

# Hoquiam United Methodist Church



Spring/Summer 2016

## From the Pastor's Desk:

It is with joy that I have been assigned to serve with the wonderful folks at HUMC for another year. We have much work to do, but I believe that working together, with God's help, we will continue to be blessed this coming year.

How wonderful it is to see the beautiful summer weather. The rhododendrons are in bloom, fruit trees are blossoming, and all of nature is alive again. It makes me want to have fresh flowers in the house—and in our church. At Easter, our sanctuary was beautiful with the tulips provided by so many of you.

Do you think we might have fresh flowers more often? I'd like to suggest that there are occasions when we would like to visibly remember a loved one. If I know in advance, I would like to include in the bulletin the name of the donor and the honoree.



There are three initiatives that are coming to us for discussion—two from the ecumenical pastor's group in Grays Harbor. The third is being brought by David Reinholz, our Associate Conference Lay Leader. It is an invitation for the laity to mobilize a fund to assist in rebuilding homes in Eastern Washington that were lost to wildfires. Your Board of Laity (on which I serve) is sponsoring this initiative. I'll provide more on all three later in this Newsletter.

This world has become a violent place. As I pray for the future of our planet, I offer these words from Joan Baez, one of my favorite musicians:

*Lord Buckley—the beautiful moon-man comedian—said to a cocktail audience, "M'Lords and M'Ladies...Beloveds...Would it embarrass you very much if I were to tell you...that I love you?"*

*A friend of mine told me it would be risky to write about Jesus. I'll risk it. I wonder if Jesus knows what's happening on earth these days. Don't bother coming around, Jesus.*

*Jesus, gold and silver—standing naked in a roomful of modern men. What nerve, Jesus, gold and silver—you have no boots on, and you have no helmet or gun—no briefcase. Powerful Jesus gold and silver with young, thousand year old eyes. You look around and you know you must have failed somewhere.*

*Because here we are, waiting on the eve of destruction with all the odds against any of us living to see the sun rise one day soon.*

*You, Dear Reader—You are Amazing Grace.*

*You are Precious Jewel.*

*Only you and I can help the sun rise each coming morning. If we don't, it may drench itself out in sorrow.*

*You—special, miraculous unrepeatable, fragile, fearful, tender, lost, sparkling ruby emerald jewel, rainbow splendor person. It's up to you.*

*Would it embarrass you very much if I were to tell you...that I love you?*

Joan Baez, *Daybreak*, 1968

*Pastor Kathryn*

## **Stewardship Report:**

A message from our Treasurer, Virginia P.

The bank balances for June were:

General Fund—\$787.03—June Apportionments & Pastor Salary for June were not paid. Salary will be paid in July. Total income was \$1,228.16; total expenses were \$1,722.35.

Lowe Fund—\$476.88 in checking.

Lowe Fund—\$44,179.30 in savings. This is our reserve fund for capital expenditures

Parsonage Fund—\$56.79

Building Fund—\$2,067.20

Special Fund—\$3,307.87

As you can see, when our expenses are bigger than our income, there will be a problem. I also realize that when summer is here we have fewer people in church, thus lesser income.

## **Our Study Groups**

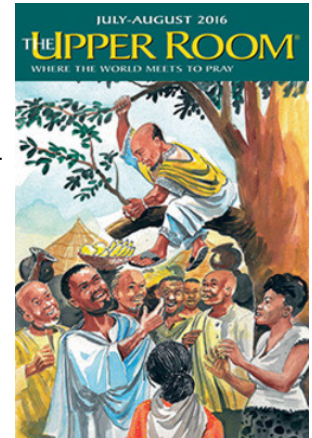
Both of our small Study Groups are always open to everyone. These friendly folks spend 1-1/2 hours together twice a month learning, sharing and caring.

Alpha meets on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings from 6:30—8 pm in the Meeting Room.

Currently they are using the Upper Room Daily Devotional. Using the guide provided in the brochure they have very meaningful discussions about the devotion for the day.

Agape meets on the first and third Tuesday mornings from 10:30-Noon in the Fellowship Hall. This group has completed its study of the minor prophets and has embarked on the Upper Room Daily Devotional study.

Small group studies provide opportunities to share your faith with others as you learn and grow in an intimate and safe atmosphere. They also have a lot of fun And share laughs and tears (sometimes simultaneously).



**Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (See Matthew 28:16-20)**

## **Summer Worship:**

Once again we will join in Worship with the Hoquiam Presbyterian Church. In July (10, 17, 24, 31) we will meet together here in our church and Pastor Jeani Shofner will lead the service. In August (7. 21. 28) we will meet at the Presbyterian church (**at 10 am**), and Pastor Kathryn will be the leader. On August 14, we will join with the Presbyterian and Saron Lutheran Churches for a joint "Blessing of the Animals" Service. We plan to meet at 10 am in the city lot across 8th Street from Saron Lutheran. All animals are welcome (well, perhaps we need to think about things like snakes), with cats in carriers and dogs on leashes. Following the service we will cross the street for a barbeque at Saron. They will provide burgers, hot Dogs, buns and water. We are asked to bring side dishes, salads or desserts. It should be fun!

Do you know that sermons are published on our website each week? If you miss church on Sunday, you can read the message during the following week. Check out our website: [www.hoquiamumc.org](http://www.hoquiamumc.org).

## **In the Church Family:**

Please keep the following members and friends of HUMC in your prayers:

Peggy: In the loss of her mother.

Kay: As she continues to build her strength.

Toni and Ada: As brother and son Bruce continues undergoing cancer treatment

Congratulations to:

Rose on her recent marriage.

Elizabeth who completed her 100 mile swim!

**Family Promise** is an initiative being pursued by the Ecumenical Pastor's Group. With the assistance of the national program, affiliates are formed to sponsored hosted programs for families in need of temporary housing. While many of our churches cannot adapt their facilities to accommodate overnight guests, every church can have an opportunity to participate by helping with costs, volunteering in several capacities, including hosting, transporting , providing meals, and other important functions.

As we all know, homelessness has become an increasing concern in our area. The "River City" camp, currently housed at Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church, provides just a drop in the bucket in helping to meet this need. The Family Promise program is focused on families in temporary need, and the costs are shared by the participating churches, community involvement, and the Family Promise organization.

You'll hear more about this as we move forward. If you'd like more information, see Pastor Kathryn.

**Jubilee Fund** is another initiative being considered by the Ecumenical Pastor's Group. The hope is that by joining forces and funding, we can provide a central point of contact for those in our community in need of temporary funds for utility bills, food, gas, and other necessities. None of our individual congregations can fill this need, but together we hope to be able to provide support to our neighbors who are in a temporary emergency situation. More on this will be coming soon.

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*Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40.*

## Up From the Ashes—Let's Go Help Some People!

Imagine being homeless for a year and a half, living in a church with a pew for a bed. Imagine moving out of the church into a shed, an outbuilding, setup next to a very small RV where you'll stay during the snowy, cold winter. Imagine you are a young woman, sharing these living spaces with your brother, two sisters and your mom and dad. This is your life because your home and everything you had burned in a fire during the summer of 2014.

In July of 2014, Washington's worst fire in history—the Carlton Complex—devastated 312 homes. A year later the Okanogan Complex fire burned additional hundreds of thousands of acres and destroyed more homes. Your Conference Board of Laity (on which Pastor Kathryn serves) has begun this project “Up From the Ashes” to help the survivors of both of these fires recover.

United Methodist churches in the Pacific Northwest Conference, volunteers from across the state (and country), and financial resources from here and around the globe have already helped to respond to the dire need. *We still have work to do.*

During Phase One of the rebuilding efforts of the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTRG), 12 homes have been built with a final two approaching completion. Phase Two of the rebuild has a goal of providing 15 additional homes. After accounting for the existing funds and pledges, a funding gap of \$525,000 exists to complete Phase Two.

This “Up From the Ashes” project is actively seeking the resources needed to help close this gap. UMCOR has provided a grant of \$90,000 to get us started.

In addition to funding, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams will have the opportunity to contribute their Skills to this rebuild effort. In particular, UM volunteers will be Needed to help finish the interiors of homes as Phase Two progresses.

What can we at Hoquiam UMC do to assist in this effort? Can you suggest a fundraiser so that we can send dollars? Are you interested in volunteering to assist? Please talk to Pastor Kathryn and **Let's to help some people!**



## Help Drive Out Homelessness

The Vancouver and Portland District of the UMC are again sponsoring a fundraiser Golf Tournament to help fund the Help Drive Out Homelessness campaign. Again this year it will take place at the Orchard Hills Golf and Country Club in Washougal WA. It's August 6, 11 am—5 pm. There are several ways we at Hoquiam UMC can be part of this event. Of course, if you're a golfer and wish to participate, see Pastor Kathryn for entry forms. And....let's talk about other ways we can support the effort to Drive Out Homelessness!



## Report From Annual Conference:

Elise and I again participated in our UMC Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, held at the Puyallup Fair Grounds. Worship at these conferences is always spectacular, and this year was no exception. Our Bishop Grant Hagiya led with his usual masterful touch, even after just coming from his two other Annual Conferences, the Alaska Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference. Next year we will meet jointly with the Ore-Ida Conference on Hayden Island in the Columbia River. I don't think we can get more central to the two conferences!

The Laity of our Conference elected a new Conference Lay Leader for the next quadrennium. Nancy Tam Davis, a member of United Church in University Place, brings a strong voice and leadership experience in bringing diverse ideas together. As Joan Holms, who has led us so well for the past four years, moves on to other areas of service, we welcomed Nancy into her new leadership role.

Two pieces of legislation passed the body that I believe are of interest to all of us. As has been accomplished in several Annual Conferences around the country, we adopted an "Action of Non-Conformity with the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Passed by a substantial margin (315-Yes, 74-No, 6-Abstentions) this legislation states that our Conference will not conform or comply with provisions of the Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA+ persons, including restrictions on ordination and appointments, homosexual unions, funding bans, chargeable offenses or officiating at weddings. We also will not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to these Discipline prohibitions.

The second important piece of legislation requires that the PNW Conference (Board of Pensions) and the UM Foundation of the Northwest divest of fossil fuel investments by January 1, 2018.

The body put forth the name of Rev. Lyda Pierce in nomination for Bishop to the Jurisdictional Conference, which meets July 13-16 in Scottsdale AZ.

Music is always wonderful at Annual Conference and this year was no exception. Two Samoan Choirs—with all ages from little ones to the mature—and one accompanied by their own organ, moved the members with music upon arrival and departure on one day. Elise and Pastor Kathryn joined the Conference Choir which sang for the Ordination Service

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