

SANDPOINTER

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

Periodical
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Seattle, WA

Periodical Time Value Mail

8

SANDPOINTER USPS 886-200
Editor: Janet Kreidler

Volume 2012 No. 2 Published every other week the first week of September through the last week of May and monthly June, July and August by Sand Point Community United Methodist Church, 4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115, (206)-523-3040. Periodical Postage Paid, Seattle, WA

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the SANDPOINTER, Sand Point Community United Methodist Church, 4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148.



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January 24, 2012

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206-523-3040 www.sandpointumc.org

Cathlynn Law, Pastor



Welcome to our New Director of Children's & Family Ministries!

The Search Committee has worked tirelessly the past six months to find the best fit to partner in ministry with us. After weeding through close to 100 applications, and 20 in-person interviews, the Search Committee made its recommendation to offer the position to Cindy Akana, who will join our staff beginning February 1. Cindy holds a degree in Biblical Studies from SPU, and a Master of Arts in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. In addition, she has professional training and experience in WIAA Coaches School, mediation, and counseling. Cindy will be leaving her current position at Des Moines UMC (WA) where she has served the past three years as Family Ministry Coordinator and Worship Leader. She currently coaches High School swimming and volleyball. Cindy also brings a wealth of musical gifts as a singer/songwriter/musician, playing with many bands over the years.

Here are a few things the Search Committee had to say about Cindy:

" Cindy has an energetic approach to ministry. She has experience ministering to many age groups through study, play, worship, sports, and music. Continued on page 3.

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Reflections from Pastor Cathy ...

If people outside the church asked you what the best thing about our church is, I imagine there would be a range of possible answers. At one time I remember Ana Eagen answering the question *Why Darling, Happy Hour, of course!*" She was referring to our Coffee Hour following our worship service every Sunday. It's the place where coffee, tea, juice and goodies show up miraculously each week, served with gracious hospitality. It's the place where people greet old friends, where new people and visitors tentatively take their first step into the foray of our faith community, it's the place where our children learn a sense of belonging in an intergenerational gathering, and no doubt it's where everyone is discussing the content of the sermon and worship, not just the length of time.

When I first arrived at Sand Point three years ago, Joan Bohn made all the phone calls and arrangements to find someone to host coffee hour, and Sheri Vahey secured worship assistants, greeters and communion servers for worship. What a big task for both. So, we decided to get the whole congregation involved by creating Good Shepherd Hospitality Groups to coordinate all the responsibilities needed on any given Sunday. There are seven different groups that rotate being responsible for various roles for worship and Coffee Hour every seven months. The groups are finding it relatively easy to find people to be the worship assistant or greet at the door, but trickier to find help with the Coffee Hour. Sometimes just a couple of people take charge of Coffee Hour; sometimes it's 4 or 5 people who are on deck. Each group figures out how to coordinate the effort in a different way. This is one of the most crucial points of entry for newcomers, and a vital aspect of ministry for our existing members.

Are you an active part of a Good Shepherd group? Would you like to be? Check the bulletin board to see the schedule and what group you are a part of. If you don't see your name, ask me how to become a part of this vitally important ministry each week. Many hands make light work. Let's all be about our ministry of hospitality together!

Calendar of Events:

Wednesday (Jan. 25)

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

Friday (Jan. 27)

AA—6:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Saturday (Jan. 28)

Alanon—7:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (Jan. 29)

Worship service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—immediately following worship, Perry

Tuesday (Jan. 31)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline—12:00 noon
AA—7:30 p.m., Lehmann Hall (*aka Boys & Girls Club*)
Alanon—7:30 p.m., Choir Room

Wednesday (Feb. 1)

Chancel Choir rehearsal—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (Feb. 2)

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

Friday (Feb. 3)

AA—6:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Saturday (Feb. 4)

Alanon—7:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (Feb. 5)

Worship Service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—immediately following worship
Worship Team meeting—11:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Tuesday (Feb. 7)

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

Looking Ahead:

Fourth Sunday of every month—dinner for Tent City

Thursday (Feb. 9)—UMW Luncheon, 12:00 noon

SANDPOINTER deadlines:

Mondays, Jan. 30 & Feb. 13—12:00 noon

Our newsletter is published monthly during June, July and August and bi-weekly from September through May.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Paraphrased from *Pastor-Parish Relations 2009–2012*.

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The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is the administrative unit in a local church where staff and congregational interests come together to focus on the mission of the church. This committee has primary responsibility to work with staff so that the mission of the church is realized. SPRC works with the lead pastor, all ordained leaders appointed by the bishop, the lay staff, the congregation, candidates for licensed and ordained ministry, the district superintendent and the UM Conference staff.

Specific tasks for SPRC are summarized from the Book of Discipline:

- Educating and reminding staff & congregation to focus on working together towards the mission of the church by promoting unity and encouraging, strengthening, nurturing, supporting, and respecting the pastor(s), staff, and their families.
- Lead conversation between the congregation and the staff/pastor about ministry direction, including recommendations about staff positions to carry out the work of the church.
- Developing and recommending written policy and procedures on employment of non-appointed staff, including provision for insurance, pension, & severance pay.
- Assessing job performance of staff/pastor at least annually
- Conferring and consulting with the district superintendent
- Supporting lifelong learning and spiritual renewal for all staff (continuing education).
- Identifying and supporting individuals from the congregation whom God seems to be calling for ordained ministry.

Current members are: Judy Keller & Jan Paul (co-chairs), Sylvia Abbott, Carol Blainey, Bill Eagen, Bob Houk, Tony Russo & Jerry Zimmerman. We thank members of SPRC for their dedication and service to our church. Thank you also to Paul Vahey who was the hardworking SPRC chair last year.

Congratulations to Richard Ferguson!



Richard Ferguson, DDS, MSD was nominated by the UW Dental School for his outstanding community volunteer service at the UW Health Sciences Center. Richard was honored on January 12 during the annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at the UW Health Sciences Center. (In 2005 he also received the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award bestowed by the School's Dean's Club.)

New Director of Children's & Family Ministries

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We're blessed to have such a talented and experienced lady join our staff."

Cindy has many good ideas for engaging our children, and has leadership skills to guide all of us in the church to be welcoming to families."

Cindy has built successful Sunday School and community outreach programs in a Methodist church similar in size to ours. As she described her previous position during her interview, I found myself thinking Yes! That's exactly what WE should be doing."

Let us offer Cindy a Sand Point welcome as she joins us in worship February 5th. During coffee hour you will have an opportunity to meet and welcome our newest staff member.

And please take a moment to thank those who have served on the Search Committee: Sylvia Abbott, Diane Chapel, Bruce & Ngaire Taylor, and Paul Vahey.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed—on Sunday, February 19 following worship Perry Hall

Please join us in celebrating the beginning of Lent with a traditional Fat Tuesday / Mardi Gra celebration! Our Pancake Feed will be served immediately after worship service on **Sunday, February 19 in Perry Hall**. We will burn the palm branches from last Palm Sunday in preparation for our Ash Wednesday service. A few volunteers are needed to help flip pancakes and clean up. Please contact Pastor Cathy or the church office if you can help.

Ash Wednesday Service



February 22, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

Let us prepare our hearts for Lent
By receiving the imposition of ashes
Reminding us that once we were dust,
And to dust we shall return.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday—8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays—8:30 to 12:00 noon only.

Opportunities During Lent

Enrichment Hour

We look forward to resuming Enrichment Hours during Lent beginning Sunday, February 26th. Retired Methodist pastor, Rev. David Biles will lead us in a study of Paul's letters focusing on Thessalonians and Galatians. A study guide will be available.

Lenten Study

Want to connect with people at church? Want to grow in your faith? Want to do something more fun for Lent than giving up chocolate for 6 weeks? Then give Lenten House Churches a try! Small groups of 6-8 people will meet for 6 weeks during Lent to discuss faith topics and have a good time together. Groups will meet in homes with an agreed upon consistent day/time. Food might or might not be involved. Different hosts will offer different options and you can sign up for what works best for you! Interested in leading and/or hosting? (The host offering up their home can also lead the discussion, or two people can split the hosting/leading roles.) Please contact Diane Chapel or Pastor Cathy to learn more about it. Interested in joining a Lenten House Church? Look for more details in the weeks leading up to Lent (which starts February 22nd)—sign-up sheets will be posted soon in Perry Hall!



**UMW Luncheon
Thursday, February 9
12:00 noon, Fireside Room**

All women are invited to attend the UMW lunch on Thursday, Feb. 9, at noon in the Fireside room. Vernetta Rickert will give a book report on "Nearing Home" by Billy Graham. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

Bake Sale — Sunday, February 12

Our Missions Ministry Team is having a Bake Sale in Perry Hall on February 12 during Fellowship Hour.

