  
Church Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/ortingumc>  
E-mail Address: [Revmariano@centurytel.net](mailto:Revmariano@centurytel.net)  
Editor: Mike Perzel

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