



SHORELINE TIDINGS



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

Monthly Newsletter of SHORELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Our December snowstorms gave us extra work! Here Thomas Miri, our brother from Kenya, helps shovel the snow.

OH, THE SNOW!

Our Christmas activities were greatly affected this year by heavy snows, which began Friday, December 12, though no worship services were missed. Very few people were able to attend on December 14. Our office was closed the following week, with the preparation of our order of worship done by virtual "dogsled!" Pastor Dave was snowed in at Mercer Island on the 21st and couldn't make it, but the service was still held, with a few intrepid worshipers sharing memories of "their most memorable Christmas" to take the place of a sermon. Remarkably, we had over 30 persons attend our cosy Christmas Eve candle light family service. By Sunday, the 28th, it was a little easier to get out, though cars were still getting stuck in our parking lot!

In Memoriam

Our beloved sister, Ardis Steele passed away on Tuesday, January 20. Her memorial service will be at our church on Saturday afternoon, January 31, at 4:00. Please keep Howard and the entire Steele family in your prayers.

Words from the Pastor

It's with a sense of gratitude and excitement that I continue my ministry at Shoreline as we "launch" ourselves into 2009! Our All Church Conference and the preparations we made for it were a solid step forward.

With its remarkable diversity and welcoming spirit, as well as its, open-mindedness and passion for service and mission, Shoreline UMC is a unique congregation. Our Fijian, South Asian, and International English Fellowships have a unified budget and one treasurer, but we each have a unique style of raising money and engaging in ministry. As I told the All Church Conference, we face the ongoing task of defining our togetherness and our separateness! I personally desire to advocate for the "safe cultural space" for each of our groups, with each respecting the space of the other, but also with the gentle "tug" toward being "one."

I wish we could give a better summary report of our membership in the 'traditional Methodist way.' Unfortunately, our records (*continued on page 2*)



Anita and Andy Proudfoot in conversation after our Christmas Eve service. Anita led us in our traditional "Silent Night" candle light ritual with her guitar.

WELCOME HOME, MELE

Melesiana Kete has just returned from a trip to Fiji, where she visited her family and delivered our mission funds for **The Niusawa Mission School** on the island of **Taveuni**, and for the **Dilkusha Home**, an orphanage for girls operated by the Methodist Church in Fiji.

Mele reports that both political and economic conditions in Fiji are very difficult, and that our sisters and brothers in the church there are deeply grateful for our financial help. It is not the amounts as much as the fact that we remember them which is so important.

She says that many of the people are "afraid of the gun," and it is very difficult to talk openly about what is going on. They are relying on the power of God to see them through.



Melesiana Kete At the Dilkusha Orphanage for Girls on Viti Levu near Suva. Mele is with her daughter, Mereoni Dagilavui, Deaconess Navaeleli Olivia, and one of their volunteers. The girls had been gathered for a story.



Melesiana Kete with members of her family at the airport.

Pastor's words, continued

are rather unclear. A simple listing of "Members and Regular Participants," is presented in the All Church Conference report. Your help in improving this list will be appreciated. We don't want to forget anyone!

A big thanks to those who have stepped up so graciously to take on the various pieces of work that John Serl had been doing before his stroke. We have a fabulous new Finance Committee, now with a team of counters! It's great to have John and Liz worshiping regularly with us again, and we continue to keep them in our prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Dave



Happy Valentines
Day



Photo, left: Dr. and Mrs. Cai Xiaokun with Pastor David Williams after the Christmas Eve Service. Mrs. Cai, who has just recently arrived from China, has a background in banking, and was with the Bank of China.

A PROPOSED NEW TIDINGS SCHEDULE

Pastor Dave is proposing a new six-issues-per-year Tidings schedule. The idea is that these will be timely in relation to our church calendar, will conserve paper and ink, and will give our people more time to gather articles, announcements, and photos.

1. A January-February issue
2. A Lent - Easter issue, at the end of February
3. A late April issue, soon after Easter
4. A late June "summer" issue
5. A September "autumn issue" immediately after Labor Day
6. An Advent - Christmas issue, late November. Tell us what you think!



Darrell Waller, Pastor Mahesh Giri, and Connie Waller enjoy a cup of hot cider after the Christmas Eve Service.

Echos from The All Church Conference

We elected our leaders for 2009. There are still some vacancies. Would you consider serving on one of our committees? The complete list of those elected is posted on the bulletin board at the back of our sanctuary. Andy Proudfoot is the Chairperson of the Administrative Council, Alicia Buterbaugh the Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Lele Lawanivalu our Lay Member of Annual Conference. We are still without a Lay Leader and a Financial Secretary, although all functions are covered by a new Finance Committee. Meredani Niuaetau was elected chairperson of the Worship Committee at its meeting on January 18.

SHORELINE FINANCES

Stephanie Hansen reports that our income in 2008 exceeded expenses, though due to the December storms and very low attendance in our worship services, income dropped substantially.

The Spending Plan for 2009 was approved at our All Church Conference as presented by the Administrative Council. As you know, this is a "Good Faith Estimate" based on the pledges of support and upon past experience. Effort is always made to stay within our income, so adjustments might have to be made later. A 5.8% cost of living increase was voted for all lay staff. The pastoral support packages were passed, and we were please to learn that a modest increase will be possible for our Fijian and South Asian pastors, through the Ethnic Ministries' support and Equitable Salary support from the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We have a limited number of All Church Conference report booklets available for those interested. These have been updated to include information actually passed by that meeting. If you'd like one, contact Sharon Shope or David Williams.

Would You Be Interested?

The Worship Committee is encouraging us to broaden participation in the various leadership roles in the English worship service

That is, the roles of liturgist, reader, young people's time, and ushers and greeters.

Instead of passing around a clipboard, it is decided that we put a roster on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Consider being a part of this. You'll have plenty of guidance and support!

February is Black History Month

Of all years, this will be a time to give extra thought and care to this observance. Your ideas and thoughts will be much appreciated. Share them with Pastor Dave and Meredani Niuaetau, our new Worship Committee Chairperson.



Thanks to Sidonia and Team!

We must express thanks to Sidonia Curran and her team for the marvelous Christmas Decorations, the Advent Wreath arrangements, and the steady flow of treats and goodies that we enjoyed throughout the Christmas and Advent season.

It wasn't easy, you know, the weather working its magic to prevent our showing up, and requiring the extra time and coordination. But you did it, Sidonia! **Thank you, thank you!**

LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25. Soon we'll be considering what special things we might wish to do, both personally, and as a congregation, for our Lenten journey

SHORELINE TIDINGS: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF Shoreline United Methodist Church
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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.

Articles and other items are invited. Deadline: Last week of each month.