

The LFUMC Messenger

...a quarterly newsletter publication of
the Lewiston First Methodist Church

Pastor's Path

"Hope for the Future"
By: Rev. Chuck Cram

I remember one day when I was in 8th grade, I think, I asked my mother a question about my algebra homework. Over the years I have come to a position of almost enjoying math and can often process small calculations in my head, but in the 8th grade, algebra was my nemesis. I didn't care for it at all. My mother wasn't able to answer my question and she suggested that I go ask my dad. My response to her was something that continues to be told and retold at family gatherings, and around the Thanksgiving table; my response was "yeah, I could ask dad, but I didn't want to know that much about it." My dad, of course, was a physics professor and relished the opportunity to practice and expand the horizons of algebra for anyone who wanted to listen.

I remembered this story from my past when recently it was requested that I write a concise explanation of our church revitalization. I welcomed this opportunity to further communicate our vision and direction, but finding a way to be concise was difficult. I have such passion and so many ideas around the subject, that once I get going, it is hard to turn it off. If you ask me about church revitalization, I'm a little like my dad was when asked about algebra; I could talk or write for hours. Many of you, like me in the 8th grade, want your questions answered, but you may not want to know *that* much about it! My "concise" document still went on for 8 pages! Sorry about that.

With that in mind, I'm taking another shot at trying to present the vision in a way that is easily remembered, is clear and concise, and hopefully answers at least some of your questions. My

April 2016

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:30am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Choir Warm-up - 9:30am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Shop - 11:30am
- Youth Group Bible Study - 12pm

Mondays

- Preacher's Pub - 10am
(Wesley Room)

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Regular Monthly Meetings

SPRC: 1st Tuesday - 6:30pm -
Liz Chavez

Worship Committee: 1st Wednesday -
4:00pm - Meurial Nystrom

Salvation Army Dinner: 2nd
Wednesday - 3:00pm

Trustees: 2nd Thursday - 6:00pm -
Monte Boardman

UMW - 3rd Wednesday - 10:00am -
Mary McNish & Kathy Bostrom

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Saturday -
9:00am - Main Street Grill

Church Council: 4th Thursday -
7:00pm - Cottie Hood

GIVING & RECEIVING

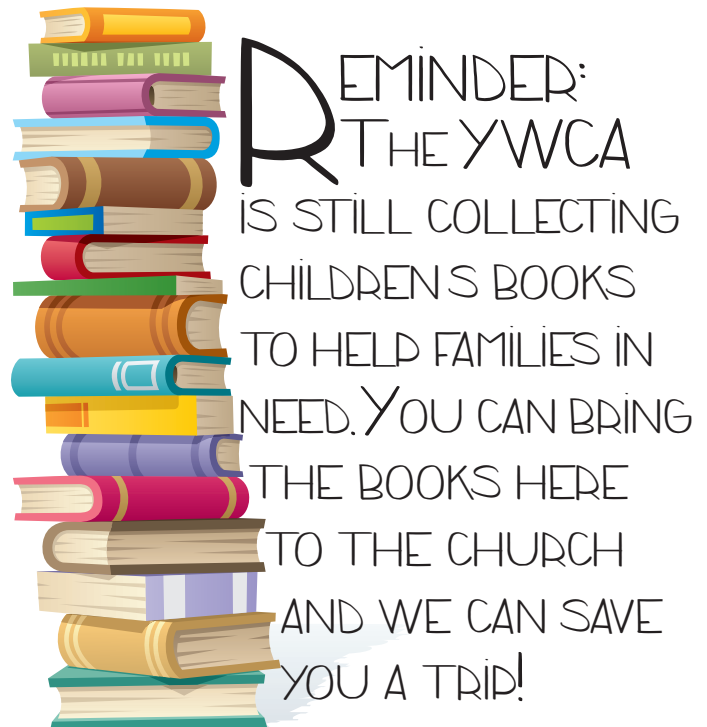
As you know it is a struggle for our church to meet our financial obligations. Tithing and fund raisers have been the major ways of funding, but it is not enough. Many of us would like to give more but just don't have the ready cash to do so. When I was CEO of the 5 Cees Companies, one of my jobs was to provide continued education courses for accountants and attorneys in the NW States. A popular course was charitable gifting with the focus on various methods of gifting non-cash items and receiving a tax deduction. Chuck asked me to write an article for the monthly Messenger on this.

There are many ways to gift non-cash items. Presently, the church is in the process of receiving money from a life insurance policy that has been bequeathed to us from a deceased member and friend.

Another donation from the net profit sale of a vehicle is forthcoming. As we get older and downsize, there may be many saleable items you have that could be donated to the church for sale. Or you could sell your item for cash and donate it to the church. Cars are a particularly easy item to sell and you would receive the tax deduction if donated.

Another idea is to include a partial gift written into your will. This can include a portion of your life insurance policy, real property, stocks, annuity, or cash to name a few. As a part of estate planning, be sure your will is up to date. If you have a living trust it may be even easier to add the church as a partial beneficiary. Those of you who attended the "Living Fully, Dying Well" seminar the Methodist Church Cluster presented will remember they encouraged us to think about charitable gifting and provided some resources in estate planning. This is a good way to help our church meet financial obligations now and in the future. We not only benefit from the satisfaction it gives us knowing we are supporting our church, but it also may benefit us from as many as 5 levels of taxation. If you would like, I would gladly try to answer any questions you may have and/or meet with your legal or tax advisor. Would you like to see additional articles on other methods of charitable giving?

Blessings,
Gary Chesnut



Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2015

In Attendance: Chuck Cram, Lois Chesnut, Gary Chesnut, Larry Ballantyne, Rita Mills, Kathy Bostrom, Cottie Hood

Opening/Devotional: from Isaiah 43; opening prayer by Cottie.

Pastor's Report: Since Phase One of the Revitalization Plan for a \$35,000 line of credit was approved by Charge Conference, held on Oct. 11, 2015, Chuck suggested setting one of these three areas as our first priority.

Entrance

Replace main
entrances soffits

Add more handicapped
parking spots

Re-landscape

Sanctuary doors

Exterior

Replace concrete
entry patio

Paint exterior

Replace rain gutters

Fellowship Hall

Change to energy
efficient windows

Replace carpet & ceiling

Update '70s look
(Wall hangings/graphics;
dividers & cozy furniture)

Line of Credit proposals should be sought from 3 banking institutions. Twin Rivers, P1FCU and Zion were selected. Gary volunteered to gather information from them.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Treasurer- No Report

Lay Leader: Rita reported about the District Lay Leader workshop she attended in Spokane.

SPR: No Report

Trustees: Five people showed up for the Fall Work Day. Donations covered the cost of the hot dogs (cooked by Jim Hood). Monte cut 4 trees down and trimmed trees in the back. The berry tree in the island is on the chopping block for the next work day. Of the \$600 withdrawn from WesPath investment Fund, \$529.11 was used for flooring. Paint and baseboards still must be purchased. \$1,070.00 still remains in the WesPath account.

Montessori contract has been signed.

UMW: Kathy reported that the group will re-form from 2 circles to a single unit which will meet monthly beginning Jan 1, 2016.

Worship: The committee is planning small, experimental changes.

Old Business: Discussed ways to maximize charitable giving.

New Business: Council gave its blessing & appreciation to the cookbook committee, The cookbook will be available December 1 for \$25.

The Chili Cook-off and Harvest Fest is on November 6th. Raffle items are still welcome.

Pumpkin Patch sales have reached the minimum to request a 2nd truck which is scheduled to arrive on Sunday, Oct. 25th at 2pm.

Prayers: Betty Smith (fractured hip) and Ed & Marylene Statham (traveling mercies for their move to Lacey, Washington)

Meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck.

Respectfully Submitted

Cottie Hood

Secretary ProTem

November 19, 2015

In Attendance: Chuck Cram, Rita Mills, Sue Driskill, Deb Snyder, Robbin Stewart, Cottie Hood, Monte Boardman, Larry Ballantyne, Herb Hobbs, Carl Paulson

Meeting was opened with prayer by Cottie.

Pastor's Report: Funding for Phase One is being pursued thru Potlatch1 Federal Credit Union. Monet is visiting various churches' welcome centers. Re: Heidi - she has an appointment in Spokane on Monday and will have more surgery on Dec. 4. The video and sound system are working

Committee Reports:

Trustees: by Larry. Monte and Larry are getting bids for the \$35,000 of the 1st Phase. Need to prioritize tasks proposed. Smoke detectors have been checked.

Finance/Treasurer- No Report

SPR: was made by Chuck for Liz Chavez. Since Alan has resigned as custodian, the firm, Snake River Janitorial, has been hired. They clean 3 days a week for only slightly more than what we were paying for 4 hours, once a week.

UMW: No Report

Worship: Meuriel's report made via Cottie. The committee's meeting has been changed to the 1st Wednesday of each month. Pat Schrupp is working on Advent & Christmas decorations. Any and all feedback is welcomed. Positive feedback has been received on the variety of music and on the visuals Chuck uses. No communion in December. To prepare for new and unaffiliated visitors, training is anticipated for ushers and greeters.

Lay Leader: No Report

Old Business: Pumpkin Patch gross sales were \$5,996; net sales were \$1,849.31; expenses were \$691.66, leaving a net of \$1,157.65. The overall chair and committee chairs have met and recommended we do the Patch again in 2016.

New Business: Motion made to allow Memorials Committee to use the church's EIN # at Potlatch 1FCU (Deb/Monte). Motion passed.

Next Meeting: December 17 at 7pm. Meeting closed with prayer by Chuck.

Acting Secretary, Deb Snyder

January 28, 2016

Cottie opened the meeting with prayer. She welcomed new Council members and thanked Sue Stutzman and Larry Ballantyne for their service one Worship and Trustees.

Present: Chuck Cram, Rhonda Edens, Susie Paulson, Deb Snyder, Monte Boardman, Meuriel Nystrom, Liz Chavez, Cottie Hood, Larry Ballantyne, Heidi Cram, Jim Stutzman, Sue Stutzman, Carl Paulson
Cottie read the minutes of Nov. 5, 2015. Minutes approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Finance: (See Report #1, att.) Rhonda Edens reported that income has been flat for about 2 years.

She stated that in 2013, \$13,000 was transferred to pay for parsonage upkeep and repairs, and that

Apportionments were paid in 2013, 2014, 2015. Susie Paulson mentioned year-end statements are ready.

SPR: (See Report #2, att) Larry Ballantyne questioned if the janitorial service is cleaning the kitchen and downstairs - especially the restrooms. Chuck stated that the janitorial service does not clean any kitchens. Trustees will check on the agreement/contract with the Montessori School about cleaning the downstairs bathrooms.

Trustees: (See Report #3, att) Monte Boardman is the new chair. Larry Ballantyne reported that Ken McLaughlin has tuned the piano in the sanctuary. He also tuned the piano in the choir room for free. Monte reported that Trustees is recommending the sale of the northern lots on Broadview. Two real estate agents have done a drive by and priced the lots: the smaller lot for \$25,000-\$28,000 and the larger lot for \$32,000-\$40,000. Monte moved and Liz seconded a motion that we pursue selling both lots. Motion passed.

UMW: Liz reported on the speaker, Teri Sterling, regarding payday loans and petitions that can be signed to take to the Lewiston City Council.

Worship: (See Report #4, att.) Meuriel said that Worship is planned so that all who enter will know they are welcomed and loved, and that their opinions, thoughts and questions are valued.

Lay Leader: No Report

Old Business: (see Report #5, att.) Chuck spoke on the recommendations to revitalize our church space, made by an interior designer, his and Heidi's friend Kala. He presented a project board showing these changes for the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and the outside of the building, along with an approximate budget for the revitalization work. Liz moved and Monte seconded a motion that Chuck and Cottie appoint a sub-committee to move forward with the work for Phase One of the Sanctuary, Phase One of the Fellowship Hall and Phase One of the Exterior. Discussion included a walk-through of the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary with the project board. Motion Passed.

New Business: Chuck reported that the class held after worship to educate all of us as well as those who are new to our church is going well.

Joys and concerns were shared and Chuck closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting is Feb. 25.

Liz Chavez, Acting secretary

5 Reports attached*

*reports not included but available in the church office

Finance Update

March 2016

Expenses: Paid
 Staff Pay Checks: Paid
 Utilities: Paid
 Common Ministries: Paid
 Pastor Pay 1st Check: Paid
 Pastor Benefits: Paid
 Pastor Pay 2nd Check: Paid

End Month:
 Unpaid Bills: \$ 860
 Check Book Balance: \$ 5016.42

Expected Monthly Budget:

Staff Pay Checks: \$ 1,500
 Utilities: \$ 2,000
 Common Ministries: \$ 2,000
 Pastor Pay 1st Check: \$ 2,000
 Pastor Benefits: \$ 1,500
 Pastor Pay 2nd Check: \$ 2,000

Summary:
 Weekly Expenses - Total \$ 2,540

Note: This is a simplified budget that does not include any unusual expenses or repair bills.

Unpaid Expenses - Revitalization
 \$968.00

All 2016 Apportionments have been paid through March 2016.

We have also been made the beneficiary for a life insurance policy from Robert Lloyd Culbertson, he left us a policy worth \$5850.00 which should be arriving soon.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 SPR MEETING 6:30P	6 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4:00P BOOK STUDY - 7:00P	7	8	9 BETTY PARDUE MEMORIAL SERVICE
10	11	12	13 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P BOOK STUDY - 7:00P	14 TRUSTEE'S MEETING 6:00P	15 SPRING RUMMAGE SALE	16 SPRING RUMMAGE SALE
17	18	19	20 BOOK STUDY 7:00P	21 UMW MEETING 10:00A	22	23
24 KATHY BRANSON PIANO RECITAL 3-5P	25	26	27 BOOK STUDY 7:00P	28 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 SPR MEETING 6:30P	4 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4:00P BOOK STUDY - 7:00P	5	6 CIRCLES MEETING ALL-DAY	7 CIRCLES MEETING ALL-DAY
8	9	10	11 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	12 TRUSTEE'S MEETING 6:00P	13	14 MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00A
15	16	17	18	19 UMW MEETING 10:00A	20	21
22 SUE DOLE PIANO RECITAL 1:30-4P STEPHANIE HILL PIANO RECITAL 5-7P	23 NYLA CLARE PIANO RECITAL 6-9P	24	25	26 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	27	28
29	30					

April Service Schedule

Greeters:

03 - Doris Ann Winchell & Mary Jacobs
10 - Mei Chu Eggleston & Lois Woelfel
17 - Barbara & Leonard O'Brien
24 - Karen Smith & Frankie Anderson

Liturgists:

03 - Deb Snyder
10 - Rita Mills
17 - Venessa Stedman
24 - Susie Paulson

Accompanists:

03 - Laureen Trail
10 - Anna Geidl
17 - Laureen Trail
24 - HymnalPlus

Ushers:

03 - Patty Mills & Bob Morton
10 - Larry Dean & Bob Sitton
17 - John Stalter & Lois Woelfel
24 - The Forge Family

Counters:

03 - Leonard O'Brien & Monte Boardman
10 - Donna Weaver & Lois Woelfel
17 - Larry Ballantyne & Jim Hood
24 - Larry Nystrom & Lois Chesnut

Coffee Shop:

03 - Potluck
10 -
17 - Jim & Kathy Bostrom
24 -

Spring Lawn Mowing Schedule April

04 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
11 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson

18 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva
25 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne

May

02 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp
09 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson
16 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva

23 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
30 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp

June

06 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson
13 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva

20 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
27 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp

NEWSLETTER MAILING!

Returning to bulk mailing to send the newsletter to home addressees is being evaluated. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who is unable to get to worship on Sunday or does not have an email address, please let Arrie know and she will put a copy in the mail.



Amen!
Let's Eat!

2015
Lewiston First UMC

There are still "Amen! Let's Eat!" cookbooks for sale in the office. They are the perfect gift for birthdays, weddings or bridal showers! Just \$20!

inspiration for this idea came when visiting recently with someone from the church and they told me that for the first time in a long time, they had hope. I thought that was profound. If we can give people hope, then much will have been accomplished. Then I began to wonder if there was something we could do with the word "hope".

So here is 8 pages of church revitalization condensed into a single word; hope. As an acronym, we can consider the word hope to stand for hospitality, opportunity, progressive and experience. Allow me to explain how I think each of those words help describe where we are headed and what we want to accomplish.

A few years ago a Bishop in the United Methodist Church wrote a book about revitalization, this book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations", is still considered an anchor in church redevelopment. In his book, Bishop Robert Schnase, listed radical hospitality as the first of the five practices the title alludes to. I believe he was correct. Hospitality is everything for the first time visitor, and if you want to grow a congregation, it is imperative that you have visitors and that the visitors return. Without hospitality, visitors will not come back.

For me, hospitality includes how the building looks and feels, how friendly everyone is, how well lit certain areas may be, how good the coffee is and how easily you can find a restroom. Many of the physical improvements we want to undertake fall into the hospitality category.

Newcomers are also looking for opportunity. According to recent surveys, the people we are targeting are more likely to join a cause than an institution. This means a recent visitor to our church might be more interested in helping with the Salvation Army meal, working the Pumpkin Patch, or helping out with Family Promise than they would be in joining the church.

We need to make certain we have lots of opportunity for that kind of service for people to engage in.

We also need to provide opportunity for spiritual growth, like in discussion forums, book studies, Sunday morning preaching or even newsletter articles. The need for opportunity extends into the importance of community, support, nurture and belonging; it is imperative we provide opportunities in all of these areas as well.

Don't let the word progressive scare you. It is who we are. By claiming a progressive Christianity, we simply mean that we prefer to think about our faith and be challenged rather than told what to believe. We are open to allowing a wide range of opinions and understand that the Divine connection can be a valid experience even in other faith traditions. The United Methodist Church is not a creedal church, which means we value flexibility and diversity. We have chosen to model our lives in the path and teachings of Jesus, but also affirm there may be many paths to the mountain top.

Lastly, we know from research that many people respond in positive ways to an experience based worship. This is what we strive for each and every Sunday. The presence of the Divine can be experienced in a variety of ways, including music and drama, film clips or videos, even liturgical dance or other creative expressions. I use a lot of photography to enhance the experience, but that is just one example. Over the past few weeks we have seen photography, a marimba band, a dramatic monologue, bell choir presentations, soloists and offerings by the chancel choir just to name a few. These are experiences, and an experience based worship service is a mandatory element of our path forward.

As we move into our future, we will do so with "HOPE".

Peace,
Chuck



Birthdays

April

02 - Irene Roth
04 - Bob Culdertson
04 - Melody Boardman
05 - Millie Ingram
06 - Patricia Butts

07 - Jim Bostrom
07 - Sam Weeks
08 - Izaak Bringman
09 - Carl Paulson
11 - George Follett

14 - Pat Pardue
16 - Kathy Bostrom
16 - Helen Vannoy
22 - Steve Forge
30 - Kathy Walker

May

02 - Megan Ralstin
04 - Alyssa Ralstin
05 - Greg Gilliam
07 - Pat Heimgartner

08 - Dorinda Gilliam
10 - Cottie Hood
10 - Fred Willet
18 - Tray Stoddard

22 - Rahel Butts
30 - Heath Hewett

June

03 - Eva Bringman
04 - Kim Brown
04 - Tammy Ledgerwood
05 - Mary Jo Fursteneau
09 - Sally Butts

11 - Marian Combellick
13 - Wanda Thompson
17 - Barbara O'Brien
20 - Brett Mills
20 - Evelyn Jordan

22 - Pat Schrupp
23 - Laurie Herndon
24 - Arrie Vogel
30 - Kathleen Ross
30 - Nancy Follett

We welcome you to Lewiston First United Methodist Church! Our church is always open to all the children of God in all our wondrous diversity. Our Services are lively, informative, thought provoking and relevant to the challenges of living in the 21st Century. It is our view the warmth of the Spirit will be evident every time we gather for worship, Bible discussion or a



small group Discipleship gathering. We hope the love of the Divine will bring you comfort and serenity in our sometimes stressful and chaotic lives. Thank you for taking a minute to look over this newsletter and we hope to see you again in the near future, so you can *share our view!*

Church Office Hours

Current
10:00am - 2:00pm

Spring 2016
Starting May 2016
8:00am - 12:00pm

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 Lewiston First United Methodist Church