



# The Fowler Flashes

Volume 61

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February 2020

Hello everyone, I hope and pray this note finds you well. "You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there". George Burns

One part of life that most of us will experience is getting older. And let's be honest, it is not easy getting older. One morning you wake up and look into the mirror and you wonder who that person is staring back at you, it is not easy and yet, it is a blessing. We get to watch our children grow up, maybe even our grandchildren. What could be more amazing than that? We get to see technology do incredible things, the changes we have seen are mind-blowing. And we get to experience those changes as part of our daily routines. If we are lucky enough, we're all heading down that beautiful path of becoming wiser and more patient. However, in case you are still wondering, here are a few signs...

- Your back goes out, but you stay home.
- When you wake up looking like your driver's license picture.
- It takes two tries to get up from the couch (if I am lucky)
- Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- You give up all your bad habits and still don't feel good.
- Your memory is shorter and your complaining lasts longer.

I am sure I could go on and on, but I can't remember what the other ones are, lol. So, I have noticed that over the years, I am not as flexible as I used to be, and I am not talking about my body (that ship sailed years ago). I am talking about my way of living. I put things in the same place and get annoyed when other people don't. I get used to certain things like my shampoo and my deodorant, my getting ready routine is exactly the same every day...you get the idea, and the wiser and more patient thing, well...I am not so sure that it is really working for me.

This all made me wonder, as I am getting less flexible with my routines and my daily ways of life. How is it with my theology? How is it with my relationship with Jesus? How is it with my belief in God? Am I open to the ways God is still working today? Am I still a disciple willing and ready to learn some new tricks? Am I a true follower of the Jesus way. Am I still willing to take risks, share my faith and love unconditional? Or have I become cynical and closed-minded, my way is the only way kind of person? So, set in my routines that not even God can change my schedule. Only you can really know the answers to the questions I asked above, but maybe as this new year turns the corner, maybe this would be a good time to reflect...this may be a good time to test, to keep God out of that box I created, to keep God safe.

Bishop John Reed tells this story. One day he was preaching in Christ Church Cathedral one Sunday when a 75-year-old woman named Ethel Hatfield got saved. Mrs. Hatfield had attended that Anglican church for

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decades, but the message had never gotten through to her until that day. The following day she came to see Bishop Reed and said, "I could hardly sleep last night I was so excited about what happened. I want to do something to serve God with the few years I have left. I was wondering if I could teach Sunday School." Bishop Reed looked at this 75-year-old, white-haired lady and just couldn't picture her controlling the rambunctious third or fourth-grade kids. So he said, "I'm sorry, but we don't have an opening in our Sunday School." Her face fell. Bishop Reed said, "You mean business, don't you? I don't know what kind of service God may have for you, but let's pray." So they prayed for God to reveal His will for her.

The next day Mrs. Hatfield was out in her yard tending her roses when a Chinese student from Taiwan walked by. He stopped and complimented her on her roses and they began to talk. She thought, "He seems like a decent chap; I'll invite him in for a spot of tea." So she did and she told him her testimony. He found it an interesting story, so when he had to leave he asked if he could come back and talk further. She said, "Yes, and please bring a friend." He came back and brought a friend and she again shared how she had come to put her faith in Jesus Christ after all these years and how Christ had forgiven her sin and given her eternal life. These students came back and brought more friends, who brought even more. Within two weeks, Mrs. Hatfield was leading a weekly Bible study with 70 Chinese students in attendance! She led many of them to personal faith in Jesus Christ. That which seemed a hindrance to Mrs. Hatfield's serving the Lord--her age--God turned into the key to reaching a group of people who respect old age!"

We are never too old to learn, never too old to change our ways, never too old to make a difference, as long as we stay open to the possibilities God places before us every day...

Peace, Pastor René

### **HEALTH/HEALING**

R. J. Ewing – leg infection  
Debbie Bryans Friend – Surgery for a brain tumor  
Dan and Wendy Montgomery  
Dean and Sylvia Robison

### **PRAYERS FOR CONTINUED HEALING**

Ron Ring  
Sylvia Goeres – mother of Dotie Godley  
Sue Robinson  
Lance Abernathy

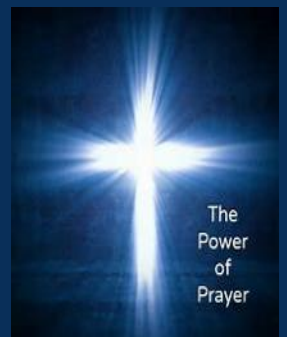
### **A SPECIAL PRAYER**

That we as a church be vigilant.  
For Janet and Lance Abernathy during their absence. May this time be blessed.

### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

Etienne Nizerimana – vehicle accident - Thankful to the Lord for keeping him safe.  
Candice Denowh and June Nelson are thankful for their neighbors who so lovingly provide their assistance when needed.

**If you or your loved ones are in need of prayer, please contact the office to be added to the prayer list.**



# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat 1
2 9:15 am - Adult Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm - Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki	3	4 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study	5 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study	6 12:00 UMW Meeting 12:15 Men's Lunch at Golden Corral 6:45-7:55 Worship Band Practice	7	8
9 9:15 am - Adult SS 10:30 am - Worship 10:50 am - Sunday School 12:00 pm-Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki	10	11 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study	12 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 UMW Book Club @ Denny's	13 10-12 pm Craft Group 1pm Staff Meeting 2:30 p, Worship Committee Meeting	14	15
16 9:15 am - Adult SS 10:30 am - Worship 10:50 am - Sunday School 12:00 pm - Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki	17	18 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study	19 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study	20 2:30pm - Worship Meeting 6:45-7:55 Worship Band Practice <b>Flashes Articles Due</b>	21	22
23 9:15 am - Adult SS 10:30 am - Worship 10:50 am - Sunday School 12:00 pm - Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki	24	25 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study	26 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study	27 10-12 pm Craft Group 1pm Staff Meeting <b>1:00 pm Prep &amp; Mail Flashes</b>	28	29  Page 3

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

7th - Etienne LeRoux & Sarah Briggs  
14th - Wendy Montgomery  
14th - Dorcas Mwangi  
15th - Vern Arneson  
15th - Jayden Grater  
16th - Reid Bryan  
20th - Bob Newell  
20th - Alexia Duckett  
22nd - Dolores Hagen  
23rd - Wanda Haggerty  
28th - Dean Robison

Wishing our friends a "happy...",  
a "merry...",  
a "best wishes...",  
and a "blessings..."  
for their special day.



**Men's Lunch**  
**February, 6 - 12:15**  
**At Golden Corral**  
**A Good Meal,**  
**A Good Laugh,**  
**Great Fellowship!**



### **Coffee Hour Update:**

The new sign up sheets are posted. Please sign up!



# HELP!!!!



Our Blessings Box is running low. Can you help? Please bring food items for our box. Examples are cereal, oatmeal, can vegetables, soup, pasta, dry beans, rice, etc. . . . Goodies work too! We also need more items for our bags for the needy. Thank you all!





The Fowler United Methodist Women will meet on **Thursday, February 6, 2020** in Corinthian Hall at noon. This month is a brown bag Lunch. The program will be focused on Black History month.

## THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF METHODIST WOMEN IN MISSION!

United Methodist Women members put faith, hope and love into action in their churches and communities. They see need around them and prayerfully discern how they can help. Supplies for a local women's shelter, quilts for a nearby nursing home, baby showers for mothers and children in need, school supply drives - United Methodist Women members are faithful servants.

You'll also see them in their legislators' offices, in front of capitol buildings, voting at general conference, marching in the streets and writing letters to the editor, United Methodist Women members advocate in solidarity with the marginalized.

Their fundraisers for mission also bring together the community at bazaars, garage sales and meals. Their educational forums offer opportunities for church and community members to transform themselves and the world.

The United Methodist Women members will again celebrate Valentine's Day with their annual "Death by Chocolate" during coffee hour on February 9th. There will be chocolate cookies, candies and cakes for sale. Come prepared to enjoy some homemade goodies.



# Church Information/News and Thank you

## The Future of Flashes

With the rising cost of paper and mail, we have decided to start e-mailing the Flashes. In the interest of saving money and becoming greener, please send us your email address. No email? No problem. Just drop a note in the offering plate or call the office (509-325-3242) and we will continue to mail you. And a few copies will be available in Corinthian Hall.

## Corinthian Hall – Let's All Help Keep It Clean

There is now a working vacuum available to help us keep our Corinthian Hall **SPOT** cleaned in the interim between our fellowship gatherings and when the janitor comes to service our church. The bright orange vacuum will be located in the corner by the coffee pot. It is to be used only for Corinthian Hall and adjoining areas where food spills may occur. In addition, there will **garbage bags** available to use in the kitchen and Corinthian Hall after coffee hour, potlucks and other social gatherings involving food. The garbage bags are stored in the kitchen pantry, room 11. This is our church home and though this area is cleaned by our janitor, he does not come in daily and is not expected to. Everybody's help in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Thank you, Lance Abernathy, Trustees Chair

Thank you so much for the generous gift at Christmas! It is a joy to serve this congregation and I am grateful for all the love and support shown to me.

Sue Robinson CLM



Thank you for including me in staff gifts at Christmas. It is wonderful to realize that the little that I am still able to do is appreciated.

Su Walker



I wanted to take a moment of your time to tell you Thank You. The Christmas gift and all the support, help, and appreciation you have shown me is beyond measure. Thank you for allowing me to be your Office Administrator.



Blessings and Love,  
Diane Strobeck



# February Music Notes from Nathan

## Music Notes from Nathan...

Happy New Year, friends here at Fowler UMC! The KG family wants to extend a warm thank you for the generous staff gift you gave me during the Christmas season. Our family was able to offer some enriched family experiences with our relatives who were visiting from Vancouver, WA. (Tamara's brother, fiancé, and his two children.) We had a wonderful time sharing the break with family from out of town in the midst of celebrating the festivities surrounding Christmas. Again, thank you for your love and support as we share life and ministry here at Fowler UMC.

In looking ahead...two upcoming music service opportunities are just around the corner...

1. **The Worship Band** (resuming in early February) and we welcome all levels of musicians to be a part of helping to support the Sunday songs in worship...

2. **The Hand bell Ensemble**...also beginning in early February and running through mid-April.

For this group I am looking for 8-10 individuals to be a part of learning some basic hand bell music for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday. All levels of music aptitude are welcome...what is needed is a willingness to learn a new skill, and by the way, it's fun!

Call Nathan if either of the above groups is something you would like to consider hearing more about or serving in...looking forward to spreading God's love through music!

(H)465-9920

[nathan.kennedy.gibbens@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.kennedy.gibbens@gmail.com)

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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

### Happy New Year Everyone!



We have been finishing the murals in our Youth room. You will have to come by and see them when we are done. We attended the MLK Walk in downtown Spokane on the 20th of January. The speeches and music were very inspirational! During the Lenten season, you will see us in service more often, because we will be assisting in Worship.

Looking ahead, February we are having a fundraiser for our mission trip, by delivering roses and candy to everyone that would like them. We are participating in Convo at UPS Tacoma in May. We also are going to camp and mission trip together.

Thank you so much for all your help and support. Special thanks to Nathan, Tamara, Lance, and Janet for their participation and providing rides for our youth.

If you are interested in more information about the Youth Group or any of the upcoming activities, please contact Shelley Barton at 509-703-3893

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