

The United Churches of Olympia **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 5 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

WORLD SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL MARCH 7



Saturday March 7, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Minnaert Center for the Arts at SPSCC

\$20 general, \$15 low income. Kids under 10 free.

Plenty of free parking.

Artbeat of the Spirit, the 5th annual World Sacred Music Festival, returns to Olympia. The family-friendly festival features music, dance, storytelling, and workshops on three stages. This year's celebration of the sacred music and dance of our planet showcases performances of Taiko drumming, gospel singing, klezmer music, African drumming, Sufi dance and much more.

Sponsored in part by the Washington State Arts Commission, the festival also features interactive workshops including Dances of Universal Peace, didgeridoo playing, and Indian temple dancing, as well as ethnic foods, a vibrant marketplace, and a gallery of sacred visual artwork.

Advance tickets are available at BuyOlympia.com, Rainy Day Records, and Traditions Fair Trade. For detailed schedule and performance information, visit www.olsacredmusic.org.

Presented by Interfaith Works, 360-357-7224.

IS YOUR LIFE IN "WINTER"?

Stephen Ministry

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen,

(Continued on page 3)

Worship Services *Lent 2009*

March 8

2nd Sunday in Lent

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

"The Lenten Gift of Promise"

TEXTS:

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Celebrate Music

March 15

3rd Sunday in Lent

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

"The Lenten Gift of Wisdom"

TEXTS:

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

U.S. PRESBYTERIES TO VOTE

Sid Olson, Clerk of Presbytery

Around the country, Presbyteries are now voting on Amendment B to change the Book of Order (the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA). The amendment is intended to remove “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness” as an ordination standard in the Presbyterian Church USA. The outcome of the voting is critically important to the nature of the Denomination moving forward. A simple majority of Presbyteries is needed to pass the Amendment.

The Presbytery of Olympia will be voting on Amendment B at their regularly scheduled meeting on **Thursday, March 19, at Skyline Presbyterian Church in Tacoma**. Attendance usually is around 100 from the 50 churches in the Presbytery, but given the issue up for vote the attendance might be higher. The meetings typically run from 3 to 8 p.m. or so, including dinner. Elders and clergy in particular are invited, although the meetings are open to all who wish to attend. The United Churches has two Elder voting delegates in addition to Presbyterian clergy. **Isaac Jung** and **Marcia Smith** are the voting delegates appointed by Session for the March 19 meeting.

In order to prepare for the meeting on March 19, a gathering of clergy and elders has been scheduled for prayer and conversation at the Presbytery Office in Tillicum on Wednesday March 4 from 9 to 11 a.m. (There also was a gathering on February 17.)

If you wish to attend either of these meetings please contact Pastor Mark or Elder Sid Olson for car pooling. Also, if you wish additional information

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP



Betty Nickerson

Wickett's Remedy by Myla Goldberg is the book to be discussed at **10:00 a.m. on March 18**. The meeting will be held at the home of **Libby Penney**, 2621 Chambers Lake Lane S.E. (Panorama).

Goldberg's historical novel is about the 1918 influenza epidemic sweeping through Boston and how much individual voices matter in history and in life.

Please call Libby at 438-5070 if you would like to attend as a visitor. New members are always welcome.

FAITH ADVOCACY DAY

Join with faithful citizens from across Washington State on **Tuesday, March 17** and let our voices be heard as we advocate for social justice on behalf of the least, the lost and the left behind. Though diverse in our religious traditions and political opinions, we are united in our understanding of God's peace, justice, compassion and mercy. All faith communities are welcome to worship, workshops and witness.

Participants gather in the morning at The United Churches for worship and briefings on critical social justice issues, and then walk to the Capitol to rally and to meet with legislators. Workshops include:

Advocacy 101, Budget, Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, Poverty, Housing and Homelessness, God's Creation, and Health Care.

A \$25 registration fee includes advocacy packet, transportation option, continental breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available! For details, visit www.faithadvocacyday.webs.com.

Faith Advocacy Day is sponsored by: *Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Church Women United, Compass Center, Earth Ministry, Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy, Interfaith Works, Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing, Lutheran Community Services NW, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Public Policy Office, Religious Coalition for the Common Good, United Methodist Women, Washington Association of Churches.*

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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

on Amendment B please refer to the Presbyterian web site or contact Sid or Mark, who will do the best they can to answer your questions.

Stephen Ministry (Continued from page 1)

support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Pat Dickason (753-7647), Janet Tolman (438-5343), Sherri Wills-Green or Tom Green (455-8953), Karen Watts (456-2526), or Mark Dowdy (943-1210).

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

SINGING THROUGH LENT

Joe and Mimi Arnett

"Voices in the Wilderness", a weekly singing group through Lent, begins Tuesday, March 3, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. The program will feature folk songs which capture the Lenten themes of reflection and drawing closer to God.

For information or to sign up, call **Mimi** or **Joe Arnett** at 705-9678 or j.Arnett@comcast.net. Weekly meeting dates after March 3 are negotiable.

Gracious God,

*At times it seems I have
been drifting away from you and have not had the
time to be quiet and contemplative.*

*Please help me be a good
host to The Divine Presence throughout all of Lent.
Slow me down enough to seize opportunities for
quality time with you.*

*By the power of the Holy
Spirit, help me see, hear well, and understand what
you want to share with me this day and every day.
Amen*

LENTEN CHURCH WALK

Amy Roon, Pastor

*Meet in the Narthex for guided walks
each Sunday during Lent at 9:30 a.m.*

Our current building has been through a lot of changes in the last 60 some years. Many of you were here for some of them, some of you were here for **all** of them! We invite you take some reflective time this Lenten season to take a walk through the building and reflect on the love, activities, memories, and feelings - all those intangible things that seep into the walls and make this building part of who we are today. Some of those memories may be joyful, some painful, some will be muddled and leave us wondering what happened and how it came to be as it is.

Just as the boiler was reaching the end of its life last year Council approved the formation of a Facility Planning Team to study how the facility affects or facilitates our ministries now and in the future. We have lots of documents to sort through and we will certainly be checking in with all the ministries and groups in the church but we'd also like to hear from **you**.

You are invited to leave comments on the display posters that will be provided in various locations throughout the church and in the Narthex. The display posters will go up during the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner and our first guided walk will take place following the Ash Wednesday Service on February 25. "Guided walks" means that a member of the Facility Planning Team will be available to walk with you, hear your comments personally and respond to questions as best they can. Please join us as we take a Lenten journey through our building.

- Your Facility Planning Team

**Brian Barker, Tom Green, Dave Nightingale,
Amy Roon, Kirsten Tollefson York**



NORTHWEST CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONVOCATION *Janet Tolman*

May 1-2, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue Cost: \$135

"Dawning of a New Story: Radical Hope" calls us to radical hope, to create life-giving stories for our personal relationships, social structures, faith communities and planet Earth. There will be prayer, ritual, education, empowerment, celebration and transformation. Cokie Roberts is a featured speaker.

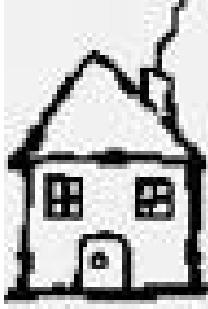
For more information and to register, visit www.ipjc.org. For carpooling, contact **Janet Tolman**



BUILD LUNCHES FOR HABITAT

Janette Ingham

Habitat for Humanity, a hardworking group of volunteers who perform more than 14,000 hours each year building homes, needs our help. During the construction lunches provided



workday, by other volunteers and community part of this effort.

Due to changes in circumstance, there are now holes in their schedule and they are hoping we are able to help. They need lunches delivered to the work site every Wednesday and Saturday.

If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact dennyham@comcast.net. Please use Habitat for Humanity in the subject line. Thank you.

Janette Ingham

THANKS FOR THE BOOST

Beth Rossing

A hearty thank you to TUCO folks again helping with providing meals for the Booster Sessions of Strengthening Families. The meals were enjoyed by all and are a big boost to folks coming directly from work to class. Those participating were able to share what benefits they had received from previous classes and what areas are still challenging as parents and youth work together to build stronger relationships. Handling stress, finding ways to avoid arguments, and communicating more effectively when you don't agree were topics covered. Appreciation was again expressed to TUCO for making this program available to folks in our community.

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Did you know that by joining The United Churches of Olympia group on Facebook you can participate in the Faith In Flux discussion questions, connect with other TUCO members and friends, share a prayer, hear about events and check out blog notes from your Associate Pastor? Welcome to the online conversation!

YOUTH NEWS

Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry

MIDLERS SHARE SCRIPTURE AT FAMILY WORSHIP

The Middlers shared Scripture along with the primary age kids for the Family Worship service. We also taught folks the hand motions to go along with the rendition.

We have lots of fun every Tuesday so be sure to join us from 5:30-7:30 in the youth room. We share a meal, some games and perhaps a story or two. Our schedule: 1st Tuesday is brown bag, 2nd is soup kitchen, 3rd is potluck, 4th is we cook.

SENIOR HIGH SCHEDULE

The Senior High youth meet on Sundays from 12:30-2:30 and we also break bread together. The schedule: 1st Sunday is brown bag, 2nd is potluck, 3rd we cook, 4th is road trip, bring lunch money.

CONFIRMATION FAITH JOURNEY 2009

Our first Faith Journey retreat was at the South Beach Presbyterian Church Retreat in Westport. **Mark Boyd, Kirsten Tollefson York and Tim York** were the adult leaders. **Tierra Hunter and Xavia Olson** were the youth mentors.

The confirmands are **Alice Tweit, Devin Reynolds, Diedre Denbow, Gabe Fishel, Gailon Wixson, Linnea Arnett, Lucas Bauer, Merideth Bowden, and Randy Denbow.**





Despite the weather we had a great time looking at our faith journeys, exploring who God is, and getting to know each other better. The dates for upcoming retreats are March 27-29, April 17-19, and May 15-17.



TRAVELING MERCIES

Jacky Crow and her son, driving through Mexico and the United States until April.

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

<p>Thursday March 5</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag group, Fireside Room 7:00 p.m. Mission, Peace & Justice, Library 7:00 TNSCC Ministry, Chapel 7:00 Worship Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>Friday March 6</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk</p> <p>Saturday March 7</p> <p>11 a.m.-9p.m. World Sacred Music Festival, Minnaert Center for the Arts</p>	<p>Sunday March 8</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex 9:15 Youth Choir, Rm. 6 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Ed 9:30 Lenten Walk 10:20 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 6 11:00 Worship, Sanctuary Noon Coffee Fellowship 12:30 Senior Highs, Social Hall 6:00 p.m. Spirit Service, Chapel <i>-Celebrate Music</i></p>	<p>Monday March 9</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>  	<p>Tuesday March 10</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106 3:00 Staff Meeting, Rm.106 5:15 Personnel Ministry, Rm. 106 5:30 Middlers, Social Hall 6:30 Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>MARCH 8, 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.</p>	<p>Wednesday March 11</p> <p>6:00 p.m. VOICE Articles Due Noon - SW Area Clergy of UCC, Fireside Room 6:00 p.m. Spirit Sing, Chapel 6:00 Art Deco, Fireside Room 7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall 7:00 Festival Choir, Sanctuary 8:00 Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>Thursday March 12</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room 7:00 Council Meeting, Fireside Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interfaith Works presents World Sacred Music Festival <i>Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.</i> SPSCC Minnaert Center Jewish, Jazz, Pre-Hispanic Mexican, African, Indian, Native American... Dance & Music Workshops, Sacred Art Gallery, Food, Marketplace... www.olsacredmusic.org</p>	<p>Friday March 13</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, The Spar  10:00 Caring Friends, Fireside Room</p>
<p>Saturday March 14</p> <p>Saturday March 21</p>	<p>Sunday March 15</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship, Chapel 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Narthex 9:15 Youth Choir, Rm. 6 9:30 Lenten Walk 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 <i>~ Taizé</i></p>	<p>Monday March 16</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>Tuesday March 17</p> <p>8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Faith Advocacy Day (see article on page 2). 1:00 p.m. Worship Planning, Rm. 106 3:30 Staff Meeting, Rm.106 5:30 Middlers, Social Hall 5:30 Generation Next & Now, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Wednesday March 18</p> <p>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>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>THURSDAYS Faith in Flux Discussion & Brown Bag, Noon, Fireside</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>FOURTH SATURDAYS Spiritual Cinema, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room</p> <p>LAST SUNDAY S Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m., Social Hall</p>	<p>Thursday March 19</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux brown bag lunch discussion group, Fireside Room 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Presbytery of Olympia, Skyline Church, Tacoma</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ONGOING EVENTS <i>All Are Welcome!</i></p>	<p>Friday March 20</p>



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

110 11th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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MARCH 8, 2 a.m.

Remember to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour.

A FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

Anonymous

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Prayers For

- ✦ **L.D. McNall**, at Panorama C&R, now under hospice care.
- ✦ **Curtis Eaton**, chemotherapy and radiation following brain tumor surgery.
- ✦ **Tom Goldsmith**, home under hospice care.
- ✦ **Clara Mitchell** and **Mary Webster** at Panorama C&R.
- ✦ **Genevieve Hathaway**, back surgery on February 27.
- ✦ **Jon and Leda Pugh**, as Jon returns to Iraq this month.
- ✦ **John Manter**, Panorama C&R.
- ✦ People struggling with unemployment.
- ✦ **Bob Hutchins**, surgery in mid-March.



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