

The Church On The Hill



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

APRIL 2009 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 114 VOLUME 2

DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR

Easter Message From the Pastor



Easter is coming up fast. Flowers, malted-milk eggs, family gatherings, chocolate

bunnies. And, oh yes, Jesus. I have to confess that for years Easter was a problem for me as a minister. It's difficult to preach a really good Easter sermon if you don't believe in the resurrection. It turns out, too, that even now when I do have faith in resurrection, it's still hard.

So two things are going on here: first, God is very patient and persistent in opening the heart and mind even of an ordained Christian minister; second, we have been resistant to and maybe fearful of looking at the resurrection stories in the same ways we look at all the rest of the Bible.

I grew up very, very rational, dwelling solidly in the realm of science, a true child of the enlightenment. My world really didn't have any place for a risen Jesus. Oddly enough, though, Jesus has had a place for me. When I declare now that "Jesus walks with you," it's because I know it is true. Over the years I have been given the gift of experiencing the very real, definite presence of Jesus—here, now, 2000 years after his execution on the cross. I think this is a gift given in mercy for my stubborn rationality and slow comprehension of larger realities. I know many people of much

deeper faith who have never had experiences like this.

And for those of you whose brains are rebelling at this point, don't fret. Say it's all in my head, all explainable psychologically. I won't mind, you could be right, and it won't matter. I have the experiences I have and the language of faith is the only way I can express it.

And there still isn't any place in the world I know for Jesus to be hidden away somewhere in a flesh-and-blood body. Yet I do believe the truth of the resurrection, just as I believe the truth of creation. Everywhere else in scripture we are willing to see metaphor being used to express truths deeper than mere logic and literalism. But for some reason, stories of bodily resurrection had to be either accepted literally or just rejected. With that choice, too often I and other preachers just danced around the heart of Easter. But here it is, friends: those first followers still experienced Jesus present, in ways perhaps more powerful and transforming than when he walked bodily with them. And that experience has continued down through the years. Whether one is given to experience that presence directly, or through the healing and transforming power of the Body of Christ—the faith community—or even if one as yet has no recognized experience of the divine, in all these circumstances still, Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. And Jesus has a place for you, loves you just exactly as you are, and *is* with you, with all the patience and persistence needed to bring each of us,

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bit by bit, to deeper experience, understanding, and trust in the divine.

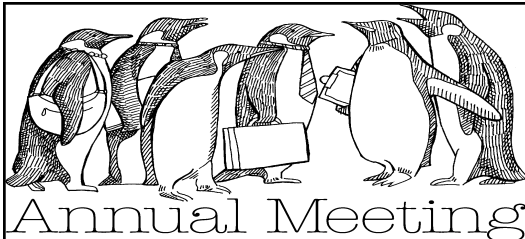
Blessings,
David

Qi Gong

Melinda Nickels is teaching a qi gong class, every Wednesday 7:30-8:30 pm in Hyde Hall or the sanctuary. Qi gong is a meditative form of movement, much like Tai Chi. In fact it is the gentle ancestor of such practices as Tai Chi, Kung Fu, and other martial arts. It has been practiced by people for thousands of years as a daily routine to improve their health, live longer, and reduce stress. Anyone and everyone is invited to join in. The movements can be modified for people of any age with any range of movement (you can even do it sitting down). The suggested donation for the class is \$5-\$10 per class, with money going to the access fund.

Flowers for the Easter Cross

Come ... celebrate the meaning of Easter and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. On Easter Sunday April 12th share the glorious bounty of the Oregon Spring and your green thumb by bringing your beautiful home grown flowers to church (or store bought) to decorate our wonderful Easter Cross. Think of it as an opportunity to praise God twice ... once in your garden and again on Easter Sunday at



Central Pacific Conference Annual Meeting May 1-2

The annual meeting of the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC will be held in Eugene this year, Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd. This is a great chance to get connected to our wonderful wider church family, to learn about what other churches are doing, to be lifted up by great worship services. A little bit of business is done, but more time is given to keynote speakers and workshops. The focus this year is around spiritual growth. Childcare is available, and the Eugene church will provide housing with host families. The registration materials are here. Talk to Pastor David if you're interested in attending.



Capital Campaign Planning Underway

By Pastor David

Last November, Waverly UCC took a leap of faith and borrowed \$46,000 from the national United Church of Christ's Cornerstone Fund to install a lift in the church. The Access Project will make all levels of the church easily accessible. It also will fulfill the church's commitment to welcoming all, no matter where they are on life's journey or what their physical abilities.

Now, we need to fulfill our faith in this commitment by raising the funds needed to pay off this loan, as well as to provide funds for maintenance needed for the church and the parsonage expected in the next two to three years.

I have asked Anne Reif to lead our capital campaign effort. She has previous experience leading a capital campaign for another church. At its last meeting, the Consistory approved this choice and Anne agreed to take on this challenge. Anne is forming a committee to plan and conduct the capital campaign. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me or Anne.

Although the economic atmosphere in the community has changed dramatically since we signed the loan documents, I know that, with God's help, we can do this! Yes, we can.

Access Project Update

The lift installation project remains an active work in progress, and the contractor, Bearson Enterprises, has begun preliminary work on the shaft, as evidenced by the hole in the ceiling at the south end of Fellowship Hall. The project was delayed for a few weeks because the contractor's initial application for a building permit was denied by the City of Portland, out of a preference for an elevator as opposed to a lift. The contractor appealed to the State of Oregon and prevailed, so that a permit for a lift can be granted. The latest communication from Bearson is that the project is in the final plans review stage with the City of Portland, and that a building permit is expected to be issued within the week. Once the building permit is in hand, work is expected to begin in earnest.



Handicap Accessible



Walter John Boris to Visit

On April 19th, Walter John Boris will be with us in worship at Waverly UCC. Walter John is the newly (last year) called conference minister for the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) of the United Church of Christ--the regional expression of our church. He has been working hard to get around to all 50 or so churches of the CPC, from Pocatello, Idaho to Ashland, Oregon, to Vancouver, Washington. The week after Easter he will be with us, offering us the sermon and the time with children. And yes, Pastor David will be at church too, glad of the chance to listen to a sermon. See you there!

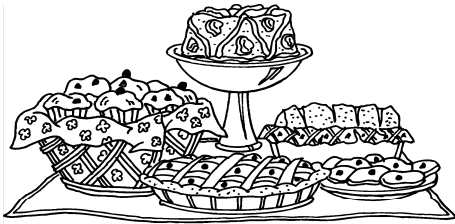


Good Morning, David.

I'm looking forward to being with you and your congregation on Sunday, April 19th. I'll get you more bulletin information when we get closer to the date. Yours, walter john

WJ bio: Walter John Boris began serving as Conference Minister for our Central Pacific Conference in August of 2008. He came to us after 29 years of ministry in four churches in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; and Kirkland, Washington. Walter John sees himself as a teacher and pastor, with much of his ministry focusing on building community in the church through themed worship services, educational opportunities for all ages, and enthusiastic participation in the camping ministry of the Conference. Over the past fourteen years, the congregation he served in Kirkland, WA was known for challenging the abuse of religion in politics, sharing their building with 13 other congregations, supporting gay rights, hosting the homeless encampment called Tent City 4, and exploring and promoting an inclusive view of our faith referred to as "Progressive Christianity." Walter John and his wife, Cindy Penn, have been married for 33 years. They're the proud parents of three: Matthew 28, Leah 26, and Joshua 24.

Walter John Boris
Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference - UCC



BAKE SALE

Get your aprons on and start reviewing your recipes for something great to donate to the Easter Bake Sale

Each year on Easter, a bake sale is held to benefit summer campers to Camp Adams. Often there is at least one bunny cake (I am ever hopeful!), cookies, pies, cupcakes, plates of cookies, jars of yummy caramel sauce, or scones. Some items are marked at set prices, but to make it really interesting, some are part of a silent auction. And some are auctioned verbally. Just think, someone else might actually walk away with Carol Palumbo's Heart Attack Chocolate Cake, for one. I heard that Ruth Stellmon was going to be making sugar eggs again this year. Easter is April 12, just a few weeks from now. Make something delicious and bring it to the Fellowship Hall on Easter. The youth will be handling sales.



Hello From the Parish Naturopath

Hello all! This is Melinda Nickels, your newly called Parish Naturopath. What does this mean? I will be a volunteer staff member for the church. My job will be to help promote the health and well being of folks in the church and community, through such things as: - Monthly blood pressure screenings (at fellowship hour every 4th Sunday) - Workshops and classes, such as the weekly Qi Gong class. I'll also do classes on living healthy, nutrition, stress reduction, cold and flu prevention and more. - Answering health related questions. I may give advice for minor complaints, but for more serious or involved care I will most likely refer you to your doctor or other health care professional. What else would you like to see from your parish naturopath? This is a new position and it will be evolving. Let me know if you have ideas!

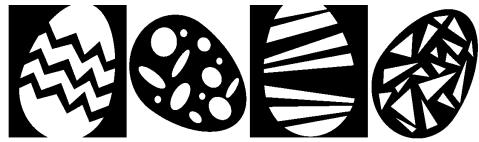
To Those Boarding Planes to Hawaii in Order to Escape the Rain

You must not have seen what I saw this morning
after relentless rain of eight days straight:
A raven at the intersection of 8th and Alder
laid his cheek to the puddled pavement,
scooped rainwater in his beak,
Ad tipping his head to the sky,
he drank,
to a seagull, far above, who screed and squinted in the clouds,
which opened their embrace to reveal
a small blue pond in the sky.

--Judy Beaudette

(Reprinted with permission from the author's husband.)

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Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Rain or Shine Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10am on Easter Sunday – April 12th! We'll have two hunts – one for the little

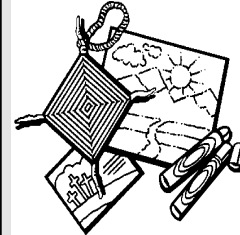
children and one for the 'not so little anymore' children! Feel free to bring friends and neighbors; there will be plenty of eggs to be hunted.

We will provide snacks for adults and children to enjoy before, during and/or after the hunt.

(See Karen Lenore if you would like to donate candy to the cause.) See you there!

KIDS EASTER CRAFT EVENT

Bring your kids and invite the kids in your neighborhood to our Kids Easter Craft event! This will be held April 4th from 10:30 to 12:30. Cost is \$2 and a can of food for FISH. We will be making book marks, decorating cookies, and painting. Snacks will be provided too! If you'd like to volunteer or provide craft materials, please contact



WWW'S

We have taken a survey and believe that the fourth Thursday of the month is the one that most have no other commitments.

NEXT MEETING will be the FOURTH Thursday of April (April 23) in Hyde Hall at 7:00 p.m.

There is no play reading in April, but there will be one more in May. Look for a further announcement.

The last meeting saw us discussing a fund raising bazaar to be held before the December rush. It was suggested that combining it with a musical program and refreshments would increase the money raised and be added fun. The Wild Women who were there looked at all sorts

of beautiful and enchanting crafts to make and we are each bringing three of what we have chosen to the next meeting. A good thing we have until late April!

We are still considering a Mad Hatter Mother, Daughter, Father, Son, Sister, Brother, Partner, Bring a Friend High Tea. This ,too, would be a fun, fund raiser. This Spring? Keep humming "Get Me to the Tea on Time." If we get the tea boiling, there will be singing to the tunes of "My Fair Lady."

Again ___ All are invited to join us!

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 May issue no later than April 21st.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger, Editor

NY Conference Minister nominated to lead UCC

April - May 2009

Executive Council, General Synod to consider candidacy

The Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has led the UCC's New York Conference for nearly a decade, has been nominated to become the UCC's next general minister and president. The nomination is scheduled to be voted on by the UCC's Executive Council at its March meeting.

Black was previously a program staff member in the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership. During his career he has served as assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans (N.Y.) Congregational UCC, pastor of Congregational UCC of South Hempstead (N.Y.), lecturer in the Field Education Department of Union Theological Seminary in New York and protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Black currently is a member of the board of trustees of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

St. Albans pastor, the Rev. Henry T. Simmons, chair of the GMP search committee, said the search committee is excited about Black's selection and the year-long exploration that led to the nomination. "It was a tough process — the candidates we interviewed were all very qualified," said Simmons. "In the end, we felt we had interviewed the best possible candidates and found the finest person to lead the UCC at this time."

Prior to his move to Cleveland in 1994, Black ministered in local UCC congregations for over 15 years where involvement in the life of the denomination provided opportunities to participate in association and conference committees and to hold several elected offices.

Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and the communities in which he has lived. He has worked the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded, and Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

UCC bylaws require that Black's nomination be affirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Council at their March 22 meeting. If recommended by the Executive Council and elected by delegates at General Synod for the four-year term, Black will succeed the Rev. John H. Thomas, who has served in the post since 1999 and is not eligible for re-election.

Black earned his B.A. from Lincoln University in 1969 and an M.A.R. from Yale Divinity School in 1972. He is the spouse of Patricia Williams-Black and the father of Makeda Black. He and his family reside in Dewitt, N.Y., and Black is a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Syracuse.

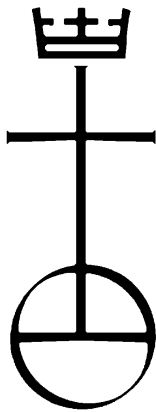
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

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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.**

APRIL