



ROAD WORK

-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER-

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

November 9, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3



This Week:

Sunday:

~Breakfast—9:30 AM
~Worship & Sunday
School—10 AM
~Thanksgiving
Meeting—11:30

Monday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM

Tuesday:

~Prayer Service—6 PM

Wednesday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM
~Cluster Meeting—Noon

Saturday:

~Gab 'n Grow—1 PM

Sunday:

~Breakfast—9:30 AM
~Worship & Sunday
School—10 AM
~Thanksgiving
Meeting—11:30

Not More—Different!

From our District Superintendent, Rev. Michael Davis

I'm in the thick of church conferences. As a District Superintendent I lead the annual meetings of the congregations I serve. Between late September and Christmas I will conduct around 30 church conferences. Currently I am around half way done (some may think I am really just half baked.)

One theme I try to share at these meetings relates to our changed reality and how the church needs to respond. I speak about focusing on moving out into the community rather than waiting for folks to come to us. During the question and answer time of the meeting I'll often hear a question like this; "Mike, our plates are already full. We have trouble finding enough people to do the things we already do. How can

you ask us to do even more?"

It is a great question. I believe the answer is not doing more, it is doing different.

These times challenge us to focus our energies where they will have the greatest impact. Frankly, that is not in our church buildings. More committee meetings, fund raisers and church suppers will not make our church strong. Neither will they advance the Kingdom of God. Now before I get too much hate mail, I don't object to committees, church suppers or fund raisers in principle. But if we have to choose between doing things in the church or being out in the community, then going out should win out.

It is time for us in the church to

do differently. It may mean we need to leave behind some long standing activities in order to respond to God's call into our communities. Recently one church in our District stopped a 60 year old tradition of meatball suppers in order to find the time and space to do something new. It was a hard decision, but the right one.

What different focus is God calling you to? It is time to do different! Listen up, God is speaking to you.

Note from Pastor Mike:

Where is your passion? When we follow our passion, we are more likely to get others on board with us. Let's start thinking about church—differently!

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"The Lord wants you to obey all human authorities, especially the Emperor, who rules over everyone. You must also obey governors, because they are sent by the Emperor to punish criminals and to praise good citizens."

1 Peter 2:13-24 (CEV)

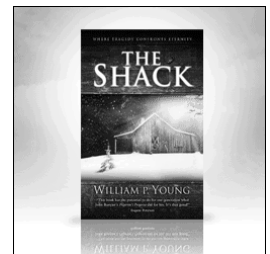
"The Shack" by William P. Young

Gab 'n Grow has been studying this book for a few weeks and has been having some good conversations around the ideas put forth. Though we are just about ready to wrap up our discussion and move on to a new focus, I still think it is a worthwhile read for everyone.

Much of the book is less about the story presented and more

about the theology involved. The story is easy enough to understand, but many of the ideas take some thought and some time to digest. The theology is in line with the postmodern theology of the Emerging Church movement.

So, if you are looking for a new book to read, give William P. Young's "The Shack" a try.



And when you do, let me know what you think.



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Along the road less traveled...

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Rejected Pastors Receive "Ordination"

From the United Methodist News Service

Annie Britton and Jenna Zirbel, blocked from ordination as United Methodist ministers because one is a legally married lesbian and the other disagrees with church rules on homosexuality, received "extraordinary ordination" in an ecumenical service at a United Methodist church in Baltimore. The Oct. 19 "ordinations" were called extraordinary because "they went against 'ordinary' policies in the United Methodist Church that deny ordination to otherwise qualified candidates because of sexual orientation or inclusive beliefs," according to the Church Within a Church Movement, sponsors of the service.

Church Within a Church is an organization of Methodists who describe themselves as "dedicated to being the inclusive church." The group chose to hold the service at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church because of its proximity to the birthplace of American Methodism in Baltimore.

During the service, hands were laid on the two women by retired United Methodist Bishops Susan Morrison and Jessie DeWitt, along with leaders from other denominations and the women's sponsors.

"For too long, selective reading of the Bible has meant that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their supporters have been excluded and punished for their honesty when they reject the 'don't ask, don't tell' practices of the church," Morrison said in a press release from Church Within a Church.

The 2008 General Conference, the top law-making body of The United Methodist Church, upheld the church's stance that homosexual practice is "incompatible with Christian teaching." The denomination also prohibits ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals."

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, said the Baltimore event was not sanctioned by the denomination. "The Council of Bishops continues to engage in dialogue with many persons of differing opinions on issues of sexuality as we seek to live together in Christian community," Palmer said in an Oct. 28 statement. "While this event certainly creates additional dialogue, it is perhaps not the kind of dialogue that ultimately helps us to move forward as a denomination.

Upcoming Events

October 29 to November 11—Pastor Mike on vacation

Sunday, November 9—*After Worship*—Church Meeting to plan for Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Delivery.

Wednesday, November 12—*Noon*—Cluster Meeting of the Saco Bay Cluster.

Sunday, November 16—*After Worship*—Church Meeting to plan for Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Delivery.

November 23—Stewardship Sunday—Start thinking about how you will respond to God's call on your life over the next year. Stewardship Sunday is a chance to make a public witness to that call.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance Programs for the Salvation Army—Dates for those applying for assistance this holiday season have been announced. Thanksgiving and Christmas applications will be taken:

November 3, 4, 5—9 AM to Noon

November 3 & 4—1 to 3PM

Christmas applications will be taken:

December 1, 2, 3—9 AM to Noon

December 1 & 2—1 to 3 PM

Thursday, November 27—*4th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Delivery*—Delivery begins at 11AM and dinner will be served at noon.

November 30—1st Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of LOVE.

December 7—2nd Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of JOY.

December 14—3rd Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of HOPE.

December 21—4th Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of PEACE.

Wednesday, December 24 at 7PM—*Christmas Eve Service*—Join us for a special time of worship and warmth as we look celebrate the birth of our Lord.