

The Church On The Hill



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

MARCH/APRIL 2004 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 59

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

Lent is an appropriate season to reflect on the passion of Christ – but I have chosen not to watch *The Passion of the Christ*. When asked, I've explained that the passion story as presented by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is quite enough for me. Any attempt to present the passion on film is necessarily an interpretation, in this case the gospel according to Mel Gibson. I am confident this is another case of the book being far superior to the movie.



This isn't to say I object to interpretation as such. After all, that's a good part of what I do as a preacher of the Gospel. But I try to interpret in a way that invites others into the picture to also interpret, to understand the Word in their own lives. The minimal, verbal accounts of the passion in the Bible lend themselves to this creative participation in the Word. Film makes this harder because it is so literal, in some ways more literal even than real life experience. With a film we can rewind and check and all agree about what happened. Real life has no rewind. We build our understanding on the stance and sense impressions of particular, human observers living in and through each moment.

I am sure that many viewers of *The Passion of*

the Christ are entering into a new and deeper sense of Christ's suffering. I'm also pretty sure they are taking in with little question many, many details that have no particular foundation in the Bible. This is not a criticism of Mel Gibson's particular choices (though I do think he got some things just wrong) rather it's just the reality of the medium. To make a film requires

countless choices among details never given in scripture. If 'a picture is worth a thousand words' then just a few minutes of film will necessarily contain more information than all four gospels combined.

I don't want to go overboard with this and reject anything beyond the plain words of scripture. For centuries in our tradition, a middle path *has* offered a *visual* entry-point to the passion without the literalism I am objecting to. This is the way of icons, stained glass, and other religious art that places interpretive detail in a stylized framework. I was powerfully reminded of this when I came across paintings of the stations of the cross done by Tanzanian artist Charles Ndege. Here the passion is presented in scenes set in an African village. The setting is stylized – no one will take literally Jesus near a building with a corrugated metal roof, any more than we can take literally the fair-skinned,

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blue-eyed Jesus of our older Sunday School books. But the power of the artist's spiritual interpretation pulses from the facial expressions, the groupings, and the body language of these figures.

I hope to put up copies of these paintings for our last Sundays in Lent. I invite you to meditate on them, let yourself be drawn into them. The way to Easter, the way to resurrection, is the way of the cross. Entering into Jesus' suffering, we can also join him as he receives the suffering of all the world. In our compassion, we too can become beacons of God's love that overcomes even the grave.

Your brother in Christ,

David



Waverly will again be observing Maundy Thursday this year as we gather at 7:00 on April 8th in the Sanctuary for communion and meditation on the Stations of the Cross.

Maundy Thursday Service

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter and since earliest church times has been observed in commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper. Maundy Thursday gets its name from Jesus' "new commandment" (man datum in Latin), to love one another, which he spoke during the Passover meal when he washed his disciples' feet and instituted the Lord's Supper.

The Stations of the Cross invite us to imaginatively enter into Jesus' willing sacrifice for us. They invite us to share Jesus' compassion for the suffering of all people. The meditations on the passion reveal to us again the costliness of grace, the devotion of will that carries Jesus, and us, from the cross to the empty tomb of Easter!

Come and join us as we prepare for Easter together.

LILIES TO GRACE CHANCEL ON EASTER

You are invited to bring a lily to grace our chancel on Easter morning (April 11th) in memory of loved ones no longer with us in body but with us in spirit. If you want to have the names of those the lilies honor to be mentioned during the service please provide this information to David in writing prior to the service.

Should you wish to share a lily with us, please bring the flowers to church early on Easter Sunday.

We do ask that you take home all lilies after the service.



IMPORTANT



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On April 25, 2004 there will be a congregational meeting following the worship service. We will make an important decision about the future of the church by considering a proposal for an addition to our building and further steps toward accessibility. Please come, voice your opinion and be a part of the congregational process!



from FISH

(for our Souper Bowl donation)

"Thank you for your gift of 134 lbs. of food on February 3, 2004.... Your gifts, so graciously given, make the burden a little lighter for (families in need). Thank you for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated by all."



to *Betty Tice* who turned the young age of 88 on February 6th.

Congratulations to *Michelle Kendrick* and *David Smith* who have announced their engagement to be married during worship service on February 15th.



Recently Engaged



Please welcome to Waverly *Elizabeth Harcombe* as our new organist.

ORGANIST



Registration

Registration forms for Camp Adams summer camps are here. The week-long, age-specific camps for 2nd graders on up to High School are great opportunities to deepen understanding and relationship with God, the community, and creation. Folks of all ages and all types of family are welcome too at Family Camp – a great way to begin connecting to the church camp experience at Camp Adams. Early registration, by May 14th, reduces the cost somewhat. Our church also has been raising funds to assist with camp costs so that everyone who wants to go to camp will be able to. Pick up your forms; get Pastor David's signature; and let's get them in for another year of strong participation by Waverly Heights UCC. And if you have any thought that you might be interested in being a counselor for a week, please, please talk to Pastor David about this wonderful opportunity.

NEWSLETTER



Please submit articles for the May issue no later than **April 20th.**

Thanks,
Trish Effenberger, Editor

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FROM WAVERLY...

This newsletter is about the current events of Waverly's ministry and mission. If you wish to have more information and background on Waverly, please feel free to call the church office at 503-238-1337 or email—pastor@waverlyucc.org

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





Prayers for our Waverly members and church friends and also for our relatives, friends and co-workers who are facing continuing health

issues.



**Thanks &
a Tip of
the Hat to...**

Vi Hyde and *Beryl Sellens* for their wonderful job hosting fellowship time after worship service for the month of February. Nice work ladies!

Also, a big thanks to *Helen Feight*, *Marie Zaworski*, *Matthew Sellens*, and *Judy and Andrew Millar* for chipping in to host fellowship time for the month of March! Fantastic job to all!

Waverly's hosts for April—*Amy Hardin* and *Lisa Kane*



Joys for *Carol Palumbo's* granddaughter who was voted Rose Festival Ambassador from Grant High School and for *Thatcher*, the *Palumbos* one-year-old yellow lab, who will be okay after all! For those who don't already know, it was discovered that the tumors on his ribs are not cancerous! The growth on his paw still is so life is good!

It was a joy to see and visit with the *Bengels* who joined us for worship service on February 15th.

Joys for all those who enjoyed time off during spring break and for all those who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries during the month of February and March.



Come! Rejoice! with Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ for the 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, May 2nd, 2004. Worship will begin at 10:30 am. Reverend John Thomas, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, is the guest preacher. Bethel Congregational UCC is located at 480 E Jewett Blvd, White Salmon, Washington.

Celebration dinner following worship. RSVP 509 493-1747.

Upcoming Events Near and Far

For all of these, see fliers on bulletin board downstairs:

Living Fearlessly ... Claiming Our Place – Central Pacific Conference UCC Annual Open and Affirming Celebration, April 25th 4:00 p.m. at Lake Oswego UCC. Music, celebration, ritual, worship. A light meal will follow. Info. 503 635-4348; loucc@pacifie.com

Creation Spirituality Retreat, April 30th – May 2nd at Camp Adams. Learnings from the works of Meister Eckart, Matthew Fox, Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich. Time for creating, silent prayer, worship, communion. Info. call Vivian Hiestand 503 357-9110.

Celebrate the Spirit, Northwest Regional Women's Conference, November 5th – 7th, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort. Always a great experience! Info. call Nancy Klingeman 541 753-3350.

It's All About Evangelism, National Evangelism Event, August 5th-7th, Atlanta, Georgia. Worship led by Jeremiah Wright, Bible Study by Walter Brueggemann. These two are both astonishingly gifted and inspiring.

China Tour, September 8th – 25th. Henry and Jo Diehl, former missionaries in west Africa, will be leading their fourth tour to Beijing and southern China. Opportunities to meet students, Chinese Christians, and missionaries.

EXCELLENT INFORMATION TO PROTECT OURSELVES

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

- * The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them.
- * If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
- * When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, **DO NOT** put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
- * Put your work phone # (or no #) on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
- * Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.
- * Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I

travel either here or abroad.

* We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

* File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line):
1-800-269-0271

Eleven Commandments for Ordinary, Everyday Evangelists

Jane Fidler-Hoffman (reprinted by permission)

1. Decide that you will begin to speak of and share your faith with others. Deciding is a giant step!
 2. Fear Not! Don't be afraid that you will be like those rude, intrusive "evangelists" you have seen or heard. Don't be afraid that you will be thought weird or crazy. Don't be afraid that you must become someone else. Don't be afraid that you will be embarrassed. You must only be yourself—gentle and quiet, or excited and passionate, or hesitant and searching.
 3. Be a disciple. Learn about your faith. Read and study the Bible. If there is no Bible-study group at your church or none that works for your life schedule, start one that does. (Don't wait for someone else to do it!) Ask questions, wonder, reflect, and pray. Think about your relationship with God and with Jesus. Keep a Bible with you for study and reflection or even to share a passage with someone else (you needn't be showy about it—there are nice pocket-sized ones, even some for PDAs). Then pray some more.
 4. Practice speaking of and sharing your faith with children and grandchildren, family, church friends, neighbors. It is okay to start with a little—for example, when speaking about getting through a hard time in your life, just include something like "God led me through" or "Jesus was right there with me."
 5. Identify to yourself and pray for (by name when possible) those in your life who do not seem to know God's love for them—these can be individuals you know who seem to have no faith, or have no church-home, or who have expressed loneliness or need and can be groups like the "kids in the neighborhood" or the family next-door. Make a short list, and pray everyday for them.
 6. Trust God's Spirit in you. You are not alone! You don't have to be perfect or "finished" before you can share God's good news. Say what you know or have experienced. God can and will work through "even" you.
 7. Be part of a supportive, local-church community and encourage its intentional, planned, evangelical mission. Discourage calling evangelism what is really just survivalism for an institution. Evangelism is a community vocation as well as individual. Invite others to be part of your community of Jesus followers.
 8. Don't be tempted to trade your mission and justice activity for intentional evangelism. They are all part of a whole Christian life. Bring your evangelism into your social concern and your social concern into your ministry as an evangelist.
 9. Remember what evangelism is and isn't about. It is not about you, so don't worry about failing or being embarrassed. It is not about getting new members for your church. It is God's work that we get to join. It is about the good news of God's love that you know through your relationship with Jesus and helping others to receive and experience that love.
 10. Listen to the needs, concerns, fears, doubts, and questions of others. Evangelism is not "preaching at" others; it is not lecturing, judging, shaming, probing inappropriately, pushing, or overwhelming. Evangelism happens best in relationship, whether short-(your dentist, person on a bus) or long-term. As you engage with others, admit what you don't know or aren't sure of and invite further exploration together.
 11. Just do it! Don't just attend workshops, read about, or talk about evangelism at church. Don't wait for someone else to do something. Just try it. And try it again. Don't worry. Let God work in you.
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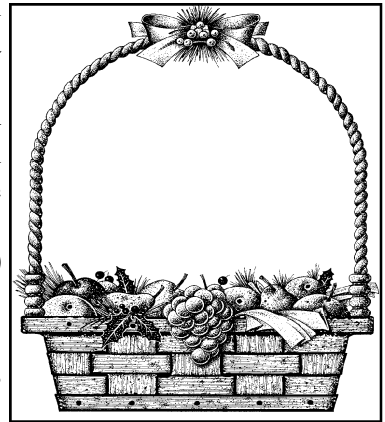
WAVERLY'S ANNUAL BAKE SALE AND BASKET RAFFLE



It's time once again for Waverly's annual bake sale and basket raffle scheduled on Easter Sunday, April 11th, after worship service. We are looking for volunteers to bring baked goods. If you have something you would like to contribute and/or have any questions, please contact Lisa Kane.

We will also be having an Easter basket filled with a variety of goodies to raffle off. It will be available to view and to purchase tickets on April 4th as well as the day of the drawing on Easter Sunday. Raffle tickets will cost \$1.00 each.

All proceeds from both events will go towards Camp Adams' camperships.



Egg Hunt for Kids

Waverly's Easter Egg hunt is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am on Easter Sunday followed by worship service at 11 am.

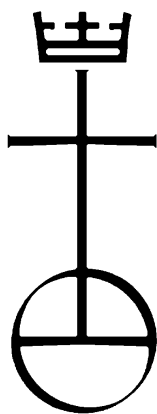
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**

