

The Church On The Hill



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

**OCTOBER 2004 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 64**

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



As I sit down to write this, we are well launched into another program year. Sunday School is expanded to two classes, plus the nursery and

going wonderfully. Our worship together is feeding and challenging me, and I hope you all, too. We've set dates for the halloween carnival, New Zealand soup & culture night, and more fun fellowship times. We're showing our caring for the wider community and world in generous giving to refugee relief and in local canvassing against constitutional amendment 36. I'm feeling so good about our shared ministry here at Waverly Heights UCC.

And tonight, we'll have a special budget meeting of the Consistory. When you all called me to be your full-time pastor, it was a choice to commit money from reserves to regrowing this church to the point that it can again sustain full-time ministry for the long haul. We figured we had about three years to do that. Two years are under

our belt. All the movement is in the right direction – new people, new energy, renewed commitments, and yes, greater income. Not, of course, that's it's all we could hope for – the reality we'll look at tonight is that we're facing a couple of very tight years.

Long ago the Israelites sent spies ahead of them into the promised land, and they came back reporting that the land was inhabited by fearful giants. Nonetheless, they were called ahead, into the promise of God, trusting in God. Sometimes budget woes can feel like fearful giants, but nonetheless, it is God who calls us. God is with us. We can trust God.

So, this is a great time in the life of the church to look at all the ways God has blessed us and to look ahead in expectation of God's ongoing blessings. We'll be doing some of that with our stewardship campaign – look for more in the weeks ahead. And we'll continue to pray and celebrate, to listen for God's call and to respond, to be God's faithful people here at Waverly Heights UCC. It's a wonderful year!

Your brother in Christ,
David

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org

Upcoming Events in the Conference

October 2nd, Saturday, 4-6pm. Reception to honor the retirement of Barbara Curry from the Central Pacific Conference office staff. First Congregational Church, Portland, 1137 SW Broadway.

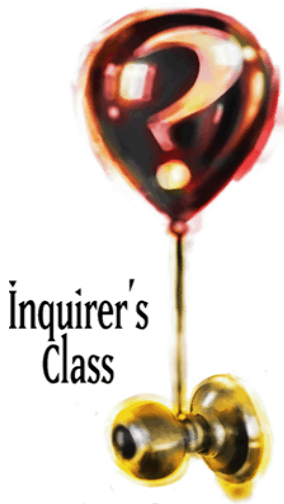
October 3rd, Sunday, 5pm. Installation of Rev. Cora Bunny Oliver at Beavercreek UCC, dinner reception following. 23345 S. Beavercreek Rd. Talk with Lisa Kane about carpooling.

October 8th-10th, Fri-Sun. Spiritworks at Camp Adams. Still time to register. See the schedule at church.

October 17th, Sunday, 3pm. Ecclesiastical Council for the Ekalesia Samoa UCC, reception following. Kairos-Milwaukie UCC, 4790 Logus Rd. Milwaukie. Talk with Melinda Nickels about carpooling.

October 23rd, Saturday, 2-4pm. Parkrose Community UCC Tea Party and Fun Fashun Stile Show. RSVP 503 253-5457.

October 24th, Sunday, 3:30pm. Ecclesiastical Council for Vivian Hiestand, reception following. Forest Grove UCC, 2032 College Way, Forest Grove. Talk with Julie Strayer Thoma about carpooling.



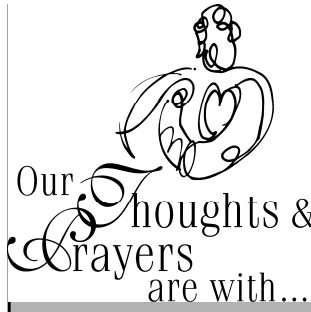
Interested in membership or just curious about Waverly Heights and the United Church of Christ? Plan to attend the Inquirers' Class following worship on October 10th and 24th. We'll grab a cup of coffee or tea at the fellowship time, then meet in Hyde Hall from about 12:15 to 1:00pm. This is a chance to learn more about the church and to explore your own faith calling. For any who choose to join, we'll be receiving new members into the church at our regular service on Sunday, November 7th. If you are interested, but the after church class time doesn't work for you, please talk to pastor David.



Waverly Halloween Carnival October 29

The Waverly Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for an evening of games, food, prizes, and fun. Please come in costume if you can. Admission will be 1 can of non-perishable food to be donated to local food banks.

Volunteers will be needed to staff the game booths and help in the kitchen, and sign-up sheets will be posted at the Church. There will be a carnival set-up party on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. Glen Pullen is serving as this year's carnival coordinator, and any questions can be directed at him. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!



Esther Hevener and *Lorraine Campagna* who have suffered strokes. Both are back in their homes;

Jan Velez as she continues to face various health concerns;

and continued prayers for those who are still serving in Iraq.

Joyful prayers for *Jeanne Beatty* as she celebrated her recent 79th birthday with all of her family gathered around!



Leona Hansen for your exceptional job hosting fellowship time after worship service for the month of September.

Our host for October—
Deanna Mason

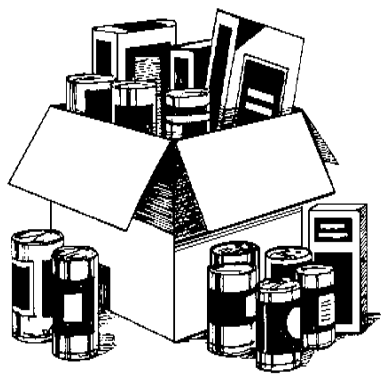


Please submit articles for the November issue no later than October 25th.

Thanks,
Trish Effenberger,
Editor

FISH Donations

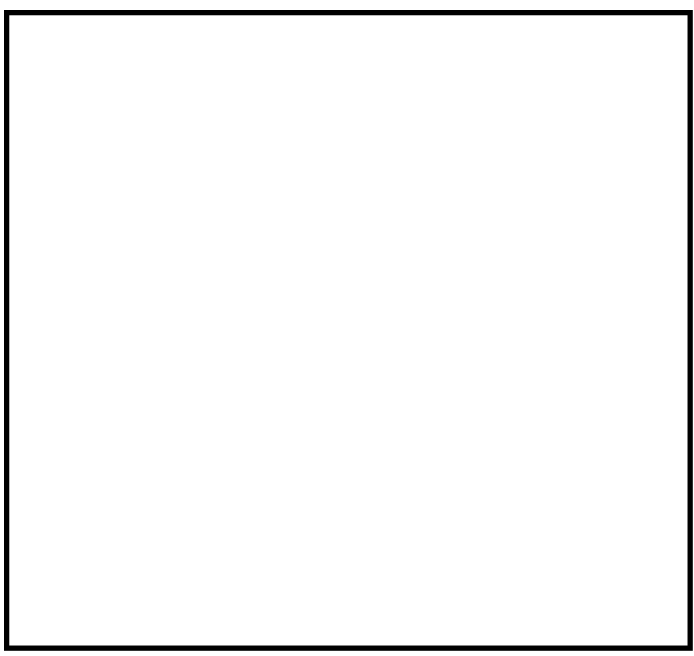
Fifty-nine pounds of food was delivered to FISH in September. Thanks to all who contributed!



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



Constitutional Amendment 36 Question and Answer

Q: Why are we presenting this information?

A: Our UCC Central Pacific Conference made a clear statement opposing any efforts to bar gays and lesbians from equal rights to the benefits of marriage. Now that measure 36 has made it onto the ballot, that commitment translates to strongly opposing measure 36. In our United Church of Christ tradition, the Conference does not speak for any individual church or member. But it does speak to us and with us at all levels. One of our covenant obligations as part of the larger UCC is to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the pronouncements made by the Conference.

Q: What is Constitutional Amendment 36 and what would it do?

A: Measure 36 would amend the Oregon Constitution to state that marriage is only between one man and one woman. At a minimum, this change would ban gay marriage.

Q: Why should Oregon voters vote No on Constitutional Amendment 36?

A: Constitutional Amendment 36 would hurt real people by putting unequal treatment for gays and lesbians into our Constitution. The rights of children and families to health insurance, fair inheritance, and the ability to make life-saving medical decisions that heterosexual couples take for granted would be taken away and denied to same-sex couples.

Measure 36 would hurt all Oregonians by enshrining unequal treatment in our constitution, the highest law of our state. We may disagree about social issues such as marriage but those disagreements do not belong in our Constitution.

Q: I think we should leave marriage alone and just push for civil unions.

A: Civil unions, even at their best, do not provide the same broad recognition in law as marriage, so many of the things married couples take for granted might not be covered by a civil union. We should continue a conversation in Oregon about civil unions and marriage, but putting unequal treatment in our constitution this November would end that conversation.

Q: I think marriage is between a man and a woman. Voting Yes is the only way I can support that.

A: Oregonians may disagree about social issues such as marriage. But, social disagreements don't belong in our Constitution. You do not have to approve of gay marriage to vote no.

Q: Why are some people supporting this measure?

A: Some people have sincere beliefs that homosexuality is sinful; anything which tolerates homosexuality must therefore be actively resisted. Some people just want things to be 'the way they always were.' And some people, sadly, live in fear of anyone different and any ideas that challenge their own habits of thought.

Q: How do we as an Open and Affirming congregation respond to these concerns?

A: We do not believe homosexuality is sinful. We do recognize and honor religious differences – and so we oppose efforts to place just one religious perspective into our constitution.

When we study the Bible and history, it's more than clear that there never has been one simple obvious understanding of what marriage is. We can learn more and help educate those who are nostalgic for an imaginary past; we can focus on the real human rights and needs that are threatened now.

And for those who live in such terrible fear that they strike out at our neighbors, our families, our friends, for them we can pray and offer all the love and compassion we can muster.

Neighbors In Need expresses the United Church of Christ's commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico, as we speak prophetically to those in power and advocate for the voiceless. In the spirit of Christ, we seek to confront

evil in the world and to alleviate suffering through justice advocacy and direct service. Neighbors In Need supports ministries that address poverty, economic development, human rights, peacemaking, violence, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns, and public policy advocacy. This special mission offering begins the first Sunday of October.

Through our generous gifts to Neighbors In Need, the United Church of Christ is offering hope to millions of people; we are transforming lives, the nation, and our world.



Life out of destruction: Justice for flood survivors

"Isn't this a beautiful rain?" A woman asked. "Isn't this a beautiful soft rain?" And it was that kind of rain on a warm fall day in North Carolina.

But it was raining on a county devastated by back-to-back hurricanes, first Dennis and then Irene. In Princeville, the town where the woman who asked the question lived, the water reached the top of the traffic light and then it covered it. The waste from hog farms and sewers floated in the water. Dead animals swirled in the currents. It was a toxic, destructive soup.

Many of the residents of Princeville who hadn't had much to begin with lost everything. They relied on food and drinking water dropped from helicopters and they found shelter where they could.

The woman who remarked on the rain, the beautiful rain, was one of those people. In the midst of devastation, after losing everything, she could still see the beauty of God's work.

Soon, the water dropped and the traffic light became visible again. But there was cleaning up to do, the slow, difficult work of recreating lives and towns from heaps of rubble. Immediately after the flooding, the Franklinton Center at Bricks, a UCC retreat center, served as a shelter and a center for food and clothing distribution. But their work didn't end when the waters subsided.

But there was more to do than cleaning. The Center held a summit for the flood survivors so they could express their anger and frustration with state and federal authorities. That summit created change in the way the state dealt with disaster relief. They asked flood survivors to join the state council. They began to train local members of the community in how to respond to disasters.

In keeping with their mission as part of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, in keeping with the tradition of the Center, it gave a voice to the voiceless, gave them a place and space to stand up, to protest, to ask questions, to act. The Neighbors in Need appeal helps to fund justice advocacy programs at the Franklinton Center at Bricks and its quest for justice for those people in the rural area surrounding the center.

Soup and "Culture" Night is Back!

We are starting back on our very popular evenings of eating and community fellowship. I have a rough schedule for the next couple of months, and am always willing to incorporate some new ideas. This year we'll be having some very fun evenings, some inspired by the children, and all guaranteed to be interesting. Come and see.

September 24--BINGO!

October 29--Traditional Halloween Carnival

November 19--New Zealand Night (being brought to us by the Kanés)

December 17--S'mores Smoregasbord (hosted by Julian Kane, and he assures us there will be real food
before the s'mores)

December 22--Child's Christmas in Wales

January ???--I sincerely hope we will be able to put on another Burns Night since we are all developing a taste now for haggis, thanks to Stuart!

That's enough for now. Although I will tell you that in June we will be having an ice cream social and !!TALENT SHOW!! Start practicing now.

Marie

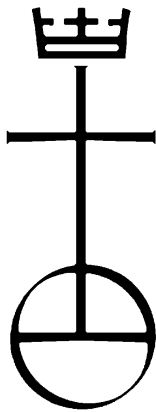
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Service:
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.**

 **October**
