



MERCER ISLAND  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## Events at MIUMC

**December  
3, 10, 17**

**Advent Bible Study  
6:30pm**

### **Facilitators**

**3—Linda Hodge**

**10—Diana Blakney**

**17—Carla Neames**

### **December 13**

**Concert  
Family  
Counseling  
Center  
5:30pm**

### **December 24**

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
5:30pm**



# Passing It On

December 2014

## From Pastor John



Time has been flying by and we are now in the last month of 2014. We have Advent season and Christmas this month. Advent is the beginning of a new year on the church calendar and a time of waiting. The season of Advent invites us to follow the example of Mary who waited lovingly for the event God promised to happen. So in this season of Advent, we are challenged and encouraged to open our hearts and spirits to God's movement. We don't know what God has in store, but with humble hearts we wait for God's wonders.

Advent is as a time of waiting. What are we waiting for? Usually we are waiting for a wish to come true, but often wishes can be based on selfish desires. But God wants us to wish for hope. It is beyond our selfish desires. Hope is trusting that something will be fulfilled according to the promises of God, not just our own longings. So in this season of Advent may we let go of waiting for our selfish wishes, and in humility wait for God's hope by making room in our hearts to welcome God's promise; the coming Messiah.

Our 2014 Advent Bible study material is *Not a Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton. The author opens the first chapter by writing about the tragedy of a Wal-Mart employee on Long Island, New York several years ago. *Jdimytai Damour* who was part time seasonal worker for stocking the shelves in the morning at Wal-Mart. He was assigned to stand by the door at 4:55am. There are huge crowd stand outside and eager to get a great buy on a TV or a jacket or some other sale item. The door looked like it was going to open, then it closed again. The people were frustrated and agitated. They were cold and ready to go inside. They pressed into the glass, the glass shattered, and the frame landed on top of Jdimytai Damour. The people rushed in to get their bargains, like a herd of cattle. They saw Jdimytai lying there. Some stepped over him, and some stepped on him. Even knowing he was hurt, people went on with their shopping, buying Christmas presents, making sure they got what they had waited for. Before the morning was over Jdimytai Damour was pronounced dead.

Adam Hamilton challenges us to remember the hope and promise that comes from the child that was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. As we welcome the season of waiting, let us ready the path for the Lord in our hearts and celebrate the birth of our Savior. I invite all of you to participate with the Advent Bible study group that takes place on Wednesdays Dec 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30pm. On Dec 24 our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will take place at 5:30pm. Let us come together so that we may prepare our hearts and minds as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Immanuel God.

Peace and grace,  
Pastor John

## 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

Sanny Bold

Dave Hullin

Carla Neames

Jim Maners (at-large)

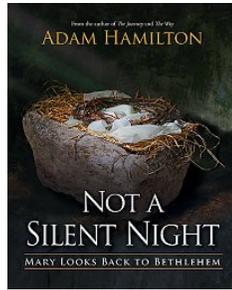
## Newsletter Information

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

Submit items and ideas to [miumc@hotmail.com](mailto:miumc@hotmail.com).

Deadline for January issue is December 26.

## **NOT A SILENT NIGHT: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem**



Beginning Wednesday evening, December 3, at 6:30pm, our Advent Bible study will look at the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view. The author, Adam Hamilton, begins at the end, with Mary at the Crucifixion and Resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses Jesus' life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ Child born in a stable. The study format is a short video followed by discussion.

All are welcome to come and experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

## **2014: A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR MIUMC**

2014 was a landmark year for MIUMC as we celebrated our 50-year anniversary. Over 100 members and friends gathered on January 12 to share their appreciation of the values and love this church has shown over the years. Other highlights of the year included:

- Provided shelter for women and children of Mary's Place 3 times this year.
- Held two Pass It On meals on behalf of the Emergency Feeding Program and the Imagine No Malaria program.
- Revived the monthly newsletter, *Pass It On*, in February. The newsletter is sent electronically; printed copies are also available.
- Gave our website ([www.miumc.org](http://www.miumc.org)) a facelift. The website has attracted several visitors to our Sunday service.
- In January, hired a part-time church secretary to provide administrative support for the pastor and congregation.
- In April we received two new members—Paul and Carrie Kuan.
- In September began using a simultaneous translation system for our Korean friends.
- In November, entered into an agreement to share our sanctuary and rooms with the First Church, Christ Scientist of Mercer Island.

## **Stewardship Report**

Many thanks to those who returned their 2015 pledge cards during our November stewardship campaign. To date, 18 pledge cards have been submitted. Your financial commitment to support the work of MIUMC is greatly appreciated. If you have not presented your pledge card, please do so by the end of 2014 so that our budget preparation can continue. We look forward to your generous giving in the new year.



### ***J.N. MEMORIAM—2014***

Jim Ogilvie—July 5, 1937—July 11, 2014

Skip Melberg—September 14, 1934—August 3, 2014

Bob Williams—died September 5, 2014

Bill Parker—March 23, 1930—October 29, 2014