

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

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 18 • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

## **FROM YOUR RECOVERING PASTOR**

*Mark Dowdy*

Thanks so much to all of you who have held me, Cheryl, our family, along with her mom and dad, in your prayers. We are all making wonderful progress and feeling better day by day.

I'm amazed at how much strength one loses during 12 days in the hospital. But with good daily IV antibiotics for five weeks, good nutrition, lots of love and prayers from all of you, lots of rest, along with appropriate exercise, I hope to be in good shape to return to work October 1.

Thanks also to Amy and all of staff and each ministry for carrying on their work, with God's help. My prayers are with you all each day.

A final thanks to all who have worked hard at hiring Jan Van Pelt as your contract pastor in my absence. She is a wonderful pastor and friend, and you will be very pleased with her ministry.

Thanks again for your daily prayers and love,

**Mark**, the Recovering One

## **FROM YOUR TEMPORARY PASTOR**

*The Reverend Jan Van Pelt*

Hello Friends:

I'm writing this from my home in Seattle looking forward to joining you as your temporary minister while Mark Dowdy is recovering from his illness. My arrival comes just as you are saying farewell to your much loved associate pastor, Amy Roon. What a lot is happening all at once for The United Churches! I am grateful to be available to help, and will be on the job full time\*, starting September 1, for worship, pastoral care, and the ongoing ministries of the church. As to how long I'll be with you, a lot will depend on Mark's recovery and the church's needs as he mends.

A few words about my background: Since 1999, I have served as interim minister in four denominations. I hold a Master of Divinity degree from the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Summer Worship Services*

**September 6**

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

10:00 A.M. - Sanctuary  
**"Be Opened"**

### TEXTS:

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9
- Psalm 125
- James 2:1-17
- Mark 7:24-37

✦ Communion

✦ Food Bank Express Wagon

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**  
~ Labyrinth

**September 13**

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

10:00 A.M. - Sanctuary  
**"Who Are You, Jesus"**

### TEXTS:

- Proverbs 1:2-33
- Psalm 19
- James 3:1-13
- Mark 8:27-38

6:00 P.M.

**Spirit Service**  
~ Celebrate Music

## FROM YOUR DEPARTING PASTOR

Amy Roon, Associate Pastor



Farewell,

I have to admit that writing newsletter articles is one of my least favorite and most procrastinated tasks. Just ask Yvonne, our Voice editor. I so much prefer conversations and dialogue than this, what feels to me a rather one-sided conversation. I say this because of all the articles I've had to write this one is the hardest. Yup. Much harder than breaking the news that I'd be leaving this fall. That was just news. Now I have to actually do it.

Which is a very long drawn out way of saying: I will miss you all very, very much. It has been my honor and joy to be with you in ministry these past few years. Singing, dancing, preaching, teaching, cooking, eating with you; sharing in your lives has been a privilege.

My greatest hope for all of you is to find and foster in each other the friendships and love you have shown Benjamin and me, and Jake! You saw Benjamin perhaps more than the others but there really were *three* new babies last year, not one! So remember to love up Trystyn Emineth-Denbow and Zellaby McGaully. And the Ganey's girl and White-Tudor's boy are on the way...just in time for Christmas!

It's hard to leave you with so much in flux right now. But as I've always thought there are two ways to approach times when you turn to the instruction book and discover only blank pages. You can mourn the lack of information or you can get out your crayons and draw a beautiful picture, write an essay or, if you are so inclined you can write up your own new set of instructions. Many of you have recognized this; new growth is already coming out of this time of change.

I've always embraced the kind of leadership that revels in being unnecessary. I'm already witnessing congregation members stepping forward, communicating with each other instead of through Mark or me. People identifying themselves as the leaders they are looking for, gifts of talent

and skill are flowering all over the place! It's strange—I'm the one who's moving yet I feel that it is YOU who are taking off. The Transformation Cruise has left the docks and it is I who is standing on shore waving to you; even as some of you would rather explore the ship than stand on deck and wave goodbye. It is as it should be. May God's grace and travelling mercies be with you on this journey.

With great love in goodbye,

Amy

## From Your Temporary Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

Pacific School of Religion, and am a licensed minister in the United Church of Christ. Since 1993, I have worked with over 150 congregations in the Northwest mediating, facilitating, equipping laity and clergy through times of transition and change. I have two grown daughters, Julie, living in Port Townsend, and Lisa, living in Boonville, California. My favorite pastimes are hiking, kayaking and gathering with friends and family for celebrations.

For years, I have held The United Churches in high regard. My familiarity with your vital presence and witness in the region has come through my interim ministry in three Olympia area churches: First Christian (2001-3), Lacey Presbyterian (2004-6) and First United Methodist (2008-9). Those positions have given me the opportunity to work side-by-side in ecumenical efforts with TUCO and Mark to serve community needs. I have gained a deep appreciation of your commitment and considerable gifts in leadership. Now I look forward to getting to know you better, seeing you in worship and working alongside of you for a time.

Please feel free to be in touch with me if you have special needs or concerns. My office hours are Tuesday-Thursday. I can be reached at 206-941-8631 (cell phone), or [janvp@comcast.net](mailto:janvp@comcast.net) (e-mail).

See you soon. Grace and Peace,

**Pastor Jan Van Pelt**

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Office Hours-

9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tues.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

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

## FROM YOUR RETURNING YOUTH DIRECTOR

*Mark Boyd, Director of Youth Ministries*

### BREAKTHROUGH AT ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Seventy-two folks from The United Churches gathered around the lake at Pilgrims Firs Retreat Center for our annual retreat on August 21-23. With Dayton Edmonds as our guest speaker we explored our views on linear thinking as well as "discovering" our own breakthroughs. We spent time getting to know each other a little better while enjoying all that the camp has to offer. Some folks traversed the lake trails, played basketball, swam, walked the labyrinth, or just napped. Although the outdoor fire ban put a damper



Great photos from our retreat are on the website:  
[www.theunitedchurches.org/Pilgrim\\_Firs](http://www.theunitedchurches.org/Pilgrim_Firs)

on some of our plans, things warmed up around the talent show Saturday night. We finished up the weekend by worshipping in the great outdoors. Be sure to watch this space as we will be announcing the dates

for the next retreat soon, and thank you to all who helped put this wonderful weekend together.

### YOUTH DUDE RETURNS WITH NEW DIRECTION

First and foremost, let me thank all of the folks here at The United Churches for encouraging and allowing me the opportunity to take time this past summer. It was invaluable. Julie and I were able to spend time together that was just for us. And I was able to actually slow down and look at where I was going with my ministry. After much prayer, conversation and prodding we made a decision that on August 31 I would leave my day job as manager at a wholesaler of construction supplies and start as Maintenance Supervisor at Pilgrim Firs on September 9. This move takes me out of a very stressful job and still allows me the time to continue my ministry at The United Churches. This also enhances my ministry by allowing me to work closer with other youth directors who use the camp. So my unending gratitude for all, thank you.

### GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS

Once again the Middlers 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). They should arrive in the next two weeks, so be sure to get yours as they went fast last year. As in the past, half the proceeds will be donated to a charity or cause selected by the Middlers.

## FIND YOUR PLACE AT FALL MINISTRY FAIR

*Dee Morton, Music Director*

*Sunday, September 13, at 11:00 a.m.*

Following the final 10:00 a.m. single morning service, for the Fall Kick-off Ministry Fair each ministry will host a display in the Narthex, Chapel or Fireside Room, portraying their various tasks and missions, and they will invite members to become active and engaged participants in the life of the church. Sunday School children and adults may register for upcoming classes. Ministries are also planning their upcoming church seasons' activities at meetings the first week of September.

**Ministry chairpersons:** please let the office know, before September 11, of any special equipment you may need, other than a table, for your particular display on September 13. We have a limited number of easels available, first come, first served. Please reserve ahead of time. Tables will be set up by staff on Friday, September 11, and ministry workers may arrange their displays on Saturday, September 12.

## CHANCEL CHOIR POTLUCK

*Dee Morton, Music Director*

Chancel Choir will open their fall music season on September 16 with a 6:00 p.m. potluck picnic and short rehearsal at the home of **Carol and Chad Sherrell**. We will prepare "How Can I Keep from Singing?", by Greg Gilpin, Arranger, as the anthem for the September 20 11:00 a.m. worship.

The Sherrells will provide turkey, ham and beverages, and choir members are invited to bring side dishes, salad or dessert. The Sherrells' home is at 634 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. in Olympia. **Please R.S.V.P.** to Carol or Chad, 943-8559, Dee Morton, 866-9250, or [dmorton11@comcast.net](mailto:dmorton11@comcast.net).

## WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

*Betty Nickerson*

Book discussions will resume again on the third Wednesday of **September, the 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.**

Meetings are held from September to May, at the homes of members. Reports of books read during the summer by members are the program for September. At that time, participants will receive their book to read for October. The book chosen is *The Devil in the White City-Chicago 1893* by Erik Larsen.

Joyce Allen will host the September meeting at her home on 2311 Beta St. in Panorama City. New members are always welcome but please do call Joyce at 438-5423 if you would like to attend.

## MANY SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT OPTIONS AT ST. PLACID PRIORY

September 12: INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER

September 19: WRAPPED IN LOVE: THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

September 26: NOW THAT YOU'VE GROWN UP--WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

October 2-4: BECOMING WHAT WE LOVE: A FRANCISCAN CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

October 3: RETURNING HOME TO YOURSELF

October 8: LECTIO DIVINA: CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS OF LECTIO (monthly for 6 months)

October 10: PRAYING WITH THE BODY: BRINGING THE PSALMS TO LIFE

For more information on these and other intriguing program titles, visit <http://www.stplacid.org/> or call 360-438-2595.

## SEPTEMBER SPIRITUAL CINEMA FILM

*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.*


The film for our September 19 Spiritual Cinema is *The Living Matrix*. Here is a summary, from their website:

### **New insight into our bodies, minds and health**

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/>

With several healers in our group, and in our community, this should be a very informative film. We'll meet at 6:30 pm for a dessert pot luck (bring a dessert or fruit to share) and join us to view a film together and then discuss it following. We plan to balance documentary type movies with feature films. For more information about our upcoming films: [http://www.theunitedchurches.org/spiritual\\_growth.htm](http://www.theunitedchurches.org/spiritual_growth.htm).

# EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, September 3 - Saturday, September 19

<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>September 3</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Mis- sions, Peace &amp; Justice Minis- try, Library</p> <p>7:00 pm TNSCC Minis- try, Rm. 106</p> <p>7:00 pm Wor- ship Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p><b>Friday</b> <b>September 4</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>September 5</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>September 6</b></p> <p><b>SUMMER SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>9:00 am Sum- mer Choir Re- hearsal, Choir Room</p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:40 am</b> <b>Contemplation &amp;</b> <b>Prayer, Chapel</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship,</b> <b>Sanctuary</b> (Amy's last day)</p> <p>11:00 am Fare- well Reception for Amy, Fireside Room</p> <p><b>6:00 pm Spirit</b> <b>Service, Chapel</b> ~Labyrinth</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> <b>September 7</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE</b> <b>CLOSED</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters Jacky Crow's home, 790-0863</p> <p><i>Cancelled</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>September 8</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Plan- ning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:00 Staff Meet- ing, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:00 Person- nel Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Minis- try, Fireside Room</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>September 9</b></p> <p>6:00 pm <b>VOICE</b> Articles Due</p> <p>Fireside Room 7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>September 10</b></p>	<p><b>Friday</b> <b>September 11</b></p> <p>7:00 am Men's Breakfast, The Spar</p> 
<p><b>LAST CHANCE FOR SUMMER QUICK CHOIR</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Service</p> <p><i>September 6</i></p> <p>MEET IN THE CHOIR ROOM</p>						
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>September 12</b></p> <p>9:00 am Set up for Worship Ministry/ Sunday School Fair</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> <b>September 19</b></p> <p>6:30 pm Spiri- tual Cinema dessert potluck and film, "The Living Matrix".</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>September 13</b></p> <p><b>LAST DAY OF SUMMER</b> <b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>9:00 - 9:40 am</b> <b>Contemplation,</b> <b>Chapel</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship,</b> <b>Sanctuary</b></p> <p>11 am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 am Ministry Fair/ Sunday School Fall Kick-off</p> <p><b>6:00 pm Spirit</b> <b>Service, Chapel</b> ~ Celebrate Music</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> <b>September 14</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE</b> <b>CLOSED</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Jacky Crow's home, 790- 0863</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>September 15</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Plan- ning, Rm. 106</p> <p>3:30 Staff Mtg, Rm.106</p> <p>5:30- 8:30 pm Strengthening Families, Fire- side Room &amp; Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>September 16</b></p> <p>6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal and Pot- luck, Carol Sherrell's home</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>September 17</b></p>	<p><b>Friday</b> <b>September 18</b></p> <p>10:00 am Car- ing Friends meeting, Fire- side Room</p>
<p><b>SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> <i>through September 13</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9-9:40 a.m., Chapel <i>Reflection, Contemplation, and Prayer</i></li> <li>• 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary Worship with a variety of styles and music</li> <li>• 6:00 p.m., Chapel <i>Spirit Service of Labyrinth, Music, Taizé, and Prayer</i></li> </ul>						
<p><b>FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> <i>begins September 20</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:15 a.m., Chapel Relaxed, contemporary worship</li> <li>• 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Traditional, liturgical service with organ, piano and choir.</li> <li>• 6:00 p.m., Chapel <i>Spirit Service of Labyrinth,</i></li> </ul>						



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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## PASTOR'S FUND LOW

In this hard economy, we are getting more and more requests for help with rental assistance, energy assistance and bus passes. We have come to the point of running out of funds. These monies are only given out at the pastor's discretion. We would appreciate any donations to build our fund up again. Thank you!



## SAVE THE DATE FOR PIE



**Saturday, September 26 is our**  
Bountiful Harvest Dinner and  
Pie Auction, 6:00 p.m., Social Hall.

## 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

- ✦ **Mark Dowdy**, continuing to recover at home from infection and pneumonia. Happy Belated Birthday!
- ✦ **Anita Noah, family and friends**, on the death of her husband Lewis Noah on August 15. A service was held August 28, followed by a reception at TUCO.
- ✦ **Joanna Darnell**, recovering from knee surgery.
- ✦ **Ray Johnson**, Carolyn Lehman's brother, surgery for kidney cancer.
- ✦ **Terry McHargue**, Jo Edwards brother-in-law, diagnosed with liver cancer.
- ✦ **John Brazelton**, John Edward's nephew, surgery for testicular cancer.
- ✦ **Infant Trystyn Denbow-Emineth**, ongoing diagnosis and treatment of seizures.
- ✦ **Nora DeMaster**, leukemia.

