

Tidings

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

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December/January Tidings articles are due by November 15
December/January Tidings will be available November 27

Dear Friends,

When the Methodist movement began in England in the 18th century, John Wesley and the first Methodists “invited people to experience God’s grace and grow in their knowledge and love of God through disciplined Christian living. They placed primary emphasis on Christian living, putting faith and love into action” (UMC.org). The early Methodists lived out this model through, attending worship, yes, but also class meetings. Class meetings were groups of about 12 people who met regularly in order to hold one another accountable in their Christians journeys. Different classes would come together to form societies. You may remember that when I started here at Woodside Road UMC we spent some time looking at Wesley’s teachings around (1) Do no harm; (2) Do good; (3) Stay in love with God. These were the building blocks on which the class meetings and societies were built and Christian disciples were formed.

Children were not left out of this structure. While John Wesley did not begin the Sunday school movement, he instructed the Methodist preachers to spend time with the children in their societies, providing them with religious instruction. When the Sunday school movement began later in the 18th century the Methodists were quick to become a part of it. Since state sponsored public education didn’t exist at this time, Sunday school wasn’t just about religious instruction, it was also about literacy. As the Industrial Revolution saw increasing numbers of children at work in factories six days a week, literacy education was something that could only happen on Sundays and the Methodists were on top of it! Teaching children to read was part of “Christian living, putting faith and love into action.” Sunday school combined this with religious instruction which I imagine was a pretty powerful combination!

It’s worth pointing out that this school time took place apart from the worship time. In 1822 the Methodist Conference stated, “[Parents] should also make it a point of conscience to take their children with them to the public worship of God. Families should appear together before the Lord; for even before children are capable of fully understanding the sermons which are delivered, it is of importance to train them up in the habit of regular attendance on public worship, that a love to divine ordinances may grow up and strengthen them as they rise to years of maturity.” The divine ordinances that are mentioned here are all of the ways that we “stay in love with God.”

I read that and I then I think about how challenging it can be to have my own children in worship. Even when I am not leading worship, worshipping with Tiernan and Evelyn can be challenging, I am for the moment when they leave for Sunday school! But I also know that these Methodist nearly 200 years ago were on to something. Children who learn to worship with the whole body of Christ become adults who worship with the whole body of Christ. When children are in worship they develop “a love to divine ordinances [that will] grow up and strengthen them as they rise to years of maturity.” Children learn to love praying the Lord’s Prayer by praying the Lord’s Prayer. Children learn to love receiving Holy Communion by receiving Holy Communion. Children learn to love singing hymns by singing hymns.

(Continued)

Worshipping with my children is challenging, which makes me appreciate all the more the parents in our congregation who are committed to worshipping with their children. While we may sometimes be distracted by babies in worship, being in worship is one of the ways that those babies learn what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. When my own children were noisy in worship while we were on vacation two weeks ago, a number of people met us with busy bags and we were able to spread out all over the narthex which meant we could see and hear the worship service, and be with our kids!

All of this is saying that what we do here on Sunday morning matters. It matters that our kids are in Sunday school – an institution that has been forming children as Christian disciples for almost 250 years. It matters that our kids are in worship learning how to be part of the whole body of Christ – a body that children have been a part of 2,000 years! As we approach this season of Thanksgiving I am grateful to everyone who makes Sunday mornings with children, youth, and babies a welcoming, nurturing, and spiritually enriching place to be.

See you in church,

Hattie



DEPENDABILITY

If we are accountable to God, can God depend on us? We think of ourselves as dependable, but how does God judge us? It is required of us to be faithful stewards.

A faithful person is a dependable person. Dependability is a key concept in Christian stewardship. Our motivation for dependability is love and gratitude to God.

Howard Macway



Thoburn Circle met on October 3rd at 12 noon in Watters Hall. Carole Clarke was hostess along with Jean Massing. Halloween decorations were festive.

Barbara Fleenor brought a poster designed by her daughter depicting the programs at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky that we support by sending labels from various products and financial donations. Barbara has been collecting and sending these labels for around twenty years.

Bev brought her poster that visually demonstrates the items that we contribute for twenty personal card bags each month for the Service League of San Mateo County. Bev has been involved in this work for over twenty years.

Betty Kibbe brought a picture of a baby's quilt that she has made for the Stanford Lucille Packard Children's Hospital. The Peninsula Quilters groups have donated over 2,600 quilts for children.

Jane and Helen Lomas will plan to make a poster for the October 22nd UMW meeting in Palo Alto. Bev, Mary, Jane and Helen plan to attend.

Carole led a discussion about our lives. Each member told about their growing up years so that we could get to know one another better.

Twenty personal care bags were filled and Bev will take them to the Service League this afternoon.

Our next meeting will be November 7th at noon. Evelyn Berk will be hostess.



All Church Yard Sale Saturday, January 7!

UMYF: small but mighty!

Our teens have signed up for a Sierra Service Project in San Diego next summer. We'll spend the second week of July working on a project there (which will probably be a construction job).

We need to raise money to help pay our costs and will soon be having car washes, selling See's candy, etc. If you have any jobs around your house or yard that we could do, or if you'd like to sponsor us to do some job at church, please let us know! Tell Jane Day (janemday@earthlink.net or 650-384-5607) or Andy Truong (actruong92@gmail.com or 650-868-6424).

Children's Special Fall Activities: Succoth Booth and Heifer Project

Bring canned goods on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20! We hope to fill our Second Harvest barrels. During worship, the children will collect what you bring and put it in our Succoth Booth, like the Old Testament Hebrews brought some of their fall harvest to a booth, to honor God and help the poor. Thank you in advance!

The children will also soon be learning about Heifer Project International in Sunday School, and they will staff a Heifer Project table during coffee fellowship from November 20 through December 18. There will be literature about HPI, and you can buy a farm animal (or a share of one) in honor of friends and family. These are wonderful gifts for people who don't need more stuff! Don't forget to pick up the special cards you can give to your loved ones so they'll know how a gift in their honor is going to help a family somewhere in the world.

HPI is active in scores of countries. In each, they raise animals appropriate for the local climate and give them to poor families, along with training for their care. This gift improves a family's diet and provides an ongoing source of income, and is often used to send children to school.

Please save the date and start cleaning your closets! The proceeds will help our teens participate in a Sierra Service Project next summer. We could store some bigger items at church. To donate or offer to help with the sale, contact Jane Day (janemday@earthlink.net, 650-384-5607).



The Stewardship Luncheon is Sunday, November 20th after worship. This year Tacos Los Gemelos will be catering the luncheon (salad and cake will still be served).



Senior Fellowship

There will be no Senior Fellowship lunch in November or December.

Call Jean Massing 650-368-0561 for any questions.

United Methodist Women, a Global Force for Peace and Reconciliation

On October 22, four of us attended the annual celebration of our El Camino Real District UMW (Helen Lomas, Bev Barr, Mary Nelson and Jane Day). The theme was "UMW in Mission: Our Legacy, Our Future". There was a display of posters about the mission work that's being done by UMW groups in our district's churches. You can see our poster in Watters Hall.

The plenary speaker was Rev. Paul Jeffries, a missionary with the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He is a professional photo journalist, and his work is to document the numerous mission projects around the world that are supported by United Methodist Women. Stories about his work appear frequently in Response magazine.

He talked about how essential it is for any undertaking of worth to have a recognizable brand, or logo. He asked "What is UMW's brand? What are we known for? Is it just bazaars?" He likes UM women, says they are "edgy and willing to address difficult current problems". He reminded us that women united can change the world! He told a little of the history of Methodist women missionaries: In the late 19th century, Mary Stanton opened a school for girls in Korea, supported by a group of 8 women in Boston and women's groups they started in many Methodist churches. In the early 20th century, Isabella Thoburn served 31 years in India, founding a school and then a college for girls.

Rev. Jeffries then showed us slides and short video clips about many amazing things that UM women are doing today to make the world a better place. It's an astonishing story of how we support and enable people in hundreds of incredibly diverse places to improve their lives: from refugees in Darfur, Sudan and Europe to miners in Bolivia, women in Central America where climate change has ruined farms, natives in Alaska, schools and medical care in India, Haiti, Latin America and Mississippi, to healthcare teams in Gaza and peacemaker teams in Palestine.

I had no idea of the huge scope of UMW's work in the world. Jeffrey closed by reminding us that UMW's logo is the United Methodist cross and flame beside the words "United Methodist Women", and we must not forget this simple graphic represents wonderful work that UM women are doing to improve the lives of people all over the world.

After lunch we chose a workshop to learn about current mission work we can do locally. There were four: Gum Moon and Mary Elizabeth Inn in San Francisco, Advocating for Justice is Mission, Telling Our Story, and UMW and Young Women: Making the Connection. The program ended with a short worship, including communion. It was a powerful day.



NOVEMBER

Sara Dumanske	November 1
Tiernan Weaver	November 1
Katie Goetz	November 3
Gordon Kibbe	November 6
Jeff & Debra Clark-Trimble (A)	November 7
Georgina Dussau	November 23

DECEMBER

Glenn Nelson	December 2
Howard Macway	December 5
Muriel Willey	December 7
Jorge L Ruiz Jr	December 16
Barbara Black	December 21
Margret Christoffersen	December 22
Martha Moore	December 22
Doug Pense	December 23
Angelica Petelo	December 26

If you do not see your name listed, it's because we don't have your birthday or anniversary information. Please let the church office know your information so that we may correct it.