



There were 5 tables of food at the "Tasting Party", organized by the team of Peggy Hess, Claud Bowman, Cathy Jarolimek and Michelle Skaggs. Little tasting cups were filled with everything from Taco Soup, to smoked trout, to heavenly truffles, to barbecue sliders. This was a fun evening. The team raised \$331.84 for the budget.

One of the features was a display by Mike & Judy Barnes of Mike's parents', *Barnes Bar-B-Q Diner*, located where Mr. Gas now stands. Diner plates and silverware, old salt & pepper shakers, menu, family photos and Swing mood music (jam box behind picture) were on display. Judy says, "That's my momma's red & white checked waitress uniform." Mike and Judy served, what else, bar-b-que sliders.



10 Creative Ways to Explore a Bible Passage by Jeremy Steele (www.umcom.org) (Note: This is a helpful and interesting article. Since space is limited, this will be a two or three part article, spread out in two or three newsletters.)

Let's be honest. We clearly believe that the Bible is the word of God and the source of spiritual life. Sometimes, though, it can be hard to understand. When that happens, we have a tendency to disengage from this powerful source of light. In those moments, it helps to have a tool to help unlock the meaning or simply keep us engaged. Once we understand the meaning, we can better communicate the message of each passage. Here are some ways to help you do that.

1. Decode the story: Remember how you learned the parts of a story in high school English class? This same structure is present in many biblical stories. Read through a passage and then list some basic plot elements: setting, main characters, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Identifying all of these elements can help you clarify the overall message of a story and see the application for your life.

2. Decipher the argument: Not every passage in the Bible is a narrative with conflict, climax and resolution. Much of the Bible is in the form of a classical argument. Like the traditional narrative plot, the classical argument has a standard structure that can help clarify the overarching point of a confusing passage. You can make a similar list of the different elements you will find: background (the context relevant to the specific issue), thesis (the evidence for the claim being made), antithesis (refutation of the opposing viewpoint) and conclusion (the final wrap-up restating the thesis in light of the antithesis). This can be particularly helpful for Scripture passages that primarily argue for a specific point of view with little attention to the opposing view. Once you can identify them both, the main point becomes clearer.

Coming up in part two: **Design a comic strip; Create a meme; Become a Bible translator; Explore the text.** (Not all of these suggestions will appeal to you - picked the easiest and go with it.)

MethodistDimensions

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

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PERSONAL and
SPIRITUAL
TRANSFORMATION
Rev. David Madden



Bishop Elaine Stanovsky engaging in a conversation with leaders in the PNW Conference on October 1, 2016. Photo by Rev. DJ del Rosario.

The Jesus story is first and foremost about changing our perspective, our purpose and ultimately our lives.

What else but transformation could the story of a poor peasant who becomes a respected rabbi, a teacher of a new way of living, and the Son of God mean? How else can we interpret the intent of Jesus' actual teachings like breaking down social barriers, forgiving our enemies and loving abundantly without qualifications than with steps to an inner and social transformation? What does the symbol of resurrection mean other than transformation?

In his book *The Heart of Christianity*, Marcus Borg writes, *Christian life should be relational and transformational.*

According to Borg, there are really two transformations needed. He suggests one is personal and spiritual and the other is communal and social. In other words, if we are going to be effective change agents for Christ, we must come at this change with open minds and open hearts. But first we need to work on our own internal transformations. Only then can our effort to transform our society and our world have any impact.

This is what the early followers of Jesus, the people of The Way, believed. This was and still is the path of Jesus.

How do you enter a new place? Or even, how do you re-enter a familiar place after many years? How does a leader join multiple teams each with its own habits and traditions, its quirks, taboos and preferences?

In Luke 10, Jesus sends his followers to places they had never been before with instructions to "carry no purse, no bag, no sandals" (Luke 10:4). He tells them to offer only a blessing of peace and to receive the hospitality offered them by strangers who receive their blessing. They are to heal the sick and tell them that the Kingdom of God "is right on your doorstep" (Luke 10:9, *The Message*). As you read the passage you wonder, what about teaching about Jesus, condemning wickedness, and baptizing converts?

Sounds like a gentle kind of evangelism, grounded in vulnerability, mutual respect, shared resources and healing relationships. Can it be that the Kingdom of God is there on the doorstep - the threshold - where guest and host exchange blessings and *meet* one another?

I'm thinking of this year as a threshold. Throughout the year I will travel to a variety of places for "threshold events"* where we will meet and bless one another. In June, we'll cross the threshold into new relationship with a service of installation during the joint Annual Conference session of the Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences, with representatives from Alaska joining us as well.

God's at work in the world, sending us to new places to meet new people. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Elaine

*From the schedule I saw, which was through March, this looks to be the closest the Bishop will be to Rupert. Saturday, March 11 - Meridian UMC, Meridian, ID, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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Listen to live broadcast of Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m.
Service re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUJMC83350>



Did you realize that you can donate your accumulated points earned that you receive by shopping at Ridley's? You can, and here is how. At the beginning of each quarter, (Jan., April, July, Oct.) all you need do is come to the church office, fill out a form giving Ridley's permission to use your points for RUMC. At the end of each quarter, Ridley's will send us a check for all points donated. The money we receive goes into the food pantry account. It is that simple. If you are not using your points, this is a possible way to be a part of a much needed ministry.

Thank you to everyone who helped the pantry with time, money and food for the month of January. You are a continual blessing to the Open Hearts Food Pantry and the recipients of this ministry.



It is that time of year again when Annual Conference wants to know how much bubble gum you've chewed, who chewed some with you, where you chewed it, how much it cost, and where you left it when the elasticity final gave out.

I'm joking, of course. Every number they ask for helps the district, the Annual Conference and the global church plan for the coming years. Here then, is a short recap of the 2016 figures of your church. The full report is available in the office, if you would like a copy.

Membership:	2015	2016
Total professing members	225	221
(female members)	139	136
(male members)	86	85
Average attendance @ worship	86	88
Average attendance @ S.S.	24	18

Expenses: (because of space not all expenses are shown)

Total amt. paid to pastor	\$26,438
Total amt. paid to staff	\$31,829

Income: (for budget only - not all income shown here)

Amt. received through pledges	\$88,797	\$86,309
Non-pledged amt. received (identified givers)	\$51,118	\$57,199
Amt. received non-identified	\$ 2,435	\$ 3,326
Total income for budget	\$142,705	\$148,711

This is only a recap and does not include every figure on the reports.

(year end report continued)

We are excited to report that this year we paid 81% of our apportionment. 2017 is the year for 100%.

Here are some other areas of consideration that you can donate to throughout the year:

- Discretionary Fund (to help members of church when needed)
- Capital Improvement (church buildings, etc)
- KUMC Capital Improvement (new equipment)
- Foundation - (scholarship fund)
- Sound System - (equipment when needed)

Thank you to everyone for supporting your church with your tithes and offerings.



Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

In the weeks leading up to, or on Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

Started by a youth group in 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring has since grown all over the world, collecting more than \$100 million, donated back into their own community. Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

On Sunday, Feb. 5th, the youth of RUMC will be on sight with soup pots to collect donations for Souper Bowl of Caring. The proceeds will go to Open Hearts Food Pantry. You may also participate by bringing canned food. One item we are always in need of is toilet paper.



On Sunday, Feb. 12, after Worship, Ruth Circle will be putting together Valentine Plates for our homebound people. This is a project they do every year.

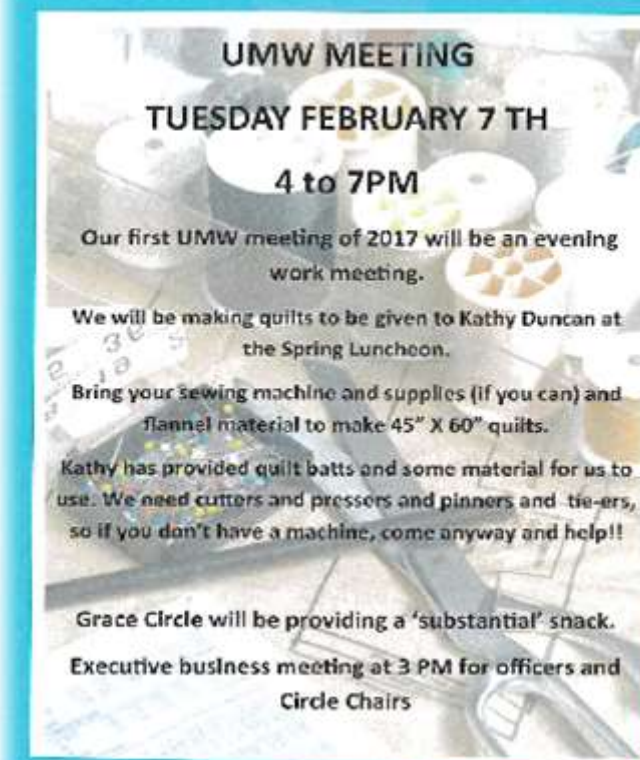
They probably fix somewhere around 25 to 30 plates, which is a lot of cookies. If you can help by bringing cookies or wrapped valentine candy, that would be a big help to them. You can leave your items in the Conference Room. Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day.

Thank you, Bryan Bruns, for keeping the walkways cleared of snow. You don't know how much that is appreciated. Thank you to the person who clears Hansen's parking lot across the road, leaving a huge pile of snow in the corner for the neighborhood kids to play on and dig tunnels through. Thank you to the pastor for putting out kitty litter on a really bad Sunday in a particular bad icy area. I have heard many people say they are ready for Spring. Just remember, all of this snow this year guarantees much needed water for our local farmers. I understand that many wells went dry this past summer.



Women, you are invited to be the guests of the United Methodist Men by attending their annual Valentine's Breakfast, Saturday, February 11, @ 9:00 a.m. In addition to a delicious breakfast, you will be entertained by Lori Wilson and Rob Newman accompanied by Alan Hale. If you plan to attend, please let the office know. A count is needed for preparation purposes.

UMW Mission Work Meeting
Tues., Feb. 7 - 4 to 7 p.m.



Did you know that not only can you listen to the Sunday service on KUMC LP 101.7 FM live, it is re-broadcast every Thursday @ 5:00 p.m.? Did you also know that we are streaming live each Sunday on YouTube, and you can watch it as many times as you want to during the week? Here is where to go on your computer: www.youtube.com/user/RUMC83350.

Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up! Intercept the Traffickers

To box someone or something in means to put someone in a bind, to reduce the number of someone's alternatives, to trap or confine or prevent from acting freely. As a verb, we can think of the box as a way to wall up, wall off, close up, and surround with a fence or hedge.

The causes of trafficking are complex, but at its root is a globalized economy resulting in poverty that contributes to joblessness, inequality, discrimination and violence around the world. Children and youth are at risk of traffickers because of homelessness, the lack of stability in their living situations, foster care or a juvenile justice system that often criminalizes instead of providing a safe harbor. Women and girls fall prey to traffickers who take advantage of their economic and social vulnerabilities by promising a job, education, or better life.

We can never prevent all the exploitation of traffickers or their control over the lives of those they traffic, but we can intercept them. We can stop the treatment of people as cargo or commodities.

God is omnipresent, providing protection always to those at-risk. We are called to action as co-laborers, committed to helping protect the vulnerable. For we can be the vigilant and active agents of compassion and protection wherever we find ourselves confronting the crime of human trafficking.

What You Can Do:

Join our virtual barricade of boxes: Open boxes, closed boxes, and tied boxes! All kinds of boxes can be held, decorated, stacked, left open or sealed. Stack up your boxes with others or simply hold a box yourself, but let's box 'em up!

Get a box and bring it to church on February 5th to:

- Box up those who hurt and harm.
 - Box up the criminal traffickers.
 - Box up laws that criminalize the victims.
 - Decorate a box.
 - Keep your box open as a sign of invitation and hope for survivors.
 - Decorate an open box as a symbol of a doorway to new opportunities and to the openness of your heart to receive survivors with love and grace.
 - Stack the boxes to represent United Methodist Women acting in solidarity with others to intercept the traffickers and to block trafficking criminals from survivors, be they women, men, girls and boys seeking a future of promise.
 - Stack the boxes up to build a wall of boxes.
 - Build a fence of boxes.
- Acting Together we can box 'em up and stack 'em up to intercept human trafficking.**

