

The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church
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October 2018

From the Pastor

Last month I wrote articles focusing inward about our church. In this issue I am sharing the words of our District Superintendent and folks from the Lewis Leadership Center that focus us outward. Both these articles raise excellent questions for us to ponder together. And, while it is the pastor's and Church Council's responsibility to set the vision for the future, it is each and every one of you who must bring your energy and creativity to that vision if we are to transform ourselves and our community as we make disciples of Jesus Christ. Please spend some time reading and responding to the ideas you find in these articles. Then, come talk to me or drop me an email or a note about your response to the ideas in these articles.

Organizing a Missional COMMUNITY

By Hal Knight and Doug Powe

At the Church Council meeting last week, someone asked me what it means to be a missional church. Here's how the Lewis Center for Leadership at the Wesley Theological Seminary define it.

Whether starting a new church or renewing an existing congregation, leaders must be able to organize communities so that their members are growing in spiritual depth while also focusing outward. The acronym COMMUNITY highlights some of the characteristics of transformative Christian community. Congregations can successfully organize their communities around these characteristics — not simply for the purpose of adding people to the roll — but for greater discipleship.

Connect

We cannot grow in love if we are not acting in love to others both in and outside the community. The tendency for too many congregations today is connecting with one another and then choosing either connecting with God or with those in the broader community. This is not usually a conscious choice. But to focus on spiritual growth while not reaching out to the broader community compromises that growth.

Open

One of the precursors to growth is an openness to others. There is something reassuring about seeing the same familiar faces week after week that provides stability in life. But when the stability of a community comes from their common purpose, it does not matter if people come or go because everyone is committed to the practice of loving God and neighbor. Clarity of purpose allows a community to be open and yet cohesive.

Mercy

The mercy we receive from God helps to shape our lives toward deeper piety, and the mercy we extend to others helps them experience God's grace. The transformation of community is not possible without God's mercy and the sharing of God's mercy. A community shaped by mercy is a community where lives are changed because acceptance of all is more important than the victory of a few.

Mutuality

It is common to assume that those with economic means have something to give to those disenfranchised, while the disenfranchised do not have anything to give. In a transformational community, however, it is understood that all have something to contribute. While giving includes meeting economic needs, it encompasses so much more. The ability to really experience this sort of give-and-take requires a different mindset in the way we interact with one another. Mutuality should be at the heart of what it means to be in community.

Unconventional

Unconventional practices, such as John Wesley's field preaching, can help us reach more people. But we should not think some magic thing exists that will solve all of our problems. We need to be creative in ways that fit our context, which requires that we truly understand our surrounding environment. A missional approach calls for us to be unconventional in connecting with others, but doing so as a means of furthering the work of community.

Narrative

Transforming communities keep the Biblical narrative at the forefront of the community. The Biblical narrative, not the pastor or leader, is the source of community life. We all have access to the narrative and through it are able to invite and sustain others in the community. The narrative shapes us toward a deeper love of God and neighbor. It provides a common language for inviting people into the community and sustaining them in faith. Simply put, transformative communities share a common narrative.

Invitational

The word "invite" in a Christian culture is not as straight forward as it seems. Typically when we extend an invitation, we give individuals information pertaining to some event, and once we do, our job is finished. Christian invitation goes beyond the simple sharing of information. Christians are extending an invitation to others to come to something, but the something is not a one-time event. It is a transformed life lived in a particular community for the rest of one's days. This is the same invitation that Jesus extended to the disciples — to experience God's transformation lived out in community.

Trustworthy

One of the challenges any community faces today is trust. Today, people are more wary of individuals who say they are interested in their souls, but really are not genuinely concerned about their well-being. We have to find ways to reach out to others that come across as authentic and not inauthentic. Being trustworthy will help a community to invite and sustain others on the journey.

Yearning

The word yearning is another way to describe our ultimate hope. The question is, "What is our yearning today?" Is it to be transformed into the likeness of Christ? Or is it to simply survive? A missional approach focuses on yearning for transformed hearts that enable us to daily love God and neighbor. It does not settle for anything less.

Notes from the Road

Now that I am well into my second year as your District Superintendent, I thought I would share some notes from my travels around our vast and diverse district. These are things I am noticing, the gifts and challenges we face, and the reality we are dealing with as we try to transform lives and the world.

- **We are many different regions** within our district. This may seem like a no-brainer, but it has become quite clear to me that we cannot really speak of a district-wide strategy except in the most general and basic ways. The needs and realities of the north coast vary widely from those of the high desert. The economic situation in Fossil diverges greatly from that of Hillsboro. The urban realities of Salem-Keizer aren't the suburban realities of Tigard-Tualatin-Sherwood.
- Because of this first observation I see that **we need to focus closer to home and find the strategy for a more localized area.** We need to identify a common bond or link and then work to leverage that bond into a galvanizing sense of mission for that more localized area. This is why colloquies are shifting this year, so that we can have the discussion about a common mission focus in a more localized area.
- **The district is beautiful, and frightening.** We have some of the most spectacular scenery, natural wonders, and awesome examples of the Creator's skill within the confines of our district. The scary thing is that – as the wildfires this summer showed – we are highly vulnerable to the shifts in climate, to the human impact upon the land and to the uncontrollable consequences of our choices and actions. Add to this the potential of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, lightning strikes, etc. and you can see how frightening life in our district can be.
- In every corner, village, suburb, town, crossroad and city **we are a voice for those who are voiceless, help for those others label as helpless.** We are the ones who speak out for justice and work for peace. We are the people who bring a reasonable expectation of civility and neighborliness to life. *In some places we are the only voices that speak in this way.*
- We are really good at charity work but seem less agile when it comes to empowering others, advocating for others and walking along side others. **We do for folks a lot better than we walk with folks.** In places here and there and on certain issues we do better, but overall we seem to have let our ability to move beyond charity atrophy.
- **We will not be able to sustain ourselves financially if we don't figure out ways to support ministry that move beyond the pledge and traditional fundraiser.** Both will continue to be vital for spiritual growth and funding our ministries, but we are already seeing that what was will not continue to be enough. Maybe it is time to look to our past to find our future – cottage industries, specialty products, allowing for the creative use of our spaces and assets, etc.
- **But this the most significant thing** I have discovered about our district: *we are an amazing group of faithful partners of God and Christ.* We are seeking for ways to be church now. We are beginning to understand that church isn't a building or a particular time on Sunday morning. Church is a living organism that evolves and changes to have life and have it abundantly. You are good and faithful servants and you are doing things

that make God's grace and love real. You are showing the world around you that faith matters, that religion has a place and that discipleship means something.

The Bishop is calling this a Cross Over year for the church. It is a time when we are crossing over from one reality to another. I firmly believe that we in the Cascadia District are already on that road. We are moving, we are marching in the light of God. We are seeking new ways to be the people of God in our places and spaces and relationships. I hope and pray that as we move into this unknown place we will continue to be all that God dreams us to be.

As a wise Christian once prayed, **“For all that has been, thanks! For all that will be, Yes!”** (Dag Hammarskjöld).

Peace,

Tim Overton-Harris

Cascadia District Superintendent



Hotdog and Marshmallow Roast

This fall will be the first and maybe last UMM hotdog and marshmallow roast. On October 7th, after church the Capps' will light their huge bonfire. Everyone is invited to join us to roast hotdogs and burn a few marshmallows. We'll starting around 4 pm. You can come early and stay late. This will be a loosely organized event. Hotdogs, buns, marshmallows, and condiments will be provided. A few members and Janine will

provide music and song. Bring an instrument if you play and picnic type food to share. If burning is prohibited or the weather is too bad, we'll try again on October 14. More information and directions to the Capps' place are coming.

Our October book is "A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa" by Alexis Okeowo. This book is a vivid narrative of Africans who are courageously resisting their continent's wave of fundamentalism. New Yorker staff writer, Alexis Okeowo, weaves together four narratives that form a powerful tapestry of modern Africa: a young couple, kidnap victims of Joseph Kony's LRA; a Mauritanian waging a lonely campaign against modern-day slavery; a women's basketball team flourishing amid war-torn Somalia; and a vigilante who takes up arms against the extremist group Boko Haram. This debut book by one of America's most ac-



claimed young journalists illuminates the inner lives of ordinary people doing the extraordinary--lives that are too often hidden, under-reported, or ignored by the rest of the world.

Our next book is "Wolf Winter" by Cecilia Ekbäck. Swedish Lapland, 1717. Maija, her husband Paavo and her daughters Frederika and Dorotea arrive from their native Finland, hoping to forget the traumas of their past and put down new roots in this harsh but beautiful land. Above them looms Blackåsen, a mountain whose foreboding presence looms over the valley and whose dark history seems to haunt the lives of those who live in its shadow.

While herding the family's goats on the mountain, their daughter Frederika happens upon the mutilated body of one of their neighbors, Eriksson. The death is dismissed as a wolf attack, but Maija feels certain that the wounds could only have been inflicted by another man. She is compelled to investigate despite her neighbors' strange disinterest in the death and the fate of Eriksson's widow.

We will meet to discuss "A Moonless, Starless Sky" on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 3 pm in the home of Shirley Hardee, Carol Robinson hosting. Please bring a small snack to share. Everyone is welcome to join us for this discussion or several. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Shirley Hardee or Irene Marchbanks.

Assistant Child Care Attendants For October

- 7 Michelle Miller
- 14 Deanna Palmer
- 21 TBA
- 28 Carol North



Giving is essential to Christian stewardship, but it needs to be out of a sense of love and devotion rather than duty. It needs to be voluntary and from the heart. The following verses from the New Testament teach us that giving should be done regularly, willingly, proportionately and cheerfully:

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” (1 Corinthians 16:2)

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

During our upcoming annual financial campaign you will be asked to prayerfully consider your 2019 pledge. As you look to God and within your heart as to what it will be, I encourage you to also calculate it as a percentage of your income to help you determine whether it is in proportion to your means.

Bill Smith

Finance Chair

Remember to include Stayton United Methodist Church in your will!

Bazaar 2018-Nov. 2nd, 9:00AM-7:00PM, Nov. 3rd, 9:00AM-2:00PM
Lunch both days, 11:00AM-2:00PM. Dinner, Friday evening 4:00-7:00PM.
Then a BONUS day Nov. 10th, 9:00AM-2:00PM, with lunch, 11:00AM-2:00PM.

It's almost here!! Are YOU ready? Yes, you! Sign up sheets are up, please check them out.

The crafters, canners, jam makers, etc. have been at it for months. Many of us started the week after last year's successful bazaar, to collect ideas and materials for this year. "So," you ask, "what does it have to do with me?" Now we need you to help. **WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Help set-up, tear down, serve meals, bake for the lunch or dinner (we need pies to cut and serve at lunch as well as whole pies to sell), meet and greet the guests who come to our building, just to name a few of the things available to do. Hopefully, one of these fits you. If not, we also need cookies, cakes, bread, rolls, candy, whole pies, jams, canned specialties to sell and ingredients for the spaghetti dinner and lunches. Because of food service restrictions, things to sell must be in sealed packaging. Appropriate containers, are available.

On Sunday, Oct. 28th, we will need help with the setting up of the tables in the Fellowship Hall, after Coffee Hour. We will be working Monday through Thursday, that week, preparing for the event, please sign up for work times and/or for food items to donate. There are lots of areas where you can help. You may be contacted to do a specific job, so please be thinking where you will fit best. For additional information feel free to contact Diane McDermott or Myrna Headrick.

Last, but not least, we need for you to come and encourage friends to join you for meals and shopping. They'll thank you.

We have postcards available if you'd like to send some.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

Ladies, crafters have been busy making items for the bazaar. In October the crafters will continue meeting every Wednesday as the bazaar is rapidly approaching—November 2, 3 and 10. There are many projects and ideas that need helping hands to finish. Come and work and fellowship.

On October 17, **the third Wednesday of the month** ladies' luncheon will be at Ixtapa in Stayton. Carpool from the church at 12:15 or meet at the restaurant at 12:30.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

by Don Robinson

The Council's September meeting was held on the 17th in the conference room. Nine persons were present.

As we continued with our reading of Bishop Schnase's Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, a lively discussion ensued around the following questions related to extravagant generosity: (1) What do you think about the idea of putting the church at the very first of your budget – giving off the top rather than out of what's left over after everything else? (2) Is Bishop Schnase correct in asserting that the Christian's need to give is greater than the need of the church to receive (in other words that giving is a spiritual as well as a financial matter)? (3) Is the tithe (10%) an appropriate goal for giving?

The second focus of the meeting was on questions related to strategic planning for the church. Consensus was reached on several points: (1) At this time, we need to continue the present level of funding for staff, including a fulltime rather than part-time pastor. (2) The church's strength is in ministry to an older demographic – that is, 'empty-nesters,' retired folks, and such, and it should be pursued further, possibly using some of the church's bequests to do so. (3) Even though we are having difficulty filling volunteer slots on committees and teams, substantial reorganization of the administrative structure does not seem to be a solution.

Recruitment of Sunday School teachers has not been going well.

Angel Miller presented data showing a steady decline in Worship attendance since 2013. Greg Johansen and John Mohny are going to spend some time supplementing Pastor Janine's monitoring and reaching out to folks who have ceased attending.

Jerry Capps is planning to host an all-church wiener roast at his and Valerie's home in October.

I informed the Council that I will be out-of-state most of October and part of November doing political work. Vice-chair Bill Smith will preside at October's meeting of the Council.

Movie and Discussion October 14

Many people of the church showed interest in having a movie and discussion once per month. Greg Johansen and Mary Kruger are currently on this committee, but encourage others to join us. Our next movie will be at the Kruger's house on Sunday, October 14 at 3:00 PM. Amazing Grace is the movie. This is the story of Wilber Wilberforce and his heroic 20-year campaign to end slavery. Please call Mary (503-779-7029) to reserve your spot; only 10 people at this venue, but we would appreciate volunteers who may like to host a movie in a future month in their larger living room. We also encourage suggestions for future movies.



Assistants Needed

We have had so many changes in the last two years that I find myself in desperate need of more assistants for Sunday mornings. We have lost some of our long term members, but we have also gained many new members. I want to reach out to all of you, especially our new members to give you an opportunity to connect to the church. If you are willing to help serve Communion or be a Liturgist, please

give me a call in the office, 503-769-5700. The more volunteers we have the less often each person has to serve.

In Christ,
Angel

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	2 9:30 AM Kitchen Team 3:30 PM Prayer Team 5:00 PM Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters 5:00-6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	4	5	6
7 World Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Hotdog & Marshmallow Roast @ Capps' House 6:00-8:00 PM Game Night	8 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	9 3:30 PM Prayer Team 5:00 PM Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Bible Study 3:00 PM Movie Night @ Kruger's House	15 6:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	16 7:30 AM United Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Covered Bridge Café 3:30 PM Prayer Team 5:00 PM Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters 12:30 PM Ladies' Luncheon @ Ixtapa 7:00 PM Trustees	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:00-8:00 PM Game Night	22 1:30-3:00 PM Colloquy in Conference Room 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	23 1:00 PM Evangel Deadline 3:30 PM Prayer Team 5:00 PM Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Bazaar Setup 3:00 PM Book Group @ Shirley Hardee's House 3:00 PM Church Charge Conference in Salem	29 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	30 3:30 PM Prayer Team 5:00 PM Choir Practice	31 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters			

October Birthdays

Robin Strand
Roma Stewart
Bev Tedrow
Julie Wallace
Myrna Headrick
Mae Belle Goin
Dave Valencia
Shannon Sheppard
Lauren Kuenzi
Sheldon Strand
Cheyenne Smith
Janet McAlister
Sara Sheppard
Pat Swehosky

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Coffee Hour:

Group A-F has the first Sunday of the month.
Group G-J has the second Sunday of the month.
Group K-P has the third Sunday of the month.
Group R-W has the fourth Sunday of the month.

Since we are just doing the simplified Coffee Hour we will continue to use the alphabetical system as is. Please provide just finger foods, items that can be carried on a napkin or small paper plate and require no silverware. Each Group is responsible for bringing juice.

Ushers:

Team 1 (Odd Months)
Chuck & Erma Henry (First Sunday)
Jim & Mary Kruger (Second Sunday)
Gil & Roma Stewart (Third Sunday)
Ralph & Cheryl Jachens (Fourth Sunday)
Team 2 (Even Months)
Niki Loewen & Ben Beltran (First Sunday)
(Second Sunday)
Margaret Ables & Mike Palinkas (Third Sunday)
Pat & Zeke Coleman (Fourth Sunday)

Fifth Sunday: Durelle Hudson & Jane Kuenzi

LOVE Team & Nursery

October 7

LOVE Team: Irene, Shirley, Christine
Nursery: Michelle Miller

October 14

LOVE Team: Durelle, Valerie, Charlotte
Nursery: Deanna Palmer

October 21

LOVE Team: Janet, Betty
Nursery: TBA

October 28

LOVE Team: Erma & Chuck, Mae Belle
Nursery: Carol North

October Anniversaries

Chuck Henry & Erma Hough 9

Mission Statement: As a spiritual community, our mission is to grow in our *Love of God, Relationships with Others, and Service to the Community*

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The Evangel

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Editor: Angel Miller

Support Staff: Kyle Rumley

Proofreading: Mary Ferguson

Thank you to all our contributors.

Become one!

The people of the Stayton United Methodist Church

welcome you!

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

Office Hours
Monday through Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pastor's Day Off: Friday
Sunday Schedule
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour following the Worship Service

