



The Messenger

Port Orchard United Methodist Church

November-December, 2008



Pastor Scott's thoughts

Life is full of interruptions! Now there is something I think we can all agree with. Life is, indeed, full of interruptions. For some, it is the interruption of illness. For others it may be a child returning home. For

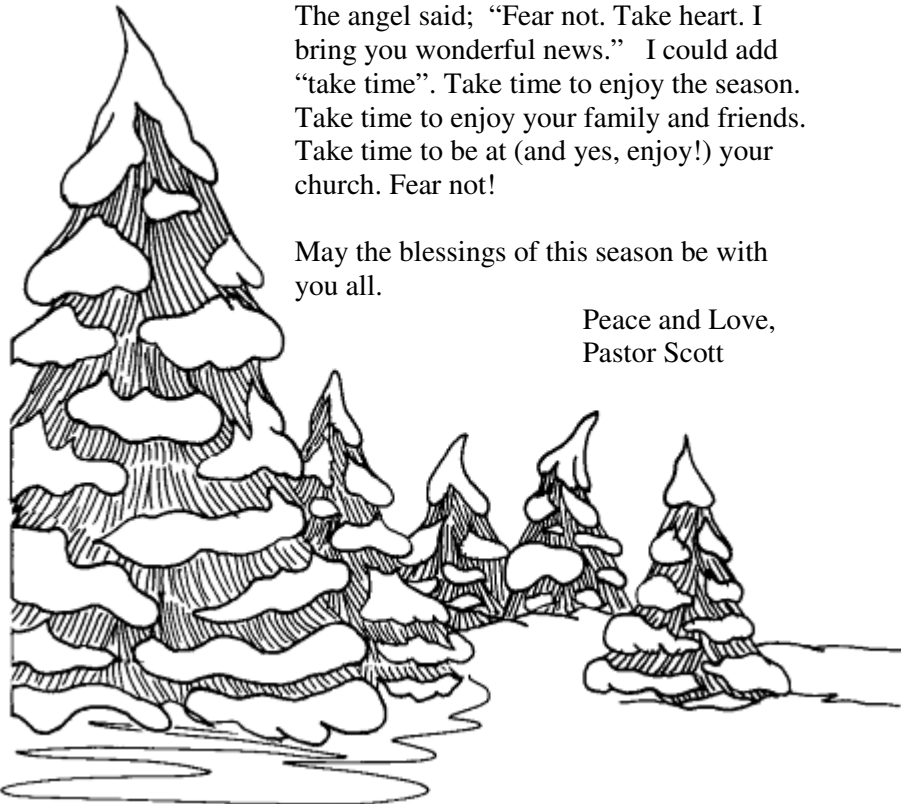
others still it is a job lost or a move contemplated. Whatever it may be, it interrupts and disrupts our lives.

The Good News is that life doesn't have to be perfect and planned down to the micro-unit for good things to happen...even if it is interrupting to us at the time. Those first pilgrims who left their homelands to travel into an unknown world, the inn-keeper who opened his door to a young couple in need of lodging, three weary travelers following a bright object in the sky to a far-away land to meet a new-born king...all of it was interrupting, yet something good, even wonderful came from these "interruptions".

The angel said; "Fear not. Take heart. I bring you wonderful news." I could add "take time". Take time to enjoy the season. Take time to enjoy your family and friends. Take time to be at (and yes, enjoy!) your church. Fear not!

May the blessings of this season be with you all.

Peace and Love,
Pastor Scott



Dates to remember

- Nov. 30 The First Sunday of Advent.
- Dec. 5 Pagemasters at Blondie's Restaurant Noon
- Dec. 7 An Advent Communion
- Dec 7 UMM no host brunch 11 AM
- Dec. 10 Youth group Christmas party and gift exchange
- Dec.14 Carols and a special "gift" from the children
- Dec 14 Stafford Suites worship 3PM
- Dec 17 Angel Acres Christmas party 10 AM
- Dec. 17 WIM pot luck and gift exchange 12 Noon
- Dec.21 POUMC Choir Cantata "Festival of Carols" 9:30 AM
- Dec.24 Christmas Eve Candle-light Service 7PM

ADVENT



November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent. Come join in heralding in the festive season! We will be sharing in the joy and peace of Advent and lighting the "advent" candles at each service. Enjoy special music from our POUMC musical family. Invite a friend to join you!

Angel Tree brings joy to many



The time has come again when we have the opportunity to bring a little special joy to needy children in our community. The Christmas Angel Tree loaded with ornaments will soon be in the Narthex. Each ornament will have the name and age of a child along with a short list of needed items plus a special item the child wants. You are not expected to buy every item on the list but are asked to select a few items from the "needed" list plus a toy or other special gift. The Christmas Angel Tree brings joy to both the giver and the receiver. So as you go about your shopping this year, choose something for a needy child. God will surely bless you.



Getting to Know You: Kathy and Bill Reichstein make a big impact on POUMC

Kathy and Bill Reichstein have been very active members of POUMC since 1982. Bill is one of our regular ushers and along with Kathy is part of the Coffee Fellowship team. He has chaperoned youth camping trips and dances and you may have seen him running his popcorn machine at many church events over the years. Kathy has been a member of just about every POUMC board from SPRC, to nominations, to Angel Acres. She has taught Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and served as the Sunday School Superintendent. Kathy is the current Women In Mission President, Communion Server Coordinator, Sunshine (Visitation) Coordinator, Coffee Fellowship Coordinator, and works the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings.



Now let's learn a little of about their life outside of POUMC. Kathy and Bill were college sweethearts who met during their senior year at Western Washington University. After earning their degrees in education Kathy's first job was at an elementary school in Tacoma, while Bill taught Industrial Arts in Buckley at the Rainier School for the developmentally disabled. With a year of teaching under their belts, Kathy and Bill married in June of 1963 and moved to Enumclaw. Kathy taught at an elementary in Enumclaw and Bill stayed on at the Rainier School.

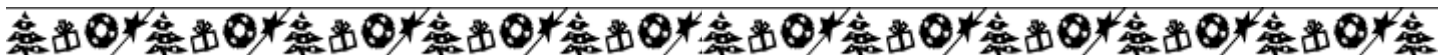
In 1965 the Reichsteins move to Port Orchard where Kathy taught Kindergarten at Givens Elementary and

later 2nd grade at Orchard Heights Elementary, while Bill taught Industrial Arts and Math at Marcus Whitman Junior High. Kathy did take several years off from teaching to raise their children, Kelli and Kreg, but returned to Orchard Heights when her children began school.

As their children grew and entered adolescence the Reichsteins were drawn to POUMC. Their previous church did not have a strong youth program and the Reichsteins were excited about the active youth group at POUMC. Our church was an answer to their needs as the Reichstein family joined in 1982 and Kelli and Kreg became excited and involved members of the youth group.

In 1993 Bill retired from teaching. Since then he has worked as a private contractor for Arnold's Furniture doing upholstery. Bill enjoys photography, woodworking, and upholstery. Kathy retired in 2000. In her free time she enjoys reading and gardening. Together they enjoy golfing, traveling in their RV and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Kelli, her husband John Metselaar, and son Kees (12 years) now live in Scottsdale, AZ. Kreg, his wife Kecia, and their daughter Kiera (4 ½) and Karlie (2 ½) live in West Seattle.

Bill and Kathy have given many hours of service to POUMC and their dedication and effort have truly made a difference to our church.





The Youth News

Since school started and our Junior and Senior high kids have returned to their school-year routines, it is interesting to see what kinds of activities they have been involved with around the church. You may

have noticed several of them were absent from church earlier in the month. That is because the Sr. High youth spent the weekend of November 7-9 at Fort Flagler for their annual retreat. They had a wonderful time with youth from around the conference. Four of our own youth were on the planning team for that retreat and they did a great job.

At the Women in Mission annual bazaar in November, the youth displayed and sold the items they had made. They also presold Christmas wreaths that they will be making the weekend of thanksgiving. Orders will continue to be taken until November 28. All the wreaths will be available to be picked up in deVries after church on November 30.

Coming up very soon is a special youth group Christmas party planned for December 10th. Other youth groups from nearby Gig Harbor UMC and North Mason UMC are being invited to join in the fun. Some of the plans include a ginger bread house making contest and a gift exchange. It sounds like it will be a great party.

On the more serious side, the youth Bible study continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. All youth are invited to attend.

If you know someone in grades 7 through 12 who would be interested in being part of a great group of kids for fun and fellowship, and you would like more information, please contact our youth leader, Patty Novogradac.

Helpline request

Needed for the holiday baskets:
Canned yams or sweet potatoes

Please place food donations in the Helpline box located in deVries. Cash donations are always welcome, too!



Our community reaches out at the holiday season

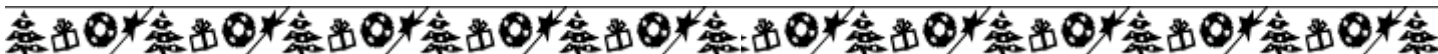
All year long, but especially during the holiday season, various community organizations are active in special programs that help people in need. Below are some things that are happening in Port Orchard that might be of interest to you.

A community **Thanksgiving** worship and celebration will take place at Elim Lutheran Church at 7 PM on Wednesday, November 26th. This is a time for members of various congregations in the Port Orchard area to come together to give thanks for what God has done. Food donations for the needy will be collected

Long time POUMC member, LaVonne Lynam is currently working with an organization called **Operation Iraq** to make fleece blankets for injured or ill service men and women. These blankets are given to those in need and the blankets travel with them as they move from

place to place for treatment or as they return home. LaVonne has finished 15 blankets so far, and continues to work on them whenever possible. She is accepting donations of money, fleece or gift certificates. There are specific dimensions and patterns that have been requested. If anyone is interested in donating, please contact LaVonne at 360-876-3529 or 360-876-1921 to find out what is needed.

A special Thanksgiving dinner will be served on **Thanksgiving Day at the Moon Dog, Too** on Bay Street from 11 AM to 3:30 PM at a cost of \$1.00 per person. All proceeds will go to Helpline. Food and clothing donations will also be accepted for Helpline. A similar dinner is planned for Christmas Day at a cost of \$1.00 to benefit Helpline.



Financial Update

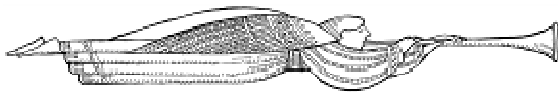
This year our congregation has supported many missions over and above the regular church budget that is responsible for 11 staff positions and the running of the church. Your time and your dollars made support of the following project possible: Family Kitchen, Helpline, Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR, upgrade of the church sound system, handbell choir, the Nicodemus Fund, music for the choir, the Youth mission trip, evangelist Jim Moore's visit, the Carter's home project, Camperships, the Women in Mission pledge drive, Angel Acres needs, Christmas Angel Tree and Vacation Bible school, just to name a few.

This year, over and above the regular giving, we were faced with the challenge of raising money for replacing the carpet. The campaign to raise \$21,000 started on the first Sunday in April. The congregation responded very generously and quickly. The Trustees were able to complete the installation during the summer thanks to lots of volunteer hours by all of you.

In January it became necessary to replace the two furnaces and a vent in Devries Hall. The cost was just under \$7,900. We were able to pay for this expense from our reserves.

We have accomplished a lot this year. Thank you for your very generous support of all of these needs.

Choir to Present Festival of Carols



On December 21st during Sunday worship at 9:30 AM, our choir and musicians will bring you a new cantata, Festival of Carols. Based on the format of a traditional Lessons and Carols program, over 20 carols are included in a message of redemption and the telling of the story of the birth of God's promised Son. Carols, new and old, are wrapped up in beautiful arrangements and seasonal readings. The accompaniment uses organ and piano. A handbell part, arranged by Madeleine Fraley, has been added to this wonderful setting, too.

Bring your singing voice to church and be ready to join in such familiar hymns as O Come, All Ye Faithful, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus and Hark the Herald Angels Sing as we celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

The Choir would like to thank the following individuals who have contributed funds to underwrite purchase of this year's cantata: Lou and Joan Stack, Gerry and Helen Almy, Scott and Marie Harrison, Homer and Gayle Morgan, Eric and Jennifer Bowker, Marcia Watt and Donna Duffey. We are all grateful for your generous contribution.

Angel Acres Enrichment Center

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is so hard to believe that we are entering December already! We would like to thank the many volunteers who have come in to share their talents and time with us. The children, staff and I all appreciate all the hard work and time you have given to us. We are looking forward to having Santa come visit with the children on Wednesday December 17. Shane Hall, our lead Preschool Teacher, is planning a Christmas show for the children to share with you.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, but don't feel that your talent is with children, we would like to see if there is anyone who has a skill for grant writing. We know that there are grants available for non profit centers, however we need someone with some experience to help us apply for them. In addition, if there is anyone who likes to do woodworking, we are in need of some good solid building blocks for our Preschool and Pre Kindergarten classes.

As we wind down the year, I would like to take a moment to thank the Advisory committee for all of their hard work and dedication. Angel Acres has had a tumultuous year and the Advisory committee has invested a lot of time, energy and prayer into seeing us through. As we begin to look forward to a New Year we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have worked so hard and faithfully to bring us through the storms.

Yours in Faith,
Lori Johnston, Director



Women In Mission News

Thanks to ALL of you, our Bazaar was a huge success. We made over \$2,800 profit this year...the most ever! We will continue to sell the EcoCafe Coffee through December. It is organically grown in Honduras and sells for \$10 a bag. All the proceeds are shared equally with the Honduras farmers and our WIM. So, it is really a mission project!

The last WIM meeting for 2008 is December 10th at 10 AM in deVries. We will be preparing for the Angel Acres Christmas party that is coming up on December 17th from 10 AM to 12 Noon in deVries. At the Angel Acres party, we will give a small gift to each child and each teacher, cookies and juice will be served, AND each child may have their picture taken with SANTA! (aka Jim Craig). Plan to come and join the fun.

ALL Women of POUMC are cordially invited to come to our annual WIM Christmas Pot-luck Party, also on December 17th at 12Noon. We will gather at Kathy Reichstein's home right after the Angel Acres Party. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share and a Christmas gift not to exceed \$10 for the gift exchange. Even if you have not been attending WIM meetings, please plan to attend this annual event. We'll eat, exchange gifts, and vote on where to send our mission monies for 2008. Please RSVP Kathy at 360-871-2697 by December 13th. We would love to have you join us.

Special worship planned at Stafford Suites

On December 14 at 3PM our POUMC bell choir will perform a Christmas-concert at Stafford Suites Retirement Home on Pottery Avenue as a part of the regular monthly church service lead by Lou and Joan Stack . We will gather in the downstairs great room where there is plenty of room for everyone. We invite all of you to join us and make this a rousing event.

The Stafford Suites group seems to grow much like our children, one minute there are 3-5 attending, and the next time you look there are 13 smiling faces saying "we're sure happy you come here." Pastor Scott joins us often as well as Bill Carter and the Vahey's. Gary Dirks donated a nice piano so that Norma Holtz has a better instrument to work with than she had in the past. We have some pretty good voices in the group, too, including one gentleman who used to sing in the Seattle Symphony Chorale. You are always welcome to be a part of this outreach to the folks at Stafford Suites.

Pagemasters



The Pagemasters book club will meet on December 5th at Noon at Blondie's Restaurant in Port Orchard. Note, this is a change from their usual 4th Friday of the month meeting. The book being discussed is Starvation Heights by Gregg Olsen. This book tells of something that actually happened in nearby Olalla. It should be an interesting discussion. Please join in the fun. Contact Thelma Peterson if you have questions.



United Methodist Men News

You may have seen the popular TV program, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Recently POUMC's United Methodist Men accomplished their own version of a home makeover. Several United Methodist Men, with significant donations of money and materials from the congregation, completed several needed repairs to Bill and Karen Carter's home in Bremerton. Using many repair items that were available at the Habitat for Humanity Builders Bargains Store in Bremerton, they were able to restore the bathroom, kitchen and exterior to good, serviceable condition. It took a lot of work and many volunteer hours but by working together Bill and Karen's home is safe and comfortable again. The United Methodist Men extend a sincere thank you to our congregation for your generosity of time, talent and treasure to assist a member of our church family.

The next event on the UMM's calendar is their annual no host brunch. Everyone is invited to join the UMM immediately after church on December 7th at Puerto Vallarta restaurant for a time of food and fellowship.



Port Orchard United Methodist Church
725 KITSAP STREET
PORT ORCHARD WA 98366-5323
360-876-3975

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Staff Contact Information

PHONE: 360-876-3975

FAX: 360-874-0924

www.gbgm_umc.org/poumc

Scott Harrison, Pastor

CSCOTTHARRISON@juno.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Patty Novogradac, Secretary

poumc@wavecable.com

Office Hours: Monday 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Angel Acres Enrichment Center 895-2240

Lori Johnston- Director angelacres@wavecable.com

Becky Maffei - Business Manager aaec@wavecable.com

Church Schedule

8:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship

Sunday School for children and youth

10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time

Nursery Care available 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Prayer chain requests:

email Scott Harrison: CSCOTTHARRISON@juno.com

email Patty Novogradac: poumc@wavecable.com

or call the church office 360-876-3975

Messenger Team

Editors: Cal and Jackie Kendall

Publication Team: Joan Stack