

The Church On The Hill



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

**FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 112 VOLUME 2**

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

From the Pastor



A couple days ago Marie and I watched The Daily Show from January 20th – t h e i r inauguration day coverage. One of the hallmarks of this show is their amazing research team's ability to pull up last year's news footage to bring a reality check to what we're seeing today. So on inauguration day, they brought up clips of George W. Bush speeches that very closely paralleled words from Barack Obama's inaugural address. This was accompanied by a good deal of theatrical hand-wringing—this is a program on the Comedy Channel after all. I myself didn't find any distress in this exercise, but it was interesting.

What it demonstrates to me is that words do derive a great deal of their power and promise from their context. It matters who says them and when they say them. Words that from one politician may sound at best empty, at worst delusional or cynically self-

serving, those same words from another politician can lift us up in hope and belief in the promise of our better self. The most important difference is our relationship to the politician speaking—the trust we have offered and that has been honored and nurtured in us... or not.

I find myself thinking about how the people around us hear our words about being Christian, about God's love, about the longing for peace and justice that we believe we share with God. A lot of our Christian language has been and is still used in ways that are at best indifferent and at worst cruel and damaging. How do we live and speak with integrity that opens people to trust, and honors that trust with respect, compassion, and deeds of loving-kindness?

Barack Obama ran a campaign based not on manipulating opinion, but on an ever-broadening base of engagement and relationship. There's some wisdom there for us. We aren't here to "sell" good news. We are called to live so that people will look and be amazed, "See how they love!" We are called to speak our witness looking each one in the eye and seeing the divine right there, "no matter who you are, no

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matter where you are on life's journey."

It's a great moment in history. And in this great moment and beyond it we know that every moment of every day is a divine gift, a God-given an opportunity to speak and to live our truth, our hope, our commitment, our trust.

Blessings

David

Waverly Heights UCC is on the web! Check out the Facebook Group that we have created (and join it). You can see upcoming events, post your thoughts, take part in discussions. Another way to be connected. Here's the url for the group: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=101312435566>

Souper Bowl Sunday



"Meet or beat 345 pound tackle
Max Starks: Justice in
Action"

What: Festival

Host: Waverly Heights United
Church of Christ

Start Time: Sunday, February 1 at 11:00am

End Time: Sunday, February 1 at 12:00pm

Where: Waverly Heights UCC

Hope you can make it!

Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendars. Ash Wednesday service at 7pm February 25th. Look for details in the announcements and by email.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT 2008

A lot of work has been done this year at the church and the parsonage. Special thanks to Steve Palumbo and Mark Hardin for the volunteer work put in at the parsonage and ongoing maintenance projects .

The year began with the decision to replace the furnace at the parsonage with a high efficiency gas one, and we had to clean up and pull out the old oil tank. Thanks Macey Hyde for advancing a no interest loan. Other plumbing and water heating issues have been taken care of, and the tenants rent was raised to reflect current market rates. We decided against a major refurbishment, but a medium term set of goals will be to paint the place inside and out and update the plumbing and electrical system, and replace carpets, and update the kitchen.

The church and grounds have been kept in good order, thank you everyone who volunteered for our periodic clean ups. We have an ongoing issue with squirrels in the attic of Hyde Hall, chewing through some wiring, and we are in the process of repairing the soffit on the south side of the church. Some windows were replaced by Steve Palumbo. Our goals for the coming year are to paint the Church on the outside as it now needs it, and to really spruce up the downstairs fellowship room by painting and cleaning in anticipation of the access project being completed. A fresh look to this room will be a big improvement.

So, with major changes in store to improve access, I feel we have a lot of momentum to use our energies to take on deferred maintenance and present Waverly church in a fresh new light.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kane

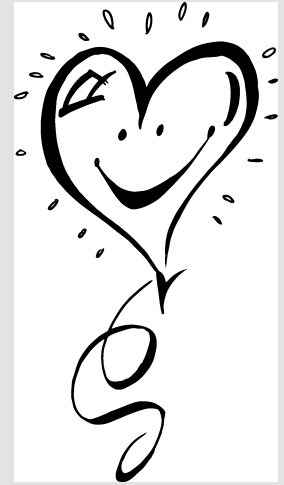
Building and Grounds



We wish *Gregg Weed* Bon Voyage as he is moving to Hawaii on January 30th. The warm climate will be better for his health.

He has been a dear and valuable member, and we will miss him very much!

Sunday School theme for February is LOVE!



Thank you to everyone who helped with Outreach/Evangelism in 2008. We are gearing up for big events in 2009, with an ultimate goal of having 100 members for our 100th anniversary.

Your suggestions and ideas are welcome. Please talk to Michelle Domenico, if you have an idea on how we can reach out to our community.

Happy New Year!

WWW News

The Quilt is nearly done and it is BEAUTIFUL. All that is needed is to finish the edges and some of us will gather early in February to complete that task.

We will try for two meetings in February. The first will be an outing to the Profile Theater to attend another reading. This time it will be Neil Simon's "Broadway Band". The date is Monday February 9th. The theater is on 34th and Belmont. There will be a carpool from the church parking lot at 6:45p.m., or meet at the theater about 7:10p.m. Price is still \$5. Invite friends and family. It's a great outing.

Our regular meeting will be in Hyde Hall the third Thursday, February 19, 7:00 p.m. It was suggested that we bring a food donation to our meetings. Great idea. Let's do it.

Don't forget, all are welcome. We welcome Amy to our group! Our ages now range from the 20's to the 90's. How is that for inclusiveness!



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 March issue no later than February 19th.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger, Editor

Monday, January 12, 2009
Get Fired Up!
Bible Excerpt from Revelation 3:15-22

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

For a moment, imagine with John, the author of Revelation, that it is the end of the age and you have been brought before the judgment seat. What do you most fear might be revealed about your life? That you denied the existence of God? That you disobeyed God?

John imagines that the most egregious sin is being lukewarm in our devotion to God. He goes on to imagine that it would be better to turn a cold shoulder to God, to have our relationship with God freeze over entirely, than for us to be tepid in our devotion to God.

At first, this can surprise us. It doesn't seem like being lukewarm could be so bad. But consider: in the matter of relationships the opposite of love is not hate, but rather something more like lukewarm indifference. And this can be the same in our relationship with God. Those who rail against God, or actively doubt God, or even knowingly disobey God, at least accord God a considerable role in their lives. At least such a person is not indifferent or casual or dull. There is room for growth in such a person, which is another way of saying that there is room for God.

C. S. Lewis once wrote: "Christianity, if it is false, is of no importance. And if true, it is of ultimate importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important." A lukewarm Christian tries to make of Christianity something moderately important. But Christ inspires and requires so much more. The only appropriate response is to get fired up.

Prayer

God of Pentecost fire, do not let me settle into being lukewarm in my devotion to you. Amen.

About the Author

Martin B. Copenhaver is Senior Pastor, Wellesley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Wellesley, Massachusetts, and the author of *To Begin at the Beginning: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 1. Souper Bowl Sunday! On this Superbowl Sunday, we collect non-perishable food for FISH. We try to meet or beat the largest player, who according to the official rosters is Max Starks. He is 6'8" and 345 pounds!!! If you know you won't be at church, please drop off your food items in the office, and let David know it's there.

Scottish Night returns! **Friday, February 20.** Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer Gie her a haggis! Yes, haggis. Bag pipes and drums! Poetry, songs, and whiskey--but not much! Join us for an evening celebrating Robert Burns (his 250th birthday). And on this day, we are all Scots. There will be a rehearsal of the Sideburns on **Wednesday, February 18** at the Ramsays house. Let them know you'll be coming, and yes there will be a reward.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Dessert Potluck! **Tuesday, February 24.** Time to rid your households of those rich foods, particularly eggs, milk, and sugar. Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up those items before the traditional fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. However, they are also typical ingredients of dessert, my favorite course. WE provide the pancakes--you bring the desserts! And practice up for the Pancake Race!

[Since this is the beginning of the countdown to Easter, just advance notice here that as in the past we will be having a Bake Sale on Easter morning as a fund raiser for Camperships to Camp Adams for summer camp.]

Mid-Winter Retreat at Camp Adams. **Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28.** Don't miss the first (hopefully) Annual Mid-Winter Retreat. We have reserved Waverly Cabin. There will be good fellowship, hiking, a warm fire, and plenty of quiet. There will be some sort of sign up for bunks and food later this month. If you have any questions, please contact Marie.

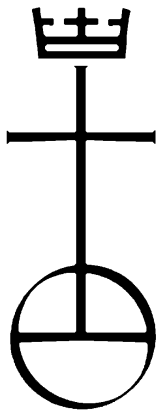
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**

February