

THE WITNESS

Beaverton First United Methodist Church
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**Our Vision: Here at the heart of Beaverton, Christ calls us to feed our community; body, mind and Spirit.
Our Mission: Knowing that our works change our community and ourselves; we seek to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all.**

SEPTEMBER, 2015

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Are you an optimist or a pessimist by nature? Are you a “glass half-full of half-empty” kind of person? I have always been an optimist by nature. I wrote my pastor’s letter for this very column a few years ago stating unequivocally that I have more in common with Pollyanna Whittier, the literary creation of Eleanor H. Porter (1868-1920), than I do with her grumpy, pessimistic Aunt Polly. But if you recall, Pollyanna’s “glad game” was really a form of pragmatism. If you receive crutches in the missionary barrel instead of a doll, it’s probably best to find something good about crutches. That was what Pollyanna’s pastor father, the Reverend John Whittier taught her. When you get crutches instead of a doll, just be glad you don’t need the crutches.

That is not relentless optimism as much as it is simply looking at the world with relentless realism. And, a relentless choice to find the good in the world. Finding that “good” comes with knowing one little, tiny thing. One very important, very huge, little tiny thing. I think it is the thing that Reverend Whittier was really trying to teach his daughter Pollyanna. This is it...God never promised us that our lives would always be happy. God promised us that we would never live them alone.

Want a little more time to think about that? Most of us need most of our lives to truly understand the vastness of that one, little tiny thing.

As a true “Pollyanna,” a pragmatic optimist at heart, I want to tell you some things that you already know and have heard a few times from me so far. Beaverton First is having money problems. We are living “paycheck to paycheck,” so to speak. For the last several years we have needed about \$18,500 (give or take) to make our monthly expenses. That includes salaries and supporting our missions and ministries at levels far below what we would like. For the past eight months (at least) we have been bringing in income (from all

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sources) of about \$16,000 a month. There's an obvious problem here. We are making some pro-active changes to our expenses to change the amount we spend each month – most obviously by letting our paid nursery staff go and by not hiring a new choir director to begin the choir year this fall.

So, what else are we going to do, besides wish we weren't in this situation? I would like to suggest a few things.

First, this might be a great time to remember that one little, tiny thing... God never promised us that our lives would always be happy. God promised us that we would never live them alone. God has not deserted us in our time of crisis. God is closer than ever. What we need more than ever now is prayer! Organized, concerted prayer for this congregation. Someone praying every day for the health and well-being of the people who come here to be a faith community... a faith family and for the health and well being of this place we call Beaverton First UMC.

Next, we need people actively working on this crisis. We have a great church council! I don't know how we would have accomplished all that we have without the efforts and the faith of the leaders of this congregation. That does not mean that they are the only ones who can or should do this job. We need new folks to step up too. We need people who truly feel called to see this church thrive who want to join in leadership to join our most vital teams – Trustees, Intentional Faith Development (sometimes called Education), Missions, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations, Radical Hospitality and Passionate Worship. This is how we lead.

This is how we make sure that none of us is doing this work alone.

Third we need everyone to be a pragmatic optimist, to think like a realist and come up with creative ideas for helping us increase income while reining in expenses. We need everyone to find a way to increase their participation while reining in their apathy. We need everyone to find a way to increase their joy while reining in their fear. And, we need everyone to find a way to increase their glad while reining in their grumpy!!! Yes we're back to Pollyanna and Aunt Polly. The climactic crisis of the book is when Pollyanna is hit by a car and loses the use of her legs. Bedridden and feeling totally alone, optimistic, pragmatic, Pollyanna, who survived being orphaned, losing her home, and being sent to live with her grumpy aunt, cannot seem to find a way to be glad any more. It takes her whole community to bring her back to herself and to remind her of what her father taught her... that God didn't promise that her life would always be happy, just that she would never live it alone. And isn't that the eventual solution to any crisis – hard work, a community willing to pull together, not apart, creativity and joy, and the unconditional, never-ending, grace-and-love-filled promise of God. I think we can do anything.

On the Path Together,

Pastor Kathy

Anniversaries

Pete & Pat Tervooren 9/14



Birthdays

Charlotte Jackson 9/01

Bill Butler 9/1

Jo Ann Swick 9/6

Karen Miller 9/7

Ian Sullivan 9/9

Ben Jackson 9/14

Byron Ward 9/18

Roberta White 9/18

Dondrea Warner 9/18

Jean Nilsen 9/21

Martha Firth 9/22

Bob Munger 9/25

Keith Muramatsu 9/25

Pat Tervooren 9/26

Helen Thomas 9/28

Sherry Hensley 9/29

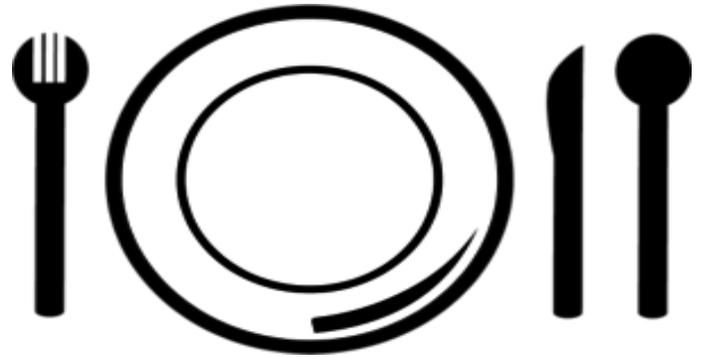
Heather Foster 9/29

Savannah Newton 9/29



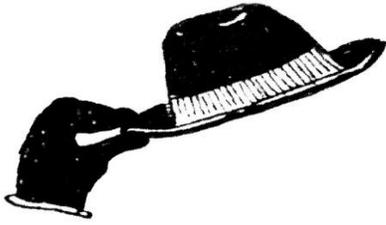
BfUMC Missions in Action!

Homeplate at Merlo Station



Thank You!

Risk Taking Missions want to extend our thanks to all of those who gave of their time and sweat equity to shop, help prepare, transport and serve a dinner to the homeless/hungry youth through the venue organized by Homeplate Youth Services. The menu consisted of Chicken Tenders with Ranch Dressing as dip, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Fresh Grapes, Cookies, Juice, Milk and Water. There were 55 that signed in that evening and enjoyed several trips through the line. Those that volunteered to help were Pastor Kathy, Ted and Linda, Paula, Linda Sue, Charlotte and Ben, Edie and Dave, Jonathan and Mark, and Melanie. Our next date to serve this dinner is October 28, so if this fits your schedule your help would be greatly appreciated.



Hat's off to BFUMC

for all the generous donations made to the UMCOR School Kit project July 12th through August 9th. The following count was donated:

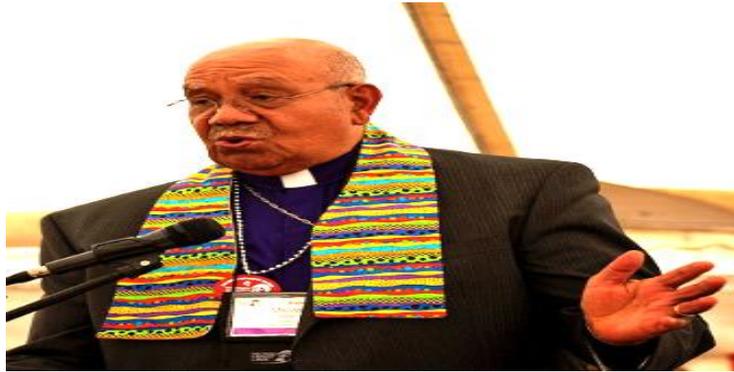
Blunt Scissors	32	Pads of Paper	72	Rulers	42
Pencil Sharpeners	44	Unsharpened Pencils	280	Crayons	35
Erasers	72				

Thanks to all those that took the fabric and made the bags to complete the School Kits for some deserving child that wants to learn and needs these tools to enhance the experience. The assembling of the kits and boxing up for shipment to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, Baldwin, LA, will be announced soon.

Thank you BFUMC, Risk Taking Missions Team.



Tuesday, September 8th will be our church's day to volunteer for Meals on Wheels People at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center. Drivers should be at the Elsie Stuhr Center at 10:00 a.m. Please call Pat Tervooren at 503-644-7475 regarding this program.



Sewing Bee for Reconciling Stoles



On Saturday, September 19th, we are having a “Sewing Bee” to make the Reconciling Stoles to be worn at the United Methodist General Conference held in Portland during spring of 2016. If you have noticed the material placed in the bookcase in the Foyer of our church, it will give you an idea of how much fabric we have to work with to construct these stoles. They are very easy to make, but we do need an assembly line to complete this project. So even if you do not work a sewing machine there are other areas where you may serve on this mission project. Tables need to be set up for cutting the patterns, sewing machines and tables arranged for the assembling of stoles, ironing boards and irons for pressing stoles, and we need hand finishing of each stole made. Also needed are those to pack the box for shipping. Hospitality is helping by serving a light lunch for all the “worker bees”. Our time slot for this project is 10 AM to 2 PM in Wesley Hall. A sign up sheet is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fireside Room so that we can get an approximate count of how many “bees” will be buzzing around on Saturday, Sept. 19th.

Our “Meet and Greet” was a great success!!

Thank you so much to all who helped make this such a wonderful event. We had close to 100 people in attendance and over 30 Church’s represented. It was a fabulous time to meet fellow Methodist’s from the area and spend time with our new District Superintendent, Erin Martin! The Ice Cream and goodies were delicious too! Thanks again!!



Wow, what a sale!

Our Rummage sale overflowed with a wide variety of incredible items thanks to all your generous donations! To sort, set up, price and sell this amount of merchandise takes lots of time, sweat and dedication. We were so blessed to have many volunteers spend multiple hours working on this fundraising event!! Wesley Hall was so hot too and that did not stop our volunteers from working tirelessly to make sure everything was organized and set up right!! Thank you again for all who provided items and the hard hard work necessary to make it happen!!!!



Woman's Group

Ruth Circle will meet for lunch on September 9 at 11:30am at the Peppermill Restaurant located at 17455 SW Farmington Road in Aloha. All women are invited for food and fellowship! If you need a ride, please call Edie Flaming at 503 590-2331.



Men's Group

The Men's Group will begin their Fall meetings Thursday, September 10th, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room at church. Please note this is at a different time and day than our regular meetings. Our agenda will include setting dates for our annual Sea Food Lunch, Easter morning breakfast, and discussing the year's program. All men are welcome to participate.

Monday Morning Men's Study Group at the Village Inn Restaurant

Monday Morning Study group for Methodist Men (and friends) will "awaken from their summer slumber" and meet 9/14/2015 @ 9:00 am for coffee, juice, and light breakfast at the Village Inn Restaurant. We will continue to meet every Monday at the Village Inn on Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy and 107th Ave. The subject of our discussion will be "Modern Heresies". All interested are welcome. Direct questions to Dan Gray, Ivan McCormack or Neal Haines.

Heresies are not limited to times of long ago. True, major heretical controversies originated ages ago, but many of these same errors and myths continue to circulate through today's Christian communities. A book by Roger E. Olson helps church leaders and members know how to deal with these artificial truths—how to explain that they are not simple confusions or misunderstandings, but are instead counterfeit teachings that plague modern-day churches by undermining and dangerously distorting Christian guidance. He also demonstrates how heresies can serve the church by opening up a dialog that will ultimately educate congregations about Jesus, God, and salvation. His book includes questions for individual and group study.

