



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

July Events

July 4



Independence
Day

June 24-July 7
Mary's Place at
MIUMC

Passing It On

July 2014

From Pastor John



The 2014 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference in Puyallup was a very meaningful time: a time that allowed everyone to refocus on the future. There was an ordination service, a memorial service, retiree celebration, the time of announcement of appointments, time for decision-making on social issues, and fellowship with colleagues. Thanks to Bill Blakney, our MIUMC delegate, for his full participation and his well-prepared report you'll find elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to Rev. David Hullin who preached on June 22 during my absence. Thank you and appreciation to all the people who support Mary's Place and to the teachers and facilitators who led our Sunday School and small groups this year.

As we approach the middle of summer, it's like half-time in sports. Many people are on vacation, traveling, or hiking, fishing, etc. Talking about hiking and mountain climbing, there is a story I want to share with you. In 1940 a young mountain climber named Edmund Hillary hiked up to the highest mountain in the world, Mt. Everest, but failed to reach the summit. When he descended from the mountain, he spoke to the reporters and gave a very meaningful statement to the press. He said, "The mountain will never grow any higher, but I will grow stronger and with more skill, experience and better tools, I will come back someday and make sure to reach the summit." Some ten years later, on May 29, 1953 he was the first man with two other climbers to reach the summit of Mt. Everest successfully.

An earlier failure did not deter Hillary; failures in our life's journeys are common experiences. It is how we react to our failures that matter in our future life. How do we get up and try again and march forward to our goals? Failure must not crush one's heart so much that we give up and stop going forward toward the future.

It has been said, "Never let failure go to your heart, and never let success go to your head." When we are successful, we must be careful not to become complacent or need to boast, "I have made it!" This attitude can take away a dream of the future and what God wants for us. Whether we succeed or fail, we must never give up looking ahead.

God encourages all of us to move forward. When God led the people of Israel through the wilderness, He encouraged them to keep looking forward to the Promised Land, not back to Egypt, a place of the bondage we all know with its pride, selfishness, anger, envy, failures and hurts that limit us from being the person God wants us to be. Let us ask then, what is keeping us from moving forward in our spiritual journey?

I hope this summer will be a refreshing time for you. It is a great opportunity for reflecting as we grow to overcome our limitations. Just as Edmund Hillary conquered the mountain, I hope this summer you will have adventurous times that will challenge you and bless others along the way, enriching your life abundantly.

Rethink Church



Open Hearts

Our hearts are full of love for our local communities and our world. Our service reflects that love.



Open Minds

We all think in different ways.

But when we work together to serve others we share a common goal.



Open Doors

Our doors swing wide, not just to

let others in but so that we can all get out to serve our community.

MIUMC Leadership Administrative Council

Chairpersons

Bill Blakney and Chick Hodge

Pastor - John Chae

Secretary - Judith Hullin

Diana Blakney

Linda Hodge

Bill Parker

Sanny Bold

Dave Hullin

Jim Maners

Caleb Neames

Carla Neames

Sue Ogilvie

Newsletter Information

Passing It On is published the first working day of the month.

Submit items and ideas to miumc@hotmail.com.

Deadline for the August issue is July 25.

Spotlight on...



Pacific Northwest Annual Conference—2014

The theme of this year's Annual Conference was the metaphor of a three act play. In Act I, the conference remembered the covenant we share together, renewed and discovered new relationships, and remembered the saints who have gone on before. Act II focused on formation—the internal and external challenges facing the church. Finally, in Act III the church looks toward the future, acknowledging the transitions that inevitably come.



Bishops Hagiya & Leeland

This year there were 245 registered laity and 237 clergy in attendance. They came from as far as Okinawa, Lapwei and Vancouver and as near as walking distance to the conference site, the Showplex at the WA State Fair Events Center in Puyallup.

Bill Blakney, as lay delegate, and Pastor John were MIUMC's representatives to this year's conference. Bill's reporting on his time there reflects his appreciation of the opportunity to learn more about our Methodist denomination and the incredible people who carry out the work of the church. A variety of issues came before the conference including endorsement of Washington State initiative 594 (background check requirements for all gun sales); endorsement of Initiative 1329 regarding "corporate personhood"; and endorsement of legislation involving mental health practitioners who engage in sexual orientation change efforts. In summary, Bill says his experience was "a true blessing."



Ordination Service—2014

A highlight for **Pastor John** was the ordination of three pastors, a significant reminder of his own ordination in 1989. For him, as for everyone attending, the ordinations were inspiring and energizing. Pastor John, who was re-appointed at the conference as MIUMC's pastor, says he is thankful for the support of MIUMC members and looks forward to continued service together.

Behind the Scenes

He's the last person to look for thanks or recognition for the work he does around our church. Presenting **Jim Maners**, one of our members who prefers to avoid the limelight, yet knows his purpose and does what needs to be done, always cheerfully and reliably. It is Jim who comes early in the morning to be sure our rooms, including the kitchen are clean and well-stocked with supplies. It is Jim who pays attention and takes care of the little things we may take for granted. And always with good humor. Why does he do it? Because, as he says, "I have so much love for this church and this congregation. You just do the little things that need to be done."



Imagine No Malaria

Thanks to all those who gave generously to the *Imagine No Malaria* project, sponsored by the United Methodist Church. MIUMC's contribution totaled almost \$600.