



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



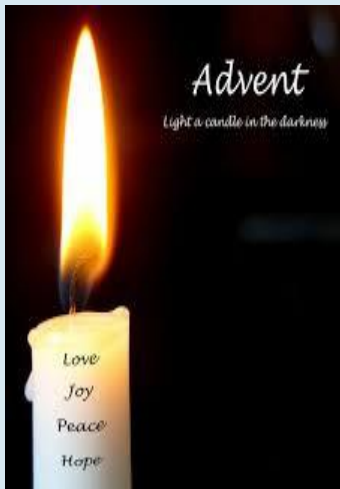
DECEMBER 2019



(At the Community Joint Thanksgiving Service)

“On that day the root will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will look to him for guidance, and his resting place will be glorious.”

<Isaiah 11:10>



From the Pastor...

“If your plan is for 1 year, plant rice; If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees; If your plan is for 100 years, educate children.” –by Confucius

In the 21st century, we the Church are demanded to do revolutionary works for the world. We need to attempt for new answers for the new questions for our human society. It

is not about keeping our own traditions, ego, and good old days in a sense of ‘Revival’ as we diminish and ignore the differences of who we are as children of God. We are from all different cultures, races, classes, genders and social status.

It is not about changing one form to the other to survive, maintain, or even grow in battling against one another for the sake of the institution. It is not from patriarchal to feministic or from hierarchical to democracy or from bureaucracy to grass-root movement. Rather, it is about the life; how to create a revolutionary answer for the authentic and sincere question of one’s life.; how to accept, how to forgive, how to love, how to be graceful, and how to be thankful for the life of each person God has created. So, how do we talk together, walk together, embrace together, work together, and live together, not for the fundamental belief or for the sake of the institution, but for the life God has given to us.

How many of you know how long it takes for a bamboo tree to make its first shoot from the ground? It takes 5 years! There are some trees that grow fast, but the most valuable trees are slow growing. Wouldn’t the church and her ministry be like a bamboo tree? Therefore, let us listen to Prophet Isaiah’s prophecy telling the churches in the 21st century, “On that day the root will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will look to him for guidance, and his resting place will be glorious.” <Isaiah 11:10>

I pray that Mercer Island United Methodist Church continues her ‘Waiting and Anticipation’ through this new season of Advent (mean ‘coming’) to be hopeful for the world, which is now polarized, divided, and full of hatred. And let us remember that we are called to the ‘Doers of the Word’ in this world God has created. I truly believe that we proclaim *the Good News in Action* where we will still find ‘Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope’ for this season of ‘His Coming’!

With Advent blessings,

Pastor John



WHAT IS COMING UP?

For a child has been
born for us,
a son given to
us;
authority rests upon
his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.

⁷ His authority shall
grow continually,
and there shall
be endless peace
for the throne of
David and his
kingdom.

He will establish
and uphold it
with justice and with
righteousness
from this time
onward and
forevermore.
The zeal of
the LORD of hosts will
do this.

<Isaiah 9: 6-7>

Pastor John's Sermon Series:

"FOUR CHRISTMAS STORIES IN THE GOSPELS"

December 1st Mark 1: 1 – 8
"Prepare the Way for the Lord!"

December 8th Matthew 1: 18 – 25
"The World As It is"

December 15th Luke 2: 1 – 20 "Songs of the Insignificant"

December 22nd "Christmas Pageant"

December 29th John 1: 1 – 10 "The Mirror of Christ's Light"



The Month of December

Dec 1 (Sunday) The first day in Advent

The Holy Communion Service

Dec 8 (Sunday) "Santa's Workshop (12:30-1:30p.m.)" and
"Christmas Party (1:30-3:30)" by Sons of Norway
in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

Dec 15 (Sunday) The due date for Christmas Gift Bags

Dec 15 (Sunday) After the service-3p.m. Open House

The Go Family invites you all to the parsonage.

Dec 21 (Saturday) 10:30a.m.-2:30p.m. Children's Christmas
Pageant Preparation (The Fellowship Hall)

Dec 24 (Tuesday) 7p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Dec 31 (Tuesday) 6p.m.-9p.m. New Year's Eve Gathering
(The Fellowship Hall)



Newsletter Information

Passing It On is
published the first
working day of the month.
Submit items and ideas to
miumc@hotmail.com

DOERS OF THE WORD

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.



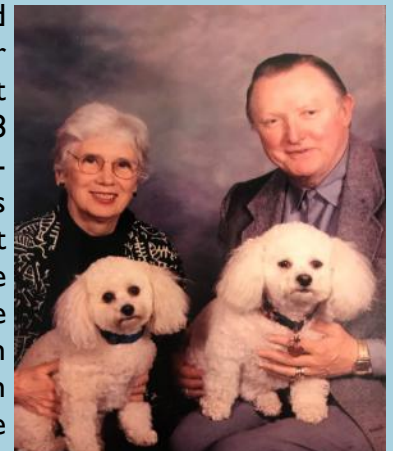
Beverly (Bev) Parker was born in Glendive, a small town so far east in Montana that it is almost in North Dakota. When she was still a small child, she moved with her parents to Helena, Montana. In Helena a neighborhood playmate invited her to attend Sunday school with her, and young Bev found that she loved it. It was the beginning of her Christian journey.

Bev attended high school in Helena, and it was there that she met fellow student, William (Bill) Parker. Bill did not have a date for a school dance, so his mother called Bev's mother and asked if Bill could take her daughter to..... the dance. Permission was granted, and soon a romance began. They were married in Helena after Bill finished college.

The young couple moved to Spokane where Bill's career in accounting began and where they were active in Central United Methodist church. In 1975, Bill's work brought the family (which now included five children) to Seattle, and they settled on Mercer Island. Here they quickly became active members of Mercer Island United Methodist Church, and their deep Christian faith and their dedication to the institution of the church have enriched our congregational life ever since.

Over the years Bev has been active in the women's group and has held various positions on the Administrative Council. After the children were grown, the couple moved to a condo on the eastern slope of Queen Anne and continued to participate regularly in MIUMC worship and activities. As responsibilities at home lessened, Bev began to take on more volunteer activities. She became especially passionate about Atlantic Street Center in Seattle, a social service agency founded by Methodist deaconesses over one hundred years ago with the mission of serving children, youth, and families. Bev served two terms as chairperson of the board of directors of the center. Among other achievements during her tenure, she led the center in expanding its services to children of homeless families in Seattle.

World travel became a huge part of the Parkers' lives in their retirement, and Bev once commented that seeing other places and meeting people of other cultures gave her a bigger view of humanity and of what we all have in common. Over time, they visited 68 countries, including 7 trips to the African continent. Those trips produced many adventures, such as the time they were whitewater rafting and their raft overturned. Bev, who never learned to swim, had to be pulled from the river by a fellow rafter. Another time they were traveling on a decrepit military helicopter in Russia when it crashed and almost slid over a high cliff. Fortunately no one was seriously injured, and there was a radio aboard, so help was soon summoned.



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Bev rejoices in her children. Lori, who lives in Spokane, works at Gonzaga University, and Bob is retired from transportation services. David is pastor of the Oak Harbor United Methodist Church on Whidbey Island. Christie is an executive with T-Mobile, and Allison is a mother and housewife in Seattle. There are also ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In 2010 Bill and Bev moved to Skyline, a retirement community in downtown Seattle. Bill passed away in 2014, and Bev recently relocated to an apartment in Newcastle with son, Bob.

Bev's lovely smile and cheerful spirit have warmed our hearts for decades, and our congregation is richer for her gracious spirit and loving heart.

Dottie Hughes & Bob



(In front of the house where Bev was born.)



Advent

Advent 2019 begins on Sunday, December 1st and ends on Tuesday, December 24. The Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas.

Christmas Event of Sons of Norway

Dec 8 (Sunday)

"Santa's Workshop (12:30-1:30p.m.)" and

"Christmas Party (1:30-3:30)"

in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!



IN DECEMBER

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Open House at the Parsonage

December 15(Sunday) Right after the service until 3 p.m.
The Go Family invites all of you to the parsonage for fellowship and a light lunch.



Preparation of the Christmas Pageant

December 21, Saturday, at 10:30a.m.-2:30p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall
The Pageant will be during the service on Dec 22.
(Lunch will be provided.)

Christmas Eve Service

December 24(Tuesday) at 7p.m.
In the Sanctuary



New Years Eve Gathering

December 31 at 6p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall
Bring dishes to share, games to play,
and friends and neighbors to celebrate with.
(Communion will follow.)