



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Events Calendar

Aug. 8 — 22

Pastor John
on vacation

Preaching Aug. 10
David Hullin

Preaching Aug. 17
Beryl Ingram

September 7

Rally Sunday
Special guest speaker
Glenn Turner
Emergency Feeding
Program

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We Remember

*James Thomas
Ogilvie*

*July 5, 1937-
July 11, 2014*

*Memorial gifts on Jim's
behalf may be sent to
MJUMC
7070 SE 24th St.
Mercer Island,
WA 98040*

Passing It On

August 2014

From Pastor John



The great artist Michelangelo was once asked how he created his sculptures. He explained that he simply imagined the statue already inside the block of rough marble, then chipped away the excess to uncover what had always been there. The marvelous statue, already created and eternally present, was just waiting to be revealed.

His wisdom is valuable for us today: there is a great person already inside of you. Everyone carries seeds of greatness. Great people don't have something that everyone else does not;

they've simply removed all of the things that stand in the way of their best selves. Unfortunately, our inherent gifts are often hidden under the layers of masks and roles that we assume.

As I prepared the premarital counseling sessions for my daughter, Esther, and Mike, my future son-in-law, I realized how much our unconscious roles and expectations to be a good husband and wife are thrust upon us. We learned these roles in our family environment. Mother always did it this way; father did it that way. We just assumed these learned habits of what we think it is to become a good husband or wife, mother or father without deep reflection as to their truth.

We may try to play these roles as circumstances change but sometimes are hurt by the result. Without realizing the roles a bride and groom may have created from a blend of their personal dispositions, family backgrounds and marital expectations, they can be misled into unnecessary conflict. Reflecting on learned roles and determining whether they are authentic or not are often all it takes to resolve a difficult situation.

Examining the roles people assume in marriage is not only applicable to newly engaged couples but also to couples who are building a life together. Here is where Michelangelo's process of revealing a true work of art is valuable for us today. For example, it may be that as we developed our identity and defense mechanisms as a young boy or girl, we learned a role that we were only worthy while making others happy and discounting ourselves. That belief can persist into adulthood and rob us of being who we really are. Our task is to recognize the masks and roles that we have created to help us survive during our various life stages and chip away to find our true selves.

This month, I ask you to set aside some time to reflect on who you really are, what fulfills you, what your greatness is, and what areas you must chip away to reveal the unique and wonderful qualities that God has given you. You might find that previously your actions came out of fear--fear of not being good enough, fear of not going to heaven, fear of not being liked. You might mourn the loss of these roles but know that you are better off without them because you will be more genuinely you. You can celebrate who you are. The power of peace of mind will emanate from you, and those around you will experience your inner calm. You will be the genuine work of art that God intended. May you all find peace and enjoyment this summer.

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 September issue is August 26.

Focus on...MIUMC Men's Bible Study

For many years, the Men's Bible Study has been meeting regularly at MIUMC on Tuesday mornings to study the Word of God and to nurture relationships with each other by sharing practical matters in everyday life as well as spiritual joys and concerns. The foundation of this small group is the **Τέλειος** (Teleios) Ministry, originated in 1970 to help men reach maturity in Christ through building bonds of friendship with other men. This is the perfect setting for encouraging men to keep a sense of balance in their lives, positively impacting their relationship with Christ, their family, workplace and community as well establishing authenticity as Christian brothers.

Recently, the MIUMC Telios group was privileged to have as guest speaker, Dr. Gary Cohen, who was introduced by Doug Ruud, his long-time friend. Dr. Cohen shared his experiences as a US Army Reserve chaplain, as a scholar and professor of Hebrew and Greek, and as a child born into a Jewish family but later converted to Christianity as a teenager.

There was much laughter and connections made in the group as Dr. Cohen told humorous and instructive stories about military life. Pastor John was pleased to hear about Dr. Cohen's contribution as a scholar associated with a Korean seminary and his remarks about the respect for the elderly that exists in the Korean culture. Dr. Cohen also spent time explaining Hebrew and Greek words, pointing out how different writers of Scripture chose the particular words to express a specific point.

Following the presentation, the group expressed its gratitude for the opportunity to meet and learn from Dr. Cohen—indeed a memorable morning well spent.

Behind the Scenes

In June, Pastor John preached a sermon titled, "I Rejoice in the Lord," based on Philippians 4:10-13. The theme of the sermon was joy and contentment no matter what the situation. As Paul says: *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances...I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

For Darolyn Quayle, these words struck a resounding chord. Darolyn, long-time MIUMC member, has learned first-hand that contentment must be learned and practiced. As a caregiver for her husband, Will, who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease, a debilitating condition with many symptoms, Darolyn has to face choices every day about how she will interact lovingly with her husband despite his situation. She says that she has come to understand that contentment does not come to a person naturally but that, as Paul says, contentment must be learned.

Caring for a loved one is challenging, but anchored to God in an intimate relationship each day, Darolyn knows that she can choose what her attitude will be. And she is quick to say that it is the support of her friends as well as her Alzheimer's support group who keep her centered in creating a new perspective on the existing situation. That's where we all have the opportunity to minister to one another. That is, when someone invites us into their life, we can be present, listen and pray.



Darolyn also points out a meaningful image from another sermon this summer: the golf ball. Just like life, the golf ball isn't smooth; it's dimpled and patchy on the outside, and it is those rough spots that make it go farther. Acknowledging the bumpy spots in life and maintaining a positive attitude are what keeps Darolyn joyful and contented. May we all find such peace and contentment.