

SANDPOINTER

February 6, 2008

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

Tent City Meeting February 12th 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12th, the church will host a meeting to address safety and security concerns connected with Tent City. This is part of the all-church education process we adopted last fall, but neighbors are definitely invited to be part of the meeting. Officer Kipp Strong of the Seattle Police Dept. will be present, along with a crime prevention specialist. They have been asked to address questions already raised by members and neighbors. We have also asked them to look at a comparable North Seattle neighborhood to see whether crime increased during Tent City's stay. Please come, and do invite others you know who are interested in this issue. A notebook of correspondence and information is available to read in the church office. Please take a look. Also note the related articles in this issue of the *Sandpointer*.

Sand Point Members in Action

This weekend we ask for prayers for the families and friends who will be attending our Annual Family Retreat at the Lazy F Retreat Center. We also pray for all of the wonderful volunteers who will help prepare the dinner for the Church of Mary Magdalene and those who will help transport and serve the meal on Saturday. It is a wonderful time for fellowship with new and welcoming faces.

Calendar

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday	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, Haller Lake UMC
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room 7:30 p.m. - AA, Lehmann Hall 7:30 p.m. - Alanon, Choir Room
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. - Bell Choir, Choir Room 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Friday	6:00 p.m. - AA, Fireside Room 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. - Youth Friday Night Hangout
Saturday	7:30 p.m. - Alanon, Fireside Room

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 7th

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

Saturday, February 9th

Winter Family Retreat - Lazy F Retreat Center
Dinner for Church of Mary Magdalene

Sunday, February 10th

Winter Family Retreat - Lazy F Retreat Center
11:15 a.m. - Enrichment Hour, Fireside Room

Monday, February 11th

7:30 p.m. - SPRC, Fireside Room

Tuesday, February 12th - Lincoln's Birthday

7:00 p.m. - Tent City Meeting, Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 13th

3:00 p.m. - Harmony Circle Set-up

Thursday, February 14th

Noon - Harmony Circle, Fireside Room

Friday, February 15th

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Group #2, home of Ivaloe Meyer

Sunday, February 17th

11:15 a.m. - Enrichment Hour, Fireside Room

Monday, February 18th - Presidents Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 19th - Voting in Perry Hall

7:00 p.m., Missions Ministry Team, Fireside Room

Wednesday, February 20th

9:30 a.m. - Probus, Perry Hall

Thursday, February 21st

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

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4710 Northeast 70th Street
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THE CHURCH PROCESS ON TENT CITY

Sand Point United Methodist Church is moving through a discernment process, considering whether to host Tent City in July and August 2008. Things we have done so far:

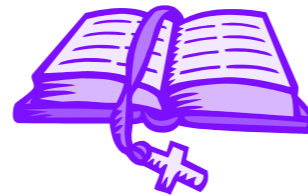
- Representatives attended an information meeting in September.
- Church Council approved this decision process at its September meeting.
- In November, members of Haller Lake United Methodist Church spoke at a Soup Night dinner about their experience as a host congregation.
- Church members have prepared and served food at Tent City, at three locations.
- Brief presentation to the View Ridge Community Council in September, and members present at January 15 VRCC meeting on Tent City.
- A meeting for Tent City residents to speak about the camp and answer questions, Sunday, January 27. Numerous neighbors attended this meeting.

Steps still ahead in the church's process:

- **A meeting with Seattle Police Department** representatives to address questions of safety, and to hear about the experience of other neighborhoods. This will be **Tuesday, February 12** at 7 p.m., in the church sanctuary. **Community members are welcome.**
- Small group visits to Tent City.
- Consideration of offers of support, concerns, and objections from neighbors. This will include further research as needed.
- Further conversations with VRCC (View Ridge Community Council) and Boys & Girls Club
- A Sunday service that addresses related biblical and theological issues, with opportunity for discussion after the service.
- A decision in April whether or not to host the camp.

"Looking for Jesus Again?" "One Contemporary Look at the Person and Image That is the Heart of the Christian Faith"

Tony Russo will lead three lecture/discussion Enrichment Hours in February (10, 17, and 24) from 11:15 to 12:30 in the Fireside Room. The course is based on the book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Bible scholar, Marcus Borg. A limited number of books are available in the church office, or can be ordered at Amazon.com for \$10. In order to give the discussion meaning and depth, it is expected that class members will read the book, and attend class faithfully. Participants will want to have read the first 45 pages of the book before the first class.



If you have any questions you may contact Berta Cohen, Committee for Learning and Spiritual Growth, at 523-9342.

A LENTEN INVITATION

The forty-day season of Lent has begun. As Seattle Times writer Patricia Hunter noted recently, this is one Christian season that hasn't suffered commercialization. It requires no new clothes, gift-giving, special home décor or entertaining. In fact, Lenten traditions suggest we reduce our consumption of this world's goods in order to simplify our lives. The point is not mainly to feel the pinch of self-denial, but to make room in our busy schedules and teeming minds for a renewed relationship with God.

Lent corresponds with spring's growing daylight hours. (In fact the word is derived from "lengthening" of the days.) This has inspired part of my own approach this year: more time on my bike and out walking. Those hours in the fresh air connect me with the gift of bodily life in the God's creation. And I do find it easier to pray in motion than sitting in a chair.

This season also has a tradition of service. For us it will include our next steps toward a decision whether to host Tent City, or to take some other direction in our commitment to ending homelessness and relieving the suffering it causes. Please attend the February 12th meeting announced in this issue if you can, and watch for news of future gatherings. All of your voices and different opinions are vital to making a wise decision. Calm, honest engagement of this discussion takes courage and effort, but we will grow stronger as a result.

May we emerge from this winter darkness walking close together, as the growing light reveals Jesus walking by our side.