



VOICE

The United Churches of Olympia

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 3 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS JOY

Charlene Mackey, Missions, Peace and Justice Ministry

“Our folks are so faithful!” were the words from our Reverend **Mark Dowdy** when I asked him about the Christmas Offering for this year. All three of the Christmas Eve services were cancelled because of the unusual snowy weather, in addition to the services on the Sunday prior to Christmas.

And yet, we received a large and generous amount for the Christmas Joy Offering. Remember, the Christmas Joy Offering supplements retirement funds for retired clergy and church workers for both the Presbyterian and United Church of Christ, in addition to helping support schools and colleges which the Presbyterian Church (USA) sponsors.

The amount collected this year, \$2,521, is only short of miraculous considering there were **no** Christmas Eve services. That is only \$700 less than last year! Thanks be to God!

Yes.....and thanks to **you** folks so faithful!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES BOOSTER CLASS

Beth Rossing

On February 10, 17, and 24, TUCO and TOGETHER! will sponsor three booster sessions for previous Strengthening Families classes. Materials presented in the original seven sessions will be reviewed and participants will have an opportunity to ‘check in’ with other families to see how principles learned have helped build relationships and deal with stressful situations they may have encountered.

We will provide an evening meal for these families and count on TUCO support for this ministry. Providing this meal allows participants to come directly from work and have opportunity for fellowship before the class session.

If you can help provide food please contact **Beth Rossing** at 943-9055 or barossing@msn.com. Thanks in advance to all who help make this continuing ministry of TUCO possible and effective.

Worship Services

February 8

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

“Source of Strength”

TEXTS:

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

✠ “Saving Jesus for the 21st Century” Adult Ed class

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Celebrate Music

February 15

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

“Compassionate Community”

TEXTS:

- II Kings 5:1-14
- Psalm 30
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Mark 1:40-45

✠ “Saving Jesus for the 21st Century” Adult Ed class

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

STEPHEN MINISTERS TRAIN



Karen Watts, Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry team is pleased to announce that the United Churches of Olympia in partnership with The First United Methodist Church has begun training another class of Stephen Ministers. The class meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The training classes are held weekly at the Methodist church through March. Beginning in April the meetings will be held at TUCO. By June 9 the Stephen Ministry trainees will have completed 50 hours of training that will provide them with the knowledge and skills to offer quality, distinctively Christian one-to-one care to people suffering from grief, loss, and other difficulties.

There are 15 students in the class. From TUCO the Stephen Ministers in training are **Diane Baldwin, Kathleen Clark, Jim Harvison, Lou Ann Houck, Marg Lippert, Sylvia Orwig, and Leda Pugh**. We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting or lonely people on behalf of our congregation. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders (**Pat Dickason, Mark Dowdy, Janet Tolman, Sherri Wills-Green, Tom Green, and Karen Watts**) who will guide them through their training.

If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister, don't hesitate to contact one of our leaders.

CALLING ALL YOUTH,

7th to 12th grades. We're singing in the choir room every Sunday morning at

9:15 a.m.

It's a short practice, and we have fun.

Please join your voice with ours, in the TUCO Youth Choir.



WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.

At the home of **Joyce Allen**, 2311 Beta St. S.E.

We will discuss the book *Dear John*, by Nicholas Sparks. If you are a member and cannot attend, please call Joyce at 438-5423. Our group reads a variety of fine books provided by Timberland Library in the course of 9 months meetings.

New members are always welcome. Please call Joyce if you would like to attend this next meeting.

2009 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Amy Roon, Pastor

EVEN AS WE HOPE: Blooming in Uncertain Times

February 27 to March 1

7:00 p.m. Friday - Noon Sunday

Cost: \$89, limited scholarships available

Register online at www.pilgrimfirs.org

What a time!

What an anxious, uncertain, hopeful time to be living!

Having survived the winter storms and having begun to live into an economic downturn on top of the usual realities of life, we have been buffeted by forces outside ourselves. As individuals and as a community of faith, how have we made it this far? What will sustain us in these days, and provide sustenance for the days to come?

Like the first bulbs in early spring, we too have been given nourishment to allow us to bloom amidst adversity. Using the Psalms, the wisdom of the mystics, poetry, and prayer practices, we'll reconnect with our faith, ourselves, and each other.

Please join me in going to the Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs. I know you're not all UCC but as TUCO folk you're all welcome. Please pass this on to anyone you think might be interested. Yes, it's okay to bring a friend who's not from church. What better way to get to know one another?

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Office Hours-

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

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YOUTH NEWS

Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry

MIDLERS HOST OVERFLOW

On January 24, some of the Middlers joined **Mark Boyd, Kasey McPherson, Liz Frey** and 18 guests as we hosted the overflow shelter. We welcomed folks from the community who needed a place to get out of the elements. With the assistance of the Emergency Shelter Network and **Jacky Crow** we provided beds, blankets, snacks and a friendly face. The middlers invite everyone to join us and many others from our church as we extend a hand out into the community.

MIDLERS AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MEET REGULARLY AND BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Every Tuesday Middlers gather from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the youth room. We share a meal, some games and perhaps a story or two. The first Tuesday is brown bag, 2nd: soup kitchen, 3rd: potluck, 4th: we cook.



The Senior High youth meet on Sundays from 12:30-2:30 and we also break bread together. The first Sunday is brown bag, 2nd: potluck, 3rd: we cook, 4th: road trip, bring lunch money..

So now you know, come join us.

CONFIRMATION FAITH JOURNEY 2009 IS COMING



Our 2009 Faith Journey is beginning very soon. Our confirmation program is open for all youth 8th grade and older who have not been confirmed. We use a series of weekend retreat to help youth discover what and where their faith is leading them. We will have an **informational meeting for parents on February 8 at noon** in the library.

The dates for upcoming retreats are February 27-March 1, March 27-29, April 17-19, and May 15-17. Please come and learn more about this wonderful program.

VALOGRAMS ARE COMING!!! VALOGRAMS ARE COMING!!!

Beginning February 1 you can start ordering Valograms. Yes, it is that time of year again, when we actually look at each other longingly. Now you can show your love by purchasing a red, heart-shaped helium-filled balloon, with a special message for a special someone attached and delivered during the services on Sunday the 15th. For the low cost of only \$4 you can show your affection and support the Senior High youth group. Half of all proceeds go to a charity or cause of the youths choosing. So please support our youth and bring a smile to someone's face in the process.



CALLING ALL SINGERS

Dee Morton, Director of Music

Festival Choir is forming again, to perform for Easter Sunday services on April 12. Join your voice with our regular Chancel Choir for this most glorious celebration. The first read-through of the Easter music is **Saturday, February 14, at 9:00 a.m.**, followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Choir officers are promising "something chocolate!"

Rehearsals will continue on Wednesday nights, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., with regular Sunday service music rehearsal from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Final dress rehearsal will be Saturday, April 11, at 9:00 a.m.

The "Easter Festival" cantata will include a variety of music by various composers, including Handel, Mascagni, Mozart and Hogan. The music will alternate with the reading of the Passion and Easter Gospel narratives. The cantata will be presented at both 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday services.

REPORT ON PRESBYTERIAN SESSION

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

Following the potluck with those from the UCC congregation of our church the last Thursday evening of January, the Presbyterian Session met for several purposes:

- To look at the process of having conversation about our Presbyterians becoming "More Light," which is the near equivalent of the UCC "Open and Affirming" invitation to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) folks, but with many more ramifications because of the structure of the Presbyterian (USA) denomination. **Beth and Gib Rossing** were with the Session as resources as conversation around these issues are considered.
- To elect a clerk for 2009. **Bunny Hooper** was again elected and will rotate into Council with the UCC clerk, **Cynthia Cook**.
- To have conversation with **Rev. Ralph Carr** of the Presbytery of Olympia's Committee on Ministry as to how our church is doing and let him know of the work of our Session made up of all Presbyterians elected to serve on our eight ministries.
- To elect delegates to the upcoming four meetings of the Presbytery of Olympia scheduled throughout 2009.

The next meeting of the Session of the Presbyterian congregation of our church will be Thursday evening, April 10, following again a joint potluck with the UCC congregation, 6pm, our Fireside room. And remember, all Session meetings are public and open to anyone who wishes to attend.

SEEKING KITCHEN SOFT GOODS

Congregational Life Ministry is asking if you have dish towels, pot holders, tablecloths or trivets in good condition, the church could use some more. Please leave them in the office or on the table for CLM and we'll replace those in poor condition in the kitchen. Thanks very much.



UCC CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES

Mark Bohe, Outgoing Clerk

UCC Congregational Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2009
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Beginning Potluck.

Pastor Amy Roon led the discussion.

UCC Congregational News.

The two generations, pre-1980 and post-1980 were discussed:

- Differences in diversity.
- Differences with comfort of technology.

Elections were held for Moderator & Clerk for the year 2009.

- **Louise Bohe** elected UCC Moderator.
- **Cynthia Cook** elected UCC Clerk.

The Annual Meeting, Pacific Northwest Conference, to be held in Spokane, at the Red Lion Inn April 24 through 26, 2009.

Conference Delegates:

- **Louise Bohe**
- **Cynthia Cook**
- **Brooke Johnson**
- **Joan Knapp**

Other members are encouraged to attend and they will not be delegates.

AMY TO STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Pastor Amy Roon will be attending Stephen Ministry Leadership training in Portland, Oregon the week of February 9-15. She will be with several hundred others from across the country in learning the details of the Stephen Ministry program, and will be able to share in the leadership of our Stephen Ministry program upon her return. Please remember Amy in prayer as she goes for this wonderful training.

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, February 5 - Saturday, February 21

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| <p>Thursday February 5 Noon Faith in Flux brown bag group, Fireside Room 5:30 p.m. Creative Spiritual Endowment Bd., Library 7:00 MPJ, Chapel 7:00 Worship Ministry, Fireside</p> <p>Friday February 6 5:00 Family Worship Stakeholders meeting, Fireside 5:30 Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> <p>Saturday February 7 8:30 a.m. Living Lightly Small Group, Rm. 5</p> | <p>Sunday February 8 8:15 Worship, Chapel 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex 9:15 Youth Choir, Rm. 6 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed 11:00 Worship, Sanctuary Noon Coffee Fellowship 12:00 Youth Confirmation Info mtg, Library 12:30 Senior Highs, Social Hall 6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel -Celebrate Music</p> | <p>Monday February 9 OFFICE CLOSED</p> | <p>Tuesday February 10 1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106 3:00 Staff Meeting, Rm.106 5:30 Middlers, Social Hall 5:15 Personnel Ministry, Rm.8 5:30 Strengthening Families, Fireside Room/Rm.106 6:30 Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room 5:00 2nd Tuesday Dinner Prep & Serving at the Salvation Army kitchen</p> | <p>Wednesday February 11 6:00 p.m. VOICE Articles Due 6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel 7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall 7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary 8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p> | <p>Thursday February 12 Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p> | <p>Friday February 13 6:30 p.m. Reading for Faith and Action Small Group, Jacky Crow leader. Location varies.</p> |
| <p>Saturday February 14 9:00 a.m. Festival Choir read-thru 11:30 Choir lunch, Choir Rm., Rm.8</p> <p><i>Sappy Valentine's Day</i></p> <p>Saturday February 21 8:30 a.m. Living Lightly Small Group, Rm. 5</p> | <p>Sunday February 15 8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex 9:15 Youth Choir, Rm. 6 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed 10:20 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 6 11:00 Worship, Sanctuary Noon Coffee Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Senior Highs, Social Hall 6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Taizé</p> | <p>Monday February 16 OFFICE CLOSED</p> | <p>Tuesday February 17 1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106 3:30 Staff Meeting, Rm.106 5:00 Middlers, Social Hall 5:30 Generation Next and Now, Chapel 5:30 Strengthening Families, Fireside Room & Rm.106</p> | <p>Wednesday February 18 6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel 7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106 7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary 8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p> | <p>Thursday February 19 Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room</p> | <p>Friday February 20</p> |



ONGOING EVENTS
All Are Welcome!

- WEDNESDAYS**
- Spirit Sing, 6:00 p.m., Chapel
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Drum Fun, 7-9 p.m., Room 106
- THURSDAYS**
- Faith in Flux Discussion & Brown Bag, Noon, Fireside
- FIRST FRIDAYS**
- Labyrinth Walk, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Social Hall
- SECOND FRIDAYS**
- Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., The Spar Restaurant
- LAST SUNDAY S**
- Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m., Social Hall



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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Brian Hovis

On February 22 there will be an opportunity to hear about the hiring process for the permanent Children's Ministry Program Coordinator, led by **Brian Hovis** and **Celia Nightingale**. **Brooke (Williams) Johnson** has been the acting Children's Ministry Program Coordinator this year.

Those interested may gather in the downstairs Social Hall at 12:00. The intent is to have the position filled by July 2009. If you are unable to meet at that time, you can meet with Brian and Celia between services the same day in the Narthex, or contact Brian Hovis, brianhovis@msn.com, or (360) 943-2634.



GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

On **Friday, February 13, at 7:00 a.m.**, TUCO Men's Breakfast group will be serving up continued "Life Stories" at The Spar Restaurant in downtown Olympia. Come join us.

Prayers For

- ✦ **John Manter**, Panorama Assisted Living.
- ✦ **Curtis Eaton**, awaiting radiation and chemotherapy following January 9 brain surgery.
- ✦ **Nancy Foley**, continuing to heal from hip replacement surgery.
- ✦ **Clara Mitchell, Mary Webster, and Tom Goldsmith** at Panorama C&R.
- ✦ People struggling with unemployment.
- ✦ **Gene Armstrong** on the death of his wife, Mildred, in Los Angeles late January.
- ✦ Agencies whose benevolences half been severely cut or lost altogether.
- ✦ **L.D. McNall**, Panorama C&R, preparing to return home by February 7 in time to celebrate his 95th birthday on February 16.

