

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART...

### Leaders Stay Young

By [Bishop William H. Willimon](#)

What are the qualities of a good leader? Fortunately, Jesus defined leadership: *A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them. . . . But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves."* (Luke 22:24-26)

In Jesus' topsy-turvy world, the most mature is the youngest. Most of us think we must spend years in school in order to grow up. The main factor in the clergy appointive process of my denomination is seniority. And it's a wonderful system, if you are sixty-three years old, like me, with forty years of experience!

But here comes Jesus saying, "If you lead in my Kingdom, you've got to be young." And of course, Jesus himself was a young adult. As I read the gospels — with Jesus lurching from this place to that place, always on the move, talking fast, dropping one bomb after another without giving us sufficient time to reflect and ponder what he's talking about — I think to myself, "Christianity may be a faith best suited for people under thirty-three!" And yet my beloved church has an average age of fifty-nine.

The church needs the questions, criticism, ideas and innovations of people under thirty-five. When we content ourselves with a church that limits its ministries mostly to the needs of one generation (those of us over thirty-five), we deny ourselves the energy, insights and good that youth has to offer. At this time in history, what we need most is not wisdom, continuity, and deference to the past, but rather Holy Spirit-induced originality, innovation, risk, and transformation. We can't wait for younger leaders to spend twenty years in ministry before we entrust them with serious responsibilities. We need them to take over now and do what novice, youthful, uninformed, inexperienced people do so well.

Yet, Jesus didn't say, "I want all my followers *to be* young." Rather, he said that he wanted his disciples to lead *as if* they were young. We are not to be like the aging, social-security-gobbling, AARP-entitlement-loving pagans. Instead, to quote Jesus, "the greatest among you should be like the youngest and the one who rules like the one who serves."

It's easy to ask questions, seek help, crave mentoring, and learn new skills when you are just starting out — when you are unsteady, green, and goofy. But that's hard for those of us over fifty. We have been in this ministry so long we think we actually know just how to do ministry. We would rather tell you how to do ministry just like we did it than to say, "Our church really has some great needs. We've tried some things, some of which God blessed and some of which God didn't. Kid, has God given you any bright ideas? Tell me!"

What would it mean for me, in my fourth decade of ministry, to "be like the youngest"? I bet it would mean to ask more questions, to be more honest about the limits of my way of doing things, to look for help from whomever God gave it to, and above all to remember that, in the words of Jesus, "God is of the living and not the dead." Jesus is always in motion and, if we are going to follow Jesus, we've got to be like the youngest.

My wife, Patsy, and I have noticed that since coming to this new ministry in Alabama, we feel oddly younger — as if we're in the first days of our marriage, as if we're at our very first church. I think it may be because the church has called me to a ministry for which I have no experience, few qualifications, and little knowledge. I have to ask for help, read boring business books on management, and get a coach — like I was twenty-something. And it's wonderful to be young!

There is something about our God that loves to raise the dead — to bring new worlds out of nothing, life out of death, a future where we thought all was past. A dead god can never surprise you. A fake god (idol) will never make you feel stupid. We cannot worship a living God without continually turning and becoming like a little child. Discipleship is a young person's vocation.

And we older pastors are fortunate that God is continuing to look out for us, to send us fresh new vitality. And all of us are fortunate to be saved by a living, itinerant God, who keeps rebirthing us, keeps refreshing us in our life's journeys, promises even at the end of our journey to say to us, "Surprise! Your life has not ended. It's begun. Arise! Be young."

[Bishop William H. Willimon](#) is bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. This article is adapted from an address delivered at Wesley Theological Seminary's commencement on May 10, 2010, at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

### **THANK YOU NOTES:**

Thank you to all of our dear friends who sent cards after the death of our brother, Don. Thank you to Pastor Carl for his visits. Also, thank you for the phone calls and expressions of love and support after the discovery of the break-in and vandalizing of our home when we returned from Medford.

We are grateful to belong to such a loving church family.  
-Doug and Pauline Smith

Dear Audubon Park UMC:

On behalf of the Youth of the Epworth Chorale, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous support of this choir. We thank you for providing us a concert, for providing homes and meals for for so much more!

A big **thank you** to all of you who donated books to the food bank. The children and parents really love to get these books..they go very quickly!

**Annual Conference News:**  
**Read about the 2010 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference**  
**at [www.pnw-umc.org](http://www.pnw-umc.org)**  
**You will find legislative actions as well as photos.**

**FINANCE NEWS:** The church has received a generous gift from the estate of Betty Bain in the amount of \$10,000. The Finance Committee has not allocated this gift yet.

**WOW!** Pastor Keat Yeoh turned 70 years young in June!  
If you would like to send a “belated” birthday note to him,  
Keat’s address is:  
26205 - 119th Drive SE  
Kent, WA 98030

**STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY 2010** Strength for the Journey is a four-day spiritual retreat for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Again this year the retreat will be held at Camp N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d’ Alene, August 23-27. This retreat provides a safe place with a caring, supportive staff where participants can relax and reflect together on the circumstances of their lives. It is eagerly awaited by our participants each year.

Below are some ways you can support this ministry:

- Prayers for the participants as they travel and spend time in retreat
  - Donations for scholarships to the retreat. Checks can be made out to “Strength for the Journey”
  - Snacks and home-made cookies are a treat, as well as fresh fruit and veggies
  - Notes to the participants which will be placed in their “mail box” every day. You can write “To a Friend” using words of encouragement and inclusiveness
- There will be 40 participants and 15 staff at the retreat this year.

**Any of these items can be mailed to Manito UMC, PO Box 8656, Spokane,WA 99203 or items can be dropped off at Manito UMC, located at 33rd and Grand Blvd.**

**For questions, please contact Pastor Flora Bowers at 747-4755.**

### **IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...**

To start thinking about school supplies for the fall. Again, this year we will be collecting supplies for nearby children. More information to come soon.

### **CONGRATULATIONS, CHRISTINE!**

Christine Nielson has been picked up for the Paralympic Team and will be going to New Zealand this fall or winter. We are proud of you, Christine!

### **JUNE OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Attendance:**

June 6	124
June 13	132
June 20	112
June 27	135

#### **Offerings**

June 6	\$12,774
June 13	\$ 5,647
June 20	\$ 2,640
June 27	\$ 3,557

*“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.”*

-Charles Swindoll

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:**

July 18: Butterfly Crossing sings in during church worship service

July 21 (Wednesday) 2-4 p.m. VBS advertising blitz. VBS is a huge outreach program and in that light we are asking those interested to meet at the church at 2 p.m. to walk the neighborhood with VBS flyers. For more information contact Nicolle at 263-5573.

July 25 VBS pre-registration in the parlor after the worship service

**B.L.A.S.T. INFO:**

WANTED: teachers who are willing to lead a workshop rotation once every 4-6 weeks. There will be a teacher's meeting on Sunday, July 18, at 10 a.m. for all those interested in teaching in our exciting rotation program for grades K-6. This program is held at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings beginning in September. We have a team of teachers and a group of wonderful children who need your help...

**Do you like the Jubilee Bell Choir? Interested in the Bell Choir?**

The Jubilee Bell Choir is looking for additional ringers. You must know how to read music, both bass and treble clef. Ringers are also needed who are able to lift the heavier bass bells.

The choir begins their rehearsals on Thursday, September 9, at 6:15 p.m.

For more information please call Carol Hendershot, 467-5036

**VACATION BIBLE INFORMATION:**

We are looking forward to and getting ready for this summer's VBS! The dates will be August 2-6 from 6:15 - 8:15 p.m. This will be for kids as well as offering Adult classes. A light supper will be planned to begin at 5:30 p.m. Below is the list of items we are looking for. You can bring them to the church anytime; if you have questions, please contact Bobbi at 325-4541.

**Needed: Anything with a space theme, snack crackers, individual juice boxes or pouches, individual fruit snacks, pint-sized canning jars.**

**We are requesting donations of certain foods for our simple supper which takes place each evening before VBS. Please contact Marion Anderson for more details, 326-8359.**

**Come and see what's cookin' - there will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor for supplies needed.**

**ADULT INFO: During the week of VBS, Pastor Carl will be leading an adult study class Tuesday-Friday nights. The study will be "The Parables of Jesus."**

**VBS EXCITING TRIP**

**Saturday, August 7th: "Young Eagles" We are in contact with Young Eagles in an effort to coordinate an exciting adventure!**

**Ages 8 through 17 will meet at Felt's Field to see what God's creation looks like from the air. See more info on the Christian Education desk.**

**What's Young Eagles About? Have you ever wondered what it's like to fly? Young Eagles don't have to imagine what flying is like. Each Young Eagle will become part of a special group of people who have a common experience— the thrill of flying! You will have the chance to actually fly in an airplane and look at God's world below you.**

**More info to follow**

**TO ALL ENTRYWAY SWEEPERS:**

The following people are scheduled to have this sweeping duty in the coming weeks:

July 18        David Banks  
July 25        Stan Banks

**LAMPLIGHTERS:**

The Lamplighters for the upcoming weeks are:

July 18        Mike and Iva Jean Gilbreth  
July 25        Don and Marlene Peters

**USHER SCHEDULE:**

Below are the ushers for worship in the upcoming weeks:

July 18        Sunny Day Thompson and Yasha  
                  Puzankov  
July 25        George Hartman

**GREETER SCHEDULE:**

July 18        Don and Carolyn Wilson  
July 25        Pamela Ridgeway and Char Wilcox

**PRAYER ROOM:**

July 18        Betty Briggs  
July 25        Pat Dobberstein

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

July 18        Joe and Brenda Vasquez

**~ Interfaith Hospitality Network~**

The next week for our church to host Interfaith Hospitality will be July 18-25.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help; the only thing we need now are overnight hosts. We need two people who would come to the church about 8:30 p.m., stay overnight at the church and leave about 7:30 a.m. the next day. You would be representing the church as the families settle in for the night

Please call Karen Peacock, 869-5741, if you can help with this project.

THE NORTHWEST  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
12TH Annual

CONCERTS UNDER THE PINES  
at Audubon City Park

6:00—8:00 p.m.

**This year let's join together as a church family for the concerts!  
Bring a lawn chair, a bag dinner and friends!**

July 15th  
"Scorpius"

July 29th  
"DogHouse Boyz"

August 12th  
"Men of Rhythm"

August 26th  
Spokane Youth Symphony

The Fig Tree, a Spokane based, non-profit publication which covers stories of people living their faith in values, is seeking reliable volunteers who can help with the following tasks: distribution of the monthly Fig Tree and the annual Directory of Community Resources, phone calls to donors or potential donors for our upcoming auction, item pick ups, office work (printing, mailings, archiving) and event displays. Volunteer opportunities are available M-F throughout the year during regular office hours 9-5, or during special events. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Brenda at (509) 535-4112.

**There will be no MIDIS Group in the months of July or August.**

**UMW NEWS - SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION  
DATES: JULY 30- AUGUST 2**

**CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON**

The timing of the school has been changed so that we can be guaranteed air-conditioned dorms and classrooms and everything can be closer together. The rates are the same as last year.

"Mission in Motion - Our Legacy, Our Future" is the theme for Inland District UMW this year. There is no better place to learn about missions than the Cooperate School of Christian Mission. The theme this year is "Faith, Hope, Love in Action." The studies are:

**FOR THE LOVE OF GOD: THE EPISTLES OF JOHN** focuses on modern-day relevance of the Epistles as God's Word, emphasizing love for all humanity. Fellowship with God cannot be separated from fellowship with one another.

### **JOY TO THE WORLD: MISSION IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY**

explores the flow of mission, evangelism and theology in the context of 21st century Christianity as a worldwide religion, offering hospitality, healing and reconciliation.

**THE BEAUTY AND COURAGE OF SUDAN: WHY A DREAM OF PEACE IS POSSIBLE** offers a portrait of Sudan's spirit of courage, promising the hope that eventually they will realize their dream of peace.

Registration deadline is June 30. Contact Melva Lohstroh, 326-0258, or Retta Nickell, 467-0341, for a registration form and information. There are funds budgeted to help cover expenses. Please consider attending, it will be an experience you will enjoy and learn from.

### **ALL CHURCH MARINER'S GAME**

**Sponsored by United Methodist Men  
Thursday, August 11**

Bus leaves the church at 6:00 a.m. for the 12:30 p.m. game  
Return immediately after the game.

Price for ticket and bus:  
Single \$55.00  
Double \$100.00

Call the church office (325-4541) to reserve your seat today!

### **Audubon Park United Methodist Church**

#### **Night Out at the Spokane Indians Ballpark**

The Spokane Indians play host to the Salem-Keiser Volcanoes on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for a 6:30 game. Our night at the ballgame is always great family fun, and this year, the mood will be bolstered by the performance of the Clown Prince of Baseball, Myron Noodleman. Reserve your seats now by calling Steve Whitford at 489-7235. Leave a message. We have a block of reserved upper box seats with backs reserved at only \$9 each. Tickets need to be prepaid to Steve by July 18<sup>th</sup>, after that, unused seats in our section need to be released for other fans

**Saturday, July 17**

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Sustainable Works

**Sunday, July 18**

10:00 a.m. B.L.A.S.T. Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**Monday, July 19**

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

**Tuesday, July 20**

9:00 a.m. Downtown Food Bank  
9:30 a.m. Quilters

**Wednesday, July 21**

10:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous  
10:00 a.m. Needlework Group

**Thursday, July 22**

4:00 p.m. Sustainable Works  
5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision

**Saturday, July 24**

9:00 a.m. Sustainable Works

**Sunday, July 25**

10:30 a.m. Worship

**Monday, July 26**

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

**Tuesday, July 27**

9:00 a.m. Downtown Food Bank  
9:30 a.m. Audubon Park Food Bank  
9:30 a.m. Quilters  
5:30 p.m. CPR/AED Training Class

**Wednesday, July 28**

10:00 a.m. Wesley Group  
10:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous  
10:00 a.m. Needlework Group



