



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST



FEBRUARY 2020

From the Pastor...

How many of you may like this following statement?

“Stories are powerful extensions of who we are. We each have our own unique story to be unraveled, and by sharing them with others we help shape communitas, give strength to others and paint a picture for those who follow in our footsteps.”

Some people may believe that ‘religion’ and ‘politics’ are taboo subjects among friends. Others may thrive on these conversations. Where do you fall? How do you feel when you are in the group of those that are like-minded? How about those who have different convictions? Whether we group with the like-minded or with the different, we must admit that stories, including opinions, would be very influential. Sometimes, they make us feel good, important and special, but in other cases, they make us uncomfortable, upset or even angry.

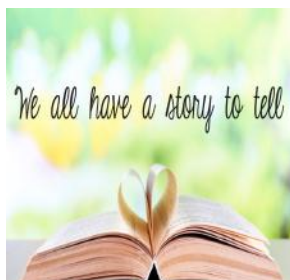
Unfortunately, we have not many places to share our own and authentic stories anymore. Increasing usage from online social media to group texts by smart phone, those instant and massive information sources don’t make our stories special anymore. Rather, we often compare our stories with others and feel unimportant. Plus, our stories can be easily criticized and attacked with no reasonable logic, and people today seem not willing to tolerate such different perspectives or opinions, even in schools.

We face many challenges in the 21st century but these following two are the most critical pieces that need to be restored: 1. The church has never been afraid to be molded, shaped, and changed for God’s missional purpose. 2. The church has always provided a sanctuary of personal stories in God, accepting and protecting them as sacred journeys with Christ. However, today’s church is in fear of being adaptive. Today’s church has become a safe, secure, and sacred place for some, but not for ALL people.

Members of Mercer Island United Methodist Church: are we a community of faith that stories are heard, loved, and considered as sacred? Then, are we willing to offer ourselves to be a good host and listener to many other stories of the new, the young, the different and even the strange? As we continue to be the church of Christ in today’s world, we may need to be constantly re-shaped and changed. That would be scary thing to do, but your willing-heart to share our authentic stories in God will bring true ‘communitas’ of God with a sense of blessed, belonging, beloved, and believing.

Would you be willing to tell your stories, then?

Prayerfully,
Pastor John Go



“Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this what I pray.”

The Faith We Sing Hymnal #2152



We pray together for

- Ann Knoll
- Jason and his family
- Karen Dunning
- Rev. Katie Klosterman and baby Kahlan
- Traveling mercy who travels in Feb
- World peace
- Disasters around the world



“Love is patient;
 love is kind;
 love is
 not envious or
 boastful or
 arrogant or rude.
 It does not insist
 on its own way;
 it is not irritable
 or resentful;
 it does
 not rejoice
 in wrongdoing,
 but rejoices
 in the truth.
 It bears all things,
 believes
 all things,
 hopes all things,
 endures
 all things. “
 (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

WHAT IS COMING UP?

Pastor John’s Sermon Series: Telling Your Story

There are stories you never forget.
 There are others that you want to forget.
 There are stories that are undeniably life changing.
 All of them play a significant role in our lives.
 So, let’s look deeper into them.

- February 2: The Greatest Story (Acts 17:22-34)**
 - February 9: The Whole Story (1 Timothy 1:12-17)**
 - February 16: God, where were You? (Genesis 28:10-19a)**
 - February 23: News Worth Sharing; A Life Worth Living (John 9:1-12)**
- Adopted from The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference



The Month of February

- February 2 (Sun)** Communion Sunday
- February 9 (Sun)** Ad Council is tentatively scheduled after worship
- February 14 (Fri)** Valentine’s Day
- February 17 (Mon)** President’s Day
- February 24 (Mon)-28 (Fri)** 9am-6pm
Ikebana Ohara School Master Visit
- February 25 (Tues)** 6:30pm-9:30pm Sons of Norway
- February 26 (Wed)** Ash Wednesday

DOERS OF THE WORD



Dorothy Swaringen (Dottie Hughes), called Dot by her friends, was born in Alcoa, TN, where her parents, Kate and Stan, were living temporarily because of her Dad's work. The young family soon moved to Albermarle, NC, which her parents called home. Dottie had a loving family life with her parents and her little brother, Lloyd, born just after she was two years old. A family story tells us when her Dad took Dottie into the bedroom to meet her new brother he asked what she'd like to call him. "Buck," she said, the nickname of her Dad and her Mother's Dad, too. The family then had Daddy Buck, Buck, and Bucky. Dottie and Bucky had grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins in their happy childhood.

Dottie comes from a long line of Methodists and attended Methodist Sunday School as a young child. Two of the county's Methodist churches have headstones marking graves of her ancestors including her great great grandparents. During the rationing of gas during WW II, Dottie walked to the local Baptist church and later went to a progressive Baptist women's college, Meredith College, in Raleigh, NC, with a major in English and a minor in French. Among her activities was participation in student government all four years, including serving as VP of the Student Government Council during her senior year. She was also a member of Silver Shield, the College Leadership Honor Society, and was included in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. After graduation, Dottie lived two years in Raleigh and worked for the NC State Library Commission. She enjoyed apartment life with other girls as roommates.



While working on a graduate degree in librarianship at Emory University in Atlanta, she met Bob Hughes, her future husband, in an anthropology class. She remembers when he first entered the classroom she checked to see if he wore a wedding ring. Many students after WW II were married veterans. Bob was in his last year of theology school, and their first date was an afternoon movie. He was the first to call her Dottie. After receiving her degree, Dottie lived a year in NYC and worked at the NY Public Library Teen Branch on 32 nd Street on the East Side. Two friends had already moved to NYC, and she made lots of new friends from the women's residences where she lived. One activity the girls enjoyed was attending Broadway plays with Standing Room Only tickets to stretch their salaries. They saw "The King and I" and "My Fair Lady," among others.



Dottie and Bob married in November, 1953, with Bob's brother, Preston, a Methodist minister, officiating. The newlyweds planned to become missionaries, but a lot happened before they went to Africa. I hope you will soon be able to read about it, but I'll tell you right now their first daughter, Forrest was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and their second and third daughters, Cindy and Beth, in Birmingham, Alabama. (You'll need to read on to learn where Ginny was born.)

Dottie wrote "When we heard on the news that Friday night in December, 1955, that Mrs. Parks had refused to give up her seat on the bus and was arrested, we were surprised...Originally the protest was to be for just that one day, but it was so successful that the decision was made to continue until the law was changed, and the African American people walked...Witnessing those days of the protest was a remarkable experience....Being in Montgomery at the time of the bus protest was a unexpected privilege, for I was able to witness events that changed our country and indeed the world—events that made our world a better place. (Dottie's presentation to the UMW at Bellevue UMC in 2014)

Bob recalled "In my ministry in Alabama, I owe so much to other clergy and lay persons, I stood on the shoulders of my brother, Preston Hughes, Dan Whitsett, Clare Purcell, Duncan Hunter, Martin Luther King, JR., Jim Pearce, David Vann, C.G. Gomillion, and many others. My story in Alabama was finished by 1960, but of course the civil rights movement continued. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those Methodists in Alabama who carried on the struggle in subsequent decades while suffering harassment, intimidation and isolation and who helped to lead the church to its present witness of inclusiveness and reconciliation. As Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "Do you not know that...you are not your own? For you were bought with a price." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) — Presentation to the North Alabama Conference Historical Society, United Methodist Church, Mar 20,2004

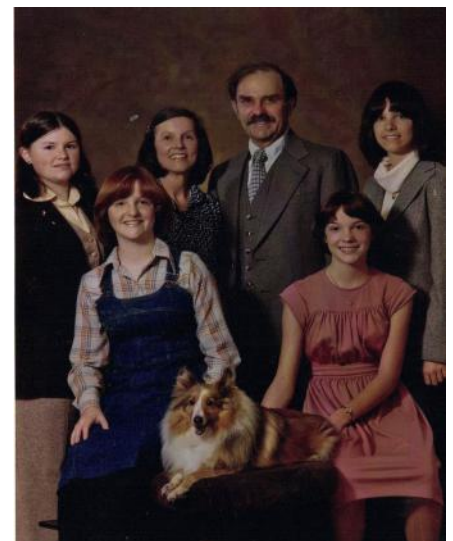
On their way to Africa, the Hughes family of five lived in Boston while Bob worked on another MA -- this one in social ethics. He also took classes preparing for living and working in Africa. Dottie audited a class in theology. Because they were assigned to Southern Rhodesia, a British colony, the family had four months in South Darenth, near London, to learn the British system. After that came nine months in language school to learn Shona in the western mountains of SR. Missionary mothers, like Dottie, provided school lessons for their children helped by a daily morning radio program. The mothers felt relieved when a young missionary teacher arrived to learn Shona and took over the children's lessons for part of her daily routine. The family then had three months in Mutambara, SR, where Bob served as a substitute pastor while the African pastor went on a preaching mission in the US.



At last they arrived in Salisbury, SR, now Harare, Zimbabwe. Bob served part time as the pastor of the Methodist Church in a township where Black people had to live outside the city. He also worked in what Bishop Dodge named social evangelism, now called social justice. He led conferences, arranged speakers, etc. Their fourth daughter, Ginny was born in Salisbury, so their family was now complete. Dottie was as busy as can be, assisted by their young nanny who became a lifelong friend. One of Dottie's outside the home activities was participating in a Methodist Women's Group in a township near Salisbury.

Bob and Bishop Dodge were the first missionaries to be deported from Southern Rhodesia. The Hughes family went to Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia, which became independent Zambia in 1964. They were there for two and one-half years while Bob worked in the Mindola Ecumenical Center which had schools for writers, artists, banking, and business as well as a women's training center. At the YWCA, Dottie taught a class in personal finance for young working women. The normal time for missionaries was five years, a furlough of one year, and then another term. The goal is to have their places taken by the people they've trained. The Hughes family returned to the US after one term.

The first year after we returned from Africa, we lived in Atlantic Beach on Long Island, and Bob worked at the Church Center for the United Nations as a consultant on Southern Africa and finished his thesis. In 1967 and for the next eight years, Bob worked in Atlanta for the US Department of Justice as a mediator for the agency, Community Relations Service. Dottie worked four months as a elementary parochial school librarian. Then, she worked part time as a research assistant at Georgia Institute of Technology. She was active in the Methodist Church and volunteered in her girls' high school library.



In 1975, Bob was transferred to the Pacific Northwest, and the family moved to Mercer Island. The school levy had just passed while those in neighboring districts did not. Although school levies were a new concept for Dottie and Bob, they quickly realized their importance. Bob worked as a mediator in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. Dottie now knew she wanted to work outside the home only part time and first worked at PACCAR in Renton. When a job with a better commute was available, she accepted it and became the reference/research librarian at the downtown Seattle Trust and Savings Bank (now Key). Dottie and Bob took classes at the UW some evening classes in the Continuing Education Department. Dottie retired in 1988 and Bob in 1994. Among other activities, they continued being active in the church and traveling.

Dottie and Bob lived on Mercer Island for 35 years. They moved to Timber Ridge in Issaquah in 2010. Bob passed away in 2012, and Dottie continues to live there, participating in TR's book group, university classes, knitting group, exercise classes, and the newly formed Low Vision Forum. She is also a skilled computer user. As a gift from Bob, she received her first computer in 1986 and continues to enjoy and update her skills.

For 43 years, Dottie has been a member of Mercer Island United Methodist Church. In addition to being friendly and kind to all, she has served in these positions: liturgist, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, board member of the Outreach Committee, and twice as chairperson of the Administrative Council. In the Timber Ridge Resident Directory, Dottie concluded her entry with this: "My most important effort and achievement has been mothering four daughters, three of whom live in the Seattle area and one in Richmond, VA." As someone who has met all four of those daughters, I can say Dottie did an outstanding job. She also has eight wonderful grandchildren and two precious great grandchildren. We are all blessed to know and love Dottie Hughes!

– written by Ann Iwano

P.S. Dottie and Bob have visited Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, South Africa, Congo, Kenya, Egypt, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, St. Martins, St. Lucia, St. Thomas, and the British Virgin Islands), New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Canada, Hungary, Austria, Colombia, and Mexico.)

CELEBRATING
**BLACK
 HISTORY
 MONTH**

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed unofficially in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora.

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

We celebrated birthdays of Carol and Bev in January.



Carol Mariano



Beverly Parker



Dean (Judith's son) presented a family journey to the January meeting of the Sons of Norway

HELLO FROM OUR LOVED ONES

Ann is now at Redmond Care and Rehabilitation Center for recovery. (7900 Willows Rd, Redmond, WA 98052)

Ann and
David



Thank you to the entire congregation for your prayers, beautiful card and generous gift card. I am progressing well and just starting to get out walking. I hope to be at church in a few weeks.

I am lucky to have a caregiver 13 hours a week to help me.

Much love,

Karen and her dog Grace

(Karen Dunning is in recovery from surgery which was in December.)



From Donna Dillon (a previous church administrator)

I have been busy with so many of her appointments preparation for transplant. Jennifer is still going thru chemo with her transplant scheduled for February 17th. She's in good spirits but to be honest her not being able to work fulltime has put her under a complete financial strain. She has a GoFundMe which is not getting a good response so we continue to put it out there for any consideration people can give. I have included the link below.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/1tvvkgz9lc?utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&pc_code=sms_db_co2876_v1&rcid=1b5e6de1167b4f9ea0043c7a4d02a45b

We appreciate everyone's continued prayers. I've been missing work myself but hope to stop by when I can.

Blessings,

Donna



February 2020 Newsletter

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