

WAYS TO FIND AND CONTACT US:



Tracyton United Methodist Church
 PO Box 127
 Tracyton, WA 98393



(or) Tracyton United Methodist Church
 5153 Naomi St
 Bremerton, WA 98311



Phone# 360-373-6425
 Fax# 360-627-7893

Find us on Facebook
 Facebook/tracytonumc

www.tracytonumc.org
 church@tracytonumc.org

December 2013



*Cheese & Crackers
 are always needed
 for Fellowship Times*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Nominations 6:30pm	4	5 Prism 6:00pm last meeting until Jan.	6	7 Ringing the Bell at Macy's
8 Community Christmas Party 5:30pm Yvonne Trip Mem. 1:00pm at the Willows	9	10 Finance 6:00pm Church Council 6:30pm	11 SPRC 6:00pm	12 Prayer Shawl 4:00pm Prism introduction 7:00pm	13	14
15 TUMW Charity Knitting Group 2:00-4:00pm	16	17	18	19 Crafts Group 6:30pm	20 Longest Night Service 7:00pm	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Dinner 6:00pm Candle Light Service 8:00pm	25	26	27	28
29 5th Sunday One Service Only 10:00am	30	31				

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*Homemade Cookies
 are always a hit at
 Fellowship
 Times*



Both /And



Dear Sisters and Brothers!

“The true test of a first-rate mind is the ability to hold two contradictory ideas at the same time.”

– F. Scott Fitzgerald

Every Advent, Christians are invited to exercise our first-rate minds, to know two contradictory facts, without losing either one: the goodness God has in mind, and the way the world is at the moment.

We know that God intends justice; we know that injustice is everywhere.

We know that God intends peace; we know that wars and rumors of war are ever with us.

We know that God intends creation renewed and beautiful; we know that almost everywhere we turn, we find our smudge marring that beauty.

We know that God intends a life of grace and growth in grace; we know that we get stuck in patterns that aren't graceful or growing.

Still God's word comes to us through God's prophets: “these things **shall** be.” “Behold, I am doing a new thing.” “They shall beat swords into plowshares.” “I will write my law on their hearts.”

We don't have to choose either/or. We don't have to choose **either** God's beautiful vision **or** the world as it is.

We don't have to choose either/or. Advent is about holding these contradictory facts together in mind and heart.

In fact, **God** doesn't choose either/or: God chooses both. **God**, the most familiar verse of the Gospel says, **loved the world**.

God loves the world. Not just God's ideal version of how it might be, or might have been. This one. God loves **this** world, **and** yearns for the healing of nature and the nations.

God loves you. Not just God's ideal version of how you might be or might have been. You. God loves you **and** yearns for your growth in grace, your renewed life.

This Advent: be mindful of what is, **and** of what shall be. Not either/or, but both/and. And do not rest, until what should be – what **shall** be – **is**.

Love,

Wes



One Service Only
5th Sunday December 29th

At 10:00am

**Join us for a combined fellowship
with hotdogs and hamburgers
after service!**

A WONDERFUL JOB WAS DONE BY ALL

Hats off to all the children of our Sunday Bible School and their dedicated teachers, Jeanie Johns, Shannon Davidson, Bruce Hecke and Kathy Bouge for a creative and informative Service on November 24th.

Laila Davidson led the Sermon "What are we thankful for" and included a Grownup's Time for us all. Our Greeters were Malia Young and Page Vaughan who was also our Acolyte. Mariah Young led the opening hymns and Malia did a great job as liturgist while Neyo Young and Jaydin Davidson presided over the Offering and Doxology.

THANK YOU EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU! IT WAS GREAT!

At Church Council the schedule for Advent was discussed with the following recommendations:

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent. Some decorations will need to be in place. The rest of the "Hanging of the Greens" will take place between Dec 1 and Dec 7. Shannon will check with Katherine Smith about a Christmas tree.

December 8 – Tracyton Community Christmas Celebration from 5:30 to 7:30 – will go on as usual, with or without the tree lighting. Shannon volunteered to organize the event and will invite the Pine Crest Elementary School Choir to come sing.

Longest Night Service – Dec. 20 at 7 PM

Christmas Eve Dinner – Dec. 24 at 6 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24 at 8 PM



Giving Hope Today



IF YOU SIGNED UP
REMEMBER SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH IS
THE DAY
TUMC WILL BE
RINGING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION
ARMY AT MACY'S



Tracyton UMC Donations for the

WARM FOR WINTER CAMPAJNGE

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 9 SCARVES | 31 PAIR OF GLOVES |
| 5 HATS | 2 PAIR OF SOCKS |
| 2 LONG JOHN SHIRTS | 7 WOMANS JACKETS |
| 3 SWEATER JACKETS | 5 HOODIE JACKETS |
| 11 MENS JACKETS | |



Coat tree donations

We are taking donations of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the needy this season. You can place your donations on the coat rack in the front entrance.

We are also taking donations for people in nursing homes. Any small gifts that these folks could use would be appreciated (lap blankets, toiletries, hair brush/combs, slipper socks, large print books, etc.)

MISSION NEWS

This Thanksgiving will be better for several families in our community. Because of your generosity, ten families received food gift cards. Thank you for all you do to help others.

There are several ways to help others from now until Christmas. Contributions are now being taken for food cards. The Angel Tree will be up on December 1. If you are able, please consider giving to both. If you would like to purchase a gift for a child on the Angel Tree, but are unable to go shopping, may make a contribution by writing a check or putting cash in an envelope and marking it "Angel Tree". Someone on the Missions Team will shop for you.



May God bless you as you give to others.

MISSION CALENDAR DECEMBER 2013

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	Request forms for the Angel Tree gifts must be returned to the church office by December 1			5	6	7
8	Donation requests for Christmas food cards will be made December 1-15 . Angel Tree gifts must be returned to church by December 15 . If you would like to help a child on the Angel Tree but are unable to go shopping, you may make a donation and label it "Angel Tree gifts". The Missions Team will shop for you					
15						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	Christmas food cards and Angel Tree gifts will be given out on December 22 or 24 . If you have nominated a family who cannot be present to receive their gifts let us know. If you are unable to get the gifts to them we will try to help.					



TRACYTON UNITED METHODIST WOMENS

**PAGE**Katherine
ParkerApple
Pie SaleGleaning
TableQuilt
AuctionsCafé' &
Bake SaleHelen
Engle

**Can you believe it? We've been together for one year already
and what a year it's been!**

We started the year with election of officers, gathering pledges and committing our District Pledge of \$100 and \$500 to sponsor Katherine Parker on her mission in Nepal. This we did on faith, not knowing how we were going to raise that kind of money – but raise that money we did – and much more! An Apple Pie sale for Father's Day, the Gleaning Table all summer long, Silent Auction of three lovely quilts and The Christmas Café and Bake Sale at the Bazaar on the Bay just this last month was all it took to pay our pledge, sponsor Katherine Parker for 2013 AND 2014, Contribute \$100 for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets and the Christmas Food Baskets as well as have some money left over for the Charity Knitting Group to purchase wool for their year-long project of creating Felted items to sell at the 2014 Bazaar on the Bay. On top of all that action, we sponsored two mission programs! Remember the great evening Katherine Parker had with us way back last October? A lovely pot luck dinner and a great presentation on her time in Cambodia and then this Spring Helen Engle talked to us about the ecology and concerns threatening the waters of Puget Sound.

In our November meeting, the executive board members agreed to serve one more term and we are eager to see what adventures our second year will bring. See you at our next meeting on January 14th at 10am.



Sally, Joan, Lyla, Katherine, Kathy and Debbie



***Our next Organizational Meeting will be
Held On January 14th at 10:00am here at
Tracyton United Methodist Church***

UMW KNITTING GROUP
will meet on Sunday the **15th**
from 2-4pm Good things are hap-
pening! What a difference a pair
of knitting needles or a crochet
hook can make.

Hospitality Coordinator Needed

If you feel moved to help with this important part of our church life contact Pastor

A church is an extension of home and family for its many members. A Hospitality Coordinator is the event organizer for the congregation here at Tracyton UMC. The Hospitality Coordinator's main duties include:

- Recruiting volunteers to help with memorial services.
- Organizing 5th Sunday potlucks/ signing up weekly fellowship volunteers.
- Making sure the kitchen is stocked with coffee and supplies for fellowship.
- Recruiting volunteers for annual community events like the church picnic and Christmas celebration.
- Promoting other social events throughout the year to help encourage fellowship among the members.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



There will be an introductory meeting on Thursday, December 12th at 7pm for anyone who wants to find out about the PRISM WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM and how easy it really is to drop those extra pounds you gained over the holidays. So gather your friends, family or neighbors and join us on a new year to a new you! Our first meeting will be Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 6pm.

Please contact Sally Klein, at 662-8964 for reservations or for more information.

BCTjr proudly presents

**A Seussified
Christmas Carol!**

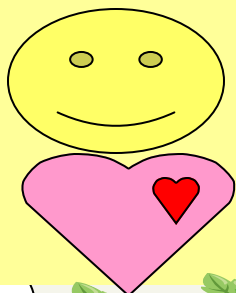
*Written by Peter Bloedel
Directed by Rana Teresa Tan
Performed with permission from Playscripts Inc.*

Our own Laila Davidson will be performing!

PERFORMANCES: December 13th and 14th at 7PM
December 14th and 15th at 2:30PM

TICKET PRICES: \$7 - adults, \$5 - kids ages 12 & under

Purchase tickets online: www.bctshows.com
www.bremertoncommunitytheatre.org



The craft group would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support of our *Bazaar by the Bay* craft show! It was a great day and over \$500.00 was made! We hope to have this money be used for helping to light the Christmas tree in the future.

Carol Wnek and Shirley Siegel

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

U N I T E D M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

PIANO CONCERT

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy quietly got up and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage.



In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are there helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.

Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. And He will always be there to love and guide you on to great things!

- Author Unknown

HELP! TIME IS FLYING BY!

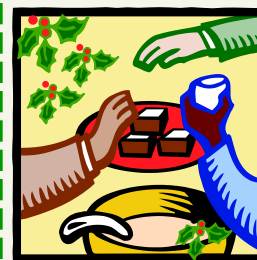
WE ONLY HAVE ONE WEEK BEFORE OUR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY. NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH AT 5:30PM.

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HELPING



OUT PLEASE SEE EITHER SHANNON OR LYLA.

WE WILL NEED VOLUTEERS TO HELP WITH SET UP AND CLEAN UP AS WELL AS A FEW FLOATERS DURING



THE PARTY TO KEEP TREAT TRAYS AND COFFEE POTS FULL.

WE WILL NEED DONATIONS OF COOKIES AND TREATS MAYBE SOME HOR'DURVE TYPE ITEMS TO NIBBLE ON.

YOU WILL FIND SIGN UP SHEETS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BUT



PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO BRING SOMETHING EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE TO SIGN UP.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



TRACYTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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church@tracytonumc.org

DECEMBER 2013 TRACYTON TIDINGS

TRACYTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Times

8:30am Early Service

9:45am
Adult Sunday School

10:00am
Children's Sunday School

11:00am Late Service

*One Service only on the
Fifth Sunday of the month
at 10:00am followed by a
potluck luncheon.*

SHARING THE
LOVE OF GOD
AND MAKING
DISCIPLES
FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION
OF THE WORLD



Take a stroll thru our beautiful Farrar Park
located just across the street from the church.
Open to the public at all times.

A multi-generational
community growing together
in the grace, love and service
of God. Children are
welcome at all services.
Should you desire, a nursery
is available for children 5
years and under at the
11:00am service.

DECEMBER 2013 - TRACYTON TIDINGS