

**January
2017**



Hope in Hiding - Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

...Today is Epiphany, the day we honor the foreign (from the East) wise ones who saw a new star appear in the night sky. Believing it to be a sign of great new hope for the world, they followed the star to Jesus. The local king, Herod, wanted them to tell him where the baby was so he could “eliminate” a potential political rival. But, being wise, they returned home by “another way” to avoid Herod; Mary and Joseph secreted the baby Jesus away to Egypt to protect him from the slaughter of the innocents that was to come. This is how hope came into the world in Jesus.

Every season is a season of uncertainty. As people living in an uncertain world, we have a choice to cower in fear, or to step out in faith. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). When, day by day, we see the fall of ancient cities, mass migration of refugees, racial tensions and violence, the degradation of the natural environment and depletion of natural resources, it takes faith to live in hope. And yet, this is the special calling of people of faith - to live lives of hope despite all evidence to the contrary.

My word of hope for you today springs from an unseen place, where the Holy Spirit speaks to my spirit: God is at work in our lives and in the wide world, nurturing hope, protecting promises, inspiring courage. We are part of God’s plan and promise for the world. ... Find ways to keep hope alive in your home, your heart, in your conversations with the people you meet by chance. Be wise, trust the unseen presence of God, and follow where it leads.

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[www.taborheightschurch.org/
calendar.htm](http://www.taborheightschurch.org/calendar.htm)

Monthly Highlights

Sock Wrap



On Dec. 13 about fifteen women met in the fellowship hall to prepare bags for the homeless. We put in caps, gloves, socks and scarves to help keep them warm. Some of these have been made at home and some are boughten. We made up 115 bags for men, 78 for women and 55 for children.

When the work was done we were treated to a soup lunch. We really enjoyed our hot and tasty soup.



CELEBRATING A GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS EVE AT THUMC

The birth of Jesus Christ was celebrated in a very special way on Christmas eve as our own church family, visitors, neighbors and friends from God's Grace Church gathered in the fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious pot luck dinner. The finest food was prepared and we were introduced to delicacies we had never before had the opportunity to enjoy.

Our Micronesian friends are culinary experts and their various dishes were enjoyed by all. Naturally, our own church family brought their many tasty gourmet dishes as well. The sound of people, sitting at tables together, anticipating the celebration and the laughter of many children filled the room and our hearts with joy.

After dinner everyone went to the Sanctuary for an unforgettable service filled with music and lovely Christmas Carols. The sound of the voices of 125 people filled the room. The visiting church choir of approximately 65 people sang with love and devotion to honor the birthday of Jesus. Their pastor shared his gift of music by singing "Because He Lives."

Hearts were filled with the love of Christ as smiling, joyous people left the church with a gift bag of treats from our faithful Doering family.



BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Carol Rennie	1
Sylva Denny	9
Charlene Blakely	14
Anne Fitchner	15
Clark Eisert	25
Thao Pham	30



Epiphany 2017
January 6(Friday)

Worship Team
January 15(Sun) at 12:30pm.
Conference Room

The UMW Executive Board
January 16(Mon) at 11am.
Gathering Place

Senior Fellowship
January 19(Thurs) at 11am.
Fellowship Hall

The Vision Board
January 21(Sat), 10am to 2pm.
Conference Room

Transition Projects
January 24(4th Tuesday) at 7pm.
@ 435 NW Glisan St.

Visitation Workshop
January 28(Sat), 10am to 2pm.
Fellowship Hall

Members' Updates

Marilyn Reih's New Home Address
7406 N Newman Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97203

Joanne Mattson's Rehab Facility
Town Center Village, 8709 SE Causey Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97086

Mia Park's Dormitory Address
#356 2121 Sheridan Rd.
Evanston, IL 60208

*As many of you know
Al Baily will have his
hundredth birthday
next month, on Feb. 4.
What would you think
about a group of
people putting
together something
special for him.
We could make it a fun celebration!*



The 4 'W's & 'H' of Visitation

FEATURED SPEAKER & DISCUSSION LEADER

Rev. Dean Yamamoto

is a hospice chaplain with 14yrs of experience and has been a United Methodist ordained elder of Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference since 1985.

He has lectured both locally and nationally on patients at end-of-life and those with dementia.

Anne Kister

has a background in speaking and education and has been with Providence Hospice since 2004. She spent many years providing support to people who were actively grieving the death of a loved one.

In addition, she offered educational presentations on how to support a friend or loved one facing serious illness or loss. She currently serves as the Community & Clinical Education Coordinator.

January 28(Sat) 2017, 10am-2pm



Sponsored by
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Tabor Heights
United
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Church

This is a gift to each of you and your congregations during this season of Epiphany. Many of you are skilled in visiting but are ready to learn more for use in different situations. We'd like to share new solutions for pitfalls you may have experienced. The workshop can provide comfort for those visiting and those being visited. Come and join with us in an inspirational workshop for your vital and lay-driven ministry of the faith community!

Workshop registration fee
(\$10 per individual, \$25 for the church group) will cover
your lunch and hand-out materials.

For the registration, please contact Joanne Dobrinski or visit our church website and leave your name(group) and contact information by January 23.



The festivities are over, Christmas 2016 is a memory but the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior, lives in our hearts all year long. We are thankful for this memorable time and for our many blessings.

Our times of fellowship throughout the holidays, especially the Christmas Eve dinner as we joined together with the people from God's Grace Church. The glorious music provided throughout the season under the direction of Howard Ashley, the church choir, guest musicians and various soloists. The children's meaningful Christmas Pageant under the direction of dedicated teachers who volunteer throughout the year. The safety of all who endured the winter storms.

God's continued healing presence in the lives of those who have or are suffering pain, illness and/or surgery:

Joanne Mattson, Joanne Dobrinski, Gay Disco, Mary Overby's granddaughter, Lindsey, Mike Carpenter, Lou Anne Henriques, Evelyn Long's brother in law, Tom Long and her mother in law, Dorris Long, Marilee Miller.

We pray for those who have died or suffered at the hands of violence throughout the world and for those who are cold, homeless or hungry. We offer prayers of love and sympathy to:

The family and friends of Edna Everson at the time of her passing. Joyce Peterson-Doering and her family for the loss of her sister.

We thank God for our freedom and ask that He bless our nation, our world and especially those in leadership as we pray for His guidance love and direction.

*"The Greatest gift of all is free.
Jesus is God's gift to you and me"
Matthew 1:18*



Happy Birthday

Carol Rennie was born in Gloucester, Mass. on January 1 at 3:25 am. She was the Mass., first baby of the year. Her nearest competitor was born at 3:28.



She grew up in Gloucester a good student who enjoyed school. Carol was very active in Girl Scouts. On Saturdays her mother would drive she and her friends to a roller rink one hour away.

After high school she went to business school for two years. After that she worked first in a hospital and then at Dartmouth College in Hanover. While at the Dartmouth Winter Carnival she met her husband. On March 10, 1962 they were married. They moved to Florida where they lived for many years. Eventually they moved on to Tennessee.

She has a son in San Diego and a daughter here in Portland. However, her daughter is currently in Australia on a work assignment.

She was married almost 50 years when her husband passed away. Her children encouraged her to move west. So in Oct. 2013 she relocated to Portland. She now happily abides at Courtyard Plaza. We are so glad to have her with us.

Senior Fellowship



JOIN US, SENIORS!

Senior Fellowship will be on Jan. 19. At 11 a.m. Bring your favorite appetizers. Also please come with some treasured memories. Pictures would be fun to share. Remember a great trip you took, or a birthday party, grandbabies etc.

This could really be a great time of sharing.



Christmas Eve Potluck With God's Grace church

The Tender Mercies of God by Marilee Miller

God has given us many gifts to enjoy: all of creation, the beauty and rhythm of the sun, moon, and stars, and the best gift of all -- Himself, in fellowship with us, his children. Yes, there are many kinds of gifts. However, the Bible singles out one specific set of gifts which are supposed to be active in the lives of those who have dedicated themselves to God, who have surrendered self-will in favor of seeking first God's way and will.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

Did you catch that? This set of "spiritual gifts" is "given for the common good ." To help, uplift, edify, warn, preach, offer hope and comfort others, especially those within the body of Christ. Evidently each one of us has been given one or more "Gifts of the Spirit" to lift up His church. We don't choose these gifts -- God does. When we learn what our gifts are, we may cultivate them in order to help others. We join our "giftedness" (that He Himself has given us) with the Spirit of God to do the very work of God-in-us. This all sounds rather mystical, maybe far-fetched, but remember, it is God who has said this. And it is "the same God at work" in us.

BOOK REVIEW: "Under the Tuscan Sun"

This is a PG-13 movie about a recently divorced woman (played by Diane Lane) on a 10-day trip to Italy. The trip becomes a life-changing adventure as she sees and impulsively purchases a charming but run-down villa in Tuscany, embraces new friends and local color, and sees some of her dreams come true in unexpected ways. It's about taking chances, living in Italy, loving a house, and always, the pleasures of food. The movie is based on the #1 New York Times best-selling book of the same title, written by San Francisco writer Frances Mayes.

Frances Mayes has written a sequel, "Bella Tuscany". Having spent her summers in her beloved villa for several years, she takes a sabbatical from her teaching position at San Francisco State University, enabling her to experience an Italian spring. This memoir is her passionate account of her continuing love affair with Italy, where she now feels truly at home, her deepening connection to the land, her flourishing friendships with local people, and the occasional heartbreaks of her villa's ongoing restoration. It's a celebration of the sweet life in Italy and may cause the reader to yearn for an invitation to Bramasole.



“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right[b] spirit within me.” <Psalm 51:10>

Reading the Old Testament is not about knowing historical stories or finding out factual evidences. Rather, the entire ‘Bible Reading Challenge’ is about understanding the Big Picture beginning with God’s creation and ending with God’s re-creation. In between beginning and ending, we may find ourselves knowing ‘Who We Are,’ humankind as “the Created Co-Creator.” Plus, we may admit the simple truth that the relationship between Creator and Created Co-Creator was violated, disconnected and broken. However, this relationship is meant by God the Creator to restore, reconcile, rebuild and re-strengthen continuously through the stories in the Bible.

Today’s scripture is one of the many stories about this distinctive relationship between God the Creator and an individual of humankind. Psalm 51 is known as a prayer of confession made by King David after he had committed a sin. ...This subject of ‘Sin’ runs through the Bible from beginning to end. “Sin is not merely a topic of the entire Bible, but Sin is the human condition. Sin makes no sense apart from relationship. It makes us get out of step with our Creator. It also changes our relationship with other people.”

...What we’re looking for today is that King David created the exact same pattern of what happened to the first human beings, Adam and Eve. David tried to hide what he did wrong just like Adam and Eve hiding themselves in the woods. David must blame someone for his sin, someone like his faithful soldier Uriah. Uriah refused to go to his house due to the war. David also ignored his consciousness to avoid his own fault, shame and guilt. Instead he isolated himself and made all matters worse.

In the first part of Genesis, it is clear for us to see this same pattern of our humankind. The story of Cain killing Abel is one of them. People in Noah’s time and people who built the tower of Babel were following the same pattern. One after another story in the Bible captures this pattern of ‘Who We Are.’

... The bottom line is that God wants us to break this negative pattern of, ‘Who We Can Be without His being present in our lives, denying our spiritual relationship with Him. 2 Samuel is addressing the result of King David’s sin which was the death of Bathsheba’s baby. It brought David to the moment of “Coram Deo,” the Quiet Time with God. That was the 2nd chance God gave to King David. God’s grace showers through this time of repentance. The brokenness and disconnection were restored through this Quietness in the presence of God.

... While we are reading the Old Testament, this is what we may find as an assurance that God always attempts to break our pattern of humankind even through sending His only begotten Son to live among human nature. The creator gives humankind a chance to start again. ... As having a quiet time in the presence of our God, I pray that the Lord may reveal, restore and re-strengthen the relationship between you and Him and between each other.

-In John’s sermon on the First Sunday after the Epiphany