



VOICE

The United Churches of Olympia

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 73, ISSUE 26 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2008

ON THE EVE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

O come all ye faithful, come ye to celebrate Christ's birth.
Each service will end with Sharing the Christmas Light and Silent Night.

4:45 *Carol Sing-a-long* 5:00 *Families Celebrate the Light*

The TUCO Youth Choir performs. There is also a kazoo chorus, and special vocal and instrumental solos by TUCO youth. Children are encouraged to participate in the pageant. Come dressed as angels, shepherds, or townspeople, or come early and select from costumes provided by the church.

7:15 *Organ/Piano Duets* 7:30 *Choirs Rejoice!*

Our Chancel Choir sings, along with Brass Choir duets featuring Dan Lundberg on trumpet and Heather Pierson, French horn. Enjoy many other favorite and beautiful carols and a Christmas meditation offering by Pastor Mark Dowdy.

10:00 *Pipes Ring the Good News*

Dee Morton plays classical selections by Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, G. F. Handel, plus traditional carol arrangements for the pipe organ, accompanied by Dan Lundberg on trumpet and Heather Pierson on French horn.

10:30 *Carols, Candles and Communion*

A contemplative, quiet celebration of Jesus' birth, with Pastor Amy Roon preaching and singing, followed by Communion.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The offerings collected during the Christmas Eve services are divided equally between our Presbyterian and UCC denominations. Both funds are used to supplement the incomes and recognize the faithfulness of current and retired church workers to help them through difficult times. Over 20 UCC recipients are over 100 years old.

Let's all remember the recipients of the Pensions Funds and the schools and colleges we support each year with our generous donations to the Christmas Offering, this Christmas Eve during all services.

Worship Services

December 28

One ~~Worship~~ Service

10:00 A.M.

"Blessing Our Gifts"

TEXTS:

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 148
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:22-40

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Healing Prayer

January 4

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

**"A New Year to Embrace
the Gift of Christ"**

TEXTS:

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

⊕ Communion

⊕ Food Bank/Other Bank

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Labyrinth

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 go 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 NEWS

Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry

MIDLERS

Calendars. Middlers still have a few 2009 God's Creation calendars left. Remember they are still only \$7 each and support our Middler's activities. Half the proceeds go to a charity of the Youths choosing. Purchase a few for gifts. Just ask any middler for more info.

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

Mural Making. The Senior High youth spent the night on December 12 and created yet another mural on the youth room walls. We stayed up way too late, ate too much food, played lots of games, watched a movie, and found time to paint the wall. Be sure to get a guided tour, just ask a Senior High youth for assistance.

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.

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

360-943-1210

info@theunitedchurches.org

Office Hours-

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTORS







F. Mark Dowdy

markd@theunitedchurches.org

Amy M. Room

amy@theunitedchurches.org

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, December 25 - Saturday, January 10

<p>Thursday <u>December 25</u></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Friday <u>December 26</u></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>Saturday <u>December 27</u></p>	<p>Sunday <u>December 28</u></p> <p>10:00 Family Style Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Prayer</p>	<p>Monday <u>December 29</u></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>Tuesday <u>December 30</u></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>Wednesday <u>December 31</u></p> <p>6:00 p.m. VOICE Articles Due</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum Fun, Social Hall</p> <p>(No Chancel Choir rehearsal)</p> <p>(No SpiritSing)</p>	<p>Thursday <u>January 1</u></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>Friday <u>January 2</u></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> 
<p>ONGOING EVENTS <i>All Are Welcome!</i></p> <p>WEDNESDAYS Spirit Sing, 6:00 p.m., Chapel Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Drum Fun, 7-9 p.m., Room 106</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAYS Labyrinth Walk, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Social Hall</p> <p>SECOND FRIDAYS Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., The Spar Restaurant</p> <p>LAST SUNDAY Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m., Social Hall</p>						
<p>Saturday <u>January 3</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Virginia Hartley Memorial, Chapel</p>  <p>Saturday <u>January 10</u></p> <p>***** Friday - Sunday, January 9-11 Middlers Mid-Winter Retreat, Pilgrim Firs *****</p>	<p>Sunday <u>January 4</u></p> <p>8:15a.m. Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed</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 ~ Labyrinth</p>	<p>Monday <u>January 5</u></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>Tuesday <u>January 6</u></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. Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Administration Ministry, Chapel</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Wednesday <u>January 7</u></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Christian Education Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>6:00 p.m. SpiritSing, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Sanctuary & Rm. 6</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Thursday <u>January 8</u></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Friday <u>January 9</u></p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, The Spar Restaurant</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">  SPECIAL MUSIC ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 Sharon Wallace, Vocal Soloist, and Carol Sherrell, Pianist, present special Communion selections for both 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. </p>



Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Olympia, WA
Permit #147

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

110 11th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Return Service Requested

www.theunitedchurches.org

READING FOR FAITH AND ACTION IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



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.

Prayers For

- ✦ **The Family of Virginia Hartley**, who died December 3. Her memorial service will be Saturday, January 3, 10 a.m., Chapel.
- ✦ **Diane Mitchell**, whose mother is near end of life in Colorado.
- ✦ **Bill Leonard**, Evergreen Care Center.
- ✦ **Kim Jung**, mother on hospice care.
- ✦ **Isaac Jung**, teaching at Shanghai University in China for six weeks.
- ✦ **John Godfrey**, mother on hospice care.
- ✦ **Camp Quixote**, and all those without shelter this snowy winter.
- ✦ **L.D. McNall**, who lives and dies belonging to God.
- ✦ **Jerred Reyes**, 27, relative of a Good Shepherd Lutheran member, lung cancer surgery, December 19, Kansas.

