

The Church On The Hill



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

**MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 113 VOLUME 2**

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



For the six Sundays of lent, as we prepare ourselves and approach holy week and easter, I will be preaching a sermon series on the prophets. Most of the time I'm taking texts from the

Revised Common Lectionary \a three-year cycle of readings put together by an ecumenical committee \and my sermon for the day comes from one or more of the texts assigned to that Sunday. I've been through that three-year cycle eight times now, so occasionally doing something else is a good change.

I'm inspired to preach about the prophets by a little booklet put together by Joan Chittister herself a powerful prophetic voice in the world today. Writing about some of the prophets, she lifts up how very far our world is from God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace. The world is deeply in need of prophetic lives, of words and deeds that present the divine vision, that proclaim the deeper reality of God's love and call to love for all creation. We, too, are called to be prophets: to live and speak in ways that engage and challenge the powers.

So, over these six Sundays we'll learn a bit from Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Micah, and Ezekiel. Along the way we'll be touching on some history from a critical time in the life of God's chosen people. These prophets' ministries span roughly 200 years from the last decades of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the late eighth century

BCE through the destruction of Jerusalem and the final exile into Babylon in the sixth century. Into these critical times, God sent people from all walks of life, proclaiming hard judgment, undying compassion and mercy, vision and hope. God offers us these words anew today. I look forward to engaging and hearing the prophets with you all on these next Sundays.
Blessings, Pastor David

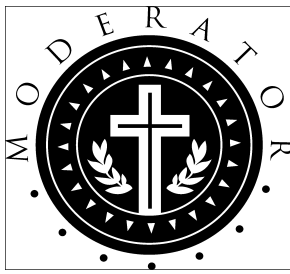
One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches' Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering. The OGHS offering is most often received the third Sunday of Lent; at Waverly we will be receiving donations throughout March.

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org



It feels like a whirlwind start to the new year. The Lift Project is on its way. What a joy to see this happening. We again thank Glen Pullen for his work and perseverance.

We will soon be listening to a baby grand piano. Huge thanks are due to Anne Reif for looking into this and making it happen. And this gratitude extends to those individuals who contributed to the purchase. Thus it does not affect the church budget and the financing for the lift. This is such a great gift to all of us.

We have welcomed two new members to the consistory. Anne Reif is serving as church clerk and Tom McFadden social concerns leader. Another thank you to Carol Palumbo for SIX YEARS of faithful service as church clerk.

Church Officers for the present year

Moderator: Jeanne Clegg 502-281-4080

Church Clerk: Anne Reif 503-239-4813

Treasurer: Kay Orzel 503-236 8183

Financial Secretary: Ruth Stellmon 503-232-4370

Consistory Members

Building and Grounds: Paul Kane 503-239-8012

Worship: Bob and Beth Kress

Hospitality: Marie Zaworski 503-515-9198

Social Justice: Tom McFadden 503-774-6237

Christian Education: Jill Johnson 503-232-5598 Karen Lenore 503-238-1306

Evangelism/Outreach: Michelle Domenico 503-234-0840

BENEFIT JAZZ CONCERT

The Shadow Project believes that children with learning disabilities have great potential. If you believe that too, and would like to support special education teachers in Portland Public Schools, come join us for a relaxing evening of smooth jazz as The Shelley Rudolph Quartet, and the vintage rock, swing and blues ensemble, Troubled Boots perform a benefit concert for the Shadow Project.



When: Saturday March 7th, 7:30 pm

Where: The Old Church **1422 S.W. 11th Avenue**

Wine and cheese will be served.

Tickets are \$25. Purchase online at <http://www.shadow-project.org/> or contact Judy Beaudette at 503-771-5195.

The Shadow Project is a non-profit foundation that provides a free resource to special education teachers, who use it in their classrooms to motivate kids with learning challenges. This simple, cost-effective program gets kids excited about learning and gives them real-life lessons in saving, persistence, and giving to others. As one parent put it "This is such an amazing program! The pride she (my daughter) feels in her accomplishments is huge. I commend you for making a difference in my daughter's education and attitude toward learning."

"Music should always be an adventure." *Coleman Hawkins*



Waverly is Getting a New Piano

Anne Reif, with her music committee hat on, recently announced exciting news: Waverly is buying a baby grand piano!

Classic Pianos recently had a piano sale. Some church members went there, just to see what they had. It turned out they had the perfect piano for our sanctuary: a 1991 Sammick 4 foot 7 inch baby grand, for a very reasonable price, generous payment terms and a built-in heater/humidifier to help keep it in tune. Although we were very excited, we had no budget, so how could we afford this?

Informal discussions were held. Colin auditioned the piano and was very enthusiastic about its quality. Generous church members also were enthusiastic; they stepped forward with donations of more than the required down payment and, by a vote of the Consistory, it was decided to be bold and purchase the piano.

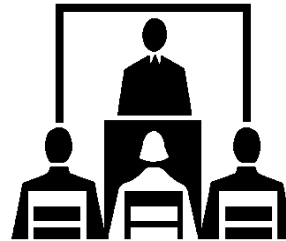
Why does Waverly need a new piano? A good piano that stays in tune will energize both the congregation and choir--not to mention the music director--in ways that will surprise you. In addition, this piano can be used for concerts that will extend the church's outreach to the community, as well as raise money for the Access Project.

Speaking of the Access Project, shouldn't the piano money have gone to the Access Project instead? The generous contributors have all affirmed that their donations for the piano will not decrease their contributions to the Access Project.

When will the piano arrive? We need to coordinate with the lift construction. We are hoping that the piano will be in the sanctuary in time for Easter.

Electronic Funds Transfer Now Possible

Delighted to be part of Waverly UCC, committed to supporting the church, but sometimes you just forget to write the check? A new option is now available to take care of this problem. Waverly UCC is now set up to accept automatic Electronic Funds Transfers from your bank account. This is through a program set up by the national UCC with Vanco Services. All you need to do is fill out a form and provide a voided check. We'll get the information into the system and everything is set. Of course you can cancel or make changes at any time. If this sounds good to you, talk to Pastor David or Ruth Stellmon. We'll have the forms at church, or can mail one to you.



Save the date: Saturday, March 21, 9 - noon: Hear Fred Plumer, President of the Center for Progressive Christianity

(www.tpc.org), discuss what it means to be a progressive Christian today. A lively, illuminating session is expected. **Cedar Hills United Church of Christ**, 11695 Park Way, Portland OR 97225, is sponsoring the session. Admission is free and good will donations will be accepted for the Youth Mission Trip to Biloxi. Child care will be provided if you let the church office know number and ages of children by March 19 (503-644-3838). Plumer will also preach in the worship service at Cedar Hills UCC on Sunday, March 22 at 10 am.

(Waverly Community—following is a letter to the editor that Gregg Weed sent to the Honolulu paper and passed on to us. I commend it to you as an example of one person's prophetic voice. David Z)

Aloha Everyone:

I moved my family from Oregon to Honolulu about three weeks ago. My children's mother is Mexican. My youngest looks like the stereotypical Mexican kid.

He was quite vocal about his wanting us to come here, because he "fits in" - his brown skin and black hair are commonplace. He's not worried about being called "beaner" or "wetback". (Yes, Oregon's largest city, Portland, is considered very tolerant; but nevertheless, this island's welcome of different races is incomparable.)

Last Sunday, we attended "Word of Life Christian Center". The people were beautiful and cheery, and for a moment it felt like this was to be our new church.

But when Pastor Sepulveda - himself of Mexican heritage - had his congregation focus in on the purple enclosed leaflet, I could have flipped! "OPPOSE House Bill 444 and Senate Bill 458". (note: these are bills to establish civil unions in Hawaii -- ddz) What?!

I didn't get it. (If I were in the Old South, well, maybe... but here in Hawaii?) It was like biting into a delicious apple, and discovering as you chew, a half eaten worm (or Hawaiian style, biting into a golden fresh pineapple and discovering the half eaten body of a cockroach.)

Yes, I stayed. Afterwards, I spoke to him, greeting him in Spanish, complementing him on his (later) very positive sermon.

But how could he, as a Mexican whose father grew up in the 50's - who must have suffered that period's overt prejudice - oppose a bill that forbids unequal treatment of another minority group of Americans?

And wasn't he aware that opposing this bill encourages people's hatred of gays, of "faggots" - of landlords not renting to "homo", "lesbo", nor "dyke" couples.

It is that simple.

Doesn't he see the contradiction, the falsehood of, "I have friends who are gay, but that doesn't mean I think they should have the right to get married"?

And most of all, we are talking about Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, God's son, who taught about the parts of the Old Testament that He wanted updated: "An eye for an eye" changed to "Turn your other cheek." You don't stone adulterers, and you invite EVERYONE to the party! Supporting the "Civil Union Bill on Same Sex Marriage" is inviting everyone to the party.

Yes, it is that simple.

Gregg Weed

1327 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, Hi 96816

Adult Education Class



The next Adult Education meeting will be on Thursday March 5th at 7pm in Hyde Hall. We are continuing with Chapter 5 in The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg. We welcome everyone, even if you have not joined us previously or nor done the reading.

O-ba-ma! O-ba-ma! YES WE CAN!

Our very own Theo Burke attended the Presidential Inauguration and will be giving a photo and video presentation. Join us on Friday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck--American food I should think--followed by the pictures and video.

YES WE CAN!

YES WE CAN!

Crafts for Kids!



It's time to get crafty and celebrate Easter! Please come and invite your friends to this fun event. We will be painting, glueing and glittering from 10am -12am on April 4th. Cost is \$2 and a can of food. If you would

like to volunteer to help make crafts with kids, or if you have craft materials you would like to donate, please talk to Michelle Domenico.

WWW'S



Let's try a second Thursday meeting in March. I know a couple of you have committments on the third Thursday. Hyde Hall, March 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Let's have a craft idea and/or bring -it- along night. Kay and Helen have been thinking about ideas for a Christmas fund raising bazaar. If you have relatively simple projects that would be appropriate, bring the project, the product, or the idea.

March 30th is the next reader's play at Profile Theater. Neil Simon's "God's Favorite" is the play. Eight of us made it last time and this really is a fun event to attend. Again all are welcome. We can meet again at church at 6:45 for carpooling or be at the theater about 7:10 p.m.

I spelled Aimee Snider's name wrong last time. Welcome Aimee! Friend is a good name for a www member.

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 April issue no later than March 20th.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger, Editor

Seattle congregation hosts controversial homeless encampment

Written by Ryan Singleton
February - March 2009

The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH) is a volunteer organization that hosts an annual One Night Count, when workers tally the number of people affected by homelessness in King County, according to its website. The count contains two main components - a street count, and a shelter and transitional housing survey.

"The 2008 One Night Count documented an increase in how many people are on the streets and without shelter," SKCCH's website reported. "Volunteers observed a 15 percent increase in people surviving outside in the same areas counted in 2007."

In response to this growing problem, the tent community - dubbed "Nickelsville" after Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels - organized to provide shelter, safety and resources for the homeless. This self-governed encampment officially launched Sept. 22, 2008.

Though Nickelsville, which provides shelter for about 100 people per night, has no religious affiliation, it began finding refuge in church parking lots after receiving its fourth eviction notice in three weeks. The city of Seattle issued the notices because camping is illegal within city limits.

University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Seattle's University District was the first to offer its resources to the homeless community, allowing Nickelsville to occupy its parking lot throughout October and November. When University Christian could no longer support the controversial community, University Congregational UCC voted to accommodate the encampment.

"Our congregation was following the Disciples congregation's lead," says Catherine Foote, senior minister at University Congregational, of the Dec. 5, 2008, move. "When [University Christian] reached the end of their ability to sponsor Nickelsville, they laid the pack down and Congregational was ready to pick that pack up."

University Christian found it necessary to amicably end its close relationship with Nickelsville for two major reasons, according to Janetta Cravens Boyd, the church's recently installed senior minister.

For roughly two years, University Christian had been in a search-and-call process to fill its head pastoral position. During that time, the congregation postponed many of its ministries, such as developing programs for children's education and outreach to people with disabilities.

Shortly after Cravens Boyd filled the role, Nickelsville came to University Christian's parking lot, continuing the postponement of the congregation's plans for other ministries.

"The church wanted to get started with some of the other things it had been dreaming about for the past two years," says Cravens Boyd.

Coupling this with the lack of time, University Christian could only provide resources for two months of encampment for Nickelsville, says Cravens Boyd.

Nickelsville has been able to find refuge in churches because of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA). RLUIPA is "a federal statute that [seeks] to provide stronger protection for religious freedom in the land-use and prison contexts," according to the United States Department of Justice's website.

Despite legal precedence for this argument, University Christian filed for a short-term permit with the city of Seattle to house Nickelsville. University Congregational is filing for both short- and long-term permits. University Congregational's goal is to offer its parking lot to Nickelsville through the end of February if the community needs it, according to the church's website.

Even with RLUIPA, churches believe permits are necessary because Mayor Nickels enabled city officials to force encampments off public and private land. The mayor made this decree while supporting King County's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The county's Committee to End Homelessness introduced a decade-long initiative in March 2005.

University Congregational is asking the city to waive its filing fees while the church studies the permits. Fees could exceed \$2,000, according to a member of the Nickelsville community, who wished to remain anonymous. He also said that the city has posted violation notices around the homeless community and church, warning that it will fine the church for allowing people to camp on its property.

Currently, King County cannot provide adequate shelter for all homeless persons. By one estimate, the county is "at least 2,000 beds short every night," according to University Congregational's website. "In addition, shelters offer little privacy or predictability, and people do not have a place to store their possessions or stay during the day."

Nickelsville's long-range goal is to secure a plot of land "where up to 1,000 people could live in temporary structures while the city and county continue to plan for and construct more permanent structures as part of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness," according to the website.

Though University Congregational has a history of supporting people affected by homelessness, their efforts with Nickelsville are different, Foote said. The congregation considers itself in partnership with the encampment, much like it considers itself in partnership with the city and county in their efforts to end homelessness.

"Our hope is to continue to work with the city and to work with our own vision of love and justice so that people in Seattle don't have to be homeless," Foote said.

Ryan Singleton recently graduated from University of Chicago with a M.Div.

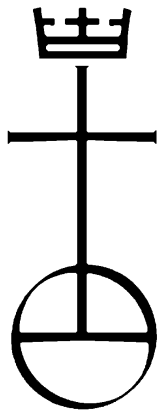
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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.**

MARCH
