

North Coast United Methodist Church

Newsletter – August 2010

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Over the last several years, I have been reading books and attending classes on how to help congregations grow. One of the most difficult things I've learned is that many of the things that make churches vital and growing today are not the things that long term members value or want. The dilemma for pastors these days is how much to keep things the same in order to please the current members and how much to push for change in order to attract new, younger members.

Though fellowship groups and "all church" events were very popular in churches in the past, they are not important today for attracting or retaining new people. This is because once a group gets well acquainted with each other, people in the group give their attention to those they feel most comfortable with rather than putting effort into getting to know the new person who happens to come. And, in this day of countless options for food and entertainment, it's very hard for a church to offer something special enough to compete with what is offered by businesses and attract community members.

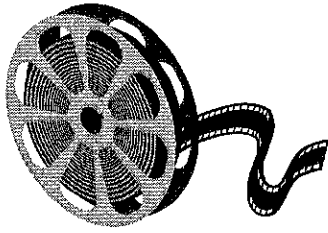
Studies show that churches should focus on offering religious instruction/spiritual development through classes or small groups, offering opportunities to be in service and offering worship because that's what churches do best and what people can't get in other clubs or social groups. Rather than putting energy into programs that are strictly for fellowship, fellowship and building relationships are incorporated into learning, service and worship experiences.

Our experience with Second Sunday Concerts confirms what I've been learning in my studies. We started that fellowship opportunity as a way to introduce ourselves to our neighbors and welcome the community to our campus. Though there were times when a particular musician or group would attract people to the concert who aren't church members, we didn't see those folks returning for other concerts let alone visiting our worship or classes.

The best part of Second Sunday Concerts was the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our church friends and share a delicious meal. Though I personally loved those concerts and dinners, the attendance declined to the point that it didn't seem reasonable to continue. It took great effort on the part of a handful of volunteers to make that event happen and new volunteers didn't step forward to share the responsibility. Each month, it was very difficult to anticipate how much food to buy for the dinner because people wouldn't buy their tickets in advance and money was wasted buying too much food. New members who attended felt left out as people gravitated to talking with established friends.

With all that said, a request was received to start having regular fellowship events again and the Church Council voted this week to offer some sort of "all church" fellowship opportunity monthly. Unlike "Second Sunday," these events will not be consistently on the same day. We intend to offer a variety of events. My hope is that if this is important to you, you will support these events by attending and volunteering to help in some way. And, as always, when you see an unfamiliar face among us, please introduce yourself and help that person feel part of the group.

In faith,
Reverend Cindy Arntson



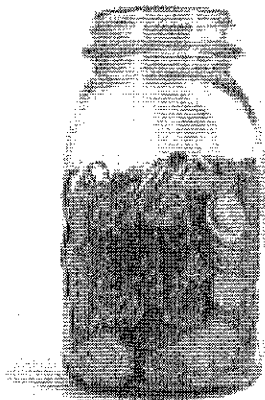
August Sermon Series: Meaning in Movies

Come every Sunday in August to hear (and see) how contemporary movies present some of our Christian beliefs and values. Watching the movie before coming to worship isn't necessary but will add to what you get out of the message.

Come on Tuesday mornings at 10 am to view the movie prior to each service.

- **August 1 *Blind Side*** (PG-13) This film is about Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family in Memphis who help him fulfill his potential. Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries. (View movie Tuesday, July 27.)
- **August 8 *Invictus*** (PG-13) Newly elected President Mandela knows his nation remains racially and economically divided in the wake of apartheid. Believing he can bring his people together through the universal language of sport, Mandela rallies South Africa's rugby team as they make their historic run to the 1995 Rugby World Cup Championship match. (View movie Tuesday, August 6.)
- **August 15 *Avatar*** (PG-13) In this animated, science fiction film, a disabled Marine is sent on a mission to a planet called Pandora, home to a race of giant blue aliens. Humans are intent on exploiting the planet for its natural resources but clash with the native Na'vi, who inhabit their world in perfect harmony with nature. (View movie Tuesday, August 13.)
- **August 22 *Up*** (PG) By tying thousands of balloons to his home, 78-year-old Carl Fredrickson sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America. Right after lifting off, however, he learns he isn't alone on his journey, since 8 year old, Russell has inadvertently become a stowaway on the trip. (View movie Tuesday, August 20.)
- **August 29 *Karate Kid*** (PG) Work causes a single mother to move to China with her young son. When the boy is tormented by the school bully, he studies kung fu, from a master. (View in theater.)

You can stay after 10:00 worship for more in-depth conversation about the movie and additional themes contained in it.



Did You Know?!

That the jar that sits on the table with the coffee pot and cookies on Sundays will take any spare change you have. The money is used for many things, such as supplies for the Coffee Hour and small items for the church. There is now over \$500.00 in the fund and the consensus is to give the money collected this year to the church towards covering our deficit. *Can you spare some change?*

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

We will be producing a new pictorial directory. It will be produced at no cost to the church budget. Please plan to have your picture taken. We don't want anyone left out. Each family/household that comes for photography and portrait viewing at the church will receive a complimentary directory and 8x10 Custom Color Portrait. You don't have to be a church member to participate. The photography dates are:

Tuesday, Sept. 7 1:00 — 8:20 pm

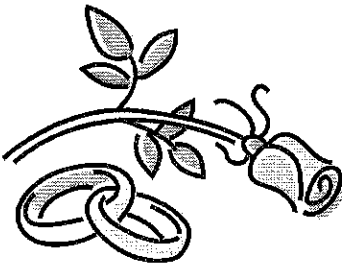
Wednesday, Sept. 8 1:00 — 8:20 pm

Friday, Sept. 17 1:00 — 8:20 pm

Saturday, Sept. 18 9:30 — 5:10 pm

There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex on August 8.

More information will be given to you in the next few weeks.



Let's Celebrate 2 Special Golden Anniversaries

Jean and Les Wyman will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August and Herb and Margaret Lamb will celebrate their 50th in September. Let's shower them with cards and blessings. You can send cards to their home addresses and/or stay after second service for cake on August 15 for Wymans and September 12 for Lambs.

United Methodist Men

No meeting in August.

The United Methodist Women

Next meeting will be Thursday 10 am September 16.

Lunch Bunch meets Friday, August 27 at 12 noon at Mimi's by Walmart

Lunch Bunch is a once-a-month social lunch. All ladies are welcome. Come get acquainted!

Please R.S.V.P. Lorraine Wyss 757-0518 or LaVonne Porter 439-1440

Can You Help Clean-up After Coffee Hour?

Please sign up to help out one Sunday this summer.

Come learn about the United Methodist Church.

On Saturday, August 28 from 10 am to 12 noon. Pastor Cindy Arntson will teach a class covering United Methodist history, practices and beliefs. This is a great class for those who are new to the UMC and for those who learned all this long ago and would like a refresher. Please call the church office before August 27 to sign up.