



## St. Peter's United Methodist Church

17222 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, Washington 98008

*Near the Crossroads where North meets South and East meets West*

Volume 33, No. 4 April 2011

### ***Devotional Thought for April***

The psalm assigned to the Fourth Sunday in Lent (3 April) is Psalm 23, which is perhaps the most loved and widely known psalm in the Psalter. It is a song of thanksgiving from the heart and lips of a songwriter who lives in a faith community that is aware of God's restorative love and care. And it is obvious that the psalm is set in the context of ancient Israel's rural and pastoral life in which sheep and goats were two of the more important domestic animals.

We know that Israel's early leaders spent considerable time caring for flocks and herds: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David are well-known examples. It was likely well known that sheep are animals that need constant care. For his flock, a shepherd must find food and water, guard against predators, and remain alert for sheep that stray. Sheep are dependent creatures. So it is little wonder that given the milieu of Psalm 23, it is not surprising that God is pictured as a shepherd who cares, leads, defends and provides.

Throughout *salvation history*, the telling of God's love affair with the human family, Psalm 23 has comforted countless millions of people. And the same is true for modern-day urbanites and suburbanites. Whenever we feel at risk and threatened, we have learned to turn to God who is Shepherd of all. Even in the "valley of the shadow of death," we long to commune with the God who can restore us to renewed life.

Throughout my ministry, I have listened to people describe their experiences with God and have noticed that very often their words flow from the vivid categories of caring, leading, defending and providing found in Psalm 23. It is a blessed thing to feel that God sees us even in a busy and crowded city, or to know that God somehow shields us and gives us greater space to breathe. It is an experience of grace to experience God as a tender gardener who plants and tends and sets us in rich soil, and carries water to nurture our lives. Think of the last time that God was the calm center in a stormy period in our lives. Remember the last time God anointed us with goodness and mercy?

During the remaining days of Lent, let us meditate on the wonderful refrain to the hymn: "Shepherd Me, O God," written by Marty Haugen: "Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life." Amen.

Until next month,  
Tom

#### **Remember the Wednesday Opportunities During Lent**

- 10:00 AM – Morning Prayer (with Eucharist) at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina
- 11:15 AM – Sipping and Discussing the Mysteries of Lent – Starbucks at Crossroads Mall
- 6:45 PM – Contemplative Prayer with Harmony Walk – St Peter's sanctuary

# Lay Leader's Commentary

by Dick Clark



One of my responsibilities as Lay Leader is to keep the members of St. Peter's aware of their connections with the United Methodist Church. In keeping with this duty, as I prepare these notes in mid-March, there are two things I want to call to your attention.

First, local and national news continues to be filled with stories about natural and man-made disasters. Whether it is the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear tragedies in Japan or the fire sweeping through White Swan, the United Methodist Church is helping. Check out the conference web site, <http://www.pnwumc.org/>, for more information about how the church is helping and how you can share in this ministry.

Second, while you are at the web site, read **Bishop Grant Hagiya's** March message in which he talks about the March 26th "special called session." The Bishop begins his message by saying:

*"As many of you are aware: Clergy and Lay Members to Annual Conference will gather on March 26, 2011 at Central Washington University for a "Special Called Session" to determine if the annual conference wishes to embark on a Fund Drive for New Ministries and Revitalization or Transformation of our current local churches.*

*Please note that "Revitalization or Transformation" of our existing local churches is just as prominent a factor as starting new faith communities in our current perspective. [emphasis added] We heard loud and clear from our laity and clergy that we need to do both, and neither can take precedence over the other...."*

I am sure we will hear about the special session's outcomes during the weeks ahead as **Rev. Steffen** and our own lay member of the annual conference, **Don Duncan**, will be attending. Meanwhile, during this Lenten season we all need to continue our efforts to fulfil the mission of St. Peter's to bring people to a personal relationship with God through Christ.



We are looking for walkers and donors for the Bellevue CROP walk which will be on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> after church. **John Fountain** will again be barbecuing hamburgers after the walk.

The walk route is 3 miles through downtown Bellevue to raise money and awareness for the work of Christian World Services (CWS), an organization that provides services to help alleviate poverty and hunger throughout the world.

CWS works in a wide variety of ways, from providing immediate help such as food and water in times of crisis to teaching skills and providing start-up for food sustainability, clean water and income sources. CWS also works for social justice and other root causes of poverty.

Last year St. Peter's had a very good turn-out of walkers and excellent donation support from our congregation. We look forward to repeating that success this year. This is a fun, family event. See John Fountain or **Pat King** for more information.



## Youth News

- The repainting of the "wall of flames" is under way in our Youth Room. Check out the progress!
- The youth are organizing the Easter Egg Hunt this year and continue to lead Sunday Studies for the children on Sunday morning.

## We Need Your Help!



Many of us have been accumulating items for the yard sale and we encourage everyone to continue to do so....canvas your friends and neighbors for donations too!

**Helen Engebretson** has volunteered to head up the cashiers again this year and **Joe Ann Rucker** will be organizing the books, puzzles, CD's and videos. But we still need your help to make this year's yard sale the success it was last year! Please check out the easel in the narthex for sign-ups. We still need volunteers to help with setting up tables, pricing, hanging clothing, folding, greeting on

the days of the sale, tidying displays as needed, weighing linens, placing items on Craig's List, boxing up leftovers and helping load the charity truck on the 30th.

Set up begins on Tuesday, April 26th and continues on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th. See the calendar for exact times. Donations may be brought in during set-up times.

## Pea Patch News

Our Pea Patch planning is moving ahead:

- **Dick Spady** has secured additional financial commitments of \$6,000. \$2000 from the Overlake Rotary and \$4000 from private donations. Total funding for the project is now \$9,000.
- **Lynn McKay** will begin working on the design during her spring break from Interlake HS. The first step will be to visit and photograph five or six pea patches in Seattle and the Eastside. The design will identify issues, questions to be answered, and costs of construction and maintenance. Once the design is completed, it will be posted on The Wall in the Fellowship Room for everyone to review.
- **Adora Wood**, a leader in our youth group and a teacher in Sunday Studies, is enrolled in Ms. McKay's advanced horticulture class. She will receive community service credit for her work on the design.

Other pea patch news---Have you seen the online story about Lake Washington United Methodist's Pea Patch? They are in the process of inviting community members to sign up for a plot, for themselves and to raise vegetables for the food bank.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

*When will St. Peter's have its offering?*

- On Sunday, April 3rd.

*What is One Great Hour of Sharing?*

- One of six Special Sundays with offerings of the United Methodist Church. It enables the UMCOR (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering by responding to natural or human made disasters.

*Are the funded ministries limited to one country?*

- The ministries are available in the United States and across the globe. The need for food, shelter, health and peace knows no continental boundaries.

*Where exactly will our One Great Hour of Sharing offering go to?*

- OGHS makes all of the other UMCOR programs possible. The offering funds the cost of doing business for UMCOR. Any gifts that are over and above UMCOR's administrative costs go to where they are most needed. Often they support under-funded programs.

## Pastoral Checkups

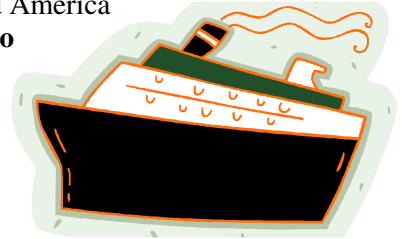


**Rev. Tom** will again be scheduling time for our church family to have one-on-one visits with him to discuss your personal religious journey, your involvement in St. Peter's, what you think of our new proposed projects, comments on current programs, ideas for new programs, or services which St. Peter's can offer of your own topic. There will be sessions available on weekdays for you to meet with Rev. Tom before Easter, and after Easter he will be able to schedule some evening meeting times as well.

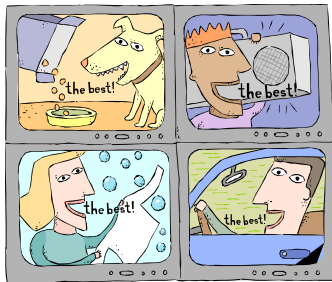
The master schedule will be held by **Diana Wilson** and we hope that you will contact her to schedule your personal time with Rev. Tom. Diana can be reached at (425) 641-3297 or via email at [dwilson2009@comcast.net](mailto:dwilson2009@comcast.net).

## Win a Cruise!

Make a donation and have a chance to win a Fabulous Holland America 7-Day **Cruise for two to Alaska** - \$4500 value-**tickets are \$25**. This cruise was donated, so all proceeds go to help homeless women.



Just imagine! For the low, low price of a \$25 raffle ticket, you may win a cruise for two on Holland America. We will have a limited number of tickets (8) available during Fellowship on Sundays. Proceeds benefit The Sophia Way. Buy your ticket from **John Fountain, Jack McPherson** or **Pat King**. Drawing held April 28th.



## The M&M's Corner

By Roger Allington

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

### God is like:

**BAYER ASPIRIN:** He works miracles.

**A FORD:** He's got a better idea.

**COKE:** He's the real thing.

**HALLMARK CARDS:** He cares enough to send His very best.

**TIDE:** He gets the stains out others leave behind.

**GENERAL ELECTRIC:** He brings good things to life.

**WALMART:** He has everything.

**ALKA-SELTZER:** Try Him, you'll like Him.

**SCOTCH TAPE:** You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

The M&M's could have used a few more people March 3rd when we met at J. J. Mahoney's Irish Pub in Redmond. It seems a "bug" got to a lot of us and as a consequence we only had 12 for the early celebration of St. Patrick's Day!

On **April 7 the M&M's** will gather at **Crossroads Bar and Grill** in the Crossroads Mall (15600 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street) in Bellevue. Our reservation is for 11:45 a.m. and ride shares will leave St. Peter's at 11:30 a.m. Crossroads Bar and Grill is a relatively new facility but "research" indicates that the food and service are good!

Visiting a new restaurant with friends is a great way to meet and greet! Come join us as we head into spring. Remember to bring your friends and neighbors! For more information, rideshare arrangements and head-count for reservations, please contact **Reva** or **Roger Allington** at 425-373-1370 or [rogerallington@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerallington@yahoo.com).

## Disaster Strikes...We Can Help



Last fall, missionary **Katherine Parker** visited St. Peter's and gave an excellent presentation highlighting the work she is doing for the United Methodist Church in Cambodia. Katherine's work has included organizing "rice co-ops," which give year-round availability of the rice the local residents grow, as well as facilitating access to clean water in the areas. This humanitarian work is viewed favorably by the Cambodian government although officials are not very accepting of missionaries establishing churches. There are, however, local churches established by the residents which are working cooperatively to help

each other and Katherine has worked with these churches.

We now receive word from Katherine that a valuable resource, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), located just 130 Km (78 miles) from the stricken Japanese nuclear plants has been reaching out with food and spiritual aid to their neighbors and evacuees and delaying their own training activities to do this work. However, ARI is committed to continuing its vital training program that provides connection and inspiration to rural leaders of all faith backgrounds around the world. Katherine asks that those wishing to make donations to ARI do so through our United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries Advance #220450 or by a check in the offering plate marked "Asian Rural Institute."

### HOLY WEEK &



### EASTER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, April 17

Palm/Passion Worship—10:30 a.m.  
Frankincense Prayer—5 p.m.  
(no 8:30 a.m. service)

#### Wednesday, April 20

Silent & Contemplative Prayer with Harmony Walk—6:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

#### Friday, April 22

Good Friday Tenebrae Service—7 p.m.

#### Easter Celebration

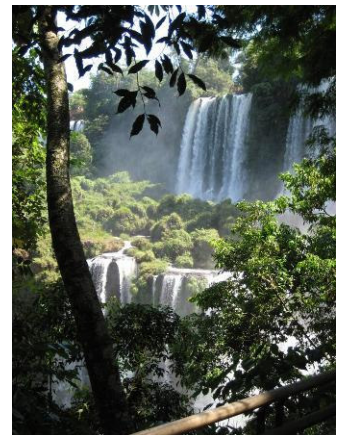
8:30 a.m.—Silent Prayer in Anna's Garden  
9 a.m.—Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m.—Easter Egg Hunt  
10:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship with Choir and Holy Communion

## Tending Adam's Garden

The fourth in the series of Tending Adam's Garden will be held on Sunday, April 3rd at Temple B'Nai Torah in Bellevue, in order to accommodate the large number of youth expected to attend.

The theme for the afternoon will be "What Do Our Children and Grandchildren Need To Know, and How Can We Help Them Learn These Things?" The afternoon begins at 3:30 p.m. with a "Three Cups of Tea" time in the Fellowship Hall. This will be followed by a short panel presentation based on sacred writings from different traditions. After the presentation, there will be Q&A and small group dialogue, ending at 6 p.m. A special prayer will be said for the people of Japan.

For more information, and to register, go to [adamsgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:adamsgarden@yahoo.com) or contact **Phil** (425-890-8685) or **Sanaa** (206-954-5546).



## Stewardship Message

### *The Yellow Light*



The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn at the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally....I assumed you had stolen the car."

All of us who profess to be Christian will, sometimes under stress, have our actions speak louder than our words. When we became members of the United Methodist Church and, specifically, St. Peter's, or when we welcomed others to St. Peter's we all pledged as follows:

***"...We renew our vows to uphold (St. Peter's) by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service."***

These are the words we speak and they define "stewardship." We need to live up to our vow to support St. Peter's by our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. To put it in the vernacular "We need to talk the talk and walk the walk!" With God's help we will live up to our pledge in all things. Let's not be like the woman who professed Christianity; she "talked the talk," but her actions spoke volumes about her ability to "walk the walk."

### Finance Update:



The Finance Committee reports that year-to-date our budget needed \$38,591. Our income received was \$35,444 for a shortfall of \$3,147. Please remember to keep your pledges current.

### Aid to Japan Via UMCOR

If you would like to give towards the relief efforts of UMCOR, you may pen a check to the church and in the memo section write, Advance #3021317 (Japan) or Advance #901670 (US Disaster)

Other ways to aid in the relief efforts:  
Online at [www.givetomission.org](http://www.givetomission.org). Call toll-free (800) 554-8583 to donate with a credit card or mail your check, made out to UMCOR, directly to: UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087.

## Around St. Peter's and the Community —Bits and Pieces of This and That

- “Colleen and I want to thank everyone for the beautifully orchestrated retirement ceremony, for the party afterwards, cards and letters and generous gift. We especially want to thank **Don Duncan** for making it all happen.” **Bob and Colleen Bailey**
- **Joyce Anderson** has moved to Ida Culver House in Seattle to be closer to her children (**Rebecca** is just a short 5 minutes away now). Her new address is: 12505 Greenwood Ave North, #A414, Seattle, WA 98133. Phone: 206-362-3313. We will miss seeing Joyce in church on Sundays, but know that she and Mr. Elmo (her cat) will be happy in their new apartment.
- We join with **Rich and Joe Ann Rucker** in celebrating the birth of **Carson James Rucker** on Feb. 26th. Carson is the son of Rich's son **Brian**, and his wife, **Amanda**.
- **Harv and Edie Ritchey** announce the birth of grandson, **Samuel Clifton Ritchey**, on Feb. 28th. Samuel was 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 1/4" long at birth. He is the third child of **Scott and Angie Ritchey**.
- Get on board the church van on Easter Sunday at 7 a.m. as we head to Seattle First UMC to help **serve breakfast to the homeless**. If you would like to reserve a spot, please see **Pat King**. What a wonderful way to begin Easter Sunday. You'll be back at St. Peter's in time for worship.
- **Confirmation Class** planning is underway. Wonderful materials have been ordered and Sunday afternoon classes will begin after Easter. Watch the Keys and Sunday bulletins for more information.
- You have until Wednesday, March 30th to purchase your \$1 **Taco Time Coupon** booklet. See **Sherry Magnuson** for more details. Coupons are good through April 31st.

### Happy Birthday!

- 1 Jack Hart
- 13 Rose Hart
- 14 Dick Clark
- 19 Mary Duncan
- 26 Dan Raven



### Happy Anniversary!

- 13 Jim & Judy Ellis (54 yrs)
- 30 Dianne & Wayne Lambert (6 yrs)

*If we've forgotten your birthday or anniversary, please call the office so we may correct our records. We celebrate birthdays the 3rd Sunday of each month. We hope you'll join us...and we promise not to tell your age!*

### Save the Date!

**Rte. 66 Concert  
at St. Peter's  
Monday, May 2nd  
7:30-9:30 p.m.**

### Please Keep in Your Prayers.....

- ♥ **Eileen & Janet Kouba**
- ♥ **Sara Lambert**
- ♥ **Margaret Pratt**
- ♥ Our military personnel, both here & overseas. Our missionary leaders, volunteers and those who are working to make the world a better place in which to live and worship, including **Rev. Devi Bhujel** and **Julie Dahl**.


*Please call or email your prayer requests, changes and updates for the Prayer Letter to **Anne Beishline** : [beish@mindspring.com](mailto:beish@mindspring.com).*

April 2011

St. Peter's UMC, 17222 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, WA 98008

(425) 747-3210 Office Hours: M-F, 9A-12P

Sunday Communion Service 8:30-9A; UM Social Principles Discussion 9A;  
Worship 10:30A; Frankincense Service 5P

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>Easter is not a time for groping through dusty, musty tomes or tombs to disprove spontaneous generation or even to prove life eternal. It is a day to fan the ashes of dead hope, a day to banish doubts and seek the slopes where the sun is rising, to revel in the faith which transports us out of ourselves and the dead past into the vast and inviting unknown.</p> <p><i>~Author unknown, as quoted in the Lewiston Tribune</i></p>			1	2
<p>3 Communion 3:30-6P Tending Adam's Garden @ Temple B'Nai Torah</p> <p>5P Frankincense 6P BSA Parents</p>	<p>4 9A TOPS 12 Bible Study</p> <p>7P Rte 66</p>	<p>5 No Childcare</p> <p>6:15P Kindering Center 6:30P BSA <b>7P M&amp;O Mtg</b></p>	<p>6 No Childcare 10A Lib Wkrs</p> <p>4-7 Youth <b>6:45P Prayer &amp; Harmony Walk</b></p>	<p>7 No Childcare <b>11:45A M&amp;M's</b></p> <p>6P Handbells 7:30P Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30P PNWCF</p>	<p>9 <b>9A-2P MOMS Easter Party— Fellowship Hall</b></p>
<p>10</p> <p>4P Sunrise Asst'd Living Service</p> <p>5P Frankincense</p>	<p>11 9A TOPS 12 Bible Study <b>UMM Xrds Meal</b></p> <p>7P Rte 66</p>	<p>12 9A-12:30P CC</p> <p>6:30P BSA <b>7P Trustees</b> 7P Investment Club</p>	<p>13 9A-12:30P CC 10A Lib Wkrs 12:30A Clergy Cluster here 4-7 Youth— Landing Dinner <b>6:45P Prayer &amp; Harmony Walk</b></p>	<p>14 9A-12:30P CC</p> <p>6P Handbells 7:30P Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30P PNWCF</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 <b>Palm Sunday</b> No 8:30A Ser- vice 10:45A Xrds Retirement Ser- vice</p> <p>5P Frankincense</p>	<p>18 9A TOPS 12 Bible Study <b>Keys Deadline</b></p> <p>7P Rte 66 <b>7P SPR</b></p>	<p>19 9A-12:30P CC</p> <p>6:15P Kindering Center 6:30P BSA <b>7P Finance</b></p>	<p>20 9A-12:30P CC 10A Lib Wkrs</p> <p>4-7 Youth <b>6:45P Prayer &amp; Harmony Walk</b></p>	<p>21 9A-12:30P CC</p> <p>6P Handbells 7:30P Choir</p>	<p>22 <b>Good Friday</b></p> <p><b>7P Tenebrae Service</b></p> <p>7:30P PNWCF</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 <b>EASTER:</b></p> <p>7A Brkfst for Homeless-Sea. 8:30A Silent Prayer 9A Breakfast 9:45A Egg Hunt 10:30A Service</p>	<p>25 9A TOPS 12 Bible Study</p> <p>7P Rte 66</p>	<p>26 9A-12:30P CC 6:30P BSA</p> <p><b>5-8:30P Set Up</b></p>	<p>27 9A-12:30P CC 10A Lib Wkrs 4-7 Youth <b>9A-5P Set Up</b></p>	<p>28 9A-12:30P CC 6P Handbells 7:30P Choir <b>9A-8P Set Up</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Yard Sale 9A-4P</b></p> <p>7:30P PNWCF</p>	<p>30</p>
		<p><b>Set up for yard sale—see times above</b></p>				

## Staff Information & Volunteers

### Fellowship Families for April:

Group D Leaders, Rosemary Clark  
& Jane Enns

Families: Bruce & Vicki Bridwell, Jan Lillywhite, Donna Dodd, Beth Eng, Shirley Lumry, John Mahoney, Dan & Elba Raven, Harv & Edie Ritchey, Trista & Matt Wynne?

Fellowship Family group lists and current calendars for Sunday planning are on the bulletin board on the inside kitchen door?

#### *Special Sundays in April*

Birthday Sunday & Palm Sunday, April 17th  
Easter Sunday, April 24th

## We Love Our Volunteers!!

### LITURGISTS:

April 3 Roger Allington  
April 10 Becky Schwind  
April 17 John Fountain  
April 24 Dick Clark



### USHERS:

April 3 Jennifer Wood & Scott Callahan  
April 10 Terry Patrick & Shirley Lumry  
April 17 Maxine Jurcan & Patty Bowen  
April 24 Ed Peterson & Jim Ellis

*Joe Ann Rucker, Worship and Arts Chair, is coordinating our Liturgists and Ushers. Please say "yes" if she calls, asking you to volunteer.*

### Worship Opportunities:

8:30-9A Communion Service

10:30A Worship

Our Frankincense service meets on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m.  
For more information, go to [www.frankincensecommunity.org](http://www.frankincensecommunity.org).

## OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

**Ministers:** Congregation

**Pastor:** Thomas G. Steffen (tgsteffen@gmail.com)

**Church Admin. Asst.:** Sue Wiseman (stpeters1@msn.com)

**Music Director:** Janet Moore

**Organist/Pianist:** Rich Rucker

**Carillons Co-Directors:** Sue Cullor and Darlene Bowerman

**Worship Team Director:** Trista Wynne

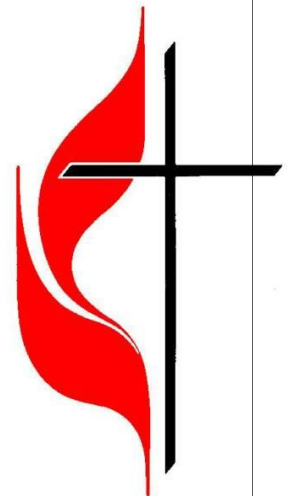
**Director of Child Care Center:** Jane Sessions (email: jane-sessions@hotmail.com)

**Child Care Reservations Line:** 425-443-5897

**Volunteer Youth Leaders:** Jennifer Wood & Scott Callihan

**Sunday Nursery Care provided by:** Jennifer Swanson & Kimberly Smith

**Janitorial Team:** Teresa and Oscar Avalos



All KEYS articles must be in by **Monday, April 18th** for the **May** newsletter.

The Keys is posted to the website each month.

If you would prefer the Keys mailed to your home, please call the church office to arrange for postage.

**St. Peter's United Methodist Church**

**17222 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, WA 98008**

**Church: 425-747-3210 Fax: 425-747-3789**

**Website: [www.stpetersumc.net](http://www.stpetersumc.net)—the website calendar is updated each Friday.**