



JOYFUL NOTES

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

Forward Focus

Inside this issue:

Bits & Bites	4
Kid's Page	6
November Calendar	7
Warrenton UMC News	3

If we don't know where we're going, it doesn't matter how we get there!

Recently, finance committee members from Astoria, Warrenton, and Seaside UMCs gathered for a day of learning and discussion on stewardship. We had a good turnout from all churches, great discussion and fellowship. As a result, our Astoria finance team and other leaders have begun exploring goals for our congregation for 2012 and beyond.

Why invest the time and energy of setting goals? "Can't we do what we've always done?" you might ask. Yes, we could; however, doing the same things in the same way we've always done them will most likely return the same—or less—results.

On the other hand, setting goals points us toward the future—God's future. Goals help us to focus our energies and

resources. Goals help us to be a better congregation, and be better at

serving our community. And, if you're like me, it feels good to look back at what's been accomplished with God's help and to celebrate!

The goals we'll be working to define come from these areas of congregational vitality:

1. *Disciples in worship* - worship attendance;
2. *Disciples making new disciples* - number of professions of faith;
3. *Disciples growing in their faith* - number of small groups;
4. *Disciples engaging in mission* - number of disciples doing outreach in the community and the world; and
5. *Disciples sharing their resources for mission* - amount of money given to mission.



Continued on page 2....

Forward Focus (continued)



All of these areas are needed to have a healthy, vital church. All of these areas need your active participation:

- If you haven't been to worship for a while, perhaps it's time to come back and recommit to your church family.
- Share your faith with someone who doesn't know Jesus; it'll change their life!
- Are you participating in a small group to strengthen and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ? If current groups don't fit your needs, consider starting a new group.
- As disciples, we are called to be in mission to the community. Get connected to one of the many service groups to help transform lives.
- Mission happens around the world and in our own back yard. Could we strengthen our giving to missions even more?

If you're wondering how we're going to be the church, the answer is to be the church! Get involved—stay connected—invite others into fellowship. It's what God created us for. It's what the early church did and their numbers increased exponentially (see the Book of Acts)!

How are you doing with your discipleship journey? What is God calling us to do and be in our Astoria community? I invite you to

prayerfully consider what goals God is calling our congregation to be working toward in the coming years. Write them down and share them with me or our church leaders.

I look forward to working with you as we move into God's future for Astoria First!

Pastor Jennifer

SMART Goals

S = Specific

M = Measurable

A = Achievable

R = Relevant

T = Time-Bound

Warrenton UMC News

Isn't it great to have a special time in our culture to be thankful for all that has been given and received, to pay attention to the abundance of opportunities for ministry and to be amazed that each of us can be actively involved? We are thankful to God for community, connection and contribution. Please keep our ministries in your prayers and join us whenever you are able. Bible study continues on Wednesdays at 2pm and worship is at 10 am each Sunday. You are each part of our abundance of blessings!

Happy Thanksgiving!

On Wednesday, November 2, Diana Butler will be leading a holiday craft/home decor workgroup. This workgroup will be creating products for the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 19. The workgroup will gather in the social hall around 11 for fellowship and production! We can always use workers.

Lay members Sharon and Anne will be taking the lead for the Veteran's Day service on November 6th. They have invited us to share photos of family members in service uniforms--we will be honored to share these precious family treasures. Please know that the doors are always open--join us when you are able. Our lunch service team will be working at the Sr. Luncheon at

the Community Center on Monday, Nov. 7 -we start setting up at 10 am, lunch service folks should be there at 11:30.

Saturday, November 19. Hours 10am-1:30pm Mark your calendars now for the Holiday Bazaar including holiday decor, a "white elephant" table and vintage Christmas items, bake sale to help you get ready for Thanksgiving, and our famous sandwich and salad lunch. Doors open at 10:00 and lunch is served from 11:00-1:00. Coffee and "treats" available for sale throughout the day. Special home-tradition recipes are used for these bake sale items--come let us share them with you and your family.

We invite you to join us for Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22 at 1:00 pm. We are in partnership with the Clatsop Plains Presbyterian Church for this worship opportunity. It is the season to come together and give thanks. Light refreshments will be served after the service.



Bits & Bites

Special Worship Gatherings and Events

Many folks have shared that time has flown by for them; in less than two months, we'll be celebrating Christmas and Jesus' birth! As we move into this season of thanksgiving and awaiting the birth of our Savior, please mark your calendars now to be part of the gatherings below, and watch the bulletin for more details.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m.

This will be a time to gather and give thanks to God for all our blessings!

Greening the Church

Saturday, November 26 at 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help with preparing and decorating our church home for the Advent and Christmas season.

Chrismon Service

Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m.



Come learn more about their meaning and sing carols as we decorate our sanctuary tree. Why not bring a friend?

Chrismons are Christian symbols used to decorate the Christmas tree. Come learn more about their meaning and sing

Music Lover's Opportunity

Mark your calendars now and plan to gather at Seaside UMC on Sunday, November 13 at 3 p.m. for a music festival featuring the choirs from Astoria, Seaside, and Tillamook. Why not carpool with a friend and come out to support our church choir?



Charge Conference—November 5

Church leaders are reminded of the annual charge conference on Saturday, November 5 at 2 p.m. (SPRC will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the library). Assistant to the Bishop Kate Conolly will lead us in a time of worship and church business items.

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 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

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.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Bits & Bites

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in November

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

November Birthdays

- 3—Charlotte Patching
- 3—Steve Patterson
- 10—Abby Albright
- 14—Chauncey McConnell
- 16—Adriana McConnell
- 21—Audrey Paetow
- 21—Brian Larson
- 21—Matt Patterson, Sr.
- 23—Phillip Gauthier
- 23—Mary Kettelkamp
- 23—David Maki
- 26—Jim Spain



November Anniversaries

None

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify the church office.

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

Thank you to everyone who has donated a blanket for the flood victims in Minot, ND. There's still time to help—just bring your blanket to church and place it in the container behind the pews in the sanctuary. The United Methodist Women's (UMW) will arrange to get the blankets to UMCOR to be distributed. Questions? Contact Sue Hicks at 503-325-9013.

Garage Sale a Success!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our annual garage sale event and a special thank you to Harry Comins for his dedicated work! Over \$1500 was raised by this event.

Council Meeting Date Changed

Please note that the monthly Church Council meeting has been moved to November 20 following worship, so that our choir and congregation may attend the Choir Festival on November 13 (see details on previous page).



**Night of
Saturday,
November 5**

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

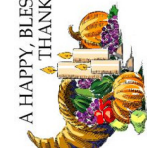
Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Give
Take
Grab | 2. peanut
praise
pear | 3. temple
house
LORD | 4. proclaim
past
present | 5. name
boy
lad | 6. ruin
destroy
make |
| 7. pine
acorn
known | 8. train
nations
bus | 9. done
donut
muffin | 10. Sing
Sleep
Yawn | 11. she
him
girl | 12. sun
praise
moon |
| 13. tell
fast
slow | 14. red
all
blue | 15. horrible
dreadful
wonderful | 16. acts
sisters
aunts | | |

" _____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts.
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
6 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10a.m. (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship & Children's SS Daylight Savings Time ends Fall back 1 hour	7 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 7 p.m. - Vision Team	8 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L 7 pm Sorority (W)	9 11 a.m. UMW - W (Ex. Bd. after setup) 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 AA-Anon-W 6 pm AA (W)	10 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	11 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	12 Astoria UMW Bazaar 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9 a.m. AA Men - W	
UMW set up for Bazaar							
13 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10 a.m. Worship (W) 11 am (A) Worship and Children's SS 3 pm Choir Festival in Seaside	14 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	15 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L	16 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 12 AA-Anon - W 6 pm AA (W)	17 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	18 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off Newsletter Deadline 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	19 Warrenton Craft Bazaar 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 9 a.m. AA Men - W 9-4 Quilters (W)	
20 9:45 Adult Sunday School - L 10a.m. (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship and Children's SS CHURCH COUNCIL	21 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	22 1:00 Thanksgiving Service (W) 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L 7 pm Sorority (W)	23 2 Bible Study (W) 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship (A) 12 AA-Anon - W 6 pm AA (W)	24 	25 Noon Prayer & Share (A) Pastor Jennifer's day off 12 AA - W 5:30 pm AA (W)	26 Greening of the Church (A) 10 a.m. 9 a.m. AA Men - W	
27 9:45 (A) Adult Sunday School - L 10 am (W) Worship 11 am (A) Worship and Children's SS First Sunday in Advent	28 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	29 12 AA-W 6 pm Women's AA - L 7 pm Sorority (W)	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> U = Upstairs Classroom W = Wesley Room L = Library FH = Fellowship Hall PT = Powell-Turner Room (A) = Astoria FUMC (W) = Warrenton UMC </div>			



**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**

