



JOYFUL NOTES

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD...

Hispanic Ministries Presentation—October 12

Inside this issue:

Bits & Bites	5
Church Cleaning Crew	6
October Calendar	7
Pastor's Thoughts	3
Upcoming Events	4
Warrenton UMC News	3

The United Methodist Women (UMW) are offering a special presentation on Hispanic/Latino Ministries on Wednesday, October 12.

Hispanic ministries developers Reverend Eric Conklin of the Cornelius UMC and his wife Mira, Western Washington county Hispanic ministry developer, will speak Wednesday, October 12 at 11 am at Astoria First UMC. They will share about the particular work they have been doing to build relationships between Anglos and Latinos in Western Washington County and some of the things they have learned in the process. Eric and Mira will be joined by a well known leader in our community: Norma Hernandez, Director of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council. The Council is a local organization whose mission is the equitable integration of resident Hispanics into the broader social and economic fabric of the Lower

Columbia community.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform and to invite folks into transformative relationships with one another as we seek to be the multicultural, multilingual, vibrant community God calls us to be.

The program will begin at 11 am followed by a UMW-hosted luncheon—everyone is invited to come. Please make a reservation by Monday, October 10 by calling Gloria Jones at 503-325-1396 or the Astoria First UMC office at 503-325-5454.



Pastor's Thoughts



In recent weeks conversation at Astoria First has shifted to focus on the news that the conference assistance for pastoral funding would be ending in June 2012. This means that next summer Astoria First will return to a part-time pastoral appointment and that we will need to explore options and arrangements for pastoral support (more details on that later).



remaining together in this appointment year; what does God want us to be working on together during that time? What should we be doing to help improve the lives of our Astoria brothers and sisters? Third, knowing our purpose

allows us to focus our energies and resources. Rather than trying to be all things to all people, we can do some things with greater effectiveness and excellence.

Before we determine what the pastoral support arrangement might look like next summer, we have a larger, more significant topic to discuss: our congregation's purpose or reason for existence here in Astoria. What is God's purpose for our congregation? While it's tempting to answer this question merely from own personal thoughts and preferences, we must invest the time and energy to discern the answer to what God would have us be and do. I invite you to enter into prayerful, holy dialogue on this topic as we discern together the future God has planned for the Astoria First congregation.

Why is it important to know our congregation's purpose? First, it defines a path for us to follow, a destination. If we don't know where we're going, it really doesn't matter what we do to get there! Second, a purpose allows us to prayerfully choose goals to work on together. By the time you're reading this, we will have about nine months

Whatever path God has planned for us, know that you play a large part in what that looks like and how it turns out. As the children's song reminds us, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people! We are the church together!" So, let's be the living church together. I ask that you please be diligent in praying for our congregation and asking God to reveal to us what God is calling us to be and do here in Astoria. Pray for all of our church leaders as we discern our congregation's purpose and next steps.

I look forward to our working together and growing into the church God calls us to be!

Pastor Jennifer

Warrenton UMC News

It is such a surprise to find myself already in October! Time just seems to be scooting by and ways to serve in God's plan for our community are as present with us as the mist and the tapestry of autumn leaves. September 11th "Strength for Service" worship was such a clear example of the possibilities that appear when we work with others for the glory of God. Our building users worked to make the social area, kitchen and rest rooms shine, the Memorial Garden was groomed and decorated, the Community for Christ congregation provided voices for the readings during the worship litany, our color guard was provided by the Coast Guard and names of service people to be added to prayer came through the telephone, e-mail, family voices and written letters. It was so much fun to work together for this project. Donations totaled \$300.00 generous dollars for the "Strength for Service" devotional books. Thank you all for the ways you worked to make this such a special worship service.

This month we begin our card writing ministry with the students at the Oregon Youth Authority here in Warrenton. The congregation and several people outside our congregation have committed to writing short notes of encouragement to individual students. We also intend to remember the birthdays of individuals and provide celebratory cakes each month. Carol Clark and her helpful team sorted and organized a bounty of cards from Judy Johnson and

other donors--thank you to the givers and the sorters! Please keep this ministry in your prayers for the blessing the young men will receive from our encouraging words and caring thoughts. We are counting on you.

October Worship opportunities with the Warrenton congregation include World Communion Sunday on the 2nd, local representatives from the Gideons will be with us for our October 9th worship and the youth working with Pennies for Peace and other projects will be sharing the October 16th service when we will celebrate Children's Sabbath. Josh McConnell is working with us to plan an exciting and informative service. There will be special offerings for the October 9 and October 16th services. Communion will be served during the October 23 service and the month will close with a Fifth Sunday worship service of song and music. Come prepared to "Make a Joyful Noise" as we worship together. If you have a song to sing, an instrument to play or a poem you want to share on that day, just let Jane know at 503-458-6633. Have a grace-filled month, full of opportunities to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

(Continued on page 6...)

Upcoming Events

World Communion Sunday— October 2

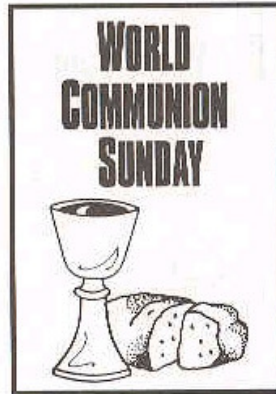
Susan Nkatha Murithi feels called to be a change agent. She wants to address poverty and disease. She is fully aware of the size of the task.

"In Africa, where I come from," she says, "a deadly monster is destroying communities. HIV/AIDS is a thorn in the flesh. Children are left without parents, spouses lose their partners and grandparents are burdened with raising the grandchildren, though they may be too weak to feed the families left by the death of their own children."

People should not be able to sleep well at night, ignoring the need, she asserts. "The levels of poverty and disease in my country are alarming," Murithi adds, "and I believe this is not how God meant it to be. Something needs to change, and I feel called to ... make some of these changes."

To help Murithi reach that goal, she received a World Communion scholarship. She is working on her master's degree in pastoral care and counseling.

Please use the special offering envelope in the October 2 bulletin. Your gifts on World Communion Sunday make a difference!



Garage Sale—October 7 & 8

Starting the fall cleaning or de-cluttering the house? If so, consider donating your good, gently used items to the church garage sale (no clothing/"soft" items, computers, or TVs, please). Setup will begin October 3 with the sale itself on October 7 & 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info or questions, contact Harry Comins at 325-7158.



Charge Conference—November 5

Saturday afternoon, Assistant to the Bishop Kate Conolly will lead us in a time of worship as we review the past year in the life of our Astoria First congregation, attend to a bit of business, and give thanks to God for all God's goodness!

UMW Holiday Bazaar—November 12

Attention all cookie and baked goods chefs! Get your recipes and utensils ready!



The UMW Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 12th.

Sue Hicks will be contacting you for donations and your promise of goodies. If you are not a chef – prayers and financial contributions are always needed.

Contact Sue Hicks or any UMW member for more information.

Bits & Bites

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in October

Be sure to wish these folks a happy birthday or anniversary when you see them! Congratulations to all!

October Birthdays

- 3—Diane Grumbling
- 4—Bev Aspmo
- 8—Norm Doney (W)
- 10—Linda Williams (W)
- 11—Robert Butler (W), Uschi Gunn
- 12—Dick Kettelkamp
- 16—Ginny Bynum, Ellen Charles
- 19—Sue Hicks
- 20—Thal Anderson
- 22—Jane Hill
- 24—Daryl Dobry
- 27—Matt Patterson, Jr.



October Anniversaries

- 3—Daryl & Joanne Dobry
- 21—John & Linda Williams (W)

Attention Worship Assistants

Those folks assisting with worship—liturgist, pianist, special music, and sound/projection techs—are asked to meet with Pastor Jennifer just before worship at 10:45 a.m. in the pastor's office. This will be a time for questions, a brief review of the worship order, and prayer.

UMCOR Blankets

The United Methodist Women's (UMW) group is collecting blankets for flood victims in the Minot, North Dakota region to be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Please bring your donated blankets to the church and place them in the container behind the pews in the Sanctuary. Questions? Contact Sue Hicks at 503-325-9013.



Choir Looking for New Singers

If you enjoy music, you might consider joining the choir. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. to rehearse. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Choir Director Mary Frances Gunn at 503-325-4808.



Church Cleaning Crew

Our church building is home to our Astoria congregation and several groups who gather within its walls during the week. Some time ago, our congregation agreed to care for the building ourselves rather than paying an outside company to do so.

Currently we have a crew of three servants cleaning our church home:

- Sue Hicks cleans the Powell-Turner Room, upstairs bathroom and kitchen.
- Gloria Jones cleans the kids' classroom and downstairs entry way.
- Pat Williams cleans the downstairs bathrooms and kitchen floor.

Thank you, ladies, for your ministry!

As you can see, other areas of the church building are left uncared for. We need more unpaid servants to help by cleaning the Sanctuary, Narthex and Entrance each week, and the Fellowship Hall and stairwells (as needed). Please contact Sue Hicks at 503-325-9013 to help care for one of these areas of the building, or change or share jobs with the current cleaning crew, if you want one of their jobs.



Warrenton UMC News (Continued)

Continued from page 3...

Wednesday Bible Study is focusing on the Old Testament book of Joshua--the book of second chances. No experience necessary for this weekly gathering--bring your special Bible or use one from the assortment we have on hand. 2pm each Wednesday for prayer and a study of God's Holy word. You are welcome, just as you are.

Charge Conference—October 27

Assistant to the Bishop Kate Conolly will be with us in the late afternoon on Thursday, October 27. This is our time to share about the opportunities God has provided for us as we reach out

into the Warrenton community and serve the needs that are available to us. In addition we will be providing Kate with the required statistics, reports and general paperwork that strengthens our connection to the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

May God bless you and keep you,
Jane Hill

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10 a.m. Worship (W) 11am (A) Worship and Children's SS World Communion 3-6 pm Labyrinth Walk @ Grace Episcopal	3 8 a.m. UMM @ Pig & Pancake 12 AA - W 5 pm Girl Scouts - W 5:30 pm AA (W) 7:30 pm Gamblers	4 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L	5 Noon Prayer - L 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 A-Anon-W 6 pm AA (W)	6	7 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	1 9 a.m. AA Men - W
G A R A G E S A L E S E T U P						
9 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10a.m. (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship & Children's SS Church Council Meeting after worship	10 8 a.m. UMM @ Pig & Pancake 12 AA - W 5 pm Girl Scouts - W 5:30 pm AA (W) 7:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous-L	11 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L 7 pm Sorority (W)	12 11 a.m. UMM - W Noon Prayer - L 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 A-Anon-W 6 pm AA (W)	13	14 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	15 9 a.m. AA Men - W 9-4 Quilters (W)
16 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10 a.m. Worship (W) 11am (A) Worship and Children's SS	17 8 a.m. UMM @ Pig & Pancake 12 AA - W 5 pm Girl Scouts - W 5:30 pm AA (W) 7:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous-L	18 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L	19 Noon Prayer - L 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 A-Anon - W 6 pm AA (W)	20 (prep all day) 6:30 pm Astoria Rescue Mission Dinner - FH	21 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off Newsletter Deadline 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	22 9 a.m. AA Men - W
23 9:45 Adult Sunday School - L 10a.m. (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship and Children's SS	24 8 a.m. UMM @ Pig & Pancake 12 AA-W 5 pm Girl Scouts - W 5:30 pm AA (W) 7:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous-L	25 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L 7 pm Sorority (W)	26 Noon Prayer - L 1p.m. Mary Martha Fellowship - PT 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 A-Anon - W 6 pm AA (W)	27	28 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	29 9 a.m. AA Men - W
30 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10 am (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship and Children's SS	31 8 a.m. UMM @ Pig & Pancake 12 AA-W 5 pm Girl Scouts - W 5:30 pm AA (W) 7:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous-L					

U = Upstairs Classroom
 W = Wesley Room L = Library
 FH = Fellowship Hall
 PT = Powell-Turner Room
 (A) = Astoria FUMC
 (W) = Warrenton UMC



**Astoria First United
Methodist Church**

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Return Service Requested

**Astoria First United Methodist Church
Warrenton United Methodist Church**

Western District of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

Bishop: Robert Hoshibata
Assistant to the Bishop for the Western District:
Kate Conolly
Pastor: Jennifer A. Mercer
Administrative Assistant: Linda Grznar
Diaconal Minister: Jane Hill
Lay Leader: Sue Hicks
Church Council Chairperson: Don Morden
Lay Member to Annual Conference:
Mary Frances Gunn

Astoria Church Office Hours:

Monday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

**We're on the web!
www.astoriafumc.org**

