

AROUND THE PARISH

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Planning for the future of our congregation is a tremendous task. My thanks to all of you who made it to our last planning meeting on January 28! We started at 9:30 a.m. and ended promptly at noon. Toward the end of this meeting, we decided on having the next **Planning meeting on Saturday, February 18, again from 9:30 till noon.** (We will be meeting in the choir room so as not to conflict with the preparations for a 90th birthday party.) A summary of the notes from the last meeting are copied below but let me lift up one particular item: the beginning of an additional small group.

As you probably know, we have one group, called the **Alpha group**, which meets twice a month in the evening time. (It meets Wednesday nights between 6:30 and 8:15 p.m. We spend some time in fellowship, some time in discussion and end with a time of prayer. We often discuss questions pertaining to the sermon of the previous Sunday. Sometimes we choose a study on a specific topic. If you wish to join this group, please talk with me; you are welcome!) We also have an **adult Sunday school class** which meets at 9:30 a.m. and focuses more directly on bible study. Anyone who is interested is welcome to drop in, even if you cannot make it every Sunday.

In addition to these opportunities, we now like to add a weekday daytime group. Of course we do not yet know how much interest there might be amongst people who are already attending our congregation or amongst folks who are not a part of a church. We hope and pray it will serve a need, and may be an answer to prayer and hopefully will help bring people into a (closer) relationship to Christ. Since the meeting on January 28, some of us have struggled with the question: how to get started? So here is the approach we picked. Since we are so close to the beginning of the Season of Lent, we chose a topic that can be regarded as a Lenten study. That way people who would just like to join in for the duration of this study can do that and feel free to not join the group after the study ends. (We will spread the word among people in other churches and the larger community as well.) The study we chose is titled ***Dateline Jerusalem***. More information is listed below.

The season of lent starts with **Ash Wednesday** which this year falls on February 22. To mark this beginning, we plan on having an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. together with Saron Lutheran Church at Hoquiam UMC. This will be a brief service and those who wish may again have ashes imposed on their forehead as a sign of penitence.

This year, HUMC will again take part in a series of **ecumenical Lenten services** with other churches in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The schedule is copied below. You are again invited to take part in a soup supper at 11:30 a.m. and a service at noon. This year, these will be held **Wednesdays** during Lent.

Finally, I like to draw your attention to the **Vancouver District Training** held on Saturday, February 25 from 9 till 12.15 during which a variety of classes will be offered. The schedule is copied below. This year, this

training event will be held at Montesano UMC. (Note that the entrance with elevator is from Church Street, not the parking lot in the back.)

Shalom, Pastor Willem

DATLINE JERUSALEM

This year, we will be offering a Lenten Study titled Dateline Jerusalem. At the core of this is a DVD series which takes us back to Jerusalem during Holy Week. The events are reported as if they were happening in real time. The series uses all the techniques of modern newsgathering, combined with historical research, to present the stories of faith in the realm of the real world. Each session uses a 15 minutes segment on DVD. Programs 1-4 begin with the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and examine the events and intrigues that follow: the dramatic challenge of the moneychangers, the trick question of paying taxes to Caesar, and the "evidence" of blasphemy and treason when Jesus claims to be the Messiah. Programs 5-8 cover Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. The Politics and intrigue of first-century Palestine provide the backdrop for the betrayal and execution of a man who has changed the course of history.

Since this is a Lenten study, we plan on meeting every week, beginning on **Thursday March 1 at 11:30 a.m. for 6 or 7 weeks**. You are invited to attend! Feel free to bring a sack lunch; we will provide beverages and maybe some snacks. The plan is to spend some time in fellowship, some time in study/discussion and end with a time of prayer. If you are available during this time, please do consider attending. Pray about it. This just might be the place in which you can have some of your needs met and also encourage others in their faith journey. Feel free to invite your neighbors and friends! This study is appropriate for people who have no background in the Christian faith. At the end of this study, those who are interested in becoming a part of a daytime small group can make plans to do so with Pastor Willem.

SUMMARY OF HUMC VISION AND PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 28, 2012

*Welcome and opening prayer by Doris (9:35 am) *quick review of last meeting's notes

*Congregational Meeting notes from 12-11-11 with DS (review)

-form 1 or 2 additional small groups (Day time -Elder Circle?)

-more training on evangelism

-reducing financial aid

*DS--as to the question, "Why financial support every 6 months instead of 12 months?" -Willem will check with DS. -is there a current endowment?

-can we put endowment information on our web page?

*HUMC: -has been on support for approx 9 years. -WORK THE PLAN!

-take action with what we have now!

--let's meet with Aberdeen to discuss combining the two congregations

--@ next Church Council meeting a date will be set to assign members to attend meeting with

Aberdeen

*viewed 2 videos from Brad Kalajainen workshop on Small Groups

*A member--spoke of his experience with small group he was part of when he first attended HUMC and how it helped to usher him into the folds of the church much more quickly than if he would have attended Sunday services only. Quotes from workshop"

--"grow smaller"...intimacy grows in small **groups**

--"small group ministry is messy!"

*A member reviewed who went to a "Small Group Ministry" by Brad Kalajainen

-DNA of life groups --authentic relationships --what will you do?...study/pray

--care given/care received --be mission minded --food only will not keep a group together --multiply (plant in the group's mind to multiply as they move forward)

*watched another video~"FIRST" from LifeChurch TV as an example of small group resources -put God FIRST...morning, finances, the day

*Small Group ideas discussed:

-Elder Circles -Young Adult Group -Bible Study -do we need more meetings to plan small groups?

Focused on two concrete possibilities:

-Night Owls -- would like to start soon

-"Life Circle" --daytime group (possible night)

--any age --every other week --BYOL (bring your own lunch)

--@ HUMC --Thursdays @ noon? --curriculum?

Willem asked for volunteers to meet with him for planning and some volunteered.

-other small group options:

--Friday night, 7pm, after Community Meal?

--"Task oriented" groups... --Grayland small group?

*Congregational Care (prayer chain)

*NEXT PLANNING MEETING

-**Saturday February 18~9:30-11:30 a.m.** --Possibly in choir room

*Evangelism training

--Willem will contact Curtis Brown ((Invite other churches!))

*Lenten Season

-do we want to host Lenten lunch here at HUMC?

-March 14 possible option for lunch @ HUMC--March 21 is alternate date

--One person volunteered to do cooking and a person volunteered to assist

-April 5 Maundy Thursday @ Saron Lutheran with Aberdeen UMC and Hoquiam UMC combined.

6 p.m. Lamb dinner – 7 p.m. Service

Closing prayer (noon)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Per December 31, 2011



Fund balances per December 31 were as follows:

General Fund - \$ -395.52

Building & Capital Improvement Fund - \$1,705.49

Special Funds - \$2,923.09 (Consisting of Memorial Fund of \$ 2,027.66 and Missions Fund of \$ 895.43)

Parsonage Fund - \$ 250.91

As you can see, we ended the year with a negative balance in the general fund. A copy of the yearend Treasurer's Report can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway. Again our thanks to all who supported HUMC with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness!

COMMUNITY EAT TOGETHER

Our next Community Eat Together will be on February 24, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. All are invited. A word of thanks to those who for provided the meal in January. 62 people from the community and the church attended.

**District Leadership Training
Saturday, February 25, 2012**

Two locations:

Montesano United Methodist Church		Ridgefield United Methodist Church	
8:30	Registration	2:00	Registration
9:00	Opening	2:30	Opening
9:15	Workshop #1	2:45	Workshop #1
10:30	Break	4:00	Break
10:45	Workshop #2	4:15	Workshop #2
12:00	Closing	5:30	Closing

A variety of Workshops to choose from...

- The Ministry of Local Church Finance Committees
- The Ministry of Local Church Trustees Committees
- The Ministry of Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees
- Your Digital Doorstep
- Two Mission workshops
- Prayer Based Leadership
- Children's Ministry: getting outside the walls
- Starting Small Lay-Led Life Groups
- Baby Boomers and Ministry in the 21st Century

Please contact Pastor Willem if you are interested in attending. Registration forms are on the bulletin board next to the library. Cost is \$5 per person, or we may qualify for a group rate.

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCH AND SERVICE SCHEDULE 2012

Date	Host Church	Preaching
Wednesday, February 22	St. Andrew's, Aberdeen	Rev. Linda Milks
Wednesday, February 29	First Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen	Rev. Beth Utto-Galarneau
Wednesday, March 7	United Christian Church, Aberdeen	Rev. Tom Schaeffer
Wednesday, March 14	Amazing Grace, Aberdeen	Rev. Doug Basler
Wednesday, March 21	United Methodist Church of Hoquiam	Rev. Tom Halbrook
Wednesday, March 28	St. Andrew's, Aberdeen	Rev. Willem Romeijn
April 6, 2012 Good Friday	St. Andrew's, Aberdeen	Rev. David Monsen

CALENDAR

February/March 2012

February	12 th	2-7:30 p.m.	Reconciling Ministries @ Tibbetts UMC
February	16 th	12:30 p.m.	Ladies Lunch @ Ocean Palace Aberdeen
February	18 th	9:30-noon	Congregational Planning Meeting (Choir Room)
February	19 th	11:45 a.m.	Church Council
February	21 st	10:30 a.m.	Worship Team Meeting
		5-7 p.m.	Pancake Dinner @ Saron Lutheran Church
February	22 nd	11:30 a.m.	Community Lenten Lunch and Worship Service @ St. Andrew's
		7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service Combined with Saron Lutheran Church @ HUMC
February	24 th	6:30 p.m.	Small Group Alpha
February	26 th	11-2 p.m.	Clergy Cluster Meeting @ Montesano UMC
February	27 th	5:30 p.m.	Community Eat Together Alden Room
February	28 th	3-6 p.m.	Girl Scouts
February	19 th	11:45 a.m.	Church Council
February	21 st	10:30 a.m.	Worship Meeting
February	22 nd	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
February	23 rd	11:00 a.m.	Clergy Cluster (South Bend)
February	24 th	5:30 p.m.	Community Eat Together
February	25 th	9-noon	District Leadership Training @ Montesano UMC
		3:30 pm.	Girl Scouts
February	29 th	11:30 a.m.	Community Lenten Lunch and Lenten Service @ First Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen
		6:30 p.m.	Small Group Alpha
March	1 st	11:30 a.m.	Lenten Study (Sack Lunch)
March	3 rd	2:00 p.m.	Wedding
March	7 th	11:30 a.m.	Community Lenten Lunch and Lenten Service @ United Christian Church, Aberdeen
March	8 th	11:30 a.m.	Lenten Study (Sack Lunch)
March	10 th	3:30 pm.	Girl Scouts

Sundays: **Service of Worship 10:30 a.m.**

Sunday School for Adults at **9:30 a.m.**

Our vision is to welcome, embrace and grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

(See Matthew 28:16-20)

What We Value: We are open and welcoming, actively embracing all people

Our mission is to live and share God's Word as we grow in every way...

through worship, Christian education, fellowship and community outreach.

We are a '**Reconciling Congregation.**' This means we explicitly welcome everyone, including all sexual orientations and gender identities, fully into the life of the church.