



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

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 13 • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009

## RETREATS ARE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

*Trina Bishop*

*late evening board and card  
games in the lodge*      *swimming and sand castle  
making*

*ping pong!*  
  
*prayer boats  
made from  
bark for our  
Saturday  
evening  
launch after  
Vespers*

*no cooking or  
cleaning*  
  
*the birds and  
squirrels that  
join us for  
Sunday*

*service at the outdoor Chapel*

Coming up at the end of the summer is the best little vacation retreat around.

To me it truly is a little bit of heaven. You don't have to do a thing but enjoy. The setting is delightful, with easy walking trails and a lovely lake. The "rustic" cabins have new beds, private bathrooms complete with showers, electricity, plus towels and bed linens. And, there is lots of good food you don't have to prepare or wash up after!

Good conversation, activities, crafts, games, worship – you can do as much or as little as you want. Some favorites are the great Talent/No Talent Show, the outdoor Labyrinth in its cathedral of tall trees, and early morning canoeing with the mirror reflection of the lake.

Do come and join us!  
(More information is on page 4).

*canoeing*

*the kooky  
games Mark B  
comes up with*  
  
*reading by the  
lake with a  
glass of  
iced tea*

*our annual  
candle making  
- it's always  
fun to see the  
unmolding at  
Sunday break-  
fast!*

## *Summer Worship Services*

**June 28**

9:00 - 9:40 A.M.  
*Reflection, Contemplation  
and Prayer*

10:00 A.M.

**DIXIELAND**

TEXTS:

- Psalm 100
- Psalm 150

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**  
~ Prayer

**July 5**

9:00 - 9:40 A.M.  
*Reflection, Contemplation  
and Prayer*

10:00 A.M.

**"Sent with Power"**

TEXTS:

- II Samuel 5:1-5,9-10
- Psalm 48
- II Corinthians 12:2-10
- Mark 6:1-13

⊕ Food Bank, Communion

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**  
~ Labyrinth

## RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF MINISTRY

*Amy Roon, Associate Pastor*

To the Members and Friends of a congregation I love, “What will you do when Mark retires?” is a question I heard a lot, even before I was hired. My answer was always, “I’ll have the answer when the answer is revealed. Please don’t worry about me.” As the Transition Team, appointed by Council, began outlining the work United Churches has to do in the upcoming years the question came up more and more often. Concurrently I became aware that a record number of churches in our UCC conference were entering an Interim time (meaning between 12-16 full time openings would likely occur in 2009-2010). While still unsure about my future, considering the uncertainty at TUCO and the possibilities of other ministries opening up, it became clear that I should at least update my profile and begin a process of prayerful discernment about what God is calling me to do.

My ministry with TUCO has been meaningful and love-filled. But having been an Interim Pastor I have had to discern whether I felt called to do ministry during another interim time in a congregation. Interim ministry is a specialized ministry reflective of the unique time of transition that a congregation undergoes after a pastor leaves and as it readies itself for receiving and accepting a new pastor. Working through the grief and loss after Mark leaves will be some of this important work as well as rediscovering who you are as a congregation without him. I care deeply about your ability to do this work and do it well but that doesn’t necessarily mean that I am the best pastor to help you do it. I have always felt that, as a congregation, you should consider the many talented and highly trained Interim Pastors out there. I would have preferred more time to discern this but the Spirit calls when it will and

church positions open up without regard for my personal preference.

I have also been increasingly concerned about providing an adequately diverse cultural community for Benjamin. As many of you

know, growing up with a lack of cultural diversity was very difficult for me and so I find myself sensitive to Benjamin’s developing identity.

So, in consultation with my Pastor Relations Committee I updated my profile, put it in circulation and didn’t think much more about it. In late February an opening came up at University Congregational in Seattle. It seemed like an incredible opportunity but also a very competitive call.

The search committee at University Congregational moved more quickly than I anticipated and early this month told me I was the Ministerial Candidate they would like to present to their congregation. I felt at once excitement for a new opportunity and a wave of sadness as I realized the cost would be saying goodbye to all of you.

This last Sunday, June 21, University Congregational voted to call me as their pastor. But please know that there will be lots of time this summer to talk, pray and worship together. I’m not going anywhere until the fall.

I greatly regret that you will receive this news in my absence. I will be back for only a few days before leaving for the UCC General Synod as a Pacific Northwest Conference delegate. I will be back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July and in worship with you on the 5<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime I am available by e-mail, cell phone or Facebook.

Let’s make the most of the summer, love one another well and pray each other into whatever may come. The United Churches of Olympia is a deeply resourceful and talented congregation. You have great things ahead of you.

## PENTECOST OFFERING REPORT

*Carolyn Lehman, MPJ*

Your Missions, Peace, and Justice Ministry wants you to know you gave a total of \$1,681 to our annual Pentecost offering this year. Your generous gifts have been directed to local children mission projects, denominational youth leadership development, advocacy programs for children, new church starts, as well as nurture for lay and ordained leaders. Thanks to all who contributed!

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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. Roon

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

connecting faith and life—  
TUCO members write

# The Sound of Your Voice

## Hospitality in Action

Paul McCann, Guest Columnist

At TUCO, we begin every worship service with the wonderful words “Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey, you are welcome here!” Every time I hear those words, to borrow from John Wesley, “my heart is strangely warmed”. I think to myself, “This is what the church is all about”.

An appropriate word for that wonderful invitation is Hospitality. I would argue as Diana Butler Bass does in her excellent book *Christianity for the Rest of Us* that hospitality “is a central practice of the Christian faith”.

Bass, who embarked on a lengthy and detailed study of 50 mainline Protestant congregations displaying unusual vitality, eventually identified ten “Signposts of Renewal” that characterized their ministry. One of those signposts is Hospitality. As Bass notes, “True Christian hospitality is not a recruitment strategy... rather it is something Christians are called to do for the sake of the thing itself”. And, further, “through hospitality, Christians imitate God’s welcome”.

Our Council is currently considering our church’s hosting of Camp Quixote, to which we have already twice offered our hospitality. We have been invited

## AMY TO UCC GENERAL SYNOD

Grand Rapids, Michigan is the location of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ, which takes place June 25-30. Our Pacific Northwest Conference is sending about a half-dozen delegates, including **Amy Roon**. There are many important issues to vote on this year, not the least of which are a new General Minister and President (Rev. Geoffrey Black) and a new national structure. You can follow along at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or keep up with Amy on Facebook in the coming week. She’ll report on the experience at our next Congregation meetings (joint Presbyterian/UCC potluck then presentations) on July 30.

*Editor’s Note:* This occasional column is for reflective writings from members and friends of our congregation, many of whom are inspired by faith to pursue activities and studies beyond the four walls of TUCO.

The subject matter need only connect faith and something that moves you—a spiritual practice or study, a favorite cause you are involved in, an autobiographical account of a spiritual experience, or an opinion piece.

Anyone so moved is invited to submit something. Contact editor Yvonne Wilhelmsen at [ywilhelms@yahoo.com](mailto:ywilhelms@yahoo.com). Suggestions, feedback, etc. are welcomed.

and encouraged to offer our input. Here’s mine: This is something we MUST do again!

Yes, I’m familiar with the various expressions of misgivings and concerns about inconvenience. For me, they are far outweighed by the blessings to be experienced at the host table when the on-duty persons interact with, and gets to know, the camp residents. As Bass notes, “hospitality changes both the guest and the host”.

I look forward to another opportunity to share the host table with fellow members, as we extend to others the hospitality God has extended to us.

## ASIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS AT TUCO

Students from China and Japan will be staying in the Olympia area June 27 through August 14. They will be using our church for their home base during the day to learn English and to do some sight-seeing.

The group hosting the stay is Cultural Home Stay International. If you wish to be a host family, contact Beckey Henry at 943-7384 or [Henryapple@aol.com](mailto:Henryapple@aol.com).

# TUCO Summer Events Calendar

- 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 and potluck at Mark Dowdy's Hood Canal house. See article below.
- July 18** Yard Sale in Upper Parking Lot – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See article below.
- July 19** "Old Time Religion" Worship Service at 10:00 a.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** Saturday Family Bike Ride on John Wayne Pioneer Trail, with optional camping. Contact **Brian Hovis**.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **DIXIELAND** JAZZ SERVICE, JUNE 28, AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

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

"Red" and the Rivermen will lead us in toe tapping, hand clapping, and joyous singing of the music we all enjoy. There will be a free will offering to benefit the Greater Olympia Dixieland Jazz Society Scholarship fund. The St. Louis Rivermen will again be a featured band at the Greater Olympia Jazz Society Dixieland Festival, at St. Martin's Pavilion in Lacey. Information at [www.strivermen.com](http://www.strivermen.com) or [www.olyjazz.com](http://www.olyjazz.com).

## JULY FELLOWSHIP, FUN(DS), FOOD

*Debbie Nickerson, Congregational Life Ministry*

**KAYAKING AND A POTLUCK PICNIC on Saturday, July 11!** All are invited to **Mark Dowdy's in-law's beach home** on Hood Canal for a day of fun, which begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. Bring your boats but do see about carpooling since parking is scarce. For those who wish to spend the night by the Canal, look into camping at Twanoh State Park, not far from Mark's.

**YARD SALE!** Clean out your cupboards, drawers, and garages for the benefit of TUCO and yourselves. We are holding a **yard sale** in the upper parking lot on **July 18** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Due to limited storage we ask that you bring your items that day or place in the Narthex the day before. Items are sold by donation, with the intention of not having many items left to haul away. Proceeds go the church.

We need **helpers** to sell items and to set-up and clean up at the end of the day. I would like to see many volunteers put in a couple hours rather than a few stay all day, though feel free to come and stay for as long as you can or are able. All labor is appreciated. Questions? Contact **Deb Nickerson** at 754-5397 or [debranick@gmail.com](mailto:debranick@gmail.com).

## SOME OF THAT OLD TIME RELIGION

*Dee Morton, Director of Music*

On **July 19**, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, you will have the opportunity to sing a selection of old favorite early gospel and revival-style hymns. The hymn service is titled "Old Time Religion." **Beth Bowden and Company** will be leading the singing and accompanying the hymns in typical rousing fashion. **Pastor Mark Dowdy** will introduce each hymn and give information on the musical, historical and theological significance of each hymn.

Planning for the service originated from a suggestion by **Truxton Ringe**. Thank you, Trux, for your great idea.

The **ALL CHURCH RETREAT**, August 21-23 at Pilgrim Firs, with storyteller and musician **Dayton Edmonds**. Our very own **Brooke Johnson** will lead a wonderful session for our children and youth. *Come worship in the woods.* The cost for two wonderful nights and six scrumptious meals relaxing on the shore of Lake Flora is:

Families	Couples	Singles
\$270	\$180	\$90

## EVENTS AT CHURCH

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, July 11

<p><b>Thursday June 25</b></p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Shawl knitting group, Fireside Room</p> <p><b>Friday June 26</b></p> <p><b>Saturday June 27</b></p> <p>9am-3pm Strengthening Families Leader Training, Purple Room</p> <p>5:00 All-Church Summer BBQ and Talent/No Talent Night, Social Hall</p> <p>6:30 Spiritual Cinema, Fireside Room</p>	<p><b>Sunday June 28</b></p> <p><b>SUMMER SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:40 am</b> Contemplative Worship, Chapel</p> <p><b>10:00 am</b> <b>DIXIELAND</b> Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p><i>(No Sunday School, Adult Education, or Chancel Choir)</i></p> <p>11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> <b>Spirit Service,</b> Chapel ~Prayer</p>	<p><b>Monday June 29</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday June 30</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:00 Staff Meeting, Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Wednesday July 1</b></p> <p>6:00 pm <b>VOICE</b> Articles Due</p> <p>6:30 Administration Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall</p>	<p><b>Thursday July 2</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Mission, Peace &amp; Justice Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 Theology, Natural Sciences &amp; the Continuing Creation Ministry, Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Friday July 3</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> 
<p><b>Saturday July 4</b></p> <p><b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b></p> <p><b>Saturday July 11</b></p> <p><i>All Day: Kayaking on Hood Canal at Mark Dowdy's canal house, followed by potluck (see article p.4)</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday July 5</b></p> <p><b>SUMMER SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:40 am</b> Contemplative Worship, Chapel</p> <p><b>10:00 am</b> Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p><i>(No Sunday School, Adult Education, or Chancel Choir)</i></p> <p>11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> <b>Spirit Service,</b> Chapel ~Labyrinth</p>	<p><b>Monday July 6</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>Tuesday July 7</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:30 Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00 Stewardship Ministry, Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Wednesday July 8</b></p> <p>5:30-9:00 pm Strengthening Families Leader Training, Purple Room</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Thursday July 9</b></p> <p>7-7:30 pm Special Council Meeting to receive new member, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:30-8:30 Budget Committee, Fireside</p>	<p><b>Friday July 10</b></p> <p>7:00 am Men's Breakfast, The Spar Restaurant <i>"How are you enhancing your summer spiritual journey"</i></p> 
<p><b>THREE SUMMER WORSHIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9-9:40 a.m., Chapel</b> <i>Reflection, Contemplation, and Prayer,</i> led by Mark Dowdy</li> <li>• <b>10:00 a.m., Sanctuary</b> Worship with a variety of styles and music</li> <li>• <b>6:00 p.m., Chapel</b> <i>Spirit Service</i> of Labyrinth, Music, Taizé, and Prayer</li> </ul>						

# GET TALENT, BBQ, DESSERT & MOVIE

## Saturday, June 27, 5 p.m., Social Hall

Come on down to the Summer Kick-off Barbecue on June 27 at 5:00 p.m. There will be hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixin's and an amazing Variety Show featuring your favorite performers and non-performers. You might hear beautiful music, laugh at a silly skit, and see incredible feats of skill. If you have an act to share, contact **Deborah Reynolds** at [deborahreynolds@comcast.net](mailto:deborahreynolds@comcast.net).

Please bring a salad to share and your own table service. Main dish, dessert and drinks provided. Wear your sandals and bring your sun hats for a super summer kick off! We still need one more grill if anyone has one to loan. Donations will be accepted to provide funds supporting camp scholarships.

**“Baptists at Our Barbeque”** - in this fun feature we follow a sweet young Mormon park ranger to his new assignment in a town of 262 Mormons and 262 Baptists. What follows is an adventure in comedy, romance, friendship, satire, family and community that asks us if we are willing to open our hearts and homes to those different than ourselves.

Join us for our Spiritual Cinema following our All-Church BBQ on June 27. We meet at **6:30 p.m.** to share a **dessert potluck** and then view our film together, followed by discussion.

## Prayers For

✦ **Dorothy Butler**, at her son Michael's, 1310 Starlite Ct. SE, Olympia, 98503, recovering from recent illness and hospitalization.

✦ **Nora DeMaster**, diagnosed with leukemia.

✦ **Chad and Scott Coate**, Ginny Ulrich's sons, traumatic times.

✦ **Mark Dowdy**, as he enters his 41<sup>st</sup> year of ordained ministry.

✦ **Zachariah Carrithers**, son of Amy and Matt, recovering from sports related back injury.

✦ **Doris Carberry**, home under hospice care.

✦ **Bonnie Offrink**, at Merrill Gardens.



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

110 11th Ave SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

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