



SHORELINE TIDINGS



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

Monthly Newsletter of SHORELINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A WONDERFUL SHORELINE SENIOR CLASS PROJECT

My name is Shelveen Pillay, a student at Shorecrest High School and for my senior project I decided to fix a meal for Mary Magdalene on Jan 30th. the reason I thought about doing this meal is because I've been helping to serve meals at this place ever since about 8th grade. This is what I felt comfortable doing instead of my other ideas. Not only that, I've always seen these ladies treasure all the food we bring. They may be the ones who actually appreciate food. Unfortunately, they may never have had the opportunity to sit in a restaurant and eat delicious food or experience food from other cultures. So, through my senior project I want them to experience food from other countries and have entertainment at the same time. I know for a fact that this will be something really meaningful for them.



Here are some of the members of our Mission Committee with contributions of school backpacks and shoes to be sent to the Dilkusha Orphanage for Girls in Fiji. Left to right:: Kristin Ellison-Oslyn, Ruci Rabuka, Mele Kete, Vasemaca Uluiviti, and Nellie Ann Mills.

OUR ALL-CHURCH SERVICE AND POTLUCK ON NOVEMBER 22

Please note this important time change for all of our fellowships! On Sunday, November 22, at 12:00 noon, we will have an all-church worship service followed by a potluck dinner.

The 30 minute multi-language service will be planned around scripture, prayer, music, and offering. By request, there will be no preaching!

This will take the place of all three ethnic fellowship worship services.

Bring a favorite recipe to share!

A meaningful, festive, Missions worship

service (at the time of the English service) led by our Missions Committee was held on October 25th, with a special offering for our own special missions priorities. In addition to money contributions, school backpacks and shoes for girls were received for the Dilkusha Girls Orphanage in Fiji.

Brief mission moments were presented by John Serl (speaking about "The Good Samaritan"); Jan Kreidler (on The Sand Point Housing Project, and Hope for the Children of Africa); Janelle Woolsey (on The Church of Mary Magdalene); and Kristin Ellison-Oslyn (on the storm ravages in South Asia and the State of Georgia). John and Kristin also did a short presentation on our Old Testament friend, Job.

Statements from Our Bishops

Pandemic poverty and disease, environmental degradation and a world full of weapons and violence are the wages of our sins against God's creation. But there is hope if we change our ways,

the 69 active United Methodist bishops said in a pastoral letter that will be read in churches during Advent. The bishops at their fall meeting unanimously approved "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action," a document that was started by the 2004 United Methodist General Conference. More than 5,400 United Methodists around the world had input into the final document.

Regarding the War in Afghanistan

(By Kathy Gilbert)

As President Barack Obama considers new military strategy for Afghanistan, at least 77 United Methodist bishops are praying he will withdraw troops by the end of 2010.

"We believe there is no path to military victory in Afghanistan," the bishops stated in a letter sent to Obama Nov. 10. The letter was signed by bishops attending the Nov. 1-5 Council of Bishops meeting.

"We wanted to get this to Obama before he made his decision on sending more troops to Afghanistan," said retired Bishop Marshall L. Meadors. Meadors drafted the letter with assistance from retired bishops Kenneth L. Carder, Clifton S. Ives and Donald A. Ott.

The 77 bishops who signed the letter are part of the larger Council of Bishops, which includes 69 active and 94 retired bishops from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.



A WORD FROM OUR SAFETY OFFICER

Hello! Some of you know that I trained to become your Designated Safety Officer last year. That means I am given the task of being aware of and responding to situations that make people feel less safe. Shoreline adopted a safe church policy last year. This is what we need (*included in the complete report*) to keep our guidelines current.

Annual Conference this year acknowledged that the level of care in our safe church efforts needed to move up a notch. We are transitioning to national screening for our local church leadership, staff, and volunteers. It is important for Shoreline to update our Safe Church Guidelines to comply with this new standard.

As a Christian Community of Faith it is our responsibility to set an example to the rest of the world on how to create places of sanctuary. Pastors will be checked through District or Conference channels.

Kristin has prepared a lengthy report. If you would like to see her complete report, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact her. Her report draws extensively from Brent Henshaw's article at pnwumc.org.

THE ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE



The annual meeting for our church, which we call our "All Church Conference," was held on October 15th. It was led by our District Superintendent, Pat Simpson.

We talked about our vision for ministry, heard reports, approved our pastors' salaries for 2010, and elected our leaders for 2010

Because of the small size of our SUMC leadership group and the fact that there is much overlapping of persons and roles, some committees are smaller than specified by United Methodist guidelines. The Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council will have their meetings together, and for the time being the Worship and Social Committees have been combined.

Meredani Niuetao, one of our Certified Lay Speakers, was approved for candidacy for the United Methodist ordained ministry. Peni Navu and Ilaisa Oranavose were approved to continue as Local Lay Speakers pending submission of their reports. Asif Sharaf, Shaunacey Stephens, and Eldrick Imran Lal are applying to be Local Lay Speakers, and will be attending a Basic Lay Leadership Course in the near future.

An offering was taken. The money was given for Disaster Relief in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia and for The Church of Mary Magdalene.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting, as well as the complete report booklet, are available for those who are interested. See Sharon Shope or David Williams.



Our District Superintendent, Pat Simpson, presided over the All Church Conference.

Sand Point Housing

Safe, stable housing for people moving out of homelessness

Sand Point Housing is located at the old Sand Point Naval Station and is owned and operated by Solid Ground (a non-profit organization). Management and support services for the individual programs are provided by Solid Ground, YouthCare, Friends of Youth, Salvation Army, Veterans Administration, YWCA, Community Psychiatric Clinic and others.

All residents are screened and must follow specific guidelines. Each of the programs provide services to help residents work toward greater self-sufficiency and independent living through education, job training programs, and living skills.

Sand Point Family Housing – 26 units for families with children under 18 who are moving directly from homelessness.

Santos Place – 42 single units for single homeless men and women, including veterans.

Harmony House – offers group housing for six formerly homeless women, ages 18-21 who are pregnant or parenting their first child.

Passages – a group house for up to eight residents (at a time) formerly homeless youth ages 18-21.

Pathways – a group house for at-risk, up to 10 (at a time) formerly homeless youth ages 15 to 17

There also is an interfaith missions group that works together to:

Maintain a Resource Room (donations always need of good used pots and pans, silverware, dishes, sheets, pillows, blankets, towels, washcloths). The different churches in this group volunteer to staff the Resource Room for the first 3 weeks of every month. Residents are allowed to “shop” (free of charge) for needed items.

Provide Thanksgiving dinners for each family unit and each group housing program.

Provide holiday gifts as appropriate for the different religions.

Note: Sand Point Housing is working on plans to build 106 new units.

For additional information, contact Jan Kriedler or check out the website:

www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Housing/SandPoint .

How can members of Shoreline UMC help? There is a donation box in the sanctuary for items listed above.

Many thanks to those who already have donated items.

Our thanks to Jan Kriedler for this item.

L. to R.: Kristin Ellison-Oslin, Mele Kete, Janelle Woolsey, Jan Kriedler, John Serl, and Peni Navu scatter flower petals and sing a Fijian hymn: “Sowing in the Morning.” (translated!). Many of us know the tune as “Bringing in the Sheaves.”





More Missions Sunday! L.: Janelle Woolsey, speaking about Church of Mary Magdalene; and, R.: John Serl and Kristin Ellison-Oslin interpreting "The Good Samaritan," and Job.

Have a Happy, Meaningful Thanksgiving

As we grow in grace, perhaps someday we might have a well-enough developed vocabulary of praise that we will see Thanksgiving as not simply numbering blessings, but experiencing an assurance that in whatever happens to us, God's deepest desire is that good things will be allowed to emerge.

Pastor Mahesh visited Fiji & Australia

Pastor Mahesh Giri, with his wife, Lalita, visited Fiji and Australia from September 20 to October 21, to visit their families and to attend meetings of the Methodist Church, Indian Division. He has shared the report which follows.

We give our special appreciation to Shauncey Stephen and Asif Sharaf for providing leadership in his absence.

The Tenth Consultation of the Indian Division of the Methodist Church

We all met in Australia this time and discussed the future of the Indo-Fijian Church in Fiji. The Indian Methodist Church in Fiji is part of the Australian Methodist Church. These meetings are held every three years to promote the work of the Indian Division.

The church in Fiji is doing very well. The Indian and Fijian Methodist Churches are working together. Some Fijian Methodist ministers joined the Indian Methodist division. They are preaching in Indian languages. The Indian Church is asking pastors who left Fiji, to come back to Fiji and serve the church for a period of 1 month to a year or longer.

The next meeting will be in Fiji in 2012

Copies of the Resolution will be available to anyone who wants one. Please see Pastor Mahesh.

FINANCE REPORT

Stephanie Hansen, our treasurer reports that we are current with our bills, and our apportionment payments are up-to-date. Due to the faithfulness of our generous givers, we're maintaining income to match our expenses.

Additionally, we continue seriously in our mission giving, both in cash and in kind, locally and internationally, and not only through our apportionment giving. Many of our members have also been spiritually energized to give countless hours as volunteers for programs not directly related to our own church.

Our annual stewardship letter will go out soon after Thanksgiving, encouraging our members and friends to consider their "Good Faith Estimate" of giving for 2010. We'll place these signs of our faith in the Joash Chest during advent. We're grateful for our team of counters, who work diligently after worship each Sunday, and for the "financial coordination of Janelle Woolsey."



Our team of counters, busy after church!

A FIJI NEWS UPDATE

According to *Christian Today*, a British religious news publication, in an article by Brian Hutt posted Wednesday, November 11, 2009, leaders of the British Methodist Church are to meet Members of Parliament to share their concerns over the fate of the Methodist Church in Fiji.

Nine of the Church's leaders have been charged with breaching public emergency regulations by attending an unauthorized meeting. They include the Church's President, the Rev Ame Tugaue, and General Secretary, the Rev Tuikilakila Waqairatu.

Although they were released on bail, they have been prohibited from attending Church meetings or leading worship. The leaders have all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The British leaders are "very concerned for our sister Church in Fiji." . . . "This situation threatens to consume so much of their time, energy and finance. Strict bail conditions have robbed the Church of its leaders and we hope to seek a way forward that will enable the Church to continue to worship and serve its communities."

Earlier in the year, the arrest of the Methodist leaders forced the Church to cancel its annual Conference and the choir festivals, one of its main ways of raising funds.

Both the World Council of Churches and the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries have issued statements calling for the Fijian government to allow the Methodist Church to exercise its right to freedom of religion and play its part in developing a healthy and just society.

Let us pray for the people of Fiji, especially our church leaders.

compiled by Pastor David Williams



NOTES FROM THE FIJIAN FELLOWSHIP

Good things are happening with the Fijian Fellowship. As indicated in the All-Church Conference report, there's an increase in Lay Speaker candidates, and lots of new faces seen during Fijian worship. There's a greater attendance, and much more music! Perhaps you've noticed the electric keyboard in the sanctuary - that's a part of it.

Pastor Tui is well underway with his Pastoral Leadership Course at Seattle University. He's enjoying his classes, and an "undisclosed source" says that he is getting very good grades.



In a special appearance, the Fijian Choir, under the direction of Vasemaca Uluiviti, performed in the "Third Place World Music Festival" on October 17th at the Lake Forest Park Towne Center. Through song and dance the thirty-some choir members celebrated the vibrant culture of Fiji.



“Alternative” Christmas Giving

Consider alternatives like these for your Christmas giving!

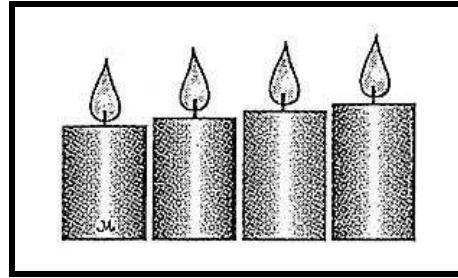
Like The Heiffer Project!



Or the Church of Mary Magdalene giving tree and shoes for homeless women.

Or the Sand Point Housing program!

There are many more options! Read our bulletin board!



OUR WORSHIP THEMES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent I, November 29: "The Startling Dependability of God." Luke 21: 25-36; Jeremiah 33:14-16. *We live in a creation, God's creation, that is awesome in its orderliness, an order not subject to violation and whim; and life comes to us as a seamless fabric, where nothing is excluded from God's Caring and God's justice.*

Advent II, December 6: "Preparing for Newness to be Given." Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6. *Are we really ready for God's newness to be given?*

Advent III, December 13: "Repentance and Rejoicing: the Two Sides of the Advent Coin." Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18. *Advent rejoicing is knowing that God has opened up a new road; repentance means getting off the old path and walking that new road.*

Advent IV, December 20: "Laying Hold of God's Gift of Time." Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55. *Time is the space in which we begin to embrace God's future, a future that is fully and finally in accordance with God's good.*

On Christmas eve at 6:30 we'll be having our traditional all-church family candle-light service of lessons and carols.

Sunday after Christmas, December 27: Following Stars" Isaiah 42:1-7; Luke 2:41-52. *The star of Bethlehem is great good news. It points to where we should be going. Do you have a star to follow? Where do you see it? Are you able to give it a name - what will you call it? What gift will you bring?*

SHORELINE TIDINGS: A NEWSLETTER OF Shoreline United Methodist Church

14511 25th Ave. NE., Shoreline, WA. 98155 Phone: 206-363-3040

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.