

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

Bishop John R. Schol from the Baltimore-Washington Conference is the Chair of the UMC's Vital Congregations initiative. He lists five characteristics of vital congregations. They are

- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small groups and strong children's and youth ministry.

I am somewhat of a student of congregational revitalization. I have seen many such lists from many diverse sources and they all include pretty much the same things. What is unmentioned here, but presumed in the Bishop's list, one hopes, is the fact that the people of vital congregations are in love with God, each other, and the people in their mission field. Only the love given through a close, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ can motivate us to create the conditions in which these characteristics are achieved. And only then by the wondrous workings of God's grace.

Over the four years that I have been your pastor, I believe we have improved in all of these categories. Especially in regaining our love of God and supporting one another in our spiritual journeys. Prayer and appreciation has mostly replaced criticism and complaint. Now we are seeking a unifying vision for our mission as a church. Over many years the tendency is for a congregation to create many ministries and activities that are only tangentially connected to the congregation's reason for being. These need to be evaluated and, if not discontinued, reinterpreted and realigned in light of a central vision mutually discerned to be of God. New ministries consistent with the new vision may replace or run alongside the revision-ed ones. A revitalized congregation shifts its emphasis from trying to do too much to trying to do what it is called to do, and doing that in and with the love of Jesus.

Our Church Council, under the leadership of Steve Cree, is now engaged in this process of spiritual discernment of re-visioning APUMC. This is important work, much in need of our prayers and participation. It is also important enough not to be rushed. You cannot both rush and relish God's renewing work. It is organic, not mechanical. It is lived into, not merely decided upon in a meeting. Last Sunday, I asked for your best sense of God's leading for our church. Note: We no longer really care "what you think the church should do." This mentality helped cause our morass. We want to transition from a preference driven mentality to a spirit informed one. We are asking for your help in discerning what we believe God is asking us to become. Please write a BRIEF statement of your discernment of our mission and return it to the church (somehow, any way that works for you) by this coming Sunday. It will become part of the grist from which our Church Council will eventually bake the Bread of Life that will be APUMC.

See you in Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl

WESLEY'S "CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING" = SMALL GROUPS

One of John Wesley's Means of Grace is "Christian Conferencing." It is essentially sharing your faith with others and a small, spiritually based group is a great way to do it. APUMC will be offering small groups beginning the week of September 11. Let us know of your interest and we will help you create a group at the time and place that works best for you. Call the church (325-4541) to sign up.

The first 7 week theme will be CHANGE THE WORLD: Recovering the Message & Mission of Jesus by Mike Slaughter (Suggested. Donation: \$18)

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY TRAINING: On Sunday, September 18, Spokane Valley UMC will be hosting a **Small Group Ministry** meeting. The times are 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.

The presenter will be Dr. Brad Kalajainen, lead pastor of Cornerstone UMC in Grand Rapids, MI.

We'll learn the vision and practical steps for a life-changing small group system in the local church. Plan to be motivated to care for each other, reach out to non-church friends, get involved in mission and grow deeper in your spiritual life.

The church will pay for the group registration....please contact Pastor Carl to show your interest or for any questions you might have.

OUR SYMPATHY is with the family and friends of Betty Evans, who passed away on August 1st. Her memorial service was held on August 5th.

WORDS OF THANKS

I want to thank you for your many kind thoughts, cards, calls, and prayers to encourage me during my surgery and recovery time in Seattle. I am feeling much better and am so glad to be home. Prayers Work! I am forever grateful.

God Bless You All,

-Mary Anne Kem

Thank you for letting us go to Twinlow Camp. It was the time of my life.

-Rollin Garnier

I thank you sooooo much for being able to pay our camp and I have to admit, it was the most fun I had in years and I would love to do it again next year! Once again, thank you!!

-Maylin Garnier

Camping has always played a big part of my life when I was growing up in Illinois. I became what I call a “camperholic”! Some years I attended 2-3 Christian camps! A driver from our Christian Church would take us to camp in the back of a large enclosed truck, some 75 miles away! We would attend the same week each year so we could be with friends we had met the previous years. We were divided into groups and competed against each other in Bible Studies, how to live a Christian life, and in recreations. Each night we gathered around the campfire and in prayer circles. I have many fond memories of this time in my life. Church camp was the beginning of my faith and life in Jesus, it is where I dedicated my life to Christ.

My hope and prayers are that the youth of Audubon Park UMC can attend church camp as a part of their Christian faith and living.

In Christ,
Norma Kathleen (Kathy) Sloan Cottrell

2011 CONCERTS IN THE PARK:

Again this year, Audubon City Park will be the venue for several outdoor concerts:

August 25 Spokane Youth Symphony

All concerts start at 6 p.m....bring your own lawn chair and come early to enjoy the concerts!

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT – KIDS SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For the last few years we have collected school supplies to benefit the children at Audubon, Browne and Finch Elementary Schools in our community. The schools and the children have been very grateful for our generous help. We are going to help again this year and will begin collecting supplies on Sunday, August 7. Collection boxes will be available through Sunday, August 21. The boxes will be located in the parlor and the following items are what we would like you to bring:

Crayons – box of 24	Pencil boxes
Colored felt tip markers	Glue sticks
Yellow # 2 pencils	Spiral notebooks
	(wide rule, 70 sheet)

Kid’s safety scissors (non-pointed)

Kleenex tissues in boxes

Let’s all pitch in this month to stock the boxes in the parlor and be ready to deliver the supplies to the schools about the same time that school starts in September. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

(Your Risk-Taking Missions Team)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS
ADULT and YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP CLASS:

Plan to join the study of "Lives of Great Christians" each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. We will be learning of various people such as The Early Martyrs; St. Antony, the First Monk; Augustine; St. Patrick and the Conversion of Ireland; Francis of Assisi and many more! Each week "stand alone" so you can join in anytime. We'll meet in the parlor throughout the summer.

MOMMY AND ME GROUP

Monday, August 22nd at 2:30 p.m.

If the weather is good we'll meet at Audubon City Park, if not we'll meet at the church; Come and enjoy a time with other Moms and kids!

Contact Nicolle at the church office 325-4541.

COMING THIS FALL:

Saturday, October 1, 2011, there will be an auction at Audubon Park United Methodist Church. The purpose of this auction is to raise money to meet our goal of this year's budget for apportionments. We are soliciting donations of items from members of our congregation for items to auction. Here is a short list of possible items to donate: any craft item (wood, needle, photography, painting, etc.), use of vacation homes, guided trips, services (dinner preparation, house or yard cleaning) antiques; just use your imagination. There will be advertising in local publications to increase attendance to this auction.

An ad hoc committee has been formed with Olga Trunce as the chairperson. Please contact Olga at 327-1077 or the church office for any item donations or any questions.

FOOD BANK COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Beginning **Tuesday, August 30**, we will be hosting coffee hour for our food bank clients. Interested in finding out more about this? Please contact Lou Dobberstein.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

The August Executive Meeting of the UMW will be Monday, August 29th. At 5:30 p.m., before the 6:30 p.m. meeting, Marion Anderson will be supplying a light dinner for the Board. Please call Marion if you won't be able to attend the dinner.

BAZAAR WORKSHOPS HAVE BEGUN!

Now is the time to concentrate on the Fall Bazaar as it is scheduled for November 5.

Workshops are set for every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Bazaar Work Room in the church basement.

This is a time of good fellowship so consider joining us! Bring any new ideas you may have and projects you may have been working on at home.

NEW INFO:

Marilyn Procter has a new phone number, please call the church office.

Helen Bell has moved.....her new address and phone are available from the church office at 325-4541.

Dear Audubon Park Family:

When I spoke to you this past Sunday morning regarding the *Strength for the Journey Retreat*, I challenged you to search your hearts and open your pockets to give to this most worthy event. Your generosity and caring for others gave us **\$520.00** to give to the Retreat. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for such a wonderful gift.

God bless you all-

Ann Fritz

The volunteers all give of their time freely to help make this a safe and welcoming place to simply be oneself. I'm inviting you to participate through a number of ways: money for scholarships, home-made snacks (or even store bought), and notes to participants: simply addressed to "Friend" with encouraging words and reminders that you are keeping them in your prayers and wishing them a wonderful week. These can be sent to Manito UMC, PO Box 8656, Spokane, WA 99203 or delivered to Manito UMC at 33rd Avenue and Grand Blvd. by August 23rd.

For more information please contact Flora Bowers, who serves as Chaplain for the retreat this year, 443-1768.



"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do."

-Leonardo da Vinci

I SAW YOU LAST WEEK AS YOU WERE WALKING INTO THE CHURCH, . . .

...you were looking around at the church grounds. You noticed weeds. You stated "Wow! Those weeds need to be pulled."

Next time you need to run an errand to church or have an hour on a nice evening....

Bring your gloves....**pull weeds**. Bring your broom.... **sweep along the curbs**.

All will appreciate it!

Fourth Annual Covenant UMC Sister-Church Fund Raising Golf Tournament

When: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Where: Deer Park Golf Course

Time: Tee times begin at 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Entry fee is \$65 per person, checks payable to Covenant UMC

Everyone is welcome! This tournament is a mixed four person scramble format, so all skill levels are welcome and encouraged to participate and have fun!

Net proceeds benefit Covenant's Sister church scholarship program for children to attend school in El Salvador. The Sister Church Committee will be hosting a social gathering and BBQ in Covenant's multi-purpose room beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Dave & Robin Hayward, 443-0631

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

ENTRYWAY SWEEPERS:

August 21 Tony Ross

August 28 Chris Nickell

LAMPLIGHTERS:

August 21 Candy Shipley and Dorinda Young

August 28 Roger Bertsch

PRAYER ROOM:

August 21 Pat Dobberstein

August 28 Stan Banks

USHERS:

August 21 Jean Judah

August 28 Don and Marlene Peters

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

August 21 Mel Gantney
August 28 Steve Whitford

GREETERS:

August 21 Les and Margie Harder
August 28 Dorothy Rowe and Charlene
Severns

COFFEE HOSTS:

August 21 Andrew Forsyth and Pamela Ridgway
August 28 Tom and Debra Kraus

COMMUNION SERVERS:

August 21 Les and Margie Harder
August 28 Tom and Debra Kraus

Saturday, August 20

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, August 21

9:00 a.m. Discipleship Hour (adult)
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, August 22

2:30 p.m. Mommy & Me Group
7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 23

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

Wednesday, August 24

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

Thursday, August 25

10:30 a.m. Bazaar Workshop

Friday, August 26

6:30 p.m. Young Adults

Sunday, August 28

9:00 a.m. Discipleship Hour (adult)

10:30 a.m. Worship

3:00 p.m. Inland District Annual Picnic: Moran UMC

Monday, August 29

5:30 p.m. UMW Exec. Board Lite Supper

6:30 p.m. UMW Exec. Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 30

9:00 a.m. Downtown Food Bank

9:30 a.m. Audubon Park Food Bank

9:30 a.m. Quilters

Wednesday, August 31

10:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous

10:00 a.m. Needlework Group

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice