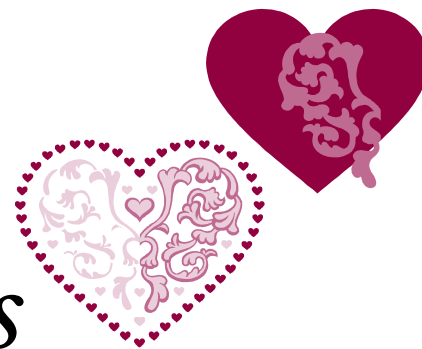


FEBRUARY 2008



Shoreline Tidings

Monthly Newsletter of Shoreline United Methodist Church

"For the early church, Lent was just the opposite of a dreary season of restriction and self-torture. It was understood as an opportunity to return to normal human life - the life of natural communion with God..." with our brothers and sisters, and with all of God's creation.*

In order to live into this invitation, it is very helpful to look at those things that inhibit our "return to normal human life." Such Lenten self-examination (e.g., the realization that watching so much TV makes me feel disconnected from God and others) and related actions (e.g., I commit to watching less TV) are key components of Christian stewardship. Rather than acts of "self-torture," these Lenten practices can help us to live more simply and fully in God's Grace. At the same time, these practices can help us to share the gifts (e.g., the time that we'd ordinarily spend in front of the TV) of God's Grace more fully. Before we know it, we're living into our natural call to be God's stewards. May we all know the deep joy and meaning of saying "yes" - with the fullness of our lives - to our Lenten invitation.

This is not to say I am against TV. I just don't believe it leads us to understand God's purpose in our lives. What if we replaced one program with prayer? What would happen in this 6 weeks if we all committed to pray the span of one one-half hour sitcom? With commercials we could rationalize that to be 22 minutes and, since shows rarely run 7 days a week, could we set the standard at 5 days a week?

Let's say we prayed for the unique situation of Shoreline's lack of a Senior Pastor, and then continued to pray for each other. We could add the intentions added each Sunday. What do you think? I think we each would have a story of finding the joy God intends for each of us. Shall we pray for each other?

In service, Kristin

The new year at Shoreline started out on a festive note. January 26, about 60 people ascended on Shoreline Church to celebrate Ardis' 70th birthday. They included neighborhood friends, people from her exercise class, friends from Maple Leaf church and friends from Shoreline church. Her daughter, Norene, decorated the tables with travel brochures from the state of Iowa and Washington. Anita and Andy sang the song "Sister", because Ardis shared her birthday celebration with a good friend, who just happened to share the same day and year with Ardis. A hearty Iowa lunch was served which included Iowa fried Chicken and all the fixens.

NEW BLINDS!

You may not have noticed yet, but all of the windows IN THE Sanctuary have brand new mini blinds - a gift of Jack and Merle Patterson. The church had only to pay the taxes.

Home Depot measured the windows, cut the blinds and on February 7th they took down the old blinds, installed the new ones and took the old ones away. All I had to do was shepherd the process through! John Serl.

Library Planned

Our church will once again have a Library for all to enjoy. Nellie Ann has donated several books from her library to begin the project. The library will start with one

book case and when that gets full, we may have to buy another. Each book will have a pocket on the inside cover. Borrowers are asked to please sign the card and leave it in the designated box in the library.

Everyone is encouraged to donate their Christian based books.

The meeting room upstairs off the kitchen is the planned location as it is very visible to all who come to the church.

Questions? Call Sharon at 425-776-6253 or leave a note in the Secretaries slot in the meeting room.

And Still We Wait.....

Not too long back, there was a meditation in my morning devotional that

struck me as so appropriate for how we feel at Shoreline UMC while we continue to wait for a new pastor for our morning congregation. I am taking the liberty to paraphrase it here:

"I was in labor five days with my first child. They didn't induce me. I just had to wait. Night and day for five days I had contractions. No sleep. No rest. Constant work. The doctor termed it false labor. False or real didn't matter to me! I had been waiting nine months. My baby was three weeks late. And my labor was very, very long. Waiting is hard.

At 3:10 am on the fifth day, I finally prayed a prayer of desperation: "God, you're gonna have to help me. I can't do this any more." I didn't ask for an end to the labor-only for God's help to deal with it. Eight minutes later our daughter was born. Eight minutes! After months and weeks and days of waiting, God answered my prayer in a way that I never expected-quickly. The long wait ended."

Many times in life God answers our prayers with the word "wait". This is, for most of us, very difficult. We would rather hurry things up and do it our own way.

But God says, "wait." Just like the "farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop" (NIV), we wait for the appointment of a senior pastor. Growth comes in the waiting. Growth in the mother's womb. Growth in the farmer's

field. Growth in you. Growth in me. God uses this time to grow us.

And so we wait. And we learn patience. And we trust, knowing that God will meet us at the point of our greatest need.

And we learn that waiting is really a gift,...because we find God in the waiting. And we have prayed diligently, and we will be grateful when God answers our prayer, hopefully sooner than later.

Stained Glass Window

The process of repairing the Stain Glass window in the sanctuary has begun. Stan from Covenant Art Glass in Everett has personally evaluated the window and is sending a written estimate. He gave several options and suggestions. The proposal will be looked at when the Administrative Council meets on February 14.

Missions at Shoreline UMC!

The mission team has kept a fairly low profile for a bit but...WE'RE BACK! Below are highlights of what plans are in progress.

Grow a Row/ Feed the Hungry: Hopelink's Shoreline Food Bank is looking for gardeners who are willing to donate produce to the food bank during the 2008 growing season. They are even willing to provide gardeners with free seeds, resource materials and help churches or schools start a larger **Giving Garden**. A flyer is on the bulletin board in the social room. You also may contact Anna Smith at AnnaS@hopelink.org or 206-440-7300, ext. 106.

Flowers for Sunday Worship: Mele announced that the Fijian ladies have set up (and signed up) for a weekly schedule to provide flowers for the altar! Many thanks are extended to the ladies!

Coins of Compassion: There is a different focus each month for the coins. The month of February will be given to a project in Pakistan. Please drop your pocket change in the jar each week! (The jar is located at the back of the sanctuary.)

Church of Mary Magdalene: The women of the church will provide dinner for the Church of Mary Magdalene on Saturday, April 5. We will be scheduling another date later in the year. The Church of Mary Magdalene needs to move soon; they still are looking for a new location.

Sand Point Community Housing Association
SPCHA provides transitional housing for families and individuals of all ages who have lived on the streets. We continue to ask for donations of new or gently used items (sheets, towels, blankets, silverware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils) for the Resource Room. These donated items are made available free of charge to the resident. (Please note: The Resource Room does not have space for clothing. Please donate good, used articles of clothing to a different agency!)

Volunteers In Mission Trip to Fiji:
Because the political situation in Fiji continues to be unstable, plans for a VIM trip are on hold. In the meantime, inquiries are being made about the required leadership training.

If you have suggestions or questions, please feel welcome to contact any of the Mission team members. (Mele Kete is the Mission Chair; members are Ardis Steel, Nellie Ann Mills, Meridani Niutau and Jan Kreidler.)

PLEASE NOTE

Incase you are not aware,
that there are two Bible Studies on
Wednesday evenings:
The Fijian bible study
as well as
the English speaking bible study
(led by Andy Proudfoot)