



# *The United Churches of Olympia* **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 75, ISSUE 2 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

## **MARK DOWDY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

*Mark Dowdy, Pastor*

During the worship services on January 10, with much gratitude for 22-plus years as your pastor, I announced my retirement, effective May 31, 2010. This opens up to you and to me many unexpected events and opportunities.

As you have heard several times over the past year, your church has had a "Transition Team," anticipating my retirement mid-2010, a report from whom has been available for some time. That team has finished its work, detailing the upcoming transitions. The congregation has now chosen an Interim Pastor selection committee composed of Leslie Cushman, Mike Segawa, Brian Hovis, Deborah Reynolds and Bob McMullen. More information about all these processes will be forthcoming [*Ed. - see article, below*].

Please pray for our church, and for me and my family during these exciting and challenging days. A more detailed letter about my retirement will appear in the Voice at a later date.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MARK RETIRES?**

*John Bowden, Planning Committee*

On January 10, Pastor Mark Dowdy announced that he will retire at the end of May. Maybe you are wondering what happens next and when we will have a new pastor. If you attended the Congregational meeting on Sunday you got the best answers currently available, but if you weren't there or would like a little recap this article is for you.

Council, in anticipation of Mark's retirement, assembled a Planning Committee to help the church through the necessary steps leading to the call of a new permanent pastor. The Planning Committee was charged with developing a transition process and ensuring that communication takes place. The Planning Committee consists of **Janet Anderson, Joe Arnett, John Bowden, Brian Hovis, Lee Johnson, Cheri Kelly, and Marcia Smith**. At the Congregational meeting, Planning Committee members shared a timeline of the transition steps and provided answers to questions

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Sunday Worship Services*

**January 24**

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

8:15 A.M. - Chapel

11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

**"You Are Who  
You Are"**

### TEXTS:

- Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

6:00 P.M. - Chapel

**Spirit Service**

~ Prayer

**January 31**

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Family Style Worship**

10:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

**"Prophet on the Edge"**

### TEXTS:

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Luke 4:21-30

6:00 P.M. - Chapel

**Spirit Service**

~ Healing Prayers

## ADULT ED CLASS IN SESSION

*Mark Dowdy, Pastor*

In keeping with your Adult Education Committee's goals, this quarter of education is part of "Theological Reflection". The class, **Experiencing the Bible for the First Time**, began January 3 and runs through February 14, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside room.

**Mark Dowdy** is leading this seven-week class which is designed to introduce us to the Bible and its role in the Christian life in these days. Based on Marcus Borg's book *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, it presupposes that adult Christians need to read and hear the Bible again with new eyes and ears because most of us first learned about the Bible in childhood and have held onto our early learnings.

This course is a fresh way of viewing scripture and its application to today's life if we are to live meaningful Christian lives in this century! Books are available in class.

### CQ CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCH PICTURES

[www.theunitedchurches.org/Camp\\_Quixote/](http://www.theunitedchurches.org/Camp_Quixote/)

## RALPH RUDEEN MEMORIAL GIFT

*Sid Olson, Bookkeeper*

Generous friends of the Rudeen's have contributed \$2,000 for a memorial for Ralph. Half of the amount will go to the TUCO Library, and the other half is to go to the existing memorial for our music program. What a wonderful gift!

## EASTER CANTATA REHEARSAL

Easter Cantata first rehearsal and reading session will be on **Saturday, February 6, at 9:00 a.m.** in

the choir room. All Festival Choir members please come, and bring a friend. Call **Dee Morton**, 866-9250, or e-mail [dmortonII@comcast.net](mailto:dmortonII@comcast.net).

## What Happens (Continued from page 1)

about the transition.

**Joan Knapp**, Church Moderator, presented Council's recommended candidates to be members of the Intentional Interim Pastor Seeking Committee. The candidates were then approved by those in attendance at the Congregational meeting. The **Interim Pastor Seeking Committee** (IPSC) includes **Leslie Cushman** as a Council representative, **Mike Segawa** from the Personnel Ministry, **Brian Hovis** from the Planning Committee, and **Deborah Reynolds** and **Bob McMullen** representing the congregation at large.

Even though the IPSC will begin work very soon, we will be without a leader for approximately one month between Mark's retirement and the arrival of the interim pastor. This is part of a proven process to give us a clean break and provide a time to grieve Mark's departure. During this time, Council will make sure we have pulpit support and that crucial pastoral duties are provided.

The IPSC will work with the UCC Conference Minister and the Presbytery Executive to find an interim pastor who has the training and experience to help us in working through any conflicts; acknowledging and learning from the past; clarifying our identity and purpose; deciding what is important to carry into the future; committing to new leadership; and building consensus and excitement about a shared vision for the future. The interim pastor will be with us for about a year.

While the intentional interim pastor is with us, a permanent senior pastor selection committee will be formed. It is too early to know who will be on that committee, but the committee will be selected based on individual skills and various demographic aspects of the church, but will represent the church as a whole.

The Planning Committee charter, a Question and Answer paper, and a timeline are available on the church website and in the Narthex. The Planning Committee will be providing more in-depth information about the transition as we go. Look for articles in the Voice focusing on specific steps and progress toward calling a new senior pastor.

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Office Hours-

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTOR

F. Mark Dowdy

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

## YOUTH NEWS

Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry

### MIDLERS

Once our wonderful Middlers stepped up to the plate and assisted at the Salvation Army soup kitchen. Although on that evening they were small in number they made up for it in determination. The Middlers continue to gather every Tuesday evening and break bread together.

Junior High camp was a big hit. On January 8-10, 54 Junior High youth from around the Pacific Northwest gathered at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard. We explored the theme, "How Much is Enough?" We looked at how we covet our possessions, how we are influenced by commercials, music and peers. And we also looked at our prized possessions, our friends. Despite the weather we had a great time.

### SENIOR HIGHS

Senior High youth are busy as we look forward to what 2010 is going to bring us. We are looking at ways we can be more present in our church. In addition to serving at the third Sunday worship services we are working on a youth service coming soon. Please join us for more of this conversation every Sunday from 12:30-2:30.

	Middlers <i>Tuesdays 5:30 –7:30</i>	Senior High <i>Sundays 12:30-2:30</i>
<b>Week 1</b>	Brown bag	Brown bag
<b>Week 2</b>	Serve at soup kitchen	We cook
<b>Week 3</b>	Potluck	Potluck
<b>Week 4</b>	We cook	Road trip
<b>Week 5</b>	Pizza and a movie	Ice cream sundae

### PEACE CRAFTERS SEEKS USED JEWELRY

Don't know what to do with that old necklace you no longer wear? Or that bracelet you broke awhile back? Peace Crafters was able to make, sell, and donate almost \$200 to our Pastor's Fund using discarded or donated jewelry. We have now run out of materials. Your donations of used jewelry would be greatly appreciated. If you have pieces to donate, leave them with Sandi Trudeau in the Church office. Thank you.

## IT'S DINNER (FOR 7) TIME

Sue Breidenbach, Dinner for 7 Coordinator

Dinners for 7 is a wonderful opportunity to meet and become better acquainted with those you see at worship. We have two all-group gatherings and two rotations of small groups during the year so you will broaden your church acquaintances.

All Dinners for 7 groups will meet on Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 1:00 for lunch at Panorama Garden Restaurant. You may order from the menu and will be billed separately.

The yearly schedule is February with an all group get together and reorganize for small groups March through June, August all groups picnic, September organize new groups that will meet October through January. This provides a good rotation and gives you the opportunity to become better acquainted with more people.

I have had several people say how much they have enjoyed the dinner groups and getting to know others in the church. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact **Sue Breidenbach**, 360-352-5870 or e-mail at [breidenbach@msn.com](mailto:breidenbach@msn.com).

## CAMP QUIXOTE HOSTING

**To volunteer** either go to the church website and look at the Camp Quixote calendar and email your time slot to [Tucocamp@gmail.com](mailto:Tucocamp@gmail.com) or talk to **Leslie Cushman, Mark Bohe, or Otavio Lima** between services each Sunday. They will have the host calendar with them and will sign you up live!

## MEN'S RETREAT AT PILGRIM FIRS

Pacific Northwest UCC

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Gathering & Retreat

Pilgrim Firs Conference Center

February 19 to 21, 2009

Join with other men of the PNW Conference UCC and beyond for a weekend of inspiration, music, laughter, interactive creativity, worship, discussion and reflection with resource leader Michael Stern.

Registration and more information is available at <http://pilgrimfirs.org>.

## LENTEN ADULT ED CLASS: SCIENCE & FAITH IN HARMONY

*Ruth Shearer, Chair, Theology, Natural Sciences Ministry*

The Theology and Natural Sciences Ministry will present an adult study class on "Science and Faith in Harmony" during Lent. The six-session class will begin on **February 21** in the Fireside Room.

The class is organized around the book, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Dr. Francis S. Collins, newly-appointed head of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Collins was head of the Human Genome Project, which determined the entire sequence of DNA, the code of life, in humans. He is also a man of unshakeable faith in God and scripture.

This class is a series of presentations by scientists in our church on their knowledge and experience in the topics raised by Dr. Collins, and a concluding session by Rev. Paul McCann from a theological point of view. Reading the book will prepare attendees for discussion of the topics, but is not essential for class participation. Class outline and leaders:

- Session 1. Chapter 2, The War of the Worldviews - Tom Skjervold
- Session 2. Chapter 3, The Origins of the Universe - Celia Nightingale
- Session 3. Chapters 4-5, Life on Earth, God's Instruction Book - Ruth Shearer
- Session 4. Chapter 6, Genesis, Galileo and Darwin - Joe Arnett
- Session 5. Chapters 7-9, Atheism, Creationism, Intelligent Design - Ruth Shearer
- Session 6. Chapter 10, Science and Faith in Harmony - Paul McCann

## FAMILY OLYMPICS NIGHT

*Brooke Johnson, Director of Children's Ministry*

### Family Olympics

*Saturday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.*

Come to a night of Olympic fun at the United Churches as we get ready for the Winter Olympics starting the next weekend. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. in athletic clothes for stretching and the torch parade. Bring a food representing another country, and we will provide international snacks as well. Everyone come, with your family or not. Get ready to slip, slide and glide for the gold!

Contact **Brooke Johnson**, [Pascalwills@aol.com](mailto:Pascalwills@aol.com)  
or **Amanda Scott**, [ajscott01@gmail.com](mailto:ajscott01@gmail.com)

## INTERFAITH WORKS SEEKS DIRECTOR

Interfaith Works Executive Director Kathy Erlandson is retiring at the end of March after nine years in the position. Applications for the half-time position are being accepted. The job announcement may be found on the Interfaith Works website, [www.interfaith-works.org](http://www.interfaith-works.org).

**The Reverend Allen Chase,  
member of our church and choir,  
is our guest preacher January 24.**

## DEC. 13 SERMON EXCERPT

*The Rev. Susan Yarrow Morris, TUCO*

"... Each year in Advent I listen to John the Baptizer's prophetic calls for repentance and I can feel my defenses going up.... 'Hey there, give us a break, God,' I find myself praying or whining, depending on your viewpoint. 'We've been doing the best we could given this mess of a world and the stresses in our own lives. We're tuckered out, O God...we're looking for work and we can't find it, we're trying to make ends meet in a tight economy, our kids and our elders are challenging our slim energies, our relationships are falling apart at the seams, our cupboards are full of medications to help us cope, we cook for Camp Quixote and we care for the sick and the grieving, we're going green all over the place ...we're hanging on by a thread, Good God, and we don't need John's call to try harder – what we really need an angel's voice to tell us we're beloved as we are and we're ready for Jesus' birth. How 'bout it, God? Amen."

# EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, January 21 - Saturday, February 6

<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>January 21</b></p> <p><b>Friday</b> <b>January 22</b></p> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>January 23</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>January 24</b></p> <p>8:15 am <b>Worship, Chapel</b></p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School, downstairs; Adult Ed, Fireside Room</p> <p>11:00 am <b>Worship, Sanctuary</b></p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee Fellowship, Fireside</p> <p>12:30 pm Senior Highs, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 pm <b>Spirit Service, Chapel</b> ~ Prayer</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> <b>January 25</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>January 26</b></p> <p>10 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1 pm Worship Planng, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Middlers, Youth Room</p> <p>6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision, Fireside</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>January 27</b></p> <p><b>VOICE ARTICLES DUE</b></p> <p>6 pm Chapel Singers, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Youth Room</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>January 28</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Council Meeting, Fireside Room</p>	<p><b>Friday</b> <b>January 29</b></p>
<p>The TUCO All Church Calendar on-line: <a href="http://theunitedchurches.mhsoftware.com/">http://theunitedchurches.mhsoftware.com/</a></p>						
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>January 30</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Senior High &amp; CIC Youth Paint the Wall, Youth Room</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>February 6</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>January 31</b></p> <p><b>One Morning Worship Service</b></p> <p>10:00 am <b>Family Style-Worship, Sanctuary</b></p> <p>11:00 am Coffee Fellowship, Fireside</p> <p>12:30 Senior High, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 pm <b>Spirit Service, Chapel</b> ~ Healing Prayer</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> <b>February 1</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 2</b></p> <p>10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Middlers, Youth Room</p> <p>5:30 Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>February 3</b></p> <p>6:00 pm Administration Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:00 Chapel Singers, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Youth Room</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>February 4</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Mission, Peace &amp; Justice Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>7:00 Theology, Natural Science and Continuing Creation Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 Worship Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p><b>Friday</b> <b>February 5</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> 
<p><b>HEALTH CARE FORUM, TUESDAYS, 6:30-8:00 P.M.</b></p> <p><i>A seven-week series sponsored by the downtown congregations and Interfaith Works discussing the local implications of national health care reform.</i></p> <p><b>First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St. SE. Free admission.</b></p>						
<p>Jan. 12—Mike Kreidler, WA State Health Commissioner</p>			<p>Jan. 19—Democratic Health Care leaders</p>			<p>Jan. 26—Republican Health Care leaders</p>
			<p>Feb. 2—Professional Panel</p>			<p>Feb. 9—Insurance companies</p>
			<p>Feb. 16—Dept. of Retirement Systems</p>			<p>Feb. 23—WA Area Agency on Aging and WA Senior Lobby.</p>



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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## INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY, FEB. 16

### Join Us to Lift Every Voice on InterFaith Advocacy Day

*Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*  
*The United Churches of Olympia*

ALL FAITH COMMUNITIES ARE WELCOME!

- Participate in interfaith worship
- Hear briefings on legislative session and state budget
- Meet your legislators and voice your concerns.

A \$25 registration fee includes advocacy packet,  
continental breakfast and lunch.

Information at [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org), Washington Association  
of Churches, (206) 625-9790

*Sponsored by*  
Washington Association of Churches  
Lutheran Public Policy Office of WA  
*and many other faith-based organizations*

## Prayers For

- ⊕ **The people of Haiti**, in the aftermath of a 7.0 earthquake on January 12
- ⊕ **John Manter**, Panorama C&R
- ⊕ **Ginny Ulrich's children**, Chad, Scott and Amy, dealing with serious issues
- ⊕ **Julie Taylor Boyd**, continuing chemotherapy
- ⊕ **Andy Scott**, coming home February 1
- ⊕ **Nora DeMaster**, leukemia
- ⊕ **Gabe Williams**, recovering well from leg surgery January 7
- ⊕ Those serving in the military and law enforcement
- ⊕ All who are in fear of losing jobs, and those seeking employment

