



The United Churches of Olympia **VOICE**

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

GOD'S ECONOMY IS NOT A ROLLER COASTER

Lillian Daniel, UCC Pastor

About the Author: *Lillian Daniel is senior minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn, Illinois and the author of Tell it Like it is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony. She is a regular contributor to the UCC website and Writer's Group.*

We've been riding a roller coaster in the financial world, and it has not been fun. This is not a roller coaster we stood in line for and got excited about. This is a roller coaster that pulled up underneath us and took us on a wild and unwanted ride. The ups and downs are getting old, but we can't seem to get off.

We turn to financial experts and political pundits for advice, but they seem pretty confused themselves. Everybody says there is a problem in the economy, but as to how we got here – there is no unanimous answer. History books will deliver that, long after we are gone. For now, we find ourselves living in a historic moment that history has not yet defined.

Church is the place where many of you finally get off that roller coaster. In worship, you remember that you are loved by the God who created you. The

(Continued on page 2)

A CANTATA WORTH WAITING FOR

On **Sunday, January 11**, at both the 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, the Chancel Choir presents "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," a cantata by Hal Hopson. This performance, originally scheduled for December 21, was cancelled due to snow.

The performance features an expanded choir of more than forty singers, orchestra, handbells, percussion, and piano and organ accompaniments, plus traditional Advent and Christmas narratives, read by Pastors Amy Roon and Mark Dowdy. Each presentation will be followed by a gala reception.

Worship Services

January 11

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

FESTIVAL CANTATA

TEXTS:

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- Luke 1:26-38, 47-55
- Romans 16:25-27

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Celebrate Music

January 18

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

"Known and Loved"

TEXTS:

- 1 Samuel 3:1-20
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

✦ Youth ushers

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

God's Economy *(Continued from page 1)*

familiar hymns tell you Christ's presence is constant. In scripture, stories about troubled people remind you that God is loving you through your troubles too. Worship is not a wild ride you did not choose. It is your seat in God's house, to sit peacefully and know that God is God.

You may even decide that when you leave worship, you don't have to ride that roller coaster again. You can let it pass you by. You don't have to get back on.

This may be your chance to dust off your spiritual practices and spend more time in prayer. Listen to the call from God to be a servant. Examine your conscience for life lessons. Forgive others as you have been forgiven.

There is a lot of blame being thrown around these days, as people debate how it was that we got into this mess. I am all in favor of learning from our mistakes, but blame, in the heat of the moment, is not how we learn. This is a time to pray for wisdom and for understanding.

I have prayed for people facing job loss, for people whose retirement plans are suddenly up in the air, and for people whose bills are piling up. I have also prayed for those whose moods go up and down with the stock market, which these days makes for a very long bad mood. I can't fix the American economy, but I can pray for it.

And when I pray for this country, I cannot help but pray for the rest of the world as well. There are so many people who live economically fragile lives, with so much less than we have in this country. If we feel uncertain, how must they feel? This is a key time for the church to reach out and serve others.

When our world is rocked by financial waves, we are not powerless. We can open our hearts to people more vulnerable than we are. We can pray for one another. We can still be generous, in time, talent and treasure.

Most importantly, we can look around at everything in our life that does not cost money, and treasure it.

Our economy may be rocky, but God's economy is booming.

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Eleanor Van Noppen, Peer-to-Peer Mentor

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Education Course is a nine week course, two hours per week. The course is designed to offer an opportunity for growth and **recovery** for any person with a serious mental illness. The course is offered free of charge and you do not need to be a member of NAMI.

Carlene, Eleanor and Katy, a team of trained "mentors" or Peer-teachers, will present the classes. They are experienced at living well with mental illness.

DATES: Wednesdays,
January 21 through March
25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m..

WHERE: In Lacey near
Carpenter and Martin

Way, on the Intercity Transit bus line #62.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Call 360-455-4277, you may leave your name, address and phone number. An application will be sent to you. Return application to the address below. (This is not where the classes are held). This application and a brief telephone interview are required to take the class. No new students will be accepted after the first class.

All information is confidential.

Thurston/Mason NAMI office
4305 Lacey Blvd, Suite #28, Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 493-6021 Helpline (360) 866-0403

Website: www.namitm.org

E-mail: namitm@live.com

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360-943-1210

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

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Amy M. Roon

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LIVING FAITHFULLY, LIVING

LIGHTLY

Beth Bowden



Are you called to explore what it means to live lightly? Join us as we take steps together to reduce our imprint on the earth and celebrate nature's beauty and bounty. We will also practice a period of silence in our meetings.

Some Topics to Consider • Eating locally and seasonally • Abundance or scarcity • Composting and sustainable gardening • Slow food movement • Reduce and reuse (gas, shopping, plastics) • Traveling (plane, carpooling, biking, walking)

Some Actions to Take • Native plant gardening • Bird-watching • Seasonal potluck • Service work • Walks • Water barrels

Convener: Beth Bowden **Phone:** 956-9888

Length: 8 sessions **Location:** TUCO, Room 5

At our **first meeting, Saturday, January 24, 8:30-10:30 a.m.**, our topic will be the first day of creation, Genesis 1:1-3, and our action will be to calculate our carbon footprint (www.Myfootprint.org).

Contact Beth for information about this TUCO small group.

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

This month we meet on January 21 at 10:00 a.m., with **Pat McCann** our hostess. Her address is 613 Carlyon Ave. The book under discussion is *A Girl named Zippy* by Haven Kimmel. If you cannot attend please call Pat at 943 -7359.

PAIRS AND SPARES

Pairs and Spares January luncheon meeting will be held on the 28th at Panorama Restaurant starting at 11:30 social and 12:00 lunch.

The program will be **Harvest Moon**, a Nisqually who will speak about Native American history in our area and bring artifacts to share with us. Please join us and bring friends to this outstanding program! We will have a warm lunch. Please make your reservations by calling the church, 943-1210, by Monday, January 26.

NEW ADULT ED CLASS

"Saving Jesus for the 21st Century"

January 11 - April 5, 2009, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Mark Dowdy is facilitator.

"Saving Jesus" is a revolutionary DVD-based exploration of Jesus for the third millennium. Featuring leading religious leaders / theologians / biblical scholars of our day, including **Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Mathew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes** and others, this 12-session program involves participants in conversation around readings, quotes and questions that explore the relevance of Jesus Christ for our contemporary lives.

We will view segments each week, followed by exercises and discussion. All are invited to this fascinating presentation of biblical and theological materials for this particular age of Christianity.

MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS FRIDAY

JANUARY 9, 7 AM, THE SPAR RESTAURANT, 4TH AVE.

We continue our "life stories," good fellowship and breakfast.



NEW READERS FOR FAITH AND ACTION WELCOMED

The TUCO small group, Reading for Faith and Action, has selected books for January and February, 2009.

On Tuesday, January 13, we will be discussing *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, which tells the story of the sisters Mirabal. Their faith and action played out during a tragic time in Dominican Republic history.



For Tuesday, February 10, the selected book is *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. Diagnosed with terminal cancer, he wrote an inspiring book about overcoming obstacles and enabling the dreams of others.

We are hoping to welcome additional group participants. You should consider joining us. Our meetings always begin at 6:30 p.m. with dessert, at **Jacky Crow's** house. Catch her at church or call her at 786-1711 for further information or directions.

MEN'S RETREAT AT PILGRIM FIRS, JAN. 29—FEB. 1

"Seeking Spiritual Courage: Why Spirituality Is More Difficult for Men" is sponsored by the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference. This retreat is an "...exploration of both the satisfactions we experience as men in our faith lives and where we yearn for a better and more whole spiritual life. Perhaps this weekend can be a catalyst in forming a new men's group in your church or bring new spirit into an existing men's ministry."

For more information, e-mail phippsmichael@earthlink.net.

ENHANCING EARTH CARE IN FAITH COMMUNITIES

R. Peggy Smith and Leslie Romer, Earth Stewardship Committee of Interfaith Works



At a community-wide meeting held in our church on September 22, with gasoline prices at their highest and global warming frequently in the media, energy conservation was a hot topic of discussion.

During the short days at the end of the year and especially during the winter holidays, we all feel the need for extra warmth and celebratory lights. Extra cooking and baking are also part of many holiday traditions. Now is a good time to consider ways to conserve energy during the holidays, and around the year:

- Give gifts of local experiences, rather than objects that use lots of energy in their manufacture and transport.

- Use greens instead of lights for exterior decorations.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs where ever you can. These bulbs have long lives, use less energy than incandescent ones and provide just as much light.
- Ride a bus or train for shopping or travel, and share rides with your family and friends.
- Resist the convenience of disposable plates and cups in your faith community and at home. If you cannot do that far, use paper instead of Styrofoam, which uses more energy in manufacture and cannot be recycled.
- Use cold water with your household laundry.
- Do your baking when the kitchen needs more heat.

YOUTH MIDWINTER RETREATS

Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry

Junior High Midwinter Retreat. Junior High youth from around the Puget Sound are going to Pilgrim Firs Conference center for the annual Midwinter retreat. The theme is "Jesus, Who is This Guy Anyway?" and the director is our very own **Mark Boyd**. Camp begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 9, and ends at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 11. Mark your calendars now, and register right away. The cost is \$75 for all meals and lodging (scholarships available). Register on-line by clicking on the UCC link on our website and look for camp events. Questions? ask Mark Boyd. Middlers gather every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 and share a meal.

Senior High Midwinter Retreat. Be sure to mark your calendar for January 16-18 and join other senior high youth for a weekend of fun and faith. **Susan Moon**, youth director from Mercer Island UCC is the great director. The cost is \$75 for all meals and lodging (scholarships available). Register on-line by clicking on the UCC link on our website and look for camp events.

CAMP QUIXOTE NEWS

Selena Kilmoyer, PANZA


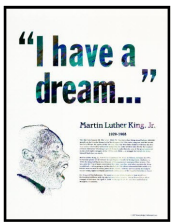
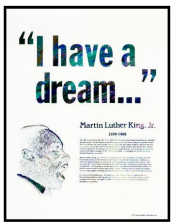
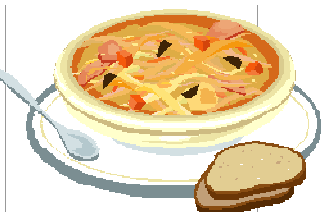
The Camp Quixote residents would appreciate donations of blankets, socks, warm caps and gloves if anyone has such things. Folks from the street stop by and ask for these items and camp residents would like to be able to help if possible.

They are seventeen in number currently. Jim Dick will be processing new applications and doing all their background checks, as is our process. The crew seems nested-in and con-

tent in their dry digs. This evening they were very grateful not to have to deal with weather. They also repeatedly thank St. John's for their extended hospitality especially during the bad weather.

Editor's Note: During the snow storm, several tents collapsed, and most were soaked through. Much bedding and clothing had to be thrown away because of mildew.

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, January 8 - Saturday, January 24

Thursday January 8	Sunday January 11	Monday January 12	Tuesday January 13	Wednesday January 14	Thursday January 15	Friday January 16
<p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting—Old & New, Fireside Room</p> <p>Friday January 9</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, The Spar Restaurant</p>  <p>Saturday January 10</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for Festival Cantata,</p>	<p>(7:30 a.m. Cantata Choir, Sanctuary)</p> <p>8:15 Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex</p> <p>9:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 6</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed</p> <p>(10:30 Cantata Choir, Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Noon Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>12:30 Senior Highs, Social Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Music</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> 	<p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Rm.106</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Middlers, Social Hall</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>(Training for new Stephen Ministers at First United Methodist)</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. VOICE Artides Due</p> <p>6:00 p.m. SpiritSing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum Fun, Social Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <div data-bbox="941 693 1542 1050" style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>WEDNESDAYS</p> <p>Spirit Sing, 6:00 p.m., Chapel</p> <p>Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Drum Fun, 7-9 p.m., Room 106</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAYS</p> <p>Labyrinth Walk, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Social Hall</p> <p>SECOND FRIDAYS</p> <p>Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., The Spar Restaurant</p> <p>LAST SUNDAY</p> <p>Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m., Social Hall</p> </div>	<p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room</p> <div data-bbox="1234 619 1542 714" style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>ONGOING EVENTS <i>All Are Welcome!</i></p> </div>	
<p>Saturday January 17</p> <p>Saturday January 24</p>	<p>Sunday January 18</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex</p> <p>9:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 6</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed</p> <p>10:20 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 6</p> <p>11:00 Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Noon Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>12:30 Annual Meeting & Potluck, Social Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Taizé</p>	<p>Monday January 19</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED Staff Holiday</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> 	<p>Tuesday January 20</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 Panorama Communion, Quinault Chapel</p> <p>3:30 Staff Meeting, Rm.106</p> <p>5:00 Middlers, Social Hall</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Generation Next and Now, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training for new ministers at First United Methodist</p>	<p>Wednesday January 21</p> <p>6:00 p.m. SpiritSing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p> <p>Congregational Meeting and Potluck, Sunday, January 18, 12:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>Thursday January 22</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Small Group Leadership Training, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Friday January 23</p>



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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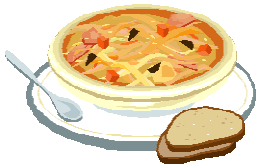
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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

Sunday, January 18, 12:30 p.m.



Save this date for our Annual Meeting, with potluck (your choice of what to bring). Following our meal is the Ordination and Installation of newly elected church officers.

All of you who are serving on our eight Ministries are urged to be present to be introduced and to provide some information about what your Ministry is doing in the new year. Other business is receiving our 2008 Annual Reports, passing on our Corporate Resolution, and any other business that might come up.

Come one! Come all for this gathering of our church family!

UCC & Presbyterian Congregations

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.

Save the date! More information coming soon.

Prayers For

- ✦ **The Family of Bill Leonard**, who died December 30. His memorial was January 4.
- ✦ **John Godfrey**, whose mother died December 27.
- ✦ **Libby Penney**, home recovering from pneumonia.
- ✦ **Camp Quixote**, now guests of First Christian.
- ✦ **L.D. McNall**, who lives and dies belonging to God.
- ✦ **Clara Mitchell and Mary Webster**, Panorama C & R
- ✦ **Josh Weiss and Karen Vaughn**, as they wed January 10 at TUCO.
- ✦ **Tom Goldsmith**, broken hip surgery, St. Peter Hospital.

