

# The Good News

From the Goldendale United Methodist Church 109 East Broadway, Goldendale, WA  
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As members of God's family, we endeavor, as a diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ ~  
to develop a creative supportive fellowship; to participate in global and nurturing ministries; and to  
build relationships that empower all people to experience the grace of God.



## *Special Interest Articles:*

*Pastor's Column*

*UMW News*

*UMM News*

*Prayers for Our  
People*

*And Much, Much  
More!*

## *Pastor's Pen - Beginning Again*

As the year 2011 draws to an end, it is time to blow the dust off that new calendar that Lynn ordered so dutifully last October and mount it on the wall, replacing 2011's calendar. It is also time to bid goodbye to the 2011 planning calendar filled with all that made this last year special. Here were noted teaching assignments and related meetings which filled my first six months. Here are recorded family birthdays, doctor and counseling appointments, vacation plans. Here is that first introductory meeting with staff parish on April 26 and the introduction to the rest of you on June 19. On Sundays throughout the year are notes about the texts for that Sunday as I began to retrain my brain to weekly sermons after 20 years away from that rhythm.

The last week in July begins a long series of 'firsts.' First Sermon, first visits to many of you. First meetings with Ad Council and Staff Parish, Charge Conference, study groups, Advent activities...sprinkled with visits to family and friends outside this community. As I glance back I can recall all those 'getting lost' adventures on the way to someone's house, I see notes about impressions and hunches as we began to get acquainted.

As I open a blank 2012 calendar, I can't help but wonder what notes will fill its pages. That calendar that Lynn ordered reminds me that all of us are asked as part of our membership vows 'to be loyal to the

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church...to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.' Someone once pointed out to me that the most precious of all gifts is the gift of time because time is a resource which is un-renewable. That which fills the pages of my calendar is an indication of that to which I give my time. It reveals my priorities. It identifies my ministry of presence and service. It even sheds some light on my gifts of prayer.

This week I begin again to tell a story of faith. What will these weeks bring? With what will I choose to fill these pages? I wonder?

### **Office Hours/Contact Information**

Pastor Ben is normally in his office at the church Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon, or by appointment. He is usually 'in-and-out' in the afternoons. He can best be reached on his cell phone (509)250-3875.

Lynn is normally in her office at the church Monday - Friday 1pm - 4pm. The church phone number is as it has been: (509)773-4461.

**Don't forget that you can find the January 2012 calendar on-line at  
<http://w3.gorge.net/gumc>**



### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The members of the group will meet at the home of Linda Hay, Vice President, on Thursday, Jan. 5, to plan the year's activities. The group will publish their handbook of yearly work, meeting times and places, and addresses and emails of our members.

This valuable resource is available to all women of GUMC. Be sure to ask Mary Shane or Linda Hay for a copy. "Don't be without it!" The first regular meeting of the United Methodist Women for 2012 is on January 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 1 pm at the Methodist Church.

The Holiday Bazaar was successful in raising over \$800 for mission projects. Several gifts of money donations were given at Christmas time by the women's group to help local people in their mission work with women and children. These gifts were sent to New Hope

Farms, Back Packs For Kids, Dr. Jim Ogden and Dr. David Reimche-vu (who will be traveling together this year on their mission), and to Pastor Ben. Thank you to all who worked so hard in setting up the bazaar, working at the bazaar, and in making or donating items to sell.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men's group will meet on the second Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at Sod Busters. All men are welcome for discussion and fellowship. Question? Contact Larry Gourley - 773-3015.

## CHURCH COUNCIL WILL MEET ON JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Church Council now meets on the first Wednesday of every month. By the time you get this newsletter, the meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> will already have been held. The time remains the same... 5:30 pm. The choir will always meet at 5:00 pm. on the first Wednesday of each month. Be sure to bring a light snack to share with everyone. We hope to see you there.

## It's Coming.....!!!

Some new options and opportunities are in the planning stages:

One is a 13 week study on personal finances called Financial Peace University, by Dave Ramsey. If there is often more month than money at your house, if the thought of personal finances brings anything BUT peace, this course is for YOU. While Ramsey's answers are not easy they are practical, simple, and presented with an energy and attitude that will keep you laughing as together you set a course toward a time when finances DO bring peace. The class will be led by Pastor Ben and Claudia. We will meet on Mondays at 6:30 beginning February 27th. Child care will be available if requested. Cost is \$100 per household for books and materials. Claudia and I found this course extremely helpful as we traveled through all of the transitions of the last year and want to make the principles and practices we learned available to the people of this community. You may sign up on the bulletin board at church or by calling the church office.

## LENTEN STUDIES

As Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22, we will be offering other new opportunities for learning, fellowship, and community. Join us for fellowship around a simple soup supper after choir and community meal. Stay on for some study as we break up into smaller groups around at least two themes. Pastor Ben will lead a 6 week study on 'Most significant Greek words.' Koine Greek is the original language of the New Testament. Join us as we study some key words and the concepts that they represent. Dave VanDerDoes will be leading a class in English Hymnology. Together with you, Dave will explore the life experiences and faith perspectives that led to some of our favorite hymns. The words and music tell a story not only of our faith, but of the lives of those who put pen to paper all those years ago.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will have a different feel in the summer of 2012 as we invite the staff of Twinlow United Methodist Camp to lead us through a week of excitement and enthusiasm. The staff will provide curriculum, publicity pieces, 3-4 key leaders, and a week of energy and excitement to the children of Goldendale. We will still need to provide snacks and support staff. But our biggest challenge will be raising the money needed to bring this wonderful opportunity our way. The good people of Christ the King Lutheran have already agreed to shoulder half of the cost. Be on the lookout for ways to help us meet our \$800 goal. One way is just to sponsor a child for \$50, but there will be other ways to have fun as we turn this challenge into an opportunity to serve.

## CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Looking to the future of Goldendale United Methodist Church is one of the goals of a dedicated group of persons in our congregation participating in the Congregational Leadership Development Class. This group of people, with the help of the congregation, are going to go through a process of reading literature, attending a class on one Sunday afternoon for several months, prioritize the needs of the church, and engage in other activities that will help us come up with a sense of direction and possibilities for

Goldendale United Methodist Church. The group is in the formative stages of discussions and interviews to gather information helpful to making some decisions and coming up with some insight as to what might be useful to the congregation. The group is interviewing folks in the church at the present time. You may have been contacted by a member of the group to sit down and share some of your thoughts. If you are curious enough to want to be a part of this interview process and no one has contacted you, call the church office and we can set that up.

The group is comprised of Larry Gourley, Rob Blevins, Ben Moore and Claudia Moore, Sharon Williams, Brian and Lynn Wanless. The group meets in The Dalles with a group of Methodists and Lutherans from Oregon and are led by Steve Ross, District Superintendent in the Oregon Conference. The members of the group are happy to share more information with you. Just ask!

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Goldendale United Methodist Church has begun a new mission project! We're sponsoring the Kid's Camp afterschool program at the Goldendale Primary School which began January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Primary school children will receive snacks, help with homework, learn things through crafts and projects and just have fun with games indoors and out! It is after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from the end of regular classes to 5:30 PM (5:00 on Wednesday). The cost is a nominal \$25 per month, per family (no matter the number of kids). **WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP!** Even if you can do it just once a week or on an occasional basis, your help will be greatly appreciated. Anyone interested please contact Larry Gourley at 773-3015 or [kidscampgoldendale@gmail.com](mailto:kidscampgoldendale@gmail.com)

## **SOUP KITCHEN SERVES MANY GOLDENDALE RESIDENTS**

Goldendale United Methodist Church, in partnership with Goldendale Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Mormon Church, the Nazarene Church, and various civic and community groups has been serving meals three nights a week for approximately 3 years. The numbers for the year 2011, are recorded below as compiled by Dave Carl who coordinates the meals for the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

	<u>People Served</u>	<u>Meals Served</u>
Mon. and Wed. - SDA	4217	5906
Tues. - Methodists, Mormons, Nazarenes	1631	2802

The number of meals served is greater as many of the diners transport meals to those who cannot come to the meal site. And the servers also count 'second helpings' as another meal. The Seventh Day Adventists keep track of the costs per meal. In 2011, their cost per meal was \$1.31. The other churches do not have that information available.

It is readily apparent that the community is helping a great number of people who are struggling economically. The program is continuing to work well 3 nights a week. Most expenses are met through donations from others in the community who wish to help. And sometimes the donation of time is just as valuable as volunteers are needed to help cook and serve the meals. If you would like to make a donation or volunteer your time, please call Goldendale United Methodist Church at 773-4461. They will be happy to direct your donations to help the soup kitchen continue this mission work.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR PEOPLE

Please offer prayers of thanks for God's blessings: brave 'swimmers' and 'toe-dippers' who participated in the Polar Plunge fund raiser for the swimming pool; for visits with families and friends during the holiday season, for a wonderful story told by Pastor Ben at the Christmas Eve service; for rainfall and puddles and sunshine.

Please keep these people in your prayers: Bill Enderby, who had a kidney transplant on Christmas Day; Erv Anderson, who continues to improve with the goal of moving back 'home' always motivating him; Brian Rice recovering from a viral attack to his heart; Rosalee Cole's health is improving; Bernice Baker, whose knee is causing her much pain; the many folks in our community who are sneezing and sniffing.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1/8 Bruce Wollam

1/14 Linda Foreman

1/16 Gary Hctor

1/24 Ann Lloyd

1/26 Harold Hill

1/27 John & Linda Foreman

1/29 Michael Macy

1/12 Shirley Barnes

1/16 Lori Anderson

1/18 Kelly Gallagher

1/25 Andrew Ihrig

1/26 Chris Sweetin

1/28 Carmon Bryan

### AND FINALLY.....

#### WE ARE ALL BUT STEWARDS

*"We are all but stewards of what we falsely call our own; yet avarice is so insatiable that it is not in the power of abundance to content it."*

- Seneca

Only now, in retrospect, do we fully realize the extent to which greed ruled our lives. We're not surprised that this character defect is among the Seven Deadly Sins, for our avarice knew no bounds. We relentlessly sought not only money and possessions, but also ever increasing amounts of prestige, attention, and approval.

We also see clearly that our greed was but the surface manifestation of our underlying problem - a deep void within us caused by insecurity, fear, and a sense of purposelessness.

There came a time of revelation when we *knew* that nothing material could ever fill the "hole in our gut." We discovered that our lifelong sense of bankruptcy was of a spiritual nature. Soon thereafter, we made a decision to turn our lives over to the care of God.

We embarked on a spiritual journey, and along the way have been given riches that we could never find or accumulate on our own - a sense of usefulness and

belonging, serenity, and genuine happiness. Today we know that we can best remain spiritually fulfilled through service to God - and we can best serve Him by giving of ourselves to others.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Greed is the surface manifestation of an inner spiritual void