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SANDPOINTER
Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
4710 Northeast 70th Street
Seattle, Washington 98115-6148

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SANDPOINTER

November 10, 2015

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor

Wedgwood Halloween Celebration!



Photos by Sue Haas

Many thanks to Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Sarah Ritchey, and Meredith McVicar for a well planned and successful event on Oct. 30th! Thank you to all who participated as helpers and to those who donated candy. *We also thank Nassim Pietsch and the Green & Pietsch Family and Cosmetic Dentistry who graciously allowed us to use their parking lot.*

From Our Pastor ...

Dear Friends in Faith,

In talking to a friend the other day, we were commenting on how we just *can't believe* that it's already November! As if this time of year just snuck up to surprise us. This got me to thinking about how the 'surprise' only seems greater as the year goes on. By the time Thanksgiving is here, it seems we practically blink and it's already Christmas. And once again we find ourselves saying, "I just *can't believe* a new year is here!"

Of course there's something to be said about December surprising us. After all, Advent and the Christmas season *should* surprise us. Sure, some of us have a countdown going all year long, but doesn't the experience of the season always seem to surprise us? Leaving us overcome with the joy of the festivities? Aren't we constantly surprised by the Love of God that radiates a little brighter at Christmas?

This year, my hope is that we will all take time to be surprised by the season. Not because it snuck up on us without our seeing, but because we have taken time to slow down and notice it.

To that end, we have several Enrichment Hour and fellowship opportunities to help us be surprised in the best way possible. Read on to learn more:

Advent Enrichment Hour Series:

"Spiritual Practices for the Whole Family"—Join us Sundays Nov. 29, Dec. 6th and 13th from 11:30-12:30 as we practice spiritual awareness. (*The children will join us after the Christmas Pageant rehearsals at 11:45.*) We will prepare Advent calendars to put our faith in action, create mandalas to decorate for the season and have a Photo-A-Day challenge to get us noticing the world around us. No child care because all of these are designed to be intergenerational and involve children! *Good for individuals and families of all ages!*

Hanging of the Greens Worship: Sunday, Nov. 29th—Join us during our normal worship time as we continue to prepare the sanctuary for the Advent season. Decorating will be woven directly into worship.

Christmas Ships Fellowship Event!—Sunday, Nov. 29th: 6-7PM. Join us at Gas Works park to kick off the start of Advent by enjoying the start of the Christmas Ships Festival. Bring a thermos of cocoa and come enjoy time with your church family! (*continued on page 3*)

Church Calendar

Wednesday (Nov. 11) Veterans' Day

Church offices closed in observance of Veterans' Day
Chancel Choir rehearsal—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (Nov. 15)

Worship Service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Community Hour —after worship service, Perry Hall
Youth Choir—after worship, Sanctuary
Sand Point Songbirds—after worship, Sunday School Rm. 3

Monday (Nov. 16)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline

Tuesday (Nov. 17)

Men's Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Wednesday (Nov. 18)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Chancel choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (Nov. 19)

Charge Conference Reports due

Saturday (Nov. 21)

Adoption Celebration for Ramona—4:30 p.m., Perry Hall

Sunday (Nov. 22)

Worship Service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Community Hour and baby shower for Sarah—following
worship—Perry Hall
Youth Choir—after worship—Sanctuary
Tent City 3—dinner prep. @ 2 p.m., delivery & serving
approximately 5 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Thursday (Nov. 26) and Friday (Nov. 27)

Church offices closed for Thanksgiving

Saturday (Nov. 28)

Hanging of the Greens—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Monday (Nov. 30)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline

Wednesday (Dec. 2)

Charge Conference—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Tuesday (Dec. 8)

UMW Christmas Tea—1:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Sock It to Homelessness

Sponsored by Operation Nightwatch

Make a difference in the life of a homeless person.

Sock donations may be placed in the basket in Perry Hall by Sunday, November 15th.

Sand Point Community UMC is collecting men's new, white socks for homeless men. You may bring socks to the church and place them in the basket in Perry Hall. Our Missions Team will then deliver the socks to Operation Nightwatch.

Parents Night Out

Friday, December 18th from 5:00-8:00 pm.

We are hosting a Parents' Night Out this holiday season. Parents can enjoy a few hours on their own or do any last minute preparations before children are on break from school/daycare for the holidays. Plus we want the kids to have a Christmas party! Our staff and volunteers will be present while the kids will play games, create Christmas crafts, eat dinner, sing carols, and watch a short movie. This event will be open for children ages 0-12. Please register with Meredith McVicar by December 17th if you plan to have your child/children attend. A suggested donation of \$5 per child/ \$10 per family.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals will be on the following Sundays:

November 29th, immediately following worship

December 6th, immediately following worship

December 13th, immediately following worship

December 20th 9:00-9:30 a.m. (Dress Rehearsal)

Performance: Sunday, December 20th (during Worship service)

This year's pageant, titled *Instant Nativity*, is based on the scripture in Matthew and Luke. We will have a cast of shepherds, angels, wise men, a narrator, youth minister, sheep and other animals, a prophet, and Mary and Joseph.

We are looking for cast members, volunteers to help with production design, and additional help assisting with directing. Please let Meredith McVicar or Bruce Taylor know if you plan to participate!



Please Pray for:

Ann McDonald—health issues

In Memoriam:

Mable Wesley—recent death

New Contact Information

(Please add to your directory.)



Can You Help with Coffee Hour on Nov. 29?

Good Shepherd Team #3 is hoping to find people to help with the coffee hour on November 29th. We have a loyal group of coffee hour hosts who are unable to fill that important spot. If you could possibly fill in on that date, please call Jan Paul. We will be especially thankful for you this Thanksgiving season!

Baby Shower for Sarah Ritchey

Sunday, November 22nd

The congregation will honor Sarah Ritchey (Dir. of Early Child. Min.) with a baby shower on Sun., Nov. 22nd. There will be special refreshments at the Community Hour. As community time ends, everyone is invited to stay together in Perry Hall where the event will continue. *Knowing that each baby has different needs and sensibilities, a gift certificate may be the most appropriate gift. If you have questions please phone Sylvia Abbott (or Ana Eagen).*

From Our Pastor ... (continued from page 2)

Green Lake Pathway of Lights Fellowship Event!—Sat., Dec. 12th: 4:30PM. Join us to share in this local festival of lights and carols. This is a time to experience the Holy that is present in the ordinary. Let's take time to walk together, fellowship together and break bread together with a shared dinner out afterwards!

Looking forward to sharing the surprises of the season with you!

Peace, *Pastor Janelle*

**Charge Conference
Wednesday, December 2nd
7:00 P.m., Fireside Room**

(Staff Parish Relations Committee meets with the District Superintendent at 6:30 p.m. that evening.)

The Charge Conference is the church's annual business meeting. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

From Your Lay Leader

I recently attended an event called Laity Uprising. Wes Howard Brook and Sue Ferguson Johnson spoke on the Biblical theology of spiritual activism. Seattle District Superintendent Rich Lang told of his goal to help connect our spiritually strong churches with our spiritually struggling churches and our strong administrative churches with our struggling almost closing churches. He reminded us to "not forget that we are an institution of resurrection not death, of revival not depression, of inspiration not resignation". The day was spent at Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland where we saw firsthand their ministry of car-camping. Of the several workshops offered, I sat in on Earth Ministry: Climate Change, Pope Francis and You.

November 14th I will attend a communications training for the local church, "We Have a Story to Tell". It will look at such questions as what is a church to do to communicate with relevance in a world which moves so quickly and should the church promote itself and how can it do so with tact and grace while reaching people it doesn't already know? Register through the Pacific Northwest Conference site if you would like to attend.

Suggestions have been made to make the fellowship hour space useable and maneuverable for adults and children alike. These include tables more spread out so those with walkers and such can get around, a chess set available for child/adult interaction, a low round table, and a high chair. Let me know if you would like to donate any of the last three items mentioned.

Sylvia Abbott



Thanksgiving Baskets for families at Sand Point Housing

Continuing our annual Thanksgiving tradition, our church is committed to providing Thanksgiving (dinner) Baskets for **five** families at Sand Point Housing. We ask for your support in this outreach. Jan & Blair Paul set up the Turkey display in Perry Hall; it has tags for specific items. Please take whatever tag(s) you wish and return all items to Perry Hall by Nov. 22nd. The baskets all will be delivered to Sand Point Housing on Monday, November 23rd. If you would like to help sort, pack & deliver the dinners, contact Jane Stevens, Jan Paul, Joan Bohn, Terri Cicero or Jan Kreidler.

November Melodies of Compassion for Washington Women In Need (WWIN)

Mission: to provide health and education grants to low-income women in Washington to help them improve their lives.

Description: WWIN is committed to help low-income women achieve financial resiliency through health care and education grants. This is done by providing the final boost they need to break down some of the most enduring socioeconomic barriers.

Education: a general WWIN Education grant provides a woman up to \$5,000 to be used toward tuition and/or books at a Washington State Accredited college or institution. A WWIN Star Scholar Grant provides a woman with the opportunity to receive up to \$20,000 (\$5,000 per year) to be used toward tuition and/or books at a Washington State Accredited College or institution.

Health Care Gap Fund: WWIN provides grants for health care services that are not covered by Apple Health or Medicare:

- up to \$3,000 for Physical, Dental, Vision and or hearing
- Up to 24 sessions of Mental Health Counseling.

WWIN has provided over 5,900 grants to low income women in Washington since being founded in 1992 by Julia Pritt.