

Shoreline Tidings

Shoreline United Methodist Church Newsletter • September 2006

Pastors: Melvin Woodworth, Mahesh Giri, Jale Tuirotuma

Secretary: Lea Ann Steele

Behold, I make all things new!

“Connections with gardens, even small ones, even potted plants, can become windows into the inner life. The simple act of stopping and looking at the beauty around us can be prayer.”

■ Patricia R. Barrett, *The Sacred Garden*



BEFORE



AFTER

On the last Saturday morning in August, Koto Kalouvakarua, Fee Lesinaivalu, and Candice Woodworth joined Val Gomes and Andy Proudfoot from the Trustees and pastor Mel to give the east entrance of our building a face lift.

The Mugo Pines that had greeted friends and members for years had grown to the point that they overshadowed the steps and obscured the front doors of the building.

It was a time of sharing the joy of physical labor and working with God in creation and renewal.

It was a time of sharing the joy of being in God’s garden of living things.

It was a time of enjoying one another’s company.

It was a time of prayer and laughter.

It was a time of demonstrating to those who passed that we are alive, we are renewing and we



Andy, Fee and Koto remove a root ball

are giving our best to God and our neighbors!



Melvin's Musings

“ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness..”

Romans 12:5-8 (NRSV)

God pours out many gifts, each unique and each essential to the future God has in store for us.

Some people think more highly of verbal gifts, those like preaching, teaching and exhorting. Others pay higher regard to serving gifts like healing and feeding and comforting that often hide from our attention even when they are visibly before us.

Some gifts, like praying and preaching, are clearly spiritual in nature. Others, like scientific research and financial management, are often considered secular or worldly.

Did you notice in Paul's list of spiritual gifts cited above, we find the gift of giving. To the person who is graced with this gift, there is a will and ability to give beyond the levels normally expected.

Sometimes generosity is due to great income or accumulated wealth. Other times it is in spite of poverty as with the widow mentioned in scripture.

To the person with this gift, giving is a joy. There is a firm knowledge of one's self and one's place in creation that comes from investing one's wealth in the welfare of others and the ministries of those with different gifts.

The gifted giver seeks to free up the most possible for the welfare of creation.

Too often, those who are givers think less of their gift than that of preachers or healers. Remember, financial resources as an important tool for ministry. Be generous and encourage generosity in others.

September at Shoreline

- 3 10:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE
- 1:00 PM Fijian Worship
- 5:00 PM South Asian Worship
- 5 7:15 PM Choir rehearsal
- 6 7:00 PM Fijian Bible Study
- 7 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting
- 10 10:30AM English Worship
- 1:00 PM Fijian Worship
- 5:00 PM South Asian Worship
- 7:00 PM Lay Leadership Committee
- 12 TBA Clergy Lunch (Melvin Hosting)
- 12 7:15 PM Choir rehearsal
- 13 7:00 PM Fijian Bible Study
- 14 7:00 PM Administrative Council
- 15 9:00 AM Young at Heart Breakfast
- Denny's on Aurora
- 17 10:30AM English Worship
- 1:00 PM Fijian Worship
- 5:00 PM South Asian Worship
- 7:30 PM Lay Leadership Committee
- 19 7:15 PM Choir rehearsal
- 20 7:00 PM Fijian Bible Study
- 24 10:30AM English Worship
- 1:00 PM Fijian Worship
- 5:00 PM South Asian Worship
- 7:00 PM Lay Leadership Committee
- 26 TBA Clergy Lunch (Tui Hosting)
- 26 7:15 PM Choir rehearsal
- 27 7:00 PM Fijian Bible Study



Prayers

- Lea Ann Steele
- Liz Serl
- Supt. Elaine Stanovsky
- Asif Family
- Jeff and Ellen Hoover, missionaries in the Congo
- Judith Ronser
- Bishop Ed Paup
- Val Gomes
- Our Lay Leadership Comm.

Birthdays

- 5 Ranjeeta Sharma
- 17 Neelam Sharma
- 27 Ron Mills

Anniversaries

- 12 Jack and Merle Patterson

OUR MISSION CORNER

Coins of Compassion



Church of Mary Magdalene Choir

Our Coins of Compassion during September will go to our ongoing mission through the Church of Mary Magdalene.

The Church of Mary Magdalene is a safe and accepting Christian congregation for women only. We focus on the special needs of women who are homeless, or have been homeless in the past.

The church believes that relationships with God and other people are the most important needs that human beings have. These relationships give birth to hope, which is the fuel that helps homeless women begin to make changes in their housing, vocational and financial situations.

Mary's Place is a welcoming and safe environment where women and children can build community, enrich their days and find resources to rebuild their lives.

We are able to provide for some basic needs: breakfast, lunch, showers and laundry facilities are available during the day. Women in the program assist with these daily operations and help with cleaning and setup. A morning house meeting is held to allocate tasks and also provides an opportunity to share news and prayer concerns.

Resources are offered for vocational, housing and financial needs. Groups, classes and on-site services address issues of physical, spiritual and emotional health. Nurses and a naturopathic medical clinic are available. Other activities aim at fun and community building; arts and crafts, book groups, games and singing are a few examples.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION

Awareness

Farmer and author Wendell Berry writes, "I do not mean to suggest we can live harmlessly or strictly at our own expense; we depend upon other creatures and survive by their deaths. To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of creation. The point is, when we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament; when we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration ...in such desecration, we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want."



Action

If you would like to move towards eating in more knowing, loving, skillful, reverent ways, here are some questions that you might want to consider as you make food purchases this week:

- Where does my food come from (i.e., before it reaches the market/store)?
- Were those people who grew, harvested, and prepared my food treated with respect and given equitable compensation? Were the land and/or animals treated with care?
- Will my "food dollars" help to strengthen communities that provided me with the gift of daily bread?
- Will I spend my food dollars frugally or justly? Are there ways in which I can do both? In times when I can't, which value will I prioritize?
- The big question: Does the way in which I choose to spend my food dollars reflect my Christian values and call to be "a channel for God's Grace"?

Thoughts are from: "Radical Gratitude,"
www.umfnw.org

The Rev. Mr. . . .—

What *do* those titles Mean?

I have been asked to explain the many terms used for clergy of the church. Here goes:

CLERGY, in Greek – Cleros, meaning “something assigned by lot.” Clergy refers to the formal, ordained/licensed Church leadership. Clergy is not a title, but a designation for all ordained leaders or any individual ordained leader.

BISHOP, in Greek – Episcopos, means “supervisor.” In the early Church each city had a bishop, an older clergy person whose wisdom and grace was acknowledged by other clergy. In United Methodism a bishop presides over one or more annual conferences, the churches within a region. Bishop Paup is bishop over the Pacific Northwest annual conference (Washington and northern Idaho), and the Alaska conference.

PRIEST, in Greek – Hiereus, means one who performs rites, especially sacrifices. In the Catholic and Episcopal churches clergy are called a priests, as the embodiments of Christ who made the final sacrifice for humanity.

ELDER, in Greek – Presbyteros, means an older person. Elder people were respected and those set aside for leadership were given this title regardless of their age. In United Methodism an elder is a clergy person ordained for Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order. Pastors Giri and Woodworth are elders.

DEACON, in Greek – Diakonoi, means a server. The early church selected persons to serve – to distribute food to the poor and widows. In United Methodism a deacon is either a clergy preparing to be an elder, or a person ordained for Word and Service. Deacons are not ordained for Sacrament or Order, they cannot administer Baptism or Communion and are not responsible for administration.

PASTOR, in Hebrew – Ra’ah, in Greek – Poimen, in Latin – Pastor, means a shepherd. In Jeremiah God says, “*I will give you pastors according to my heart, who will feed you with learning and understanding.*” During the 20th century among American Protestants, Pastor became the preferred title for clergy.

LOCAL PASTOR, in the United Methodist Church refers to a clergy person who is licensed to

serve as a pastor of a local church. A Local pastor is appointed to administer Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order within his or her appointment, as an elder is. He or she may baptize, serve communion and perform weddings. Pastor Tuirotuma is a local pastor.

MINISTER, in Latin – ministrare, means one who serves, or ministers to those in need. It is used to refer to those in the Church or government who are responsible to serve others.

RECTOR, in Latin – Regere, means one in charge. In the Episcopal Church a rector is a priest in charge of a financially independent parish.

VICAR, in Latin – vicarius, means “agent.” In the Episcopal Church a vicar is a priest who serves as an agent of the bishop in a mission parish that is financially dependent.

CURATE, in Latin – Curatus, means one who gives cure or care for the souls. Historically used in the Roman Catholic Church for a priest who serves a small rural church.

THE REVEREND, is not a title. Reverend is an adjective describing a person. It is traditionally used when a first name or title is used. One would not say, “Rev. Woodworth,” or “the Rev. Woodworth.” One might say, “the Rev. Melvin Woodworth” or, “the Rev. Dr. Woodworth.” These traditions are fading.

Reverend means worthy of being revered or honored, the same as “the Honorable.”

“The Reverend” is an appropriate qualification for any clergy person.

PREACHER, means one who preaches. It may be used for ordained clergy or for lay persons.

It is peculiar that those who follow Jesus, who struggled against privilege and status, should have so many labels to denote distinction and status. The tension between labels that mark servanthood and those that indicate privilege is a symptom of our struggle to accept equality.

I endorse such labels when they help us know who has training or has been verified by the Church as having the gifts needed for leadership. I oppose such labels when they elicit preferential treatment or indicate moral or social superiority.

My business cards say “the Rev. Dr.” to tell strangers that I have studied and gained the Church’s approval.

As my friends I prefer if you call me Mel or Melvin.