

The Church On The Hill



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

**SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 96 VOLUME 2**

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

From the Pastor...

I've had occasion in the last few weeks of being with various people in difficult circumstances. Facing cancer, losing a job, questioning vocation, the death of a child. As it happens, all of these are people of faith. Over the years, I've also been with people of little faith in equally trying times. Faith makes a difference.

Faith and prayers have not made life easy and free of cares for anyone I know. Tragedies happen. Real evil is loose in the world and is sometimes visited on those we love. Sometimes even at our own hands, from our own choices. God does not promise otherwise. Yet God is with us. Always.

Our faith is our relationship to God. What is the nature of that relationship in a faith-ful life? It is not about striking a bargain with God -- not prayers as protection money to a cosmic godfather. Nor is it about just obeying orders, simply following all the rules -- we are not called to be robots without free will or petty bureaucrats protecting our position by keeping a low profile. Faithful living is a relationship of love and trust with God. Love is not conditional -- our love for God is not a matter of "what's in it for me?" much less is God's love for us because God gets such a good return. It is a mutual love that accepts, treasures, aids, and accepts and shares the pain of

situations beyond aid.

What then is our trust in God? First, God is with us. God cannot spare us pain and still allow us to be fully human, but God shares our pain, feels every bit of it with us, holds us through it all. Second, I believe we can trust God to be endlessly inventive of new possibilities. God's grace is more than forgiveness when we've messed up. Grace is there for every moment, in all circumstances. God's being encompasses all that is and all that might be. God stands with us just where we are, without regret for the past, without puppet strings compelling us forward. God stands with us, holds out a hand, and says, "Let's walk this way, just take a step or two, the path will become clearer."

I have been blessed to see folks taking those steps with God. The steps look very different for different people. More, or less, cheerful. More, or less, clear. More, or less, comforted. But walking in love and trust with God no matter what. And that walk is a blessing, a great blessing, more and more realized with every step.

Your brother in Christ,
David

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org

Fellowship Food

It has come to the Consistory's attention, (the Consistory is the governing board of the church) that people who sign up to provide food for our Fellowship Hour sometimes feel a certain pressure to provide a lavish spread of goodies. Now, while it is lovely that people do that, please know that it is just as lovely for people to provide just crackers and fruit, or just cookies and punch, or just something simple. Either way, it is equally nice to enjoy the fellowship time together.

Taizé

Please join us for our next evening of Taizé on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30. For those of you who have not experienced Taizé, it is a candlelit service of meditative singing, silence and inspirational readings and prayers. It will be a lovely balance to some of that back to school hecticness that can accompany September. Theo will be accompanying us this month. See you there!

WELCOMERS PROGRAM TRAINING

Waverly is having a training for the Welcomers Program on Saturday, September 8th. The training begins at 9:00 am and ends at noon. All interested are encouraged to come.

Thanks, Scott and David

Looking Ahead!

Save Friday, the 26th of October, for the annual Waverly Heights Halloween Carnival! We had so many little ghosts and goblins come out last year...be thinking of who you might 'scare up' this year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SOON!!!

Our new year of Sunday School officially begins on September 9th! We are still looking for volunteers willing to lead Sunday School lessons on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month for our 4th-8th grade students. On the 5th Sunday of the month, students will stay up in the sanctuary for a "kid-friendly" service. Don't be shy - we have plenty of people willing to help you formulate lessons and activities for our youth. If you are interested in helping, please contact Teri Griffin at (503) 774-7546.

Are you thinking about joining the Consistory???

For the past 6 years, Waverly Heights church has been governed by the Consistory. No, it's not some secret society: you, too are invited to come to our meetings (every third Monday at 7:00) to hear about and give input on all of the decisions that affect our church. Terms of service are two years, and we are always looking for people to join in the leadership and direction of our congregation. If you'd like more information, ask Pastor David. He can give you all the information you need, or better yet, come visit our meetings! We'll be in Hyde Hall. See you then!

Flexcar at Waverly



An opportunity has presented itself to have one of the Hybrid flexcars stationed right here at Waverly UCC. The consistory has deemed this in keeping with our just peace mission and we are moving forward to make this a reality.

It requires that we make one parking space available for the car which will be available to members of the flexcar program. Some of our church families are already members and there will be discounts available for those who would like to sign up for the use of the flexcar. If you have questions about this program please ask Andrew Millar or any of the consistory members. This is just one more way we at Waverly can be of help our local community.

Darfur, the suffering continues...

For information on the situation in Darfur and efforts here in Portland to help end the Genocide, log-on to:

<http://www.genocideawareness.net/>

You can make a difference...


URGENT Message from the Treasurer:

Unfortunately, I have to raise financial issues with the membership, again. As we knew it would be, this is a difficult year in our progress toward operating comfortably in the black. When we have come to the congregation over these three years of transition out of deficit spending, you have continued to say, "Tell us the need, make the appeal." Here it is. Our standing as of this writing is:

At the current rate of giving, we will be short \$12,888 at the end of the year. In addition, the commercial dishwasher is broken and though we are exploring alternatives, the cost of a comparable replacement would be approx. \$4,000. That would put our total need at \$16,888. This translates to a shortfall of approx. \$889/week for each of the remaining 19 weeks of the year.

To put this amount into perspective, that would mean each of 60 church members increasing their giving by just under \$15.00 per week. We understand that some members will be unable to do this – and perhaps some could do more. A letter will be coming from the consistory soon with more details, and with an appeal for information about how you will be able to help. When it comes, please do promptly and prayerfully respond. This will assist us in determining what, if any, budget adjustments need to be made. Thanks for your help.

Kay

 <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>Please submit articles for the October issue no later than September 20th.</p> <p>Thanks, Trish Effenberger, Editor</p>
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**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.

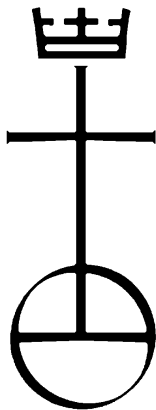
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**