

The Church On The Hill



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

JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 100 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

2008! The balance of the year has tipped and slowly, slowly, the days are getting longer again. I have rarely been one for making New Year's Resolutions, but I do think this is a good time to reflect, to think about where one is and where one is headed. And it *is* a good time for some humble, realistic resolving. So, whatever your own personal practice at New Years, for a moment join me in setting aside the grand, sweeping life-change resolutions and consider what might give shape to resolves for slowly, slowly living brighter, more enlightened, warmer lives.

I am of course thinking about the church -- it's my calling and my job -- and how what we are about as a church can actually make a difference in our lives. We're involved in many activities as a church community; what is distinctive about being church? We have great fellowship, but so do the Elks and bowling leagues. We offer service to meet real needs in the world, and so do Friends of Trees, Free Geek, and Fellowship of Reconciliation. We have great music; so do Sacred Harp singers, Gay Men's Chorus, Folklore Society. We could go on...what is it that makes different these and all the other things we do as a church? I would submit that it is intentional spiritual practice.

This is fairly clear on Sunday mornings. We can recognize that our worship time is a shared spiritual practice. We come together to renew and be renewed by the Body of Christ present as we lift our hearts and voices together to God. As my New Year's thought, I'd



like to offer the idea that spiritual practice can claim its place as the ground and shape of all that we do as a church. I believe this is, indeed, the source and substance of our continued vitality as a community of faith.

This calls for small-steps resolve.

Slowly, slowly being shaped into patterns of thought and action that make everything we do together a spiritual practice. Just remembering, a little more frequently, that the person sitting next to you at fellowship time is made in the image of God. Just holding in mind God's great compassion, just for a few moments, before starting to write to Washington about genocide in Darfur. When washing dishes, opening space to surprise ourselves with delight in the gift of water, and renewed commitment to be good stewards of our luxurious hot water. At consistory and task group meetings, letting the presence of each child of God be a reminder that it's not just about us.

As we grow in our spiritual practice together, supporting and encouraging one another here at church, so we will also grow -- slowly, slowly! -- in our spiritual practice in all areas of our lives. As the days grow longer, we too will bring more light into our families, schools, workplaces, service. It's not one thing, or even a short list of resolutions, to abruptly turn right whatever is wrong in our lives. It's just practice. And at the New Year or Valentine's day or Labor Day, today is always a fine time to practice.

God's peace,
David

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org



The Waverly Heights Annual Meeting will take place after church on January 27th. We will install new officers of the church and introduce new members of the consistory. We also will go over our yearly budget and discuss the needs of the church for the coming year. Your participation is valued! Our Youth Group will be serving a baked potato lunch, so come join us for this important time.

TAIZE

Just as a reminder, we will not be holding Taize services for awhile. Instead, we will be visiting other Taize services in the area so that we can enjoy other services in the area and also to revitalize our own Taize efforts. There is a small group who will be traveling to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in NW on Sunday January 13th at 7pm to experience their service. Please let me (Jill Johnson) know if you would like to carpool or gather with us there.

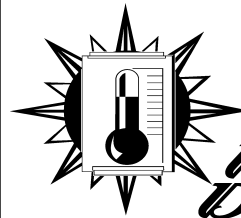


Ash Wednesday Service

It's hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday is just around the corner. Our service with ashes will be held at Waverly on Wednesday February 6th at 7pm. Join us as we prepare for the Lenten season. It's sure to be a beautiful service and will include some Taize songs. Come and bring someone you've always thought about inviting to church but haven't yet.

Second Sunday Just Peace/OIPL

January 13th will be a Second Sunday with our usual talk-back sermon time. This month we'll be using this time to follow-up on the anniversary of our adopting our Just Peace resolution and focussing particularly on the stewardship of resources part of justice for the world and peace in creation. The focus for this will be studying the Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) stewardship covenant. The consistory is already moving ahead with setting up an audit/consultation to help us set priorities and develop steps toward reducing our energy consumption here at church. This second Sunday will be a time for the whole congregation to consider some of the choices we have before us as we respond to God's call to work for justice and care for creation.



Our Pledge Drive continues!

If you haven't turned in a pledge card,

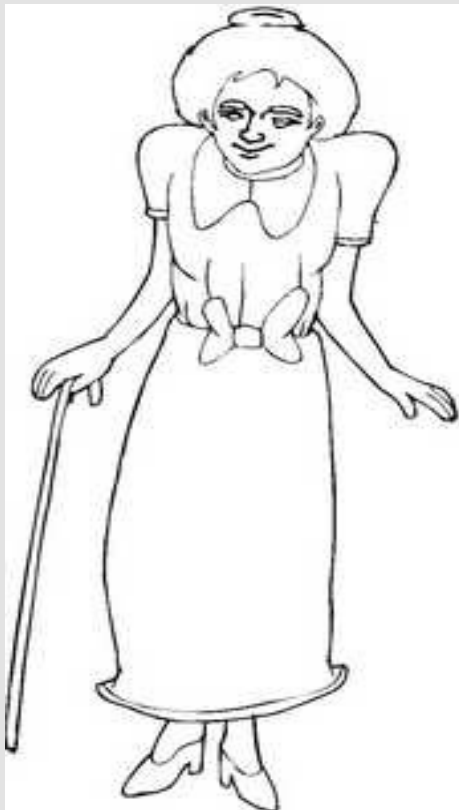
please consider doing so. You can turn them into the collection plate on Sunday or give them directly to Helen Feight. It is a vital part of our planning for the new year. Check out the family albums in downstairs for the forms, and take a minute to review the year in pictures!



Operation Nightwatch

Our December Missions drive for Operation Nightwatch was a big success. We collected over 200 pairs of socks and 25 pairs of gloves. We collected lots of hats, chapstick, some blankets, and aspirin. I delivered the items to Operation Nightwatch on December 20th. The shelves were completely empty. The gloves and hats were gone within 5 minutes and the socks were put on the shelves for the next rain. I want to share the gratitude expressed by both the volunteer staff and the guests of Operation Nightwatch. If ever you find yourselves with extra gloves, hats, socks, or blankets, they are always needed.

MIRACLES OF MIRACLES



A little old lady walked into the doctor's office all bent over and came out walking straight.

Another woman in the waiting room cried out, "My God, it's a miracle! I saw it with my own eyes. You walked in nearly bent in half and now you're walking out of here upright. What did the doctor do?"

The little old lady replied, "He gave me a longer cane."



Prayers *for* Recovery

Prayers for *Nancy Tice* to make a complete recovery from mastectomy surgery on Dec. 26th. Extra Special Thanks to Kay and Jeanne for their invaluable help and support during this difficult time!



LUNCH BUNCH

NEWCOMER'S LUNCH

A Newcomer's Lunch is scheduled for January 12th at 1:00 PM in Hyde Hall.

Souper Bowl Sunday



Bring your canned foods to church on Sunday, February 3rd for the Souper Bowl Sunday Food Drive. Churches all over the country collect food to restock food pantries that have been emptied over the holidays. We're aiming to get 375 pounds, the weight of Ted Washington, the heaviest player in the NFL.

Go Team Waverly!



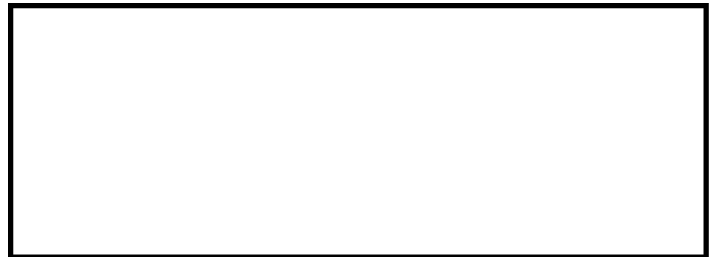
Please submit articles for the February issue no later than January 22nd.

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.



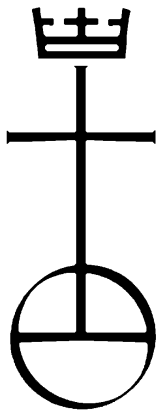
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**



January