

The Church on the Hill

Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ

David Zaworski, Pastor

December 2009
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A new year begins. The season of Advent—the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day—is the start of the “church year.” The liturgical calendar sets the seasons of the church year and

lifts up traditions about what Bible readings to use, what colors are on the altar and pulpit, what hymns are appropriate, what prayers to offer... Some churches follow these traditions, well, religiously. Others hardly know of them. Here at Waverly UCC, we’re somewhat in the middle. We do take notice of the church seasons, but are not much dictated to by the formal traditions.

I value the notion of church seasons. For one thing, it reminds us that we are not in lock-step with our culture. Advent comes as the culture is in full-on Christmas assault (having started well before Halloween this year in at least one store I passed through). But for the church, Advent is not about Christmas. It’s about waiting, enduring, hoping. Christmas starts only with Christmas Eve and continues for the twelve days of Christmas. We aren’t rigorous sticklers on this, but we are aware. It helps us keep stepping back from the elves, candy canes, and conundrums of required gift-giving. It keeps us coming back to incarnation—God present with us,

Advent Message



mysteriously, miraculously. And while culturally our new year begins January 1st with parties and post-holiday-indulgence resolutions, in our church awareness we’ve already

started a new year with a patient searching period that leads us not to regrets, but deepened celebration.

So, enjoy. Even though it’s not really Christmas yet, sing along, loudly and joyfully, with all the carols and even with the chipmunks wanting a hoola hoop. But pause as well, especially when you’re feeling pressured and overwhelmed by expectations or by desires that you just don’t have the resources to make happen. Pause to remember that God has already done all that truly matters. God has come to us, as one of us, fully. We are never abandoned. We are always loved, even in all our human failings. Christ has come, Christ will come, Christ is with us today.

Blessings for a hope-filled Advent and a joyous Christmas,

David

Two elderly people living in Ft. Myers, he was a widower and she a widow, had known each other for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big area in the clubhouse. The two were at the same table, seated across from one another. As the meal progressed, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of care-

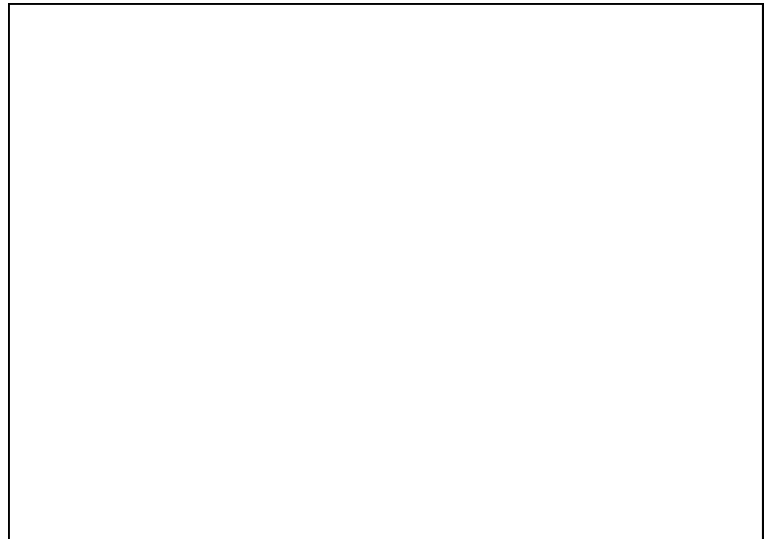
ful consideration, she answered, "Yes. Yes I will!" The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. Did she say "yes" or did she say "no?" He couldn't remember. Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he

used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say "yes" or did you say "no?" He was delighted to hear her say, "Why, I said "yes, yes I will and I meant it with all my heart!" Then she continued, "and I'm so glad you called because I couldn't remember who had asked me." Author Unknown

A young girl was watching her father, a pastor, write a sermon, "How do you know what to say?" she asked.

"Why, God tells me," he replied.

"Then why do you keep crossing things out?"



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.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Please submit articles for the January issue no later than Monday, December 28th.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger,
Editor

Holy Joe's Café extends extravagant welcome to troops

Written by Jeff Woodard
November 10, 2009

It's no exaggeration to say [Holy Joe's Café](#) has helped U.S. military personnel overseas a ton in the past 3 1/2 years. In fact, it's a gross understatement.

Founded in June 2006 by Thomas Jastermsky, a deacon at [First Congregational UCC in Wallingford, Conn.](#), Holy Joe's has now supplied 112 tons of coffee to troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

"We have had 405 chaplains assisting us in serving 120 locations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait," says Jastermsky, noting the increase in locations, from 95 last year. Someone is always stepping up to the plate to deliver generous amounts of "joe." In September, one of the heavy hitters was Green Mountain Coffee, giving 1,000 pounds in that month alone. One of the prominent players thus far has been the Tar Heel state, says Jastermsky. "North Carolina has been really, really important to Holy Joe's." [Trinity Reformed UCC in Conover, N.C.](#), is a caffeinated case in point.

"For us, it was about being supportive of our chaplains and other military personnel in Kuwait, Afghanistan or Iraq," says the Rev. Tom Hamilton, a Trinity member and retired Associate Conference Minister from the Central Atlantic Conference. "We could be divided about whether to support the war, but there was no division as to whether to support our troops."

Hamilton said his friend the Rev. John Gundlach, UCC Minister for Government Chaplaincies, notified him when Holy Joe's was in its early stages. "He asked if this was something our congregation would be interested in supporting," says Hamilton, "and we have shared this with several churches since then."

Emphasizing Holy Joe's impact on mission fulfillment at Trinity Reformed UCC is at the heart of everything Hamilton says on the subject. "This is so meaningful to the individuals of our church and meaningful in terms of general rapport with one another. It has given us another piece of good news to talk about – what binds us together, as compared with the opposite."

That shared support is galvanizing the congregation even further. "We're making plans to give additional support at the conclusion of this year or the beginning of next year," says Hamilton. Averaging 150 in weekly worship attendance, Conover has been supporting Holy Joe's to the tune of \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year.

Holy Joe's Café continues to reach out to all troops overseas – especially the significant number who have had little church background or spiritual development. Jastermsky says the uplifting effect is perhaps most pronounced in combat hospitals in Iraq and on-site "decompression models" where soldiers can speak one-on-one with chaplains.

The café has been extending more widely across ecumenical lines, more deeply into all corners of the country. One example is tiny Hope Congregational Christian Church in Clio, Ala. The 46-member church – averaging a weekly worship attendance of 35 – has been giving \$200 a month to Holy Joe's for the past year.

In addition to receiving direct funds from churches, Holy Joe's is aided by donors participating via UCC-sponsored Equal Exchange, which ships the coffee overseas.

No Trinity members are currently engaged in active military duty overseas, says Hamilton. But spiritual ties to all who are serving are strong. "We register lists of names of persons serving in the military; it could be a relative or family member of a church member." Hamilton also notes that the Rev. John Bailey, of Brick UCC in Whitsett, N.C., is a Southern Conference representative serving as a chaplain in Iraq.


Now 76, Hamilton has been a member of Trinity for 12 years, with a UCC affiliation that dates to his boyhood. He's seen a great deal of good work accomplished in his church. Participation in Holy Joe's Café has not been the least of them.

"It's something special to keep a part of our life."

Jeff Woodard is a regular contributor to United Church News.

For further information on Holy Joe's Café or to donate coffee, please call 888-970-7994 or email holyjoescafe@aol.com. To donate via Equal Exchange, call 774-776-7366. The UCC Coffee Project web site is www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Upcoming Events: Daybreak—thru January 3rd</p>		<p>1 —Taize Service @ 7 pm —12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p>2 Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am</p>	<p>5 WWW's Holiday Bazaar 3-7 pm Singing of Carols 7 pm</p>
<p>6 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School Communion Celebrated 12 pm Fellowship Blood Pressure Screenings</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p>9 Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am</p>	<p>12 Greening of the Church Kid's Crafty Christmas event</p>
<p>13 Visit from St. Nicholas 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Fellowship 2-4 pm Sacred Harp singing practice in Hyde Hall</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p>16 —Day timer's Fellowship Group potluck lunch @ noon in Hyde Hall —Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm —Soup & Culture: A Child's Christmas in Wales</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service Children's Pageant 12 pm Fellowship</p>	<p>21 Consistory meets @ 7 pm in Hyde Hall</p>	<p>22 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p>23 —Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm —Oregon Trail Society meets @ 7 pm</p>	<p>24 11 pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Daybreak 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Fellowship</p>	<p>28 Daybreak January Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>29 Daybreak 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm</p>	<p>30 Daybreak Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm</p>	<p>31 Daybreak New Year's Eve</p>		