

The United Churches of **VOICE**

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 74, ISSUE 20 • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

YOUR CONTINUING TO RECOVER PASTOR

Mark Dowdy

September 25: Was sitting again in my healing place, our west deck in the sun; 68 beautiful degrees, mid afternoon today.

A great day! Got my PICC line out this morning and am finished with the high power antibiotic. Hopefully the infection is all gone. You'll be shocked at how thin I am. I was down to 169 pounds 2 days ago and this morning was 172, so maybe am gaining some. I feel really good 30 pounds lighter than when I went into the hospital on August 5. Doc said I should fully recover, but to watch overdoing it. He said I'm to take another week of sick leave, so will go back to work ½ time or so October 13. Am going to help in worship on October 4 and 11, but not preach.

Last time I saw the primary infectious disease doctor he quizzed me lots about my stresses, naming physical, emotional, spiritual, work, home. I told him I was a pretty "mellow" guy and didn't feel very stressed. Cheryl was with us and nearly rolled on the floor laughing. She named some of my stressors—what could I say.

Saw my Spiritual Director yesterday too, and he asked me about the same stuff, and challenged me to see God's Grace at work in and throughout my illness. Much to ponder. Doctor said most diseases like this are related to stresses in our lives.

(Continued on page 2)

NOTES ON BUDGET, GIVING

Sid Olson, Bookkeeper

We recently received a gift from the estate of **Virginia Hartley** for \$2,000. As indicated in the very nice transmittal letter from daughter Claudia, the gift was deposited to the Memorial Fund for Child Programs. This raises the balance to about \$14,500.

The estate of **Lucille Messer** paid the balance of \$1,274.60. As with earlier gifts from her estate, the money was placed in the Lucille Messer Kitchen Fund, bringing the balance of this special fund up to \$10,428. As you may recall, Lucille was very involved in the kitchen and food matters here at The United Churches.

2009 Budget Status Through August 31	
Income	\$306,474
Expenses	\$323,917
Deficit to date	(\$17,443)

Worship Services

October 4

8:15 A.M. - Chapel

11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

"Enfolding Love"

TEXTS:

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Psalm 8
- Hebrews 1:1- 4; 2:5-12
- Mark 10:2-16

- ⊕ Communion
- ⊕ Food Bank Express Wagon
- ⊕ Peacemaking Offering

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service
~ Labyrinth

October 11

8:10 A.M. - Chapel

11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

"What Must I Do"

TEXTS:

- Amos 5:6-7; 10-15
- Psalm 90:12-17
- Hebrews 4:12-16
- Mark 10:17-31

6:00 P.M.

Spirit Service
~ Celebrate Music

PEACEMAKING OFFERING ON OCT. 4

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.

Psalms 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.

Recovering Pastor Update (Continued from page 1)

Guess our church should provide a "stress management" adult education course!

Cheryl has been a champ of taking care of her folks, who are also making good progress, but still pretty weak. She is on personal leave through October. As some of you know, we've joined our local health club, The Valley Athletic Club, and have hired a personal trainer for a month.

With thanks every day for you and God's amazing Grace.

Mark, the Continuing to Recover One

YOUTH GROUP FUN IS HERE

Mark Boyd, Youth Director

Middlers youth groups are up and running strong. We meet from 5:30-7:30 pm. 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 is full of lots of energy as we plan our fun for the rest of the year. 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.

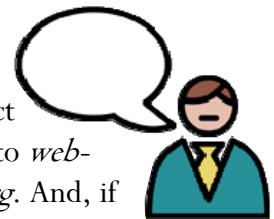
COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Several of us are developing a program of communications for The United Churches. This includes how information is transmitted to the congregation, and things we can do



with our current communication methods, such as The Voice, and the website, and the e-mail lists.

If you are interested in working with us, please contact **Pat Sonnenstuhl** via e-mail to webmaster@theunitedchurches.org. And, if you have suggestions for these communication methods, please let me know that also.



We will be planning a meeting soon to talk about ideas and the future, and we'd love to have you be a part of it.

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

360-943-1210

info@theunitedchurches.org

Office Hours-

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

9:00 a.m. - noon, Friday

PASTOR

F. Mark Dowdy

markd@theunitedchurches.org

A Tasteful Auction

Saturday, October 10, '09

Time: 7-9 p.m.

**at First Christian Church,
7th & Franklin, Olympia**

*Silent Auction
with mouth-watering Desserts
and other Tasteful Pleasures*

OTHER AUCTION ITEMS, MANY ONE-OF-A-KIND

- 🌀 hand crafted quilt
- 🌀 handmade scarves
- 🌀 harmonica lessons
- 🌀 hand crafted jewelry
- 🌀 authentic Stumpf Fiddle
- 🌀 gift basket of local foods

Donations appreciated!

To donate desserts or other tasteful items,
contact Kathleen at 360-705-2527 or
kathleenjan@comcast.net

*All proceeds benefit homeless services
and other programs of
INTERFAITH WORKS*

www.interfaith-works.org 360-357-7224


Live music by Artesian Rumble Arkestra



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EVENTS AT CHURCH Thursday, October 1 - Saturday, October 17

Thursday October 1	Sunday October 4	Monday October 5	Tuesday October 6	Wednesday October 7	Thursday October 8	Friday October 9
<p>7:00 pm TNSCC Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>7:00 pm Worship Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <p>Friday October 2</p> <p>5:30 pm Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall</p> <p>Saturday October 3</p> <p>3:00 pm Pet Blessing, Narthex</p>	<p>World Communion Sunday 8:15 am</p> <p>Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School, downstairs;</p> <p>10:20 Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee Fellowship, Fireside Room</p> <p>12:30 Senior Hi, Youth Rm.</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>Spirit Service Chapel</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p>10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 pm Mid- dlers, Youth Room</p> <p>5:30 pm Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Room</p>	<p>6:00 pm VOICE Articles Due</p> <p>5:30 pm Christian Education Ministry, Rm. 106</p> <p>6:00 Daughters of Eve, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:30 Administration Ministry, Library</p> <p>7:00 Chancel choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Social Hall</p>	<p>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <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 </div>	<p>7:00 am Men's Breakfast, The Spar Restaurant</p>
<p>Saturday October 10</p> <p>Saturday October 17</p> <p>6:30 Spiritual Cinema, Fireside Room</p>	<p>Sunday October 11</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>Worship, Chapel</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School, downstairs;</p> <p>10:20 Chancel Choir rehearse, Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee Fellowship, Fireside Room</p> <p>12:30 pm Senior Highs, Youth Room</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>Spirit Service, Chapel</p> <p>~ Celebrate Music</p>	<p>Monday October 12</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>1:00 pm Peace Crafters, Karen Watts home, 456-2526</p>	<p>Tuesday October 13</p> <p>10:00 am Staff Mtg, Rm. 106</p> <p>1:00 pm Worship Planning, Rm. 106</p> <p>5:30 pm Mid- dlers, Youth Room</p> <p>5:00 pm Personnel Ministry, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Wednesday October 14</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 Drum Fun, Rm. 106</p>	<p>Thursday October 15</p> <p>7:00 pm Mission, Peace & Justice Ministry, Library</p>	<p>Friday October 16</p> <p>10:00 am Caring Friends meeting, Fireside Room</p>

NEW ON-LINE CHURCH CALENDAR

The church office and website have launched a new all-in-one calendar, for all church events and room use. View by event type, or month etc; choose a list or grid format. Click on the event for more details. Let us know how you like it.

<http://theunitedchurches.mhssoftware.com>

BE A RETREAT PLANNER

We are assembling a group of folks to prepare for next year's All-Church Retreat at Pilgrim Firs, August 27-29, 2010, and we want you. We will start meeting briefly once a month in late January. If you have input, ideas, thoughts we want hear them. So contact **Mark Boyd** at 360-349-1946 or hippobmw@comcast.net and say Yes! I want to be part of this group.

THANKS FOR BIKE TRIP

Thanks to Brian Hovis and Debbie Nickerson for your support toward my completion of our 20-mile bike trip from Hyak to Lake Easton on a gravel path. Yes, I was the oldest and probably not in the best of shape, but thanks to the support of Brian and Debbie, this endeavor was successful, and no sore muscles the next day....amazing grace. Glad I was at least able to support our trip with bowls full of chili and split pea soup waiting for us at the end of the trail. Thanks again for the experience. Let us do this again.

~Cheryl Tack



FALL EVENTS SCHEDULE

- October 3** Pet Blessing, 3:30 p.m., Narthex
- October 4** Peacemaking Offering Sunday
- October 18** Stewardship Campaign begins
- October 17** Spiritual Cinema, Fireside Room
- October 24** Around the World Game Night with International Potluck, 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall
- October 25** Family Worship Experience, 9:30 a.m.
- November 15** Annual Meeting, 12:15 p.m.
- November 29** Advent Begins
- December 5** Christmas decorating and potluck, 5:00—9:00 p.m., Social Hall
- December 12** Alternative Giving Fair, 10:00

SEEKING SUBSTITUTE OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

The TUCO office is in need of substitute volunteers this Fall as several of our regular volunteers will be having surgery. If you could work a three hour shift on Tuesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Sandi Trudeau**, Administrator at 943-1210. Thank you for your help!

WEBMASTER SAYS "GO PAPERLESS"

From your Webmaster: I want to encourage all of you to become paperless in regards to The Voice. We mail out over 400 copies, and we could save substantially on our mailing, printing and paper costs. When The Voice is posted to the website, I send an e-mail with a link to the .pdf file. You will not receive any attachments. Just let **Sandi** know you want to read The Voice on-line (sandi@theunitedchurches.org), and send a memo to me, **Pat Sonnenstuhl**, at cnmpat@comcast.net to be sure you are on the All-Church e-mail list. This list is limited to specific church announcements. There will be printed copies of The Voice at church, should you need to review something, but we are encouraging this switch to reduce our costs in this area.

Some of the advantages are the ability to increase font size, making it easier to read, color graphics, and getting it a day earlier.

Prayers For

- ✦ **Mark Dowdy**, continuing to recover at home.
- ✦ **Nora DeMaster**, leukemia.
- ✦ **Mary Lee McNall**, Panorama Assisted Living.
- ✦ Friends and members who are in care facilities.
- ✦ **Brooke Johnson**, arthroscopic knee surgery October 2.
- ✦ **Marilyn Sprague**, knee replacement surgery at St. Peter's October 19.
- ✦ **Jacky Crow**, back surgery at Capital Medical Center, October 5.

