

The Church On The Hill



A Newsletter for members and friends of Waverly Heights Congregational, UCC

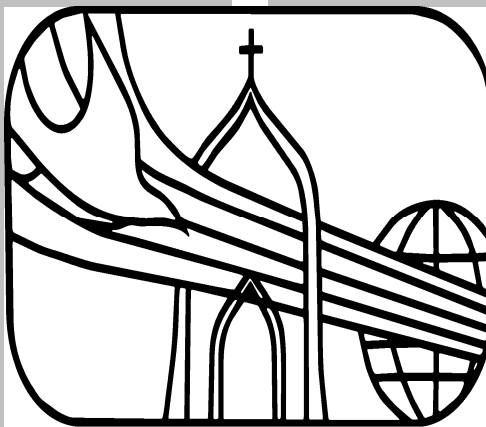
FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 58

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

The Annual Meeting set the reality before us pretty plainly. We've started moving in the right direction. We have a long way to go.

About two years ago the church looked at a long trend of declining membership and resources. You decided this church had a mission that was worth preserving. It was worth committing to full-time pastoral leadership and revitalization of the church. You subsequently called me to join you in this great leap of faith and commitment.

The wonderful and scary part of "church revitalization" is that it is very close kin to "new church start." Realistically, to meet just our financial goals, in another two years every third person you see at church will be someone who is not here now. It's exciting to be shaping a ministry that meets the new realities of our changing neighborhood and society. At the same time, we are not simply a new church start looking to be a "real church" somewhere in the future. We already have a wonderful history, a particular building with all its strengths and limitations, and most important we have people who have been and are the church, right now.



So it is we who *are* the church who have made the leap of faith and commitment. It is a leap—new people will take us in ways we may not even imagine. It is a leap of faith—we can only hope insofar as we recognize that God is the center and the true mover and the goal of our growth. It is a leap of faith and commitment—God will work through us as we give ourselves, more and more

deeply, to God's work.

Some of those new people who will be a part of our lives are folk I will meet and invite. But far more of them will come in response to your invitations, your offers of a ride, your willingness to talk about the church as something you value and love and are proud to be a part of. They will come and return in response to the welcome they feel from all of us: sitting with visitors in worship, introducing yourself and then introducing them to others, asking them to come again.

Exciting. Scary. Exciting. I believe the Spirit is working powerfully here. A glance around the pews most any Sunday testifies to new life growing here in the good soil of this church's history and core values, nurtured by the devotion and care of its members, long time and newly arrived. We have

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responded to God's call. That call is one of leaps now, no shuffling ahead for us. But we can be sure in our balance as we let God be our strength and guide. Let me close this by reminding us again of the fine expression of that balance which this congregation drafted, our mission statement:

Waverly Heights Congregational United Church of Christ welcomes all, honoring each individual's path. We invite everyone to worship God, learn the love of Jesus, care for one another, work for change and reconciliation in our community and the world.

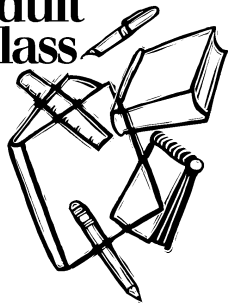
Amen. Your brother in Christ,

David



February 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary we will recognize the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service here at Waverly Heights. Lent is the period leading up to Holy Week and Easter. On Ash Wednesday, as part of the service, we will burn some of the palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration. We receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads marked in these ashes. We prepare our hearts and minds for this season of reflection, repentance, and re-commitment. The service this year will be quiet, meditative. The service of the ashes will be early on, with an opportunity to leave by around 8:00. The latter part of the service will include longer periods of guided and silent meditation for those wishing to stay a full hour.

New Adult Class



Starting February 15th, meeting at 10:00 a.m. sharp, a seven week study of the book *Praying Like Jesus: The Lord's Prayer in a Culture of Prosperity* by James Mulholland. Mulholland is an ordained American Baptist minister. This is a wonderful book, a commentary on the Lord's Prayer full of personal stories and insights that are at once challenging and inspiring. Those who are able to are encouraged to acquire the book and read the introduction and chapter one before the first session, but the class will include readings designed to allow anyone to participate even without prior reading. (Powells.com shows both new and used copies available. Note: pay attention to the subtitle and author – the main title is also used by other books. The Multnomah County Library also shows two copies, currently checked in at

the Central library.) From the jacket: "*Praying Like Jesus* is an invitation to rediscover the life we are called to as Christians—a vow to transform our culture and world. The early Christians prayed like Jesus and were legendary for their acts of compassion and service. Mulholland believes this can and should be the commitment of Christians today."

Sunday Morning Adult Study



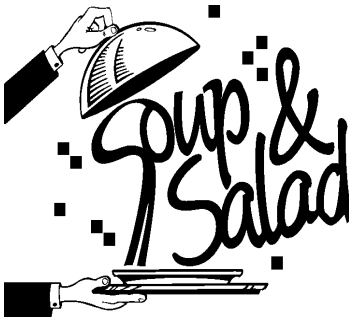
Installation at Hubbard UCC

February 29th, Sunday, at 2pm the Central Pacific Conference will install Rev. Bill Greene as pastor of our UCC church in Hubbard. Installations are great occasions and this is a great opportunity for our small church to show support to another wonderful small church. If you can come, talk to Pastor David and we'll see about carpooling.

An Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation

The first four Wednesday nights in March, from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. we will structure our mid-week meditation time as an introduction to meditation. Curious about what in the world one does sitting silently for ten minutes? Feeling the need to practice perspective and balance in daily living? Perhaps this is for you. (And friends you might want to invite.) Drawing strongly on *Peace is Every Step* by Thich Nhat Hanh, we will learn about, experience, and practice mindfulness, both in set-aside meditation time and in exercises for daily life. Note: Thich Nhat Hanh is a Buddhist monk, but his insights are universal. This book is an extraordinarily clear introduction and invitation to a practice of mindful living that is echoed clearly in Christian contemplatives as well as other faith traditions. This introduction will also touch on those Christian and broader connections that are very much a part of our usual mid-week meditation.

FEBRUARY SOUP AND CULTURE NIGHT

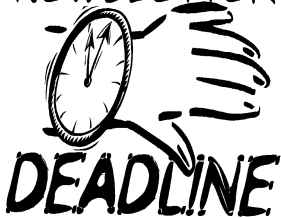


Our soup and culture event in February will be a pre-Valentine's Day evening. On Friday, February 13, we'll start at the usual time (6:15) for supper. We are looking for lots of (CHOCOLATE) desserts for this event. The culture aspect will be creating our own unique and wonderful valentines--to be delivered the next day. Contact Susan Ramsay to volunteer food.

for more info soon.

BINGO will be coming again in March! Look

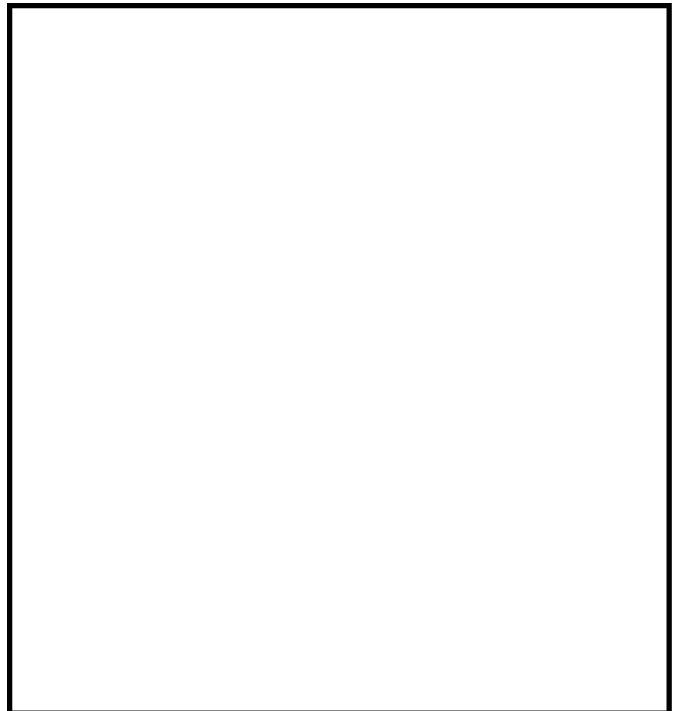
NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH ISSUE



Please submit articles for the March issue no later than February 19th.

Thanks,
Trish Effenberger, Editor

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or comments regarding this newsletter, please feel free to contact Trish Effenberger at 503-698-4301, or by email at effies4@comcast.net





our *shut-ins* who are unable to attend church;

Jan Velez who continues to experience health problems;

and with the *Palumbos* and their lovable dog, *Thatcher*, who has been diagnosed with cancer and will only be with them for a short time.



Many thanks to *Jean Hodges* for volunteering her time hosting fellowship hour after worship service for the month of January.

Waverly's host for February—
Vi Hyde



JOY for the new faces on the consistory—Julie Strayer Thoma as Moderator; David Smith as Treasurer; Melinda Nickels heading up the Hospitality Team; and Andrew Millar (who really came on board mid-year last year) for Social Concerns.

Welcome all!



February 1 — First Congregational UCC, Vancouver, Washington
Ed Evans

February 8 — First Congregational UCC, Hillsboro, Oregon
Diane Dulin

February 15 — United Church of Christ, Forest Grove, Oregon
Dick Kroll
Todd Smiedendorf

February 22 — United Church of Christ, Hubbard, Oregon
Alan Dick (Interim)

JUST 4 YOUTH!

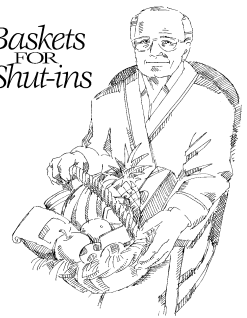
All "4th and Up" families should mark their calendars for a very special event: a sleepover at Waverly! On Saturday, February 21, youth (and chaperones) will be occupying our building. We are still in the planning stages for this so pitch your ideas to Lisa Kane. The following Sunday morning our youth will be preparing their first pancake breakfast for the rest of us. This will be the kick-off event for One Great Hour of Sharing. Judy Millar has volunteered to help with the breakfast, and I'm sure she would love your help. Please let her know.

Souper Bowl of Caring

More than a decade ago, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired the young people of a single Church to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created a legacy that would help others - The Souper Bowl of Caring.

February 1st is **Souper Sunday** across the nation, and in fact the world. Join in donating non-perishable food as a special project for our ongoing mission with FISH. We will be accepting donations during the Sunday service on February 1st.

While you are doing your grocery shopping this week pick up a can (or fill up a grocery bag) and bring it to Church next week. Let's see what our small congregation can do when we join together!



WAVERLY'S WEEK ASSISTING INTER-FAITH FAMILY SHELTER *DAYBREAK*

Waverly will be assisting with the Inter-Faith Family Shelter *Daybreak* for the week of February 8th — 15th at St. David's Church. Anyone interested in helping can contact me—Andrew Millar at 503-234-8634.

Thanks, Andrew



NEWSLETTER NETWORKING



Need some information, service, or goods? Have something to offer to others? Why not call on the wider community we're connected to through the church? Write a short "ad" for this corner of the newsletter. Baby clothes to give away? Looking for someone to mow your lawn? Put the word out here and we all can think of all the folks we know to match up needs and opportunities. Here's one to start:

For Sale: Cute little red car: 2001 Ford Focus, low miles, no dents. This is a great little car with a huge trunk (I have been known to get equipment for a week of camping for four in this trunk). Please contact David or Marie for more info.

Iran earthquake

Dec. 30, 2003

UCC responds with tents, blankets, water, food and medicine.

The death toll from the Friday Dec. 26 earthquake that devastated the historic city of Bam, Iran, is now expected to exceed 30,000, Iranian officials have confirmed.

Just days after the quake leveled the southeastern Iranian city, up to 25,000 bodies had been recovered and buried, Iranian Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi told reporters.

The main challenge facing authorities is in providing food, water and shelter to those made homeless, the BBC reported. However, the scale of this disaster is considerable—with a monumental challenge ahead of rehabilitation and reconstruction, the BBC said.

Riad Jarjour, General Secretary of the Middle East of Churches (MECC), a long-time UCC/CWS partner and member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International network, said that immediate needs are for tents, blankets and medical supplies. MECC has been requested to provide emergency shelter support for those who have survived and are now homeless.

RESPONSE: The UCC has forwarded an initial One Great Hour of Sharing grant of \$10,000 to Church World Service. A UCC pledge of \$50,000 has been made to CWS. CWS has sent an initial emergency grant of \$30,000 to the Middle East Council of Churches Ecumenical Relief Service to support the purchase and distribution of emergency shelter assistance. Iranian partners of the MECC have provided an initial assessment which outlines the provision of temporary shelter to earthquake survivors. MECC has made requests for temporary shelter, food and water assistance.

The UCC is fully committed to supporting the continuing work of CWS and MECC in Iran which may include emergency material airlifts of shelter, hygiene materials and medicine boxes. Initial assessments indicate that full recovery from this disaster will take several years and will include significant re-building efforts.

How you can help

1. Pray for the people of Iran and our partners providing relief aid.
2. Make a designated gift to support the Iran Earthquake Appeal. Donations may be made as follows:

Make a check payable to your local congregation and ask that it be sent through your Conference to Wider Church Ministries, designated for "Iran Earthquake." Following this process enables your congregation and Conference to include your donation in the special support reports of Our Church's Wider Mission.

Send a check payable to Wider Church Ministries, designated for the Iran Earthquake, directly to Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

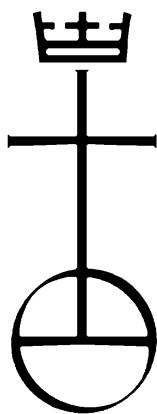
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

3300 SE Woodward
Portland, Oregon 97202
(503) 238-1337
www.waverlyucc.org

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Schedule:
Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

WAVERLY HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ
Welcomes all, Honoring each individual's path**

**We invite everyone to
Worship God, Learn the love of Jesus,
Care for one another
Work for change and reconciliation
In our community and the world.**

February

