



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

*Baptized on
Easter Sunday*
Cosmo Neames

Confirmed
Colton Lake
Cosmo Neames

*Received into
Membership*
Sandra Vergillo

Passing It On

April 2016

From Pastor John



Easter season begins on Easter Day and lasts 50 days, ending on Pentecost. During this time the risen Christ appeared to his disciples and said important words: *Who are you looking for? Don't be afraid. Peace be with you. Go into the world. Have you caught any fish? Wait for the gift. Do you love me more than these? Put your finger here—stop doubting and believe.* All these words are very meaningful to meditate on during the season.

I am so grateful to John for his words: (John 21:1-17). John is telling us the story of Jesus' encounter with his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius. I am grateful because it gives me hope. Can you imagine, the disciples spent the entire night fishing and they didn't catch anything! Their nets were empty, they were exhausted, discouraged, and their hearts were as empty as their nets.

Many people compare life to an empty net. That means to them that life is filled with nothing and there is emptiness in their hearts. The risen Christ said to the disciples, throw your net out of the right side of the boat. They did what he said, and it was filled with so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat. Their emptiness turned to joy when they realized God was with them and shouted, "It is the Lord!" That is our hope. The person who guides and leads us is the risen Lord from the grave. I hope that in this season of Easter, we all experience the Lord's presence. We all need his direction to find the place of abundant love and a chance for a fruitful life.

Another part of the story in John's Gospel takes place right after Jesus had breakfast with his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius. Jesus turned to Peter and asked three times, *Do you love me more than these?* What does *more than these* mean to us? Before Peter had encountered Christ for the first time, Galilee was the place and the world that Peter loved most. He had a job there as a fisherman and he depended on it. It was Peter's world. We all have our place where we feel life is most important. We all have our places like "Galilee" that we depend upon for our success, fame and popularity—the world that we pursue from Galilee without the risen Christ. Jesus asked a gentle question, and it was a very important moment between Peter and the risen Lord. *Do you love me more than these?*

During this Easter season, Christ invites us and asks us the same question in our dialogue with Him: *Do you love me more than these?* Do we truly love the Lord? I hope in this season of Easter we can also say to the Lord, *Yes, Lord, I love you more than these.*

Peace and blessing,

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.

Special Thanks

We give thanks to you all for your support and prayer in your participation during Lent and through Easter 2016: Lenten Bible study, Good Friday service, Easter breakfast, Easter service, baptism, confirmation, the reception of a new member, and the NW Firelight Chorale's joyful special music. It was a really wonderful time for us to celebrate the Risen Christ.

Easter Sunday Highlights

Baptism and Confirmation



Baptism of
Cosmo Kemuel Neames
with parents
Caleb Neames and Carla Corkern



Confirmation of
Colton Sawyer Lake and
Cosmo Kemuel Neames

Cosmo Neames states that he feels his baptism and confirmation allows him to be a bigger part of the church. He likes to see everyone in worship and church events and especially likes the intergenerational connections he has made. Through his cooking for Friends of Youth, Mary's Place and Peter's Place Cosmo now more fully understands the plight of the homeless. **Colton Lake** has shown dedication and commitment to MIUMC, and attended confirmation classes faithfully. He appreciates this church as a place for encouragement and support. We welcome both Cosmo and Colton into our church family.

Easter Egg Hunt



A downpour at 10:30am didn't deter the children from their egg hunt held indoors in Fellowship Hall's



Doers of the Word—Behind the Scenes at MIUMC



Wednesday Weeders Diana Blakney, Darolyn Quayle, Bev Spiegelberg, Linda Hodge, and Jean Strasburger take a break from their work in our garden on Wednesday morning. They look forward to the payoff from their labors when the roses, rhododendrons and all our plants are in full bloom later this spring. Anyone, green thumb or not, is welcome on Wednesday morning, weather permitting, to spend time working in our garden. You'll find gentle exercise, and a sense of accomplishment and well-being when you join our garden crew.



Dave Hullin, a most handy man, checks out a faulty light switch in the office. For over two years Dave has been the go-to guy for building maintenance challenges large and small. And for that we are most grateful.



Dave Hullin stands beside a new sign he has installed in our upper parking lot. While that spot may appear to be a good place to park, especially for someone in a hurry, in reality a car nudged into that end slot makes it nearly impossible to exit. Dave has solved that problem with a sign that he thinks will make our lot easier and safer to exit.



Pastor John has many talents, not the least of which is taming office equipment that occasionally doesn't want to perform. When that happens, witnesses report that Pastor only has to walk into the outer office, and, it seems, that by his mere presence the errant copier or computer wakes up and begins to function properly, and we all breathe a sigh of relief.