

The Church On The Hill

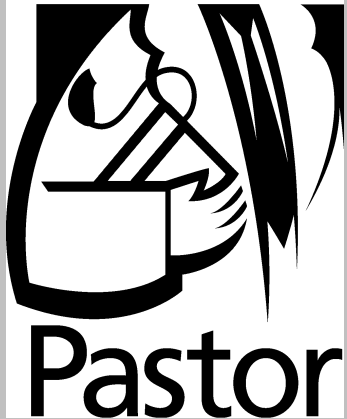


A Newsletter for members and friends of Waverly Heights Congregational, UCC

**JUNE/JULY 2004 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 61**

**DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR**

FROM THE



Pastor

Moving Toward Just Peace – Together. That was the theme of this year's Central Pacific Conference Annual Assembly held in Corvallis this last week. It was a particularly great assembly for me on a number of levels: Corvallis is my home church and I also was part of their last

interim pastoral team so it was delightful to see so many friends; I was privileged to work with many gifted folks from around the conference in planning and leading the many worship times over the weekend; the keynote speaker, Susan Thistlethwaite, is the president of my seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, and she also brought with her David Pattee, a classmate of mine who is now vice-president of the seminary; and last but by no means least, I found the theme of the assembly thoroughly compelling.

The idea of 'Just Peace Church' powerfully expresses important themes of our UCC heritage for this time of war, fear, and division. We are not called to a pacifism that separates itself from the world (think Amish). Nor can we blindly pretend

that modern wars are ever fought under the terms of classical just war doctrines (formulated primarily by Catholic and Lutheran scholars). We are called to active engagement in the world. Engagement rooted in God's call for peace that includes the well-being of all peoples, all creation. Engagement recognizing that without justice, peace and security are impossible. Engagement in our actual day-to-day living as individuals, as citizens, as communities of faith.

Susan's talks were compelling. She is an editor and contributor to the two major books on Just Peace. She presented real steps that we, individuals, churches, nations, can start taking now toward peace with justice. She spoke frankly of the struggles, the need for expanding the conversations about just peace to include more interfaith voices and more women from around the world. She spoke about the costs, the reality of hate mail and threats put together from cut-out letters. She knows that cost because she is not just at assemblies such as ours, preaching to the choir as it were. She is a voice in the broader culture. Perhaps her most challenging word to us was that we, too, need to engage the broader culture while holding fast to our own faithfulness. For example, we need to listen, at least some, to Christian talk radio, and we need to call in with our own Christian witness. We need to offer that witness in the spirit we profess – a spirit of peace, compassion, and respect for all others, perhaps especially those with whom we most disagree.

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org

This fall I hope we will set aside time to explore what it would mean for us here at Waverly Heights UCC to declare ourselves a Just Peace church, to understand ourselves and our mission in the light of a Just Peace calling.

One last thought for now: Susan's final word to us was a passionate reminder that our hope is not in the results of this November's or any election, rather our hope is in Jesus Christ who gives us peace and calls us to live boldly as God's servants for all world. Anything less will fail us, but our hope will not disappoint us. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, in whom we have the grace to live God's just peace. Our life, our way, our strength for each day – our hope is in Jesus Christ.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,
David

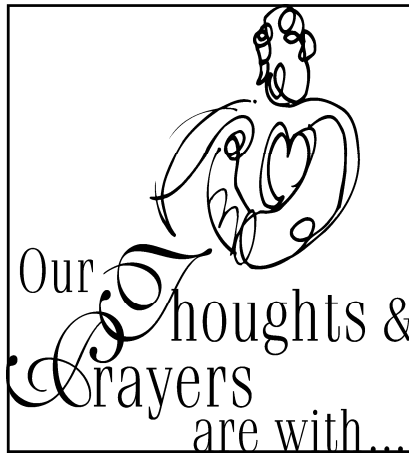


Portland Pride Parade

On June 20th, Portland will again celebrate with a Gay Pride Parade. Put on your Waverly T-shirts and come join the celebration. Once again this year we will be marching with other Open and Affirming UCC congregations. The gathering place has changed this year; it's now NW 15th between Glisan and Kearney. They'd like folk to gather at 10:45 a.m. but some of us will just get down as promptly as we can after our worship services. (We also received an invitation from First church to a brief pre-parade service at 9:30 a.m. 1126 SW Park.) In the past we've had transportation for those who wanted to be part but can't walk that far. For more info talk to Pastor David and/or check the website at www.pridenw.org. Plan on attending; think about the weather (sunscreen, water); come join this great celebration!

Summer Schedule – Looking Ahead

- June 6th – Summer schedule begins: 10 a.m. Worship and children's activities
- June 14th – Consistory (note change from usual week)
- June 20th – Portland Pride Parade, immediately after church
- June 25th – 47th anniversary of the United Church of Christ
- July 9-11th – David leading Central Pacific Conference Family Camp at Camp Adams
- July 12th – Consistory (note change from usual week)
- July 24th – Yard Sale, in conjunction with neighborhood fair
- August 3 – 13th David on Vacation
- August 27-29th – Waverly at Waverly, our all church weekend at Camp Adams



Margaret and Macy Hyde and their family after the recent passing of her brother-in-law;

Beryl Sellen's and her family after the recent passing of her father;

Lisa Kane's niece who has been diagnosed with autism but hopefully, because it was caught at an early age (3 1/2), proper attention can be provided through special education;

Amy Hardin's mother as she transitions into an assisted living facility;

Jan Velez's brother and father who are experiencing health concerns;

continued prayers for **Michelle Kendrick** and her family as she undergoes chemotherapy treatment to battle ovarian cancer and for a speedy recovery;

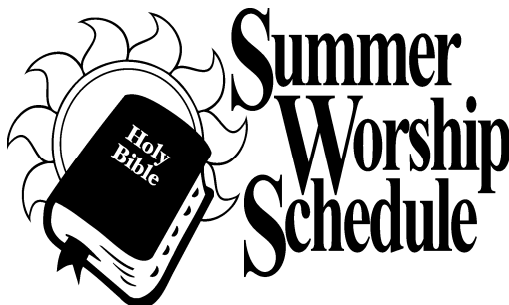
a joy for **Marie Zaworski's** sister who recently married but also prayers for this sister who has been diagnosed with a tumor on her kidney;

and prayers for **Thatcher's** quick recovery after undergoing recent surgery to remove his right front leg. For a while he will wear a harness which will help him learn to adjust his balance to walk and run on his remaining legs.

NEWSLETTER Please submit articles for the August issue no later than July 19th.

Thanks,
Trish Effenberger, Editor

*****GREAT JOY for Jean Hodges** who had her hedge trimmed by an anonymous good samaritan***

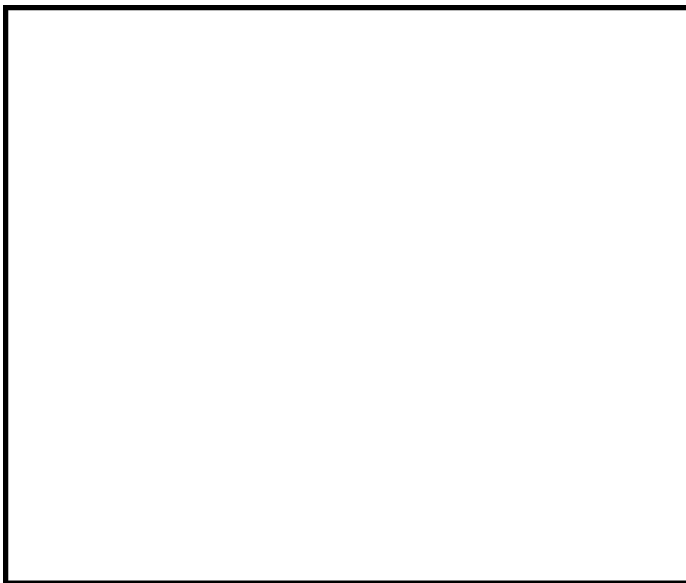


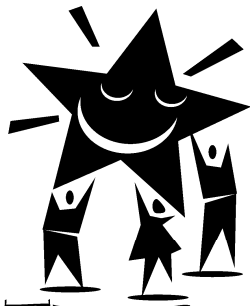
Sunday, June 6th, begins our first summer worship schedule. Worship will begin one hour earlier at 10:00 am. Spread the word—we don't want to miss any one of you!

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





Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Hosts for June—
Glen Pullen and Diane Rynerson

Hosts for July—
Margaret Hyde and Helen Feight

Thanks to *Carol Palumbo* and also to the *Hydes, Hardins, Millars* and *Helen Feight* who assisted her hosting fellowship time after worship service through out the month of May.

A big thanks to all!



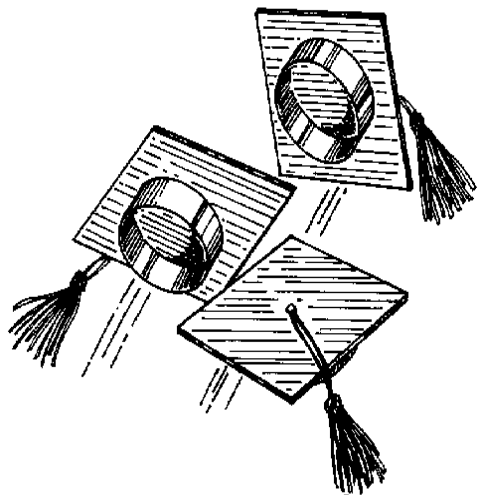
Church Yard Sale

This year Waverly Height's second annual yard sale (in conjunction with the neighborhood fair) will be held on July 24th. Now is a good time to start saving up your good quality items! Please bring your items the morning of the sale. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information as this date draws nearer.

All members and friends of the church are invited to help out to make this all-church event a great success!

Interfaith Council of Greater Portland Shura -- Open Interfaith Gathering

The location has been set for the next ICGP Shura. We will get together for a challenging dialogue about the Israeli-Palestine crisis on June 6, 3pm to 6pm at Portland State University Campus Ministry, 633 SW Montgomery in downtown Portland. Speakers will include Frank Afranji and Rabbi Joseph Wolfe, active members of Portland's ground-breaking Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Group. Learn about this challenging issue for our times from a diverse group of leaders from the local Jewish and Muslim community. The Shura includes prayer, forum presentation, and fellowship meal.



Holly Effenberger, daughter of Trish and Gary Effenberger, is graduating from Clackamas High School on June 2nd, 2004. Holly has been accepted at Pacific University in Forest Grove and will begin her studies this coming fall and is planning to double major in media arts and photography.

CONGRATULATIONS HOLLY!

JESUS DIDN'T TURN PEOPLE AWAY. WILL WE?

If you've read David's reflections on the Annual Meeting in Corvallis you've already had a taste of the opportunities we experienced in the form of workshops, lectures, worship and fellowship. I'd like to share with you something entirely different yet equally as exciting that we learned about over the course of the weekend. On Saturday Jean Avison, Meridian UCC, provided us with information (and a bit of a pep talk) about UCC advertisements that will air on television in the Portland area beginning in mid-November. These ads are well produced and they will potentially bring new people to our front doors. In the test markets thus far some churches have grown by as much as 25 percent. The ad she showed depicts a church in the background and up a bit of a hill. The access to this church is guarded by two large burly bouncer looking fellows whose job seems to be selecting who gains entry into the church and who is turned away. You see some who get in, some who will never make it through the doors. Then the screen goes black and you read in bold letters: JESUS DIDN'T TURN PEOPLE AWAY. Another black screen and: NEITHER DO WE. Finally, black screen with the letters UCC.ORG. In the end we see the kum-by-ya moment of smiling faces, which isn't as corny as I'm making it out to be. I personally thought the ads were powerful. Of course, I probably don't need to tell you that the ads may bring people through the door and it will be our job from there on out. Will we be ready for these potential visitors? Jean gave us practical suggestions about web page layouts and links as this will be how the people will find our church. I know we can be ready for that and we can be ready with the warmth, hospitality and vibrant energy that flows through our church.

Julie Strayer Thoma



Our last day of Sunday School is June 13th. After that it's Celebrate Summer!!

We need helpers

to sign up to lead our kids in a fun activity each week until school starts in September. There will be a sign up sheet in the church basement.

Honoring Our Sunday School

On Sunday, June 13th, we will honor our Sunday School Teachers during Sunday Service. We will also present Bibles to those students finishing third grade. We will have hot dogs and dessert following. Join us to say thank you to our teachers!

Thank You,
Teachers!

NORTHWEST REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE VII

When: November 5, 6, & 7 2004

Where: Kah-Nee-Ta Resort
Warm Springs, Oregon

Why: To Celebrate the Spirit

How Much: Registration fee to July 1st \$140.00
After July 1st the fee is 165.00
Includes Friday dinner through Sunday Brunch
Lodging is extra and runs \$55.00 - \$164.00 for
two nights

Registration forms are available on the table in our Fellowship Hall.

The key note speaker for this regional is Rev. Rosemary McCombe Maxey. At the present time Rev. McCombe Maxey is acting director of the Eagle Butte Learning Center (a ministry of the Council for American Indian Ministry of the UCC) in Eagle Butte, SD.

There will also be an opportunity to take part in various workshops in keeping with the theme of Celebrate the Spirit.

for further information see either Deanna Mason or Jan Velez

I envy Kevin.

My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6-foot-2), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different.

Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays-oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights. And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth of power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be. His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax.

He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap - I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances - they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin won't be surprised at all!

FRIENDS ARE ANGELS WHO LIFT US TO OUR FEET WHEN OUR WINGS HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING HOW TO FLY

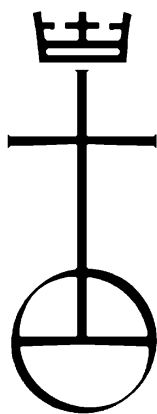
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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

Pastor: David Zaworski

Summer Worship Schedule:
Sunday - 10:00 A.M.
Beginning June 6th

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.**

