

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

Many of you know Rev. Glenn Kennedy. Not fully understanding the concept of retirement, Brother Glenn continues to serve our Fowler UMC congregation while he horses around somewhere north of town on his "ranch." I know Glenn so well I didn't even ask for permission to rip off his recent article in the *Fowler Flashes* newsletter. Enjoy. I'm sure you will see yourself in Glenn's musings, as I did.

During the last really cold snap, I was working out in the barn one evening when I paused and took a look at my clothing and equipment and said (nearly out loud) "is this what life's come to?!" I so love my old pair of lined winter boots that I can't bear to part with them- but the soles are badly cracked and so I have to keep them bound with duct tape. The thumbs on my favorite work gloves long ago gave way, so (you guessed it!) more duct tape. My wheelbarrow is rusted through at the handles – so it's held together at multiple critical stress points with bungee cords...My manure fork is missing several teeth on one side...so its efficiency rating isn't real high! There I was...wet feet...freezing thumbs...wobbling wheelbarrow...trying to accomplish a necessary task...and could blame no one for my plight but myself. I don't give attachments up easily...and sometimes find it hard to accept help when it's offered. Here's my confession. Sitting on my bedroom dresser there are gift cards – Christmas presents from my children- for new work boots and a new wheelbarrow. (I guess I'm on my own for the gloves and manure fork!) The new is there and waiting- yet I was trying to get a job done with the less than adequate old. Whose fault is that?

As you might expect from a preacher, I find a somewhat striking parable there. How often do we choose to muck our way along, holding life together with duct tape and bungee cords while the One who claims to know us by name and by need keeps trying to gain our attention...keeps whispering "use the gift cards! Use what's already been purchased for you!"

Jesus' words in the tenth chapter of John remind us of the promise,

"...I came that they (we) may have life and have it abundantly..." John 10; 10b

And of the means:

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep..." John 10:11

As we move toward the Lenten season, a time for remembering the Gift of the life of Jesus Christ and consider again what that Gift means in each our lives...for heaven's sake (and for yours!) use the Gift Certificate! Claim the abundance of life that is promised you. We can do better than bungee cords and duct tape...We have the Shepherd's promise.

See you in Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl

One Great Hour of Sharing

As United Methodists we have a long history of assisting others in their times of need. To facilitate this assistance the United Methodist Church has the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). When disasters occur, such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan last week, or the earthquake in Haiti last year, UMCOR responds by sending supplies and other types of aid to those in need. Also, UMCOR can provide long-term assistance in the way of programs that teach local persons how to solve some of their own challenges with methods and technologies from more developed countries and people. One such program is the chili crop-planting project begun in Indonesia in 2008 through the Reconstruction and Development in Aceh program which was implemented by the UMCOR Indonesia field office. This project provided tsunami-affected community members with grants in the form of seeds, tools and fertilizer packages so that they could grow the locally popular Aceh chili plants and generate income for their families. The project enabled the farmers to support their families as well as supporting an existing organic fertilizer business which received the waste from the chili plants, thus helping with the revitalization of the community. The entire project was financed by donations from United Methodists like you and me. 100% of all donations for specific concerns is used for that specific concern.

One Great Hour Of Sharing is our chance to make all of the specific projects possible. UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. All gifts to **One Great Hour Of Sharing** help to “keep the lights on” and cover the costs involved with doing the business UMCOR has to do. No money is ever taken from designated gifts to cover administrative costs. UMCOR’s ability to respond and remain until the job is done is in direct proportion to the generosity of United Methodist during One Great Hour Of Sharing. So let’s all give generously on April 3rd!

WORDS OF THANKS

Dear Audubon Family:

During this time of Lent as we await rebirth, may you make room for the new by saying a sacred YES to your talents and feel the call to blossom in new places and in new ways.

Thank you for your prayers and acts of kindness during a time of illness and transition as well as all the support you gave me during the past few years.

"The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing." Isaiah 35:1-2

Blessing, prayers and Holy Blossoming,
-Bobbi

A BIG THANK YOU to all who supported our “Undies” collection. We gathered seven packages of underwear, five packages of socks and four packages of undershirts for men,

For women and girls we collected 16 packages of socks and 24 packages of underwear. These items were delivered to Union Gospel Mission, Women's Hearth and Crosswalk. Thank you again for caring for others and supporting our "Undies" drive.

Thank you for your recent donation to Union Gospel Mission. The burden of the homeless is too great for you or me to bear alone, but as we team up and share that load, it becomes lighter. And, as we ease the burden on their shoulders, the men and women who come through our doors are enable to make significant changes.

-Phil Altmeyer, Union Gospel Mission Director

CONGRATULATIONS! We congratulate Pavel Puzankov and share in his joy in passing his citizenship test last week!!

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held Saturday, March 19th at 9:00 a.m. All men are welcome!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS:

Middle School Youth meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-8 p.m. The meetings are held in the middle school room at the church. Upcoming meetings are March 17th and April 7th. For more info, call Josh Clark at 991-1658 or email: melkr220@hotmail.com.

The Young Adult/College Age Group will gather again on Friday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Josh and Courtney Clark, 2822 W. Sanson. For more info call the Clarks at 991-1801.

**ADULT DISCIPLESHIP HOUR STUDY
9 A.M. SUNDAYS Led by Pastor Carl Martin**

"24 Hours That Changed The World"

Join Pastor Carl for a video class based on Adam Hamilton's book at 9:00 AM now through Easter Sunday. We will explore the last days of Jesus' life together.

Sunday, March 20

10:00 a.m. A short Christian Education meeting will be held.

Noon-- a short Vacation Bible School informational meeting for ALL who are interested!!!

GREG MORTENSON TO SPEAK:

The ex-mountain climber and true humanitarian who has built hundreds of schools in remote villages in Pakistan and Afghanistan will be the speaker.

Where: Gonzaga McCarthy Athletic Center

When: Monday, March 28th 7:00-8:30 p.m. Lecture

Tickets: They're going fast, so don't tarry— typically a sell out on college campuses.

*On-line (with extra charge) at
www. gonzaga.edu/mortenson
(suggest avoiding “will-call”)

*McCarthy Athletic Center box office (Mon-Fri 10 a.m.—5 p.m.)

*Cost: \$10 for public
\$ 7 Senior Citizen
\$ 5 Students & Employees of GU

Why: This promises to be a very worthwhile and inspiring event. You would also enjoy his book, “Three Cups of Tea”, which is in the UMW Library in the parlor.

United Methodist Women Reading Program

We encourage everyone in the church to borrow and read the UMW Reading Program books. We have books for adults, children and youth; located in the Parlor. Just put your name and the date on the card in the back of the book and put the card in the card box. When you return the book, return the card to the back of the book.

This week I'll be telling you about:

“THE TRUE COST OF LOW PRICES: The Violence of Globalization.

The low prices that benefit consumers of industrialized nations often put the poor at even great risk. As transnational corporations increase profits by reducing costs, laborers in Latin America, Asia, Africa or here in the U.S. work long hours but are still poor, hungry and subject to abuse. Topics addressed include the nature of globalization; how structural adjustment programs work; the use of slave labor; the needs of workers, especially women, for health care, adequate food and freedom from abuse; and the violence that comes from unregulated work environments.

(Social Action)

CONTEMPLATIVE CROCHET: A Hands-On Guide for Interlocking Faith & Craft

You know the satisfaction to be found in the simple act of crocheting: In the rhythm of the hook, the feel of fiber, and the miraculous creation of beautiful fabric from thread or yarn. But is there a way to develop this sense of the spiritual into a deeper, more mindful practice? Let this engaging book take you on a path deeper into your crocheting and your spiritual awareness. Whether individually or as part of a group, explore your practice through original patterns, meditations, reflections and creative exercises.

You will find yourself reaching for your hook and yarn as you read, inspired to take up your projects with a whole new state of mind. (Spiritual Growth)

KIKI'S HATS: Our Gifts Live On and On This is a lively story of a spunky and lovable woman who knits two hats—one to keep and one to give away. It is also a story about how much fun it can be to do something good for someone else. (Children)

**INLAND DISTRICT UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
APRIL 8 AND 9, 2011**

TWINLOW CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
Rathdrum, Idaho

“Time Out for God” Leader: Rev. Shalom Agtarap

Registration deadline: March 29th

Cost per Retreat Attendee: \$60 (includes 3 meals and room)

Check-in begins at 4 p.m. in Selkirk Lodge Program resource display opens at 4 p.m.
The retreat begins Friday with 6 p.m. dinner and concludes at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Scholarships (\$25) are available from Local and District UMWs. The deadline for them is MARCH 19. Registration and Scholarship application forms are on the UMW bulletin board in the church parlor. All the information you need is there.

Just being at beautiful Twin Lakes can be a great spiritual experience! Add the learning program and the fellowship and you can count on a great two days.

If you need further information, contact Melva Lohstroh at 326-0258.

The following people are scheduled for various duties for upcoming worship services:

ENTRYWAY SWEEPERS:

March 20 Jerry Hood
March 27 David Banks

LAMPLIGHTERS:

March 20 Jan Ferguson and Betty Moos
March 27 Mike and Iva Jean Gilbreth

PRAYER ROOM:

March 20 Stan Banks
March 27 Joanne Harvey

USHERS

March 20 Sunny Thompson and Jean Judah
March 27 Betsy Hartman

GREETERS

March 20 Tom and Debra Kraus
March 27 Kay Nanson and Laurie Whitford

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 20 Dorinda Young
March 27 Heather Homchick

COMMUNION SERVERS

March 20 Joe and Brenda Vasquez

COFFEE HOSTS:

March 20 Pamela Ridgway and
Andy Forsyth
March 27 Kay Nanson and Judie Thorpe

**“Differences Make A
Difference”**

Who: Lay and Clergy, who have completed *A New Heaven and A New Earth, Cultural Competency for the Northwest Introductory Workshop*

When: Tuesday, March 22
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Audubon Park UMC

Why: To help churches communicate effectively with their mission fields.

To register: Go to www.pnwumc.org, click on the Training Events button and select Differences Make A Difference

**Special Called Session
Saturday, March 26
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Central WA University**

This is a special session of the Pacific NW Conference as a time of worship, discernment and prayer. A vote will be taken concerning the *Conference Wide Ministry Fund Drive for New Church and Congregational Renewal*

Easter Sunday is coming up! Once again we are giving the congregation the opportunity to purchase a live plant in honor or in memory of a special person or persons in their life. The plants this year will be small azaleas at the price of \$6 per plant. Please place this order, along with your check, in either the offering plate or return to the church office. You are encouraged to pick up your plant following the Easter service for your use or to give to a shut-in.

I/We would like to order _____ plants.

Name _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Total Paid _____

Saturday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Discipleship Hour

9:00 a.m. B.L.A.S.T.

10:30 a.m. Worship

3:00 p.m. Financial Peace University

Monday, March 21

Noon: Elderberries

1 p.m. Lenten Study @ Retta Nickell's home

1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle

2:30 p.m. Mommy and Me Group

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, March 22

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Conference Training Meeting

9:00 a.m. Downtown Food Bank

9:30 a.m. Quilters

5:30 p.m. Journeys Group

Wednesday, March 23

10:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous

10:00 a.m. Needlework Group

1:00 p.m. Lenten Study @ Mary Bynum's home

7:00 p.m. Choir

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Thursday, March 24

10:00 a.m. Lenten Study @ Fyrne Bemiller's home

6:15 p.m. Jubilee Bell Practice

7:00 p.m. Lenten Studies @ Carl/Linda Martin and Sheila Clark's homes

Friday, March 25

6:30 p.m. Young Adults at Josh/Courtney Clark's home, 2822 W. Sanson

Sunday, March 27
Interfaith Hospitality 3/27 - 4/3

9:00 a.m. Discipleship Hour
9:00 a.m. B.L.A.S.T.
10:30 a.m. Worship
3:00 p.m. Financial Peace University

Monday, March 28

7:00 p.m. Church Council
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting