



The United Churches of Olympia **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 19 • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

UPDATE FROM YOUR RECOVERING PASTOR

Mark Dowdy

September 8: Am sitting on our back deck overlooking the trees with squirrels and birds doing their thing, the cool breeze blowing through the branches, and making our many wind chimes chime, the sun warming the wet earth.....this I call my "healing place." Serene, quiet, beautiful, and full of God's Spirit.

Lab results continue to improve week by week. Am still taking the antibiotic infusion each morning, and will to the end of the month. Feeling stronger each day, but still fighting the liver infection, and tire easily. Just takes time, all say, and not to overdo. Have lost 25 pounds, and like being 174; can't remember being this thin in my adult life; a heck of a way to reduce!!!

Thanks again so much for your cards, letters, phone calls, prayers, and encouragement to take good care of myself. Thanks again also to Jan Van Pelt for stepping in, and to all of your marvelous staff and Ministries leaders and members for carrying on. Jan told me today what a joyous and healthy place TUCO really is.

That's because of all of YOU! The Church of Jesus Christ Alive! Blessings on you all,

Mark, the Recovering One

A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Cynthia Cook, Budget Coordinator

Good news! Our economy seems to be on the road to recovery. We can all feel a lot more confident about the future than we did this time last year.

Many of us have been fortunate enough to get through this time without a painful reduction in our standard of living. We have learned to live more simply and shared what we have more generously with others. We remember that some in our congregation and our community really have suffered, those who do not have enough food to eat or safe shelter from the storms. We do what we can to help.

(Continued on page 2)

Worship Services

September 20

8:15 A.M. - *Chapel*

11:00 A.M. - *Sanctuary*

"First in Caring"

TEXTS:

- Jeremiah 11:18-20
- Psalm 54
- James 3:13- 4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Taizé

September 27

8:15 A.M. - *Chapel*

9:30 A.M. - *Social Hall*

Family Worship Experience

11:00 A.M. - *Sanctuary*

**"Courage
for Community"**

TEXTS:

- Numbers 11:4-16, 24-29
- Psalm 19:7-14
- James 5:13-20
- Mark 9:38-50

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service

~ Prayer

A Challenge to the Church

(Continued from page 1)

Our church has not escaped unscathed. Last year we adopted what we hoped would be a balanced budget, based on assumptions about pledging and other sources of income. However, as the end of the year approaches, we face another crisis. We will need to raise additional revenues in order to meet our budgeted obligations.

How did this happen? First, some former pledgers were unable to pledge this year, and no new pledges have been received, leading to a pledging shortfall of about \$18,000. People do contribute what they can, so that we are about \$2,000 over budget in loose offerings. Thanks be to God, those who did pledge have mostly been able to pay their pledges as promised.

We rolled "per capita" obligations into denominational support during the 2009 pledge campaign, so the per capita contribution to "other income" did not materialize. (Many thanks to those who responded to the recent appeal and brought this line item up to about \$1,000.) Also, the Endowment Fund has traditionally transferred interest to the operating budget. Due to losses in the stock market, the Endowment Fund Board decided this year to retain the interest. The total shortfall in "other income" is now about \$7,000.

Building use fees are projected to bring in about \$25,000, \$5,000 less than budgeted. A review of recent years shows that we have typically been overoptimistic in this area. Increasing use of the church building by the congregation and church social programs has crowded out growth in public use. Outside groups who use the church often have a social or environmental justice objective, which we have subsidized by keeping rental fees low. The Administration Ministry recently approved a change in the fee schedule which should help generate additional income in the coming year.

The bottom line is that we anticipate a shortfall in revenues of \$28,000, partially offset by an expected savings on expenses of about \$3,500. This projection takes into account Amy's departure, the need for pas-

toral leadership during Mark's illness and recovery, and the costs of providing additional services to compensate for Amy's absence during the last part of the year. Personnel will show some savings on the year, but these will be partly offset by increased administrative costs, mainly utility and computer costs. We expect to stay within our budgets for ministries and for mission.

In fact, everything we do in this church can be seen as a mission. Our increased costs reflect expanded programs of support to those in our community who need it the most. Those of us who have survived the recession relatively intact are now called to make an extra effort this year to help compensate for the losses suffered by those who have been hurt by it. An opportunity will be offered at the Bountiful Harvest Dinner on September 27 for you to add to your pledge for this year. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help us meet our budget goals for this year.

"BOUNTIFUL HARVEST" DINNER AND PIE AUCTION

Congregational Life Ministry

Saturday, September 26, 6:00 pm

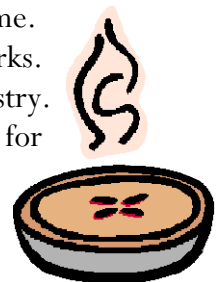
Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children, \$25 family



This joyous "Bountiful Harvest" Dinner and Pie Auction in our church Social Hall is an all-church family event. We'll be having Appetizers, Lime-Pesto Chicken, Roasted Carrots, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Avocado-Cucumber-Tomato Salad, and pie for dessert.

Please join us for a wonderful meal followed by an auction for desserts and pies to take home. Proceeds benefit the church's many works. Sponsored by Congregational Life Ministry.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a pie for the auction. Remember - **There is no such thing as too much pie!**



FANTASTIC WORK IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH

David Nightingale, Administration Ministry Chair

Many of your fellow pew dwellers are and have been busy this year in making your experience at the church a pleasant one. The Administration Ministry has been busy and below is a recap of where some of your energy as well as capital and operating pledges are being put to good use.

1. **New Sanctuary ramp** to Chancel provides access to those with difficulty in walking up the stairs. The design was made by Don Ernst and executed by Duane Johnson, David Nightingale, Mark Hunter, Bunny Hooper and others.
2. **New automatic front doors** provide easier access for many to the narthex. Those who worked on this project included Steve Louwaert, David Nightingale and Duane Johnson.
3. **Patching various walls** next to updated electric panels and a ceiling section in the downstairs hall was accomplished by Mark Hunter.
4. **Final wall repair** and finishing of wall from the water leak in the youth room was performed by Mark Hunter.
5. **A two-bike rack** was installed next to the bus shelter was installed by the City. (Another larger capacity rack will be installed downstairs outside of the social hall by TUCO).
6. **More secure computer** network equipment, software, and computer upgrades for our office were researched, organized, and installed by Matt Carrithers, Amy Roon, and others.
7. **A new digital recorder** was purchased for recording Sunday services for those who missed them.
8. **The lower parking lot** has undergone asphalt repairs followed by a seal coating to preserve its usefulness and enhance its attractiveness.
9. **Our grounds** are maintained and improved thanks to the ongoing efforts of Dan Lundberg, Janet Anderson, Duane Johnson, Paul McCann and many others.

Thanks you all so much for your dedication and en-

ergy in keeping our church building and grounds beautiful and functional!!

PROJECTS WE WOULD LIKE TO DO as we have funding and energy to proceed include:

1. **Seal coating the other two parking lots** to extend the pavement life.
2. **Installing individual room controls** for the steam heat to the offices upstairs, currently the whole area's heat is controlled by one thermostat.
3. **Install double-paned windows** in the Fireside room, upstairs restrooms and other areas.
4. **Re-roof.**
5. **Upgrade the rooftop heating and cooling system** over the chapel so that it works more effectively.
6. **Paint** the gutters and trim.
7. **Upgrade old fluorescent fixtures** with more energy-efficient ones.
8. **Install automatic door openers** on main downstairs doors to match the upstairs openers.
9. Evaluate options for installing an **elevator**.
10. Repair our wooden **church signs**.

New and faithful capital pledging will help make these needed projects a reality. After the boiler failure last year the capital pledging took a significant jump up this year. Let's continue to increase our capital pledges as well as meet the ones already made to the best of our abilities. This old building needs a lot of TLC, elbow grease, and dollars to keep it up.

Thanks to you all for your volunteerism and financial support! Feel free to call me about any of these projects or for donations of your time and effort to accomplish any of these specific projects. One area that we need to have a coordinator for is the maintenance of the grounds around the church. We could also use a few more willing souls to serve on the Administration Ministry next year.

Give me a call, **Dave Nightingale**, 491-1280 or drop me a line, dnight@cco.net.



IMAGINE...ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Karen Eitrem, Stewardship

On October 4 we have the opportunity to help create another world through our special gifts to *Neighbors in Need* and the *Peacemaking Offerings*.

The *Peacemaking Offering* supports the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. Funds are used for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and the community, as well as the national Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The United Church of Christ *Neighbors in Need* is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. TUCO divides this special offering between our two denominations.

Psalm 85:10 provides the theme for the Peacemaking Offering: "Justice and peace shall kiss each other." Along with the Neighbors in Need theme, "Imagine, Another World is Possible" we can indeed imagine, bring peace and justice together, and create a better world for others in our community and beyond. Please give generously on October 4.

SEPTEMBER SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Saturday, September 19, Fireside Room

6:30 p.m. Dessert potluck

This group gathers on third Saturdays to view and discuss films which have a spiritual story or theme. We meet at 6:30 p.m., share a dessert pot-luck, and community.

In our full-length film, *The Living Matrix - The Science of Healing* -- we bring you breakthroughs that will transform your understanding of how to get well and stay well. Now you can get an up-close look at the science of **information as medicine**. Leading researchers and health practitioners share their discoveries on the "miracle cures" traditional medicine can't explain. <http://thelivingmatrixmovie.com/>

WANTED: YOUTH FOR FUN AND FOOD

Mark Boyd, Youth Director

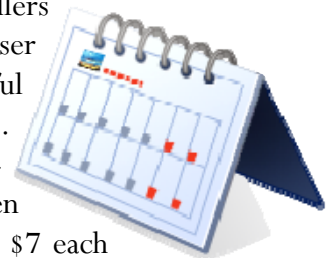
YOUTH GROUPS BEGIN AGAIN

Middlers youth groups start up again on Tuesday the 15th. We will meet from 5:30-7:30pm. If you are in 6th-8th grade, then you should join us. We always have plenty of fun, games and food. Our schedule is as follows: 1st Tuesday = brown bag, 2nd Tuesday = serve at the Salvation Army kitchen, 3rd Tuesday = potluck, 4th Tuesday = we cook, 5th Tuesday = pizza & a movie.

Senior High youth group starts up again on Sunday, September 20 as we greet, usher and host the 11:00 service, followed by a potluck in the youth room. If you are in 9th—12th grade you need to be here. Youth Group meets from 12:30-2:30 every Sunday. Our schedule is as follows: 1st Sunday = brown bag and road trip, 2nd Sunday = go downtown bring money, 3rd Sunday = host and potluck, 4th Sunday = we cook, 5th Sunday = pizza and movie.

GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS

Once again the Middlers will begin their fundraiser by selling the beautiful God's Creation calendars. Even in these tough economic times we have been able to hold the price at \$7 each (or two for \$14). The calendars should be arriving in the next two weeks, so be sure to get yours as they went fast last year. And as in the past, half the proceeds will be donated to a charity or cause selected by the Middlers.



MARK THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S RETREAT

It's not too early to be thinking about next year's All-Church Retreat. Mark your calendar for August 27-29, 2010. We will be enjoying the fun at Pilgrim Firs and don't want to miss you. We will be assembling a group of folks as we prepare for next year and we want you. We will start meeting late January, and meet only briefly once a month. If you have input, ideas, thoughts we want hear them. So contact Mark Boyd and say Yes! I want to be part of this group.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD REQUEST FOR LETTERS TO OUR SENATORS

Eleanor Van Noppen, Missions, Peace and Justice Ministry

The needs of *hungry* people are more critical now, because of the global financial crisis. Nearly one billion people are hungry and do not have clean water! Hundreds of thousands of adults and children are dying.

NEARLY ONE
BILLION
PEOPLE ARE
HUNGRY AND
DO NOT
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WATER!

In the USA government, 25 agencies control the foreign aid money and programs. There is a growing need to streamline and coordinate providing food, education for subsistence farmers on better methods, and education for children.

USA foreign aid money and workers cooperate with Church World Service, and local agencies that know the needs.

We will lobby Congress on **September 20, 2009** by writing to our Senators, on the current issue of streamlining our Foreign Aid Programs. We want to ask Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to cosponsor Senate Bill S.1524. It is The Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act, introduced in late July. A suggested sample letter will be provided and is on www.Bread.org. Research shows that handwritten letters are the most effective, but take two or three weeks to get through security. You can send e-mails easily from www.Bread.org. The Capitol Switchboard phone number is 1-202-224-3121 or 1-800-826-3688.

MPJ members will have Senate phone numbers, addresses, the sample letter and writing materials at a table in the Narthex on **September 20, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** We can help Congress do "the right thing." Let us join with many faith communities in the fight against apathy, injustice, inefficiency in our foreign aid delivery and poverty.

A summary of S. 1524, a sample letter and other informational materials are on the MPJ bulletin board in the Narthex. A link to Bread for the World and a message about the bill is on the TUCO website. Thank you for your support of *hungry* people everywhere.

Updated: August 3, 2009

Bread for the World, Senate: Suggested Sample Letter

Sen. _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Date

Dear Sen. _____,

Please co-sponsor S. 1524, the Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act. This bipartisan bill is a good first step in making our foreign assistance more effective and accountable. S. 1524 finds that U.S. policy should be to promote global development, good governance, and the reduction of poverty and hunger and it rebuilds the policy, planning, and evaluation capacity of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The bill would also increase transparency of foreign assistance programs and bring greater development coordination on the ground.

U.S. foreign assistance has helped reduce child deaths, improve agricultural capacity, and increase school enrollment. But even more can be done if we improve the way foreign aid is delivered.

Making our foreign assistance more efficient and effective will have a greater impact on poor and hungry people around the world. Please co-sponsor this important reform bill, S.1524.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Address

CLARIFYING REFERENDUM 71

Gib and Beth Rossing

Referendum 71 is headed for the November ballot. We must decide whether to vote "YES" to affirm the rights and responsibilities of domestic partners passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Chris Gregoire, or vote "NO" to deny them.

A "YES" vote protects the rights of more than 5,000 registered domestic partners who are same-sex couples, as well as senior couples who can't marry without sacrificing hard-earned social security and pension benefits. A "NO" vote denies many Washington families the same protections, rights, and responsibilities as their neighbors.

The 2009 Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5688 that guarantees that all families will be treated fairly, especially in times of crisis. Opponents of the law (sponsors of Referendum 71) want us to vote "NO" to repeal the law. To support the law, we must vote "YES."

MARK DOWDY ON BILL AND MARILYN MEYER

For a number of years Rev. Bill Meyer was Parish Associate at The United Churches of Olympia. His wife Marilyn sang in the TUCO choir, as did Bill. About five years ago it became clear that Marilyn was showing signs of Alzheimer's. Bill cared for her here in Olympia as long as he could, then moved with Marilyn to Crista in Seattle, a Christian adult care facility. I had lunch with Bill about a year ago, and Marilyn was not expected to live but a few weeks or months.

Bill wrote recently..."she astounds her neurologist and the folk here who care for her by continuing to live. In fact I can't see a lot of difference in her since her precipitous decline in 2005 and our coming here to Crista. Shortly after we got here, she lost the abil-

ity to walk and then to talk. But in the last 3 1/2 years, she doesn't seem to have changed very much. I feed her twice a day and she mainly drinks her meals. When Neal and Karen [Bill's and Marilyn's kids] come each week and sing to her, she is somewhat more alert than at other times...I have been able to re-live the good years Marilyn and I had together by reading letters saved by her mother and mine that she wrote, and also journals she kept during some parts of our life. It was a good day when I met her at the University of Dubuque."

Bill has been attending the Calvin Presbyterian Church with his sister and brother-in-law. If you would like to correspond with Bill, his e-mail is bill4bike@aol.com.

FIRESIDE GALLERY FEATURES VINTAGE MAGAZINE ART

Currently in the Fireplace Gallery is an exhibit of American Vintage Magazine Art. **Christopher Woodsum** has chosen products and images of everyday life during the 1920's and 1930's. These original magazine covers and ads are part of a larger collection that includes automobiles, aviation, and fashions (many shown here over the past couple of years).

During the spring ArtsWalk, hundreds visited his exhibit in the 1896 Cunningham Building of more than 150 Art Deco pictures.

Beginning later in September the Tacoma Seaport Maritime Museum will present an exhibit of Maritime related magazine art (1900 – 1960's) recently selected and framed by Christopher.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

THANKS TUCO *Barbara McLean*

Thanks to The United Churches and the community, the Little Red Schoolhouse provided 2,350 students with new backpacks, school supplies (including scientific calculators for the high school students), dental supplies, and used clothing. Resource materials were made available to parents and reading books given to the children.

Members of our church picked up racks and hangers from storage, assembled racks, sorted school supplies, hung hundreds of articles of clothing and helped with check-out. When it was all over, they helped put the racks and hangers back in storage.

Thanks to everyone for the support and help that made Schoolhouse a big success.

EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, September 17 - Saturday, October 3

<p>Thursday September 17</p> <p>Friday September 18</p> <p>10:00 am Car- ing Friends meeting, Fire- side Room</p> <p>Saturday September 19</p> <p>6:30 pm Spiri- tual Cinema w/ dessert potluck followed by film "The Living Ma- trix", Fireside Room</p>	<p>Sunday Sept September 20</p> <p>8:15 am Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:30 am Sun- day School, downstairs; 10:20 Chancel Choir rehearse, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>12:00 pm Cof- fee Fellowship, Fireside Room</p> <p>12:30 Seniors Highs, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 pm Spirit Service Chapel ~Taizé</p>	<p>Monday September 21</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Jacky Crow's home, 790-0863</p>	<p>Tuesday September 22</p> <p>10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Plan- ning, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 pm Mid- dlers, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 pm Strengthening Families, Fire- side Room & Room #106</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Minis- try, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Wednesday September 23</p> <p>6:00 pm VOICE Articles Due</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel choir Rehearsal, Sanc- tuary</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall</p>	<p>Thursday September 24</p> <p>7:00 pm Steward- ship Ministry, Fire- side Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE <i>begins September 20</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 a.m., Chapel Relaxed, contemporary worship • 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Traditional, liturgical service with organ, piano and choir. • 6:00 p.m., Chapel <i>Spirit Service</i> of Labyrinth, Music, Taizé, and Prayer </p>	<p>Friday September 25</p>
<p>Saturday September 26</p> <p>6:00 pm Bountiful Har- vest Dinner and Pie Auction, Social Hall</p> <p>Saturday October 3</p>	<p>Sunday September 27</p> <p>8:15 am Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:30 Family Worship Experience, Social Hall</p> <p>10:20 Chancel Choir rehearse, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>12:00 pm Cof- fee Fellowship, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:00 pm Spirit Service, Chapel ~ Prayer</p>	<p>Monday September 28</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Jacky Crow's home, 790- 0863</p>	<p>Tuesday September 29</p> <p>10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Plan- ning, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 pm Mid- dlers, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00– 8:30 pm Strengthening Families, Fire- side Room & Rm. 106</p>	<p>Wednesday September 30</p> <p>7:00 pm Chan- cel choir Re- hearsal, Sanctu- ary</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Thursday October 1</p> <p>7:00 pm Mission, Peace & Justice Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 pm Theol- ogy, Natural Sci- ence & Continuing Creation, Chapel</p> <p>7:00 pm Worship Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Friday October 2</p> <p>5:30 pm Laby- rinth Walk, Social Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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THANKS FOR DELIVERING DINNERS

Don and Eileen Molinero

Don and I would like to thank all of you of The United Churches involved in bringing wonderful dinners to Mark and Cheryl's home while we were all so ill. A special thanks to Jinny Beekman for making it all possible. It was greatly appreciated. Our health problems were all so stressful and we don't know how we would have managed without your thoughtful and enjoyable dinners. So many great cooks and thoughtful people. The recovery of all three of us is slow, but we are able to manage again. We are so grateful to you all. Thank you again for including Don and me.

Note: The Molineros, Cheryl Dowdy's parents, live 500 yards through the woods from Mark and Cheryl. Eileen has been in a wheelchair, and while Mark was in the hospital Don ended up in the emergency room with eternal bleeding.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE SEPT. 21

The United Nations General Assembly has set aside September 21 of each year as the International Day of Peace. PCUSA offers resources to celebrate this day of global ceasefire and nonviolence which encourages all nations and people honor a cessation of hostilities:

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/worship/worship.htm#dayofpeace>

Prayers For

- ✦ **Liz Eaton and family**, on the death of her husband Curtis Eaton on September 3. A service was held at Scott Lake Community Center on September 13.
- ✦ **Mark Dowdy**, continuing to recover at home from infection and pneumonia.
- ✦ **Nora DeMaster**, leukemia.
- ✦ **Mary Lee McNall**, coping with the loss of L.D.
- ✦ Friends and members who are in care facilities.

