



The United Churches of Olympia **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 75, ISSUE 4 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

WELCOME TO LENT

Mark Dowdy

The Season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday of this week with our annual “Service of Ashes,” February 17 at 7:00 p.m., in the chapel. This service opens the 40 week-day period (not counting Sundays) leading up to the great Celebration of Easter.

Lent (from the Old English word for “Spring” and “40 days” in other languages), is that time of the church year when we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Our Lenten disciplines of self inventory, fasting, prayer, study, worship, and works of love help us journey to an unknown future.

A daily devotional is available on our church web site, www.theunitedchurches.org. When there, scroll down, and click on title below UCC Daily Devotional, then click on Bible Blog. These same devotionals are available from the table in the Narthex as of Ash Wednesday, along with

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PER CAPITA PAYMENTS HELP EASE BUDGET

Don Plank, Stewardship Ministry

Both the Presbyterian and United Church of Christ denominations of our Federated Church have national offices and both are supported by per capita fees paid by every member church in the denomination. The per capita fee is an assessment of a set dollar amount for each member of a church to be paid to the National Offices. This money is then used to support the upkeep and outreach of the denomination, either by direct contribution to a project or passed down through the churches themselves.

Per capita fees are the major source of income to the national offices. Other means of income include investments, contributions from private donors, and bequests. The normal way each church pays this fee is from their treasury. However, it has been the way of our church, The United Churches of Olympia, to have each member or member family pledge thirty dollars per person. This has been a relief for the budget planners.

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Worship Services

Wednesday, Feb. 17

ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 P.M. - Chapel

TEXTS:

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- Psalm 51:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21

8:15 A.M. - Chapel
11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

**“Wilderness
Companions”**

TEXTS:

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

6:00 P.M. - Chapel

Spirit Service ~ Taizé

February 28

8:15 A.M. - Chapel
11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

“Astounding Glory”

TEXTS:

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

6:00 P.M. - Chapel

Spirit Service ~ Prayer

Lent (Continued from page 1)

our Lenten brochure with other readings and Lenten events included in this Voice. May this Lent be a time of self-discovery, a time to reflect on the future into which God is guiding us, and a time be a bit quieter and contemplative.

Per Capita (Continued from page 1)

We the Stewardship Ministry are requesting that each member or member family pay the \$30 fee outside of their regular pledge. Please deposit your check in the collection on February 21, 2010. Thank you.

THANK YOU, GAYLE BOYD

Mark Dowdy, Pastor

At the end of December, **Gayle Boyd** concluded her work as our Nursery Coordinator due to health reasons. Gayle's granddaughter, **Nicole Boyd**, who had worked with Gayle at times, stepped in to serve as the interim Nursery Coordinator while Personnel established a committee to seek a new permanent Coordinator.

We thank Gayle for her many years of excellent service and wish her well and good health. Thanks also to Nicole for being our interim Nursery Coordinator and for doing such a good job.

A world-class scientist grapples with the **meaning of life**, even as he digs into a deeper understanding of the biochemical framework that underlies it all. Hear how a once dedicated atheist applied his analytical abilities to turn his world view on its head in the 2/21 "Science & Faith" Adult ed class.

2010 PACIFIC NW UCC WOMEN'S RETREAT

7 p.m., Friday, March 5 - 11 a.m., Sunday, March 7, at Pilgrim Firs.
\$90 (includes 5 meals and two night's lodging). Limited scholarships available.

Questions? Contact Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel (206) 842-4657 or
rev.emilyjoy@gmail.com.

"Wholesome Bread: The Sustenance We Need for Life"

Good bread is more than tasty – it nourishes the soul. When we gather together around a table, an everyday loaf can be transformed into something holy. Over and over again, bread appears in our scriptures and stories as a metaphor; a sign of God's love and blessing, found in community. Join us at Pilgrim Firs as we take bread, give thanks, break open our lives, and share together. Register at www.pilgrimfirs.org.



TELLING OUR TUCO STORIES

Janet Anderson

We all have stories to tell, stories we have lived from the inside out. Many of our long-time members—and newer ones too—have wonderful stories to tell about our church and their history with us. If we don't collect and preserve these stories, they will be gone forever.

Thus we are beginning the TUCO Oral History Project in the hopes of gathering stories and histories from our members. Taped interviews will affirm the gifts of our members, contribute to a written history of our church, spark some conversations about who we are and where we're going, and help us produce some slide shows and displays of our members' history with our church.

The Oral History Project's planners would like to involve as many people as possible in the effort. And we have a number of real needs—for interviewers who are good listeners, for transcribers with word processors, for those who might loan us pictures of church activities, and for ideas about whom we might interview (right now, we have a list of almost 30 potential interviewees).

Our greatest need right now is for digital audio recorders—those that can "plug in" to a computer when the recording is finished. If you have one to loan us or if you'd like to interview, transcribe, or loan us pictures for scanning, please contact anyone of the project's advisory committee:

Janet Anderson 943-0776 ajbI@qwest.net

Janet Tolman 438-5343 gandjtolman@comcast.net

Karen Watts 456-2526 klwatts@comcast.net.

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9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTOR

F. Mark Dowdy

markd@theunitedchurches.org

LENTEN ADULT ED CLASS: SCIENCE & FAITH IN HARMONY

Ruth Shearer, Chair, Theology, Natural Sciences Ministry

The Theology and Natural Sciences Ministry adult study class, "Science and Faith in Harmony" begins on **February 21** in the Fireside Room.

The six-session class is organized around the book, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Dr. Francis S. Collins, newly-appointed head of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Collins was head of the Human Genome Project, which deter-

Feb. 21, Ch. 2: The War of the Worldviews

- Tom Skjervold

Feb. 28, Ch. 3: The Origins of the Universe

- Celia Nightingale

Mar. 7, Ch. 4-5: Life on Earth, God's Instruction Book

- Ruth Shearer

mined the entire sequence of DNA, the code of life, in humans. He is also a man of unshakeable faith in God and scripture.

Scientists in our church present their knowledge and experience on the topics raised by Dr. Collins, concluding with a theological point of view from Rev. Paul McCann. Reading the book will prepare for discussion, but is not essential for class participation.

Mar. 14, Ch. 6: Genesis, Galileo and Darwin

- Joe Arnett

Mar. 21, Ch. 7-9: Atheism, Creationism, Intelligent Design

- Ruth Shearer

Mar. 28, Ch. 10: Science and Faith in Harmony

- Paul McCann

FEBRUARY/MARCH PNC UCC NEWS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

From the Conference website, www.pncucc.org, under Resources click on PNCUCC News. Or, go there directly through: www.thefigtree.org/pncnews/pncnews.html. The PNC News contains information similar to the conference insert of the United Church News, which ceased publication last fall.

The Conference is studying the best means to communicate and planning to use some of today's technologies as means to distribute the content. Because people have varied preferences for how to receive communications, it's important to let us know your preferences as individuals and congregations. Please e-mail pncuccnews@qwest.net with feedback or write Mary Stamp at 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202.

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE

Paul McCann, for the TUCO Library Committee

Happily, church library usage continues to increase! Your library committee is encouraged and pleased. We recently completed our annual inventory and, once again, removed several unused or outdated volumes from the shelves. We continue to add new volumes, and ordinarily display them on the library table for perusal and checkout.

Sadly, **several volumes are missing**, including a series of 10 books, in sequence, dealing with cancer and hospice care. **None** were checked out. **Please return** any missing volumes to the "Book Return" box, ASAP. And please take time to **check out** any borrowed book, following the simple instructions by the card boxes.

Watch for future Library updates, since some exciting plans are currently being considered. Thank you!

TUCO SUPPORT FOR HAITI

Sid Olson, Bookkeeper

As always, our congregation is very generous when called on. \$3,180 was raised over a three week period from when we first solicited donations for this cause. The money was split between the two denominations, who will forward the money to Church World Service for distribution in Haiti.

With TUCO's brilliant minds, no topic is too big! The origin of the universe will be the subject of the 2/28 "Science and Faith" Adult ed class. A lot of "perfect" events had to occur to get from the Big Bang to human life on earth.



What role did God play in it all?

UCC GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Rev. Mike Denton, Conference Minister

Our new denominational General Minister and President, The Rev. Geoffrey Black is scheduled to be here from March 12-14. Because of the number of churches on the west side of the mountains, we're having three gatherings there and one on the eastside.

The first will be a noon-time luncheon for clergy and other authorized ministers on **Friday, March 12** at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1217 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Space is limited so please e-mail Arlene (pncucc@gmail.com) or just call our office (206-725-8383) if you'd like to attend.

The second gathering will be at Bellevue First Congregational Church, the **evening of March 12**. It will start with a potluck at 6:30 and be followed by a

listening session with Rev. Black in the sanctuary at 7:30. These listening sessions have been something he's has been doing in conferences throughout the UCC and the response has been very good. In addition to his sharing of hopes and dreams for our denomination, he really wants to hear yours. Please feel free to come to both or just the listening session.

On **March 13**, he'll be present for a noontime potluck and listening session at Westminster Congregational UCC of **Spokane**. Then, **March 14**, Rev. Black will be the preacher for Seattle's **University Congregational Church** 10 a.m. worship service followed by, you guessed it, a potluck.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA FEB. 20

Pat Sonnenstuhl

The group meets in The United Churches Fireside Room once a month and shares films, conversation and dessert. All are welcome!

We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 6:30 p.m., share a dessert pot luck, and community, and then view and discuss our films for the month. If you want to be on our e-mail reminder list, please let me know. Facilitators are **Bernie Clarke** and **Pat Sonnenstuhl**. Questions or suggestions for films you think we'd like? Contact Pat at: 943-8933 or cnmpat@comcast.net.

Saturday, February 20: "Snow Walker". Barry Pepper stars along with James Cromwell in this moving adventure adapted from the book by Farley Mowat. It's 1953 and hotshot pilot Charlie Halliday stops on a remote island during a routine flight in the Canadian Arctic, only to get stuck with a sick Inuit girl who he has agreed to drop off at a hospital on his flight home. When the plane crashes, things change for him, and we learn about the understanding of the deeper purpose of life and the true meaning of Love.

Our March 20 film will be **"My Sister's Keeper"**, the feature length film based on the book. Again, a good film with ethical issues about health care for discussion.

VOICE GETS OWN E-MAIL

From now on, submit articles to: voice@theunitedchurches.org. You won't have to worry about knowing the editor's e-mail address.

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A)

Go to www.pcusa for denominational resources and other news. Follow links for national goings on from issue coming before this summer's General Assembly to where your mission dollars are going for world relief. The Olympia Presbytery website, www.olympres.org, has local information.

Emergency Overflow Shelter

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the residents of Camp Quixote at the First Christian Church. This convergence underlines the growing rise in homelessness and the need to offer ourselves to these less fortunate. At the same time, we are given the opportunity to extend a deeper hospitality that comes with the welcoming and the conversations we will have with our guests.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

Hope to see you at our "hospitality" sign-up table in the narthex.

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, February 18 - Saturday, March 6

<p>Thursday <u>February 18</u></p> <p>Friday <u>February 19</u> 10:00 am Caring Friends, Fireside Room</p> <p>Saturday <u>February 20</u> 6:30 pm Spiritual Cinema, "Snow Walker" Fireside Room</p>	<p>Sunday <u>February 21</u> 7:45 am Chapel Singers, Chapel 8:15 am Worship <i>Chapel</i> 9:30 am Sunday School, downstairs; Adult Ed, Fireside Room 11:00 am Worship <i>Sanctuary</i> 12:00 pm Coffee Fellowship, Fireside 12:30 Sr. Highs, Youth Room 6:00 pm Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Taizé</p>	<p>Monday <u>February 22</u> OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p>Tuesday <u>February 23</u> 10 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106 2 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106 4:00 Bell Choir, Fireside Room 5:30 Middlers, Youth Room 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision, Fireside</p>	<p>Wednesday <u>February 24</u> VOICE ARTICLES DUE 6 pm Chapel Singers, Chapel 7:00 Drum Fun, Youth Room 7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary 8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>Thursday <u>February 25</u> 7:00 Stewardship Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Friday <u>February 26</u></p>
<p>Saturday <u>February 27</u></p> <p>Saturday <u>March 6</u> UCC Women's Retreat, Pilgrim Firs, Mar. 5-7</p>	<p>Sunday <u>February 28</u> 7:45 am Chapel Singers, Chapel 8:15 am Worship <i>Chapel</i> 9:30 am Sunday School, downstairs; Adult Ed, Fireside Room 11:00 am Worship <i>Sanctuary</i> 12:00 Coffee Fellowship, Fireside 12:30 Shelter Host Training, tba 12:30 Sr. Highs, Youth Room 6:00 pm Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Prayer Beads</p>	<p>Monday <u>March 1</u> OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p>Tuesday <u>March 2</u> 10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106 1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106 4:00 Bell Choir, Fireside Room 5:30 Middlers, Youth Room 5:30 Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Wednesday <u>March 3</u> 6:00 pm Administration Ministry, Rm. 106 6:00 Daughters of Eve, Fireside Room 6:00 Chapel Singers, Chapel 7:00 Drum Fun, Youth Room 7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary 8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>Thursday <u>March 4</u> 6:00 pm Christian Education Ministry, Rm. 106 7:00 Missions, Peace & Justice Ministry, Library 7:00 Theology, Natural Sciences & Continuing Creation Ministry, Chapel 7:00 Worship Ministry, Fireside</p>	<p>Friday <u>March 5</u> UCC Women's Retreat, Pilgrim Firs, Mar. 5-7 5:30 pm Labyrinth, Social Hall</p>  <p>Emergency Overflow Shelter Hosting Begins (March 5 through March 18)</p>
<p>The Prory Spirituality Center offers many classes and retreats for spiritual practice and renewal. Visit www.stplacid.org for descriptions and information on upcoming classes.</p>						



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

110 11th Ave SE
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TUCO To Host OVERFLOW SHELTER

Lee Johnson, Missions, Peace & Justice Ministry

As we have done faithfully in the past, our church will host the Emergency Overflow shelter for single women and families from **March 5 to March 18**. We will share the hosting with the Community for Interfaith Celebration. Our shelter guests arrive beginning at 7 p.m. each evening and depart by 7 a.m. each morning.

To offer this hospitality, **we need overnight hosts** (one woman and one man) and another helper for the evening, who can be of either gender, **folks to do laundry**, others to **provide snacks** and on the mornings of March 5 and 19, persons willing and able (with vehicles on the 19th) to **move mattresses, linens and blankets** from one faith community site to another.

Sign up in the narthex on February 21 and 28. Or, contact either **Steve Robb** (456-1944) or **Mark Bohe** (705-1405) who have graciously agreed to serve as our host coordinators.

Shelter Host Training is Sunday, February 28, at 12:30 p.m.

This year our Shelter commitment converges with our hosting of

(Continued on page 4)

Prayers For

✦ **Ruth and Jack Shearer**, recovering from a serious auto accident Feb. 13. Ruth is at Harborview, making progress. Jack is staying with relatives in the Seattle area.

✦ **Patty Pickard**, living at Clare Bridge, 18706 36th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98037.. She would appreciate cards or notes from her church family.

✦ **Heather Highmiller**, home from hospital

✦ **Steve Louwaert**, new job in Long Beach, WA. Thanks be for prayers answered.

✦ **Ron Schultz**, radiation treatment

✦ **Julie Taylor Boyd**, awaiting surgery

✦ **Diana D'Aboy**, chemotherapy

✦ **Nora DeMaster**, leukemia

