



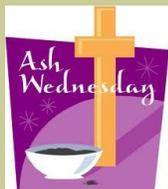
MERCER ISLAND  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## Events This Month

**Sat-February 14**  
**Valentine's Day**

**Mon-February 16**  
**President's Day**

**Wed-February 18**  
**Ash Wednesday  
Service: 7:30pm**



**February 25**  
**Wednesday  
Lenten Bible  
Study and  
Soup Supper  
6:30pm—8pm**

See more information on

Page 2

# Passing It On

February 2015

## From Pastor John



A new missionary traveling in Africa wondered why the Africans insisted that he carry a large heavy stone into a river in order to cross it. He soon discovered that without it, in the center of the river, the currents were so strong that they would have carried him away. Holding onto the heavy stone where the current was strongest, saved his life.

This real life example shows us that only carrying light loads cannot really create for us a happy or balanced life. Yes, light loads are always easy; pleasurable circumstances are what we want. But having only comfortable conditions—our culture's way of thinking—cannot bring us maturity. It is only when we experience and walk through sadness and distressing events that we grow and strengthen our faith in the One who suffered for us. As we approach the season of Lent, we need to think the opposite of what our culture has taught us and come to understand more fully that it is Jesus' suffering on the cross that is God's only way to save us.

The great spiritual leaders in the Scriptures had their share of suffering, heavy burdens, and desert experiences. Elijah, for example, in 1 Kings 19:4 says, "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors!'" Under the broom tree, Elijah restored his calling and re-entered the place of truth.

Even Jesus Himself despaired when he prayed, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." (Mark 14: 34) In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, "Take this cup from me, yet not what I will, but what is your will."

During this Lenten season we need to hear the voices from the wilderness and from our own deep inner heart. We need to search for what God's will is for each one of us. This season calls for us to convert every aspect of our life. It is the time to face the areas where we easily fall into the temptations of false attachments, the greed and self-centeredness of our own life's journey. It is the time to carry the stone that prevents us from being swept away in the strong current of worldly distractions and values.

Ash Wednesday, February 18, begins the Lenten 40-days spiritual journey. The following six Wednesdays, beginning February 26, we will hold a Bible study. Each meeting will begin with a soup and bread supper at 6:30pm followed by a small group study at 7pm. Our study book will be "The Way Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus," written by Adam Hamilton. Our Good Friday service will be at 7:00pm on April 3. As we celebrate Easter on April 5, let us rejoice in the Lord's resurrection.

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)

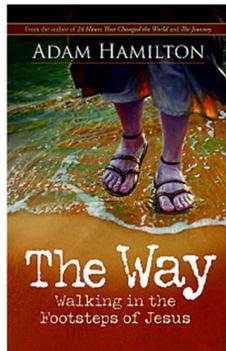
## Newsletter Information

*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 February issue is January 29

## Six Wednesdays in Lent



Once again this Lenten season we will hold our Wednesday Soup Supper and Lenten Bible study. The first session of this small group study is February 25, and five weeks following—March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. The time is 6:30pm for supper followed at 7pm by the Bible study led by members of the congregation.

This year our study book is Adam Hamilton's *The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. The author will retrace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, approaching

his subject matter with thoughtfulness and wisdom. Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of history, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought.

Join us each Wednesday as we focus on the life of Jesus, learning together and growing deeper in our faith.



Last year 149,000 meals were served and 40,000 bed nights provided at Mary's Place facilities. A special part of providing shelter is the Rotating Shelter program which MIUMC and 14 other faith communities in greater Seattle support. 2015 will be our second year providing one week overnight accommodations for families. Members of the Women's Fellowship provide the dinners and overnight supervision for our guests. We eagerly await our guests March 17-24 and encourage you to join in this valuable ministry. Contact Linda Hodge or Judith Hullin.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group plans to meet weekly on Sunday nights at 7pm to practice guitar and hand chimes. Adults who would like to learn how to play these instruments are invited to join in for this fun activity.

## Easter Singers

Can you make a short term commitment to sing in our choir? Come join us beginning on March 8 for four Sundays, 12:15—12:45, to prepare for our Easter anthem. Friends from the community are welcome.

## February Guest Preachers

While Pastor John is on vacation, February 2-16, we are fortunate to have two guest preachers. Rev. David Hullin, retired UMC minister, will preach on February 8, and Rev. Art Kopicky will speak to us on Feb. 15.

Rev. Kopicky joined the Teleios ministry in 1993 to help expand its growing work. Prior to joining Teleios, he worked full time in the Young Life Ministry for 16 years. He has his Masters of Divinity from Regent College in Vancouver, B.C.

