

The Church On The Hill



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

**AUGUST 2005 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 73 VOLUME 2**

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

It's time.

Issues around the separation of church and state have been in the news quite a bit in recent years, especially the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance and the placement of the Ten Commandments in public places. One church and state issue is very directly a part of many ministers' lives, though I suspect very few ever think about it. As clergy, performing weddings and then signing wedding licenses, we are acting as agents of the state. We think of ourselves as solemnizing a holy union before God and community, but we are recognizing and recording a civil union as well.

I have been aware of this for thirty years now, well before I began my ordained ministry. As a student at OSU, I had the great good fortune to participate in campus ministry activities with the Rev. John Connor – a man of constant and powerful witness and leadership for justice and for feeding all the hungry of the world. I don't recall how it came up, but I remember him explaining at some point why he stopped signing marriage licenses. As I recall the story, he'd been serving a church near the Air Force Academy, and a cadet and his fiancé had come to him to be married. Air Force policy forbade the marriage. The brass would not have cared in the least



if the two were 'living in sin' (remember, that was much more an issue forty years ago). And indeed, John could have married them in a religious ceremony only and that would have been fine. But as soon as he signed the license, that young man was in trouble. I don't recall the details of how it played out, but for John the situation was intolerable. After that he made it plain to all that he would be happy to provide the religious service of marriage, but he would not serve as an agent for the state, he would not sign licenses.

The reality and the questions raised by John have stuck with me through the past 23 years since the first wedding I officiated at, the first marriage license I signed. I've been signing, as a courtesy to couples, all these years. I've always been a little uncomfortable, but I've never given it the disciplined thought and prayer it deserves. Then last year Multnomah County started issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Over a few weeks I signed fifty-five licenses with real joy. I was a part of a civic act of justice.

Well, measure 36 undid that move to equal treatment for all. And as of this writing it appears that the Speaker of the Oregon House has shamelessly politicked away even civil unions for same-sex couples. As a state, we are unwilling and/or unable to treat couples equally and with justice.

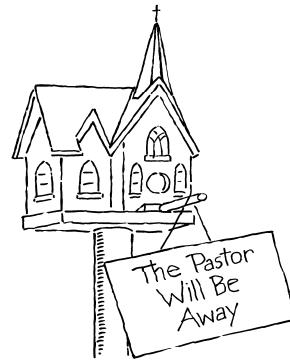
It's time. Time for me to accept that my calling as

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teacher, preacher, and minister of the Gospel is not compatible with being an agent of the state. I will still be glad to perform wedding ceremonies, to solemnize the bonds of marriage before God and community. But I will no longer sign marriage licenses. Couples coming to me will need to have a separate civil ceremony – at least those allowed to.

John Connor was a great inspiration to me and to many in my life and ministry. He has been dead for many years now, but I think I feel him smiling.

Your brother in Christ,
David



Reminder that Pastor David and family will be away August 6th thru the 12th attending the Holt family

camp at Honeyman State Park. So be sure to come support our substitute preacher on Sunday the 7th. Contact info will be with Julie and with Jill Johnson.



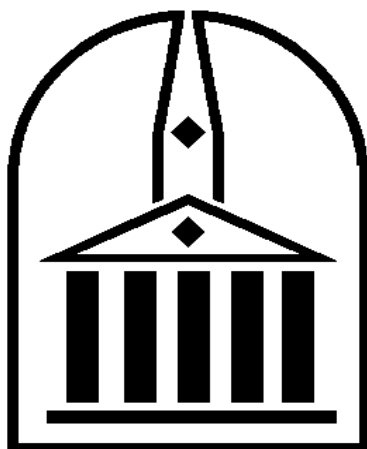
Yard Sale Thanks

Our church yard sale, held July 23rd in conjunction with the Division/Clinton Fair, went very well. We got a lot of stuff out of our houses and into new homes, and we collected \$306 for the day. The Consistory has earmarked this money toward repairing the flooring in the Sunday School classrooms. A great big thank you to Donna Cicerchi our coordinator and everyone who helped out throughout the day. This year the Wy'east congregation also held their yard sale at the same time. They too were very helpful and did a great job removing the last things left over and cleaning up. Again, thanks to all who brought stuff and all who helped with the sale itself.

Access Planning

As most of you have heard, we've realized that we can put a wheelchair lift within our existing building. This, along with remodeling the downstairs bathrooms, will make almost our whole building accessible. We already have half the money we need and may even get some grant money to help with the rest. Right now the Consistory is still considering some design details. The next step will be to have a full plan drawn and bid submitted. Then the congregation will be asked to formally approve the plan and a plan for raising the rest of the money. Probably this will come very early next year, after our Fall stewardship drive. If you have questions or concerns, or would like to check out a similar wheelchair lift at another church, talk to Julie, David, or Marie, or any of the consistory members.





Buildings and Grounds

As many of you know, we have renters occupying the parsonage. They are wonderful people and I hope you'll get a chance to meet them sometime. (Adam is a film student and has finished his "senior" project, which features the parsonage. He has promised to give us a copy of the film.) The church has used a property manager, Kerr Properties, to take care of this arrangement. Due to various reasons, and with agreement from our renters, we have decided to drop Kerr Properties and manage the property on our own. Our renters are responsible for the upkeep of the "landscaping", and yes they agree they have fallen behind on it. We look forward to working with them. Anyone else interested in lending a hand to get the weeds back under control in the next week or so? Please let me know so we can contact them before we just show up! Thanks.

A special thanks to our pre-teen boys who have been doing a pretty good job of keeping the grass on the church property mowed. We are currently in the process of repairing the handle on the lawn mower so they can get their job done properly. Thanks Joel, Alistair, and Colin!

We are moving ahead with Waverly Access! David will be making frequent reports about how the lift project is moving forward. We hope to have another meeting with the lift company to talk about placement, new basement bathrooms, plans, and city permits. Please feel free to ask David about the project if he forgets!

Marie



When Waverly Heights decides to enter a parade, we know how to do it right! Saturday, July 23, at the same time as our yard sale, a group of committed folks joined in the Division Street Parade. Last year, we had a great spot right in front of the Last Regiment Drum Corps. This year we had our own significant addition: Alistair Ramsay and his bagpipes. We asked not to be right in front of the drum corps and when the Parade Coordinator found out why (the bagpipes), he assigned us to LEAD the parade. It was a great scene. Alistair was fabulous. Amy Hardin made us a banner, and Jenna, Bella, and PJ handed out flyers and lollipops. Hope you'll all join us next year!



ALL CHURCH CAMP ADAMS RETREAT

One great thing about Waverly Heights UCC is our long standing love of and support for Camp Adams. Each year we take time to reconnect with camp in a special way by having a weekend retreat. This year our retreat will be over Labor Day weekend, September 2-4. The weekend provides us all an opportunity to grow in fellowship, to serve the Camp through a work project and to dip our feet (or more if you're brave) into the swimming hole. We will circulate a sign-up sheet in August to find out how many can come for the weekend and to get food assignments squared away. We will be worshipping out at Camp on Sunday at 11 AM followed by a potluck lunch in Morris Lodge. There will be NO worship on that day at the church. If you have never been out to Camp Adams this is the perfect opportunity to discover this great resource which belongs to the Central Pacific Conference, UCC. Directions will be forthcoming!

WAVERLY JOINS CWC

At their June meeting the Consistory voted to join the Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC). CWC is a ministry and association of religious and spiritual communities who have adopted a position to be open and affirming to people of all sexual orientations. There are nearly 60 member churches and organizations representing many faith traditions. In the past year CWC has been instrumental in organizing people of faith to be a presence at the Oregon Legislature to give voice in support of gay and lesbian families and to advocate for fair legislation. In joining CWC our church will be listed on their web site, www.welcomingcongregations.org, as well as in their brochure and publications and in the Portland Area Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages. The executive director of CWC is the Reverend Tara Wilkins who has served our church through pulpit supply.

A Bit of History...

Shortly after we got out the stage for our talent show, I was looking for something else and ran across this bit of history. Enjoy, ddz.

From "The Church on the Hill" January 28th and February 27th, 1953.

"Mr. Henry Chehak has designed – and with the help of R. C. Lien and other men, is constructing a platform in four sections to be used as a stage in various parts of the church. It is so constructed that the supports can be folded for storage."

"The new stage-platform designed by Mr. Henry Chehak has brought many comments of admiration and congratulation. ... The stage was 'initiated' with the presentation of the play, 'We Call it Freedom' at the February meeting of the Women's Association." That was on Wednesday, the 4th. The second inaugural event was a variety show, Friday evening February 13th, sponsored by the Women's Association. Macey Hyde was master of ceremonies. The show raised \$150. "The cost of material for the new stage was \$70.00, the remainder going into the treasury of the Association."



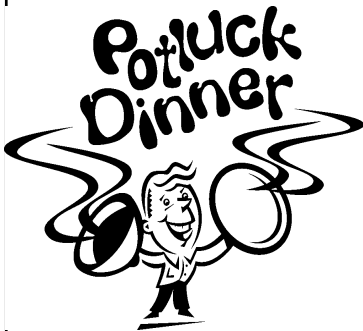
Elizabeth McCormick, daughter of *Rosalind McCormick*, graduated high school in June. Liz hasn't decided what she'll do in the fall so she is taking this time to explore her options.

CONGRATULATIONS LIZ!



Special thanks to *Diane Rynerson* for hosting social hour after worship service during the month of June and also to *Debra Robertson* and *Julianna Heath* who hosted for the month of July. Fine job to all!

Our host for August—
(Drum roll please....)
Deanna Mason



AUGUST SOUP & CULTURE NIGHT PLANNED

Our August soup and culture night will be held on Friday, August 12th, hosted by Carol Palumbo and Julie Strayer Thoma. The potluck will begin at 6:15 pm and will focus around dishes from the fifties (remember the one pot meals...macaroni & cheese, tuna cassarole, and lots of jello!) If you are at a loss for ideas check the Waverly cookbook. Bingo after dinner. The evening is guaranteed to be "A GAS"!

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

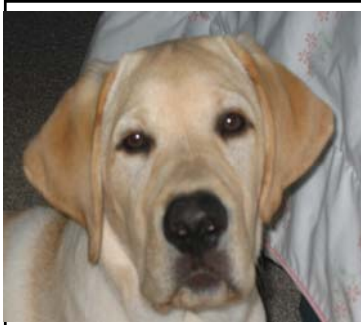
On June 26, Consistory members hijacked the after-church coffee hour to talk about everyone's favorite subject: money. As we discussed at the annual

meeting, in 2006 we will exhaust the reserve fund that the church has been drawing on for operating expenses, and we need a way to make up the shortfall--about \$15,000 for the year. I presented various options, including borrowing money, cutting our minister's hours, selling the parsonage, and asking for more money from the membership. Our longer-term plan is to grow the church so that we become self-sustaining again.

Church members overwhelmingly indicated that the way to proceed is to make up the budget shortfall from within, while looking more aggressively at other avenues for fundraising, such as seeking more community members to rent the space when we are not using it. Many other good ideas were suggested, such as redoubling and organizing our evangelism efforts, and the consistory has begun putting these suggestions in motion.

At this point, I'd like to extend the invitation to anyone who wasn't at the meeting (or who was there but has more to say) to contact me with other questions, ideas, or recommendations. You can reach me at home (503) 288-9549, by e-mail treasurer@waverlyucc.org, or contact David at the church. I want to thank everyone who has contributed time, energy, and ideas toward coming up with solutions!

Dan Thoma
Treasurer



Thatcher "The Church Dog" has cancer again. This is the fourth time. The type of cancer he has does not have a good prognosis.

So Thatcher will have the "best" dog life we can give him. The first week of August he will be on vacation at t h e b e a c h .

The Palumbos

ANDY ROONEY'S ANSWER TO TELEMARKETERS

Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end? This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home. What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!

Pair of Cats Looking for a Home

A colleague is planning to return to graduate school this Fall and needs to find a home for her two cats. One likes to go out, the other mostly stays in. I believe both are declawed. She is looking for one home that can take both cats so they can stay together. If you are interested let me know and I'll put you in touch.

David Z.

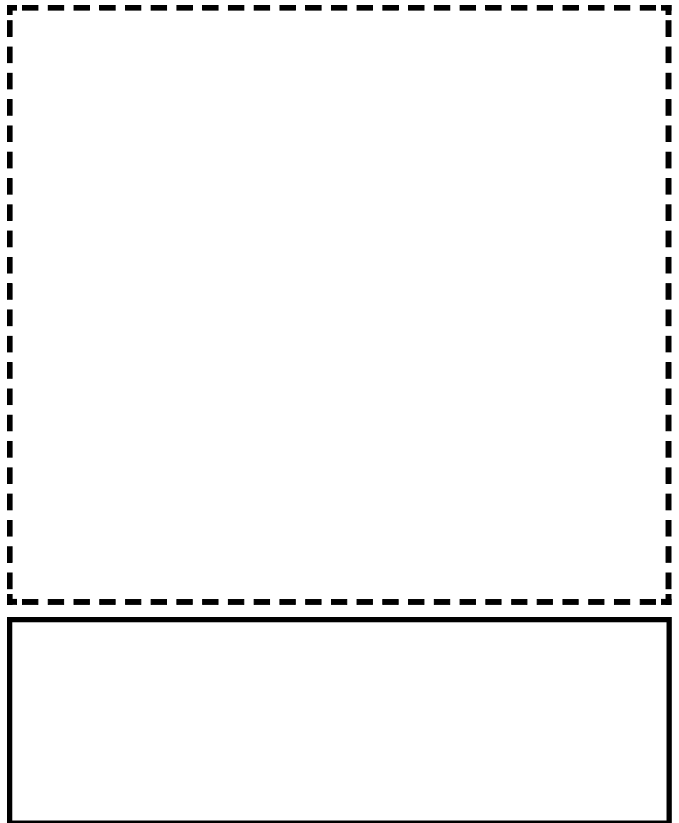


Please submit articles for the September issue no later than August 23rd.

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



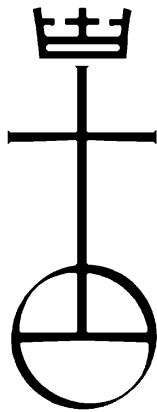
*Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ*

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

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Service:

Sunday - 11:00 am
Beginning, Sunday, July 3rd - 10:00 am



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.**



AUGUST