



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Events This Month

January 6
Epiphany



January 19



MLK, Jr. Day

Passing It On

January 2015

From Pastor John

Tiffany Field, the author of *Touch*, tells this story about anthropologist Margaret Mead who traveled the globe looking for tribes of people not influenced by the modern world. In New Guinea she found two tribes who behaved in totally opposite ways even though they lived in the same country. One tribe was calm and loved peace. The other tribe was aggressive and often attacked others.



Mead wondered why these two tribes were so different. As she studied the tribes, she found that in one tribe, when a baby was born, the mother and newborn interacted constantly. A net was made to hold the baby in front of the mother, and there was considerable singing, eye contact, and holding. In the other tribe there was not much opportunity for eye contact, and the baby could not see the mother's face. Loving contact in that tribe was at a minimum. Mead's conclusion was that the difference in two tribes was based on how the children were raised—one with loving touch, the other with a minimum of physical or emotional contact.

Jesus used touch often. In the Gospels when we read about Jesus' daily life, we see that touching was a very precious and important part of His ministry. One especially remarkable event was when Jesus broke the rule and touched the leper, a person no one was ever supposed to touch. And in Matthew 8:15, we read that when Jesus touched Peter's mother-in-law her fever left.

Jesus touches all of our lives in the same way that he touched the lives of his twelve disciples. I hope that we can share his love and help people open their eyes to the Lord. Many people can be strengthened and reach a new dimension in their lives because of our loving touch whether it be kind words, a smile, or a gentle pat on the back. Let us continue to explore opportunities to reach out to others and in 2015 walk with each other, ready to touch others with God's love. May God bless you in this new year as we venture out together.

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.

Deadline for February issue is January 29

Women's Fellowship



"We've been meeting for YEARS," says Linda Hodge, long-time member of the Women's Fellowship. Why does this group meet so faithfully every Tuesday morning at 10am? "Support, encouragement, love, empathy, humor, wisdom—all freely given and received," Linda remarks. Judith Hullin echoes her sentiments: "We can speak freely with one another, and for me, our fellowship brings joy and love."

The meeting time includes many activities: Book discussion, Scripture reading and reflection on passages from *The Upper Room* and prayer in word and song.

In 2013, the group designated its mission—Mary's Place, a shelter for homeless women and children. Partnering with our church, in 2014, the group expanded its outreach and began providing food and overnight shelter for 14 women and children, for a total of five weeks interspersed throughout the year. In November, a diaper drive gathered over 900 diapers for Mary's Place residents. Now in 2015, (March 17-24) MIUMC will again host Mary's Place families. Volunteers are always welcome as are any women who want to join the Tuesday group. Call Judith Hullin (206-948-2882) for more information.

First Church, Christ, Scientist Now Meeting at MIUMC

The Christian Science (CS) church has been an historical presence on Mercer Island for more than 85 years. During its early years, the small congregation met at a local clubhouse. By 1929, the congregation had outgrown its space, and began plans to build "the little white church," now home to MIUMC. The first service was held Dec. 31, 1933. Twenty-eight years later the CS church built and moved to a site on mid-Mercer Island. That church property was sold this past November after being in residence there for more than 53 years.

Janet Showalter, present chairperson of the CS board tells the rest of the story: *It has been with a deep sense of gratitude and a warm feeling of friendship that the congregation of the Mercer Island Christian Science church has accepted the gracious hospitality of the Mercer Island United Methodist Church. Although other options were considered, the lovely church atmosphere and accompanying generous accommodations offered an arrangement that surpassed expectations. Today the Christian Science church is settled here with a renewed sense of coming home. We all feel so blessed to be here. And, as one member said, "What blesses one, blesses all!"*

As Pastor John comments, "We welcome the Christian Science church openly and wholeheartedly." The transition to a dual use of the MIUMC sanctuary and Fellowship Hall has gone smoothly, and today the "little white church" now serves the spiritual needs of two faith communities on the Island.

Financial News

Financial Secretary and chair of the Finance Committee, Sanny Bold, has good news to report: Despite an originally projected shortfall of \$14,000 in 2014, we are very likely to break even financially, thanks to the generosity of the congregation. Heading into 2015 we have a 7% increase in pledges, allowing us to start the year with a balanced budget. This has enabled us to give Pastor John an annual raise, which is long overdue.

Sanny states that filling the very large shoes of the previous finance chairperson, Bill Parker, is an honor and a challenge. She invites anyone who has questions or concerns as we move into 2015 to contact her.