

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of
Community United Methodist Church

April 2020

Pastor's Pen

Kings of Small Ball



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago in one of my Wednesday emails that we got quite a compliment from another agency that does a pretty good job of helping people in need. I was meeting with the Jefferson County representative for this agency about another project and he said we (Community UMC) were the "Kings of Small Ball." If you know anything about baseball that's quite a compliment. I immediately thought of the true story baseball movie Money Ball with Brad Pitt. Pitt is the general manager of the Oakland Athletics professional baseball team and they are really bad. They are a small market club with a practically non-existent budget. When Pitt realizes he can't afford to keep any of the high-priced players that aren't producing he decides to get rid of them and sign some lesser-known and unknown players who statistically can help the team out in one or two areas. He doesn't have any big-name players or homerun hitters who can consistently knock it out of the park, but his team of dedicated players who are just happy to be in the game manage to keep on winning defying all the odds.

And that's what a small ball church does. It defies the odds by not only thriving but by meeting the requirement of loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself. Most, if not all, Christians and churches say they love God and neighbor, but Jesus raised the stakes when he said to love your neighbor "as yourself." To me, in our small ball setting, that means that we wouldn't want to live in some of the conditions our neighbors find themselves, and we are determined to do something about it. You hear people say all the time: "there but for the grace of God, go I." I'd like to think that we say: "there but for the grace of God, go I, and I'm going to do something about it."

The problems we see in our very own community seem insurmountable, too many to do anything that will make a lasting impact. Our elected officials seem to have that "deer-in-the-headlights" look when someone brings the subject up which prompts some response about how complex the issue is, and that they're going to put together a focus group to brainstorm the problem to come up with a best case solution. The problem is they end up spending all of their time finding problems with the solutions and are paralyzed into inaction.

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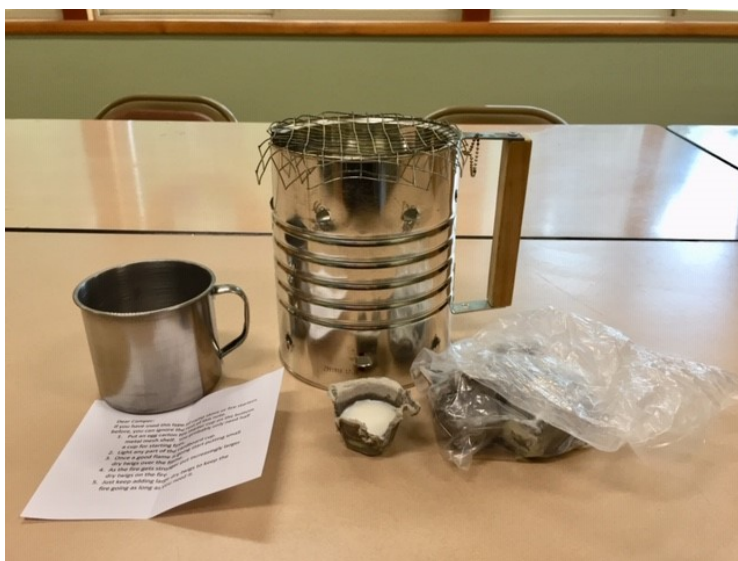
Don't get me wrong, I agree that the problem is complex, but I believe the best approach is to break the problem² down into smaller issues and address them one or two at a time. Nothing breeds success like a few wins. That's where our small ball approach comes in. We've demonstrated that on a smaller scale a small but determined group of people can attack a problem and actually make a difference. We've had many small successes that have not gone unnoticed and have generated interest from outside the church. When word has gotten out about something we're doing, all of a sudden people start sending us money, or socks, or underwear, or dryer lint, or clothes. I start getting calls from people asking if we're the church that does this or that and what can they do to help. Other groups or individuals find out about our projects like making soup, fire starters or hygiene kits and either want to join us or ask to use our facility for their group to gather and be the hands of God. Case in point, recently I met with some ladies from Peace Lutheran Church in Port Ludlow. They wanted me to meet their new pastor and have me show him some of the projects we were working on. After visiting for a few minutes, I gave them a tour showing off our Mission Work Room and Clothes Closet. I told them they had an open invitation to join us any Thursday we were working on a project. They said they'd like to do that but wondered if it might be okay to use our Mission Work Room themselves to work on a project. You see, they don't have their own building as they rent a space for Sunday worship. I said sure, as Eastern Star already uses it to make soup mix, so why not them too? How exciting that other groups and churches are seeing what we are doing and want to join the team.

Like in baseball, it's not the coach who wins the ballgame. The coach may put the lineup together and make strategic moves during the game, but it's the players who put the runs up on the board. I can say without a doubt that we don't have any heavy hitters on Team Jesus, but we do have a great assortment of utility players who can step in and play where asked producing results that come from a winning combination. That's some exciting baseball. That's some exciting church!

Faithfully, Scott

Little Stoves

Jean Holtz makes these great little stoves out of metal coffee cans. Fire starters and metal cup included.



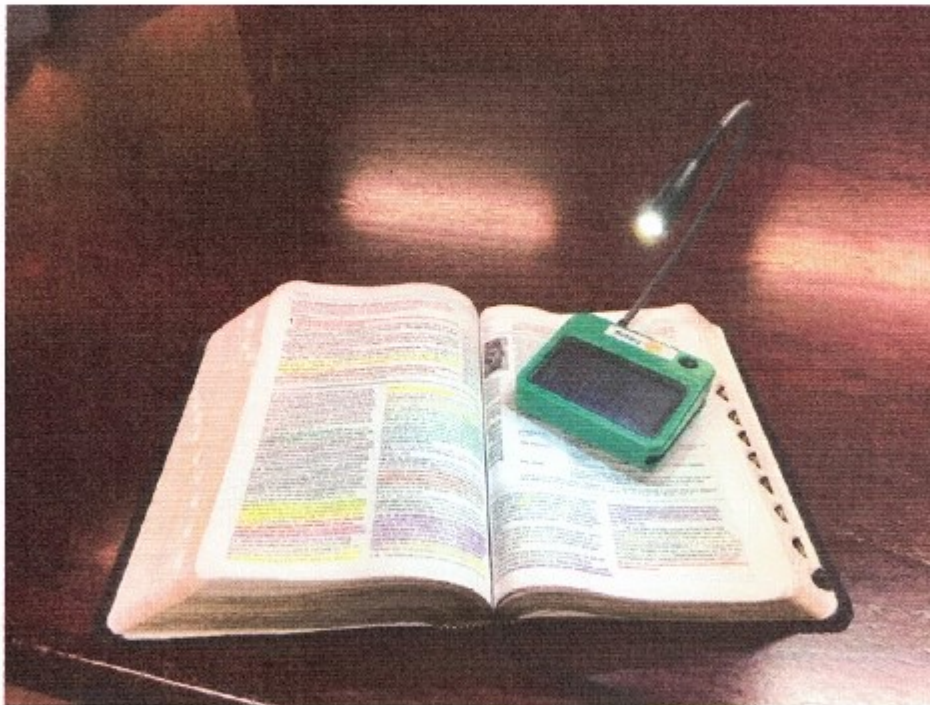
Photos by Scott Rosekrans

• LOCAL CHURCH

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

By
PNW Conference

Mar 19, 2020
124
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BY SCOTT ROSEKRANS

Can you imagine living in darkness? Not being blind, but not having light when the sun goes down. You're living in a tent, a shed, a dilapidated camper, an old

motorhome, or your vehicle. You have to conserve your propane for cooking and temporary heat. You have to run your engine to keep the battery from running down but that burns precious gasoline. When the sun goes down your life just couldn't be any more dark or hopeless as you sit and stare at the houses in the distance all lit up and warm.

I've gotten to know many of the homeless that live in and around our community who don't have the luxury of electricity and I've prayed for a way to bring them some light, some hope. God answers prayers. One of my members just returned from a winter trip to California and was visiting his former Rotary Club and they've come up with a lighting project to address those living without light. He thought these lights might be something we could give out to our homeless population along with the other things we do, so he brought back several of them for me to look at.

As luck would have it, later that very morning one of the homeless people we've been helping came by for some assistance. Pete and Jane (not their real names) live in an old motorhome that has no heat and is in much need of repair. In any event, I asked him if he had any lights in the motorhome. He said he had one battery-powered light, but it didn't last too long and he tried not to run the motor to save on gas. I showed him one of the lights and his eyes literally lit up. I turned it on and explained to him it was solar-powered and would last several hours without needing a charge. He teared up and said it would be great to have one because he liked to read after Jane went to bed and this way, he could sit up front and not disturb her. I gladly gave out our first light and then we talked about what else he needed.

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world and to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in

heaven. People come to our church, and hopefully yours, looking for help and it is heart-wrenching to hear their stories and feel as if there is nothing you can do to ease their pain. Sometimes, just a little ray of light is all it takes to give them hope or, to at least let them know someone sees them and truly cares.

Because there is so much darkness in the world, I don't think there has been a better time for us to be Christians and to let our light shine before men. The Apostle John tells us in John 1:4,5 that in Him was life, and that life was the light of the world, and that the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. If, during these times of despair and helplessness, people turn to us for help we must seize the opportunity to guide the lost and searching to the light and we, as the church in their community, is the best place to start.

For more information on these cool little lights, you can go to unitetolight.org

Scott Rosekrans serves as pastor to the people of Community United Methodist Church in Port Hadlock, Washington.



JOHN WESLEY'S MANIFESTO

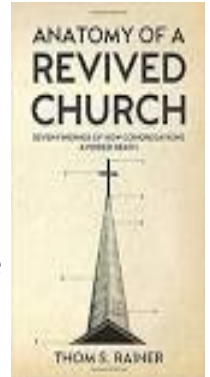


1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
2. Help everyone to have a job
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
4. Offer the best possible education
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
6. Promote tolerance
7. Promote equal treatment for women
8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
9. End all forms of slavery
10. Avoid getting into wars
11. Share the love of God with everyone
12. Care for the environment

Change or Die

When I first met with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee almost four years ago I told them it was my plan not to be their last pastor. My plan was to do everything I could in three years to get the church to a point where they could decide where they wanted to go, meaning a possible return to an ordained pastor. Three years was a subjective number on my part, and we may have to add a few more years to the projection.

In any event, during the past three years I have read many books on church decline and revitalization having incorporated some of what I've learned into what we are doing here at Community. So far, none of them have blown up in my face. I just finished reading Thom Rainer's latest book; *Anatomy of a Revived Church, Seven Findings of how Congregations Avoided Death*. He wrote it after one of his latest books entitled; *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* and someone asked him to write about churches that had successfully turned themselves around. I ordered the book to see if any of the things we've been doing might be in the book. I'm happy to say we are checking off some of the boxes and need to look at doing a few of the others if we are to be truly successful.



In his introduction he starts out by referencing something Alan Deutschman said in his book, *Change or Die*. Deutschman says; *If given a choice between life and death, most people and leaders choose death if life requires substantive changes. Even if they have a path to live, the resources to live, and the choices to live, they choose death rather than make the necessary changes.* I know that sounds absurd and that's what I thought until Rainer pointed out how many of us have chosen not to follow our doctor's advice on changing to a healthy lifestyle, and opted to stay on a path that is guaranteed to severely shorten our life span. (Thanks to Audrey and Larry for the gift of their stationary bike which is not currently being used to hang clothes on!)

The first thing Rainer says we need to do is to accept responsibility. He said dying churches blame others, while revived churches accept responsibility. Now, I'm not saying that Community was dying when I got here but, according to the books I've read, it was in decline. The author points out that some decline is almost unnoticeable as it is gradual and over a number of years, even decades. He says that playing the blame game does nothing but increase the frustrations. Once a church has accepted responsibility and makes the right changes, he points out that it can take three to four years to see any signs of revival. We're at the three to four-year mark. Can you see any signs?

Another aspect Rainer talks about is expanding the scorecard. Most churches, and especially Methodist churches, are obsessed with numbers. How many on each Sunday, how many professing members, how many constituents, how many professions of faith and how many baptisms? He says that churches can obsess so much over numbers that they forget their real purpose. He says that churches must move from an inward focus to an outward focus. He observed that churches that grew were the ones that began to take seriously their mission in the community around them and soon were able to count the fruit they produced. Rainer points out that effective revival growth should be steady and incremental. He emphasizes that disciples gather for worship. Disciples come together in community. Disciples reach others with the gospel. And, disciples are involved in ministry. How we at Community count our fruit is an area in which we are seeing a major part of our revival. Can we do better? Sure we can, but it looks like we are going in the right direction in expanding our scorecard as we focus on things other than average Sunday attendance.



Continued on Page 8

Rainer says that in order for a church to experience revival it must commit to powerful prayer. He says that prayer⁸ is a prerequisite for revitalization, and it is also a by-product. He says that you need some committed prayer warriors and cautions not to expect any immediate fruit. The decline took a long time and the revitalization won't happen overnight. Remember, God's answer to our prayers can be yes, no or not yet. He explains that it is God who revitalizes churches and that he is more than pleased to help congregations turn their churches around. The first step is going to God in prayer. As I write this, I've already tapped several people to be specific prayer warriors and put them to work. If you would like to join our team of prayer warriors, let me know and I'll sign you up, or you can make prayer for your church a priority each time you go to God in prayer.

Rainer cautions against seeking the silver bullet as a way to miraculously turn your church around. The decline is likely the result of many factors and no one silver bullet will save you. He says that there are no shortcuts, only hard work and commitment, after taking responsibility. The pastor cannot do it alone, but he or she can do it with the help of a committed congregation willing to put the work in and pray for guidance and perseverance.

Rainer also stresses the importance of choosing meaningful membership. He means that a church must move from insignificant membership to a meaningful membership with clear expectations. It must be a move from a low expectation membership to a high expectation membership that understands the vision of the church, and what it will take to bring that vision to fruition. Obviously, having a vision is a real good place to start. An important component of having a meaningful membership is having membership classes for not just new members but for existing members. I learned something new, but I am not sure how to get there.

Change or die. The author said that when a church starts focusing on others instead of themselves, the turnaround has already begun. The revived church increasingly looks for ways to fund ministry outside the church. I hope you agree with me that our turnaround has already begun as we are constantly looking for ways to expand and fund our mission outreach. It's why we are known as "that" church, that church that helps the homeless.



Revived churches are not about making much of numbers but are about making much of God. If you want to be a meaningful member of a revived church ask God this question: How can I serve you today?

Respectively, Scott Rosekrans



Hospitality at CUMC

By AJ Lavery



We would like to try an alternative approach for after service coffee time hosting. Look for this info and schedule in May:

Thank you for bringing cookies, crackers, fruit, or quick breads for all to enjoy during our fellowship hour on Sunday. See dates you can contribute--last names beginning with:

May 3 L-P, May 10 A-D, May 17 F-K, May 24 R-W, May 31 Potluck.

Our hope is it would avoid empty Sundays and prevent people from being overwhelmed.



UMW Meeting on March 5th



Nancy McDaniel's gave us a colorful and informative walk through Spain via her narrative and photos. Men of the church were cordially invited and welcome to participate.



Photos by Scott Rosekrans

THAT CHURCH



Firestarters

Our Welcoming Banner



Photos by Scott Rosekrans



Food Bank

Fleece Scarf Making



BIRTHDAYS

1 Betty Prentice
17 Mike Myers

ALTAR FLOWERS

5
12
19 Billie Fitch
26 Marcia Wootan

COMMUNION SERVERS

5

COUNTERS

5 Debbie D./Mike P.
12 Patty M./Marsha H.
19 Betty P./Lori O.
26 Diane J./Connie R.

GREETERS

5 Bot Linrothe
12
19
26 Diane Jensen

HOSPITALITY

5
12
19
26 Potluck

LITURGISTS

5 Billie Fitch
12 Liz Hazen
19 Diane Johnson
26 Marcia Wootan

SUNDAY SCHOOL

5 Audrey & Larry S.
12 Julie B.
19 Kathy A.
26 Debbie D.

USHERS

5 Bill & Wendi Metzger
12 Marsha H./Mike P.
19 Ted & Stephanie B.
26 A.J./Pat Cooper

OUR PRAYERS

- * The homeless, the hungry and the unemployed.
- * For Peace on Earth!
- * For wisdom for our leaders.
- * For employment for people struggling to find meaningful work.
- * For Healing of those who are suffering with cancer.
- * For ease of pain for my brother, Paul, who is in the hospital.
- * For A.J. much love and provisions as she lost her son recently.
- * For blessings and provisions for Linda and her son Ryan in their move to Alaska.
- * For Orene for love and provisions as she lost her husband.
- * For protection of medical front-line workers who are caring for patients with Covid-2019.

**PRAISES**

Spring is Coming!

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGSApril 5

Isa 50:4-9a
Ps 31:9-16
Phil 2:5-11
Matt 26:14-27

April 12

Acts 30:34-43
Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24
Col 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

April 19

Acts 2:14a,22-32
Ps 16
1 Pet 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26

Acts 2:14a,36-41
Ps 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Pet 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Local

MISSION
of the
MONTH

CUMC supports three local organizations: OlyCAP, Tri-Area Food Bank and ECHHO. We donate a minimum of \$100 each month to one of these three organizations in addition to donations collected from membership. In 2019 CUMC will begin donating \$100 each month to UMCOR as well to aid in natural disaster relief efforts. Following is the donation schedule for 2019 and the total amount donated each month:

January:	ECHHO	\$ 88.33
February:	Food Bank	\$238.00
March:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
April:	ECHHO	\$280.00
May:	Food Bank	\$350.00
June:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
July:	ECHHO	\$350.00
August:	Food Bank	\$350.00
September:	OlyCAP	\$350.00
October:	ECHHO	\$350.00
November:	Food Bank	\$250.00
December:	OlyCAP	\$350.00

2020

Finance Report for February 2020

Income**\$13,740.19**

Pledges and Identifiable Donors	\$12,795.00
Cash Offering	\$418.66
Other	\$526.53

Expenses**\$21,911.97**

Apportionments	\$1,363.33
Local Program/Ministry	\$1,058.96
Operating Expenses	\$2,281.91
Personnel	\$4,091.11
Initial Payments for New Boiler	\$13,116.66

Surplus for February**-\$8,171.78**

Say Goodbye to 'Old Sparky'



April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	2	3 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	4 10:00am UMW Meeting 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	5 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	6 10:00am-2:30pm Lenten Retreat	7
8 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	9 Memory Support Group, 10:30am-12 noon (Classroom)	10 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	11 10:00am Red Beans and Rice Making 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	12 Beginners Praise Hula 11:30 am	13	14
15 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	18 10:00am Fleece Scarf Making 6:00pm Admin/Finance Meeting 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	19 11:30am-12:30pm Beginners Praise Hula Class	20 UMW District Leadership Meeting hosted by CUMC	21 8:00 Men's Breakfast
22 UMCOR Offering 9:00am Learning Circle 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	23 2:00pm Chicks in Stitches 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting (Library)	24 7-8pm Al-Anon Meeting (Library)	25 10:00am Mini Hygiene Kits	26 Beginners Praise Hula Class 11:30am	27	28
29 9:00am Music Class 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Fellowship	30 5:30-6:30pm AA Meeting	31				

Friendship Bench

January 27, 2020

Monthly Devotion

“In the African country of Zimbabwe, war trauma and high unemployment can leave people in despair—until they find hope on a “friendship bench.” Hopeless people can go there to talk with trained “grandmothers”—elderly women taught to listen to people struggling with depression, known in that nation’s Shona language as *kufungisisa*, or “thinking too much.”

The Friendship Bench Project is being launched in other places, including Zanzibar, London, and New York City. “We were thrilled to bits with the results,” said one London researcher. A New York counselor agreed. “Before you know it, you’re not on a bench, you’re just inside a warm conversation with someone who cares.”

The project evokes the warmth and wonder of talking with our Almighty God. Moses put up not a bench but a tent to commune with God, calling it the tent of meeting. There, “the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend” ([Exodus 33:11](#)). Joshua, his assistant, wouldn’t even leave the tent, perhaps because he so valued his time with God (v. 11).

Today we no longer need a tent of meeting. Jesus has brought the Father near. As He told His disciples, “I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” ([John 15:15](#)). Yes, our God awaits us. He’s our heart’s wisest helper, our understanding Friend. Talk with Him now.



By Patricia Raybon



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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Church office email: cumc@olympus.net

Church Office Hours:

10am - 2pm, Tuesday - Friday

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com**Learning Circle: 9:00am****Sunday Worship: 10:00 am****Sunday School: 10:15 am****Fellowship Time: 11:15 am**

Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

Email: pastorscottrosekrans@gmail.com

Pastor’s Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday & Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday