

# The Church On The Hill



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

**MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 102 VOLUME 2**

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

Easter: Bunnies, new hats, candy, colored eggs. And, oh yes, resurrection.

This may be one of the biggest stumbling blocks for Christian faith today. I'm afraid that Good News that should have the vibrancy of a basket of brilliant yellow and purple and green easter eggs has been dulled down to about the appeal of the third day of slightly funny-colored egg salad sandwiches. The mystery of God and the power of the disciples' witness has been stripped of its crazy beauty, smooched together with a mayonnaise of greek logic, and made into dogma sandwiches. Not very appetizing, and yet those tired old sandwiches are what we imagine we're "supposed to" believe when the case is offered that Jesus' resurrection is the very heart of the Christian witness.

In every other area we feel free to come to the Bible with hearts and minds open to metaphor and mystery, to poetry and power beyond mere



literalism. Why, then, at what might be the very heart of our faith, do we become mired in a literalism that we know keeps us from experiencing the truth? In ancient cosmology, where heaven was a physical place surrounding the earth and sky, well, fine, there

was a place for Jesus to be in a physical body. Where would we find heaven now out in the universe that science has revealed? For those bound by literalism, finding a place for a living Jesus is either a never-ending series of magicians' tricks, or just impossible.

But the disciples knew, knew to the depths of their being, that Jesus lived. Jesus, whom they had seen tortured, killed, and buried was somehow still present, vital, comforting and reviving them even in their grief over his death. It is a witness that has been renewed in the experience of men and women down through the ages: saints like Francis of Assisi or Theresa of Avila, and unnumbered and unknown common Christians who have walked with Jesus in the quiet of a garden or the

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agony of an emergency room or the simple joy of a shared meal.

Friends, Jesus is here, with you now. That's true whether you know it or not, whether it makes any sense to you or not, and the wonderful grace of this is that none of that matters. Jesus does not need us to understand him, certainly doesn't need us to believe some dogma about him. If you don't feel his presence, don't be worried about it; Jesus isn't. Jesus is so entirely patient, so full of love and compassion, so delighted in the beauty of each one of us -- he is here, always, and that is enough. That is my Easter witness to each of you, a witness given to one very, very slow to know Jesus still alive; held long years in God's astonishing patience, and slowly, slowly coming to celebrate each day as a further walk with one who accepted terrible death and yet lives.

Your brother in Christ,  
David

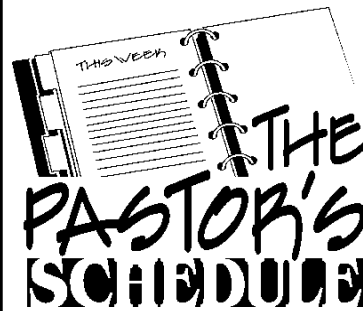


Waverly wants to be able to provide support (through meals as a starter) to church members/families in times of trouble - a death in the family, major illness, etc. In order to do this, we need two things:

1. Awareness that someone is in need. Please call Kay Orzel at 503-236-8182 or E-Mail at [xulk01a@aol.com](mailto:xulk01a@aol.com).
2. A list of persons who are willing/able to help at such times. If you are willing to be on the list, please let Kay know.

It's often said that "April showers bring May flowers", but this year Easter falls on **Sunday March 23**, (so May will be too late!) Please bring your beautiful *March* flowers for the Easter Floral Cross. Home grown or store bought with love they're all wonderful - and will bring smiles to us everyone!.

Those who would like to contribute an Easter Lily please contact David with the name(s) of those you are remembering or honoring. The lilies, too are a lovely symbol - they really add to the beauty of the Easter celebration.



## Reminder

David was asked to remind us all again: he is trying to take Thursdays as his day off, and Fridays as a study day. Of course call anytime about an emergency, but for things that can wait please call some other time.

## Teachers Needed!



Here is a way to serve in the church that you might not have considered....we are seeking people to help teach the 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders Sunday School - we need someone for the 1<sup>st</sup> and someone else for the 4<sup>th</sup>

Sundays of the month. The class will vary in size but not in enthusiasm! We have general themes laid out for March, April, May and June and are happy to give you as much input, guidance, or assistance as you would like - or none at all! If you have any interest, or are not sure but just have questions for us, please come see either Karen Lenore or Jill Johnson. We thank you and so do the youth.



## BAKE SALE

Be thinking (and working on) your contribution to the Annual Easter Bake Sale. In the past we've had pickles, hot fudge sauce, collections of homemade teas, scones, cookies, cupcakes. We also feature a silent auction on several very nice cake items (remember the bunny cakes?). And then there's always Carol Palumbo's Killer Chocolate Cake! The proceeds of the bake sale go to our summer camp scholarships. Waverly has a history of having 100 percent participation in summer camp and we are proud that we can support our young people in this way.

### Scottish Night

Many thanks to our resident Scots, the Ramsay Family, for another fantastic Scottish Night. And to our Rustic, Andrew Millar, always a fine addition to the blessing, and well as providing great neeps and tatties. The rest of the food was great, as was the program consisting of Burns poetry, Burns songs performed by the chorus, and the sing along. And a special thanks to Diane Rynerson for the piano accompaniment.

Be sure you don't miss this fine event next year.



### Upcoming Events



### Future Soup and Culture Events

Some programs to keep in mind for the end of this year:

Passover Meal (in April)

The Annual Talent Show (which I expect you ALL to sign up for)

Celebration of Pastor Zaworski's 25th Anniversary of Ordination (sometime in June)

Also reserve your Labor Day weekend for our annual Campout at Waverly Cabin at Camp Adams. Friday night through Sunday. It's a blast!!!

## Women's Fellowship



### O.K. Waverly women, Let's get it together ----No, Let's Get Together!!

The WWW's, also known as the warm, wonderful, wise, welcoming, wild, WAVERLY WOMEN, will have their first meeting the second Thursday of March (13th) at 7:00 in Hyde Hall to laugh, discover, think, and plan.

Input so far centers around friendship, social activities, and service to our WHCC Community. Service suggestions have been to work on the library, manageable projects to beautify the grounds and building, to add to the fun, support, and friendship.

As you have guessed, the first "W" stands for all the Wonderful Words we can claim. ( It has been suggested that we omit wanton, but perhaps wanting is in.)

So far Kay and Carol, and Carol, and Anne, and Martha, and Beth, and Jeanne, and Nancy and Ruth and Sandra are up for the challenge. Please come too!

## Donate Life Northwest

91% of the population is aware of the need for and agree with the concept of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Only 20% of the population designate themselves as donors. Less than 1% die under circumstances that allow them to be organ donors. This is why it is so important to sign up on the registry.

You may have a "D" on your driver's license/ID or permit or carry a donor card. That is good, but it only indicates your intent, and requires family consent at the time of donation. The donor registry is a statewide electronic database that allow Oregonians to confirm their commitment to being an organ, eye, and tissue donor. The registry ensures that a person's decision to donate is known and honored - it provides a way to notify family and friends of your decision. Signing up on the registry is considered "first person consent" for those over 18. You can go on line to [donatelifenw.org](http://donatelifenw.org) if you live in Oregon or [donatelifetoday.com](http://donatelifetoday.com) for Washington. You may register in both states if you wish.

## "I Don't Know What to Say"

A two-hour workshop for people who care -- Practical ideas for supporting someone who is seriously ill. When a crisis happens to someone we care about, it's natural to want to reach out. But, sometimes we hesitate to visit or call because we're afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing. This workshop will provide practical guidance and encouragement. Led by professionals from Providence Hospice & Palliative Care. Saturday Morning March 8th at Parkrose Community UCC, NE 105th Av & Wygant (one block south of Sandy Blvd) Registration begins at 9:30 am, workshop runs from 10 to noon. For info or to sign up phone 503 253 5457 or email [office@parkroseucc.org](mailto:office@parkroseucc.org).



Please submit articles for the April issue no later than March 25th.

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.

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

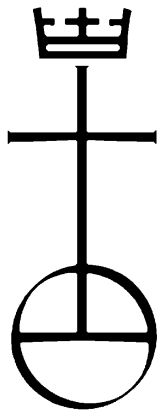
3300 SE Woodward  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
(503) 238-1337  
www.waverlyucc.org

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Service:  
Sunday - 11:00 am

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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.**

**MARCH**