

The Church on the Hill

David Zaworski, Pastor

Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ

January 2010
Volume 2, Issue 122



Was anyone else expecting snow on Tuesday? I wasn't. But there it was, first a few flakes and then furious flurries blowing white onto everything. And it

Worth dropping our daily daily routine and responding. Worth taking the time to throw a few snowballs and make a snowman.

How are you open to an unexpected seeing of deep, divine reality? How do you respond and tell that Good News through your life?

was perfect snowball snow.

The word "epiphany" connotes a certain element of surprise. It can be defined as "an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity" or "a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something." The season of the church year we enter into January 6th is called Epiphany. God appeared or was somehow, suddenly recognized, present with us, as one of us. Any notion of reality that places God utterly above and separate from us, that sees our worth in terms of obedience to strict, arbitrary rules is suddenly, surprisingly, stood on its head.

And this is Good News. Worth telling.

ANNUAL MEETING Set

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Waverly Heights UCC will be held following worship on Sunday January 31st. We'll have a potluck meal and consider the leadership and finances of the church for the year ahead. Hope to see you all there. If you are a consistory member, or headed up any major church project during the past year, please write up a report and email it to Pastor David by Monday, January 18th.

Capital Campaign Update By Anne Reif

I'm pleased to report that, despite the church's recent financial difficulties, pledges made for the Access Project are continuing to be paid. To date, the church has been able to make large enough payments on the loan from the Cornerstone Fund to allow us to be able to repay the loan by January 2014, when the balloon payment is due.

You'll recall that the church borrowed \$40,000 from the United Church of Christ's Cornerstone Fund for the installation of the lift that made the church fully accessible. The final loan amount turned out to be \$37,314 with a minimum monthly payment of \$306.33 and the balance due as a balloon payment in January 2014.

Our goal is to pay the loan off by the due date, so we won't be faced with either a large lump sum payment or the need to refinance the loan. This way, we'll also end up paying much less interest. Payments on several pledges are due to begin in January 2010, so we anticipate being able to continue to make large enough payments to meet this goal (at least for now).

However, we are still seeking additional pledges, as the amount pledged to date is about \$15,000 less than the total amount needed. If you are a new member or someone who is now able to make, or increase, a pledge, please contact Anne Reif or Pastor David for details. Thanks for your continued support.

WWW's

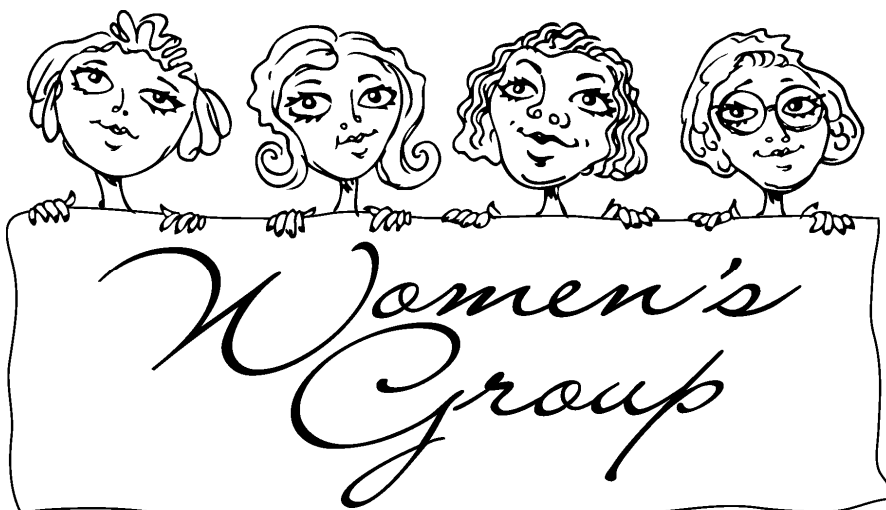
We had a great bazaar and really appreciate the support given by the congregation and friends. We raised about \$2,800!! We are happy crafters. We are so happy to help the church budget with this money.

We held a celebration potluck at Jeanne's, a time of good eating, great friendship, laughter, stories, and joy.

The next meeting will be at Hyde Hall on the third Thursday of January. Come and join us. We have plans to make for spring and always time to share joys and sorrows. Look for an e-mail later.

Bless each one of you.

Jeanne

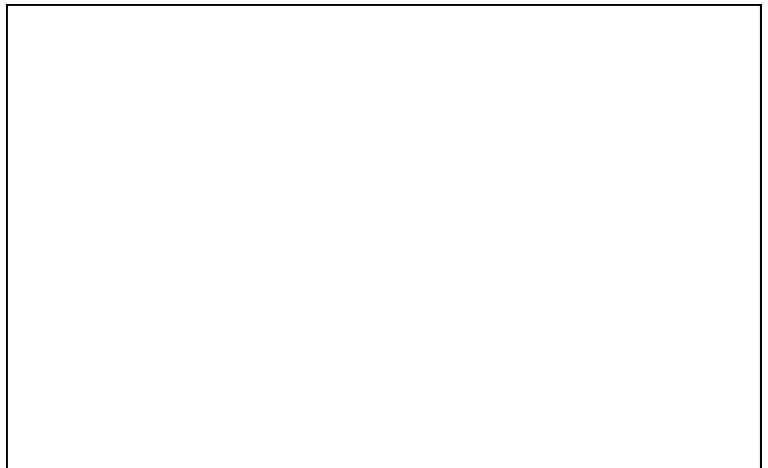


CALENDAR OF PRAYER JANUARY 1, 2010

Gracious God,
You have redeemed us through Jesus Christ,
The first-born of all creation,
whose birth we celebrate as the child of Bethlehem.
Bless us with every spiritual blessing,
That we may live as your adopted children and witness to your glory
with unending praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

Yep, They Walk Among Us

While working at a pizza parlor an employee observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time before responding. "Just cut it into 4 pieces. I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."



IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST NEWS- LETTER 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 Febuary issue no later than Monday, January 26th.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger,
Editor

Mass. church leaves a lasting legacy

Written by Gregg Brekke
December 29, 2009



When Old First UCC in Springfield, Mass., decided to close its doors after 370 years in ministry, there were a few questions to be answered.

At the top of the list for long-time members was how the church would honor its legacy and who would be the beneficiary of the sale of its property and liquidation of its assets?

With a spirit of generosity, the congregation and those charged with making these decisions have donated substantial financial resources to many ministries, including over \$250,000 to the UCC's New and Renewing Churches Endowment Fund.

The church officially ceased worship at the end of 2007. Upon closing they voted to give back to the community and help partner ministries. An advisory council met monthly to wrap up the loose ends of church business and traverse the difficult legal process of dissolving a non-profit corporation. Their work culminated with the distribution of church proceeds during the last half of 2009.

"The ministry of your church is not over," said the Rev. Stephen Sterner, executive minister of Local Church Ministries, in an email to the congregation expressing thanks for their gift. "Every church and every person that receives the blessing that will come from your generous gifts will be a continuation of the faithfulness and ministry of your church and the whole church."

In addition to the gift to the UCC, Old First gave generously of its nearly \$1.8 million in proceeds to the Community Foundation of Western Mass., the Northeast Farmworker's Council for Fuel Assistance, the Community Music School of Springfield and other Springfield churches and ministries. Congregation members hope these gifts will keep the spirit of their church alive and provide for the upkeep of their historic building.

A spirit of vitality permeates the conversation from those who loved, and yet grieve the loss of, the congregation formed in 1636. "Many of our members have found new church homes, and they are already actively participating in their programs," said Bob Walker, chairman of Old First's Board of Trustees.

From the height of the congregation's life in the mid-1950s where over 1,800 gathered to worship, in its final year only 85 were regular participants. Changing demographics meant more people were worshipping outside the city limits where this church - a city-center spiritual and civic hub - had stood for nearly four centuries.

"As we are painfully aware, funding for church development and assistance for struggling churches is greatly needed," said Susan Saunders, moderator of Old First. "Indeed, our prayer is that other congregations will be assisted in order to avoid closure."

The Rev. David Schoen, minister and team lead for Congregational Vitality and Discipleship, noted that several church – including two Massachusetts congregations – are already benefiting from these funds. "I'm glad to share with you that two congregations in Massachusetts are currently being funded as they seek to be renewed," he told Old First's advisory group.

Information on the UCC's [New and Renewing Churches Endowment Fund](#) is available at the [Congregational Vitality](#) website.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Daybreak 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 Daybreak
3 Daybreak 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School Communion Celebrated 12 pm Fellowship Blood Pressure Screenings	4	5 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm	6 Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm Epiphany	7	8 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am	9
10 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Fellowship 2-4 pm Sacred Harp singing practice in Hyde Hall	11	12 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm	13 Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm	14	15 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am	16
17 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Fellowship	18 —Consistory meets @ 7 pm in Hyde Hall —Annual meeting reports due Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm	20 —Day timer's Fellowship Group potluck lunch @ noon in Hyde Hall —Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm	21 WWW's meets in Hyde Hall	22 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am	23
24 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Fellowship	25	26 —12 step program in Fellowship Hall 7 to 9 pm —January Newsletter Deadline	27 —Qi Gong class 7:30 to 8:30 pm —Oregon Trail Society meets @ 7 pm	28	29 12 step program in Fellowship Hall 9:30 to 11:30 am	30
31 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship Service & Sunday School 12 pm Annual Church Meeting & Potluck						