



VOICE

The United Churches of Olympia

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 73, ISSUE 23 • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

3RD ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

Debra Nickerson, Congregational Life Ministry

Part of our church's outreach and mission involves the sponsorship and coordination of our (3rd) annual holiday **Alternative Giving Fair**, held this year on **Saturday, December 13, from 10 to 3**, again at the **Olympia Center** downtown.

The fair gathers together many local non-profit organizations and offers a space and time for them to share their missions and accept donations, which are then given as gift cards to loved ones for any one of the many holidays in December. Last year, 21 organizations participated, raising over \$12,000. This year, we already have 25 organizations involved, providing information about their charitable work. Given that our local charities will also be suffering from difficult economic times, these non-material gifts make very worthwhile presents!

We want to help foster a different idea of gift giving around the holidays, one that does not include lots of packaging or the purchase of entities that may sit on a shelf somewhere. For many, including myself, the option of

(Continued on page 2)

CAN YOU SPARE A TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Jo Johnson, Community Kitchen Coordinator

On **Tuesday, December 9**, we will again provide a special holiday dinner for our homeless and underprivileged guests at the Salvation Army Complimentary Kitchen. For this occasion, we hope for 10 good people among us willing to acquire a turkey (approximately 15 lbs.), while prices are relatively inexpensive in the next 2-3 weeks, *and* to cook the bird at home without stuffing. We've had a wonderful response from the congregation to this call in the past and hope for the same next month. To sign on and for further information, contact **Jo Johnson** at 866-2972.

We will soon offer other opportunities to participate in this festive dinner.

Worship Services

Season of Stewardship

November 16

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

“Extravagant Opportunity”

TEXTS:

- Judges 4:1-7 • Psalm 123
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

- ✦ Introducing New Members
- ✦ Congregational Meeting & Soup Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Social Hall

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

November 23

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

“Reigning Compassion”

TEXTS:

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 100 • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Matthew 25:31-46

- ✦ Interfaith Thanksgiving, 2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Prayer

FAMILIES STRENGTHENED

Beth Rossing

The seven-session fall program of Strengthening Families concluded on October 28 with a DVD presentation reviewing concepts learned and viewing pictures of families participating. Thanks to **Pat Sonnenstuhl** for putting this DVD together! All the families expressed gratitude and appreciation for the insights they gained through these sessions offered by TUCO and TOGETHER. **Beth** and **Gib Rossing** served as facilitators for the parent session and **Shelle Ackroyd, Lee Hackworth** and **Janet Hyre** facilitated the youth session. **Kathy Raettig** of TOGETHER gave assistance as needed to both groups. **Pat Dickason** solicited food donations from 37 TUCO families to provide the meals and helped with food set-up and serving. Many thanks to Pat for this service as well as thanks to *all* who contributed food. It was an important and greatly appreciated part of the program to allow the families to come directly from work and enjoy a meal together. A three-session 'booster class' is planned for February to check in with these families and encourage them in their endeavors to become stronger and caring families who love and support one another.

NEEDED: CE TEACHERS

Char McMullen, Christian Education Ministry

Christian Education Ministry has an immediate need for someone to teach the senior high class. This opportunity could be filled by a person, a couple or a team. Mentoring and training is available. The ministry would also like to develop a pool of church members interested in helping with Sunday school classes on a frequent or infrequent basis.

Having a quality Sunday school program for adults, seniors, youth, and children is a service to our fellow members and the community. If you are even a little interested, please contact **Char McMullen** at 412-7412.

Alternative Giving Fair *(Continued from page 1)*

giving a gift to a local charity such as the Thurston County Food Bank is a nice addition alongside a special gift for someone. Others give these alternative gifts solely.

John Godfrey and Congregational Life Ministry are the main organizers but every one of you can help. In fact, we need the assistance of many to ensure it runs smoothly. I invite each of you to be a part of this annual event by helping out in some way or simply attending on the 13th of December. If you want to assist us in this worthwhile endeavor you can help by: volunteering an hour or two to help staff a table or cashier, provide some snacks for the volunteers, or spread the word about the fair through promotional materials. Contact **Deb Nickerson** at 754-5397 or debranick@gmail.com.

THE WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP will meet at **10:00 a.m. on November 19** to discuss *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch. The host and discussion leader is **Libby Penney**. Her address is 2621 Chambers Lake Lane. If you are unable to attend, please call Libby at 438-5070.

THE NEXT SPIRITUAL CINEMA FILM NIGHT is **Saturday, November 22nd, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. We will view and discuss the film *Rumi: Poet of the Heart*. This documentary brings to life a man and his poetry that have been enjoyed for the past 800 years. Rumi, a Sufi mystic with many devoted followers, is known for his deeply spiritual love poems. "Rumi was not Hindu, nor Muslim, nor Christian, nor Jew, yet his words of devotion to the beloved speak to all that hear them."

Join us for dessert, and an opportunity to share your faith with others. Facilitators are **Bernie Clarke** and **Pat Sonnenstuhl**.

TWO TICKETS FOR SALE

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Sunday matinee, December 7, at Seattle 5th Avenue Theatre. Call Sandi in the church office at 943-1210.

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Office Hours-

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTORS

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EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, November 13 - Saturday, November 29

<p>Thursday November 13</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux Discussion, Fireside Room</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Personnel, Rm. 106</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Fireside</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday November 14</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, "Life Stories, Continued." The Spar Restaurant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday November 15</p>	<p>Sunday November 16</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Adult Education/Sr. High Pre-Advent Lectionary, Fireside Room</p> <p>10:20 a.m. Chancel Choir, Rm. 6</p> <p>11:00 Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>12:30 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & SOUP LUNCH, Social Hall</p>	<p><u>Sunday, cont'd</u></p> <p>12:30 p.m. Senior Highs, Social Hall for Congregational Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Taizé</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday November 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>Tuesday November 18</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>5:30 p.m. Generation Next and Now, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Wednesday November 19</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">6:00 p.m. VOICE Articles Due</div> <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>Thursday November 20</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux Brown Bag lunch & Discussion, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Friday November 21</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OLYMPIA CHAMBER PLAYERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Friday, November 14, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Free</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Music by Mozart, Bach, Dvorak and Dohnanyi.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Olympia Chamber Players are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">violinist Judith Leuck, violist Phyllis Solter, cellist Ian Edlund and pianist Jennifer Herrman.</p>						
<p>Saturday November 22</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sacristy/Sanctuary cleaning - <i>All are invited!</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Spiritual Cinema group, Fireside Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday November 29</p>	<p>Sunday November 23</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Adult Education Pre-Advent Lectionary, Fireside</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>Monday November 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>Tuesday November 25</p> <p><i>Preparation for Barb & Friends Thanksgiving</i></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>5:30 p.m. Middlers, Social Hall</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Wednesday November 26</p> <p><i>Office closes at noon</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Barb & Friends Thanksgiving Feast</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>Thursday November 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THANKSGIVING</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, ADVENT BEGINS - One Service Family Worship Experience, 10:00 a.m.</p> </div>	<p>Friday November 28</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday, November 23, 2:30 p.m.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1925 Boulevard Rd SE</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How do different faiths give thanks? Through Prayer, Song, Dance, Meditation, Giving? All are welcome. Visiting and light snacks following. Free-will offering split between Garden Raised Bounty and Interfaith Works.</p>						



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Leslie Cushman, Moderator & Mark Dowdy, Pastor



Sunday, November 16, 12:30 p.m.
Social Hall

Folks will be gathering in the social hall to eat stew provided by your Congregational Life Ministry. Before we eat we will pray. After we eat we'll pray again, because we have some great issues to discuss. We will be electing next year's leaders, people who are dedicated and committed to serving Christ, the Church of Jesus Christ alive, and providing a place for us to have fellowship and worship. We will be listening to a budget proposal that will be reasonable and respectful of the congregation and targeted to fit our mission and our needs as we live out our generosity in changing times.

Please plan on joining us, all are welcome. If you can, bring a salad or bread and beverages. (Rumor is there might be pie).



Prayers For

- ✦ **Jim Johnson and Family**, on the death of Jim's dad, Richard Edward Johnson, November 5 in Highland, Illinois.
- ✦ **The Bishop Family**, on the death of Scott's mother, Ona Mae Bishop, October 26, in Pennsylvania.
- ✦ **Fred Maltz**, Jo Edward's dad, kidney cancer.
- ✦ **The residents of Camp Quixote**, now guests of St. John's Episcopal.
- ✦ **L.D. and Mary Lee McNall**, as L.D. lives with continuing cancer.
- ✦ **Eloise Hardin, Clara Mitchell, Mary Webster**, Panorama C&R.
- ✦ **Peter Von Brockdorf**, of Meadow Vista, CA, Hank Kipp's cousin, recovering from heart surgery.

