

Last month a young woman came into the office asking for help in locating her teacher from her high school days at Minico, Mr. John Eilers, (yes, our very own member, John Eilers). She wanted to tell him how much he had influenced her and how grateful she was to him for his attention and help to her. With her permission, I am sharing her story as she sent it. Because of room constrictions, this will be a two to three part article, with the second part appearing in our April Newsletter.

My name is Herminia Esqueda. I am the pastor's wife at Granger Harvest in Granger, WA. I am going to share snippets of memories and experiences of my life story.

I was a quiet child, so quiet that when we had a fire drill in kindergarten, my teacher forgot me. She didn't even notice that I was missing. She forgot me. I remember hearing the siren and thinking I was going to burn to death. It was like I was invisible.

Despite that traumatic experience, I loved school. In elementary school, we got an assignment to write a poem. I turned it in so proudly. After class, the teacher called me to her desk in a tone as if I had done something wrong. Did you copy this? Sheepish quiet me told her No, I didn't copy. Even at that young age, I could tell she didn't believe me. Hadn't she seen the work that I had done up to that point? Again, it was like I was invisible.

We had one car, a blue Chevy Impala, stereotypical Mexican car (but it wasn't a Low Rider), but my dad drove it to work. So, we would walk with my mom everywhere, four little chicks following mama hen. My mom loved to go shopping. We never bought anything. I think it was mostly for cheap entertainment and so she could get ideas for the next outfit she would sew for us. I hated going to stores. I didn't like the way people looked at us. The ladies would follow us around and look at us funny. To this day I hate to go shopping. I would have to interpret for my mom because she didn't speak English. The worst part was when one of had to go to the restroom. She would ask me in Spanish to ask the Americana where the restroom was. Preguntale (ask her), she would say. And there we went all five of us in a single stall. The fancy ladies in the store would stare at us and giggle right in front of us. It was like were invisible.

My mom got sick. We moved to Texas to be closer to family. My dad got his GED and started teaching GED classes at a small college. One day he took me with him and I wanted to know about college. On that day, on that campus, I told myself I was going to college.

Every year we noticed that my cousins would drop out of school before the end of the school year and return to school after it had already started in the fall. We thought they were so lucky. One year my parents thought it would be a good idea for us to go too. It was going to be so much fun! My uncles drove their potato trucks, canopy over the top, mattresses on the floor and loaded all the cousins in the back of the truck. We would eat bologna sandwiches and bean burritos. We moved into the Hynes Labor Camp in Paul, Idaho. (watch for the 2nd installment next month, as Herminia starts school at Minico)

MethodistDimensions

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FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

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The Way to God

Rev. David Madden

When we look at Christ, we also see the truth about God. In Jesus, we see the very nature of God, whose love for us is unearned, and undeserved. We too are to love, to forgive, to show mercy, and to welcome each other. As followers of Christ we are to continue Christ's great work, and to be representatives of the truth about God.

It is in knowing Jesus as "the way and the truth" that we are able to experience God as "the life." Because without Jesus, and left to our own devices, there is very little hope for us. And, in fact, that too is the message of scripture.

So how do we come to know the way and the truth of God in Jesus Christ? How do we experience abundant life and help others to do the same? The key is faith. It is faith that brings God's blessings to life for us. It is faith that takes us not to the foot of a mountain, but to the feet of God. It is faith that enables us to see the truth about our lives and to embrace the truth about God. It is faith that brings God's gift of life to us. And it is faith that enables us to continue Christ's great work, and share the blessings of God with others. Faith comes from trusting in Jesus' word, living with God, following Christ's example, and continuing Christ's work.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, everyone can come into God's presence. That is the gospel; it is God's promise to us.

In Jesus, we have "the way and the truth and the life" and not only us but the whole world. That's why Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these." Amen.

The Seven Last Words



In anticipation of Holy Week, *The Seven Last Words*, an original cantata by Stanley F. Bruns, will be performed by the Chancel Choir, under the direction of Music Director, Stanley F. Bruns, at the church on Sunday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Each movement begins with a statement of Christ's words from the cross and is a culmination of the last events leading up to and including the death of Christ. Judy Graham Barnes is the accompanist, with featured soloists, Rob Newman, Cathy Jarolimek, Dan Bowman and Nanette and John Eilers.

This may be the last public presentation of Stan, as he prepares to retire as Music Director in May. Please plan to attend and invite your friends. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

(see related article inside - fourth column)

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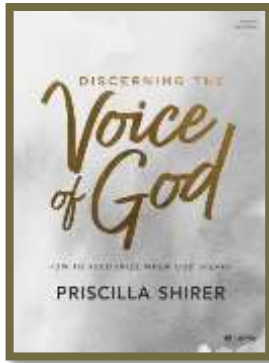
Office Hours: Mon, Tues,
Wed., 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Food Pantry: Mon. & Wed.,
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rev. David Madden is in the
office on Mon. thru Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by
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Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUMC83350>
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New Sunday School Class!

Discerning the VOICE OF GOD, by Priscilla Shirer

If hearing God has seemed challenging, Priscilla Shirer invites you to explore a more intimate relationship with Him, one that can make hearing Him – His will, His heart, and His voice – your ongoing experience. Discover how you can listen with greater confidence, clarity, and discernment.

This weekly study includes weekly insights from author and pastor, Dr. Tony Evans, short video, plus daily opportunities to:

- More deeply understand the Holy Spirit's role in your life.
- Differentiate His voice from imposters' voices, even from your own
- Glimpse His guidance in your every-day life
- Grow consistently in obedience, surrender, stillness, and humility

Prepare to continually and expectantly hear from Him.

This Sunday School Class meets every Sunday Morning @ 9:30 a.m. In the Conference Room. Facilitator: Terri Bruns All are welcome.



Thank you for your continued support of Open Hearts Food Pantry. Here are some interesting 2017 figures: an average of 133 boxes per month were dispersed; an average of 416 people a month were helped; 26 new people (had never been here before) came through the pantry, and we distributed 102 food boxes, in addition to the regular boxes, at Christmas time.

MARCH and LENT activities

*Tues., March 6 – Brown-Bag Pipe Organ. Judy Graham Barnes will present a one hour program of organ music, with her guest, Stan Bruns, playing his Irish Penny Flute. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

*Sat., March 10 - United Methodist Men's breakfast with their guest Rupert Fire Chief, Roger Davis. 8:00 a.m.

*Sun., March 11 – Camp Lunch & Auction – during Hospitality Time - Come enjoy hot dogs, tater salad & chips and be entertained by auctioneer, Carl Van Tassell. Oh, also bring your check book.



*Sun., March 18 – Easter Cantata, “The Seven Last Words”, by Stanley F. Bruns – 7:00 p.m. This will be open to the public, so please bring your friends & neighbors. (Please see an extended article in this newsletter.)

*Sun., March 25 – Palm Sunday (Palms have been ordered)

*Wed., March 29 – Holy Thursday

*Thurs., March 30 – Good Friday

I don't believe we will be having the Stations of the Cross this year-stay tuned in for an update.

*Sun., April 1 – Easter Sunday, and during hospitality the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The Patterson family donated shelving units to RUMC, and brought Scouts from Troop 150 & 45 to clean them. Thanks so much.



They are now in our soon-to-be organized resource room. Thanks to Bryan for installing them, and along with Leanna for beginning work on that room. They need other people to help.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Rupert UMC Foundation has announced that 2018-19 Scholarship Applications are now available. Eligibility requirements:

- Applicant must be on record as a member of the Rupert UMC for at least one year.
- Must be pursuing a degree program at any accredited institution
- May be a high school student, if he/she will be a college student in the fall of the year of application
- Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Is required to be a full-time student according to the school's standards for the program for which he/she is enrolled.

Deadline for completed applications is Mon., April 2, 2018, no later than 3:00 p.m. Applications will be available on the church website: www.rupertidumc.org, or in the

**AMETHODIST TALENT SHOW
SAT, MARCH 3RD – 7:00 P.M. - Refreshments
YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!!!!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WILL SEE!!!
IT WILL BE FUN, YOU'LL SEE!!!**

These are all of the Sanctuary banners that people have made over the years. Thanks to Stan Bruns for building the frame and to Leanna for arranging the banners. They are located in the



sewing room & there are pictures in the office of each banner. You might want to come by to see them.



Composer, Stanley F. Bruns, earned his undergraduate degree in Music Edu. at the Univ. of Idaho, and studied music history and composition at the Univ. of Wisconsin where he received his Master's Degree in Music Education. He then returned to Rupert, where he taught band, choir, and elementary music, retiring in 2006. While teaching, Stan and co-worker, Vicki Neiwert, developed a student support system which included mediation and peer mediation, support groups, and individual “talk-times”. Stan has been Director of Music for the Rupert UMC for forty-three years. His compositions include four compositions for band, numerous choral anthems, many elementary musicals, and flute solos composed for the weddings of his children, nieces and nephew. He has composed three extended vocal works: *Magnificat*, *Love Came Down*, and *The Seven Last Words*. Stan and his wife of fifty-two years, Leanna, have four children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include playing the flute and Irish penny whistle, woodworking, and wood carving.

A small group of volunteers will be leaving on March 25, to drive to the UMCOR – Salt Lake City depot. They will spend Mon. & Tues. helping at the depot wherever they are needed. They will be taking the 25+ hygiene kits that Grace Circle put together, with help from many of you. Please contact the office if you would like to go.