



# Christian Visitor

September 2009

First United Methodist Church of Ellensburg, Washington

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

## Water for Our Thirst

### a call to renewed spirituality

In order to experience the full joys of ministry, our congregation needs to constantly find new ways of reaching out to our community, always looking for opportunities to use our unique gifts in the service of Christ. Yet we find ourselves hampered by the need to keep the church going. When so much of our time and money is spent serving the needs of our building and meeting the demands of church administration, who has energy or money left to reach out? But if we don't reach out with the love of Christ, what purpose is there in our continuing to maintain the church?

Our members not only struggle to meet the needs of the church, they struggle with the heavy burdens that life can bring. Many of us have lost jobs or seen our retirement income drastically cut as a result of the global financial downturn, while our expenses continue to rise. We suffer from illness, loss, broken marriages, worry about children, fear for aging parents, and a host of other pressures and problems. Caught up in our personal difficulties, many of us have limited time and money to give to the church.

There are no easy answers. Selling our building and buying or building another would only substitute one set of problems and expenses for another. Cutting staff would make us even less able to carry out our ministries. Closing our doors would deprive our members of a vibrant and meaningful faith community and deprive the larger community of an important witness to the inclusivity of God's love.

In this time of struggles and challenges, it is absolutely necessary that we drink deeply from the wells of our spirituality. I believe that our current situation contains opportunities that we can only see through the guidance of Christ's Spirit. Without the strength that comes from our relationship with God, we cannot survive.

I invite you, over the next year, to join me a spiritual journey. My goal is to offer a variety of opportunities for spiritual refreshment and growth. Our worship services will not only teach us about God, they will invite us to experience more fully the presence of God. Starting in the fall, there will be weekly gatherings for *lectio divina* (divine reading), an ancient way of prayerfully experiencing scripture. Occasional mini-retreats will give us the chance to listen to ourselves, each other, and God. In the winter, a class on prayer will teach us how to weave threads of prayer into the fabric of our days. We will seek to hear the words of Jesus spoken to and for each one of us.

I welcome your creativity. If you have ideas, share them. If you think of rituals, studies, or practices that might deepen our spirituality, I want to hear from you. The Spirit of Christ works most effectively when we act together as the Body of Christ. Together with Christ, we will move forward with courage and grace into a future of life-giving ministry and deep, abiding joy.

Pastor Kathy

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## June—July—August Church Council Highlights

### June

1. Church Council is working on a plan to raise money for church improvements. This will be the main topic of the July meeting.
2. Kathy is planning a service in music to coordinate with the Jazz in the Valley celebration.
3. It was suggested to have a 5th Sunday potluck. More on this to come.
4. Susan Barrigan has been painting the women's bathroom.
5. David Newcomer will be teaching a six week class on Sacred Writings.

### July

1. Pastor Kathy would like to have more people work with her on the Worship Committee. Please volunteer to help plan songs and services.
2. There is a need for a part time person to work with Barbara about 10 hours a week in the office. Pay is \$10 per hour. (Position has been filled. Thanks, Josh!)
3. There will be an all-church potluck on the fifth Sunday in August. We haven't had a potluck in quite a while!
4. Money problems continue to plague the church. Expenses are higher than our monthly income.

### August

1. Pastor Kathy would like to have more people work with her on the Worship Committee. Please volunteer to help plan songs and services.
2. The Trustees and Building Committee have compiled a list of projects to be completed for the Parsonage, Sanctuary, grounds, Narthex, Annex and fees.
3. There will be a Creative Auction on Oct. 15. Please come with talents or things to auction and come to bid!
4. Money problems continue to plague the church. Expenses are higher than our monthly income.

## Committee Meeting Schedule

<p><b>Church Council</b>  <b>Tuesday, Sept. 8</b>  <b>7 p.m.</b>  <b>Conference Room</b></p>	<p><b>SPRC</b>  <b>TBA</b>  <b>Conference Room</b></p>	<p><b>Trustees</b>  <b>Sunday, Sept. 20</b>  <b>After Worship</b>  <b>Conference Room</b></p>	<p><b>Worship Committee</b>  <b>Tuesday, Sept. 29</b>  <b>2:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Pastor's Office</b></p>
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## United Methodist Women Circle Schedule

**UMW General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 2**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Bar 14**

**Afternoon Circle**  
**Wednesday, September 16**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
 Hostess: Marilyn Sorenson  
 Co-Hostess: Dorothy Cheshier  
 Place: 870 Sorenson Road  
 968-4857

**Evening Circle**  
**Wednesday, September 16**  
**7 p.m.**  
**TBA**



# September 2009

Intergenerational Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Nursery is available

A Fellowship Coffee hour follows

All Are Welcome

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Fifth Sunday Potluck Super 1 Sunday Iglesia Apostolica, 4 p.m.	31	September 1 Faith Baptist Kids, 5 p.m.	2 UMW General Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Iglesia Apostolica, 6 p.m.	3	4 Bible Study at Hearthstone, 11 a.m.	5
6 	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Church Council, 7	9	10	11 In Remembrance of Sept. 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Super 1 Sunday	28	29	30			

## Birthdays and Anniversaries September 2009

August 23, Will and Karen Mather (A)	7, Diane Ota	14, Susan Colwell
31, Lee Seymore	9, Ken Cross and Bob Johnston	20, Bill and Virginia Lipsky (A)
September 4, Faye Christian	12, Bob and Diane Ota (A)	
5, Kathy Makus and Julie Large	14, Larry and Betty Lowther (A)	

Please remember these congregations in your prayers this month:

September 6	Former Bishop Edward W. Paup—brain tumor
September 13	Pray for God's children of all Faiths
September 20	Ephrata UMC & Pastor Geoff Helton
September 27	Goldendale UMC & Pastor Patricia Beeman

# Opportunities

## Upcoming Worship Highlights

- September 6**     **God Has No Favorites**  
 To be a true community, its members must care about the needs of all other members of the community, without favoritism.  
*Psalm 125, James 2:1-17*
- September 13**     **The Power of Words**  
 Words have the power to cause deep, persistent wounds. We strive to have loving hearts and minds so that we will only speak loving words.  
*Psalm 19, James 3:1-12*
- September 20**     **You Can't Hide What's Inside**  
 What we really think and how we really feel shows in what we do, even when we try to hide it. Only God can help us change on the inside.  
*Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*
- September 27**     **The Power of Praying Together**  
 It's easy to ask for prayer for other people. It's much harder to confess our own weaknesses and ask prayer for ourselves. When we pray together for each other, though, miracles can happen.  
*Psalm 124, James 5:13-20*

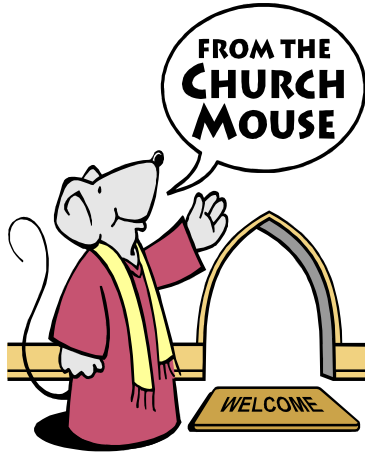
## Ministry Opportunities

- September 6**     Liturgist     John Lasik  
 Greeter  
 Usher     Bob Johnston  
 Altar     Diane Ota  
 Coffee Hour     Jean Spence
- September 13**     Liturgist     Larry Lowther  
 Greeter  
 Usher     Bob Johnston  
 Altar     David Cross  
 Coffee Hour     Carmen Knoke
- September 20**     Liturgist     Ruthi Erdman  
 Greeter  
 Usher     Bob Johnston  
 Altar     Betty Holmes  
 Coffee Hour     Ruthi Erdman
- September 27**     Liturgist     Betty Holmes  
 Greeter  
 Usher     Bob Johnston  
 Altar     Barbara Tate  
 Coffee Hour     Julie Large



The date for the **Fall auction** has been set for **Thursday, October 15**, at 7 p.m. We will have desserts available for a donation. This will be a creative action. That means you present for auction only those goods or services that you yourself will make or provide — such as dinner, boat trip, bread for every month of the year, a painting, needlework, etc. Write on a 3"x5" card or a slip of paper of what you will bring to be auctioned and give it to Larry Lowther or leave in the church office. Be sure to include your name, so we will know who to credit. If we all get into the spirit of it, we can have a glorious time together and at the same time help our ailing budget.

## Lovie's Corner



Hi!

Well, since I last wrote, Miss Barbara went through another round of radiation therapy. Here's the story...

...she wasn't seeing as good as she thought she should be, so she went and had an eye exam, sure enough her prescription needed to be changed. In the course of talking to the eye guy it was decided to ask for a CT scan of her orbits, (you know, the openings where your eyes fit) The outcome of the CT was that there was a new tumor behind her right eye and the one behind her left eye was growing again.

So, now she goes to the Radiation Oncologist who says we need to have you get an MRI after we make a mask for you. Well, she's had one of those made before, so it wasn't a big deal. So off to the MRI. She gets a call the next day, saying come see me, from the Rad Onc. So off we go to Yakima. The doc shows us the MRI and there are 8 tumors showing in her brain. Not a good thing!

Now a plan of attack was made. This took several days and then once that all came together it was on to treatment. She went to Yakima every weekday, for 20 days, to get her brain zapped. She lost her hair, so don't laugh when you see her. The treatments took about a half hour and then off we'd go. We'd either go home or over to the kids' house for a visit.

During this time Pastor Kathy had Anya from Belarus staying with her. "Slim" told me they did some very fun things. Anya got here in time to attend the Community Fourth of July celebration. They also went to the Chimposium at CWU, took a trip to Mt. Rainier, attended potlucks, etc.

The UMW had a Garage and Bake Sale on the 22nd of August. Boy, did "Cousin Wilma" have to be quick. There were people everywhere and she tried not to be seen. It worked, nobody saw her, or if they did they chose not to scream.

The Trustees had a painting party in room 1 out in the annex. There are a lot of things that need to be done around here. Bill and Gerry painted the roof of the office area with sealant so that it won't leak this winter. People are working to get the NE corner of the building fixed so there won't be water in the area where the school district rents. Mold is not a good thing. As you can tell this has been a busy summer.

Miss Barbara has a helper in the office...Josh Munroe. He will be here in the mornings from 10 a.m. to Noon and then Barbara will come in from Noon to 2 p.m. Right now, Barbara can't look at the computer for very long. She will be doing the newsletter and the bulletin and Josh will be doing the organizing and the stuff Barbara doesn't like to do.

I can't believe that summer is almost over. Fair and Rodeo are coming up, the high school band is practicing marching and school is about to start. Where did the summer go?

May God grant you grace and mercy.

# This and That

## TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustees meet monthly to consider what we need to do to maintain and/or improve our church facilities. These projects must be accomplished at little or no financial outlay.

The trustees are now joined by three advisory bodies; the building committee, a task force directed toward project related fund raising, and a third task force with direction toward "Foundation" guidelines.

Recently we have been doing some maintenance work in the parsonage yard. Next work projects include cleaning and painting some of the rooms in the annex so they are more presentable to future renters. Please watch for notices of opportunities for participating in work participating in work parties. Besides having fun, we enjoy a sense of accomplishment when the work is done.

## Book Review by Larry Lowther

Muhammad Yunus created the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which makes micro loans to the poor. The idea of micro credit has now spread across the globe and is making an impact upon the poverty level. Now, Yunus has come up with another idea for combating poverty, which he explains in his latest book entitled ***Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism***. A social business differs from a profit-maximizing business (PMB) in that its focus is upon serving the poor rather than making a profit. It creates a service or product that fits the needs of the poor (such as inexpensive nutritious food, affordable shelter, health care, etc.) and markets it to the poor. Non-poor can buy this product, if they want, but at regular market prices. The poor are charged prices that they can afford. A social business differs from a charity in two ways. It does not rely on donors for its capital and it is supposed to cover its costs from its sales. Yunus has confidence that there is a wealth of good will in the human heart that will produce many investors for a social business. The investors can expect to get their money back but without interest. A social business does not pay dividends. Social businesses rely on the capitalist system, but it is a different kind of capitalism, one not motivated by profit but by service. If, perchance, a profit is made, it is used to expand the business or lower prices to the poor.

Yunus can already point to a few examples of social businesses that have sprung up since he first floated the idea, and several university business schools are adding a social business component to their curriculum. This is a "must read" book for all who are interested in social justice.

## Our Faithfulness...

June 7	43	\$1816
June 14	35	1965
June 21	54	1114
June 28	42	423
July 5	36	2698
July 12	42	2930
July 19	40	1443
July 26	32	303
August 2	35	3718
August 9	43	755
August 16	33	711
August 23	38	1284
August 30	36	691

Needed per week to meet our obligations,  
**\$2,341**

## This and That (continued)

### Book Review

by Larry Lowther

Jack Rogers, ***Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church***. Jack Rogers is an evangelical Presbyterian, a professor emeritus of theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary and Moderator of the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He grew up assuming that homosexuality was inconsistent with biblical teaching. Then, in the 1990s he was pressured into joining a task force that was to study the issue. After studying the question, he changed his mind and concluded that homosexuality was perfectly compatible with the Bible and Christian teaching and that homosexual people should have full participation in church life, including ordination. His book details his journey to that conclusion.

The book discusses the issue of homosexuality within the context of Presbyterian history, church structure and doctrine, but it is relevant to people of all denominations who have been struggling with the issue. In Chapter 5, "What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say About Homosexuality", Rogers gives an excellent exposition of the disputed passages. In Chapter 6, "Real People and Real Marriage", he discusses marriage equality. This book is a "must read" for all people of good will, especially those who have lingering doubts about the compatibility of homosexuality and Christianity.

### Torture is Indeed a Moral Issue, by Foster Stockwell, Des Moines UMC

Article submitted by Dodie Haight

It is shocking to learn that a study conducted by the Pew Forum shows that white evangelical Protestants are the religious group most likely to say that the use of torture is often or sometimes justified — more than six in ten conservative evangelicals supported it. This is reminiscent of the fact that many, if not most, of the "Christians" in Germany gave their support to Hitler, particularly after they learned of his anti-Semitism, which echoed their belief that the Jews killed Jesus. Have we learned nothing at all from the Holocaust? It is indeed time for Methodists to speak out loudly against the use of torture.

Former vice-president Dick Cheney may argue that torture "keeps us safe," though he has yet to provide any evidence. Meanwhile Ali Soufan, an ex-F.B.I. agent, flatly calls torture "ineffective." He was the one who helped get valuable information from Abu Zubaydah, an important Al Qaeda prisoner, simply by outwitting him. Torture, he told Congress, is designed to force the subject to submit "through humiliation and cruelty" and "see the interrogator as the master who controls his pain." Following the acquisition of this information without torture, Abu Zubaydah was uselessly water-boarded 83 times by the CIA over a course of just a few months in an attempt to get more information, which according to some experts was to try to get him verify a link between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda that might justify President Bush's decision to rush into the war against Iraq.

Yet all the discussions about whether torture works or not are really irrelevant. The point is that torture is morally wrong, illegal, and clearly against the terms of the United Nations Convention Against Torture to which the United States is a signatory. The U.S. in the past has convicted and executed Japanese soldiers for using torture on some of our own troops. We have even prosecuted at least one American soldier for doing so.

United Methodists need to make it clear that we do not support torture. We need to pass resolutions to this effect at our various annual conferences and at the next General Conference. We need to place the words "Torture is a Moral Issue" on every billboard that stands beside our many church buildings.

## *Mission Statement*

The Ellensburg First United Methodist Church welcomes all and serves as a beacon of love and justice in the community. We seek to discern and act upon God's will through worship, service and study.



### **First United Methodist Church**

210 N. Ruby Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: 509-962-9257

Church e-mail: [eburgumc@fairpoint.net](mailto:eburgumc@fairpoint.net)

Kathy's e-mail: [pastor\\_umc@fairpoint.net](mailto:pastor_umc@fairpoint.net)

[www.fairpoint.net/~ellensburgumc](http://www.fairpoint.net/~ellensburgumc)

Rev. Katherine Makus, Pastor

Barbara Olexsy, Secretary



a Reconciling Congregation

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK