



# New Start Initiative Newsletter

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Epiphanies



“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

We are in the liturgical season known as “The Sunday’s after Epiphany.” I, however, like to refer to this entire season as “Epiphany” because I love relishing in what that word means to me -- light in the midst of darkness, hope, new ideas and possibilities, and trust in the unfolding of God’s plan.

**Rev. Beth Estock**

I believe as followers of Christ that we are encouraged to wake up to the sea of possibilities all around us. It is then that we witness God’s kingdom in our midst and have a palpable sense of grace. It is our hope that these stories will offer you some epiphanies of your own.

For me, those new ideas mostly come from listening to others share their experiences. Therefore we have scattered seeds of possibilities and opportunities in our newsletter this month as we hear stories of folks who are letting the light of Love shine in and through their ministries.

We will hear stories about some of the new ministries developing in our conference as well as ideas from those outside Methodism. Then Lynn Egli helps us figure out what our next steps would be if we actually wanted to do something with those great ideas. Finally we will share some tools and training opportunities that can help you “Arise and shine” with the Light of God.

## Special Dates:

JANUARY	
21	TREASURE VALLEY PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE SESSION
28	NEW MEDIA LEARNING DAY
FEBRUARY	
11	WILLAMETTE VALLEY PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE SESSION
18	TREASURE VALLEY PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE SESSION

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Please visit our website at [umoi.com/nsi](http://umoi.com/nsi). Information is updated regularly.

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## Jubilatte, Tigard OR

By Rev. Leland Hunefeld

“A COFFEE SHOP  
MINISTRY WHERE  
YOU CAN FILL  
YOUR CUP, AND  
YOUR SOUL.”

In the early Spring of 2011 the Ministry Leadership Team of our conference granted the request of Tigard United Methodist Church to use \$50,000 of it's stagnant parsonage fund to start a new ministry called Pathways. The Tigard church already had significant numbers of people connected to the peripheral activities and programs of our church, but not to the 'churchy' spots like worship on Sunday or Bible classes. The focus of Pathways ministry is to create innovative ways to bring a spiritual presence to these people's lives.

As we surveyed the more than 500 contacts we had with these 'non-religious' folks we discovered some significant spiritual hungers. We also discovered a host of ways our church could address these hungers that would also further enhance their families lives. One of these ways was to provide a safe, welcoming, child friendly place where people could gather in conversation. The Spirit began to move, imaginations began to sparkle, and people began to be led to us that gave birth to Jubilatte; a coffee shop ministry where you can *"Fill your cup, and your soul"*.

Since we would need more money to pull off this portion of the Pathways ministry, we applied for a ministry grant from the Conference Church Development Team, (now known as the New Start Initiative). At the end of a thorough, three month process led by Lynn Egli, a ministry proposal was created that won a \$25,000 matching grant. In less than three months we had raised an additional \$28,000 on our own.

A host of people came together to remodel a major room in our church. Linda Dove, the Director of Spiritual Formation at Tigard UMC, and the ministry director of Pathways, and Staci Lieuallen the managing pastorista of Jubilatte began stretching our dreams, perfecting our plans, courting coffee companies, purchasing equipment and training volunteer baristas.

On the second Monday of November, 2011 Jubilatte opened its doors. In just the first three weeks of operation two of Staci's Compass Groups have moved in; we have hosted a book reading and signing; two classes (Borg and Crossan's *The First Christmas* and Mike Slaughter's *Christmas is not Your Birthday*); hosted a Christmas party with Santa Claus and a chance to share Christmas memories. In the process we have connected with dozens of curious people who wonder why these Christians seem so much like regular folks.



## Continued.....Jubilatte

In the near future our Pathways/Jubilatte ministry will host the noted Roman Catholic peace activist, Fr. John Dear on Feb 6. More classes and small groups will be formed and events that connect people to the needs of our community will be organized.

In the midst of this, the greatest thing going on is that God's Spirit has excited the passions of many people to connect folks to the Spirit of Christ in new ways, and to accompany that Spirit into the world with justice and compassion.

## Come to the Waters

By Charlie Collier

The mission of the United Methodist Church is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." A convincing case could be made that we are simply failing in our mission. Are we not routinely reminded of numerical decline, church closings, district or conference mergers, and budget shortfalls? How are we to make disciples if existing ones are leaving and potential new ones are not even showing up? Yet we rarely stop to ask what we would actually do with new, entirely un-churched folks if they did start showing up. Showing up does not make one a disciple of Jesus. How does that happen? A "membership" class? But newbies are unlikely to know what being "a member" of the Body of Christ is all about; the typical membership class, focused on the local congregation, is thus inadequate to the task of handing on the faith to new believers. Bible study? Nothing wrong with that, but how will it prepare seekers for the waters of baptism? How are we to make disciples of those who have never heard a sermon before, who did not grow up in the faith, who've never heard the creed (either or any of them), who have no idea what it might mean to tithe, to serve rather than to be served, to die in Christ so they might be raised to new life?

The myth of an "American Christendom," probably never true, is certainly no longer true in the Pacific Northwest. There is absolutely no hope of reviving 1950s Methodism, when people went to church "because that's what people do," and new Methodist churches were built as fast as new neighborhoods sprouted up. The future of The United Methodist Church in this part of the world, if there is to be a future, is going to involve getting back to basics and learning what it means to make new disciples of Jesus Christ.



“HOW ARE WE TO MAKE DISCIPLES IF EXISTING ONES ARE LEAVING AND POTENTIAL NEW ONES AREN'T EVEN SHOWING UP?”



## Continued.....Come to the Waters

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. If you would like to receive more information regarding the New Start Initiative or either the Willamette Valley or Treasure Valley People Reaching People sessions, please contact Beth Estock at [bethestock@yahoo.com](mailto:bethestock@yahoo.com)

At Wesley United Methodist Church in Eugene, Oregon, we have decided to greet these changed circumstances as an opportunity to be celebrated rather than a loss to be lamented. Instead of striving to recreate a vision of the congregation from the recent past, we have made a concerted effort to look further back—to the roots of the Christian faith. For two years now, Wesley has been leading both seekers and transferring members through an adult catechumenate class that we call “Come to the Waters.” Our effort has been to rediscover some of the wisdom and vitality of the early-church practice of training interested persons for baptism (and/or, in our case, for the reaffirmation of baptism). Anyone interested in joining our church is encouraged to participate in our annual journey, which begins in October and culminates at the Easter Vigil (which we celebrated for the very first time just last year!). The journey is broken down into three stages: inquiry, formation, and intense preparation. The inquiry phase—extending from October through December—is a time of listening to what newcomers are looking for and for learning about the stories of their lives. The formation phase—from January until the beginning of Lent—is about practicing the Christian faith together; we read the Scriptures and pray together, and we also learn about the intrinsic relationship between loving God and loving neighbor, especially the oppressed and marginalized neighbor, the ones Jesus reminds us never to forget or neglect. The intense preparation phase—the season of Lent—is where we focus on the heart of Christian doctrine and practice, as we study the Lord’s prayer and Apostles’ Creed together.

We are only two years into our experience with “Come to the Waters,” but the results have already been profound. Four adults were baptized, and we had seven class members reaffirm their baptisms at the Easter Vigil last year. There are a dozen people going through the class this year, plus three children who will be baptized and become members of Wesley along with their parents who are in the class. Of course, it’s too early to tell how well “Come to the Waters” will endure at Wesley, but for now, and in this place, it’s not so hard to believe that God is using the process to “make disciples for the transformation of the world.”



## Pop Up Church and New Media Learning Day

Rev. Karen Ward an Episcopalian Priest recently moved to Portland after starting and serving the Church of the Apostles in Seattle, Washington <http://www.apostleschurch.org/>

She has started a “Pop Up Church” in Portland through social media that targets folks under 30 years old. Her concept is to use under-utilized buildings around the Portland area for worship expressions as she builds a following through word of mouth and social media. It is well worth a visit to her website to find out more [www.popupchurch.org](http://www.popupchurch.org).

The website says PopUpChurch (All Souls, PDX) is a fresh expression, neo-monastic Christian gathering in Portland, being spiritually formed in the way of Jesus and within the Anglican tradition, via liturgy, contemplative prayer, creative arts and engaged participation in God’s Reign of Shalom (abundant life, well being, justice and mercy). Currently, All Souls has no fixed address but gathers in various places (church buildings, pubs, arts venues and homes) around PDX, as the Spirit moves.

She is also offering a New Media Learning Day in Portland on Saturday Jan. 28th. from 9:30 -4:30pm at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 NE 17th Ave, Portland, OR. <http://www.missiocenter.org/newmedia/>

This is a learning opportunity for clergy and lay leaders seeking to understand and use new social media in mission and ministry.

This is what she says on her website:

Culture has shifted from the postmodern age into a new age defined by media. Understanding and harnessing the power of new media is critical for communicating the Gospel in the Media Age. New Media Learning Day provides hands on and practical training in the use of new/social media for churches and leaders.

- Learn about the new cultural context we are in and how media is now defining the culture.
- Learn how New Media fits into a solid theological framework, which will encourage, ground and guide the use of new media in your ministry setting.
- Learn basics for creating key ministry tools (quality, easy use websites and html newsletters)
- Learn about the major media companies and products (Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, YouTube, Google, WordPress, Photoshop Elements, Main Chimp...) and how each can be used to enhance your ministry (outreach, communications and connecting with emerging generations for whom this media is native).
- Learning will be practical and immediately useable within the course of the day!
- Learn about creative possibilities for effective use of media in worship (it’s not what you think)

## Pray, Plan, Act, Assess and Adapt

By Lynn Egli

When you are starting a new ministry, there is almost always a high degree of uncertainty. This is why we talk about “stepping out in faith” and “putting things into God’s hands.” We aren’t in control of all of the variables; especially ones related to the people we are trying to reach. Will people show up? Will they get excited? Will they participate and engage? Will they hang in with us and remain engaged?

The foundation of getting your new ministry off on the right foot is prayer and listening to the Spirit’s guidance. Such spiritual discipline is especially important in the early stages of launching a new ministry. At first, the level of uncertainty is very high and the opportunity to learn is high, as well. We are conducting a “live” experiment in what works and what doesn’t.

I would encourage you to turn these important early experiments into “learning cycles”. A little bit of planning discipline and a lot of prayer can turn even seeming failure into a great learning experience. A learning cycle follows this pattern: pray, plan, act, assess and adapt. Then do it all over again. Pray, plan, act, assess and adapt. Things never work out perfectly according to plan. Never. Never. But that’s ok because we learn from our experience, adapt our plans accordingly and then resume our action. In this way, our team stays together and stays on course toward our ultimate goal. If there are multiple people on your team or you have a set of sponsors, the “learning cycle” approach is especially effective at keeping everyone in the “loop” and incorporating the best ideas into the go-forward plan.

When I was involved in helping start new businesses for Hewlett Packard, applying “learning cycles” to a new start up was absolutely essential. There was no way to anticipate all the twists and turns of a new venture and there was no way to make all the right assumptions or decisions. But that was “ok” because we learned from our experience and incorporated that learning into our go-forward plan.



Lynn Egli

*Lynn Egli is a New Faith Communities Consultant and a retired Director of New Business Development and Vice President of Finance for Hewlett Packard*

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## MissionInsite

Are you interested in finding out about the community surrounding your church? What are their needs, ages, interests? What could be the potentials for starting new ministries in the area? The first step to finding answers to these questions is just one click away [to access our registration information page](#). Please use the Agency Account #oxwx0.

Simply download the registration information and begin exploring your community through up-to-date demographics. The New Start Initiative Team has established a 3 year contract with MissionInsite so that anyone from your congregation can access this information. Here is the address to their website [www.missioninsite.com](http://www.missioninsite.com). Questions? Contact Turella Woods at [turella@umoi.org](mailto:turella@umoi.org)

“REACHING YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
STARTS WITH  
KNOWING YOUR  
COMMUNITY.”

(MISSIONINSITE)

## New Church Leadership Institute West (NCLI West)

March 13-16

Portland First UMC

The new year has begun and you might be pondering in your heart, *“What is next, O God? How am I to grow this year? How do you want me to use my gifts? What do I have yet to discover that will help me open that next window of opportunity?”*

NCLI West is one of the best opportunities to continue that discernment process. During this event you will discover your leadership style and learn about what it takes to plant new faith communities. You will learn how to start house church networks, satellite and multi-site churches, plant multi-cultural faith communities and learn the best practices for starting Hispanic churches.

This is a high quality discernment, training and formation event that will expand your concepts of church as we currently know it. It will empower you to be innovative in our post-modern, multi-cultural ministry contexts in the West. For more information and registration go to [www.umoi.org/ncli](http://www.umoi.org/ncli) Scholarships are available through NSI by contacting Beth Estock at [bethestock@yahoo.com](mailto:bethestock@yahoo.com).

## New Start Initiative Team

Chairperson:  
Staff:

Micro-Grant Chairperson:  
Treasurer:  
Lay Leader:  
Hispanic Ministry Liaison  
Other Members:

Rev. Peg Lofsvold  
Rev. Beth Estock  
Lynn Egli  
Rev. Lee Hunefeld  
Rev. Bill Mullette Bauer  
Cesie Delve Scheuermann  
Rev. Kathy Boyes  
Rev. Lisa Payton  
Christy Dirren  
Rev. Jeff Lowery

