



# *The United Churches of Olympia* **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 11 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009

## CONFIRMANDS JOURNEY

*Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry*

**“Can I ask you some questions about your Faith Journey?”**

This is the question that began the Confirmation series of retreats for our youth. Actually this is the question some of you were asked by our youth as we kicked off our 2009 Faith Journey program. And I am very pleased to announce that everyone asked said, "Yes". By saying yes, they were agreeing to be an adult mentor with a youth to answer questions about their own faith stories. Little did they know the questions only got tougher. Yet they stuck in there. They stuck in there as we asked about faith, meaning, doubt, being lost, advice, and important milestones. And that was only the first retreat. The youth arrived in Westport at the South Beach Presbyterian Church and Retreat Center with a little apprehension and uncertainty. But by the end of that first weekend they had connected and those bonds only grew stronger. We used those questions as stepping stones for activities and discussion. One of those discussions led to a God challenge, as youth formed teams and tried to answer

*(Continued on page 3)*

## CE RECOMMENDATION HEADED TO COUNCIL

*Brian Hovis, Hiring Committee*

The hiring committee has unanimously selected **Brooke Johnson** as the permanent Children's Ministry Program Coordinator. Brooke has been the interim coordinator since 2008. The recommendation of the committee will be considered by Council in June.

The job was advertised through both our denominations, local universities, and on Craig's List. A committee was formed which reviewed applications and selected four candidates for interviews.

At the conclusion of the process, it was clear Brooke was the superior candidate.

Special thanks to the interview committee: **Mark Clark**, Chair of Personnel Ministry; **Ike Nwankwo**, Parent **Amanda Scott**, Parent **Julie Boyd**, Teacher and Christian Education Ministry member.

Celia Nightingale co-led the process with Brian Hovis. If you have questions, feel free to contact either of them.

## *Worship Services*

**May 31**

*Pentecost*

*One Worship Service*

10:00 A.M.

### TEXTS:

- Acts 2:1-21
- Psalm 104
- Romans 8:22-27
- John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

✦ Pentecost Offering

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**

~ Healing Prayers

**June 7**

*Trinity Sunday*

8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

**“Mysterious Encounters”**

### TEXTS:

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17
- John 3:1-17

✦ Food Bank, Communion

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**

~ Labyrinth

# YOUTH NEWS

*Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministry*

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 7

On June 7 we welcome into our church family a great group of youth . Our Faith Journey participants spent the weekend of May 15th in Suquamish at the Suquamish UCC Congregational church. We visited Chief Sealth 's (Seattle) grave and explored death and the afterlife.

**Kirsten Tollefson York** and **Tim York** are the adult leaders and **Xavia Olson** and **Tierra Hunter** were the youth mentors. The confirmands are **Linnea Arnett, Lucas Bauer, Merideth Bowden, Dieder Denbow, Gabe Fishel, Randy Place, Devin Reynolds, Alice Tweit** and **Gailon Wixson**. Be sure to mark June 7 Confirmation Sunday followed by a picnic at Mark Boyd's.

## CALLING ALL GRADUATES

If you are graduating from high school or college we want to hear from you. On June 14 we are honoring all graduates connected with our church family. So if you are or know of someone who is graduating, please contact Mark Boyd so we can be sure to give those folk the honor they deserve. Please provide the following information: Name, connection with our church, school graduating from, awards or clubs involved with, and plans for the future. E-mail it to [hippobmw@comcast.net](mailto:hippobmw@comcast.net) or leave it with the church office. We will be sure to put that information in the Voice as well as announce it during the service.



## COME JOIN US

Every Tuesday the **Middlers** gather from 5:30-7:30 in the youth room. We share a meal, some games and perhaps a story or two. The schedule is 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday is brown bag, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Soup kitchen, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Potluck, 4<sup>th</sup> - we cook. The **Senior High** youth meet on Sundays from 12:30-2:30 and we also break bread together. The schedule is 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Brown Bag, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Potluck, 3<sup>rd</sup> - We cook, 4<sup>th</sup> - Road trip, bring lunch money. So now you know, come join us!

## CAMP QUIXOTE QUESTIONNAIRE

Should our church again host Camp Quixote? The Council will make its decision early in the summer, but wants your input. Please let us have your responses and comments by going on-line at our website at [www.theunitedchurches.org](http://www.theunitedchurches.org).

Or, you may answer the same filling out the questionnaire you will find in the narthex and then returning it to the office.

Background information for your assistance is included with the questionnaire.

The deadline is **Thursday, June 4.**

## SABBATICAL FOR "YOUTH DUDE"

*Tom Green, Personnel Ministry*

Council recently approved a request from Mark Boyd for a sabbatical during part of the coming summer. Mark has led our Youth Ministry program for nearly 10 years and has done a wonderful job serving our youth and, through that connection, their families as well. Our Personnel Ministry fully understood and supports Mark's need to "take a break" and recharge his batteries. Mark has gone to great lengths to notify and talk with our youth and their families about his time off, as he knows this will be a hard separation, even though it is temporary. June 15 through August 17 will be his sabbatical period. We all wish him well as he prepares for continued service with us and also want our youth to know they are supported by our entire congregation.

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

360-943-1210

[info@theunitedchurches.org](mailto: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](mailto:markd@theunitedchurches.org)

Amy M. Room

[amy@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:amy@theunitedchurches.org)

## LINKS IN THE PRAYER CHAIN

*Jo Edwards, Prayer Chain Coordinator*

Prayer is answered in many different ways—sometimes the circumstances for which we pray change, sometimes we are changed to perceive circumstances differently. In either case the familiar hymn reminds us ‘What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!’ TUCO members and friends often call prayer requests into the church office. If desired, those requests as well as others from the Voice and Sunday bulletin are sent to TUCO’s Prayer Chain via e-mail. These petitions can then be upheld in a prayer chain member’s personal prayer life. Prayer chain members have occasional gatherings to meet one another and to bond our purpose in the TUCO community. We would love to have more folks participate in this ministry! If you would like to be a part of the TUCO Prayer Chain please contact **Jo Edwards** at [fastwalker1000@aol.com](mailto:fastwalker1000@aol.com).

## BE A FRIEND FOR A NEW MEMBER

Help a new member feel more at home here at The United Churches. E-mail [amy@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:amy@theunitedchurches.org) for more information or to sign up.



**There is no fear in love.**

1 John 4:18

## SUMMER QUICK CHOIR

*Dee Morton, Director of Music*

Summer Quick Choir will rehearse on Sunday mornings in July and August, at 9:00 a.m., in the Choir Room. **All ages** are welcome. We will sing at the 10:00 a.m. single morning worship.

Please consider joining the singing for this less "formal" choir of the summer season. We will sing two "quick-to-learn," accessible anthems during each 9:00 a.m. rehearsal, the song scheduled for that day, and one song for a future Sunday. We'll break between the rehearsal and the service for coffee, juice, muffins or donuts!

We are also recruiting singers and instrumentalists for other special music for Sundays in July and August. Contact Dee Morton, 866-9250, or 360-520-5468.

## Confirmands Journey *(Continued from page 1)*

the other teams' questions as if they were God. And the answers were as varied as those who answered. There were two that left me uttering, "WOW". Question and answer No. 1: "God, when we sleep do you hear our dreams?" "Your dreams are your deepest hopes and wishes. I hear them loudest". Question and answer No. 2: "God, why are you so distant at times?" "I am only as far away as you place me. When you are ready to accept me, I am there."

And so our Faith Journey had begun. We sought our own connections with God as we wandered through the dunes and onto the beach, seeking whatever spoke to us. We found the vastness of God as we scooped up the ocean into our hands, and then watched it return to where it had come from.

Our journey brought us to a wonderful old church, All Pilgrims UCC Church in Seattle. There we practiced a multitude of forms of prayer including chanting, song, dance and looking at the written word. Then off to the market as we gathered the elements of communion. Upon returning to the church we shared an incredibly moving communion as the youth shared fears as well as support for each other.

In April we joined others at Pilgrim Firs for a conference wide confirmation weekend. We formed small groups and discussed who is God, and why Christianity, what happens when we die? Then a powerful debate on Heaven and Hell ensued, with all youth actively involved. We created a worship service beside the lake with the youth providing all the components.

And at our final destination we visited Chief Sealth's grave in Suquamish, where we looked at death and delved into the bible. The youth began the work on our upcoming Confirmation service.

This is where my narrative ends, because the real answers to the question, "Can I ask you about your Faith Journey?" need to come from the actual participants, our youth. So I invite you to come hear their stories. Join us for an incredible time of worship and celebration on Sunday, June 7, when we welcome 10 youth into the life of our church.

# TUCO Summer Events Calendar

- May 30** Potluck and Game Night – 6 p.m., Social Hall.
- May 31** Pentecost Family Style Worship, 10:00 a.m. single service.
- June 7** Confirmation Sunday.
- June 14** Graduation Sunday, Sunday School wrap up, reception for graduates and intern Jill Komura.
- June 21** **10:00 am Summer Schedule** for Worship begins.
- June 21** Capitol City Pride Parade, noon. Meet at 11:30 a.m. on Capitol steps under church banner.
- June 27** All Church Summer Kick-Off BBQ, 5 p.m., followed by comedy “Baptists at Our Barbecue”.
- June 28** Dixieland Jazz Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- July 11** Kayaking at Mark Dowdy’s Hood Canal house – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring a dish for picnic. Optional – camping at nearby Twanoh State Park Saturday night.
- July 18** Yard Sale in Upper Parking Lot – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- July 26** Picnic at the Symphony Concert at the Capitol grounds – 4 p.m.
- August 21-23** TUCO Annual All-Church Retreat at Pilgrim Firs.
- August 28-30** Bike Ride on John Wayne Pioneer Trail – all day Saturday with optional camping Friday and Saturday evenings at Lake Easton State Park. (See article below).

## DIXIELAND JAZZ SERVICE, JUNE 28, 10:00 A.M. SINGLE WORSHIP

*Featuring The St. Louis Rivermen, under the leadership of David “Red” Lehr, Sousaphonist*

“Red” replaced Jean Kittrell as band leader upon her retirement in 2008. We have enjoyed his sousaphone playing in past Dixieland services. The St. Louis Rivermen will again be a featured band at the Greater Olympia Jazz Society Dixieland Festival, the last week of June, at St. Martin’s Pavilion in Lacey.

For further information on the band or the festival, go to [www.strivermen.com](http://www.strivermen.com) or [www.olyjazz.com](http://www.olyjazz.com).

## FAMILY CAMPING AND BIKE TRIP

Join other TUCO families for a **bike ride** on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail between Hyak and Cle Elum on **Saturday, August 28**. The ride, about 20 miles, starts at a higher elevation and follows a gentle downhill grade. The trail surface is not paved, but is suitable for all but the smallest tire bikes. If you are interested, please contact **Brian Hovis** at [brianhovis@msn.com](mailto:brianhovis@msn.com).

We hope that many of you will also join us on a **camping** outing on Friday and Saturday nights at **Lake Easton State Park**, a forested, 516-acre year-round camping park on the shores of Lake Easton in the Cascade Mountain foothills. The park has beautiful mountain views and hiking trails to explore.

Camping reservations should be made soon at: [www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Lake%20Easton](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Lake%20Easton), or by calling 888-CAMPOUT. The Hovis Family has reserved

Site 47. RV sites are also available. **Prefer to not camp?** Another good place to stay in the area, if camping is not your thing, is South Cle Elum’s The Iron Horse Inn ([www.ironhorseinnbb.com](http://www.ironhorseinnbb.com)).



# EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, June 13

| <b>Thursday<br/>May 28</b>   | <b>Sunday<br/>May 31</b>   | <b>Monday<br/>June 1</b>                                     | <b>Tuesday<br/>June 2</b>   | <b>Wednesday<br/>June 3</b>   | <b>Thursday<br/>June 4</b>   | <b>Friday<br/>June 5</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>10:00 am<br/>Prayer Shawl<br/>knitting group,<br/>Fireside Room</p> <p>Noon Faith in Flux<br/>brown bag lunch<br/>discussion group,<br/>Fireside</p> <p><b>Friday<br/>May 29</b></p> <p><b>Saturday<br/>May 30</b><br/>6:00 pm Potluck<br/>and Games night,<br/>Social Hall</p> | <p><b>PENTECOST</b><br/><b>Single Service</b><br/><b>10:00 am.</b><br/><b>Family Style<br/>Worship,<br/>Sanctuary</b><br/><i>(No Sunday School,<br/>Adult Education, or<br/>Chancel Choir)</i><br/>11:00 Coffee<br/>Fellowship<br/>12:30 Senior<br/>Highs, Social Hall<br/><b>6:00 pm</b><br/><b>Spirit Service,<br/>Chapel</b><br/><i>~Healing Prayers</i></p>  | <p><b>OFFICE<br/>CLOSED</b></p>                              | <p>10:00 am Over-<br/>flow shelter<br/>meeting, Library</p> <p>1:00 pm<br/>Worship Plan-<br/>ning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:00 Staff Meet-<br/>ing, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Middlers,<br/>Youth Room</p> <p>5:30 Congre-<br/>gational Life<br/>Ministry, Fire-<br/>side Room</p> <p>6:30 Stephen<br/>Minister Trng,<br/>Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 Steward-<br/>ship Ministry,<br/>Rm. 106</p> | <p><b>6:00 pm VOICE</b><br/>Articles Due</p> <p>6:00 Christian<br/>Education Minis-<br/>try, Rm. 106</p> <p>6:00 Daughters<br/>of Eve, Fireside</p> <p>6:00 SpiritSing,<br/>Chapel</p> <p>6:30 Administra-<br/>tion Ministry,<br/>Library</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun,<br/>Social Hall</p> <p><del>7:00 Chancel<br/>Choir, Sanctuary</del></p> | <p>Noon Faith in Flux<br/>brown bag lunch<br/>discussion group,<br/>Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 pm Missions,<br/>Peace &amp; Justice Min-<br/>istry, Library</p> <p>7:00 TNSCC<br/>Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>7:00 Worship Min-<br/>istry, Fireside Room</p> | <p>5:30 pm Laby-<br/>rinth Walk,<br/>Social Hall</p>                                      |
| <p><b>Saturday<br/>June 6</b></p> <p><b>Saturday<br/>June 13</b></p>   | <p><b>Sunday<br/>June 7</b><br/><b>Confirmation<br/>Sunday</b><br/><b>8:15 am Wor-<br/>ship, Chapel</b><br/>9:15 Coffee Fel-<br/>lowship, Narthex<br/>9:30 Sunday<br/>School &amp; Adult Ed<br/>(10:20 Chancel<br/>Choir, Sanctuary)<br/><b>11:00 Worship,<br/>Sanctuary</b><br/>Noon Coffee<br/>Fellowship<br/>12:30 Senior<br/>Highs, Social Hall<br/><b>6:00 pm</b><br/><b>Spirit Service,<br/>Chapel</b><br/><i>~Labyrinth</i></p> | <p><b>Monday<br/>June 8</b><br/><b>OFFICE<br/>CLOSED</b></p> | <p><b>Tuesday<br/>June 9</b><br/>1:00 Worship<br/>Planning, Rm.<br/>106<br/>3:30 Staff Mtg,<br/>Rm. 106<br/>5:30 Middlers,<br/>Social Hall<br/>6:30 Stephen<br/>Ministry, Rm.<br/>106<br/>6:30 Stephen<br/>Ministry training,<br/>Fireside Room</p> <p>5:00 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues-<br/>day Dinner Prep<br/>&amp; Serving at the<br/>Salvation Army<br/>kitchen</p>                  | <p><b>Wednesday<br/>June 10</b><br/>5:00 pm Per-<br/>sonnel Ministry,<br/>Rm. 106<br/>6:00 SpiritSing,<br/>Chapel<br/>7:00 Drum Fun,<br/>Rm. 106<br/>7:00 Chancel<br/>Choir, Sanctuary</p>  | <p><b>Thursday<br/>June 11</b><br/>10:00 am Prayer<br/>Shawl knitting<br/>group, Fireside<br/>Room<br/>Noon Faith in Flux<br/>brown bag lunch<br/>discussion group,<br/>Fireside Room<br/>7:00 pm Council<br/>Meeting, Fireside<br/>Room</p>             | <p><b>Friday<br/>June 12</b><br/>7 am Men's<br/>Breakfast, The<br/>Spar Restaurant</p>  |

## FOOD, FUN, AND GAMES

*Saturday, May 30, 6:00 pm*

Bring a potluck dish and your favorite games, or learn new ones.





## PENTECOST OFFERING ON MAY 31

A special Pentecost offering will be taken on Sunday, May 31. The Presbyterian General Assembly programs advocate for children and provide leadership development opportunities for youth and young adults. Forty percent of our contributions stay here to help provide for area children. The UCC portion of the offering will help new church starts, nurture lay and pastoral leaders, build youth and young adult leadership and support the God is Still Speaking Ministry. You are invited to wear red.

## MCNALL'S CELEBRATE 70 YEARS TOGETHER

Congratulations to Mary Lee and L.D. on their anniversary day! L.D. McNall and Mary Lee Garland were married May 26, 1939 at Mary Lee's brother's farm home near Clarendon, Texas. Soon after their morning wedding ceremony they left for California where L.D. would pastor for the next 40 years, and where they would raise their two daughters, Eleanor and Camille. In 1979 the McNalls moved to Olympia, where L.D. served our church as Parish Associate and Visitation Pastor, and at the same time established and built the Summit Lake Community Church.

May God continue to bless and keep Mary Lee and L.D. all the days of their lives, and may they be an example to all of us of love shared and life well lived. A cake reception was held for them after the May 24 service.



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

110 11th Ave SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Return Service Requested

[www.theunitedchurches.org](http://www.theunitedchurches.org)

## Prayers For

- ✦ **Pat Dickason and friends**, on the May 18 death of Susan Thomas.
- ✦ **Bob Nickerson**, knee replacement, doing well.
- ✦ **Bunny Hooper**, recovering from surgery May 11
- ✦ **Clara Mitchell, Mary Webster**, Panorama C&R.
- ✦ **L.D. & Mary Lee McNall**, celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 26.



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