



SHORELINE TIDINGS



SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2009

Monthly Newsletter of SHORELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT FROM OUR FIJI DELEGATION

Leaving on Sunday, August 16, our eight members who went to Fiji have returned, the last group arriving Sunday evening, September 6.

Members of the delegation were Emele Bola, Raijieli Nabenu, Tevita Seru, Sekope Korolevu, Wasa M. Korolevu, Mele Kete, and Marika Motokana.

We're told that because of the very unsettled conditions in Fiji, there was considerable confusion and constant change of plans and arrangements. However, because of the patience and flexibility of all concerned, the trip was worthwhile.

Conditions in Fiji are very difficult, economically, and for the Methodist Church, because of the hostility of the military government towards the Methodist leaders who have spoken against martial law and for democratically conducted elections.

Members of our delegation reported their admiration for our leaders there in their steadfast commitment to democracy, to freedom of religion, but also in their determination to find peaceful solutions.

Expressions of love and support for the people of Fiji have come from many Christian groups around the world. Following is a line from the statement of the World Council of Churches: *"WCC is calling upon member churches to pray for the nation and people of Fiji, that a peaceful return to democracy and the rule of law, and a vibrant and peaceful multiracial and multi-faith community, will emerge as soon as possible."*



THE REV. AND MRS. ASHOK SINGH

It was a blessing to have The Rev. Ashok Singh as our guest preacher on Sunday, August 30. Rev. Singh gave us a powerful message about his own interesting faith journey, and his remarkable ministry in India.

For 18 years he led a Christian radio ministry that reached hundreds of thousands of homes. He currently holds meetings with intellectuals of a Hindu background who are interested in going more deeply into the scriptures of a number of major religions, including Christianity.

He is very hopeful about the future of this work.

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE OCTOBER 15

IMPORTANT: We will meet with our District Superintendent, The Rev. Pat Simpson, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 15.

This meeting provides us with the primary connection with our worldwide church, through our District and Annual Conference. It supports our SUMC work in "our own mission field."

It helps us to know ourselves better, and helps our District Superintendent to better know us.

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Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet at 6:15 p.m. on the same evening, to help our D.S. to better understand our pastoral leadership needs, which will be communicated to our Bishop and Cabinet for the process of appointing a new pastor..

This set of meetings will deal with pastoral compensation, and the "accountability questions" that, among other things, have to do with our status as a legally constituted non-profit corporation.

If we care to do so, and are ready, we might consider the election of officers for 2010 and a budget for 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND? Those participating regularly in the life of our church are urged to attend and to express themselves. There are only a few items on the usual agenda requiring formal membership, and those are easily dealt with.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday-night Bible study group which meets every other Monday will be gathering for the first time this fall on September 14 at 7 p.m. The group is finishing a study on women of the Bible with the last lesson centered on *The Widow with the Oil*.

The next study is centered on Proverbs, *Wising Up*, from The Sister Series. The Sister series has been a paradox of being simple enough for a beginner and also thought-provoking enough to encourage questions for the journey. We invite all who want to explore their faith in a fun group to join us.



INVITATIONAL BOOKMARKS

Jan Kriedler has made us another batch of the lovely laminated invitational book markers.

Feel free to take one to put in your own Bible, and take some to give to friends, with an invitation to come to church!

Thank you, Jan, for your "labor of love."

FOOD FOR SHARING

We still have our food-sharing table, in the library where we have our "Social Time." If you have surplus from your garden, or other food that you would like to share, leave them on the table.



If you would like to take something, just take it, free of charge.

If you would like to contribute something in appreciation, the money will go to our "Coins of Compassion" jar, to be used for the designated projects of our Missions Committee.

PASTOR GIRI WILL BE AWAY

Pastor Mahesh Giri will be away from September 20 to October 20, visiting his elderly sister in Fiji, and attending a conference of the Indian District of the Methodist Church in Fiji.

His pastoral duties will be covered by Asif Sharaf, who will attend to the preaching points; and Shauncey Steven, who will be in charge of worship. Pastor Mahesh has prepared a preaching schedule, with a fine participation of lay people.





Happy moments at the South Asian Fellowship Picnic
Saturday, July 18, 2009 in Issaquah



WORSHIP THEMES FOR COMING WEEKS

Sept. 20: "Jesus Confronts Conventional Wisdom." Mark 9:30-37; James 3:13-18. Jesus had some very special ideas about what it means to be "the greatest!"

Sept. 27: "Lostness: Stories of Struggle and Hope." Luke 15:1-10. Lost is the story of human society. Jesus tells us that God's love motivates the search for the lost, the search that will never end.

Oct. 4: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY (with a special offering), "The Proverbial Patience of Job." Job 1:1, 2:1-10. A look at the inspired story of our ancient "wise ones" which shows the importance of faithfulness to God.

Oct. 11: "The Earnest Quest." Mark 10:17-31. "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Oct. 18: Possible "Missions Sunday," with worship under the Missions Committee.

Oct. 25: REFORMATION SUNDAY. "Holy Interruptions." Job 42:1-6; Mark 10:46-52. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem had many interruptions, and so will ours. Jesus dealt with interruptions in a redemptive way, and so may we.

Nov. 1: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. "Good Answers." Mark 12:26-34. Loving God and loving neighbor are more important than rituals and loud prayers.

Nov. 8: "Making an Impression." Mark 12:38-44. Mark's story of the widow lifts up simple devotion and generosity as the greatest response to God's love.

Nov. 15: "Holding Fast to the Hope We Profess." Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8. There's good news and bad news for us. The good news is that in the end God's righteousness and justice will prevail. The bad news is that in the end, God's righteousness and justice will prevail!

THE NEXT ISSUE OF TIDINGS

The next issue of Tidings will come out on Sunday, November 22. We would love to have your contributions of articles, notices, and photos! Deadline: Thursday, November 19.



THE UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

From the very beginning, Methodists have shown "organized" compassion and concern for the world around them, based on a Social Creed."

Each General Conference of the United Methodist updates its "Social Principles," which call for a "prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice."

If you are interested in knowing more about this, you may borrow or buy (\$3.) a copy of the official text and teaching exercises, plus the Methodist Social Creed, from Pastor David Williams.

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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.