

Our God & All People

the
newsletter
of

North Mason

United Methodist Church



Loving and Serving Our God

by Loving and Serving All People



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September 2015

New Beginnings

Today marks the first day of school for my kids. I had an opportunity to take them to the bus stop today and on the way I told them this was a day of new beginnings. This is the day that they could do anything. Last year is done, it's over. Whatever happened, whatever didn't happen, whatever was good and whatever was not so good, whatever met their expectations and whatever did not meet their expectations, it was over. Today was a new day.

In this new day, I hoped that they might look at today as an experience, or better, a new experience. One where they had an opportunity to control their own destiny. I prayed for them today. And as I watched them get on the bus, I realized I had no control over what their day will hold for them. I realized that's all I could do was trust in the moments I have spent with them. I had to trust that I have given them the tools in which they could face challenges and the excitement of this new experience.

It's funny how the simplest of things gives us deep insight into our spirituality. How many times have we said these words? God gives us second chances. God is the God of second chances and second, second chances. God puts away our past. Just like the rocks that we put at the bottom of the fountain, God has put our failures, our successes, our disappointments, our fears, our anger, and even

our brokenness away. They have been removed. And though some of those are not forgotten, they are not part of who we are today or who we can become tomorrow.

Our spiritual journey is a lot like getting on the bus for the first day of a new school year. You have a chance to be somebody different. God gives us the tools to become somebody different. The sermon last week was titled "Turning Point." And just like the first day of school is a turning point, so is each breath that we take or each prayer that we pray. And so I pray for us. I want us to be transformed by the presence and power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want us to be transformed and therefore be able to transform the world by our presence and by our faith.

God's gift to us is one which we are called to share with the world and I pray that I have shared enough with our congregation so that we might answer this call. Today I watched my kids leave my presence and I prayed. This is the same way I watch our congregation on Sunday morning leave the church. As the doors close behind them, I pray that they will take this new opportunity to become the people that God has intended them to be. I pray that their lives will change the world, one relationship at a time.

Today is the day of new beginnings.

Continued on page 2...

New Beginnings...continued

If you are stuck, if you are in a place where you don't want to be, you do not have to stay there. You can be transformed. You can have a new beginning. You can become anybody that you want. You are not held captive by the bars of the past. I welcome you to the new month of September, the new school year, the new church year. I welcome you to a new experience, a new relationship, and new beginning in Jesus Christ.

Journey is not easy. It's not without its struggles. But you are not alone. If you would like more information or want to engage in a discussion, I encourage you to call me or any one of our lay leaders and talk with us. I offer

you a new invitation to experience a new life with Jesus Christ. I invite you to church on Sunday and I encourage you to invite others. And as we begin this new year, as we embark on a journey together, I invite you to share communion with us this week. I invite you to the Lord's table. I invite you to become renewed. Renewed in your faith and renewed in the promise that God is present in and amongst our sadness our frustration and our joy, God is here.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day of new beginning.

~ Pastor Rob

"The Word"

Do you have a different version of the bible than I do? Do you want to study and explore the upcoming scripture being read on Sunday? Do you like to be in friendly discussions as to the possible meaning of the scripture? Come join us! We are "The Word" discipleship group. We meet on Wednesdays at 6pm until around 7 to 7:30pm in the church library. We are having lots of fun and discussion on what the pastor wants us to read! Yes, we try to stay ahead of him! Come join us! All are welcome!



North Mason Methodist Church

Dinner Oktoberfest and Raffle

Friday, Oct. 2nd • 6:30pm

**Admission: Adults: \$10
Kids: \$5 (6-12)
Family: \$30**

**Advance Dinner
Tickets Required**

**Traditional German Foods • Cake Walk
Kids Activities • Fun for the Whole Family!**

25140 NE State Route 3, Belfair
For ticket info: call 360.275.3714 or Email: office@northmasonumc.org





From the cluttered desk of your Lay Leader, Joyce Stratton...

As Pastor Rob says,
“There’s a lot going on in this church!”

Remember playing the picture game of finding various objects within a picture? Well, I’m challenging you to find, within this newsletter, various articles regarding upcoming events scheduled for **October 2nd and November 21st**.

This is the time that we really need to consider how we might best serve God... I know, how our skills might best be used is an on-going question with which we all wrestle. But that question is of major importance as we prepare our roster of leaders which gets submitted to charge conference in the fall. Are you an admin type person? Do you like to just get in there and get things done to keep the church looking good and functioning well? Do you have money management skills to share? Do you like to work in the kitchen? The answers to all these questions, and many more, help us to identify and solicit participation of members to serve in leadership roles. ***How might you like to serve?***

Caregivers Support Group - will begin **September 14th at 12 noon**. Locations may vary...information to be provided in early September.

Friday Night Food & Fun - will not be happening in September as folks take time to adjust their summer schedules and settle into their typical fall schedules. **OR...**might we consider a new challenge as we consider where and how we are being called to follow Christ?

Monthly Sunday Community Breakfast & Communion Sunday **September 6th, 8:30am - 9:30am**

As I was preparing this article, I was assuming Rob would be saying something about how we have been called as caregivers these past two months. So I’m not going into detail about the needs and the importance of caring and sharing with our friends. But caregiving is one of the hats I wear, I would like to close with an excerpt from the Upper Room, titled Holy Tears:

In crying we acknowledge our lack of control, our inability to have things the way we want them. In crying, we are not failing to be strong; we are being strong enough to acknowledge our weakness, our humanness. A friend once said that tears in such a situation are really a form of prayer to God, a confession of our limitedness, our humanity. In such situations, tears are the bodily expression of humility... our humble acknowledgement that while we are beings created by God in God’s image, we are not God. **WHY SHOULD WE WEEP** with those who weep? Because Jesus showed God’s love for us by weeping with us in our weeping and dying with us in our dying.

I pray you find strength, peace, & joy as you consider, navigate, and accept the challenges along the way in your journey with and to God.

Save The Date!

A 2nd Knit & Crochet Social will be held at NMUMC on **Saturday, November 21st** to raise funds for **North Mason Resource Center and Faith In Action’s HUB - Center for Seniors**. Details will be posted in the October newsletter.





Emergency Food Collection

NMUMC donates to three groups in our area. The North Mason Food Bank, Community Food Pantry and the Coalition of Churches & Community.

Thank you for helping those in need in our community!

Free Community Lunch

The next Wednesday Free Community Lunch that will be hosted by NMUMC is on **September 16th**, from **noon-1pm** at the Belfair Community Baptist Church. If you would like to help in this community outreach program, call or talk to Judy Honsowetz or Lynn Coffman.



Education Hour for Adults

Each **Sunday at 9 AM** is Faithlink, a discussion on the intersections of faith and current events.

Children's Time

Children's Time is provided during worship for elementary school age children, after which childcare is available for all ages.



Box Tops for Education!

Barb Goodell's school (Grapeview Elementary) has a friendly competition every year to see which class can collect the most "Box Tops." If anyone would like to save these for Barb, she would love to have them!

Please see Barb for more details.



NMUMC is sponsoring a collection of cell phones to provide deployed and returning troops cost-free methods to communicate with families while serving in the United States military. Donate cell phones (with their chargers) and place in the designated box.

**Community
Breakfast
Sunday
September 6th
8:30am - 9:30am
Donations Gratefully Accepted**



In our membership vows we commit to faithfully participate in the congregation's ministries through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, & our witness.

Our Prayers

Mary Beth Morris, Susan Bonnel (friend of Jan Olmsted), **Jim Thomas** (friend of Bob & Betty Helm), **Mary Wingren, Jennifer O'Keefe, Jay and Kathy Matsen, Mike Williams** (Gene & Linda Williams son), **Juanita High, Laura Lee** (Gerry Wasner's youngest daughter), **Josie Helene** (Mike & Mary Wingren's granddaughter), **Dan Bearce, Al Aosved, Miguel** (Barb & Ben Boad's son-in-law), **Bob Boad** (Ben Boad's son), **Sarah Watkins** (friend of Duana), **Peggy Hager, Rebecca Merhaut** (Phyllis Merhaut's daughter-in-law), and **Leon Hart** for healing and medical concerns

Teresa Fleener's son, Gaven Eier, severely wounded in the line of duty in Afghanistan, for emotional as well as physical recovery

Friends and family of Gwen Braile as they mourn her passing.

Our brothers and sisters around the globe mired in war and political violence

Our Presence

August 2 - 51
August 9 - 65
August 16 - 72
August 23 - 61
August 30 - 75

Thank you for your presence

Our Gifts

The Finance Committee is please to report that during the first half of 2015 (January 1st - June 30th) our income exceeded our expenses by \$16,818. This amount includes all pre-paid pledges received and the revenue from our very successful May Rummage Sale.

Our final fundraising event for our church will be the Oktoberfest Dinner & Raffle which will be held on Friday, October 2nd, starting at 6:30pm at NMUMC. There will be lots of great food and fun - so we hope to see you all there!

Blessings from your Finance Committee

Our Service

Thank you Rachel Bearce, Joyce Stratton, and everyone else involved in providing a wonderful VBS/Day Camp experience!

"Do all the good you can.
 By all the means you can.
 In all the ways you can.
 In all the places you can.
 At all the times you can.
 To all the people you can.
 As long as ever you can."
 ~John Wesley

celebrate

September Anniversaries

26th Gary & Julie Carter




September Birthdays

8th Michael Snow
 12th Bobby Stratton
 Ron Mastick
 14th Ken Boad
 Sydney Amick
 15th Clara Schauer
 21st Brad Landreth
 24th Vicki Barth
 27th Betty Vaughn



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7pm NA	2 6pm D-Group	3 6pm ACA	4 7pm NA	5
6 8:30am Community Breakfast 9am Faithlink Class 10:15am Worship with Communion	7 NMUMC Office Closed 	8 7pm NA	9 6pm D-Group	10 6pm ACA	11 7pm NA	12
13 9am Faithlink Class 10:15am Worship	14 12pm Caregivers D-Group	15 5:30pm NMR BOD 7pm NA	16 12pm Free Lunch @ BCBC 6pm D-Group	17 2pm FIA BOD 5pm Committee Meetings 6:30pm Church Council 6pm ACA	18 7pm NA	19
20 9am Faithlink Class 10:15am Worship	21 12pm Caregivers D-Group	22 7pm NA	23 6pm D-Group	24 6pm ACA	25 7pm NA	26
27 9am Faithlink Class 10:15am Worship	28 12pm Caregivers D-Group	29 9am PEO 7pm NA	30 6pm D-Group	Committee Meetings Finance Committee, Trustees, and SPR Meetings - September 17th at 5pm Church Council - September 17th at 6:30pm		



We are located 1½ miles north of Belfair on Route 3

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Mailing Address: PO Box 1197, Belfair WA 98528-1197

www.northmasonumc.org office@northmasonumc.org

Pastor: Rob McCoy

Newsletter

September 2015

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.'

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

Jason Barth - Larry & Jean Bonzer's grandson serving in Pensacola, FL

Gaven Eier - Wendell & Phyllis Fleener's grandson is out of the Marine and currently in DC working for the government. He has been admitted to Vassar and will be attending soon.

Rob Eier - Wendell & Phyllis Fleener's grandson in the reserves and back home struggling to find a career.

Houston Hamilton - Tom & Lynn Hamilton's son in Field Artillery with the WA National Guard

Hunter Hamilton - Tom & Lynn Hamilton's son stationed at JBLM

James Meacham - Steve & DeeAnn Meacham's son in the Air Force stationed at Ft. Walton, FL.

Aislinn Miner - Judy Mastick's granddaughter in the Army returned from her 3rd deployment to Iraq/Afganistan and is now stationed at Fort Irwin, CA