

(As we left Herminia Esqueda's story last month, she had entered college, gotten involved with Campus Crusade for Christ, had gone on mission trips, graduated from college, gotten married, and moved to Sunnyside, WA.)

When we got married, we had no jobs and what does my husband do? He says let's go cut asparagus. Do What? He has got to be kidding. We were newlyweds and being the submissive wife that I am I went along. I actually didn't have the heart to tell him how much I was dreading it. I stood in front of that row. He gave me a quick five-minute lesson. Put the bucket on my back, put the knife in my hand, then took off and left me alone. I am embarrassed to say that I threw the biggest pity party. I literally cried as I cut. I have a college degree and I'm cutting asparagus. I lasted half a row and my husband told me to get in the car.

God humbled me that day. I recognized the hard work of my parents and my uncles. I needed to be reminded of where I came from and that no kind of work should ever be beneath me. I needed that lesson because soon I would be working with DSHS and would be helping men that looked like my uncles, men that worked hard and needed help during the off seasons, women wanting help to feed their babies, and soon I would also be ministering to little girls that looked just like me, searching for hope and a future.

Sharing my story inspired me to write a personal vision statement. My God did not give me a spirit of fear, shame, bitterness, or self-pity, but a Spirit of Love, Power, Forgiveness, Grace, Compassion and Self-Discipline, to live a life of service because no one should be invisible.

I share my story because we build connection with story. Have you ever been any of the characters in my story? The teacher made assumptions that I copied? The women who giggled in the store at us? The boys who heckled? Or maybe just a bystander who has watched from the sidelines? The teacher who was surprised I did well? Or maybe you've been Mr. Eilers to a stranger (good for you)? Or maybe you have felt invisible? If we are honest, we may have found ourselves in every single one of those roles.

Even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve. It is not His will that anyone should perish, not the immigrant, the poor, the prisoner, the homeless, illiterate, or the sinner. Not one. We are called to "Go", and make disciples of all nations. We have the privilege of living in a time when we have all nations coming to us. We are commanded to love the Lord God with all our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves. The story of the Good Samaritan was not a story about who the best person was, it was a story in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor". In this story Jesus is telling us, our neighbor is the person who does not look like you. That could be someone with a different belief system, Muslim, undocumented, refugees, or an "other" group. They are fellow image bearers. Will we be their neighbor? Will we be intentional about making sure that we see and love our neighbor as ourselves?

We believe in an inclusive gospel. God know that it's hard to get rid of old belief systems. Peter had a real hard time accepting that he needed to go to Cornelius's house. He responds by saying I've never eaten anything unclean in my life, and now he's going to the house of a Roman, killer, non-Jew. When he gets there he wants to make it clear that they know, it's illegal for Jews and Gentiles to meet. But Peter was obedient. He stepped out of the familiar into the unfamiliar, out of the comfortable to the uncomfortable. You could even call where he was going offensive. Are we willing to step into the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable and possible the offensive? No one should be invisible, because it is not His will that anyone should perish.

MethodistDimensions

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

208-436-3354

FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

Volume VI - Issue V

May 2018



Mothers

Rev. David Madden

The late great American columnist and author Erma Bombeck, said "that on the day God created mothers, he put in a lot of overtime, so much time that an angel said to Him, "Lord, why are you spending so much time on this one?"

The Lord turned around and said, "Have you read the specification on this model?" She is to have a kiss that will heal everything from a broken leg to a broken heart. She must be able to function on coffee, tea and leftovers; and she is supposed to have six pair of hands."

"Six pairs of hands, that's impossible", said the angel, "Yes, but it is not the six pairs of hands that bothers me", said the Lord, "It is the three pairs of eyes. She is supposed to have one pair of eyes that sees through closed doors so that whenever she says, 'What are you kids doing in there?', she already knows what they're doing in there".

"She also has to have another pair of eyes in the back of her head to see all the things that she is not supposed to see, but must see. And then she has one pair of eyes right in front so that she can look at a child that just messed up, and communicate love and understanding without saying a word".

"But that's too much." said the angel, "You can't put that much in one model. Why don't you rest for a while and resume your creating tomorrow?"

"No, I can't," said the Lord. "I am nearly finished, as I have created someone like myself. I have created a model who can heal herself when she is sick, and feed a family of six with one pound of hamburger, and who can persuade a nine year old to take a bath."

Then the angel looked at the model of motherhood a little more closely and said, "She is too soft"! "Oh, but she is tough," said the Lord," and you will be surprised at how much this mother can do".

Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers. Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us, and the women who have treated us as their own children.

Today God we pray for those whose mothers have gone to dine at your heavenly banquet. Comfort them and remind them that their moms are never far away and will always love them.

God we pray today for mothers around the world; mothers who cannot feed their children, mothers who are homeless or without a homeland, and mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets. Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace.

We pray today God that you heal our world. Remind our world to live as our mother's taught us to live; with love in our hearts and kindness in our words. Amen.



The season's final brown-bag pipe organ recital will be May 1st from noon to 1:00 p.m., before a summer recess. Bring a sack lunch and bottled water for quiet dining at tables in the sanctuary's stained glass window aisle, or just listen as Judy Graham-Barnes plays the church's historic 1937 Kimball pipe organ. International harpist Kara Keller is this month's featured guest musician. This is a free-will donation opportunity benefiting the Christian radio station, KUMC LP 101.7 FM.

Office
605 H St. - P. O. Box 804
Rupert, ID 83350
208.436.3354
umcluv@cablone.net
<http://rupertidumc.org>

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.

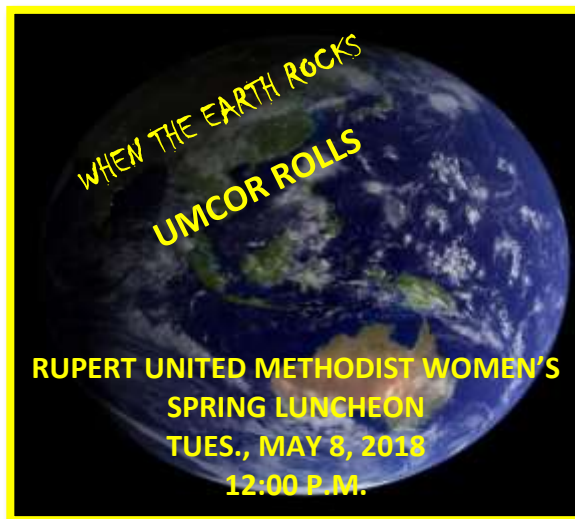
Rev. David Madden is in the
office on Mon. thru Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by
appointment. 436-3354
pastordavid@cablone.net

Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUMC83350>

Radio Station KUMC LP 101.7 FM owned and operated by the Rupert UMC
Listen to live broadcast of Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m.
Service re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 14

United Methodist Church
605 H Street
P. O. Box 804
Rupert, ID 83350
Return Service Requested



We have double reason to celebrate on Sun., May 13th. Of course it is Mother's Day, and also this is Stan Bruns' retirement Sunday & will be the last time he directs the Chancel Choir. So, please join us in celebration. The Hand Bell Choir will play, the choir will sing, all Mothers will be honored, AND there will be potluck.



DISCRETIONARY FUND

Our Discretionary fund is operated as a charitable fund by the Pastor, and at least one person on the finance team. They are very sensitive to the need to maintain integrity when using these funds. The needs have been a bit heavy these past two months. If you are able, a donation to this fund would be helpful in building it back up.



Please personally thank them for their hard work.

Isn't this a beauty? If you read the Trustees report last month, you will know that the RUMC Foundation granted funds for new stovetop and ovens. Thanks to Cliff Hieb, (a member of the Trustees), Bryan Bruns and Leo Ketterling, for working so hard to build, install, paint, tile, and more to make it look like this.

(We received this note too late for last month's newsletter - Clarence is finished with his treatments, and is now going through rehabilitation.)

To all our friends at Rupert Methodist Church, A big Thank You for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls. It is wonderful to feel your love and support. Cancer is an aggressive disease and they are treating Clarence quite aggressively, which has really taken the energy out of him. He is being fed liquid through a tube in his stomach. Hopefully treatments will be done around April 4th, then will be the process of rehabilitation. In the meantime keep him in your prayers. We miss being in Church, but want you to know you are all appreciated.

In Christian Love, Clarence & Sylvia Neiwert



Dear Choir, Thank all of you for the dedication on Sunday to me of "Hymn of Promise". It was so special and has long been a favorite of mine. I really enjoy getting the Sunday Service on "You Tube". It brings me "close to home".

God's love to all, Melba Merkey



SATURDAY, MAY 5 - 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

We are already receiving boxes of items for this upcoming yard sale. If you have larger items you need help with, please contact Brian Williams, 208-312-9223, before the 5th of May. Since the Mini-Cassia Relay For Life organization has disbanded this year, the money collected from the yard sale will go to the general church budget.



John Johnson is looking for someone that will help him do some much needed cataloging, filing, organizing, etc., in the radio room. If you

are that person, or know of someone who is that person, please contact John, 208-431-4462. Thanks.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PART ONE, by Raymond E. Balcomb and Robert W. Burtner© (used by permission)

Organized Christianity began in the Oregon Territory in 1834 when Jason Lee, a Methodist minister from New England, responded to a call seeking a preacher to fulfill a request by Native Americans who had visited St. Louis. The exact reason for their visit is uncertain, but it was widely reported in church circles at the time that these Indians were seeking religious instruction for their people about "the white man's Book of Heaven" they had heard about from white fur traders and trappers.

The Methodist Board of Missions sent Lee over the Oregon Trail as head of a party consisting of his nephew and three lay persons. Their purpose was to establish a missionary effort aimed at converting the indigenous Native Americans and teaching them the arts of civilization.

On the way to Oregon, near the present town of Blackfoot, Idaho, Lee preached to a gathering of trappers in a service that is regarded as the first formal Protestant sermon in the West. The party reached Fort Vancouver, according to Lee, "after a long and fatiguing journey, replete with mercies, deprivations, toil, and prosperity" and received a warm welcome by John McLoughlin of the Hudson's Bay Co. McLaughlin advised Lee to establish his mission in the Willamette Valley. The first station was about ten miles north of the present Salem where Lee organized a Class, the normal 19th century way for Methodism to begin a local church. Almost immediately they began caring for several orphaned Indian children. They moved later to a place they called by an Indian name, Chemeketa, on a site which is now Willamette University. They wasted no time in putting up buildings and establishing gardens for food.

In 1837 a physician, a blacksmith, a carpenter, four unmarried female teachers and two more ordained ministers arrived to reinforce the mission. Then in 1838 Jason Lee set out on the long journey east to recruit more missionaries and to raise money for the Oregon Mission. On this same trip he also delivered a petition to Congress urging them to make Oregon a territory of the United States.

Lee and his associates were not notably successful at converting Indians, although they believed they were preaching the pure Gospel. One of the early reinforcements of clergy to the mission, Gustavus Hines, described their preaching in this way: "We preached to them the Gospel as well as we could . . . giving them an account of the creation of the world, the fall of man, the advent, sufferings, death, and resurrection, ascension and intercession of Christ to save mankind from sin, death, and hell." The lack of response by the Indians was due in part to the heavy losses among the Indian people to various white-born diseases for which they had no immunities.

By 1840 there were stations fixed at Nisqually, Clatsop, Umpqua (Wilbur)**, Wascopam (The Dalles), Willamette (Chemeketa-now Salem), and Willamette Falls (Oregon City). (The Nisqually mission at the southern end of Puget Sound, was the first U.S. settlement north of the Columbia River and West of the Cascades.)

What started out as a foreign mission to the Indians in the Oregon Territory, soon became a ministry to the increasing number of white American settlers coming by wagon train over the Oregon Trail and by ship around the Horn. To meet this unexpected need, Lee helped found the white-settler oriented churches in Salem and Oregon City. Lee's tenure as head of the mission ended, however, when the Methodist Episcopal Board of Missions judged (from unclear evidence) that the mission operations were becoming a secular rather than a spiritual mission. Taking action unknown to Lee at the time, they recalled him and appointed George Gary to de-secularize the Oregon Mission. Gary followed orders but soon resigned to be replaced in 1847 by William Roberts, a friend of Lee's who shared Lee's missionary zeal to both Indians & whites. ** (Wilbur is where Rev. Pam Meese is now serving). *(Part 2 will appear in next month's newsletter they will discuss Camp Meetings, establishing schools & mergers).*