

The Church On The Hill



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

JANUARY 05 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 67 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

New Year
Message
from the
Pastor



A new calendar year begins and a new season of the church year. The season of Epiphany starts January 6th. In common use, the word epiphany means “a

comprehension or perception of reality by means of a sudden intuitive realization” as in “Seeing her son dressed and ready for the prom was an epiphany – he was no longer a child.” In the church, the season of Epiphany begins with the coming of the Magi – the first non-Jews to perceive something of the reality of Jesus.

Tradition, therefore, focuses this season on missions – bringing the Good News to those beyond the fold. It’s a good time to remind ourselves that all around us are people who have no idea of the reality of our life as a Christian community. Or perhaps they do have an *idea*, but it is nothing like the reality. The popular-culture picture of church and Christian faith too often is about equal parts of pious hypocrisy, sentimental delusion, and rigid narrow-mindedness. We could spend some time

bemoaning this state of things and its various causes, but I’d rather focus on the piece we can do something about. We can boldly and clearly proclaim the heart of Christian faith that brings *us* together in *this* church. We live in the grace of a God who accepts us fully – just as we are. We live in the power of a God who is continually transforming us into the fullness of God’s own image – known to us in the divine fullness of humanity of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is one of radical welcome and hospitality – the welcome Jesus extended to the ‘unacceptable’ people of his day: the poor, tax-collectors, diseased and infirm... In the words of our UCC ad campaign, ‘Jesus didn’t turn people away; neither do we.’

Our faith is in transformation – lives changed, liberated, renewed. This is not about changing everyone to fit some one, narrow, culturally-bound notion of goodness. This is about opening ourselves to God’s power to lift up all the good in us, just as we are created, to guide and strengthen us to live the unique full lives that God intends for each one of us. It’s about listening for God’s word still speaking to and through each of us.

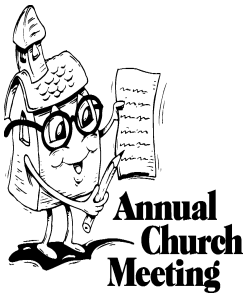
We are not a faith community that makes a lot of claims about having arrived, having the answers, knowing some simple formula for guaranteed happiness and salvation. We are more a band of

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org

pilgrims, travelers together, helping each other along, sharing delight in the new vistas of challenge and joy that God opens out for us around each bend. In this season, let us be particularly mindful of ways we can invite others to walk a ways with us on this journey, ways we can offer the chance of a great epiphany, "I never knew church could be such a wonderful place!"

Your brother in Christ,

David



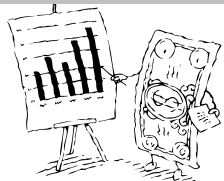
Waverly's annual church meeting will be held January 9, 2005 following an all-church potluck immediately after worship. Members and friends are all welcome!

Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace

Sunday, January 9th at 4:00 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland. The service will last approximately 1 hour and will include a reading of some of the names of the victims of the Iraqi war (both Americans and Iraqis). It will also include songs of lamentation and hope from different faith traditions, prayers and possibly scripture readings from different religions. There will also be time to share in silence. The service will conclude with people leaving with candles to symbolize the hope for peace. Please consider lending your presence to this event – there is hope of a large turnout to bring encouragement to those who long for peace.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Kaiser Permanente is seeking open, compassionate and dependable individuals to serve as volunteers in our Hospice program. Kaiser's Hospice program cares for over 1,200 terminally ill individuals in our community each year. Currently we have a special need for volunteers in Northeast Portland, East Multnomah County, and Vancouver. Volunteers perform up to 4 hours of service per week. In-depth volunteer training classes are held four times per year. You need not be a Kaiser member to participate in our volunteer program. Volunteers are critically needed and deeply appreciated by caregivers providing end of life care for their family and friends. To learn more, please call Melinda Smith at 503 499 5408.



Stewardship Update

Stewardship Success

Thank you to all who made our annual stewardship campaign a wonderful success this year. Many people worked hard to bring together the information and photos in our 'Waverly Family Albums' and to get those around to our members and friends. Those albums are a beautiful testimony to our shared ministry here at Waverly Heights and a call to support that ministry. And we responded! The total of 27 operating budget pledges for 2005 is \$37,392, exceeding our goal of 36,000.

We also have pledges of support without specific dollar amounts from many individuals and families. We still have a lot of work ahead to reach a break-even budget before our reserves are gone, but this puts us well on track. We also can be proud of supporting Our Church's Wider Mission with pledges of \$2,078. Again, thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this great witness to God's work here in this church.

Scottish Night

Once again we celebrate Robert Burns and all things Scottish Friday, January 21st starting around 6:15 p.m. Our usual soup, salad, and bread will be crowned by the Haggis. Following the supper we'll move upstairs to hear some of the poetry of Burns presented by Stuart Ramsay and bagpipes played by Alistair Ramsay. Come, invite your friends, enjoy this lively evening of food for body and for soul.



I'm sure I speak for all of the choir and congregation when I send huge thanks to Theo Burke, organist/pianist/choir director for the magnificent job he did, leading the "Waverly Pick-up, No Hassle Choir" for the Christmas season. His professional attitude, musical talent, and warm and generous spirit made us want to learn our parts, and have fun in the process. We hope to work with him again, one day soon!

Nancy Tice

Save This Date

LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: OUR OWN AND OUR NEIGHBOR'S. Saturday, April 30th, 2005, 9:30 a.m.-5:00p.m. First Congregational UCC Salem. Keynoters: *Gunnar Christiansen*, Chairman of Faith Net California Alliance for the Mental Ill and *Reverend Craig Rennebohm*, Chaplain for Mental health Chaplaincy Seattle. This event is sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference UCC and is offered to the congregations of the CPCUCC and all interested persons working to create welcoming and caring communities.

Free Concert – Art Abrams Swingtet



The Parkrose UCC 2004-05 Concert Series presents Art Abrams Swingtet Saturday, February 5th; 7:00 p.m. Admission Free. As a concert jazz orchestra this band has played at the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, the Cathedral Park Jazz festival, Hood River's Apple Jam, and just about every major concert series in Oregon. Their styles include big band, swing, blues, and jazz. Parkrose UCC is located one block south of Sandy Blvd. 4715 NE 106th Avenue, Portland. For more information contact Patrick Ervin, Music Director, 503 253-5457.

Christmas Programs Celebrated

Once again we've had a great, and busy, Advent/Christmas season here at Waverly Heights. A great round of thanks to all who made everything happen, who gave not only of time and talent but also brought a powerful spirit to all our activities, celebrations, and services. We decorated the Christmas trees, had a s'mores party (first annual?), listened as some returning and some new readers brought us A Child's Christmas in Wales. We recalled the Christmas story and brought it a little closer to home with the children's pageant. We celebrated again the birth of Jesus, offering our own trust as a gift to the babe in our Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services.

Out of all the many, many people who contributed so much to all these events, let's particularly remember and give thanks for all the pick-up choir members and for Theo Burke who took on directing the choir, and for Mark Hardin and the beautiful Annunciation song he wrote and performed. And yes, thanks to Thatcher our three-legged Waverly church dog whose only bark ever in church came at precisely the right moment in the pageant. Again, thanks to all who made things happen and all who graciously attended and so warmly received these celebrations.



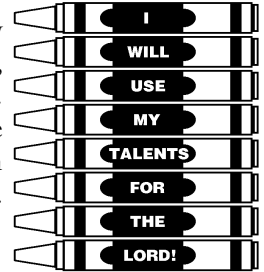
We will be taking a special offering for earthquake/tsunami relief on the last Sunday in January. Donations marked for this can be sent to the church at any time. Giving through the church we can work with our partner churches and other agencies in the region to assure that money given truly provides aid to those most in need, both short and long-term.

Lecture: Dr. Tilden Edwards

“Living with the Mind in the Heart: Contemplative Gifts for Self and Society” 7:30 p.m. January 21st at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Cost \$15. At the Friday evening lecture, Edwards will look at contemplative practice in both Buddhist and Christian traditions, address challenges of practice and include a brief guided meditation to help us taste first hand what it is to live with the mind in the heart. To purchase tickets or for more information call the Center for Spiritual Development at 503 478-1218 or go to trinity-episcopal.org and follow the links.

Time and Talent

In our ‘Waverly Family Albums’ we celebrated all the wonderful ministries of this congregation and asked for support from our ‘treasure.’ We’ve made that commitment to strong financial support. Now we need to remind ourselves of the equally important commitments of our time and talent. We also need to know what everyone likes to do and what each one’s talents are. This is especially important as we bring in new members and friends and as they move into leadership positions on the Consistory (our governing board) – the Consistory members aren’t supposed to do everything, just find the folks to get everything done. Please take a few moments to fill out the ‘Time & Talent Inventory’ and return it to the church sometime in the first few weeks of January. Thank you!



MEN'S RETREAT

Pacific Northwest UCC Men's Retreat

“Stirring, Shaping and Stretching Our Spiritual Selves” February 4-6 Pilgrim Firs Conference Center (in Washington). Program leaders: Tom Hunter, Minister, Singer, Songwriter, Educator; Alan Johnson, Minister, Hospital Chaplain, Champion of Men's Ministry; and Phil Porter, Dancer, Movement Workshop Leader Alan, Phil and Tom will blend their talents with our combined wisdom. We will explore both the satisfactions we experience as men in our faith lives and where we yearn for a greater sense of spiritual aliveness. Please bring a friend or family member who has not yet joined us and use this weekend as a catalyst in forming a new men's group in your church or as a way to bring new spirit into an existing men's ministry. Early Registration Fee (total cost of event) is \$85...and \$90 after December 31, 2004 (Financial Assistance is available. Please ask). This is an open and affirming retreat, all men are welcome.

A Day of Silence. Larry Kiriluk, Facilitator. A time to "just be" in silence in this beautiful setting: journaling, walking, group silence, some reading, and cared-for spaces to follow your heart. Opening session begins at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3. Silence begins at 10 p.m. and ends on Friday at 4 p.m. Cost: \$50 for 3 meals and 1 night lodging.

(This charge is in addition to the regular Retreat Registration fee).



2005 Summer Camping At Camp Adams

- Work Camp (youth 12-17 & adults) June 26-29
- Family Camp June 29-July 2
- Young Adult (post-graduation – 30yrs) June 26-July 2
- Pathfinders (completed grade 6) July 3-9
- Discoverers (completed grades 4-5) July 10-16
- Sojourners (completed grades 7-8) July 17-23
- Genesis/Seekers (completed grades 2-3) July 24-30
- Exodus at *Pilgrim Cove* (completed grades 9-12) July 24-30

Contemplative Prayer Retreat



February 4-6th at the Shalom Prayer Center in Mt. Angel Oregon. Praying with scripture, Centering prayer, Labyrinth workshop, Singing as prayer. Or use this time as a silent retreat. \$200 per person, \$185 if registration postmarked by 5 January.

**15th Annual Pacific Northwest
Conference Men's Retreat
Pilgrim Firs Conference Center
February 4-6, 2005**

**“Stirring, Shaping and Stretching
Our Spiritual Selves”**

We are pleased to have as our program leaders:

Tom Hunter, Minister, Singer, Songwriter, Educator

Alan Johnson, Minister, Hospital Chaplain, Champion of Men's Ministry, and

Phil Porter, Dancer, Movement Workshop Leader

Alan, Phil and Tom will blend their talents with our combined wisdom. We will explore both the satisfactions we experience as men in our faith lives and where we yearn for a greater sense of spiritual aliveness. Please bring a friend or family member who has not yet joined us and use this weekend as a catalyst in forming a new men's group in your church or as a way to bring new spirit into an existing men's ministry.

The Registration Form is on the back of this flyer

Early Registration Fee (total cost of event) is \$85...and \$90 after December 31, 2004

(Financial Assistance is available. Please ask).

This is an open and affirming retreat, all men are welcome.

A Day of Silence

Larry Kiriluk, Facilitator

A time to "just be" in silence in this beautiful setting: journaling, walking, group silence, some reading, and cared-for spaces to follow your heart.

Opening session begins at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3.

Silence begins at 10 p.m. and ends on Friday at 4 p.m.

Cost: \$50 for 3 meals and 1 night lodging.

(This charge is in addition to the regular Retreat Registration fee).

WAVERLY HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL UCC

A Day of Silence (optional time preceding the retreat weekend)

A time to 'Just be' in silence in this beautiful setting. Activities may include journaling, walking, group silence, and cared-for-spaces to follow your heart. Two meals will be shared in silence. Facilitator will be Larry Kiriluk.

Cost: **\$50 for 3 meals and Thursday night lodging**

Opening Session: 8:30 pm Thursday, February 3. Silence begins at 10 p.m.

Group reflection: 4 pm Friday, February 4. Silence ends at 4 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m.

This Gathering of Men, begins at 7 p.m. Friday with registration. Confirmation, travel directions, and additional info will be sent to you in the month of January.

------(Cut Here and Mail)-----

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Diet limits _____

Retreat Only
\$85 (early) or \$95 after Dec. 31

Day of Silence
+\$50

\$ _____ Total

Send registration & check payable to:
Pacific Northwest Conference

c/o Tom Hamilton
1850 N. 183rd St.
Shoreline, WA 98133 (206) 542-7271

------(Cut Here and Mail)-----



Please submit articles for the February issue no later than January 24th.

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



Thanks a bunch to *Leona Hansen, Andrew and Judy Millar, Lisa Kane, and Amy Hardin* for sharing the duties of hosting fellowship time during the month of December.

Our January hosts—

January 2nd & 9th — *Vi Hyde & Beryl Sellens*

January 16th, 23rd & 30th — *Helen Feight & Margaret Hyde*

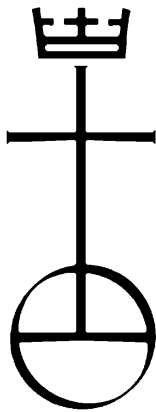
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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 UCC



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.**



JANUARY