

The Lighthouse

December, 2016

Newsletter of Ocean Shores United Methodist Church

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All Church Members — Ministers

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OPEN HEARTS—OPEN MINDS—OPENDOORS

Notes from the Pastor's Pen . . .

The festival of Christmas is for everyone, not just children! It is a celebration of the light of love replacing the darkness of defective dogmatism, moralism, authoritarianism and other 'isms.' Christmas is a magnificent commemoration but for many of us it's deeper meaning has been lost.

The winter solstice helps us with this understanding. The natural, gradual return of the sun, reminds us of renewal. It is difficult for us to grasp the inherent meaning of the Christmas festival unless we meditate on the return of light in both the physical and the emotional "dark night of the soul" sense, as we regain the light of hope and happiness. Or, as Thomas Moore says, "The more you know the dark, the more you will appreciate the light."

Christmas is not about history but mystery. The winter solstice is not just a stopping of the sun but also an incubation, a revolution, a renovation. This is why we retell the story. The story is as much about you as it is about community. It's a mystery of how you become real, of how a child is born within you.

A most Merry Christmas to each of you!

See ya in church.

Wayne

PROPOSED TEXTS DECEMBER - 2016

DATE	TEXT
04	St. Mark 1:4
11	St. Luke 8:8-23 & 57-63
18	St. Luke 1:46-56
24	St. John 1:1-4
25	St. John 3:16

Soup and Bread Dinners

Vicki Schmidt and Pam Tuttle threw the first event in November.

The December Soup and Bread Dinner takes place on December 16, from 5:30-6 :30. All are welcome.

In 2017 on third Fridays, all are invited.

OSUMC Missionary Makes Bi-ennial Visit

A small portion of our giving supports the missionary work of Rev. Paul Jeffrey, who not only is a famous photographer and writer, but is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He is the senior correspondent for *response*, the magazine of United Methodist Women. Every two years we are graced by his presence and Tuesday, November 16, was the evening he was here with us.

Photo from Global Ministries UMC



Paul Jeffrey

After a pot luck supper we enjoyed a video of his photography and commentary about the refugees who were arriving from Turkey after a most dangerous journey crossing the Aegean Sea. Turkish traffickers charge these refugees huge sums of money for small crowded boats to come across to the Greek Island of Lesbos, where they arrive cold and frightened. They are met by volunteers from all over the world who welcome them and provide dry clothing and medical care before the refugees continue on to western Europe.

In Rev. Paul's words, "I often write about what people of faith are doing to empower people at the margins to live the abundant life that's promised to them in the Gospel. I focus on why they're doing that and what the consequences of that work may be for ordinary women and men in the pews".

I urge you to go online and learn about his mission and view his heart warming photography. Here are some links: Paul Jeffrey's [facebook page](#), [UMC Biography](#), and [Photographs](#).

—Vicki Schmidt

Congregation Leadership

President Administrative Council

Gerry Dixon

Treasurer

Barbara White

Lay Leader

Marvin Wheeler

Church Historian

Ruth Dixon

Worship

Helen Lord & Jean Wheeler

Trustees

Vicki Schmidt

Nurture

Lois Westlund

Pastor-Parish Relations

Rooe Simpson

Suggested Food Donation for Food Bank in December Spaghetti Sauce

(canned or in jars)

Field Trips

The van next embarks on Tuesday, December 20, at 9:00am.

Field trippers will visit Opel Art Glass in Cosmopolis, take lunch at Casa Mia in Hoquiam, and see Hoquiam Castle.

Excursionists tour a glass blowing facility and watch glass being blown. They have a sale on seconds. Helen Lord says this is rated high on her scale.

Hoquiam Castle tour requests a donation of \$5.00 per person. It's a 10,000 square foot home built in 1897 by lumber baron Robert Lytle. It has 5 bedrooms and private baths. The 3rd floor is a grand ballroom. The house will be beautifully decorated for Christmas.

The present owner purchased the Castle in 2004 and provides tours.

Do you have suggestions for future trips? In January our excursion schedule will take place on the third Thursday of each month. More places are available on Thursdays.

The vans took off promptly at 10:30, November 15, for the Museum of the North Beach with luncheon at the Ocean Crest.

—Viki Drummond

Grass Clippings

I am writing the day before Thanksgiving.

Throughout history the American people have had much for which to be



Photo by Pam Tuttle

No rubbernecking here. The food is too good!

thankful. George Washington proclaimed its first official Thanksgiving Day on Oct. 3, 1789 for our new nation. It would have been a familiar observance, for during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress had declared days of thanksgiving and recommended that they be observed by the states.

Washington may have been the first leader, but he was not the last, to make pronouncement of gratitude. And it is done with good reason, for we are blessed with unimaginable freedom, rich resources and a wide span of land that allows us room to produce an abundance of food and materials for our wellbeing.

We are thankful for the freedom to worship God, for family and friends. We enjoy abundance and opportunities, small daily conveniences and huge sweeping liberties, that most people who ever lived would not imagine. Despite all the divisions and discrimination that stifles the lives of some of us, we are richly blessed. In his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln put into words sentiments that if written today would cause a uproar among the church/state advocates but they are certainly are worth recalling on this Thanksgiving Day.

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

...

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States ... to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Let us all give thanks to our Almighty God.

—Marv Wheeler

Book Review: *Notes from the Hyena's Belly*

In this powerful memoir, Nega Meslekia recalls in vivid detail his boyhood in

the village of Jijiga, Ethiopia. His bold journey to manhood took place during the 1970's and 1980's in his country's most turbulent period.

Mezlekia describes the hardships that consumed Ethiopia after the fall of Emperor Haile Selassie and the rise of the communista junta, whose merciless Red Terror slaughtered 100,000 Ethiopian youth.

Mezlekia himself, as a college student, was forced to join a guerrilla army. He had several brushes with death at the hands of reactionary exorcists, but he somehow survived the bloodbath.

He has four degrees from four universities, is a professional engineer in Toronto, and writes novels.

My son and I met Haile Selassie's nephew at the Cinar Hotel in Yesilkoy, Turkey, when we lived in there in 1966 and 1967. He had been educated in London and was the *de facto* ruler of Ethiopia, as Haile Selassie was in ill health.

Notes from the Hyena's Belly won Canada's highest literary prize, the Governor General's Award.

—Lois Westlund

[Web Calendar @ oceanshoresumc.com/calendar](http://oceanshoresumc.com/calendar)

Building Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	2 12 N AA	3
4 10:30 A Worship (Communion)	5 12 N AA	6 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	7 12 N AA 6:30 Bible Study	8 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	9 12 N AA	10
11 10:30 A Worship	12 12 N AA	13 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	14 12 N AA 6:30 Bible Study	15 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	16 12 N AA	17
18 10:30 A Worship	19 12 N AA	20 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	21 12 N AA 6:30 Bible Study	22 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	23 12 N AA	24
25 10:30 A Worship	26 12 N AA	27 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	28 12 N AA 6:30 Bible Study	29 10 A - 2 P Senior Res Ctr	30 12 N AA	31

**The Lighthouse, Rooe Simpson, Editor
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