

Message From the Pastor

Happy New Year! Do you make New Year's resolutions? I don't. I used to. I never kept them so I quit. Actually I told our Church Council that my New Year's resolution was to always have my Pastor's Reflections in writing for each Council meeting, so I had better work on keeping that one. I am also committing myself to only using reusable grocery bags in 2012. However, both of these "resolutions" are more a matter of remembering than truly being resolute about some new commitment in my life. More about that in a moment.



the King who was born in Bethlehem. This King would be the mightiest of all and our now quite humble kings followed that star until they could lay eyes on this new King and truly worship him. Their epiphany is our Epiphany for all time – our knowledge and understanding that real Kings see mercy, compassion and peace as definers of their power and love, love you are willing to die for, as the true measure of their greatness.

The second Christian celebration that comes in January is the Baptism of Jesus by John. In all of our Gospels we have a description – either by a narrator or by John himself – of a miraculous event during that baptism. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove upon Jesus and the voice of God is heard. In Matthew, Mark and Luke we understand that God tells those who are listening that this is God's Son, with whom God is well pleased. After this baptism, Jesus goes into



the wilderness (in the synoptics) and/or (John) sets off immediately on his earthly ministry.



January is the month when we celebrate two Christian events. First is Epiphany. On this day, long ago, the kings arrived to worship Jesus and present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This holiday is celebrated on January 6th (the 13th day after Christmas) and marks the end of the celebration of Christmas time (the 12 days of Christmas). Epiphany is also a word that means "sudden insight." How true! Upon seeing the star in the East, the kings, who were probably also astrologers, had a sudden insight that all the kings of the world were nothing in comparison to

minds us that Christmas – the celebration of Jesus birth and life – does not end on December 25. Rather it is just beginning. It is a gift to our lives at the end of the year and at the beginning. We, like the kings, live with the "sudden insight" that the baby in the manger has an impact on our lives all year long.

Christ's baptism reminds us of our own baptism, or of those of friends or loved ones. It is a promise to live our lives after the example of Christ – not in an attempt at perfection that we cannot reach, rather with mercy, compassion and peace as the definers of our lives and with love as our measuring stick.

Now back to New Year's resolutions. In the grand scheme of things, written reports and reusable grocery bags are probably not earth-shaking, but being truly "resolute" with regard to amending one's life can indeed change the world! It is not the yearly resolutions to lose weight or exercise more that make a difference – although those are laudable goals – no it is the commitment to follow Christ with clarity and resolution that truly makes the New Year one to celebrate.

Peace, Joy, Hope and Love,

Pastor Kathy

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The Witness

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Local Church News

Meals on Wheels Loaves and Fishes

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 will be our church's day to volunteer for this Outreach Program at Elsie

Stuhr Senior Center. Kitchen crew should be at the Center at 9:30 a.m. Drivers should be at the Center at

10:00 a.m. Contact Pat Tervooren, 503-644-7475.

THANK YOU!!!

This January marks my 5th anniversary working in the office here at Beaverton First UMC. Each year I am reminded in many ways why the spirit moved me to apply for this job. A grateful smile on someone's face when I am able to get them the help that they need. A warm hug I receive from one of the many friends I have made here. The sense of peace I receive by joining in prayer with someone.

The people of BFUMC have taken care of me and my family in so many ways. Offering help, support, a hug, a shoulder to cry on, a word of prayer in a time of need, or a gift for my children.

Many of you remember my children when you travel and send them postcards, or bring back little gifts. A doll was made by one of you and given to my daughter

when she was still a baby. She still sleeps with it nightly and in her prayers thanks Corrine for making it for her.

This position I hold here at the church is much more than a job for me. It is a spiritual calling.

So this year when I was given the your generous gift I was once again overwhelmed with gratitude and joy for the people here.

Your gift help purchase new shoes and clothing for my ever growing children, a wonderful meal out as a family, a babysitter so my husband and I could have a much needed date night, and few small fun gifts for Christmas.

Thank you does not seem

an adequate way to express my gratitude for all of you. You have warmed my heart and make working in the office a joy.

I extend to you all a warm hug, a prayer of thanks, and for 2012 to be a year full of joy.

Sincere Thanks
Carin, Matt, Lucas, and Bella Rose Stroncsek.



Crafter's Corner

A new craft group is starting on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Wesley Chapel. Come and join the group to work on your favorite craft, or come to learn a new craft. For more information contact Gloria Gomez 503-858-7260



Hospitality Committee



Hospitality committee will be conducting a short survey of BFUMC members during the month of January. We will appreciate a cordial welcome when we call and ask a few questions. If there is any feedback about the future of the church, we will love to listen and take notes.

Please answer when you see Charlotte Jackson, Pat Lidrich, Sharon Keeney, Maxine Zebra, June Reed or Linda Bunga is calling.



Coffee Hour at BFUMC

Bathroom Project

Dear Fellow BFUMC Members,

We're on our way to a more modern and attractive restroom facility in Wesley Hall. Last Sunday, valiant volunteers cleaned out the room adjacent to the current restrooms, preparing it for demolition which is scheduled for the first week of February.

On Tuesday 12/20, our contractor David Louis brought in subcontractors to assess their parts of the project and Cal Hamreus,

our architect updated plans that will turn three rooms into two. The current restrooms and adjacent room behind the electric cabinet will become spacious accommodations for men and women. Fixtures; commodes and sinks, while not extravagant will be better suited for seniors, up-to-date and quiet.

Projected time for the entire project is between 60 and 90 days from 2/1/12, however every effort

will be made to be finished by Easter.

Those of us close to the effort realize accommodations will be limited during the rehab, but if members work with us, the East wing ladies' room will be adequate for females, the upstairs restroom and small bath in the Sunday school area can accommodate men.

We thank you in advance for your patience and prayers.

Sincerely,
Jack Cone

Food Pantry

Just a reminder that the food pantry will no longer be preparing emergency food boxes on Wednesdays for Care

to Share clients. We are no longer eligible to obtain food from the Oregon Food Bank. We will, however, furnish a one day's supply of food to anyone requesting emergency food and then refer them to Care to Share to get further assistance.



Each week we will request one or two specific food items from the congregation that we need to fill the emergency bags, such as tuna, peanut butter, pop-top soups, snack bars, small boxes of cereal, or small cans of fruit. Please do not bring in miscellaneous food items that we have not specifically requested. With these emergency bags available when people request food, we hope to continue feeding hungry people. (Marlene McCormick, Food Pantry Coordinator)

Ruth Fellowship and Quilts and Crafts



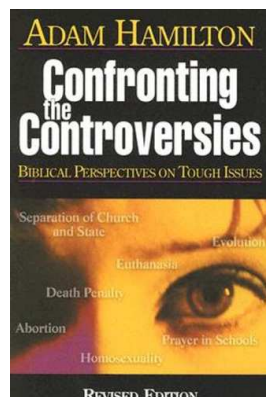
Ruth Fellowship meeting will be Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Our speaker will be from the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center. Hostesses: Pat Tervooren and Marlene McCormick; Devotions: Sharon Keeney. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert, coffee and tea will be furnished.

Quilts and Crafts will meet on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. For questions regarding Quilts contact Karleen Johnson 503-646-5882 and for Crafts contact June Reed at 503-646-8079.

Confronting Controversies: A New Adult Bible Study Series

Confronting the Controversies
A new series for Adult Bible Study
Begins January 15th, 2012 at 9:00 AM

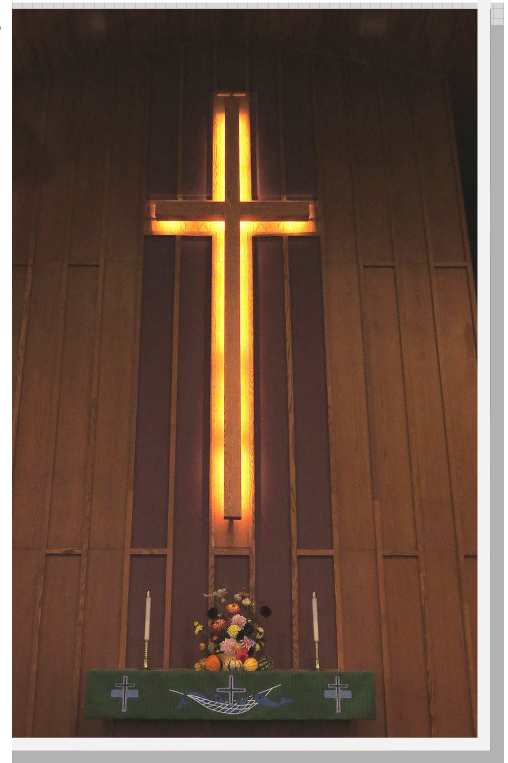
Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues is a unique resource for people of faith. It is a small-group study that speaks to controversial issues from a Christian perspective yet it also acknowledges that thinking Christians will sometimes reach different conclusions on these issues. *Confronting the Controversies* encourages listening, understanding, and respect among those who hold differing views; yet it also provides guidance from a biblical perspective that flows



from the convictions of the author through the lens of his Christian faith. The participant's book, along with the video presentations, will help you address, out of your own faith, the controversial issues presented in this series.

Confronting the Controversies is a 7-session group study of "tough issues" based on Adam Hamilton's sermons on these topics. The seven sessions are:

- 1 – The Separation of Church and State
- 2 – Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools
- 3 – The Death Penalty
- 4 – Euthanasia
- 5 – Prayer in Public Schools
- 6 – Abortion
- 7 – Homosexuality



Apportionment—Black College Fund

This month we will look at the Black College Fund as a part of what our Apportionments support.

This ministry can trace its roots black to the Civil War. Over 4 million freed slaves were unable to read and write, putting them at a disadvantage in the world. The “Freedman’s Aid Society”, organized by the former Methodist Episcopal Church, sought to rectify that. Later, colleges were established by Methodists for blacks that were not permitted to attend other colleges. Today, The United Methodist Church supports 11 historically black colleges and universities, including one medical school, as a part of the church’s commitment to ensuring all people will be able to obtain a sound education.

The students come from diverse social, economic and educational backgrounds, and have become teachers, doctors, ministers, bishops, scientists, judges and journalists. Many have become leaders in the African-American community.

The Black College Fund helps:

- Maintain solid, challenging academic programs, strong faculties, and well-equipped buildings.
 - Create spiritual environments that encourage pride and self-esteem in the accomplishments of African Americans.
 - Provide the opportunity for approximately 16,000 students to interact with academic staffs that serve as strong cultural and spiritual mentors.
- Prepare and educate people for the new global technological world—never veering from academic excellence based on the Christian perspective of community, service and social responsibility.

The United Methodist Black institutions include:

- Bennett College, Greensboro, NC
- Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL
- Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC
- Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta GA
- Dillard University, New Orleans LA
- Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, TX
- Meharry Medical College, Nashville TN
- Paine College, Augusta GA
- Philander Smith College, Little Rock AR
- Rust College, Holly Springs MS
- Wiley College, Marshall TX



Prayers and Thanks

Saying “Thank you” hardly seems adequate for all the blessings I’ve received this past six months. First let me thank you for your generous Christmas gift! It was so kind and will be put towards something special for my vacation in February! Thank you so very much! But let me say “Thanks” as well for the many gifts you’ve

been giving me since I arrived...

- ◆ The gift of a warm, July welcome...
- ◆ The gift of excitement and enthusiasm as we continue to explore God’s renewed vision for BFUMC.
- ◆ The gift of your creativity,

spirit and joy as our ministries evolve and grow.

These are just a few of the prayers of thanksgiving I say for all of you every day. Grace and peace to all of us in 2012 and God bless us!

Pastor Kathy

News from the District and Around the Conference

MDCES Annual Meeting Announced

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan District Church Extension Society (MDCES) will take place on February 15, at Trinity United Methodist Church. The church is located at 3915 SE Steele Street in Portland. Lunch

will be served following the meeting. The meal will be provided by the host church. Please phone the Metro District by February 8 at 503-249-1851 for meal reservations.

One pastor and one lay person from each United Methodist Church in the Metro District are voting members at the MDCES annual meeting. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Bishop Shares District Organization for July 2012



by Greg Nelson
Director of Communications

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata has shared a plan of assignment that divides the Oregon-Idaho Conference churches into four districts to take effect on July 1, 2012. This follows the vote of the Annual Conference to move from a plan that organizes what

have been five districts into four.

Paragraph 415.4 of the 2008 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church calls for a bishop, "To form the districts after consultation with the district superintendents and after the number of the same has been determined by vote of the annual conference."

Regarding the determination of the plan Bishop Hoshibata shared, "I wanted to make sure that the assignments are in concert with the mission of our annual conference, provide for effective administration, and are conducive to building relationships and mutual support of our ministries."

For the time being each district will be known by the number of

churches in it. During the 2012 Annual Conference session, each district will have a time to gather and form themselves as a new group of leaders. Among their tasks will be the selection of a name that represents the district as it moves forward. "I hope that all of us understand that we did not simply eliminate a district. Rather, in these new assignments, all of our churches are affected," shared Hoshibata. "Each of our churches now belongs with a different constellation of churches in one of 4 newly constituted districts. This provides us an opportunity to forge new relationships as we also strengthen relationships of the past; so we can all move forward on a journey seeking health and vitality. "

Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day is January 15th. The offering for Human Relations Day supports ministries that advocate for those often on the margins of society. Hagar's House, a sanctuary for

women and children in New Orleans is just one of the organizations supported by this offering. It provides an open and empowering residential community for women and children needing a safe place.



January 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 3:30 Grief Support Group	3	4 9:30 am Prayer Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	5	6	7 CLD
8 9:00 am Sunday School All Ages 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Faith Café	9 2:00 pm Hospitality Committee 7:00 pm Finance Committee	10 Loaves and Fishes/Meals on Wheels	11 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Ruth Fellowship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	12 6:30 Crafter's Corner 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	13	14 9 am Men's Group
15 9:00 am Sunday School All Ages 10:30 am Worship/ 6:00 pm Faith Café	16 7:00 am Men's Meeting	17	18 9:30 am Prayer Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	19 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 am Sunday School All Ages 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Faith Café (our week to Host)	23 7:00 am Men's Meeting 3:30 Grief Support Group	24	25 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 Quilts and Crafts 7:30 pm Choir Practice	26 6:00 pm Faith Café	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday School All Ages 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Faith Café	30 7:00 am Men's Meeting	31				



Happy Birthday To:

1/03	Cathy Whitlatch	1/15	Anne Weld-Martin
1/04	Anna Faxon	1/18	Ivan McCormick
1/04	Benjamin Jackson	1/19	Albert Smith
1/05	Jessica Sojka	1/21	David Garbast
1/07	Mace Hood	1/22	Evan Sojka
1/07	Lucille Gable	1/23	Neal Haines
1/10	Eric Kingstad	1/23	Joyce Hamreus
1/12	Ellen Kingstad	1/26	Pat Lidrich
1/13	Dianna Himes	1/31	Mark Himes

Happy Anniversary To:

1/12/1952	Ivan & Marlene McCormick
1/15/1999	Eishin & Beth Takahashi

Beaverton First United Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Open Minds,
Open Hearts,
Open Doors*

News From Around the Globe

Guatemala: Addressing HIV

Guatemala: Addressing HIV

Less than one percent of the adult population in Guatemala is estimated to be HIV positive. But with that seemingly small percentage, Guatemala is considered to have a concentrated HIV epidemic, according to USAIS Guatemala Health Report.

In remote locations that suffer from widespread poverty, the risk for HIV is higher. Most men leave home to find work in distant cities or farms. Some participate in high-risk sexual behavior while away, increasing their chances of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases. Upon their return home, they risk passing the infection to their wives or partners.

Earlier this year, Curamericas Global, Inc., a non-profit international health organization, addressed the risk for

Turkey: Helping to Heal

HIV in rural Sebastián Coatán. The pilot program, "Promoting HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention to Rural Guatemala," was made possible through funding support from the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund.

In Guatemala, Curamericas primarily train women as health educators, but during the Sebastián Coatán program, the organization trained men as well. This method allowed for the delivery of gender-tailored health messages on the sensitive topic. The messages promoted abstinence, faithfulness, and HIV-prevention methods.

Observe World Aids Day throughout the year by supporting projects like this one that are bringing the message of HIV/AIDS prevention to vulnerable and rural populations. Give to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #98234 through your local church.

Turkey: Helping to Heal

UMCOR is reaching out to the people of Van, Turkey who suffered two major earthquakes in just three weeks. The quakes destroyed the community's infrastructure, including the local hospital.

UMCOR is partnering with GlobalMedic to establish field hospitals that will provide for health needs in Van while the town recovers. UMCOR also is partnering with the international Blue Crescent to provide food, medicine, blankets, heaters and other supplies to quake survivors. You can help the people of Van and surrounding communities by giving to International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450 through your local church and designating your gift to "Turkey Earthquake."