

# SANDPOINTER

November 28, 2007

Sand Point Community United Methodist Church  
4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148  
206-523-3040 www.sandpointumc.org  
Patricia Simpson, Pastor



## First Sunday of Advent December 2<sup>nd</sup>

"Peace on Earth" is the theme for Advent this year. The four Sundays of Advent will focus on the viewpoints of Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph. The Sunday before Christmas,



December 23rd, is the Cantata and our Children's Pageant. We have a wonderful December ahead of us and hope you will bring your family and friends to join in the joy and celebration of Advent.

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### *Nothing is Impossible with God and a Friend*

Elizabeth and Mary were both pregnant which was impossible because Elizabeth was too old and Mary was not married. And so, just as we would, they comforted each other, and celebrated the fact that God was working in their lives. Who do you go to when comfort is needed or there is joy to be celebrated? Bring that person with you to the annual Women's Christmas Evening on December 6th at 7:30 p.m. in Perry Hall where friendship will be the theme.

Please bring gifts for the Church of Mary Magdalene - lingerie, toiletries, socks, hats, scarves, gloves, and money for shoe vouchers and on going expenses. And bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with friends that evening. If you have any questions, please call Berta Cohen, at 523-9342.

## Calendar

### Regular Weekly Events

<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service - Children's Choir and Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hour, Perry Hall 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Youth Group at Wallingford UMC
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room 7:30 p.m. - AA, Lehmann Hall 7:30 p.m. - Alanon, Choir Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 p.m. - Bell Choir, Choir Room 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	6:00 p.m. - AA, Fireside Room 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. - Youth Friday Night Hangout
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 p.m. - Alanon, Fireside Room

### Upcoming Events

#### **Saturday, December 1st**

10:00 a.m. - Hanging of the Greens

#### **Sunday, December 2nd - First Sunday of Advent**

#### **Tuesday, December 4th**

7:00 p.m. - Church Council

#### **Wednesday, December 5th**

8:30 a.m. - Probus, Perry Hall

#### **Thursday, December 6th**

9:00 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room

7:30 p.m. - Women's Christmas Program, Perry Hall

#### **Friday, December 7th - Sandpointer Deadline**

#### **Sunday, December 9th - Second Sunday of Advent**

#### **Monday, December 10th**

7:00 p.m. - Finance, Perry Hall

#### **Tuesday, December 11th**

8:00 a.m. - Morning Celebration, Fireside Room

7:00 p.m. - Trustees, Perry Hall

7:00 p.m. - Mission, Fireside Room

#### **Sunday, December 16th - Third Sunday of Advent**

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4710 Northeast 70th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98115-6148

Periodical  
Postage Paid  
Seattle, WA

**Periodical  
Time Value Mail**

SANDPOINTER USPS 886-200  
Editor: Wendy Davis

Volume 2007 No. 20 Published every other week the first week of September through the last week of May and monthly Jun, July and August by Sand Point Community United Methodist Church, 4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115, (206-523-3040).

## Mission Notes

Thanks to everyone who brought coins to church in October for Melodies of Compassion. We collected \$142.50 for Wheels for the World, a nonprofit organization which refurbishes and distributes wheelchairs to those in need all over the world! In December our "Melodies" will be donated to the Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH), a private, non-profit that provides transitional housing and case management for homeless women from diverse back-grounds. Housing 11 women at a time, EGH's mission is to provide a safe environment for women who are recovering from homelessness by providing supportive housing and hospitality that will help them move towards an enriched life within the community. Entirely financed by private donations and grants, and it may be forced to close by the end of 2007 without additional funding. Please be generous with your coins for the month of December!

On December 1st, along with the "Hanging of the Greens" in the sanctuary, the Missions Team will again be decorating the "Giving Tree" in Perry Hall with requests for warm hats, gloves and mittens for the men, women and children who receive assistance from Union Gospel Mission. Please remember these homeless individuals when you're out Christmas shopping and then place these items under the tree each Sunday up to Christmas. Thank you for your continued kind and benevolent spirits!



## People and Events...

- \* If you requested a new name tag, they've been delivered and you will find your name tag on the board in the narthex.
- \* The last 2007 issue of the *Sandpointer* will be mailed on December 12th, with a deadline of December 7th. The deadline for the first issue of 2008 is December 28th.

## Coffee Anyone?

We would like to invite volunteers to help with December Coffee Hours - choose what Sunday works the best for you. The bright pink sign-up sheet is posted outside Perry Hall. Also, there are four LARGE terrycloth towels (two white and two rose colored) missing from Perry Hall kitchen. They are used to drain the large racks of clean dishes taken from the dishwasher. If you took the towels home to wash, please return them ASAP. Thank you to all who respond.

## "Hanging of the Greens"

Come one and all to help decorate our church for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, December 1st from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in the sanctuary. Families are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

"UN-Hanging of the Greens" will be on Sunday, December 30th, right after church in the sanctuary from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED! Come one and all as we round the corner into the New Year. If you have questions, contact Sue Haas at 206-522-0693 or [sdbph@aol.com](mailto:sdbph@aol.com).

## Standing Pat



"Got your shopping done?" I think I'm hearing this more as an opening to December small talk. At the bus stop or in the grocery line it's a handy non-sectarian holiday greeting.

I'll join in the banter. I do buy gifts, though my ideal self would rather make them all lovingly by hand. Kept in perspective, the secular side of "the holidays" can be lovely.

Our hope as Christians is different, though. It's the season of Advent for us, waiting for what is coming. We suspend what we already know to wait for Baby Jesus, trying to hear the story with fresh ears. We face what we know of our world and still hope for peace on Earth. We look into the unknown future for a decisive act of God that will set everything right.

Advent is preparation for all those things, so our cultural preparations make good metaphors. Cleaning and adorning our homes for guests - the inner un-cluttering that opens our spirits to receive Christ. Gathering with family and friends - a foreshadowing of the coming together we pray for our world. Choosing gifts with love, being nice rather than naughty - counterparts to the footwork we do every day to help God's will be done on earth as in heaven.

Happy Holidays to you, then. Enjoy your shopping and baking and parties. But don't forget the central things. Make some time for soul-cleansing quiet and prayer. Come to church. Pray for peace. Remember the poor. It's Advent for us, and we're waiting for a deeper joy to come.

## As of Tuesday, November 20th

49 pledges for a total of \$132,148

If you have not yet made a commitment for 2008, the finance committee would like to hear from you as soon as possible in order to set the budget for the coming year.