



The Circuit Rider

Puyallup and Whitney Memorial
United Methodist Churches

A bi-weekly newsletter

Volume 55 Number 25

December 16–29, 2007

In this issue:

Page	
2	Pastor Jim's Letter
3	Thank You
4	Join In
5	Church
6	Youth News
7	Our Ministries
8	Social Justice
8	Giving Chart
9	In The Future
10	Merry Christmas from the church staff

Our Pastoral Team:

Pastor Jim Lewis
(253) 848-4434
revjiml@qwest.net

Pastor Shirley
DeLarme
(253) 826-2253
pastorshirl@qwest.net

Pastor Ed Iwamoto
(425) 827-2016
Whitney Memorial
eiwamoto@verizon.net

Music Staff:

Suna Chung
Music Director
(253) 435-5127
suchungwa@yahoo.com
Miki Craighead
Organist
Rick Crozier
Music Team Leader

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight Services: December 24

5:00 pm

Children's Drama
Love Feast

8:00 pm

Music Team
Holy Communion

10:00 pm

Choir
Holy Communion



The First Christmas



Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan have written a new book entitled *The First Christmas*. The sub-title of this book is “What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Birth.” (We sold several copies of this book at our recent Library sale and we can order more if others would want to read.) I am enjoying reading the book and I will share some of their comments from the Preface.

“This book, *The First Christmas*, treats what may be the best-known stories in the world. The stories of Jesus’ birth are the foundation of the world’s most widely observed holiday. Christmas is celebrated by the world’s two billion Christians. Because of the importance of Christmas, how we understand the stories of Jesus’ birth matters. What we think they’re about—how we hear them, read them, interpret them—matters.

They are often sentimentalized. And, of course, there is emotional power in them. They touch the deepest of human yearnings: for light in the darkness, for the fulfillment of our hopes, for a different kind of world. Moreover, for many Christians, they are associated with their earliest memories of childhood. Christmas has emotional power.

But the stories of Jesus’ birth are more than sentimental. The stories of the first Christmas are both personal and political. They speak of personal and political transformation. Set in their first-century context, they are comprehensive and passionate visions of another way of seeing life and of living our lives. They challenge the common life, the status quo, of most times and places. Even as they are tidings of comfort and joy, they are edgy and challenging. They confront ‘normalcy,’ what we call ‘the normalcy of civilization’ – the way most societies, most human cultures, have been and are organized.

We have two chapters at the beginning of two gospels, Matthew and Luke. They report his genealogy and conception, his birth and infancy, and one concludes with a story of him at age twelve. They are richer and more challenging than is commonly imagined. Our concern is neither to defend them as factual nor to trash them as nonfactual. Rather, we focus on their meanings. What *did* and *do* these stories *mean*?

Our task is twofold. The first is historical: to exposit these stories and their meanings in their first-century context. The second is contemporary: to treat their meanings for Christian understanding and commitment today. Both tasks are historical and theological. The first-century context is not simply historical, but also theological. It concerns the conflict between an imperial theology and a theology grounded in the God of Israel as known in the Bible and Jesus. Our twenty-first century context is also historical and theological. What do the stories of Jesus’ birth mean in our contemporary historical context?

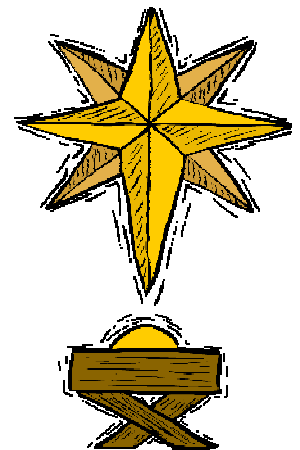
We think hearing their ancient and contemporary meanings matters particularly for American Christians today. To say the obvious, America is in the powerful and perilous position of being the empire of our day. As we will see, the stories of the first Christmas are pervasively anti-imperial.

There is a political meaning and challenge in these stories, both in their ancient setting and today. Of course, these stories are not ‘only political’-they are also deeply personal. They speak, and speak powerfully, about our deepest yearnings and about God’s promises and passion. Their personal and political meanings can be distinguished, but not separated without betraying one or the other.

They are about light in our darkness, the fulfillment of our deepest yearnings, and the birth of Christ within us. They are about us--our hopes and fears. And they are about a different kind of world. God’s dream for us is not simply peace of mind, but peace on earth.”

I think you will find this book informative and provocative for more conversation about the meaning of the first Christmas in our lives.

Jim Lewis



Thank You!

Directory Changes

Please call the church office at 845-0547 with any address or phone number change. It is important for our records to be accurate, but also to avoid being charged for a returned newsletter.

- Marie Britton
P O Box 1251, Puyallup 98371-0236
- Chris Bernd
12910—464th Ave. SE, North Bend 98045
- Jane Cooke
401—27th Ave. SE, Apt. C-331, Puyallup 98374
- Lynette Driscoll Breshears (253) 218-5478
11005—124th St. Ct. E, Puyallup 98374
- Kari Dutcher
1219—11th St. Pl. SW, Puyallup 98371
- Megan Ernst
1111 S. Villard St, #14, Tacoma 98465
- Harriet Farman
815 S. 216th St, Des Moines 98198
- Gary & Norma Gale
6701—94th St. E, Puyallup 98371
- Marian Harlow
2410—97th Pl. SE, Everett 98208-2709
- Randolph & Barbara Lindblad, (360) 459-0899
8137 Kerbaugh Rd. NE, Olympia 98516
- Michael & Staci Murphy
1802—22nd Ave. SE, Puyallup 98372
- Dick & Liz O'Bannon
PO Box 551, Goldendale 98620-0551
- John Pepper
9402—118th St. SE, Puyallup 98373-3612
- Paul Rittenger & Jennifer Roberts (253) 922-8321
6022 Radiance Blvd. E, Fife 98424
- Brandon Rogness (253) 445-8727
15214—88th Ave. Ct. E, Puyallup 98375
- Karen Schrodt, (253) 268-0555
16927—91st Ave. E, Puyallup 98375
- Tedd Wilkinson
9804—118th St. E, Puyallup 98373

Dear everyone:

I think of you all so often even though it's been a long time since I last wrote.

Texas is still very interesting and surprising. Iced tea is served at every lunch and dinner throughout the year no matter how cold the weather. "Strawberry shortcake" is a 3-layer white cake with a strawberry gel filling! Oh! How I miss RIPE Puyallup strawberries!

With love and my wishes to each of you for a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year in 2008.

Dorothy Gould

7831 Park Lane, apt. 374D, Dallas, TX 75225-2051

To United Methodist Women

On behalf of the Fort Campbell Fisher House Staff, I would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt as a donation in support of our troops.

We wish you all the best and thank you for your support!

Vivian Wilson



Mike Waller—recovering from knee surgery at home

Jim Brown—at Rainier Vista

Pearl Thayer's family since her passing.

Ralph Taylor—in Life Care Center

Pam Ernst, Megan Ernst's mother, spot in lung

Jim Eby, nephew of Jean Morgan & Dixie Neunecker needs healing

Holly Emerson's Dad suffered heart failure.



Home for the Holidays

Merle Davenport's 90th Birthday Party

All are welcome to attend the celebration on Saturday, December 15 at 11:30 am at PUMC in the Fireside Room. No gifts, please. Potluck lunch at noon followed by birthday cake and entertainment.

Epworth Christmas Potluck

December 19 join us at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We'll be enjoying a Christmas party with a potluck buffet and 'white elephant' gifts. All are welcome.

Socks & Mittens Tree

Loving God with hats, scarves, gloves, mittens & socks. December 2—January 6. Bring your gifts to church and place them on the Christmas tree in Wesley Hall. All gifts will be blessed in worship on January 6, 2008.

Women's Book Club December 28, 7:00 pm

Cousins of Color by William Schroeder will be the subject of attention at our December 28 meeting in the Cottage.

Encountering Jesus

A 7-week study called Encountering Jesus and Living as His Disciples by Zan W. Holmes, Jr. will be conducted during Lent beginning January 27, 2008. Join us as we read together, talk together, and grow in our Christian discipleship. Contact the church office at 253-845-0547 if you would like to host a small group in your home or be a small group leader or participant. Call also if you need help with transportation or childcare so you can attend.

Encountering the Author

Please, help us welcome guest preacher and author of our study book, The Rev. Dr. Zan W. Holmes, Jr. on Sunday, January 27 during 9:00 and 10:30 worship services. Also, mark your calendars for an event that afternoon with Pastor Holmes.

Longest Night

December 21, 7:30 pm
First Christian Church, 432 Wood Ave, Sumner
*The people living in the darkness
have seen a great light." Matthew 4:16.*

The joy of the Christmas season is sometimes shadowed by the confusion and sadness of grief, loss or major life changes. Sometimes we need special and different ways to mark this time of year.

The Longest Night Service—a special Christmas service—is held on the Winter Solstice and offers a way of recognizing the darkness into which the Christ child is born.

This ecumenical service* of music, reflection, remembering and sharing in the Lord's Supper is offered to anyone in the community.

*A cooperative ministry of Christ the King Lutheran, Sumner First Christian Church and Sumner United Methodist Church.

Donate to Flood Victims

The greatest need of the flood victims is financial. The Treasurers Office of the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Conference is now accepting monetary donations for Disaster Response.

Please make checks payable to "PNW Disaster Response"

and send to PUMC or:
PNWUMC Treasurers Office
816 South 216th St #2
P.O. Box 13650
Des Moines, WA 98198



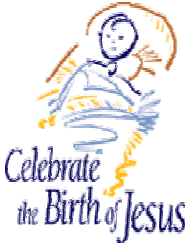

Children Lead Worship December 16

Sunday School Children in grades Kindergarten through 6th will lead us in worship Sunday, December 16th. Join us as the children continue lighting our Advent Wreath, read our scripture, and name God's promises and joys. This worship service will reflect the theme of two special babies, Jesus and John, of two special moms, Mary and Elizabeth, about whom the children have been learning.



December

16—29, 2007

Dec. 16 Sunday	Dec. 17 Monday	Dec. 18 Tuesday	Dec. 19 Wednesday	Dec. 20 Thursday	Dec. 21 Friday	Dec. 22 Saturday
<p>9:00 am Children-led Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>4—8 pm Youth Group Christmas Party at Pastor Shirley's DeLarmes</p>	<p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:45 pm Holy Communion Sanctuary</p> <p>6:45 pm Childcare Room 3</p> <p>7:00 pm Disciple I Cottage</p> <p>7:00 pm Disciple II Conference Rm</p> <p>7:00 pm Disciple V Room 7</p>	<p>9:00 am Worship Planning</p> <p>10:00 am Quilters Conference Rm</p> <p>6:30—8:00 pm Trustees Room 10</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Council Conference Rm</p> <p>7:00 pm Men's Bible Study Room 3</p>	<p>9:00 am Lectionary Conference Rm</p> <p>9:30 am Let's Talk Room 3</p> <p>12:30 pm Epworth Circle Fireside Room</p> <p>6:00 pm Music Team</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Council Fireside Room</p>	<p>1:30 pm Parkinson's Support Fireside Room</p> <p>6:00 pm Handbells Room 5</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir Sanctuary</p>		<p>9:00 am Rehearsal for 5 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>
						
Dec. 23 Sunday	Dec. 24 Monday	Dec. 25 Tuesday	Dec. 26 Wednesday	Dec. 27 Thursday	Dec. 28 Friday	Dec. 29 Saturday
<p>9:00 am Worship Service K-6 Children to Wesley Hall</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>Candlelight Services 5:00 pm</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>10:00 pm</p> 	 <p><i>Celebrate the Birth of Jesus</i></p> 	<p>9:00 am Lectionary Conference Rm</p> <p>6:00 pm Music Team Sanctuary</p>	<p>6:00 pm Play Practice Wesley Hall</p> <p>6:00 pm Handbells Room 5</p> <p>7:00 pm Social Justice Conference Rm</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Sanctuary</p>	<p>4—8 pm Young Adult Reunion Party Pastor Shirley's</p> <p>7:00 pm Book Club Cottage</p>	

Events Calendar

- Dec. 16 9 & 10:30 Pageant in Worship
4-8 pm Christmas Party at Pastor Shirley's*
Bring food, board games, finger foods, Christmas movies, music, white elephant gift exchange, favorite food. Invite your family to join us at 7:30 to sing carols and read the Christmas story...
- Dec. 23 NO Youth Group
- Dec. 27-30 Sr. High Winter Camp at Lazy F (9-12 grades) registration forms available at Youth Booth
- Dec. 30 Youth host Fellowship Times
- Jan 6 Mission Trip Parents' meeting
- Jan 26-2 Mid-Winter Retreat at Ocean Park, MS

Looking Ahead

- February 3 Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb. 22-23 30-Hour Famine
- March 15 Pot O' Gold Rummage Sale
- April 13 Box Social Fund Raiser
- April 11-13 Dazzling Divas Retreat
- May 18 Confirmation Sunday, 7 pm worship
- May 24-26 CONVO, HS Youth, speaker Mike Ratliff!!!
- June 8 Graduation Breakfast
- July 14-18 Vacation Bible School
- Oct. 4 U2 Eucharist

* Party directions to Pastor Shirley's: Take Pioneer Avenue (SR 410) East to Sumner Orting Highway. Head east (right) to Orting. Turn left at 96th Ave. traffic light by Chevron. After crossing



the river turn right on McCutcheon. As the road winds up take the branch to the left onto Rhodes Lake Road. When the road levels off, turn left on to 144th St, then immediately turn left into 174th Ave. Ct E. The house is on the right, number 11315. Call 826-2253 if you get lost.



The Golden Compass

Dear Friends,

I must confess that until very recently I hadn't heard of ***The Golden Compass***. ... and then I found out that *The Golden Compass* is a religious controversy. Allegedly, the author of the book upon which the movie is based, Philip Pullman, said of his work, "My books are about killing God." **Just in time for Christmas, a movie to destroy the faith of your children!**

As is usually the case, there are two very different sides to this controversy. There may well be good reason to be apprehensive but several of the resources I have reviewed also suggest this could be a good opportunity for Christians to reflect on their faith more deeply. **I am always saddened by how quickly we line up to protest, boycott, and judge things.** Not only does this reinforce the stereotypes that label Christians as close-minded and judgmental; we also miss out on opportunities to grow in our understanding of those who differ from us and why they do so. Are we not called to share the story of God's love with these people too?

I spent last night at WSU-Pullman meeting with the **awesome young adults at K-House!** Several of the people there had read and enjoyed the series. Strangely, these individuals had not been changed into seething atheists. In the context of a larger discussion about other religions, it became obvious that they had deeper faiths because of their exposure to other faith traditions and ideas like those in Phillip Pullman's novels.

I don't think we should be afraid of ideas. Ideas, particularly those that challenge the things we hold dear, can be a wonderful tool to help us to better define what we believe and who we are. In a time where people don't think enough about what they believe, perhaps we shouldn't casually pass opportunities for reflection by.

Peace,

Patrick Scriven

Associate Director of Connectional Ministries
PNW Conference

All Church Conference

Following a greeting by our church Lay Leader, Holly Emerson, our new District Superintendent, Sharon Moe led us in an invocation, opening hymn, and scripture from Luke 8: 42-48. Her reflections on the scriptures were powerful and very meaningful. This was followed by our business that began with the pastor's reports by Jim and Shirley. While most of our elections take place in June, the Lay Leadership nominated and the body elected **Celeste Sperl** to the Trustees; **Diane Windsor** (for 2008) **Ken Davis**, **Rosemary Eckerson**, and **Bruce Osborne** (for 2010) to the Lay Leadership Committee; and **Bill Rhodes**, **Duane Sperl**, and **Jan Nelsen** to the new Capital Funds Committee. Still needed are one additional Trustee and several others for Capital Funds. The body approved the recommendation of the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the pastoral compensation for 2008. Also approved were the recommendations of our Lay Speaker, **Ken Davis** and our three Candidates for Ordained Ministry at this point, **Ginny Christiansen**, **Donna Schreiber**, and **Amy Wertz**. **Betty Chamberlain** spoke about her ministry as a retired elder, **Miki Craighead** spoke as a retired full deacon, and a written report for **Tom Slate**, also a retired elder, was received.

The membership report showed that we have received nine new members and lost fifteen members by transfers to other congregations or death. Also, the body recommended removing 33 persons from membership this year. Six other inactive members received their first year letter about their membership and will be acted upon next year. It is always our desire to encourage those who are able to be active, but are currently no longer active, to become active again. We also encourage those who have moved to another part of the country to become active in the church in that area.

The accountability questions reflected that most of the church's financial activities have been audited for 2006, our corporate status is current with the Secretary of State, our church insurance is current and paid, we have a "Safe Churches" policy, and we are also current on our financial responsibilities for the larger mission of our church. We received an offering for the Tacoma District Builder's Club which helps smaller churches with emergency problems which they can't pay for by themselves.

Holy Communion was received, Betty Chamberlain played our hymn for singing, and the closing benediction was offered. In addition to the above comments, many important reports were presented in written form by the many different ministry groups reviewing their work of the past year and some goals and hope for the coming year.

Gift-Giving Hospitality

We are a gift-giving society. Examples of gift giving can be found in hunter-gatherer societies and Native American practices. Many societies offer food and drink as gifts. Our fellowship time is a gift of hospitality. Although fellowship time may not appear to be so important, it is a wonderful opportunity to share the gifts of food and drink, setting the stage for conversation and warm welcome for guests.

Coordinating fellowship time is an important function. We are deeply grateful to Kay Ach who has been serving in this capacity. She has organized our helping groups and other volunteers and has made scheduling appear seamless and easy. On behalf of the Council, we extend our deepest appreciation.

As Kay moves on to use her talents and gifts in other ministry areas, we need someone who loves to organize and manage activities and who will take over the coordinating role.

We have many small groups in our church, from ministry areas to Disciple classes in addition to individuals who help with fellowship time. If you would like to coordinate or co-coordinate fellowship time or to volunteer as an individual, please either let me or the office know. Contrary to rumor, dealing with the coffee maker is NOT daunting. We have never lost anyone yet in the process! Instructions and training are provided.

Please consider helping us with the gift of hospitality.

Linda Henry,
Chair Church Council

We Can Make A Difference Our Transportation

A majority of the world’s climatologists agree that the world’s climate is warming up. It is also agreed that we humans have contributed significantly to this warming through the emission of greenhouse gasses (GHG), specifically carbon dioxide (CO₂). The goal of many countries, states and corporations is to reduce the amount of carbon put into the air by 20% to 50% by the year 2030.

For us, families and individuals, to start reducing our “carbon footprint” we first have to have some idea about how much carbon we produce each year. One simple way is to use one of the numerous carbon calculators found on the Web. One such resource can be found at: <http://www.fightglobalwarming.com/carboncalculator.cfm>

Once you have calculated your family’s annual carbon output, you can make plans on how to reduce your carbon output to meet your goal.

The first place you might want to look is at our biggest carbon producer, our transportation. According to the “Union of Concerned Scientists”, our household use of transportation, ranging from recreational boating to cars to public transportation, is responsible for 28 to 51 percent of all greenhouse gases and air pollution and 23 percent

of toxic water pollution. Of these figures, about 84% is related to personal vehicle travel (based on per passenger mile).

So, what are some strategies you can use to meet your transportation goal?

1. If you are in the market for a new car, consider a hybrid model or one that gets at least 5% better mileage than the vehicle it is replacing. Also buy the car that meets the majority of your driving rather than the occasional exception.
2. Keep your current vehicles tuned up and the tire pressures set at recommended levels.
3. Plan your use of the car to be more efficient. (Car pool to work, fewer shopping trips, shorter vacation trips, etc.)
4. If you are moving, pick housing that is closer to where you work.
5. Include more travel using public transportation.
6. Walk or ride a bike more often. This is good for your own health too.

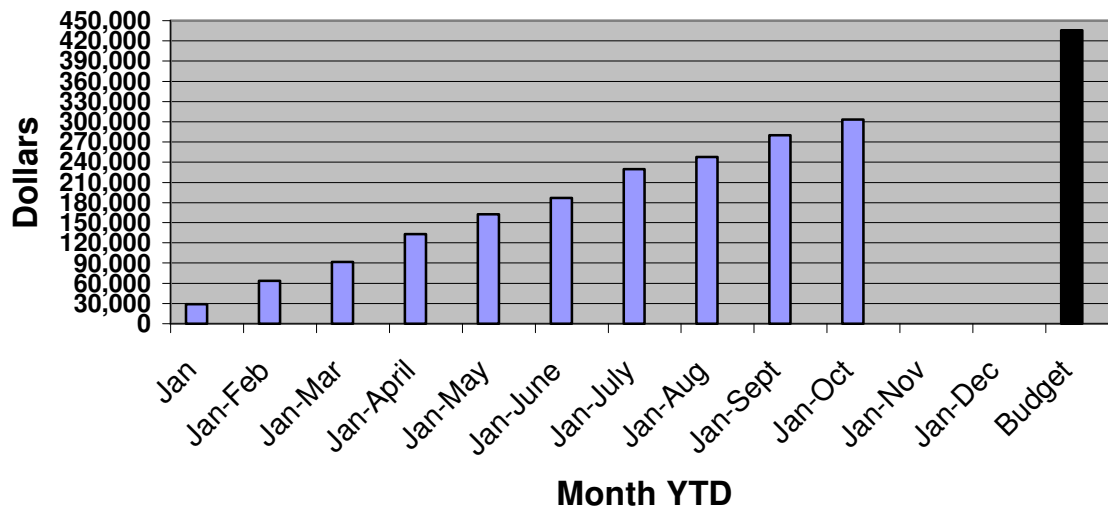
Most of us have a household budget for our finances, why not a monthly mileage budget for our cars?

Next month we will take a look at the second most harmful consumer activity... the consumption of fish, meat and poultry. (Surprised? Stay tuned)

Jim Christensen

Social Justice Committee

PUMC 2007 Giving



Adult Class



Beginnings is a small-group spiritual journey for seekers, new believers, and longtime Christians who want to explore the basics of Christianity in a relaxed, nurturing atmosphere.

Classes meet Monday nights beginning January 14th. From 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. There are 9 weekly sessions plus a Saturday. Weekly gatherings begin with a simple soup supper . All sessions meet at Puyallup United Methodist Church, West 1919 Pioneer Avenue.

Participants can bring their questions, gain knowledge, and form or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

SESSIONS EXPLORE SOME OF LIFE'S DEEPEST QUESTIONS:

- So Is This All There Is?
- Who Is Jesus and Why Should I Care?
- Why Am I Not Where I Want to Be?
- What Happens When I Die?
- Can I Trust God?
- How Does God Speak to Me?
- If I Don't Feel Lost, Why Do I Need to Be Found?
- Can I Start Again?
- How Do I Speak to God?
- How Can I Make a Life and Not Just a Living?
- Why Should I Join Any Group That Will Have Me as a Member?
- Love Feast!

Childcare is provided.

We'd love to know if you are coming, but feel free to drop in on our first session, Monday, January 14th. We'll have a bowl of soup for you along with a warm welcome.

...for adults at any point on their spiritual journey
 Puyallup United Methodist Church
 Phone (253) 845-0547
 Email: umcpuy@qwest.net
 Website: www.puyallupumc.org

Cheer to Our Servicemen

Welcome home from Iraq,
 Brandon McElroy!

Send a note of Christmas cheer to soldiers spending the holidays away from home:

Cpl. Sequeira, Steven B.
 C Company
 MWSS 372
 Untie 42020
 FPO AP 96426-2020

PFC McCord, Joseph H.
 A Co. 106 IN BN/
 CMR 405 Box 54260
 APO AE 09034-4260

OS2 Alswager, Alan M.
 USS Shoup (DDG-86)
 OI Division
 FPO AP 96678-1300

2 LT Boyles, Brian
 1810 Caroline Ave., apt. B201
 Junction City, KS 66401

(Please advise the office of any updates)

UMW Legislative Tour

February 27, 2008, 8 am - 2 pm

“A Day at the Capitol” is the 14th Annual Conference UMW Legislative Day. See your legislators in action. Start at Olympia First United Methodist Church, 1224 E. Legion Way. The tour includes the Capitol Building, Legislative Buildings, Governor’s Mansion, speakers, and/or time with your own legislator or attending committee hearings.

Church Parking

Please consider parking in the rear lot to leave space for our elders and new guests, especially during this Christmas season. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Office Depot

When you shop at Office Depot, give them the church’s phone number to apply your purchase to our Rewards card.

I would like to participate.
 I will need help with: transportation childcare
Contact me:

 name

 phone

 Email
 Drop this form in the offering plate, at the church office, call us, or email us.

Jim Lewis

Pam Sharrar

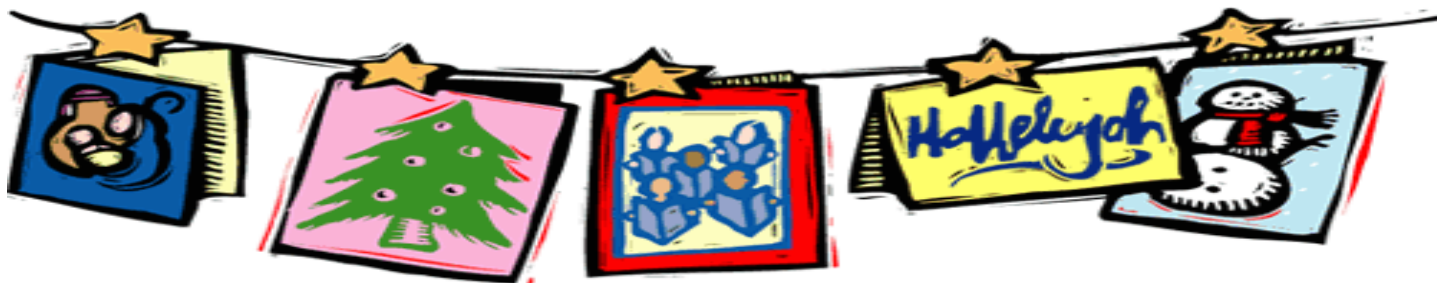
Suna Chung

Christmas Blessings from your Church Staff

Barbara Capps

Shirley DeLorme

Miki Craighead




Puyallup United Methodist Church
Vision Statement

**A Christian faith community
that experiences and shares
God's love.**

PERIODICALS
Postage Paid
Puyallup, WA 98371-5211
(USPS) 113-600
Postmaster:
Send address correction to
PUMC
1919 West Pioneer
Puyallup, WA 98371

Circuit Rider is published bi-weekly by
Puyallup United Methodist Church
1919 West Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371
Phone: (253) 845-0547
Fax: (253) 845-4620
Church e-mail: umcpuy@qwest.net
Church webpage: www.puyallupumc.org

***Circuit Rider* e-mail:
circuitriderumc@qwest.net**

Editor— Pam Sharrar
Circulation—Dolores Rohlman, Betty Warner,
and Ed and Phyllis Hibben

**Next Circuit Rider deadline is
December 19th.**