

The United Churches of Olympia **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 73, ISSUE 21 • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Celia Nightingale and Tom Skjervold, TNSCC Ministry



We sometimes say, 'You are what you eat.' In fact, you may be more a product of what you drink! Science tells us that we are mostly water. Yes, a little salt, and a little, magical charge of electricity. It is the electro-dynamic interplay of chemicals in a watery solution that is our basic engine, at least from a biophysical perspective.

We know of no life form that does not use the essential properties of that most remarkable substance, water. Unique amongst the chemical compounds we know of, only water is found to be naturally occurring in all three phase states (solid, liquid, gas) here in our natural world.

Without food, humans can live for weeks. Without water, we are lucky to survive for days. Not surprisingly, we have long measured the quality of our lives by the purity of the water we drink. The Bible uses water metaphorically ("You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life," "My cup runneth over," we're renewed through baptism), and the Bible also gives us glimpses of the important role literal water played in the arid environments of early Judeo/Christian people. Its role is no less important in AD 2008 and we recognize the necessity of active conservation and protection in order to sustain God's creation, ourselves included!

(Continued on page 3)

UCC'ERS HOLD POTLUCK SUPPER

Thursday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

On the agenda will be ways our congregation can be more active in the Pacific Northwest Conference. The PNW Conference Ministry Resource committee has some good ideas for us! In order to save set-up and clean up time, bring your own plates and utensils. Here's what to bring. If your last name begins with:

A to G — main dish, H to O — salads or vegetables, P to Z — desserts.

Or folks can bring whatever they want. Halloween costumes are welcome.

Worship Services

Season of Stewardship

October 19

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

"Living Messages of Generosity in Changing Times"

TEXTS:

- Exodus 33:12-23 • Psalm 99
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1:10
- Matthew 22:15-22

✦ Baptism, Joy Cushman, 11 a.m.

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

October 26

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

"The Compassionate Life"

TEXTS:

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12 • Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 • 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 • Matthew 22:34-46

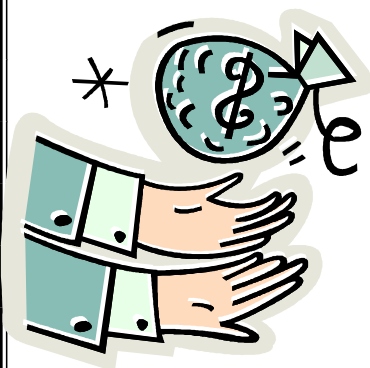
✦ **9:30 Family Worship Experience, Social Hall**

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Prayer

GENEROSITY IN CHANGING TIMES *Karen Eitreim, Stewardship Ministry Chair*



Let's face it; this isn't a great time to ask for money. Conducting a stewardship campaign right now is a rather daunting task. I've been on Stewardship Ministry for two years, and both years we've spent the last six months of the year furiously engaged in fundraising activities to close a budget shortfall. It's hard to ask right now, but we are going to. You see, we trust that God's grace and generosity will provide a solid foundation for The United Churches in 2009.

I've been reading Anthony Robinson's book, *Common Grace*. A UCC pastor long in Seattle, he is undoubtedly familiar to many of you. In an essay titled "Gospel: Problem and Paradox", he writes about biblical teachings about money. His words certainly seemed relevant for us today:

The Gospel teaching about money is equally odd and paradoxical. How will we ever have enough? Just when we think we have enough, college tuitions soar. Just when we imagine we've saved enough for retirement, yikes, we may live to be 103 and require twenty-four hour care for years. And then there's keeping up with the Joneses.... How will we ever have enough? The chant is ever in the background, and sometimes in the foreground: 'Never enough, never enough,' though we live in the most affluent society on earth in the most affluent time in history. Here's how to have enough. Give it away. Five percent or ten percent or more, and take it off the top, not the bottom. It's the only way you'll ever be free. It is the only way you'll ever have enough.

As you consider a financial pledge to the Church for 2009, what might help in making that decision? The United Church of Christ stewardship materials this year included a chart that the members of Stewardship Ministry found helpful. We offer it as a resource as you consider your 2009 pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge to The United Churches for 2009, to build our firm foundation, provide for our ministries, programs, pastors and staff and to continue our tremendous generosity in mission giving.

With thanks, from your
Stewardship Ministry.

INCOME			Weekly Giving if the Percentage Is <i>(Rounded to the nearest dollar)</i>					
Annual	Monthly	Weekly	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$ 8,000	\$ 667	\$ 154	\$ 3	\$ 6	\$ 9	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 23
12,000	1,000	231	5	9	14	18	23	35
16,000	1,333	308	6	12	18	25	31	46
20,000	1,667	385	8	15	23	31	39	58
25,000	2,083	481	10	19	29	38	48	72
30,000	2,500	577	12	23	35	46	58	87
40,000	3,333	769	15	31	46	62	77	115
50,000	4,167	962	19	38	58	77	96	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23	46	69	92	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29	58	87	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38	77	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,427	2,404	48	96	144	192	240	361

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9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

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SPECIAL MEETING PRESBYTERY OF OLYMPIA

Mark Dowdy, Session Moderator

The Presbytery of Olympia is holding a special meeting on Thursday evening, October 30, Lacey Presbyterian Church, 6-9 PM for the purpose of considering proposals and processes around how Presbyterian churches that may want to leave the denomination may do so with grace and support. Because of this, the Presbyterian Session of our church will not be meeting with the UCC'ers that evening as previously scheduled and announced.

As with so many arenas of our cultural and church life, there are unprecedented changes and challenges before us all. Some churches are concerned and cautious about potential changes in the Presbyterian denomination about the ordination of gay and lesbian sisters and brothers. Others are excited and hopeful. If you are interested in attending this gathering, please let me know, and do remember all who will participate in your prayers.

CAMP QUIXOTE FUNDRAISER

*St. John's Episcopal Church
Dinner and Live Auction
Saturday, October 25 6:00 p.m.*

CANTATA SINGERS WELCOMED

Dee Morton, Director of Music

Chancel Choir will be presenting "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," a cantata by Hal H. Hopson, on Sunday morning, December 21, at both 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. The work features an orchestra, handbells, percussion, piano and organ. In addition to beloved carols, the work includes intricate accompaniments, solo passages and dramatic readings of the Christmas story.

Rehearsals have begun, and new or returning singers are welcome. We practice every Wednesday evening, from 7:00--9:00 p.m., rehearsing weekly service music from 7:00--8:00 p.m., and the cantata from 8:00--9:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday morning, December 20, from 9:00--11:30am, and concludes with a pizza and salad lunch for all performers.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

As I've said over and over again, God is good and provides beyond our expectations. Yet, as many of you have heard, our giving and income is not keeping up with our 2008 budgeted expenses. If you pledged for this year and are paying, we are so very grateful. If you have not pledged and would like to, pledge cards for the remainder of this year are in the pew racks, on the hospitality table, and in the church office. Again, thanks be to God for your faithfulness.

Water, Water *(Continued from page 1)*

Long a resource we have regarded limitless and free, today the survival of millions is imperilled for want of enough of it. Best pure and free, water is becoming increasingly muddied by storms of injustice.

What might that mean for future of our church? Find out at the adult education class "By The Waters.", through November 2. The class will include reflection, discussion and presentations from representatives of the City of Olympia and the Puget Sound Partnership.

MPJ INVITES BUDGET INPUT

Paul McCann, Mission, Peace & Justice Ministry

On Thursday evening, November 6, the Mission, Peace and Justice Ministry will be considering recommendations for the 2009 Local Mission Budget. Any interested persons from the congregation are invited to share in this process. Some preliminary work has already been done. While the final budget will not be approved until after the Stewardship Campaign, much early work needs to be done to identify priority needs.

Helpful documentation re: local mission budget history will be available at the church office beginning October 21. Anyone desiring to offer input but unable to attend the November 6 meeting is invited to leave pertinent information in the MPJ mailbox.

O HOW BOUNTIFUL

Debbie Nickerson, *Congregational Life Ministry*



Autumn yields fruits, savory scents and the knowledge that change is again to be had. The earth turns and we with it. People arriving for the September 27 dinner and pie auction were met with the aroma of roasted chicken and vegetables. Baskets of fresh vegetables and canned goods overflowed the table, while pies of all kinds displayed themselves proudly on the opposite wall. These were the ingredients for a wonderful evening of food, friends and flavors. An outstanding meal of locally gathered foods was served by **Leslie Cushman** and her cooking crew: **Pat Dickason, Liz Frey, Celia Nightingale, Jody Smith, and Leslie**. Everyone raved about the meal, from the appetizers to the salad and back again.

Congregational Life organized the Pie Auction and Baskets and provided a wonderfully festive atmosphere for the Social Hall, and the presentation of desserts and baskets. I thank each of them for helping in the many ways they did, from setting up the hall to cleaning up afterwards: **Janna Anderson, Jinny Beekman, Lee Johnson, Deb Nickerson, Libby Penney, Beth and Gib Rossing, and Sheri Wills-Green and Tom Green. Amy Roon** was an excellent auctioneer, who also put together a touching slide show for us so we could be reminded of the community we have built together. Thanks so much for all she did and thank you also to **David Nightingale** whose assistance was solicited for the auction. Thank you to all who came and partook in such a delightful evening. Along with funds of **\$5,300** (including \$2,200 in additional pledges from 14 families), lots of fun was also raised and I again remembered the reason I belong to our church—all of you make it the beautiful body it is.

YOUTH NEWS

Mark Boyd, *Director of Youth Ministries*

MIDLERS

A-MAZED IN CORN. Our hearty Middlers ventured into the evening to untangle the Corn Maze. Although this year's maze was trickier, they all found their way out. Even the rain held off for us. Join us every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 for more adventures. Grab a current calendar for more information or contact Mark Boyd.

SELL GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS. Be prepared as 2009 sneaks up on us. These wonderful full-color calendars are moving fast. The cost is \$7 each, with the proceeds split between a charity of the Middlers choosing and supporting our Youth events.

PAINT THE YOUTH ROOM. Amidst the repairs the Middlers white-washed the walls, carrying on the tradition. A number of Middlers spent the night painting, eating, playing, painting some more before retiring just as the sun was rising. A great big *Thank You* goes out to **Kari Qvigstad** for helping out and just being there.

SENIOR HIGH

SMARTER THAN CORN. On Sunday the 12th our brave Senior High youth grabbed flashlights and a friend and tried to lose the leader in the Corn Maze. But much to their chagrin I survived. A great time was had by all, as we sought out all 12 checkpoints in the three mile long adventure. For more fun grab a friend and join the Senior High every Sunday from 12:30-2:30 as we break bread and explore the greater Olympia area.

LOCK-IN DATE CHANGE. Due to Olympia High School planning their homecoming on the same night, we decided to graciously change the date. Watch this space.

SENIOR HIGH GREET AND HOST. On Sunday the 19th our Senior high youth will greet worshipers before the 11:00 service, as well as host the coffee hour. (Remember Senior High to be there early—10:30 please). See you all there.



OUR OCTOBER 5 NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND PEACEMAKING OFFERING

The offering gathered on October 5 amounted to **\$1,806** so far. Our denominations appreciate this amount, and can you imagine as it joins hundreds of other churches what can be helped all over this country and the world! Remember 25 percent stays here in our community for our local needs. Mission, Peace & Justice Ministry thanks you very much.

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, October 16 - Saturday, November 1

<u>Thursday October 16</u>	<u>Sunday October 19</u>	<u>Monday October 20</u>	<u>Tuesday October 21</u>	<u>Wednesday October 22</u>	<u>Thursday October 23</u>	<u>Friday October 24</u>
<p>Noon Faith in Flux Discussion, Fireside Room</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee, Fireside Room</p> <p>Friday October 17</p> <p>Saturday October 18</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 a.m. Senior High lock-in, paint the walls</p>	<p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School/Adult Ed</p> <p>10:20 a.m. Chancel Choir, Rm. 6</p> <p>11:00 Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Noon Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Senior Highs, Social Hall</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Taizé</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Planet Percussion, Rm. #106</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Strengthening Families, Fireside/Chapel</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Mid-lders, Social Hall</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Generation Next and Now, Chapel</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. VOICE Artides Due</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 pm Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Noon Faith in Flux Brown Bag lunch & Discussion, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Small Group Leader Training, Fireside Room</p>	
				<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., Urban Onion</p> <p>LAST SUNDAY</p> <p>Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m., Social Hall</p>	<p>ONGOING EVENTS <i>All Are Welcome!</i></p>	
<u>Saturday October 25</u>	<u>Sunday October 26</u>	<u>Monday October 27</u>	<u>Tuesday October 28</u>	<u>Wednesday October 29</u>	<u>Thursday October 30</u>	<u>Friday October 31</u>
<p>6:00 p.m. Spiritual Cinema Night, Fireside / Chapel</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Camp Quixote Fund Raiser, St. John's, Dinner / Live Auction</p> <p>Saturday November 1</p>	<p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Family Worship Experience, Social Hall</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School/Adult Ed</p> <p>10:20 Chancel Choir, Rm. 6</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 ~ Prayer</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Teachers meeting, Rm. #8</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Planet Percussion, Rm. #106</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Panorama Communion / Bible Study, Quinault Chapel</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Strengthening Families, Fireside/Chapel</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Mid-lders, Social Hall</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Panorama City</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Noon Faith in Flux Brown Bag lunch & Discussion, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper - UCC Congregation, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Sessions meets with Presbytery at Lacey Church</p>	<p>ALL SAINTS EVE (Halloween)</p>
					<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Single Family Worship Service, Sunday, November 30 (first day of Advent).</p>	



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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OCTOBER PAIRS & SPARES

Annita Noah, Mission, Peace & Justice Ministry

Wednesday, October 22

Meeting and Luncheon

Panorama Chambers Restaurant

Social Time 11:30 • Lunch 12:00

The program speaker, **Dottie Dummett** of Panorama, survived **Hurricane Katrina** and will use a power point presentation to tell us about her personal experiences when she was living in New Orleans. They did not evacuate, their home was flooded and they spent three days on a bridge.

I hope you can attend to listen to this fascinating experience, and bring guests if you like. Reservations for lunch can be made by calling 943-1210 by Monday, October 20. If you get the church voice mail, just leave a message and the office staff will ensure that you have a reservation.

Prayers For

- ✦ **Ralph Rudeen**, undergoing radiation therapy.
- ✦ **The residents of Camp Quixote**, now guests of St. John's Episcopal.
- ✦ **Martha Pierce**, knee replacement, October 14, Bellevue.
- ✦ **L.D. and Mary Lee McNall**, as L.D. lives with continuing cancer.
- ✦ **Dorothy Blanchard**, making miraculous progress living at Roo-Lan.
- ✦ **Eloise Hardin** and **Mary Webster**, Panorama C&R.
- ✦ The future of our country, as the presidential election draws near.
- ✦ All suffering from the global financial crises.

