

Hoquiam United Methodist Church



January/February 2016

From the Pastor's Desk:

On Wednesday, February 10, we begin the season of Lent, a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, we skip over Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent.



But, the word "Lent" isn't in the Bible! Well, the word "Bible" isn't either! So what is the origin of the name? Originally, "Lent" was nothing more than the English name of the season between winter and summer, the season when the snow melts and the flowers bloom. The church observance took place during the season of lent. In England, "Lent" came to mean the observance rather than the season, leaving the season without a name. Instead of saying something odd like "Lent happens during lent", English-speaking people invented the word "spring". Today, instead of calling the seasons winter, lent, and summer, we call them winter, spring and summer. We use "Lent" instead of "spring" when we refer to the church season.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For us, I hope it will be a time of prayer and of service to others. Let it be for us a celebration of God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Each year the churches in the Aberdeen/Hoquiam area join together in worship during the weeks of Lent. This year we will offer a different format from our usual luncheon worship. We have selected three dates, all Wednesday evenings, to gather for a light meal together at 5:30 pm, followed at 6:15 by table discussions. See more details about this on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Last week I received a wonderful suggestion from our lovely friend and Webmaster Tina. I would like to suggest that each of us begin using this as a Lenten devotion time. Perhaps it could continue as a daily regimen throughout the year! "It is a simple thing that each Christian can do. It's so simple, and it takes little time, but the effects are profound. Basically, everyone lives in some kind of neighborhood. While we may not know every one of our neighbors, we all know that as Christians we need God's help. So, here is the proposal: every one of us walk around our neighborhood once a day and prays for our neighbors. We may not know their names or their needs, but God does. The Bible says that when we ask, we receive. So let's do this simple thing. Hey, we'll get a little exercise, and we'll see the mighty works of God done in our neighborhoods. That's all there is to it. Thank you and God bless you." I wonder how it might affect our lives, and the lives of those around us, if each of us gave this a try! Let me know how it goes!

Pastor Kathryn

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 118:1

Stewardship Report

The good news is that we finished 2015 with all the bills, salaries and apportionments paid! The not so good news is that we ended the year \$10,000 below what had been budgeted, this in spite of a one-time special gift of \$10,000 to the General Fund. So we are looking at a significant challenge as we begin 2016.

The Finance Committee prepared a bare-bones budget for 2016, but it includes a \$2,000 “Leap of Faith” entry to try to create a balanced budget. We each have a lot of work to do to make sure that Hoquiam UMC remains a vital presence in our community.

Account balances as of December 31, 2015:

General Fund—\$2,335.29	Building Fund—\$1,648.97
Special Fund (Missions) - \$3,452.23	Parsonage Fund—\$56.79
Lowe Fund—\$44,425.58	

We will be using monies from the Lowe Fund this year for some needed maintenance on both the Church and the Parsonage. The recent windstorm created additional leaks in the kitchen ceiling. We also need to address some of window framing that is rotting and complete the replacement of the broken stained glass window near the main entrance.

Meat Ball Dinner!!

Yes, we will have our famous Meat Ball Dinner again this year. Our long-time hard-working cooks, Pete and Sally H and Mel and Dixie T are ready to pass along their expertise to some of the rest of us. Dixie has promised to oversee and “train” some of us to carry on this beloved fund-raising event.



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So we have set **Friday March, 5 from 5-7pm**, as the date. We will make the meat balls in the next couple of weeks. Then we'll need volunteers for the many tasks that come with this large project. The Meat Ball Dinner has been our major fund-raiser and the community looks forward to enjoying the good food and fellowship of that event. So, mark the date on your calendar and let Pastor Kathryn know how you will step up and help make it a success!

Thanks to:

Pete H. who faithfully provides our Communion elements.

All of those who willingly step up to assist in Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Art and Norma who are always on hand to clean up in the kitchen, on Sunday mornings and at our Community Dinners.

All of those who help set up and serve our guests at the Community Dinners, and those who come to visit with our guests and help make them feel welcome.

Virginia P. who serves as our Treasurer and keeps a close eye on our expenditures.



Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (See Matthew 28:16-20)

Scriptures and Sermons for Lent and Easter:

Easter comes early this year—March 27—which means that Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 10.

On the first Sunday of Lent, February 14, Pastor Kathryn will be meeting with the Lay Servant Ministries Program in Nashville, so Norma will be leading the service, with the assistance of Art, our two very capable Lay Servants.

For the season of Lent, and Easter, we will look at a number of the “I Am” statements of Jesus.

February 21, 2nd Sunday of Lent: *I Am the Bread of Life*, service of Holy Communion, John 6:35-59

February 28, 3rd Sunday of Lent: *I Am The Door; I Am the Good Shepherd*, John 10:7-15

March 6, 4th Sunday of Lent: *I Am the Light of the World*, John 8:12-9:5

March 13, 5th Sunday of Lent: *I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life*, John 14:1-14

March 20, Palm Sunday:

March 27, Easter Sunday: *I Am the Resurrection and the Life*, John 11:17-27

Since there will be no Community services on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday, the Worship Planning Team will offer Noon services on these days, February 10 and March 25. We will offer a simple soup and bread lunch at Noon, followed by a short service. We will invite the communities to participate with us. Please plan to come and help host on these days.

The group of Ecumenical Pastors will be offering three community gatherings during Lent. These will begin with a simple meal at 5:30 pm, followed by topical discussions around the tables. The overall theme will be Psalm 23, from Lament to Hope...Healing (in all the various meanings and degrees that we experience healing...and always a cure..). The schedule for these gatherings is:

Wednesday, February 17, at Saron Lutheran Church, Hoquiam

Wednesday, March 9, at First UMC Aberdeen

Wednesday, March 7, at First Christian Church, Aberdeen

In the Church Family:

Please keep in prayer....

Ada and Toni in the sudden death of Ada's son-in-law and Toni's brother-in-law.

Amy, Cheryl and Z as they work through transition to a new life.

Trella, our church caretaker, as she approaches major surgery.

Sue B, as she returns to school to complete her Bachelors Degree.



Also keep in prayer:

..The homeless in our community, both in River City Tent Camp and those on the streets.

..The members of our community who are again facing flooding and possible landslides due to the heavy rains.

..The refugees who flee terrorism in their home country only to be turned back at many borders around the world.

..Those in our community and around the country who are trapped in the addiction of drugs and alcohol.

..Our service men and women who put their lives on the line to work for peace in our world.

Mission Project:

Our Mission Project is to provide underwear for children in our schools. Many children come to school without underwear because their families cannot afford to purchase these necessary items. We find that many of the teachers use their own funds to supply the needy children. So we are helping fill the gap. In January we have been bringing undergarments for both boys and girls in the 5-8 year old range.



In February we will provide for slightly older children, in the 8-12 year range.

Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex marked “Undie Sunday” and Doris will deliver them to the schools. If you would prefer that some of us shop for you, please leave your donation with Doris and we’ll get it done!

Vancouver District Training Day—Let’s Go!!

We have a special opportunity to learn how to streamline our work as a local church. Our Vancouver District Training Day this year will feature Steve Ross, who has served as director of revitalization and new faith communities for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, and who has helped other churches simplify their governance. This is not just about a single board, it is about helping churches renew their focus on mission, liberate the energy and passion of the members in ministry, develop more effective leaders and more easily include people in discipleship and ministry. Please plan to go as a group, **Saturday, February 27, 9:30 am—3 pm, Kelso UMC.** We already have more than three ready to go, so the fee is just \$15.00 each, including lunch. See Pastor Kathryn, who will sign us up as a group. We need to be registered by February 19.

Opportunities Beyond Our Church:

Are you aware of the opportunities to serve the larger church? Our Annual Conference consists of many and varied committees and work groups, Appointments to these group can occur at any time, but at the beginning of each new quadrennium a large number of openings need to be filled. At the next Annual Conference (June 24-26) we will be electing folks for many of these positions. I serve as one of the two Vancouver District members of the Nominating Committee and I would be pleased to see some of our members take on a larger role in the Conference. If you think you might have an interest, let me know and I’ll provide you with information about what is available and what the next steps would be. It’s a great way to meet others from around the State and branch out in some of the broader work of the Church.

General Conference:

Interested in attending General Conference in Portland this year? Most of the volunteer positions are filled, but we would like to get a group together to go for a day to observe. We have not selected a specific day, so that is open for consensus. If you’d like to go, let Pastor Kathryn know and we will car-pool for a day trip. This is the closest General Conference will be, so it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Global Church at work.

What's Happening at Hoquiam UMC and in the Community:

Sunday, February 7—"Souper Bowl" Sunday—Home made soup and bread after Worship

Wednesday, February 10—Noon soup lunch and Ash Wednesday worship

Wednesday, February 10—6:30 pm—Alpha Study Group

Sunday, February 14—First Sunday of Lent—Norma preaching

Tuesday, February 16—10:30 am—Agape Study Group

Tuesday, February 16—5 pm—Liver & Onions Dinner at Satsop UMC (Ham alternative)

Wednesday February 17, 5:30 pm—Lenten Supper and Discussion—Saron Lutheran Church

Thursday, February 18—12:30 pm—Ladies' Luncheon at Ocean Palace

Sunday, February 21—Second Sunday of Lent

Wednesday, February 24—6:30 pm—Alpha Study Group

Friday, February 26—5 pm—Community Eat Together

Saturday, February 27—9:30 am—3 pm—Vancouver District Training Day at Kelso UMC

Sunday, February 28—Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 28—Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 1—10:30 am—Agape Study Group

Sunday, March 6—Fourth Sunday of Lent

Wednesday, March 9—5:30 pm—Lenten Supper and Discussion—Aberdeen UMC

Wednesday, March 9—6:30 pm—Alpha Study Group

Saturday, March 12—The Gathering (PNW RMN) at Lazy F Camp

Sunday, March 13—Fifth Sunday of Lent

Tuesday, March 15—10:30 am—Agape Study Group

Thursday, March 17—Ladies' Lunch (Location TBD)

Sunday, March 20—Palm Sunday⁷

Wednesday, March 23—5:30 pm—Lenten Supper and Discussion—First Christian Church, Aberdeen

Wednesday, March 23—6:30 pm—Alpha Study Group

Friday, March 25—Noon—Soup lunch and Good Friday Service

Friday, March 25—5 pm—Community Eat Together

Sunday, March 27—Easter Sunday

The Gathering—PNW-RMN Annual Event:

The Gathering this year will have a different format than in the past. It will be in a Retreat setting at Lazy F Camp in Central Washington. Beginning with Registration at 9 am on Saturday, March 12, attendees will have the option of staying overnight at the camp to participate in morning prayer, breakfast, and an invitation to attend worship at Ellensburg First UMC. This is always a special event and this year's retreat format will bring a new dimension to The Gathering. Cost ranges from \$27.24 to \$67.14, depending upon whether you choose to attend only on Saturday or stay overnight, and how soon registration is received. See Pastor Kathryn for more details and how to register.