

Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church
"We Seek God, Welcome All, Love and Serve our Neighbors"

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September Tidings articles are due by August 15
September Tidings will be available August 28

Dear Friends,

In the middle of July I went to Philz Coffee in downtown Redwood City for the first time. Prior to this, I wasn't avoiding Philz, but I'm not a coffee drinker (I had chai tea) so I just hadn't been yet. But the person I was meeting likes Philz, so that's where we were going to meet! I was at Philz to meet David Shearin, executive director of Street Life Ministries. Street Life Ministries describes itself as a church without walls. The congregation fluctuates, but on Monday and Wednesday nights it gathers in Redwood City at the Bethlehem AD lot for worship and a meal. It does the same thing on Tuesday and Thursday nights in Menlo Park by the train station – these gatherings are known as Street Church. Everyone is welcome for worship and a hot dinner. Most of the people who attend Street Church are homeless, but no one is turned away. As David told me, if coming to Street Church for dinner means that you can buy your kid school supplies, then he wants you to come and eat. I first learned about Street Church through Trinity Presbyterian Church when Daniel and I started cooking part of a meal alongside 7 or so other families, about once a month. As I type this I have a nearly completed turkey pot pie in a 12x20 steam tray in my fridge that will be part of dinner downtown tonight. It was, and still is, a great way to volunteer from my own kitchen.

I met with David to learn more about how we can successfully be in ministry to our homeless brothers and sisters here in Redwood City. He gave me a number of his cards to keep in the main office and my office – they have information about the nightly meals on them and if someone is looking to get something to eat, or to get hooked up with social services, Street Church can be a good place to start. We as a congregation have started keeping grocery store gift cards on hand that can provide some immediate assistance to folks who come to us looking for help. But we aren't equipped to provide longer term assistance that is sometimes necessary to help people get back on their feet. This is where referrals to Street Life Ministries can come in handy.

This still didn't answer about how we here at Woodside Road United Methodist Church can be in ministry with our homeless brothers and sisters. Cooking and serving with Street Church is, perhaps, a possibility for us. This would involve signing up on perhaps a quarterly basis to provide four trays of main dishes and four trays of side dishes, buying salad dressing and water, and serving downtown. This type of cooking and serving ministry is also available through the Maple Street Shelter – which we could do on a weekend, if you are interested in either of these possibilities, let me know.

David also told me that now is the time to start making hats and scarves for the Street Church participants and guests. Handmade, knit or crochet, hats and scarves are often warmer than the store bought ones and the men and women really appreciate them – especially hats that are large enough to cover folks' ears. I don't know how to knit, but I know some basic crochet techniques, so this is something I want to work on this summer and fall.

If you want to get together to knit or crochet with me, please let me know. I'd love to find a time that works for a few of us to work together.

As I write this, there are lots of places in our world that are so very, very broken. For too long we have too many stories of unarmed black people being killed by police. In recent days we have heard stories of police officers also being shot and killed. Our newspapers, radios, televisions, and computers are filled with stories of terror across the globe. Sometimes we feel helpless, and I'm not going to say that cooking or crocheting or knitting is going to solve the brokenness in our world.

But sharing a meal or making something warm for someone, especially if we do it in community, may start to heal the corner of the world we inhabit. It may help us begin to live into the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, especially the part that says, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." See you in church (or maybe in the kitchen or knitting circle),

Katie

*Dear Friends,
Thank you for sending me Tidings news. I always read it and remember WRUM Church in my thoughts + prayers.
I like to keep in touch...Blessings, Billie Sue Walker*

*Dear Friends, July 30, 2016
Thank you for sending me Tidings news. I always read it and remember WRUM Church in my thoughts + prayers.
I like to keep in touch. Blessings
Billie Sue Walker.
Check enclosed.*



Members: Alice Allen, Cassie Allen, Bev Barr, Evelyn Berk, Carole Clarke, Barbara Fleenor, Anne Hinton, Betty Kibbe, Helen Lomas, Mary Marchini, Helen Marin, Jean Massing and Mary Nelson.

Absent: Doris Bogart, Elizabeth Prasad.

On June 6th we had a delicious luncheon at Sultana's Restaurant in Menlo Park. Evelyn Berk was hostess and provided table decorations for us. Helen Lomas attended the UMW Breakfast at Fale Hulanga Church in San Carlos on June 25th that was well attended.

Jane Day and Helen Lomas plan to attend the UMW 2016 Mission U Event in San Rafael on August 20th from 8:30 am till 3 pm. The cost is \$40 and registration is due by August 13. Please contact either one of us if you are interested in attending.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 5th at 12 noon. Please remember to bring toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and combs.

Helen Lomas



STEWARDS OF ABILITIES

Our abilities should be dedicated to God. The retiree, home maker, business person, manager, carpenter, plumber, painter, teacher, engineer, artist, musician, and all others could make a vital contribution by using their talent for the work of the church. That talent should be used for God. What are your talents?

-Howard Macway



This spring and summer have been a season of conferencing for the people called United Methodists. Methodists have been conferencing for a long time! One of the most famous conferences in Methodist history was the Christmas Conference, yes it was held over Christmas, in 1784. This conference took place in Baltimore and saw the birth of the Methodist Episcopal Church separate from the Church of England following the Revolutionary War. According to our United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, “Most of the American preachers attended, probably including two African Americans, Harry Hosier and Richard Allen. The conference took a forceful stand against slavery and made that witness a featured commitment in the new church’s Discipline. Regrettably the church steadily retreated from that courageous stand.” The next Methodist Conference was held in 1792 and General Conferences have been happening ever four years in the Methodist Church ever since.

This meant that in 2016 it was time for another General Conference, this time in Portland, Oregon. United Methodists gathered from around the world for the 10 day conference in May. As the California-Nevada Annual Conference we sent six delegates, three clergy persons and three lay persons, reserve delegates, and lots of observers/witnesses, and a few volunteers to Portland.

The “big news” out of General Conference was, of course, around human sexuality. A number of resolutions were before the Conference. These resolutions focused *both* on becoming a more inclusive church and on being more faithful to the language we have in the Book of Discipline currently. Instead of voting on any of these matters the Conference has asked the bishops to appoint a special commission to work on human sexuality and to report back, possibly to a special General Conference before the 2020 Conference in Minnesota.

General Conference also saw the launch on Abundant Health (see the posters outside of Watters

Hall). Abundant Health replaces the Imagine No Malaria campaign, which replaced Nothing But Nets. This is a good reminder that as we work on issues of global health we learn more about the needs and how to address them. Every day at lunch time communion was celebrated on the Conference floor. A day of service was held one day so people could volunteer in Portland. The work of the bishops in challenging places such as the Congo was lifted up, and there are plans for five more bishops in Africa beginning in 2020. Missionaries were commissioned, vigils were held, and sometimes there were protests, too.

In June our California-Nevada Annual Conference met in Burlingame, California. This was the third time Annual Conference met in Burlingame and we will be there for one more year before we move to Modesto in 2018. The theme for Annual Conference this year was “Engaging Faith in the Public Square.” Throughout the conference worship was led by Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin, assistant professor of worship and music at the International Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The President of the Pacific School of Religion, Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy preached at the opening communion worship service. In reflecting on a church that no longer looks like it once did, Dr. David Levy-Vasquez told us, “It is the call of the church to tend to this mobile flock, to see ways to orient ourselves not only by fixed points, but by tying ourselves to the one who calls us into relationship [Jesus]”.

As an Annual Conference we spent time in repentance for the horrific acts committed within the bounds of our conference against Native Americans. We learned about California’s own trail of tears to Round Valley, California in the 1800’s. We also learned about the four churches in our Annual Conference that are in relationship with Native American communities either because those churches are located on reservations or because they neighbor reservations. An offering for Native American ministries was received. (It’s not too late to donate!)

There were also celebrations at Annual Conference! We celebrated the retirement of Bishop Warner Brown, the 60th anniversary of full ordination of women, the 20th anniversary of full ordination for deacons, two new congregations (one in San Jose and one in Fresno), 10 ordinations, 7 commissioned pastors, 12 licensed local pastors, 1 commissioned

deaconess, and our conference nominating Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto, senior pastor at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, as a candidate for bishop in the Western Jurisdiction (more on that in the next paragraph).

The final conference of this season of conferences was Western Jurisdictional Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona in July. The primary tasks of the Jurisdictional Conference, at least from my observations from afar, were to elect a new bishop to replace Bishop Brown and to assign bishops to the various Annual Conferences in the Western Jurisdiction. On the 17th ballot Karen Oliveto was elected as our newest bishop in the jurisdiction, a candidate for bishop needs to get 2/3 of the vote in our jurisdiction. Beginning on September 1st she will serve in the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences. Our new bishop will be Bishop Minerva Carcaño! Bishop Carcaño was elected bishop in 2004 and has served as Bishop in the Desert Southwest and California Pacific Annual Conferences.



AUGUST

Barbara Fleenor	August 5
Lili Puna	August 7
Alice Allen	August 9
Nancy Willson	August 9
Marco Guarino	August 10
Marc & Nicola Guarino (A)	August 19
Florence Wray	August 22
Adrian Williams	August 23
Frank & Cathy Taylor (A)	August 23
William Puna	August 25

SEPTEMBER

Lisa Hicks-Dumanske	September 1
Carla & Harry Sillin (A)	September 4
Debra Clark-Trimble	September 6
Harry Sillin	September 7
Katie Pollard	September 7
Cindee Kibbe	September 10
Patti Fletcher-Riley	September 12
Lauren Righini	September 12
Carla Sillin	September 14
Cleo Susan Guarino	September 20
Janice McOmber	September 23
Jim & Marlene Yoder (A)	September 25
Mary Marchini	September 29
Marshall Serkes	September 29
Evelyn Berk	September 30



2016 Directories are Finished!

2016 Directories are available. If you did not receive your directory at Sunday's worship service and would like to receive one, please contact the church office (650) 368-3376 or wrumc@prodigy.net.

(August 20), and Roseville (August 27). Visit unitedmethodistwomen.org for more information.

United Methodist Women Support Mission Project in Palestine

On Saturday, August 6, 2016, there will be a UMW "Mission U" speaker from Palestine, Ata Manasra, at the UMW District Meeting at the UM Church of Merced, Merced, CA. Our national UM Board of Global Ministries and national UMW support this Project.

Ata Manasra is the Coordinator of the Wadi Foquin Community Development Project, in Wadi Foquin, a small agricultural village in the West Bank of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Manasra will speak about the future of the village, which is under threat, and how we can help. In June 2014 Israel issued confiscation orders claiming 1000 acres in the West Bank as state land for Israel. A significant portion of that land belongs to Wadi Foquin. In June 2015, 1300 fruit trees of the village were demolished by bulldozers accompanied by military personnel. Later that year, the village was ordered to stop construction of a soccer field being built for the children and youth.

UMC has been in relationship with the village since 2009, through a partnership initiated by the group Friends of Wadi Foquin. The Community Development Project was established through this partnership. Anyone can support this Project through the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries: send a check to GBGM, Advance #3021565 Wadi Foquin, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 350, New York, NY 10115.

If you're interested in carpooling to hear Manasra on August 6, contact Jane Day (650-384-5607 or janemday@earthlink.net).

United Methodist Women offer Mission U Studies each year, to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry. In addition to the above, this year's topics include The Bible and Human Sexuality, Climate Justice, and Latin America - People and Faith. The 2016 studies will be held in Merced (August 5-7), San Rafael



Fall Events to Prepare WRUMC to Become a Reconciling Congregation

A Reconciling Congregation in the UMC is one in which the congregation votes to explicitly and actively seek, welcome and embrace GLBTQI+ persons into their congregation. We at WRUMC have always welcomed all comers, but recently it has dawned on some of us that we need to officially become a Reconciling Congregation, so that GLBTQI+ persons will know for sure that they're truly welcome here. We also realized that we need to learn more about such alternative identities and lifestyles so we can help all visitors feel comfortable. To begin, we're planning several educational events for this fall. Please put the following on your calendar, invite friends, and participate if you can.

Sundays, 5:30-7:00 pm:

Sept. 18 - Stevie Jolie Stallmeyer, San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission Co-Chair, will speak about her experience as a transgender woman.

Sept. 25 - Craig Wiesner and Derrick Kikuchi, members of First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, married in that church over 25 years ago. They own and operate Reach and Teach Book Store in San Mateo.

We'll serve a light supper at 5:30, with speakers and discussion from 6:00-7:00 pm. Transportation will be provided for anyone who requests it.

October 2 - November 13:

Pastor Katie will lead a Bible Study "Holy Conversations: Talking about Homosexuality", on Sundays, 11:45am-1:00pm. (No class October 16)

The committee spearheading this program is Pastor Katie, Meg Emori, Jane Day and Jan Ireland. If you'd like to join us in planning future events, let one of us know.

Education News, by Jane Day

Education Sunday on June 12 was a lovely celebration. We recognized and thanked all who have supported our Education program this past year, especially Cathy Taylor, who has been a wonderful teacher for our Elementary Class for at least 10 years. We gave bibles to Nico and Marco, who will enter grades 6 and 4 this fall.

Andre grilled a lot of hamburgers and Polish sausages, which were excellent, and even the weather was very nice! Many thanks to the youth and adults who helped set up and take down the tables and chairs, and those who helped serve and clean up. Once again Elenoa Petelo is leading our Summer Sunday School for children ages 3-9. She is a lovely teacher.

Regular Sunday School will begin September 18. Watch for details in September Tidings.

We need help for teaching the Elementary Class this coming year. Cathy Taylor needs some breaks. So we're looking for others who will teach the class some of the time – e.g. you could volunteer for a month, or one Sunday a month, or specific days that fit your life, etc. We'll work around those. The curriculum is easy to use, and Cathy or I will help you plan if you wish. Please let me know if you might be able to do that (650-384-5607 or janemday@earthlink.net).

UMYF News, by Jane Day

Our UMYF continues to meet regularly after worship, with leaders Andy Truong, Christian Chamberlayne, and myself. Christian led the group on a great hike at Castle Rock State Park on July 3. The trail we took overlooked the San Andreas Fault valley, and it's just gorgeous – solid green trees fill the valley and the sides of the hills across. Christian's in great shape so it was an easy trek for him; the kids were fine too, and I managed to keep up! (I slept 12 hours that night.)

We also had a very nice retreat July 16-17, at Warner Lodge in the Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos. Our theme was "What kind of person do you want to be when you grow up?" We had interesting discussions Saturday morning and evening about how the teen years are important ones to think

about how you will conduct your life, and we heard how Jesus urged his disciples to be compassionate – to take care of the hungry, lonely, homeless and sick. Thinking seriously about life this way takes concentration. Andy taught us a short meditation technique, which can help you relax and calm your mind when you're confused or stressed, so you can then think clearly.

Saturday afternoon we played in the sun at New Brighton State Beach, then made very creative pizzas for dinner. After the program, we watched a movie, played games, and had a campfire of course so we could roast marshmallows for S'mores! Sunday morning we slept late, had a huge breakfast, cleaned the Lodge thoroughly and headed home, happy and well fed.

We've been very blessed this year with two fine young men, Andy Truong and Christian Chamberlayne, who are volunteering to help lead our UMYF. They have busy lives but enjoy being with teens and helping them learn and grow in faith. When Andy was in high school, he was a member of the joint youth group we had with the Redwood City Congregational Church at that time. He went on to Santa Clara University, earning a BS and then an MS in Structural Engineering, completed last month. Last fall our kids wanted to hear about college life, and we invited Andy to share some of his experiences. He talked with the group about the ups and downs of preparing for college and being a college student – how to find good colleges for yourself, what's important in high school, how not to party too much, how to choose a major, etc. It was very informative, and he seemed to enjoy it. So I asked if he might like to meet with the group when he could, and he agreed!

Then Christian started attending our worship. He had entered Stanford's Graduate Chemistry Program last fall and started looking for a small, friendly UMC that reminded him of his home church in Virginia. He finally found us! And soon he told me about how much he had enjoyed his

UMYF group during high school and said he'd like to help with ours. That was a very welcome offer and it's been great to have him involved when he can come. We've had at least one of them at our meetings almost every Sunday since!