



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

October Events

October 8
7pm—Trustees

October 11
12:15pm
Potluck and
Charge
Conference

October 17
3pm
Sue Ogilvie
Memorial

October 25
12:30pm
Northwest
Firelight Chorale

October 31



Passing It On

October 2015

From Pastor John



Genesis 29:16; 35:1-2

One day, two sparrows accidentally entered a coffee shop. One seemed content with the people. He found leftover crumbs and was enjoying himself with the attention the people were giving him. The other sparrow, however, was very scared and tried to escape, flying into the windows continually. The people watching him became anxious and were very concerned. Finally, someone covered him with a sweater and took him outside so he could fly away. Everyone was relieved to see that. But still the other one was enjoying himself, hopping under the chairs and picking up crumbs. The people got a kick out of that. Then he flew away through the opened window. These are two very different attitudes that we can have when we deal with a difficult situation.

A specific situation can cause us to be anxious, or we can adapt well with excitement. An anxious mind cannot see beyond itself and loses its flexibility.

In Jacob's story in Genesis, Jacob was overwhelmed with anxiety as he ran away. But on his hard and difficult journey, he had the experience of an awakening moment as he slept for the night. He saw the gate of heaven and received the manifestation of God in his dream. As he got up from the unknown place, he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know." And he called the place "Bethel," the house of God.

As people of God, our continuous task is to proclaim the same statement that Jacob said, *Surely the Lord is in the place and I did not know*. In this place, maybe the valley of the shadow of death, the place of hopelessness, the place of broken hearts in people's lives, God is still with us. There are many unknown places in our heart too: isolated rooms because of loneliness, shame, and guilt, etc. Let us continue to cultivate our faith to face with vulnerability our uncertainty and pain.

Spirituality is recognition and celebration that we are all inexplicably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us. We all have a continuous ministerial task, to share the story when we experience the incomprehensible connection— *Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know*.

Let us walk together as we witness the faith that God is always with us in all places. Let us invite people to learn how to experience God by encouraging them to be flexible so they can see their various life situations as new opportunities and have adventurous lives. I hope all of you have good healthy lives physically, mentally, and spiritually in this time of season change.

Peace and love,
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
Jim Maners
Carla Neames

Newsletter Information

Passing It On is published the first working day of the month. Photos and items for the newsletter are always appreciated.

**Mercer Island United
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SENIOR ADULTS

Last month, a small group met at MIUMC to make plans for our new weekly Senior Adult group. The planners explored a number of activities for the weeks to come, starting with the first meeting on Thursday, October 1, beginning at 10am in Fellow-

ship Hall. The format on the 1st will be: light exercise; Bible or book study; lunch; and then out to a movie—*Pawn Sacrifice*—a film about the Bobby Fischer/Boris Spassky legendary confrontation.

On subsequent Thursdays the group will continue the exercise, study and lunch schedule with the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons devoted to hobbies, games or guests speaking on a variety of topics. Field trips will be planned for the 3rd Thursday.

The group is eager to provide seniors of this church, members and friends, as well as those in the community a portion of camaraderie and good fun each week. The program is flexible, depending on the interests of the group, and welcomes all suggestions. Transportation to and from MIUMC is available. Contact Dave Hullin, 206-979-2883.



Jim Maners, Bev Spiegelberg,
Judith Hullin, Helen Shewmaker,
Dave Hullin



**Northwest Firelight Chorale
Sacred Music Concert
at MIUMC
Sunday, October 25
12:30pm
Light lunch
after the 11am service**

ON MY RADAR

Driving to work from Issaquah to the church last week— a slog of a drive—it occurred to me that I could better occupy my time in this captive situation if I actually paid attention to what was going on around me. And what I discovered was that there are a lot of competitive and impatient people out there. Further, I realized I was one of them!

However, after more reflection, I saw that it really didn't matter if I got to Exit 7 before or after the blue Prius. What did matter was that I had a car to drive, the Olympics in the distance were stunning, Lake Washington beside me was dazzling, and I had the freedom to be headed where I wanted to be— a job I loved. And therein lies my point: so often in our hot pursuit to **get there** we forget it is the journey that counts. A journey that is over too soon. So may we not forget the little daily blessings bestowed on us each day and give thanks for God is surely good to us!

~Karin Grice

