



Van Lines from Pastor David

I did not know it, but there was a bit of wagering going on towards the back of the church on Sunday (12.25). It seems that a few folks were taking chances on how many folks would attend worship on Christmas morning. I found out about this when I was handed a paper cup with a few dollars in it. The money from the pool was given to the Pastor's Discretionary fund. The winner of the pool, who shall remain nameless, had guessed the highest number of anyone, but still was not close to the right worship attendance. We had 60 folks in worship. That is a very positive statement about the congregation.

And more good news, The Pastor's Discretionary fund offering on Christmas eve was \$1,372.00. Thank you so much, that will help us care for people in great need in our community.

Attendance Christmas Eve for the two services was 174.

And, more good news, today we have written a check to fulfill our UMC apportionments for the year. As the congregation struggled through the early part of the year, we had only paid one quarter of our share, and even without our last Sunday offering we had the minimum cash on hand to meet the council set benchmark, and pay our apportionments.

All in all, we close the year on several high points. Thank you for your care and support of the mission and ministry of SUMC.

I am even more excited about the opening of the New Year. Things are going well and I have every reason to expect them to get better.

When I last met with our Strategic Planning group, we set an early January meeting date. The committee has been busy over the last week or so and has, on their own, got the next several meetings calendared and are chomping at the bit to get started on the discernment process coming out of the survey we conducted in December. They are on track to have completed their writing task in January and get the information out to the whole congregation for education, conversation, and adoption in February and March.

All good stuff. And lots more besides. All in all we are in great shape as we move forward towards vitality in mission and minister in the New Year and beyond.

Thank you for your strong support of the this ministry.

God Bless

Pastor David

Also a note of thanks to the many of you who shared cards and gifts and Good wishes to Gin and myself over Christmas.



From the Choir Loft:

On Sunday, December 18th, the thoughtful consideration and generosity of our congregation filled three grateful hearts with stunned humility. Those hearts are those of our music staff! It is with deep joy that we continue to make a joyful noise before the Lord! That noise becomes inspired music when we welcome Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit into our hearts! Again, I thank you for your generous gift and enthusiastic support of our church's music ministry!



Gratefully, yours in Jesus
Harley Brumbaugh, Rachel Combs and Toddie Downs

Haiti Mission Trip

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake devastated parts of Haiti. In the two years since, **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission** have been responding in a big way with their time and resources to help in recovery and rebuilding.

As of the end of December 2011, a total of 223 teams, representing almost 2000 volunteers, will have traveled to Haiti under the auspices of the Haiti Response Plan. One hundred percent of the teams have contributed project funds, matched by the UMCOR grant, resulting in more than \$1.5 million for labor, materials and more at more than 25 project sites. The good news continues. Over 120 UVMIM teams are on the Master Calendar for 2012.

Snoqualmie UMC, together with Bellevue and Lake Washington UMC, are equipping and sending another team to Haiti in February 2012. I am asking you to join me today in making a donation to this Haiti Mission Team. Your money will go to pay for our relief project and to pay wages to the Haitians we will hire to work with us. Team members will pay for their own transportation, food and lodging. Our team goal is to raise \$3,500 for our project. If we accomplish that the United Methodist Committee on Relief will match the \$3,500 and we will have \$7,000 for this project.

During our time in Furcy last April, what really tugged at my heart was witnessing the effects of hunger and poverty on children and the incredible need for jobs there. (The current unemployment rate is 70% - the zero is not a mistake.) One of the best things we plan to do is to hire two Haitians to work with us for every American on our team. We also hope to invest in the future of Haitian children by leaving any extra contributions for scholarships.

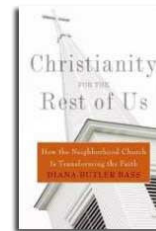
Your donations will be a blessing to many in Haiti. Please make out checks to the First United Methodist Church and write Haiti Mission Team on the memo line.

You may contact Genie Fairhart at geniefairhart@centurytel.net or 425-281-0405 for more information.

OPRAH* Book Club Pick: Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith

(*One Pretty Radical Awesome Hardcover)

On January 8 at noon, don't miss the exciting concluding discussion of our adult book study group on Diana Butler Bass' book *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. We're covering the last five chapters of the book as well as discussing how our church fits into this larger discussion. We'll also bring ideas for a book to cover next, since this has been an exciting and engrossing way to educate ourselves on faith in the world today.



Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion, even if you've never even cracked open the book. The more voices joining in, the merrier. But remember, there are copies in the library for anyone to take who's interested in reading the book at any time. Contact Toddie Downs at toddiedowns@yahoo.com with any questions.

Congregational Care at SUMC

As part of our mission to be a caring community of faith, a Congregational Care committee has formed to assist any of our church members who may be in need. If you know of anyone in our church family who has need of some help and/or support, or if you yourself have such a need, please contact the Congregation Care coordinator, Sue Mackey, at 206-920-5595 or smackey@mackeygroup.com. All communications will be handled with discretion and, where possible if desired and requested, confidentiality. If you would like to become one of the Congregational Care Shepherds yourself and give of your gifts and talents, Sue would love to hear from you as well.

Thanks for the Dinners!

The Youth and Leaders in the program wish to thank everyone involved in the support and preparation of dinners for each Wednesday evening. Thanks to the internet, this program is still coordinated long distance by David Holmes. Although he has moved to Colorado, and is greatly missed, he is still with us in spirit—making certain we get fed every week!

P.J.s, Chocolate, and a Chick Flick

SUMC ladies and their lady guests are invited to attend this just for Fun & Fellowship event Saturday, January 21 in the Fellowship Hall at SUMC.

An evening of yummy munchies, plenty of chocolate and a 'chick' flick may be just what the doctor ordered after the hectic holiday season. Come wearing your favorite pj's (or something equally comfortable) and an appetite. Bring your favorite giant pillow, bean bag chair, or blanket and we will have chairs, big pillows, etc around the room. All designed for comfort. Watch the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards for times and details or see any member of the Women's Spirituality Team.

Linda Board, Nonda Sims, Susan Baysinger, Marcia Reinert, Pat Bohan

Snoqualmie United Methodist Youth We 'Socked it to them'

Joining with another church in our district, SUMC Youth Group began a sock drive over the holiday season. The goal set for the two churches involved **was 350 pairs of socks**. Over 550 pair were collected and then distributed to the homeless in Seattle and some to the boys of Chinook Cottage at Echo Glen. Many thanks to congregation members who supported the Youth in this project. Those wearing these socks may not know your names, but I am certain they thank you daily in their hearts.

Simpler Living with Pastor Mary

In the 14th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus says, "Peace I leave to you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." No matter what our politics, we're going to need a lot of that kind of peace in the coming year, for 2012 is a presidential election year! No matter whether or not we have a job in 2012, we will need a lot of that kind of peace, for millions of people will still be jobless or underemployed, and we will need to share that kind of peace with folk. No matter what happens locally, nationally, or internationally in 2012, we will need a lot of that kind of peace, for 2012 is likely to be a "crazy" kind of year! No matter what vicissitudes the New Year brings, if we have the peace of Christ, we can *experience* joy. "Happiness" is something our Constitution says in a "right" to pursue. But we may not find it, or find it only occasionally. For "happiness" is sometime that is external to us. But "joy" is an internal quality that is experienced in relation to "eternal values," like the love of God. Remember what the angels said, "We bring you tidings of great joy!" So if we experience God's unconditional love in our lives, that we can experience "joy!"

That is the gift that I wish for all of us in 2012, the unconditional love of God!



I can't let this column end, however, without mentioning a couple of "green" activities you can do in the next few weeks. If you want to have a "faith-filled" New Year's Eve, you can meet at 3:30 pm at the Community Center at Green Lake on the afternoon of December 31, and join folks from Earth Ministry and other churches for a meditative walk around the lake. Then afterwards, if you have time, everyone is invited for refreshments at the Interfaith Community Church in Ballard.

On Saturday, January 7, from 9:30 am-2:30 pm, you can go to Kane Hall at the University of Washington for a workshop, preparing folk for Environmental Advocacy Day on Wednesday, January 25 in Olympia. At the workshop on January 7, legislators and leading state conservation groups will discuss the three environmental priorities for the upcoming legislative session:

1) Toxic Free Kids; 2) Fulfilling the Clean Air Initiative I-397 (already passed); and 3) Pollution-Free Prosperity. Looking ahead to February, you might want to go to Olympia on Valentine's Day for Interfaith Advocacy Day!

And finally, I can't end a column about the New Year without a comment on resolutions! If you still have a copy of your 2011 January Circuit Rider, you find that I wrote, "I have a desire to take my grandchildren, Henry and Grace, to visit a National Park once every other year, starting when they are five and seven," They turn five and seven this year. Hold me to that resolution!

Happy New Year, everyone!



SUMC Children's Programs:

Sunday School:

For ages 4 years-6th Grade during the 10:30 Service! We will be studying the life and ministry of Jesus this quarter! Youth Sunday School starts back up in January! Details below.

Nursery Care: Available each Sunday at the 9:00 and 10:30 services for infants through four years old with our wonderful Ms. Vivianna.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT COMMUNION SUNDAYS!

Hey SUMC Parents! As you know, the first Sunday of the month is Communion Sunday. If you want your Sunday School student to take Communion, please come and get them from Sunday School just before Communion is served. Not all of our students take Communion yet so our Sunday School teachers need to stay in the classroom. We depend on you to make arrangements to get your child at the appropriate time. Students can either remain with you in service, or return to Sunday School. Please escort any child younger than third grade directly back to their Sunday School teacher if that is the option you choose. Thank you for helping us provide this important opportunity safely for our students!



Two New Acolytes Join SUMC A-Team!

Congratulations to **Miss Ruby Richter** and **Miss Isyss Armstrong**, our two new Acolytes! What a great job you are doing! :) Thank you for serving God by helping to shine the light of his love for all to see! Acolyte schedule for Winter quarter coming soon!



JANUARY EVENTS FOR SUMC KIDS!

Sunday, January 1st: *Happy New Year!* Join us for a special Sunday School lesson about making 2012 the "Year to Live for God!" We will talk about all of the ways God needs us and can use our special gifts to help others and make the world a better place!



Sunday, January 8th: Winter Quarter officially begins! We will start our new curriculum about the life and teachings of Jesus. What awesome Bible stories we have to read and think about as we watch Jesus grow from a boy into a teacher and our loving savior.

January 15, 22, 29: Regular Sunday School. Come and bring a friend! Offering campaign for the Homeless continues-bring those coins! :)

ATTENTION SUMC YOUTH!

Youth Sunday School is back! Thanks for your patience as we got organized. I am excited to share plans with you for our Winter Quarter. We will be reading and discussing:

TRUE-A Teen Devotional

Words from the Rock (aka Jesus)

by Melody Carlson

This book contains 90 short topics of study. YOU will be choosing which topics we discuss each week. Every "devotional" starts with the words of Jesus himself, and is followed by a discussion of what Jesus was "really saying." We will talk about ways to apply what Jesus said to our lives, preparing ourselves to lead a life truly based on God. I am hoping we have many honest, real discussions around some BIG spiritual topics. We will end each class by identifying a "Stone for the journey" that will help us live for God and make a difference in the lives of others! Topics include....*Can you Hear Me Now, Religion vs. Relationship, Lasting Riches, Hang with God, Don't Fear, Stay Strong, Acts of Kindness*, and MUCH MORE!

Class starts January 8th (January 1st is Communion Sunday). Come and bring a friend!

With great excitement, Alex :)

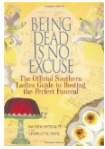
Food of the Month for January

We are collecting **Canned Chili** for the Mt. Si Helping Hand Food Bank to support our local food bank in helping our neighbor's in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. Thank you all for your continuing support to those in need.



Book Club

We will be discussing "Being Dead is No Excuse" by Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hayes. We meet the first Friday of the month in Room 2 at 11:00 AM at the church. Note Change of time. All are welcome. Hope to see you there. Joan Harlow



Haiti Mission Trip (UMCOR)

The week of February 18-24, 2012, Mark & Genie Fairhart, and Pastor David will be heading out on this mission trip. For further information please see the below link: gbgm-umc.org/vim/

Upcoming Events

Just a reminder—plan those Super-Bowl Game-Watching events. Order blanks for Super Bowl Subs will be available in mid- January. This long-standing Snoqualmie Youth tradition provides fresh custom made subs for game day, with all the profits going to the Summer Mission Trip Fund. Yes, the halls of SUMC will once again smell like Subway!

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