



# The Bell Ringer

Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church

Volume 53  
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January  
2018

## Pastor's Corner

In spite of the challenges of a slippery White Christmas, we had three dynamic gatherings. What a gift to share this time together. Many contributed time and talent, including our musicians and the many behind the scenes volunteers who greeted and shoveled and offered rides. Thank you all.

Christmas morning, Don and I found an easy drive to Olympia and three warm gatherings of family and friends. On the way we received a variety of calls and messages. My world and heart grew a few sizes larger as I negotiated calls from Cameroon and from Russia – video chats from young adults who call me mom. At some point in January I will share the stories of Phil Florian and Anna Fedyaeva. Both of these young people have been important to me and this seems a good year to get serious about deepening our relationships. There are hurdles. There is work to be done. It won't be easy. I could feel guilty about not having done the work already. Instead, I will be thankful for the natural opportunity of the new year to do what I know will keep me in a large spiritual space.

The day after Christmas, I spent most of my time with two meetings—two small groups with a common purpose. The first involved helping a member through a difficult time. One member is leading the process. The challenges are many but with the four of us putting our shared faith and experience together there was a great deal of hope and excitement. The second involved our finances – just three of us gathered. After a few hours our heads were tired but again there was a feeling of accomplishment as we had solid plans for moving forward.

This past year has held its share of obstacles and you have remained solid in your care for one another and our shared ministry. Thank you all. As the crowds in the sanctuary grow larger, there is an increase in energy flowing through me – it is just more fun.

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Vancouver Heights United  
Methodist Church  
Website:  
<http://vancouverheightsumc.org>



*Part of the Reconciling  
Ministries Network.  
We are a church that is  
spiritually alive, radically  
inclusive and justice oriented.*

### STAFF

#### Ministers:

The Whole Congregation

#### Pastor:

Rev. Dr. JoAnn Shipley

#### Administrative Assistants:

Shelby Tanke

Cheryl Niehaus

#### Choir Director & Song Leader:

Nancy Huerena

#### Accompanists:

Robby Mayer

Penny Wharton

#### Nursery Attendant:

Abigail Niehaus

#### Webmaster:

Michael Niehaus

#### Covenant Relationship:

Paul Jeffrey

At the same time, I am encouraged by people who care enough to go to those deeper places – in prayer, in study, in caregiving and in leadership.

Where will your heart take you this next year? In a loving community you may bring the craziest of schemes or the most profound of needs. Together we can sift through what is possible and perhaps add a few more ideas. In community, we can move at our own pace and find rest and encouragement when we need it. We could speak a new language poorly or give an impeccable concert and it will all be seen as good. I look forward to each and every day of this New Year and all that we will bring to it.

May God continue to bless you and to keep you.

*Pastor Jo Ann*

*I am a beloved Child of God and a beauty to behold*

*Thank you to everyone in the congregation for all of your thoughts and prayers for my husband Ed Wolthausen. It was all very much appreciated by the whole family.*

*Thank you.  
Pat Wolthausen*

My name is Cheryl Niehaus and many of you know me very well. I wear a few hats right now at church. I was Education Chair. I am the Youth Group Leader. I work in the office. I used to teach Sunday School. I do the newsletter and the church web site. But, I will be wearing a new hat at Vancouver Heights—that of Faith Community Nurse or Parish Nurse. I am a Registered Nurse and I have been since 1997. I love being a nurse, so when Pastor JoAnn mentioned to me that at her previous church she had a Parish Nurse, I had to google what exactly a Parish Nurse was. The more I read, the more I knew that it was something I wanted to do. Now here is where I think God may have stepped in—an email popped up—not once, not twice, but three times telling me about a class called Faith Community Nursing would be offered in the Vancouver area for the first time in a long time. Then one day at the end of a sermon, Pastor JoAnn asked, “What is God calling you to do? Parish nursing immediately popped into my head.

Jumping forward a few weeks...

At the beginning of December I completed an 8 week Faith Community Nursing hybrid course (part in person and part online) through Concordia College. It was a tremendous amount of reading, papers to write, discussions to be had with classmates and my mentor, videos to watch and did I say reading? Oh and homework—every day except Sunday!! The good news—I survived—I passed with flying colors—I loved every minute of it, and it is something I know I will be very passionate about, and something I am also excited about.

So what will I do? First a Care Ministry needs to be developed and that is something I have started to work on. Myself, Pastor JoAnn, Connie Icenogle and Sharon Royle will all meet soon and start working on plans for the upcoming months, and how I will be able to best serve the needs of the congregation.

As your Faith Community Nurse I may choose to simply provide education about various health issues by holding a class or having a speaker. I may just write something in the monthly newsletter, or advocate for preventative health. I may hold a blood pressure clinic and then maybe tell you that you really need to go to the doctor, and that I could even go with you. I may visit you at the hospital or your home when you get discharged from the hospital. I may just come and sit—be present. My biggest role will be: being your advocate.

There are things I cannot do as your Faith Community Nurse. I have a certain scope and standards of practice to follow working as a nurse in the clinic and another set when functioning as a Faith Community Nurse at Vancouver Heights. A lot of the standards overlap, but a lot do not. What I cannot do is any hands on nursing. This requires physician orders, even if it is administering medication or changing bandages on a wound. This is a protection for me and my nursing license, as well as a protection for you.

A Faith Community Nurse is a nurse who focuses on the intentional care of the spirit and I hope that is something I will be able to bring to you. One of the things I learned in class that I will pass along to you and it is something I have thought long about is: healing is more than a cure—our body, mind and spirit are woven together inextricably and that sense of well being can exist in the presence of imbalance and that healing can exist in the absence of cure. My first thought was—it’s not possible, but it is, it truly is.

I look forward to serving you in this capacity and I will keep you posted!

*Cheryl Niehaus, RN*





# global lens

an occasional newsletter from  
united methodist missionary  
paul jeffrey

14 November 2017

Dear friends in my supporting congregations,

For years the Rohingya minority in Myanmar has been one of the more persecuted groups in the world. Mostly Muslims in a country where Buddhist nationalism has taken a particularly virulent turn, they've been under constant assault. In late August, things got worse. In response to an attack on police posts by an armed Rohingya resistance group, the government of Myanmar launched a massive military assault on the Rohingya, employing classic scorched earth tactics: burning villages, raping women, slaughtering children. As a result, the Rohingya fled, and in just over two months more than 600,000 of them crossed into neighboring Bangladesh, creating one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world today.



In response to all this, I went to Myanmar in October, but—like other journalists and human rights workers—was not allowed near the region where the assault on the Rohingya was taking place. I did participate in a regional mission conference in Yangon and covered a workshop in the north of the country conducted by Emma Cantor, a regional missionary for United Methodist Women. Sponsored by the Myanmar Council of Churches, it brought together Christian women to reflect on how the Gospel empowers them to work for justice and peace in a complex multicultural environment. And I wrote a story about the complicated

political environment that awaits Pope Francis when he visits Myanmar later this month.

I then went to Bangladesh to cover the humanitarian response to the Rohingya crisis by the ACT Alliance, the international network of church-based aid agencies. The stories I heard were beyond horrific. Yet I was also impressed by both the genuine hospitality of the Bangladeshis, although as time goes by that is going to be tested, as well as by the grace of the Rohingya, who inevitably welcomed me as I poked around in their sprawling settlements of bamboo, plastic, and mud.

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I flew back to the U.S. from Asia, spent one night at home, then went to North Carolina to share some perspectives on my work in a meeting of the migration task force of the Council of Bishops. I commend the bishops, who certainly have their hands full with many things these days, for taking seriously the pastoral and political challenges posed by migration in many parts of the world.

Before the Asia trip, I spent a couple of weeks in Alaska, preparing a piece for the magazine of United Methodist Women about mission in that state. It's a current theme of the Mission U studies sponsored by UMW. Alaska is a vastly different place than the refugee camps in Bangladesh, but both locations blend together in the fascinating mosaic of global mission that challenges us today. I celebrate the commitment of the mission practitioners I encounter: from aid workers in Bangladesh, to pastors in Alaska, to lay women doing their own theological reflection in Myanmar, to bishops struggling to guide a troubled church to your own involvement in mission in your local community. Together we are bound by a call to proclaim the Good News in each unique environment.

As always, thanks for your financial and prayer support, both of which undergird and encourage me in these long days of work. Know that I also hold you and your ministries in prayer. As we approach the celebration of Advent, with you I wait expectantly for God's incarnation in the lonely corners of our hurting world.

Paul



Just a reminder...

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.



## **Prayer Calendar 2018**

**United Methodist Women lives out scriptural community as the early Christian believers did, through the generous and transparent sharing of jointly contributed gifts in support or the spiritual and social needs of women, children and youth. Through valued partnerships, the Regional Missionary Initiative purposefully invest in women's critical leadership skills to address structural inequities that contribute to and reinforce disparate societal outcomes-gender based violence, poverty, illiteracy, social exclusion.**

**Catherine Akale, UMW regional missionary, sub-Saharan Africa**

**Mission Focus**

**AK Child & Family, Anchorage, Alaska**

**Birthday**

**Erie Stuckett (DHMR)**

**[ebsmill@bellsouth.net](mailto:ebsmill@bellsouth.net)**

**2033 Spruce Street.**

**Greenville, MS 38703**

# Remember in Prayer, Word and Deed



Please keep Joan Frazier in your prayers on the death of her brother, Phil.



Larry Yockey • Connie Icenogle • Grover Icenogle  
Bob Warren • Chuck Crawford  
Jamie McCoy's mother • Tasha Mayer • Nancy Huerena  
Sue Kohlhepp • Mary Zimmerman  
Kelly Butterfield • Pat Wolthausen



*Happy Anniversary*  
*Zizhao & Lu Chen 1/11/1997*



1 Peggy Woodard 2 Veronica Avery 4 Patrick Chen  
5 Susan Chamberlain 6 Wyatt Harold  
8 Darrell Anderson 10 Conner Ball  
13 Dakota Goodwin 18 Eugene Jensen  
20 Gaye Lynn Cook 23 Barb Warren  
25 Gail Antijunti 27 Barbara Whiteman  
28 Lu Chen 29 Gerry Short  
30 Delaine Harold



## Vancouver Heights UMW

### Executive Board Meeting

10:00 am

Saturday, January 6, 2018

### General Meeting

12:00 pm

Saturday, January 20, 2018

*Installation of the New 2018 VHUMW Executive Team*



## Mission Opportunities and Updates

The Toiletry Donation Bucket will be in the Narthex, on top of the table with the yellow table cloth. We will be collecting all year long. The bucket will be checked every week. When we are in greatest need, we will announce it in the bulletin. Otherwise, feel free to use the bucket, whenever you want to donate.

Thanks to everyone who supported Missions in 2017. Everything from pitching in and helping with events and projects, to all your donations, were greatly appreciated. Your generosity made a very successful year for the Mission Program. Thank You!

The Committee will be holding a "Young Lives" dinner for Vida's Ark on February 8th. We provide the meal and the baby sitting. If you are interested in baby sitting for the event, please contact Eboni Twitty - Coordinator of Vida's Ark, and Young Lives.

Blessings,

*Darla*



United  
Methodist  
Women

**Vancouver Heights United Methodist Women  
2018 Executive Team**

**Officers**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Nominating Chairs

Nominating Committee

Sharon Royle  
Darla Borella  
Deb Avery  
Susan Chamberlain  
Melba Corlett  
Delaine Harold  
All Circle Chairs

**Committee Chairs**

Education and Interpretation  
Membership Nurture and Outreach  
Program Resources  
Social Action  
Spiritual Growth  
Sunshine  
Reception Facilitator  
Reception Committee

Visiting Committee

Membership Book

Historian

Annie Presler  
Pat Chercasen  
Lyn Milner  
Gail Antijunti  
Eboni Twitty  
Pat Wolthausen  
Mary Zimmerman  
Elaine Bauman  
Delaine Harold  
Susan Chamberlain  
Pat Hodney-Gould  
Sharon Royle  
Connie Icenogle  
Delaine Harold  
Lyn Milner  
Delaine Harold

**Circle Chairs**

Circle of Hope  
Hannah Circle  
Naomi Circle  
Sarah Circle

Lyn Milner  
Delaine Harold  
Pat Wolthausen  
Sharon Royle



VHUMC Women's Groups  
5701 MacArthur Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661

December 18, 2017

Dear Mary, Dorothy, Church Friends and Father Christmas,

The annual Kris Kindle Mart is something ALL the children at Learning Avenues look forward to each year. Thank you for continuing to provide this "shopping and wrapping experience" for the children. Thank you for making your day longer and including the School Age group of children again this year. I overheard one of the girls asking another girl what she asked Santa for...she said, "I asked him to surprise me!" I love that answer! Thank you to all of the volunteer shoppers and wrappers!

The chance for kids to shop for their parents without their knowledge is such a special opportunity. The volunteers that help the children shop are very patient and kind as they guide children through the many options. Your system is so organized making things run so smoothly and quickly this year. THANK YOU for continuing the tradition.

Learning Avenues Child Care Centers counts on support from community partners like yours to help us in serving our families. Currently 78% of our children qualify for free and reduced meals so any help for these children is greatly appreciated! Thank you for keeping the spirit of giving alive and thinking of us. We are so blessed to have the support of this church!

With much thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorene Brugman".

Dorene Brugman  
Program Director  
Learning Avenues Child Care Centers



VHUMC  
5701 MacArthur Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661

December 18, 2017

Dear Church Members and Youth Group,

THANK YOU for adopting three families for Christmas this year. I know the gifts were much needed and appreciated by these families. Thank you for including the whole family and not just the children...I know parents do not expect gifts, but it is nice to show them they are thought of as well.

I'd like to give a special shout out to the youth group that did the \$5 challenge and ended up raising money to give each of the three families a \$35 gift card to Fred Meyer. When Cheryl shared that with me, I got goose bumps. It's nice to see kids thinking about others and how they can help! You all are awesome!

Learning Avenues Child Care Centers counts on support from caring community members like yourselves to help us provide additional support to families in need. Thank you for keeping the spirit of giving alive and thinking of us.

With much thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorene Brugman".

Dorene Brugman  
Program Director  
Learning Avenues Child Care Centers



January 7  
3:00-5:00 pm  
January 14  
3:00-5:00 pm  
January 21  
3:00-5:00 pm  
January 28  
3:00-5:00 pm

If you have any questions please  
talk with Cheryl Niehaus



*Save the Date!*

## Inspiring Generosity in Your Congregation

Come for a day that will provide tools to strengthen your congregation's stewardship ministry!

Saturday, February 10, 2018

9am-3pm

Tigard United Methodist Church

Tigard, Oregon



Rev. Charles Lane, author

*Ask, Thank, Tell*

*Embracing Stewardship*

Grace Duddy Pomroy, author

*Embracing Stewardship*

During your time with Chick and Grace you will:

- ground the stewardship conversation in scripture
- explore important generational differences
- gain practical tips so that you can help every member of your congregation become more generous and a more faithful steward of their resources

\$50/person (includes catered lunch and a copy of *Embracing Stewardship*)

\$150 for a group of three or more

For more information and to register go to: [umoi.org/stewardship](http://umoi.org/stewardship)

If you need lodging, we have a block of rooms reserved for Feb. 9 and 10 at the Marriott Courtyard in Tigard at a reduced rate of \$99/night plus tax including parking and wifi. They have a Starbucks in their lobby for breakfast. The hotel has a shuttle to take you to the Tigard church.

Call (503) 684-7900 by January 26, 2018 to get this special rate and mention "United Methodist Church."



Vancouver Heights UMC  
 5701 MacArthur Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661  
 360-693-4761

PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A  
**year of favor**  
 FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.

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May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...  
 PSALM 90:17a



Thanks to Tobias Nilsson 02-22-2008

SURE I KNOW MY BODY IS A TEMPLE ...  
 I'M JUST A MEGA-CHURCH



[www.vancouverheightsumc.org](http://www.vancouverheightsumc.org)



**Serving in Our Church Jan 7th:**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. JoAnn Shipley  
 Liturgist: Sara Schadt Patterson  
 Choir Director: Nancy Huerena  
 Accompanist: Robby Mayer & Penny Wharton  
 Ushers: Julie and Jeanie Johnson  
 Greeter:  
 Flowers:  
 Coffee:

**Serving in Our Church Jan 14th**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. JoAnn Shipley  
 Liturgist: Darla Borella  
 Choir Director: Nancy Huerena  
 Accompanist's: Robby Mayer & Penny Wharton  
 Ushers: Ken and Elaine Baumann  
 Greeters:  
 Flowers:  
 Coffee:

**Serving in Our Church Jan 21st**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. JoAnn Shipley  
 Liturgist: Joan Frazier  
 Choir Director: Nancy Huerena  
 Accompanist's: Robby Mayer & Penny Wharton  
 Ushers:  
 Greeters:  
 Flowers:  
 Coffee:

**Serving in Our Church Jan 28th:**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. JoAnn Shipley  
 Liturgist: Lu Chen  
 Choir Director: Nancy Huerena  
 Accompanist's: Robby Mayer & Penny Wharton  
 Ushers:  
 Greeters:  
 Flowers:  
 Coffee:  
 Coffee