

The Church On The Hill



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

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 111 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

New Year's Message

F R O M T H E P A S T O R

the greek for “messenger.”) So, “good messenger” giving rise to the meaning “good message” which is to say “Good News!” Evangelism is just bringing good news.

As we approach Twelfth Night/Epiphany/Three Kings on January 6th we enter a new season in the church year. The twelve days of Christmas will be past. The coming of the Magi from afar signals our own turning outward to bring the good news to the world. That means this is a time of focus on evangelism.

Okay, everyone just pause to say the word out loud, “evangelism.” How do you react? I’m finding myself thinking of my cousins’ dog Clancy—a very large Irish Setter who had been abused by his first owners. He was a great dog, but you approached him with caution. Evangelism is an idea that has been badly abused, and has indeed bitten far too many people. Which is sad on many counts, but no reason to abandon it to others. Just approach with due caution, bring understanding and a bit of courage, and surprising possibilities may open up.

We can start our approach by looking at the roots of the word: it’s from the greek *eu*—good and *angelos*—messenger (yes, “angel” come from

We have good news to share at Waverly UCC. We are finding a place of community, of support and acceptance in the midst of doubts and struggles, a place where we can be the Body of Christ for one another—offering tangible aid when we can, standing in solidarity always, holding hope for one another when one’s own world feels hopeless. We are growing into a vision of just peace that says war, poverty, abuse and despair are not the final word. We are holding up a light of hope, the light whose coming we have celebrated at Christmas, the light of hope that our lives can be transformed, that the world can be renewed.

This is good news we actually experience. What could be more natural than to want to share that good news with others? We don’t need to talk about heaven and hell—judgment at the end of life. We all know enough of heaven and hell right now, judgment right now. We only need to be aware, open, accepting of others’ deep needs, doubts, and hopes and then willing to say something like, “That’s where my church holds me, accepts me, shares fun and joy with me—right in the midst of

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my life just as it is.” It’s good news. Not that we’re the only path, but that we are on a wonderful path together. So it’s epiphany season: time to offer that word of good news, in the possibility that another might rejoice in this shared path as much as we all do.

Blessings,

David



ANNUAL MEETING

Waverly Heights UCC Annual Meeting

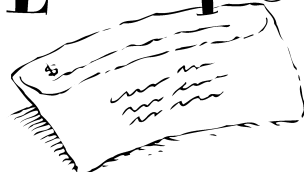
Our church annual meeting will be Sunday 25th following worship. We’ll be receiving annual reports, voting on the budget, and electing officers. Everyone is welcome to be present for the annual meeting. Voting is limited to those who have formally joined the church.



Inquirers’ Class/Receiving New Members

Pastor David is planning to welcome new members onto the rolls of the congregation during the worship service January 25th, before the annual meeting. If you are interested in membership, please talk to David. If you know you want to become a member, or if you’re just curious plan to meet following worship January 11th for an Inquirers’ Class (we’ll collect some coffee/food then gather upstairs in Hyde Hall or the office—probably done about 1pm).

Offering Envelopes



Now that our overflowing recycling has finally been hauled away and we can start filling up our recycling carts again I thought I better mention that we can recycle our unused offering envelopes in a better way. We always have envelopes left over especially those who make a once a month contribution or who always forget to use ‘em. Instead of tossing them in the recycling bring them back to church and I will take a sharpie and mark out the number and date to make them generic. We can use them in the pews for guests or those who need an envelope, or use for special contributions or give them to the Sunday School children. Remember when we always took a dime or quarter for our Sunday School offering as kids?

So much for our old leftover envelopes, . . .now I have received the new envelopes and will bring them to church Sunday, Jan. 4th. If you haven't picked up yours by the time you read this, please do. There is a box for everyone who wants one whether or not you pledged. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Ruth Stellmon, Financial Secretary



No matter how we try and say it, we just can’t seem to feel we’ve said it enough! A BIG heart felt thank you goes out to our many talented lay-leads! We truly appreciate everyone who signed-up in 2008, and especially those of you who have step-in at the last minute ... You are awesome!!! We look forward to seeing all of you again in 2009 as well as some new faces. A "new and improved" sign-up and sheet will be posted downstairs in Hyde Hall for 2009 ... please feel free to sign-up early and often :) Or if need be see Beth & Bob for additional details ...

Adult Education Class



Join us for the next Adult Education meeting! We are reading Chapter 3 of Marcus Borg's book The Heart of Christianity. We will be meeting at 7pm on Thursday January 8th in Hyde Hall.

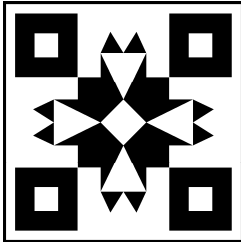
It's a great time to reflect, ask questions and maybe even live into some answers! Bring a friend. Come even if you haven't read.



Welcome!

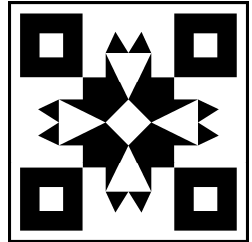
Please give a warm welcome to our new Nursery Care Provider Mary O'Brien. She's lovely and we want her to know how much we appreciate what she does with our children.

So, even if you don't have little ones, please go in and introduce yourselves to Mary!



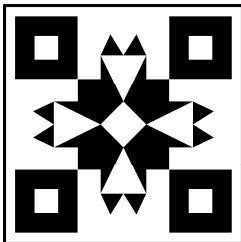
WWW's

Hope your Christmases were splendid and very merry and blessed and lovely.

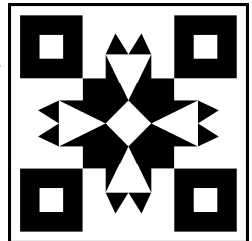


We had a nice turnout for the play and it was so much fun that we are planning to go to the next one on January 19th. Nancy will relay an e-mail later.

Our next meeting is the second Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. Those of you who are working on quilt strips should get them back to Jeanne for assembly before that. We can tie the quilt that meeting. YES! If this isn't possible, return the pieces to Jeanne in time to get them together.



Jeanne would like input as to the day of our gatherings. Is Tuesday or Thursday better, and the second or third week of the month?



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 contact the church office at 503-238-1337.



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

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger, Editor

Obama to Use Lincoln's Inaugural Bible at Swearing-in

Written by Religion News Service
December 24, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama has chosen the Bible used at President Lincoln's first inauguration for his own swearing-in on Jan. 20, inaugural planners announced.

It will be the first time a president has used the historic Bible at an inauguration since it was first used by Lincoln himself in 1861.

"President-elect Obama is deeply honored that the Library of Congress had made the Lincoln Bible available for use during his swearing-in," said Emmett Beliveau, executive director of the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

"The president-elect is committed to holding an inauguration that celebrates America's unity, and the use of this historic Bible will provide a powerful connection to our common past and common heritage."

The Bible, which is accented with gilded edges and bound in burgundy velvet, is part of the collection of the Library of Congress, along with the Lincolns' family Bible.

It was originally purchased by Clerk of the Supreme Court William Thomas Carroll. The Lincolns' family Bible was not available at the time of the ceremony because it was packed with belongings that were en route to the White House from Springfield, Ill.

A Prayer for the New Year

Loving Creator,

Long ago you brought life from cosmic chaos.
For over 4.5 billion years your creation has evolved.
Along the way humanity has stumbled as we have matured.
Yet you have never abandoned us.

A New Year has dawned.
Help us to make this the year we take our stewardship
over creation seriously.
Guide us to protect your forests and oceans.
Give us the wisdom to look after all life (even the "creeping things".)

Help us to recognize the interconnectedness we humans share
with the oceans, the mountains, the forests, the deserts.
Help us to recognize the interconnectedness we humans share
with other humans though we may worship differently.
Bestow on us the courage of the Prophets of old so that we may speak truth
to power in your Holy name.

Another year, O God.
Another year to do justice.
Another year to love kindness.
Another year to walk humbly with you (Micah 6:8).

Praise be to God!

Amen.

- The Rev. Chuck Currie

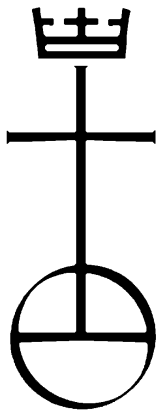
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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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.**

