

The Church On The Hill



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

MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 93 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

I was thinking today about being committed without being rigid.

My father was deeply committed to energy conservation. He was also a pre-Vatican II ex-catholic, and I think resistance to any absolute rule was deep in his bones, even to rules he made for himself. So he would willingly walk or bike to work, keep thermostats set down, drive a smaller car... but he did like a good hot shower. He conceded that it was an unnecessary use of energy. Serving in the navy on a very small ship had taught him how very little water one actually needs to get clean. A good hot shower *is* a luxury, and one he claimed, happy to do many, many other things to offset that use of the earth's resources. Father was committed, but flexible with himself and others.

Yesterday I attended two Energy Stewardship workshops offered by Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon). Lot's of good ideas and information -- talk to me, Scott, or Marie for more details. Amid all the ideas for how to save energy, and how to help pay for changes, I was struck by the attitude of opportunity. No one was laying down guilt because our homes and churches still are full of incandescent bulbs, single pane windows, and inefficient appliances. Rather, we were offered encouragement, "Look, here are things you can



really do, small and large. You have control over many things. You can make a difference." No fixed list of things you "must do" to be a good steward, but a calling for commitment to change, to conserve more, even to become energy producers (e.g. solar) each in our own way as we see and are able to seize the opportunities.

One of the subjects mentioned in the workshops is the scale of our houses. Even though house construction is much, much more efficient our average use of energy in a home has not come down. This is mostly because the average size of houses has mushroomed. Another great example of the attitude of commitment without rigidity is a book about the "small house movement" called **Little House On a Small Planet**. It is a treasure of information, real people's stories (and often floor plans), and exercises to help us think about the space we occupy and what actually makes a home. The stories run from folks who's choices look pretty extreme (100 sq ft "tiny house") to others who just look uncommonly sensible in neighborhoods filled with McMansions. From front to back the book is infused with commitment to living with a much smaller footprint on the earth, and a deep recognition that that commitment will be lived out in many different ways by different people.

I hope this attitude I've been writing about feels

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familiar to everyone at Waverly Heights UCC. We are called to deep commitments, in energy stewardship and so many other areas, with equally deep respect for how flexible God is in offering ways to live out commitment. It can be a bit tricky sometimes. Commitment can come on a bit strong and bulldoze someone who thinks differently. Perhaps more a danger for us, we can be shy about undertaking faithful actions together because it might not be right for everyone. But we can find that balance, because God is helping us, leading us, encouraging. We can make commitments, individually and together. We can live out of those commitments, by God's grace free to find our particular way of faithful living.

In God's peace,
David



In worship Sunday, April 22nd, we had the great joy of welcoming friends new and old who chose to become members of Waverly Heights UCC:

Donna Cicerchi (PJ)
Karen Lenore & John Dryden (James, Emma)
Cindra & Oakie George
Tricha Robinson
Beth and Bob Kress
Linda & Paul Hardin (Diana, Whitney)

TAIZE SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 7:30pm for our next Taize service. It is a service of music, candles, silence and peacefulness. Come and usher in May in a spiritually nourishing way. We always love new voices – the music is repetitive so it's easy to learn - or just come to listen. We hope to see you there.

The Deacon's Fund... Is empty.

The Deacon's fund is a small fund that allows our Pastor to intervene financially when he feels this is appropriate. This may be to help our members and friends or simply for someone who just needs help right now and has nowhere to go for it. There is no line item in the budget for this so we rely on everyone's combined generosity to keep it going.

Last year the fund was depleted and we now need to replenish it. The goal is \$1000. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. Please consider an offering to this important fund.



Daybreak Shelter Benefit Concert

**Featuring:
Michael Allen Harrison**

On May 11th, Human Solutions and Daybreak Shelter invite you to enjoy with us a very special musical event. Michael Allen Harrison, a distinguished pianist and Portland native will perform at his annual benefit concert for the Daybreak Shelter Network. Each year the concert helps raise the critical funds necessary to get homeless families off the street and connected with services that get them back on track and into a home. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an evening of wonderful music while at the same time helping those most in need in our community. We hope you will join us.

When: May 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

**Where: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
9800 SE 92nd Ave, Portland, OR**

Cost: Free – suggested \$15 donation, the approximate cost of providing housing, food, and services to a homeless family for one day.

For more information please visit our website at www.humansolutions.org or call Lindsey Miller at 503-548-0227

Central Pacific Conference UCC SPRING ASSEMBLY– May 18-19, 2007 – First Congregational UCC, Salem, OR.

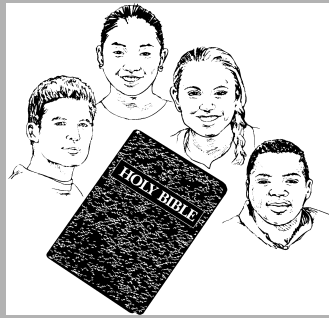
This will be a wonderful gathering of our wider UCC family. The keynote speakers will be Rev. John H. Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC, and Rev. Linda Jaramillo, one of our own folk from here in Portland who is now Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC. These are both excellent, inspiring speakers. The theme for the meeting is "God is Still Speaking: Let It Shine!"

This is a great opportunity to learn more about our covenant connections with the wider UCC denomination. Everyone is welcome, either as a church delegate or as a visitor. You could commute down to Salem each or either day, or stay in a motel there, or (a personal favorite) stay with a local church family in Salem. We need to get off our list of delegates and any home-stay requests, so if you're interested, please talk to pastor David or moderator Lisa Kane.



Nancy Tice's brother, *John Tice*, who is scheduled to undergo back surgery on May 21st.

Please Pray for:



Youth Group News

Youth Group meets on May 20th this month from 7:00-8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

6th, 7th & 8th graders are welcome!

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Our monthly Taize service is often in need of musical accompaniment. The music is easy to learn and the service is low key. If you or anyone you know would like to accompany us on piano, guitar or another instrument that would be wonderful! Please contact Jill Johnson.

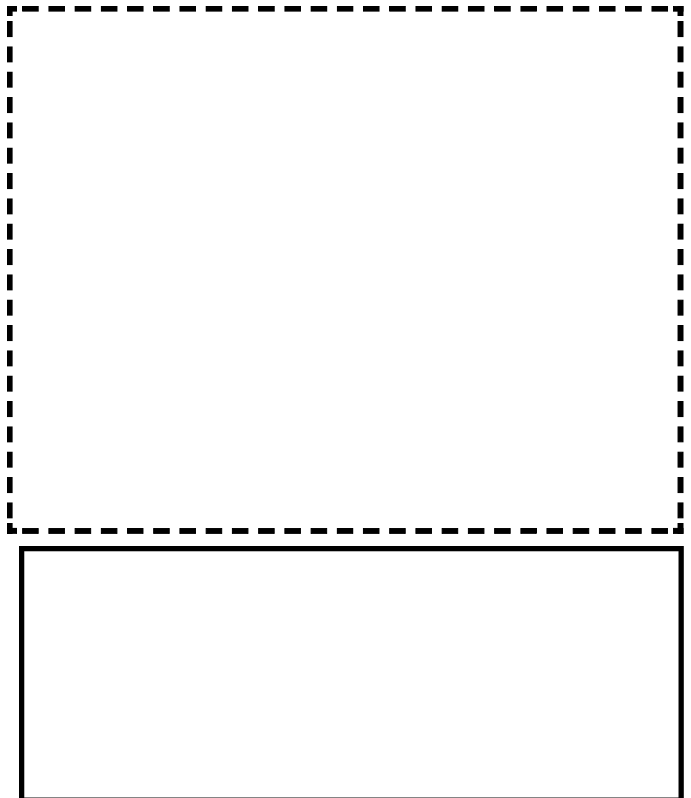


Please submit articles for the June issue no later than May 22nd.

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.



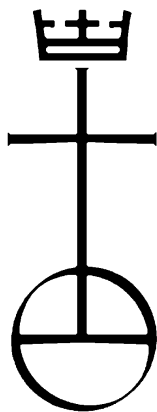
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Service:
Sunday - 11:00 am

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.**

