

# The Messenger

## From the Pastor's Desk...

I got a new book just before Christmas called **Yes, And...** by Richard Rohr and these two quotes have jumped out at me so far...

*"God is always bigger than you imagined or expected or even hoped for."*

Recollections of 2013 alone fill pages and pages in my journal that confirm this truth, both in my life as a pastor and in aspects of my personal life. How has God shown this to you? I know for myself when I pay attention to God's magnificent and faithful work woven all around my life and work and relationships, I do see how much He exceeds my thoughts and expectations and hopes.

*"When you see people going to church and becoming smaller instead of larger, you have every reason to question whether the practices or sermons or sacraments or liturgies are opening them to an authentic God experience."*

Our worship experiences are planned and carried out to create a space in which people are developing expanded spirits, spirits that have room for a God who is "always bigger than...imagined...expected...hoped for." Have you experienced a widening or broadening of your spirit as you worship God with others? What about as you connect with God in your private devotional time?

Or do you sense that your spirit is getting smaller?

This might be a new way of thinking about worship and the reason for it. I invite you to join me in this new year as we open our lives and spirits to the transforming love and grace of God.



*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors*  
The People of the United Methodist Church

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Longing for an ever-expanding heart,

Pastor Karen

## Scriptures and Sermons for January 2014

### January 5, 2014

#### Epiphany Sunday

#### Piecing Together the Story: The Binding

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### January 12, 2014

#### Baptism of the Lord

#### Walking Through the Water

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

### January 19, 2014

#### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Human Relations Day – Special Offering

#### Saints in Process: Grace

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

### January 26, 2014

#### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Saints in Process: Unity

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

## Covenant for the New Year

### Thoughts from the District Superintendent

*I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom  
thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for  
thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy  
pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.  
John Wesley, Covenant Renewal Prayer 1780*

The frosty grass sparkled with starlight as people gathered in the country church. Warm greetings and deep embraces welcomed each person into the glow of candlelight. It was Watch Night, nearly midnight, and the community waited together for the turning of the year. As one, they lifted their voices in song to praise God and welcome a new beginning-- in Tongan.

The Tongan Fellowship had grown out of our UM lay leader's deep passion for Jesus Christ, and a desire of a people to worship in the island way. Meeting in a small United Methodist church, it drew people from Baptist, Roman Catholic, and LDS congregations each month. Together, they sang, studied, encouraged their children, served in mission.

And once a year, the fellowship gathered on Watch Night to sing and pray, to renew their hope, and commit their lives anew to Christ. As dawn approached, the service closed with a familiar prayer, John Wesley's covenant renewal. The congregation prayed in Tongan, slowly, a line at a time, with silent reflection

between each one. Then, kindly, they prayed again in English with the same care and intensity. The way they lived it day by day.

This new year may we each pray these words again, with fresh eyes and open hearts. May we truly trust our lives and our ministry to the One who made us, loves us, and sends us into the world in the name of his son. May we be filled with hope and possibility!

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

A most blessed new year.  
Peg Lofsvold, DS  
lofsvold@mac.com, 503-957-9138.

## Finance

2013 was a good year again for CUMC. Year-end giving was good as we were able to send \$6,700 to apportionments for December bringing the year-to-date total giving amount to \$21,932 or 88% of our budget. Church Council once again approved using the surplus contingency funds toward this obligation.

The budget for 2014 was approved by Church Council. The 2014 budget looks very much the same as the 2013 version. Our members and supporters continue to be very supportive and generous with their giving.

December brought us all a surprise from the Trustees. Our oldest furnace decided it was time to be replaced; this is the one that heats the education wing where the preschool meets. Through preschool connections we were blessed with a contractor that was able to respond quickly, also donated the base level furnace and with designated funds we were able to replace the furnace with a 92% efficiency model and are back in business.

Thanks to all for the support of the staff Christmas gifts.

Mark Oldenkamp, Chair

## Trustees

As always, our Trustees are busy taking care of the business of taking care of our church. At their most recent meeting, items of discussion included:

- Water testing on our well (findings were good),
- user fees for outside groups that use our building,
- the parking lot resurfacing project,
- piano tuner costs,
- the donation of old furniture from the Corner Room to Love INC with the addition of the redecorating of that room (By the way, if you haven't seen the Corner Room's new look, stop in. It really is a warm and inviting place for small groups to meet. A BIG THANKS to Ron Parsons for designing the changes and making them happen.)
- Storage for older heavy tables from the Fellowship Hall,
- And the addition of a brand new furnace donated by a source recommended by a preschool parent with the church only having to pay for the labor.

We have been so fortunate in the many blessings we have received this year that will help start the new year in a positive way.

## UMW

The new year for the United Methodist Women begins on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at 10:00 am with the General Meeting. The program will be presented by Nadine Gilmour, District President; she will give a report about the District UMW meeting she attended. Hostesses for the day will be the Wesleyans.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Jan. 1            New Years Day
- Jan. 8            Neighborly Lamplighters, TBA

- Jan. 12            Crockpot Taste Off – following worship
- Jan. 16            Janie Byrnes, TBA
- Jan. 21            Wesleyans @ Geni Pittlekau's, 7:00 pm
- Jan. 23            UMW Board, 11:00 am @ Church

Every year Christmas is such a special time at CUMC. Thank you to Arvin Belleque who donated the beautiful tree for the church sanctuary. Also, thank you to Audrey Graham, Al & Nori Zieg, Becky Gutierrez, Sarah Seale, Paul Ashton, and Pastor Karen for decorating the church for the holidays. Also, thanks to all the coffee hour hostesses, the greeters, the food committee, the servers, the dishwashers, and many others whose small and large contributions come together to make Christmas a festive celebration.



TCC Partner,

Imagine with me the cold wind blowing, rain falling, and a tent the only thing separating you from the elements. Repeat this day in, day out. This was the case for Paul. Hope was something he had nearly given up. Given up that was until he came face to face with the love of Christ. That love showed up in various forms: a place to shower, a friend sharing a meal, an odd job here or there, a place to volunteer, a new trailer and place to park it, and a listening ear! Paul's life has never been the same since love entered his life. Paul now has a place to call home, a job, a church family, and a Hope that transcends all his trials. When asked how he made it through it all he said, "God and the people he placed in my life."

The Canby Center needs your help today in order that it can continue to be a place of hope in Canby. Will you help? Every dollar you donate allows us to share the love of Christ through services and friends to the most vulnerable in Canby. Here is what you will be doing with your gift:

- Providing a place for homeless to get out the elements during the day while looking for work
- Ensuring access to emergency food for individuals and families until they can get to the food bank for more food
- An atmosphere where neighbors can help neighbors through the tough seasons of life

**DONATE TODAY to help The Canby Center be a place of hope for hundreds of Canby families every year.**

Serving Canby Together,

Tim Leshner  
Executive Director

P.S. Don't delay! Your year-end tax deductible donation can conveniently be made [online](#) or mailed to 681 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Canby, OR 97013. Don't delay as donations must be made by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

## Mission Trip

As we start the new year, the mission team must move into high gear in preparation for the mission trip in late March. Craft preparations are the focus right now.

CUMC Volunteer in Mission team members that are likely going this year include Julene Koenig, Heidi Oldenkamp, Charlene VandeKamp, Tim VandeKamp, Taryn McCormick, Brett McCormick, Becky Gutierrez and Mark Oldenkamp. There is still time and room for anyone else that wants to participate, but this next meeting on January 12th is when we really need to firm things up. January 26th is a planning meeting also. Meeting times are 4:00-6:00 pm each date. Ride sharing to

Keizer should be arranged with Mark Oldenkamp.

Once again financial support for the mission team is needed. Deposit beverage containers (Cans and bottles) are accepted all year long, as well as phone recycling, ink cartridge recycling, and support of the coffee bar. In February we will have an auction as we have done previously. A list of needed donation supplies and food items will be posted soon.

Please be praying for this mission effort and team.

Mark Oldenkamp, Coordinator

## Bits & Pieces

**Handicap Parking Spaces** are available for visitors and members with Handicap Parking Tags. If you can take a few more steps, please use parking spaces a little farther out to allow those who need to park close the ability to do so. Thank you!

## Leadership Luncheon

After Worship on January 5, all new and continuing committee members and chair persons are invited to a soup lunch and brief reminder or introduction to your leadership role at CUMC in 2014. This event is hosted by Pastor Karen and the Staff Parish Relations Committee. **Please RSVP.**

## Greeters for January

Jan. 5	Ron & Shelly Parsons
Jan. 12	Al & Nori Zieg
Jan. 19	Lynn Shafer Phyllis Stuart-Meyer
Jan. 26	Amy Ackerman Jill Kahle

## Coffee Hour for January

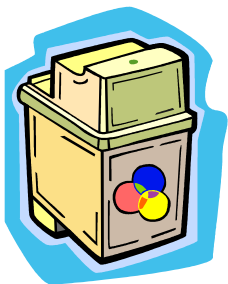
- Jan. 5            Audrey Graham  
                     Betty Langdon
- Jan. 12           Bess Milhauser  
                     Karen Joy  
                     Geni Pittelkau
- Jan. 19           Tim & Kristie Vande Kamp  
                     Sharon Trimble/Kiana Sweeney
- Jan. 26           Mark & Laura Oldenkamp  
                     Bob & Shirley Peebles

## January Birthdays

- 4<sup>th</sup>            Gretchen Raney  
6<sup>th</sup>            Ari Laitinen  
9<sup>th</sup>            Nori Zieg  
12<sup>th</sup>          Ken Thompson  
14<sup>th</sup>          Chi Cambra  
19<sup>th</sup>          Tim Vande Kamp




***Did you get a new printer or cell phone for Christmas...remember to recycle your empty printer cartridges and old cell phones at church so that our youth can benefit by getting cash back when they recycle them. There is a box in the office for your convenience.***



Canby United Methodist Church  
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Web site: [www.canby.com/canbyumc](http://www.canby.com/canbyumc)  
Pastor – Karen Shimer  
Secretary – Rena Marcus  
Choir Director – Jill Taylor  
Organist/Accompanist – Geneva Cook  
Custodians – Roy & Maria Mora

# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 UMW Gen. Mtg. 10 am	3	4
5 Epiphany GR: R. & S. Parsons CH: A. Graham, B. Langdon Leadership Luncheon	6	7	8 Lamplighters TBA	9 Janie Byrnes TBA	10	11
12 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany GR:A. & N. Zieg CH: B. Milhauser, K. Joy, G. Pittelkau UMW Crockpot Fundraiser Mission Mtg. @ Keizer, 4-6 pm	13 Care Comm. 2 pm Trustees 7 pm	14 Wesleyans @ G. Pittelkau's, 7:00 pm pm SPRC 7:00 pm	15 Church Council 7:00 pm	16	17	18
19 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany GR: L. Shafer, P. Stuart-Meyer CH: T. & K. Vande Kamp, S. Trimble, K. Sweeney	20	21 Pastor Karen	22 Out of office	23	24	25
26 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany GR: A. Ackerman, J. Kahle CH: M. & L. Oldenkamp, B. & S. Peebles Mission Mtg. @ Keizer, 4-6 pm	27 Dinner with the Pastor @ Fultanos, 5:00 pm	28	29	30 UMW Exec. Board 11:00 am	31	

Canby F.O.T.S. AA Meetings, M-F, 5:30 pm  
 Co-Dependency Group Meeting, Wednesdays, 7 pm  
 Prayer Meeting @ Amy Ackerman's, Tues. 1 pm  
 Venture Crew, Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm, Youth Rm

Stepping Up Al-Anon Meetings, Wednesdays, 1-3 pm  
 Girl Scouts, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 5:30-6:45 pm  
 Boy Scouts, Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm