

The Church On The Hill



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

DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 99 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR



Once again we come to a new beginning in the annual cycle of the church's faith journey. The liturgical calendar of the church begins with three short seasons: Advent -- the four Sundays before Christmas;

Christmastide -- the twelve days of Christmas; and Epiphany -- the weeks until Ash Wednesday and Lent. Each of these seasons has a distinctive theme. Advent is about waiting, anticipating God's decisive acting in the world. Christmas celebrates the stunningly unexpected way that God has acted, revealing her presence in the least powerful among us, a baby born to nobodies. Epiphany moves our celebration to response, showing to all the world the new light that the Christ child has kindled in us.

The pattern of church seasons embodies wise tradition. Each of these seasons supports us, transforms us, and passes us on ready for the next season.

The waiting and anticipation of Advent is not about escaping the present reality to try to dwell in some imagined happy future. Rather it is all about clearly seeing the reality of each day and

knowing, hoping, living into a fullness of God's presence and blessing that is always more, never limited to what we have known or even can imagine. Advent is living in watchful expectancy, not missing anything happening right now, because God will suddenly reveal herself in ways we cannot schedule, plan for, or manage.

Christmas is the exemplar of all God's moments of revelation. It is a surprise party. Who could have dreamed? The mystery of incarnation -- God fully present in our full humanity -- is worth twelve days of celebrating, joyous meditating on, realizing in smiles bestowed among family, friends, and perfect strangers.

That joy and openness to God's surprises propels us into the world as witnesses during Epiphany. (And the struggles we encounter as witnesses lead us into the humility of Lent, and so on we go from one season to the next through the rest of the church year...)

So, in the weeks ahead, I invite you to be more aware of the broad current we are moving in. See each day as a connected flowing carrying us along in this annual renewal and deepening of faith in the One who comes as one of us.

Blessings, Blessings, Blessings!

David

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org



On December 23rd the centerpiece of our worship will be our annual Christmas Pageant. This year it will be a little different: an all ages pick-up pageant. Still plenty of cute angels and shepherds, and there won't be room in the inn but Jesus will be born just the same. This year there also won't be a rehearsal, but the pageant will be a splendid remembrance and celebration just the same. Parts will be handed out; little ones will be prompted; we will all give this gift to ourselves. So bring the little ones at 10:30 - 10:45 to get costumed, and come expecting to play your part as well!



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Once again we will follow an old Waverly Tradition of an 11:00 p.m. *family* Christmas Eve service. How does that work? We bring our children in their pajamas. It's a very special time, even for the littlest ones who end up asleep on the pew. Come: sing the carols, hear again the glad tidings, experience Christ coming as the light in our darkness.



Advent Sermon Series

For the next three weeks David will depart from the lectionary to offer a mini-series based on three of the titles of Jesus: Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah. (The fourth Sunday in Advent will be our pageant.)

A Visit from St. Nick

Once again this year we look forward to a visit, on December 9th at the children's time, from Saint Nicholas. No, not Santa. Saint Nicholas was a third-century bishop in Asia Minor who is venerated, among other things, as the patron saint of children, sailors, and pawnbrokers. Bring the children, grandchildren, and your delight.

TAIZE

On Wednesday, December 5th at 7:30 pm, we will be having our next Taize service. Take time from your busy December schedule to join us for a candlelit evening of song and meditation.



Youth Group In December

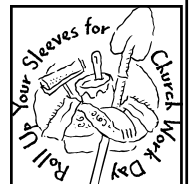
There are two days in December you don't want to miss!!! On December 2, the youth group will make Christmas cookies with Andrew and Judy. Do you remember the chocolate truffles? These are sure to be just as yummy. And on December 16th, join Lisa and head over to Moreland Presbyterian Church for a decoration making party with their youth group. Pizza, pop, and the "Charlie Brown Christmas" dvd.....it'll be fun.



Hanging of the Greens

and Church Clean Up

Come to church on Saturday December 1st at 9:00 am to get the church ready for the Christmas season. We'll be working inside and out, so if you're an inside kind of person, we'll have decorations to put up and if you're an outside kind of person, we'll have leaves and rakes waiting! Donuts, coffee, hot chocolate and fellowship provided.





Stewardship Sunday

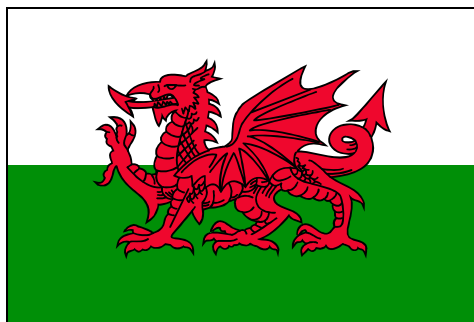
What with challenge giving and one thing and another, our annual stewardship drive is a bit late this year. (Maybe the bright side is that the timing is good for thinking about tax breaks for charitable giving) Stewardship Sunday this year will be December 9th. Come and enjoy looking at this year's Waverly Family Albums. Come celebrate all that God is doing through our hands and hearts here in this wonderful community of faith.

December Interfaith Service

"The Light of Faith", 4:00 PM, December 9th, Beaverton Baha'i Center, 5355 SW Murray Blvd (about 1/2 mile south of TV Hwy). Join us for a beautiful service of many religions celebrating the light of their faiths. Sponsored by: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, The Interfaith Alliance of NW Oregon, Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and Inter-religious Action Network.

A Child's Christmas in Wales

In Portland



Dylan Thomas

Yes, it is that time of year again. On **Wednesday December 12th** we will gather to hear the Waverly Radio Players annual rendition of this beloved Christmas classic. There will be a light supper and libations before the performance at **6:15pm** and we will endeavor to start the reading at 7:00pm

(If you have always wanted to play a part, but have not yet done so, this should be the year. Let David or Andrew know and you too can make like Garrison Keillor.)

HELPING OTHERS

We will be collecting for the **Christmas Fund** on Christmas Eve and the fifth Sunday in December (this is the fund that helps retired UCC clergy) and we will be collecting socks, gloves and scarves (lots of socks) throughout the month for our very own **Nightwatch** here in Portland.

ALLY ALLY OXEN FREE!!!

For all you cheerful stitchers who volunteered to embroider quilt squares, it's time to gather them back in again... hopefully embroidered with the herb of your choosing. It doesn't need to be perfect, but it does need to get done! I'd like to get going on assembling the quilt top and putting the quilt together as soon as possible. So if you still have one of the green squares, let's get to stitchin' and return them by December 9th. If you have any questions or concerns, send me a quick email or give me a call.

Thanks for all your hard work - Kari Rothi
krothi@yahoo.com (or 503-232-8718)

Operation Night Watch

On December 16th, we will be collecting needed items for Operation Nightwatch, a drop-in center downtown that provides a warm dry place for people to gather and connect in the evenings and provides opportunities to get out and about for folks who otherwise would not have that chance. They are always in need of certain items: tube socks, dark stocking caps, blankets, chapstick, and other things. Be looking in the church bulletin for a list of things to pick up and bring to church.

PROVIDE A MEAL FOR FAMILIES WITHOUT A HOME THIS NEW YEAR

Our Daybreak rotation is the first week of January we are looking for dinner volunteers on Wednesday January 2nd and Thursday January 3rd to help Kay Orzel and the Millar Family provide an evening meal for the group of homeless families staying at St. David's Church. This is a wonderful way to help people by simply doing what you do everyday.

GALLERY SHOWS

In her quest to create and share sacred art, Dana Weir would like to announce that she will be participating in two gallery shows during the month of December.

Guardino Gallery, located at 2939 NE Alberta St., will be exhibiting a group show called "Little Things". About 40 artists have participated, all of them creating artwork that is 7" x 7" or smaller. This is a great holiday shopping opportunity. The artwork for this show will be on display through Dec. 23rd.

The North Bank Gallery is located at 1005 Main St., Vancouver, WA. This is also a group show, including all of the members of this co-op gallery. The theme for this show will be "Art is a Gift" and it will be on display for the months of December and January. The opening night of this show will be Friday, Dec. 7th, from 5pm - 9pm.

Feel free to call Dana with any questions. 503-975-8991



I would like to thank my Waverly family for their incredible support while I go through breast cancer treatment.

Especially Kay and Jeanne, and the choir for their most generous birthday treat! Such a journey would be very difficult alone!

Thanks! Nancy



Food & Clothing Donations

FISH

FISH is a 501 non-profit organization. Donations to FISH are tax deductible. Services are provided on an equal opportunity basis. No person is excluded from receiving assistance based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, gender, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



Please submit articles for the January issue no later than December 26th.

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 CHRISTMAS 2007 CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

The first-ever Children's Choir at Waverly will launch with a quick rehearsal, on Sat., Dec. 1 at 9am in the Waverly Sanctuary, as part of the greening of the church and the landscaping party.

Children's Choir is for ages 3-12, with 13-yr-olds who want to be around young kids welcome. The songs are simple, we will learn words gradually, add percussion and fun.

The Children's Choir will perform as part of the Christmas Pageant at Service on Sunday, Dec. 23. We will meet each Saturday in December at 9am. Not all rehearsals are necessary. There is the possibility of having a few after-church rehearsals closer to Pageant time, and/or moving the Saturday time to 10am. Let's start with two Saturdays at 9am and see what's up.

I count 26 Waverly children in this category! I'll see you all there, kids! :)

WAVERLY CHOIR CHRISTMAS 2007!

Waverly Choir heats up for cool winter songs with its Christmas spirit music. Come jump in for Christmas, we're just getting going on that music. We have a new Advent piece, some new Christmas anthems, and on Dec. 2, some "jazz choir music." Some old, some new.

We rehearse Sundays at 9:30am. We sing every Sunday in service, and we participate in the Pageant a little bit on Dec. 23. We sing Sunday Dec. 30 and Sunday Jan. 6 at Waverly during Epiphany season.

Then we participate in the fabulous Daybreak Shelter Epiphany Choir Concert and Fundraiser on the afternoon of Jan. 6, this year at Gethsamane Lutheran Church at SE Market and SE 115th. We present two of our Christmas anthems and listen to all the other choirs do the same.

So jump in and enjoy all this Christmas music!

theo

UCC members author online prayers for troops on Thanksgiving Day

**Written by J. Bennett Guess
November 23, 2007**

Dozens responded to a Thanksgiving Eve email request from the Rev. John H. Thomas asking UCC members to offer online prayers for military personnel serving in Iraq and elsewhere.

A new webpage, which allows members to post their real-time prayers in writing, was launched as part of the UCC's ongoing "100,000 for Peace" campaign. Church leaders are asking individuals and congregations to offer a collective 100,000 prayers for military personnel during the holiday season, beginning on Thanksgiving Day and continuing through Jan 6, the day of Epiphany.

Thomas, who offered the first in a now-lengthy string of passionate prayers, prayed for safety for parents' children who have gone off to war.

"Holy God, you give us children to hold and to cherish that we might watch them play and learn, explore and create, laugh and love," prayed Thomas, the UCC's general minister and president. "You give us children and ask us to teach them, to imagine with them, to discover the world anew through their eyes, to grow with them in love of you and of neighbor. Few of us imagine that one day we will watch them go to war."

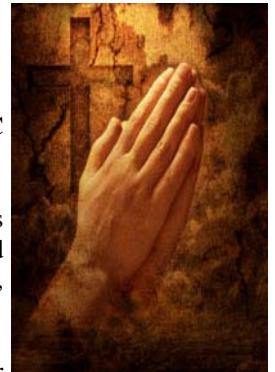
Many responded on Thanksgiving Day by offering their own prayerful posts.

"Please bring them home," one succinct prayer read.

Several prayed for specific people serving in the military. "May God bless, and hold closely in the palm of God's hand, all those who serve to defend and protect America," asked one prayerful petitioner. "I pray this day especially for Cody (from Granville) and Jesse (from Oglesby)."

Added another, "Hold them tightly, Holy One. Give them courage. As they endure harsh conditions, loneliness and great danger, let them know your nearness. Help them feel your love, and comfort the families left behind."

Read and contribute online prayers at <http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/100000-prayers.html>



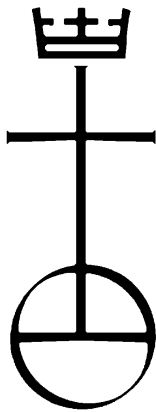
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**

December