

# VOICE

The United Churches of Olympia

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 7 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

## HOLY WEEK EVENTS AND SERVICES

*Holy Week Organ Recitals 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10\* (\*AT First United Methodist)



**Maundy Thursday** Soup Supper and Communion

April 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Fireside Room and Chapel

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 • Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 • John 13: 1-17, 31b-35



**Service of Shadows -**

*Lessons and Spirituals* Amy Roon, Soloist

April 10, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Isaiah 52:13,53:12 • Psalm 22 • Hebrews 10:16-25 • John 18:1, 19:42

## EASTER FESTIVAL CANTATA

Sunday, April 12, 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

A joyous Easter Festival Celebration with the music of

*G. F. Handel • W. A. Mozart • Pietro Mascagni • Moses Hogan • Joseph Martin*

Performed by: Festival Choir, Soloists, Chamber Orchestra, Handbells, Organ, Piano.

Easter Readings by: Pastors Mark Dowdy & Amy Roon.

Enjoy a full course Easter Breakfast Buffet before or after.

Served in the Narthex and Fireside Room by United Churches Youth.

## ONE GREAT HOUR

*Missions, Peace & Justice*

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."* Matthew 6:21

One Great Hour of Sharing is coming on **April 5, Palm Sunday** for both the Presbyterian and the United Church of Christ. Your contribution will support such programs as **clean water, education, health care,** and **micro-credit loans** for the developing world. Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Worship Services

April 5

*Palm Sunday*

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

**"The Lenten Gift of Steadfast Love"**

TEXTS: *Liturgy of Palms*

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Mark 11:1-11
- Mark 14:1-15, 47
- John 12:12-16

✦ Communion/Food Bank

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**

~ Labyrinth

April 12

*Easter Sabbath*

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

**Easter Festival Cantata**

TEXTS:

- Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Mark 16:1-8

✦ One Great Hour of Sharing

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**

~ Celebrate Music

## WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

Betty Nickerson

**April 15, at 10:00 a.m.**

is the date for the next meeting of this monthly book discussion group. For discussion is Penelope Lively's novel, *The Photograph*.

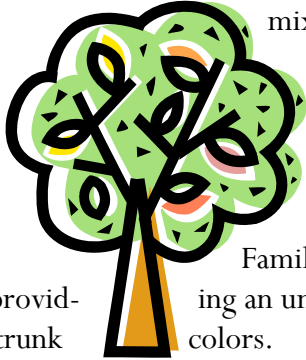
**Jeanette Willis** will host and lead the discussion at her home at 4005 Woodmere Lane S.E., Lacey. Please call Jeanette at 438-5511 if you would like to come or for more information about this group. New members are welcome.

## PROCESSION OF THE TUCO TREES

We have decided to be trees in this year's **Proces- sion of the Species on April 25.**

We will be a cone-bearing trees, and flow- trees. Partici- dress as tree carry umbrellas as tree canopies.

responsible for provid- clothing of tree trunk



mixed forest of trees, fruit ering pants will trunks and decorated Families will be ing an umbrella, and colors.

The Theology and Natural Sciences Ministry has accepted responsibility for TUCO's entry and Minis- try members **Joe Arnett** and **Tom Skjervold** and will help decorate the umbrellas.

Children, parents and anyone who wants to walk in the parade with the TUCO group are asked to register by phone or email with **Ruth Shearer**,

438-5682 or [shearrj@aol.com](mailto:shearrj@aol.com), as soon as possible, to help our planning for deco- rating the umbrellas.

The Voice is published by The United Churches of Olympia, PC(USA) & UCC.

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Office Hours-

9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tues.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTORS

F. Mark Dowdy

[markd@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:markd@theunitedchurches.org)

Amy M. Roon

[amy@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:amy@theunitedchurches.org)

## Easter Lilies Welcomed

Pat Dickason, Worship

If you'd like to contribute Easter Lilies this Easter, please bring them to the church on or before **Thurs- day, April 9.**

A remembrance form is being printed for the April 12 Easter Sunday bulletin. If your lily is in honor of someone or in memory of someone please complete the purple form that is in the Sunday bulletin or in the Narthex and return it to the TUCO office before Wednesday, April 8. Thank you!

**Lent** makes me so uncomfortable.

i prefer to remain in my 'zone,'  
lounging in my chair;  
glued to my plasma screen;  
relaxing after a long day;  
but you would lead me  
into the wilderness

into those uncomfortable places  
of tempting,  
of power,  
of testing.

i would like to hear words  
about success,  
and praise,  
and feel pats on my back,  
but you talk about  
self-denial;  
you mention the cost  
of following God;  
you invite me (!)  
to shoulder  
a cross.

couldn't you have sent  
a more comfortable  
Savior,

O God?

## What moves you?

introducing  
a new occasional column

# The Sound of Your Voice

## What is Traditional Marriage?

Gib Rossing, Guest Columnist

—*think first*—, the moniker of a respondent on The Root blog, claimed that marriage is a religious ceremony between a man and a woman that acknowledges their union. The comment blurs the distinction between a wedding and a marriage, but more significantly it assumes we know what marriage is because of a ‘tradition’ that goes back to God’s creation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

Actually, the Bible is not a particularly helpful wedding guide.

God’s directive for Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28) supposedly inaugurates marriage. However, land and sea creatures, and birds were given the identical directive (Genesis 1:22), but from this we don’t infer marriage for non-human creatures.

Consider the wedding of the patriarch, Jacob (Genesis 29:14-30). Sometime near the end of a late-night party celebrating Jacob’s completion of seven years indenture to earn Laban’s daughter, Rachel, for a wife, Laban put the woman in Jacob’s bed. Jacob went to bed, consummated the marriage, but in the morning found Leah, Rachel’s sister, beside him. Seven years of indenture later and another late-night party, Laban finally put Rachel in Jacob’s bed. These can hardly be called ‘traditional’ marriages.

One of King David’s many marriages simply consisted of having Bathsheba brought to his house and she became his wife (II Samuel 11:26-27). First, of course, following his affair with Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife, David had to arrange Uriah’s death.

The New Testament offers little more help. Jesus’ tells the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) against a cultural background in which a bridegroom could take for a wife (or wives) any one or more of the ten virgins. The story of the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) tells us nothing about the wedding other than that there was a long party at which the host ran out of wine.

The Apostle Paul is definitely no wedding consultant! His chief council was that it is best not to marry at all (I Corin-

*Editor’s Note:* Many of our members are inspired by faith to pursue activities and studies beyond the four walls of TUCO. For some time now I have wanted to include reflective writings from our own congregation, and have tentatively titled the new column “The Sound of Your Voice”. It will publish when there are submissions, space permitting.

The parameters are broad: the subject matter and length is up to each author, and it need only connect faith and something that moves you. It could be a favorite cause you are involved in, a spiritual practice or study, an autobiographical account of a spiritual experience, or an opinion piece.

Anyone so moved is invited to submit something. You need not be a “writer”. Contact Yvonne Wilhelmsen at 357-7163 or [ywilhelms@yahoo.com](mailto:ywilhelms@yahoo.com). Suggestions, feedback, etc. are welcomed, and I thank all of you for the great work and inspiration you give to the church.

thians 7:1, 8).

Western history offers little evidence of a consistent marriage tradition. Throughout most of it, marriage was a private, economic arrangement between two families. Not until 1563 was marriage mandated (by the Council of Trent) to take place in church officiated by a priest. In most Christian churches, until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, marriage was recognized if a couple simply declared themselves married even without the testimony of witnesses.

The first marriage in Plymouth Colony was a civil ceremony on May 12, 1621, presided over by Governor John Bradford who explained that “nowhere. . . in the Gospel” did it say a minister should be involved in a wedding. In the decades to come, marriages in the Puritan colony continued to be secular affairs.

Marriage licenses were not common in the United States until the 1920s when they were used as a means to prevent whites from marrying non-whites. But by mid-20<sup>th</sup> century every state in the United States required a license to marry to address the increasingly complex legal issues concerning inheritance, property rights, responsibility for children, privacy laws, right of access, taxation, citizenship, spousal abuse or neglect, etc.

(Continued on page 4)

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

*Mary Russell, Scholarship Review Committee*

The TUCO Scholarship Review Committee is now accepting applications. There are two scholarship funds: the **McNall Fund**, available only to high school seniors, and the **Thompson Fund**, which is not limited. Awards are not intended to cover the full cost of school for any applicant and generally will not exceed \$500.

The policy and guidelines, along with application forms, are available in the church office and must be completed and returned to the office by **May 1, 2009**.

Applicants will be notified by the Scholarship Review Committee in early May. Scholarship awards are sent directly to the school that the student will be attending and notification of the award is sent to the recipient's high school or college.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST RESCHEDULED

We will not meet during Holy Week but will meet the following **Friday, April 17** at The Spar, 7:00 a.m. to continue telling life stories.

### Marriage *(Continued from page 3)*

Perhaps licensure, the historically most recent marriage 'tradition', is one of the factors that elevated same-sex marriage to the forefront of current social movements. Rights and benefits of marriage codified in state and federal laws are accessible by acquiring a license that is signed by a minister, judge, or justice of the peace to validate the signatures of the marrying couple. In modern US society, therefore, marriage is fundamentally a civil contract that grants legal rights and benefits to a couple whether they marry in a church or rose garden, and whether officiated by clergy or justice of the peace.

Given the nature of this brief marriage tradition, access to these civil rights and benefits should be equally accessible to same-sex couples. Or would you prefer going back to a longer tradition in which anyone can be married by just saying they are?

## IT'S CROP WALK SEASON

*John Bowden, CROPWalk Coordinator*

With so much focus on the financial problems our country faces, we sometimes lose track of the good we are doing throughout the world. TUCO is a big part of why the Thurston County CROP Walk has been so successful in helping neighbors here in our community as well as around the world. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are given to local food programs and the other seventy-five percent will help supply **food and clean drinking water, clear land mines, and provide livestock, seed, and agricultural equipment** to other parts of the world.



**Will you join us in this time of need?** If you are interested in walking or would like to sponsor a walker, a table will be set up in the Narthex between services and after the 11:00 service every Sunday in April. You can get more information, register to walk, and buy the newest CROP WALK tee shirt.

The 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) walk takes place on **Sunday, May 3**. It starts between the State Capitol and the Temple of Justice with registration and pre-walk activities at 12:30 and the walk itself is at 1:30. The walk goes around Capitol Lake and returns along Capitol Avenue. Refreshments are provided at the halfway point and at the end of the walk.

Thanks to all of you, TUCO is recognized as a leader and a major contributor in making the CROP Walk one the biggest in the nation. It is an important part of TUCO's tradition of service and caring for others. It is also a great way to join others from our church and our community in an enjoyable activity and a worthy cause. For more information contact **John Bowden** at [jbow57@yahoo.com](mailto:jbow57@yahoo.com) or 956-9888.



# EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, April 2 - Saturday, April 18

<b>Thursday April 2</b>	<b>Sunday April 5</b>	<b>Monday April 6</b>	<b>Tuesday April 7</b>	<b>Wednesday April 8</b>	<b>Thursday April 9</b>	<b>Friday April 10</b>
Holy Week						
<p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Missions, Peace &amp; Justice Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 Worship Ministry, Fireside</p> <p>7:00 Theology, Natural Sciences &amp; Continuing Creation Ministry, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday April 3</b></p> <p>11:30 a.m. Stephen Leaders, Mark's office</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday April 4</b></p>	<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</b></p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School &amp; Adult Ed</p> <p>9:30 Lenten Church Walk (10:20 Chancel Choir Rm. 6)</p> <p><b>11:00 Worship, Sanctuary</b></p> <p>Noon Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>12:30 Senior Highs, Social Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel</b> ~Labyrinth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORGAN RECITAL 12:00 P.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORGAN RECITAL 12:00 P.M.</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:00 Staff Meeting, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Middlers, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 Lenten Small Study Group, Chapel</p> <p>6:00 Lenten Singing Group, Choir Room</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORGAN RECITAL 12:00 P.M.</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px 0;">6:00 p.m. <b>VOICE</b> Articles Due</div> <p><del>6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel</del></p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall</p> <p>7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary</p> <p>8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORGAN RECITAL 12:00 P.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b></p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room <i>(Council moved to 16<sup>th</sup>)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:30 p.m. Soup Supper &amp; Communion, Chapel/Fireside Room</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORGAN RECITAL 12:00 P.M.*</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7:30 p.m. Service of Shadows, Sanctuary</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">* at First United Methodist Church</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday April 11</b></p> <p>9:00 Festival Cantata Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:30 Festival Choir lunch, Purple Room</p> <p>10 a.m. - Noon Barb's Family &amp; Friends Easter Project, Social Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday April 11</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday April 12</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Easter Brunch Fireside Room</b> (7:30 a.m. Festival Choir gathers)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:15 a.m. Easter Cantata, Sanctuary</b> (10:30 a.m. Festival Choir gathers)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11:00 a.m. Easter Contata, Sanctuary</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel</b> ~Celebrate Music</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday April 13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday April 14</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:30 Staff Meeting, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:15 .Personnel Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Middlers, Social Hall</p> <p>5:30 Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>5:00 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Dinner Prep &amp; Serving at the Salvation Army kitchen</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday April 15</b></p> <p>5:30 - 8:00 p.m. 'Saving Jesus' class potluck &amp; discussion, Fireside</p> <p>6:00 Spirit Sing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p> <p><del>8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</del></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>April 19 - Celebrating Earth Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jill Komura preaching</li> <li>• Dr. Bob Roon presenting Adult Ed class</li> </ul> <p><b>April 24-26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Confirmation Retreat</li> <li>• Annual Meeting, UCC PNW Conference, Spokane</li> <li>• "The Dead Sea Scrolls", new Adult Ed class</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday April 16</b></p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Fireside</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday April 17</b></p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, The Spar <i>(rescheduled from Holy Week)</i></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Caring Friends, Fireside Room</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Stephen Leaders, Mark's office</p>

## LENTEN THOUGHTS ON FORGIVENESS

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

As we approach the end of Lent, I've been thinking a lot about forgiveness, my own of others, and perhaps others' of me. Then I remembered what I came to some time ago: **Forgiveness is never about the other person. It is always about me!** I'm the one who is called to forgive, whether asked for forgiveness or not. And, it's my burden to ask the one I believe I have wronged for forgiveness. Then, a follow-up appeared in the current *Christian Century* magazine:

"During a time when she found it difficult to forgive others, Evelyne Lein was offered the suggestion by her pastor: think of the people toward whom you feel bitter and pray for each one: "In the name of Jesus Christ I forgive and bless you."

She found that thinking of people with whom she had tense relationships came rather naturally. She also found that she had to put herself into the "forgiving chamber" at times when she found it difficult to forgive herself. We all suffer, she says, when we don't forgive."

— Spiritual Life, Spring, as quoted in *The Christian Century*, April 7, 2009.



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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Olympia, WA 98501

Return Service Requested

[www.theunitedchurches.org](http://www.theunitedchurches.org)

## Prayers For



- ✦ **L.D. McNall**, Panorama C&R, hospice care.
- ✦ The family of **Cheri Gonyaw**, past Director of Interfaith Works, who died Mar. 22 of lung cancer.
- ✦ **Marjorie Kauffman**, kidney surgery March 20. She is back at home and recovering nicely.
- ✦ **John Manter**, Panorama C&R.
- ✦ For all our members and friends who are uncertain about their jobs.

### OLYMPIA CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

### 'Songs of Our Nation'

April 17-18, 7:30 p.m.

N. Thurston Arts Ctr., 600 Sleater-Kinney Rd.  
*Free, donations benefit music scholarships*

TUCO members **Sharon Wallace** and **Beth** and **Gib Rossing** sing in the Chorale and invite all to attend!

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