



Shoreline Tidings

Monthly Newsletter of Shoreline UMC Church June 2008

14511 25th Ave. NE, Shoreline, Wa. 98155

AFRICA MISSION EMPHASES



The 2008 Congo Container on it's way

For May, our missions committee selected "**Hope for the Children of Africa,**" with the free-will offerings going to Jamaa Letu, a new and growing program working particularly with orphans. It began primarily with girls, and is now is expanding to work with boys. **YOU KNOW WHERE THE OFFERING JAR IS!!**

A second project has been "**2008 Congo Container**" effort. Two containers were sent in 2007. Members and friends of Shoreline UMC have been helping to load a container in the Totem Lake area, this was shipped to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on May 21st. Special thanks to Janelle Woolsey and Meredani Niuetau for their leadership.

Items being gathered included equipment and supplies for schools, Medical equipment and supplies, office supplies, sewing machines, fabric, sewing notions, Boy Scout and soccer uniforms, and shoes and clothing for women, children, and men.

On Sunday, May 18, a **special offering was taken for Myanmar**, to channel through The United Methodist Committee on Relief, working cooperatively with Church World Service, The Methodist Church in Lower Myanmar, and Action by Churches Together.

We'd Love to have more participants in the Prayer Chain

Recent illnesses and medical conditions of our members remind us of the importance of supporting members of our faith community with prayer. Sharon Shope is working on a prayer chain, which in a limited way has already been activated.

This is something you can do from your home or with your cell phone. With a few more participants, no one will have to make more than two or three calls.

The chain will have three branches, one for each fellowship, and will begin with each of the three pastors and/or their designated backup person.

FIJIAN CHOIR NEWS

We've admired the beautiful trophies in our "Library-Social Room." These were awarded to our Fijian Choir. Plans are now underway for the Choir to join another major regional competition of Fijian choirs, this one to be held in Corte Madera, California (just north of San Francisco) on Saturday, July 26. Fundraising is already taking place. The plan is to rent three minivans to make the drive.

A NEW LOOK Around the Office

In line with Annual Conference guidelines for rooms where counseling situations might arise, a new door-with-window has been installed in Pastor Dave's office.

Some wonderful Fijian traditional items have been contributed for the office by Meredani Niuaetau, and the east wall have been repainted. This gave Pastor Dave the perfect opportunity to put up some of his photos from Asia and the Pacific.

The space will continue to be used for small group meetings.

A Word of Appreciation for Our Worship Committee!

Please read what they have done!

Since becoming the Pastor for Shoreline UMC as of March 30th, I've found the most active and well-attended meetings to be those of the Worship Committee. Thanks to them for their creative and thorough leadership! So that our congregation can be more aware of the extent of their work, here's a summary of what they've done:

At the April 6th meeting they:

- Recommended that we ask the youth if they would be willing to make placards for our street display for the Earth Day service (and how they DID respond!!);
- Agreed that on Mother's Day we would again distribute fresh flowers, and look ahead to doing something creative on Father's Day;
- Asked that we print more bulletins, as we have been running short;
- Asked that we consider buying more hymnals;
- Recommended that we purchase another microphone and stand;
- Asked that we study the possibility of rearranging the "riser boxes" in front of the altar (Pastor agreed to consult with Pastor Tui and Pastor Mahesh to get their input);
- Urged the reactivation of the prayer chain;
- Urged that we use more female liturgists, and that we encourage some of the youth to be "readers;"

At the May 4th meeting they:

- Reaffirmed that flowers would be distributed on Mother's Day, and noted with appreciation that the Social Committee asks that home-baked pies and plates of cookies be brought on Father's Day for the Fathers to take home;
- Noted that some of our services were becoming too long, particularly on communion Sunday. It is suggested that the "Joys and Concerns" time be one unified time, with one prayer.
- Discussed the matter of standing for all of the scriptures, since this might become very long (while it was agreed that we could remain seated, strong feelings on the part of individuals have led to continued standing);
- Noted that we will have a roster for special music for June, July, and August;
- Asked that we begin using name tags again.

THANK YOU, WORSHIP COMMITTEE!

Pastor Dave

Notes from Pastor Kristin

Some brothers...went to see Abba Felix and they begged him to say a word to them. But the old man kept silence. After they asked for a long time he said to them, "You wish to hear a word?" They said, "Yes, Abba." Then the old man said to them, "There are no more words nowadays. When the brothers used to consult old men and when they did what was said to them, God showed them how to speak. But now, since they ask without doing that which they hear, God has withdrawn the grace of the word..."¹

When I came to preach at Shoreline United Methodist Church, I encountered a different culture. Here the lay people had been leading their church, and the worship service had developed into one unlike any I have joined anywhere else (I have the joy and honor to sit and hear the Word, even as I preach weekly). For many reasons, it seemed right to adapt rather change much while I worked for Shoreline, even while preaching inward transformation for outward witness to God.

Connie and Sharon help so very much. Together we use hymnals, The United Methodist Book of Worship, previous bulletins, and other texts along with a variety of websites. When I prepare a worship service, I work anywhere between 8 - 20 hours. I kid you not, the Book of Worship alone has 743 pages divided into twelve chapters. The text is followed nine and one half pages of acknowledgements in tiny, tiny print. Sharon now has it on DVD.

Pastor David's leadership has brought us closer to the basic pattern of worship reiterated in our United Methodist Hymnal and Book of Worship. This tradition is not the end all, be all of worship, but it is a tested, refined pattern that allows our experiences to flow toward the goal of transformative hearing and doing the Word of God. While some may be feeling the jolt of change, I am comforted by recognizing the worship that has healed my life.

This institution uniquely focuses on worship of the most high God. We want it to be a projection of our hearts. This congregation indelibly marks all it does. Your hearts are clearly here. Thanks be to God that you can hold together while waiting for leadership. Now, I am not calling Pastor Dave, the old man, but my prayer is that God speaks through him words for our practice.

Shalom, Salaam, Kristin

¹ Ward, *The Desert Christian*, p. 242.

² Palmer, *To Know as We Are Known*, p. 107.



All-Church Picnic in July

Many of us have been looking forward to our next opportunity to gather as a whole "Shoreline church family," with a brief worship service together, and sharing fellowship and our respective food cultures.

We now have a clear consensus that a Sunday afternoon late in July will be the best time for our all-church picnic. Our choices are now either Sunday, July 13 or July 20.

It is agreed that we will have the event in the shade in our upper parking lot, using our own tables and chairs. This will make it easier for us to gather without confusion!

We will announce the precise date soon. Pencil it into your calendars!

Megan Baxter is our only June Birthday.....

Happy June 22 Birthday, Megan!

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Prepared by Secretary, Sharon Shope and Pastor David Williams with articles furnished by members and Information from the wider church family.