

Messenger

...a bi-monthly newsletter publication of
the Lewiston First Methodist Church

Pastor's Path

"Ministry Teams"

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

A welcoming ministry team is under formation. This may seem like new language and a new approach to things-and it is! As a form of self-governance, we are moving slowly away from the establishment of committees with a semi-rigid framework to a more flexible form of simple governance that includes ministry teams instead of committees.

What's the difference? You may ask; and it is a valid question. For starters, it is our hope that some ministry teams will rise up from a recognized need in the congregation. They will be organic in the sense that the particular area of ministry wouldn't be listed in the Book of Discipline and the ministry team would not be required to meet once a month or even once a quarter, take minutes and report to the church council each month. Rather, a group of individuals may gather at a local coffee shop for lunch and plan a strategy about how they may minister to a particular group, meet a need in the community or contribute in some way to the life and vibrancy of their church. Of course, if there is a significant expenditure involved, then the council would be involved, but some ministry teams, once established, may be able to operate within a pre-approved budget.

Another characteristic of a ministry team that will be

February 2017

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:30am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Shop - 11:30am

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Regular Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

*Trustees: 2nd Thursday - 6:00pm -
Monte Boardman/Carl Paulson

*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

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A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

A small group showed up for our Sunday service on Christmas day of about 15 people. Our Pastor had us sit in a circle and tell stories about our most memorable Christmas. Many of the more outgoing members got very engaged and told story after story about Christmases from their past. Many of the stories were very interesting and nice. Meantime, many of the quieter guys like myself sat very quietly and were not smiling. I wondered if some of their memorable Christmases like mine were quite sad.

My most memorable Christmas was not like the happy memories others shared. It happened during peacetime in the military. I was working the late shift on Christmas Eve in the communication center where any attack or call to war message would come first. There was a big red sign on the wall of what to do if that message was received. As I looked around the communication center that night, I noticed how stark it looked. There was not one decoration or any indication that this was Christmas Eve. The only reason this Christmas was memorable was the complete lack of Christmas atmosphere. My family always made a big deal out of Christmas. Here, there was so much nothing it was memorable.

Feeling a little down on our way home after the service because of the bad memory I couldn't share, Gena – the neighbor gal we are bringing to church – made a comment that really got my attention. She said that all the closed businesses we were driving by made her feel good because the people who worked there had a chance to be home with their families on Christmas. What a positive way to look at the world. Instead of looking at the lack of Christmas decorations in that communication center, I should have been looking at the very quiet communications equipment and thinking about all the soldiers home with their families instead of making war. That is a lot nicer memory to think about.

INLAND NORTHWEST HANDBELL CONFERENCE

The organizing committee of the Inland Northwest Handbell Conference would like to invite members of your handbell choir to attend its third annual workshop, to be held next March 24th and 25th at the First United Methodist Church in Lewiston, Idaho. Brian Tervo will be the clinician. The conference, which starts on Friday night, will include classes as well as massed ringing, culminating in a concert open to the public on Saturday evening. Whole choirs and individual ringers are both welcome. Detailed information and a registration form are attached to this letter.

We are trying to get word about this opportunity out to as many handbell ringers in our area as possible. If you know potentially interested ringers outside your choir, please forward this information to them as well.

We hope that you will be able to join us.

Tuesday Bible Study

The bible study group that meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 is currently reading through the Old Testament, on the way to the New. One of us reads every word aloud as the rest follow in their bibles. We alternate between disbelief at how barbaric and warlike the human leaders are, to how thunderous and angry our God is—at least on these pages. And sometimes we laugh at what passes for pious or religious thinking. We are about done with Isaiah, moving toward Jeremiah. Our room is next to the kitchen (important for our coffee and cookie imbibing) and we welcome new participants. Come study with us and be the only kid on your block to have read Jeremiah and Ezekiel in their entirety.

SPR Ministry

SPR stands for Staff

Parish Relations—this is the Ministry Team that hires, works with, performs yearly performance reviews, advocates and communicates with our hired personnel. This Ministry Team meets on a monthly basis, or as needed to address issues/ on going supervision/ needs of those who are paid personnel so that a small concern doesn't become a larger issue. This Ministry Team also meets to liaison with personnel in support of the work they are performing and to strengthen the bond between personnel/ the congregation and the Pastor. As with the other Ministry Teams at Lewiston First we strive to be open and available to congregation concerns/questions with a quick, though thoughtful and correct, answer. Currently the members of the SPR Ministry Team are Liz Chavez-Chair, Rita Mills-Lay Leader, Cottie Hood-Church Council Chair, Bob Morton, and Pastor Chuck. If you have questions or would like to visit about anything that may be relevant to SPR please take some time to visit with one of the members of the SPR Ministry Team.

Church Council Meeting Notes

January 26, 2017

In Attendance: Liz Chavez, Chuck Cram, Sue Driskill, Cottie Hood, Carl Paulson, Susie Paulson, and Donna Weaver

Cottie opened the meeting with prayer and a conversation about how we each became active in a faith community.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Finance/Treasurer: Sue Driskill distributed copies of a financial activity report comparing expenditures for 2015 and 2016. Sue has used these comparisons to prepare a preliminary budget for 2017 which she shared with the Council. The information was discussed and the following changes were made to the budget proposal: Pumpkin Patch income of \$2,500 was added, expenses for Nursery Caregiver and for Choir Director were deleted (see SPR report), and the title Administrative Assistant was corrected to Communications Coordinator. It was also noted that the expenses for Song Leader are not broken out on the proposed budget and should show as a separate item with an annual expense of \$1,000. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget with these changes. The motion was approved. Sue recommends that the Council receive regular and accurate reports of expenditures. It was agreed that these reports would be received by the Council quarterly.

Revitalization Committee: Chuck reported that work continues on the updates to the fellowship hall. The ceiling will be painted this week. The wall color has been decided except for the wainscoting area. A coffee service area has received plumbing for a sink and to make it possible to add a dishwasher in the future if desired. Electrical work has been done to allow outlets for coffee machines, crockpots, etc., and to allow for addition of a future dishwasher. At the next meeting of the committee, samples of cabinets, countertops, and flooring will be considered for this coffee service area. An audio-visual system will be installed in the fellowship hall and work is underway for that installation. Updates to the narthex are nearing completion. The committee is in discussion about graphics to go on the wall behind the welcome center. Plans are underway to establish a ministry team/committee for getting the welcome center up and running.

Cottie proposed holding small group gatherings so congregation could ask questions about revitalization and to have conversations about moving forward. Carl suggested all-congregation meetings in the fellowship hall where information could be shared.

SPR: Liz Chavez reported that the following items are being addressed by the committee. All paid personnel year-end reviews are complete. All memoranda of agreement for paid staff are being reviewed, signed, and filed. Conversations are underway to fill three member positions to the SPR Ministry Team. Conversations and outreach, to and with the congregation, are ongoing on a variety of topics. The resignation of Kathy Ross as nursery attendant was accepted. At this time SPR is not seeking a replacement. The resignation of Larry Nystrom was accepted, and a replacement is not being sought at this time. There will not be a February SPR meeting due to scheduling conflicts. However, the work of SPR is ongoing and will be reported back to Church Council. Future meeting dates have been set for March 4, April 4, and May 2 with the meetings held in the downstairs meeting room at 6:30 PM.

Trustees: Chuck shared that the contract for the lot that is for sale was renewed. A new toilet is being installed in one of the restrooms off the narthex. A dance group has talked to Chuck about trading work at the church in exchange for use of space, and Chuck brought that request to Trustees. The request was approved.

UMW: No report

Worship: No report

Lay Leader: No report

Pastor's Report: Chuck shared dates in his schedule for the next three months. The Iliff renewal conference is to be held during the first week in Feb. He won't be gone on a Sunday when he attends this. The date for Order of Elders, to be held in Wenatchee, has been changed twice, resulting in some conflicts in scheduling for Chuck. It is now scheduled in the latter half of February. Chuck will work with the scheduling conflicts to attend, but he doesn't have firm resolutions to the schedule at this time. The new bishop will be at the Order of Elders.

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Chuck will be on vacation March 12-18, returning to Lewiston on March 19. Steve Thomas will be preaching on March 12, Chuck will be preaching on March 19th.

Feb. 12 is Charge Conference with District Superintendent, Gregg Sealey. Gregg wants this Charge Conference to be a conversation about where we think we are right now as a congregation. In preparation for that conversation, Gregg has sent Chuck a list of statements that provide a variety of positions that might describe the congregation. Chuck handed out copies of these statements to council members with the request that these be considered in our preparation for the conference. Copies can be made for anyone interested in participating in this preparation. Responses to these statements may be emailed to Gregg or brought to the Charge Conference.

Chuck has just returned from facilitating a spiritual workshop with the theme of Theography which was held in Leavenworth. The retreat and workshops were well received. Chuck shared the experience of a husband who attended, initially, to support his wife who wanted to attend. The husband had not intended to participate, but his attendance at the first session resulted in his continued participation for the whole event. He had not previously experienced a church gathering where questions and having different opinions had been welcomed.

Old Business:

- Simple Governance: Chuck, Liz, and Cottie attended training in the fall. Chuck shared that moving into simple governance is a methodical process, and he recommends that if we move in that direction, we move as a unit. That better insures that everyone understands how the governance processes work and to become comfortable with it. He sees that what is recommended as "Simple Governance" is much of what we are already doing. The thing that struck Chuck most was that the goal/desire to have all in congregation understand/believe that they are part of at least one, if not multiple, ministry teams and that that is how the church functions best. Chuck suggested that if we hold small group meetings (see Revitalization report), that we include simple governance as well as revitalization as a topic of conversation. Liz talked about the reluctance many people have in acknowledging that they have a gift for ministry. Chuck would like to see us find ways to communicate and facilitate learning about what we are already doing. Susie brought up the need for us to ask those who have visited 2-4 times in our church to do some task that is easy to do, is a one time request, and is intended to help them become involved. (For example, to help distribute attendance registers prior to worship or to get out coffee cups for coffee hour.)

A motion was made and seconded that we continue to pursue simple governance. During discussion, Chuck noted that individual churches tailor simple governance for themselves, so until we pursue it, we won't really know what it is going to look like at Lewiston First. The main goal is to be transparent, organized, and easy for people to become involved in ministry that they are passionate about. The motion passed.

New Business: No new business.

Joys, Petitions, and Closing Prayer: Prayers were requested for Kathy Bostrom, Chip Stalter, and Alex Teel. Chuck closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2017

Submitted by Donna Weaver

Happy Birthday!

February

01 - Lynn Ballantyne	11 - Larry Ballantyne	20 - Steve Bringman	24 - Fred Weaver
04 - Helen Lombard	17 - Douglas Crook	21 - Tysha Bringman	25 - Jim Hood
05 - Kelly Hillman	19 - Rosemary Founds	23 - Beth Calkins	

March

02 - Connie Alford	11 - Dawn Gortsema	17 - Mei Chu Eggleston	24 - Ed Statham
10 - Bill Jacobs	11 - Grace Bringman	17 - Jerry Mooers	24 - Rafferty Hewett

April

02 - Irene Roth	05 Millie Ingram	09 - Carl Paulson	22 - Steve Forge
04 - Bob Culbertson	07 - Jim Bostrom	11 - George Follett	30 - Kathy Walker
04 - Melody Boardman	08 - Izaak Bringman	16 - Kathy Bostrom	

Where is Our Church Right Now?

Please look at each one of the following statements given to us by our District Superintendent Gregg Sealey and think about which one you believe best describes the current state of the Lewiston First UMC. DS Gregg Sealey will be here **February 12** to talk to the congregation since he was not available during the November Charge Conference.

1. Lewiston First UMC has little sense of purpose and seems to lack vitality, energy or hope for the future. We need some kind of a "spark," because we don't want to die.
2. Lewiston First UMC seems relatively healthy, but comfortable. There isn't a lot of conflict here. The people here seem focused on their own preferences, and they seem to at least occasionally lose sight of the big picture of what it means to BE the church.
3. We here at Lewiston First UMC are in the midst of some sort of conflict and we need help finding a way forward. We need a facilitated conversation to help deal with this reality.
4. Lewiston First UMC has some clarity about our purpose, but we could have more clarity. Once we are clearer about our direction we also need to have greater alignment of our leaders with that purpose.
5. We have some really exciting developments at Lewiston First UMC, and we are seeking to build momentum in that direction. We are fairly clear about our distinctive purpose in our community and world, but we need to build more "resonance" around our purpose.
6. Lewiston First UMC is on fire, and exciting developments are happening right and left! We are crystal clear about our distinctive purpose and we are living it out. We could always do more, but now we are seeking to help others (churches and individuals) find their sense of purpose in the world.
7. OTHER: It could be that you want to tailor one of the above statements, or perhaps you don't recognize your church in the above statements. Help me get a sense of how I might help as a resource and a facilitator to "provoke transformation" in your context

Lenten Schedule

Every year the congregations of the Clearwater Clergy Cluster gathers together to celebrate the season of Lent with a set of themed messages, this year's theme is the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew

Each week of Lent, a different church hosts a visiting pastor and provides dinner or light snacks. The schedule for the 2017 Lenten Season is as follows:

- Ash Wednesday, March 1:** Hosted by Asotin UMC
Mike Lawson Preaching "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit"
(5 P.M. meal, 6 P.M. service)
- Sunday, March 5:** Hosted by Lewiston First UMC
Cody Stauffer preaching "Blessed are the Peacemakers"
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal
- Sunday, March 12:** Hosted by Lapwai UMC
Steve Kazda preaching "Blessed are the Merciful"
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal
- Sunday, March 19:** Hosted by Orchards UMC
Hank Heschle preaching "Blessed are the Meek and Those Who Mourn"
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal
- Sunday, March 26:** Hosted by Grangeville UMC
Chuck Cram preaching "Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal
- Sunday, April 2:** Hosted by Kendrick UMC
Barbara Essen preaching "Blessed are the Pure in Heart."
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal
- Sunday, April 9:** Hosted by Clarkston UMC
Stephen Kingsley preaching "Blessed are the Persecuted"
4 P.M. service, 5 P.M. meal

Questions?

Have questions about the changes occurring around our church building? Would you like more information about what the Revitalization Committee has been doing and why? As a way to ask questions and become more informed about this and the new Simple Governance style of Church Council, small groups will meet in homes beginning later in February. If you would like to host a group, please let Arrie know (743-2971 or email her at office@lewistonfirstumc.org). Hosting is very simple; it just involves providing a place for 5 to 10 people; times can be a morning, afternoon, evening or weekend. Coffee or tea is optional. If you have questions about this, please talk to Pastor Chuck or Cottie.

Revitalization Committee Meeting

January 19, 2017

In attendance: Donna Weaver, Chuck Cram, Jim Hood, Sally Davies, Pat Schrupp, Bill Schrupp, Gayla Ballantyne, Larry Ballantyne, John Stalter, Cottie Hood, Bob Morton.

Before next meeting: Donna will ask Arrie to prepare a **financial statement**; Chuck will report the percent of usage cost for a giving kiosk; Sally, Pat & Gayla will sleuth out cabinet, counter top and flooring and bring samples to the meeting.

New:

Arrie asked for directions regarding a current \$766.90 bill with \$1868.31 in the account and for clarification regarding Line of Credit practices. A discussion was held and the consensus was 1) that bills be paid with when approved by a signatory; 2) that money may be transferred when needed with 1 of 3 signatory's approval; 3) when a substantial bill is expected, Arrie will be notified so she can transfer money if needed to cover the bill (signatory's approval is needed); 4) Arrie will prepare a financial statement for each Revitalization Committee meeting [Donna will contact her about this].

Gayla was given permission to use her judgment to clear junk from the lower-level classrooms.

Updates:

Storage Room: the old room has been cleaned out. New walls for the extended are finished and the sheet rock has been textured. Putting up the trim and painting are next.

Kitchen Area: Painting will need to be done first; laminate flooring installed second, the cabinets will be installed after the painting is done. The carpen installation can happen before or after the cabinets are in.

AV Equipment: New projector and necessary cabinetry cost is approximately \$3,000 which will be paid for by an anonymous donor. Chuck has quotes from 3 vendors. The projector can be installed by one of our many volunteer handymen. Chuck will build the cabinet. The projector screen would be the manual, pull down type. Discussion was help on the placement of the cabinet.

Lavalier Microphone: It was moved (Pat S.) and seconded (Bob M.) and unanimously passed to buy a new lavalier for use in the sanctuary and to use the current one in the Fellowship Hall.

Giving Kiosk: There's no cost for the Ipad or the card reader which takes debit and credit cards and the ACH-E checks. Chuck will research the percentage charge to users and the church.

Ceiling Paint: The color Grayish was decided by consensus.

Welcome Center Message: Opinions from 3 Millennials/Generation Xers were shared. Topic to be continued at the next meeting.

Tables & Chairs: Gayla brought a folding chair from Staples for people to try. Topics to be continued at the next meeting.

Next meeting: February 2 @ 3:00p. **NOTE NEW TIME**

February Service Schedule

Greeters:

05 - Mei Chu Eggleston & Jim Bostrom
12 - Karen Smith & Jeri Turner
19 - Cottie & Jim Hood
26 - Larry & Gayla Ballantyne

Liturgists:

05 - Doug Crook
12 - Liz Chavez
19 - Colleen Mahoney
26 - Donna Weaver

Accompanists:

05 - Laureen Trail
12 - Anna Geidl
19 - Laureen Trail
26 - Hymnal Plus

Ushers:

05 - Carl Paulson
12 - John Stalter
19 - Kay Walker
26 - Patty Mills

Counters:

05 - Lois Woelfel & Larry Ballantyne
12 - Jim Hood & Leonard O'Brien
19 - Carl Paulson & Cottie Hood
26 - Meuriel Nystrom & Sue Driskill

Coffee Shop:

05 - Potluck
12 - Colleen Mahoney & Barb Maple
19 - Pat Heimgartner
26 - John Stalter

Food Bank

DONATIONS NEEDED

Breakfast Items: Pancake & muffin mix, syrup, hot & cold cereal.

Box Food Items: Macaroni & cheese, hamburger/chicken/tuna/rice helper, crackers, cake mixes, frosting, sugar, flour, spices.

Canned Food Items: Soups, tuna, meats, chili, beef stew, fruit, pasta meals, pork & beans, misc beans, vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce.

Other Misc Items: Peanut butter, top ramen, noodles, pasta, rice, dry beans, jams, jelly, snack bars, sauces, condiments, jello, coffee, juices.

Holiday Items: Pie filling, evaporated milk, cranberry sauce, stuffing, olives, yams, mushrooms, ready made pie crusts, tin foil, saran wrap, tin foil pans, turkeys.

Sugar Free Items: Misc food for Diabetics

Pop Top Items: (ready to eat) Meat, fruit, pudding, snacks, eating utensils, zip lock baggies (for homeless)

Personal Care Items: Shampoo, hair conditioner, bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, feminine products, household cleaning supplies, kleenex, bathroom tissue, paper towels.

Baby Items: Diapers, jar food, cereal, formula

Other: Fresh produce, frozen meat, venison, bread, hamburger/hot dog buns, dinner rolls, pet food, cash donations.

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different from a standing committee is that people will be recruited to serve on a ministry team by each other and not necessarily a nominating committee. It will also be acceptable for someone to serve on a ministry team for as long as they are interested and excited about the work. This means that you don't have to sign up for a 3-year term if your interests or passions change after the first year. It also means you don't have to rotate off the ministry team if after 3 years you are still excited and enthusiastic about the work of the team(s) you are involved with.

The ultimate goal of this new structure is to grant everyone in the congregation an opportunity to find a ministry team that appeals to what they like to do and fits with their personal abilities and interests. We are all ministers to each other and this community. We want the church experience to go beyond Sunday morning and spill over into our daily lives. We want to move from the idea of church being something you attend or belong to and have church become something you do and experience. Think of church as a verb. Think of church as a ministry. Think of where you might fit in.

One opportunity to fit in is the newly developing welcoming ministry team. You have probably noticed the new Welcome Center in the Narthex. It is there for a reason, although we have yet to fully utilize everything that the new Welcome Center stands for. The new welcoming ministry team will be an umbrella ministry team that coordinates volunteers in a variety of duties that all include how people are welcomed into our midst; particularly on Sunday mornings. This covers areas like ushers and greeters; it involves the coffee fellowship times; there are also new positions like mentors, welcome center attendants, and perhaps even some work areas we haven't even thought of yet. If you think you might like to be involved in the welcoming ministry team, you can let myself or Susie Paulson know; I also want to let everyone know that there is training on the horizon. This means you will have the chance to learn and have some instructions around what we hope to accomplish and how we intend to get there.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to be your pastor. We are moving forward!

Peace, Chuck.

PASTOR'S PATH - (CONTINUED)

QUILTING RETREAT

Let the Stars Shine!

...a Stay-treat to Spring you into Stardom

APRIL 25, 26, 27, 2017

9AM-5PM

EACH DAY FOR 24 HOURS OF STAR SHINING SEWING!

LEWISTON FIRST UMC

CONTACT RITA MILLS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND

REGISTRATION AT (208) 816-8788

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4P	2 REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE 3P	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 TRUSTEES MEETING 6:00P	10	11
12	13	14	15 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	16 UMW MEETING 10:00A	17	18 MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00A
19	20	21	22	23 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	24	25
26	27	28				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4P	2 REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE 3P	3	4
5	6	7 SPR MEETING 6:30P	8	9 TRUSTEES MEETING 6:00P	10	11
12	13	14	15 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	16 UMW MEETING 10:00A	17	18 MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00A
19	20	21	22	23 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	24	25
26	27	28				

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

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 12:00pm

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 Lewiston First United Methodist Church