

VOICE

The United Churches of Olympia

NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 77, ISSUE 3 • FEBRUARY 1, 2012

SIX WEEK LENTEN INTERPLAY SERIES

Sundays, February 26-April 1 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Fireside Room By donation Nursery care available

What is God's Longing for your life? Do you sometimes find it hard to hear the voice of God with just your ears? This Lent, listen with your entire being. We invite you to join us for Sunday evenings of movement, voice, and storytelling joined with Lenten themes. Come sing your soul, improvise in prayer, dance through 40 days in the desert, and speak sacred stories. Find more ease, grace, and joy within the struggle in the wilderness or just within the mystery of daily life.

InterPlay is easy, fun, and life-changing. It is based on a series of incremental "forms" that lead participants to movement and stories, silence and song, ease and amusement. In the process, we discover the wisdom in ourselves and our communities. Life has become so fragmented; *InterPlay* helps integrates body, mind, heart and spirit. You don't have to think of yourself as creative in order to do *InterPlay* -- we can teach you that part easily. *InterPlay* is based in affirmation and looking for the good. We have far too much criticism in our lives already. *InterPlay* is the perfect antidote to stress and cynicism. For more information about *InterPlay*, check out www.interplay.org.

The six week series begins Sunday, February 26. Come for one week or for all six and bring your grandparents, join your neighbor, meet up with your sister, or *InterPlay* with a friend. Those under 16 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. The nursery will be open and staffed for your convenience. (Your gift in a suggested amount of \$10 per family per week or \$50 per family for all six weeks when paid in advance would be appreciated).

SHELTER UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who have caringly volunteered to serve as overnight hosts for our church's turn with the Emergency Overflow Shelter for our homeless guests, beginning on **Friday, February 17**.

Volunteer hosts are still invited to sign up, especially men, and we also invite donation of **snacks** for our guests. Particularly welcome are contributions of fruit, crackers and cheese, energy bars, dry cereal, milk and fruit juices.

To offer help, please contact either **Steve Robb** (456-1944) or **Lee Johnson** (866-2972).

NEW ADULT ED CLASS

Lost Christianity: Christian Scripture and the Battle for Authentication.
January 8—February 19, 9:00 a.m.

In this DVD and discussion course, Dr. Bart Ehrman, Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill presents on how the books of the New Testament came to be selected for our present day Bible. Many ancient writings have been found that address Jesus' life. Dr. Ehrman details why some writings are included in our Bible and others are not. The course will be facilitated by Don Ulrich and Rod Cate.

Sunday Worship Services

February 5

"Good News for the Unimpressive"

9:00 A.M. - Chapel

10:30 A.M. - Sanctuary

TEXTS

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Mark 1: 29-39
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

✚ Communion Sunday

✚ Food Bank/ Other Bank Express Wagon

February 12

"Healing Presence"

9:00 A.M. - Chapel

10:30 A.M. - Sanctuary

TEXTS

- 2 Kings 5:1-20
- Mark 1: 40-45

February 19

"Thin Places"

9:00 A.M. - Chapel

10:30 A.M. - Sanctuary

TEXTS

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Mark 9:2-9

✚ Jill Komura preaching

February 22

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M. - Chapel

Service of Ashes

TEXTS

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- Psalm 51:1-17
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

GREETINGS FROM OUR SISTER CHURCH IN COSTA RICA

Janet Anderson

*Note: Beginning in the mid 1980's The United Churches of Olympia began a sister-church relationship with **Iglesia El Divino Salvador**, a Presbyterian-related church in Calle Blancos, a suburb of San Jose, Costa Rica. In the early 1990's **Dan Andersen** was instrumental in helping them build a new sanctuary both by being on site helping them build as well as working hard to raise money from our congregation through sales of coffee which he called "Supreme Beans." Several other back-and-forth trips were made.*

On a trip that ten of our congregation made in 2003, we noted that the church was suffering. The charismatic (and bilingual) pastor had left. The size of the congregation had dwindled and they needed a new full-time pastor to help pull things back together, but there were too few members to support it. Our group took things in hand. We asked them if they wanted funds to finish their church building, to help with their mission program, or to fund a pastor. They told us the pastor was the biggest need. So our congregation supplied funds to help out. The pastor's salary was to be only \$12,000 per year. We supplied \$6,000 the first year, \$4,500 the second, \$3,000 the third and made a final payment of \$1,200.*

*The following is from a letter written by **Irene Foulkes**, a professor at Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana (UBL) seminary in San Jose who has been our contact there for many years.*

No Red Ink

"Things are going well at the Calle Blancos church with **Pastor Miguel Vargas** in his sixth year with the congregation. How thankful we are for the Olympia donations that made it possible to contract him full time when our membership was so decimated that we could never have managed it on our own. Just as your subsidies were ending, the church became self-sustaining and 2011 was a good year, with no red ink in any of the months.

Increased Mission Activities

As a Pentecostal, don Miguel has come through an adjustment period to a very different kind of congregation, and the church has also adapted to many new things he brought. Overall it's been a valuable experience on all sides, I think. Concern for the needs of the community around us is increasingly part of the message. We hope this will soon move more of our people into acting that out in concrete projects like the soccer clinic for neighborhood children and adolescents, and the library (the **Artie and Arra Bowning** library!) activities for poor kids from a nearby day care center run by an evangelical woman eager for the kind of input they get from some of our gifted teachers.

Biblical Prophecy, and the Mayan Calendar Explained

Other activities include my teaching the adult class of about 40 people in the church where I continue to serve on the ministerial team. Alternating Sundays with the pastor, we're starting the year off with a series of lessons on biblical prophecy in order to deal with all the noise being made about supposed predictions of the end of the world on December 21, 2012, encoded in the Mayan calendar. We plan to include one Sunday with a UBL professor who is a Mayan himself, well versed in his culture's traditions as well as having been raised in the Guatemalan Presbyterian church, where his father was an elder. His short answer to the entire hullabaloo: yes, a cycle of Mayan time ends in December of this year, but there was always a new cycle of time, so December 21 is not the end of the world according to the Mayans. There are also a number of popular preachers that come up with detailed "prophetic calendars" of their own, so we'll be dealing with the purpose and meaning of biblical prophecy. In all of this we hope to help our people realize that the prediction of future events is only a part of biblical prophecy, which is mostly concerned with interpreting contemporary events and orienting the people of God away from sin and toward active compliance with God's will in the world, providing hope and strength for them in times of suffering.

We haven't heard from anyone in Olympia in quite some time. I hope all is going well. Hearty greetings and hugs from all your friends here."

* Pictures from the 2003 trip are at <http://www.oly-wa.us/church/>
courtesy of Scott Bishop

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

Bunny Hooper

The season of Advent and Christmas are now behind us, but I didn't want it to get to far behind without saying my thanks to all who helped make the season special - from setting up to taking down.

Thank You

Janet Anderson

Roxanne
Armstrong-
Johnson

Scott & Trina
Bishop

Pat Fountain

Bob McMullen
Sylvia Orwig &
Autumn

Dick and Marcia
Smith

Pat & Walt
Sonnenstuhl

Tammy Stampfli

Greg & Marsha
Tudor

and a special thanks to

Sandee Sennes

who came several
times to bail me out.

Dan Lundberg and

Duane Johnson

for the beautiful trees.

Mark Boyd &
Youth-

Lucas Luttermoser,

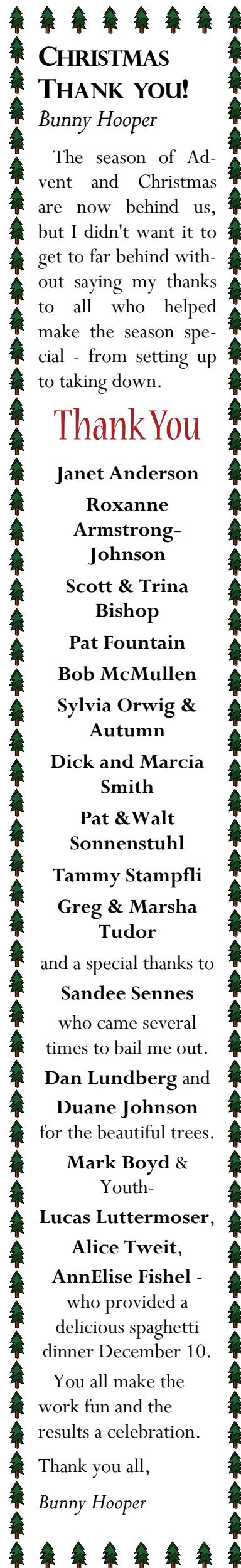
Alice Tweit,

AnnElise Fishel -
who provided a
delicious spaghetti
dinner December 10.

You all make the
work fun and the
results a celebration.





Thank you all,

Bunny Hooper



January 30—February 26, 2012

All Church on-line calendar: <http://tiny.cc/Monthly>

M O N	30	10:30 1:00 7:00	TASTE Bible Study, Rm. 106 Peace Crafters, Rm. 106 Acoustic Music Rehearsal, Chapel	6	10:30 1:00 7:00	TASTE Bible Study, Rm. 106 Peace Crafters, Rm. 106 Acoustic Music Rehearsal, Chapel	13	10:30 1:00	TASTE Bible Study, Rm. 106 Peace Crafters, Rm. 106	20	10:30 1:00 6:30	TASTE Bible Study, Rm. 106 Peace Crafters, Rm. 106 Overflow Shelter (through March 1)	M O N
T U E	31	9:00 5:30	Staff Meeting, Rm. 106 Middlers, Youth Room	7	9:00 4:30 5:30 5:30 7:00 7:00	Staff Meeting, Rm. 106 Bell Choir Middlers, Youth Room Congregational Life Ministry, Fireside Missions, Peace & Justice, Fireside Theology, Natural Sciences & Continuing Creation, Rm. 106	14	9:00 4:30 5:30 6:30	Staff Meeting, Rm. 106 Bell Choir Middlers, Youth Room Stephen Ministry, Fireside	21	9:00 4:30 5:30 6:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Shrove Tuesday</p> Staff Meeting, Rm. 106 Bell Choir Middlers, Youth Room Pancake Supper, Social Hall Overflow Shelter, downstairs 	T U E
W E D	1	10:00 6:00 6:00 7:00	Wed. AM Book Group, tba Administration, Rm. 106 Daughters of Eve, Fireside Drum Circle, Youth Room	8	10:00 5:30 6:30 7:00	Caring Friends, Rm. 106 Missions, Peace & Justice, Rm. 106 Pastor Seeking Committee, Fireside Drum Circle, Youth Room SUBMIT VOICE ARTICLES to <i>voice@theunitedchurches.org</i>	15	3:30 5:30 7:00	Marriage Equality March Rally Marriage Equality March Potluck Drum Circle, Youth Room	22	10:00 6:30 6:30 7:00	Caring Friends, Rm. 106 Ash Wednesday service, Chapel Overflow Shelter, downstairs Drum Circle, Youth Room SUBMIT VOICE ARTICLES to <i>voice@theunitedchurches.org</i>	W E D
T H U	2	1:30 5:30 6:00 7:00	Stephen Leaders, Rm. 106 Worship Ministry, Fireside Christian Education Ministry, Library Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	9	7:00 7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary Church Council, Fireside	16	1:30 7:00 7:00	Stephen Leaders, Rm. 106 Festival Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	23	5:30 6:30 7:00	Pastor Seeking Committee, Rm. 106 Overflow Shelter, downstairs Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	T H U
FRI	3	5:30	Labyrinth Walk, Social Hall 	10	7:00	Men's Breakfast, The Spar Restaurant	17	6:30	Overflow Shelter, downstairs	24	6:30	Overflow Shelter, downstairs	FRI
SAT	4		Middlers Paint the Wall	11			18	6:30 6:30	Overflow Shelter, downstairs Spiritual Cinema, Fireside	25	9:00 6:30	Easter Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary Overflow Shelter, downstairs	SAT
S U N	5	9:00 9:00 10:30 10:45 11:45 11:45	Worship, Chapel Adult Christian Education, Rm. 106 Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School, Downstairs Senior High Youth Group Stewardship Ministry, Rm. 106	12	9:00 9:00 10:30 10:45 11:45	Worship, Chapel Adult Christian Education, Rm. 106 Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School, Downstairs Senior High Youth Group	19	9:00 9:00 10:30 10:45 11:45 11:45 6:30	Worship, Chapel Adult Christian Education, Rm. 106 Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School, Downstairs Senior High Youth Group Stewardship Ministry, Rm. 106 Overflow Shelter, downstairs (through March 1)	26	9:00 10:30 10:30 10:45 11:30 11:45 12:00 5:30 6:30	Worship, Chapel Adult Christian Education, Rm. 106 Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School, Downstairs Chamber Ensemble, Sanctuary Senior High Youth Group New Members Class, InterPlay, Fireside Overflow Shelter, downstairs	S U N



THE UNITED CHURCHES OF OLYMPIA

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February 1, 2012

MARCH FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY, RALLY, POTLUCK

Pat Dickason

February 9—February 15
Vancouver, WA —->>Olympia

The **Marriage Equality March** begins in Vancouver, WA on 2/9 and concludes in Olympia on 2/15. Initially sponsored by First Congregational Church, UCC in Vancouver, WA, the March is co-sponsored by Equal Rights Washington, The Religious Coalition for Equality, The Community of Welcoming Congregations, the Faith Action Network of Washington and the UCC Central Pacific Conference.

Our Council approved our participation in the March, and The United Churches is registering as a church. Individual marchers can walk as much or as little as you wish. The schedule for the March:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Thu, 2/9: Vancouver to La Center (16 mi) | 2) Fri, 2/10: La Center to Kalama (17 mi) |
| 3) Sat, 2/11: Kalama to Longview (13 mi) | 4) Sun, 2/12: Longview to Vader (17 mi) |
| 5) Mon, 2/13: Vader to Napavine (18 mi) | 6) Tue, 2/14: Napavine to Tenino (18mi) |
| 7) Wed, 2/15: Tenino to Olympia (17 mi) | |

For more details about the March, see the Vancouver UCC website at <http://vanucc.net/?p=2677>. We'll receive a March map to publicize soon.

Rally and Potluck

On February 15, marchers and supporters will meet at **The United Churches around 4:00 p.m.** and then march (process) to the Capitol steps for a concluding march rally. Following the rally, marchers and supporters will return to United Churches for a celebratory potluck in the Social Hall.

Three Ways to Participate

- 1) **Help provide coffee and a snack** to marchers and supporters before the rally on the Capitol steps.
- 2) **Help with the potluck** by contributing food and helping with set-up. CLM and Rainbow Circles are hosting the potluck---all are most welcome to attend and contribute. Other faith communities are also being asked to attend and contribute to the potluck.
- 3) **Join the march** to the Capitol steps, at which-ever point you wish. We hope to see many of you at this event!

If you have questions, please contact **Pat Dickason**, UCC Moderator, p.dickason@comcast.net or 753-7647.

IFAD—INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY

Tuesday, February 14, 8:30-3:30
The United Churches

IFAD brings together social justice advocates from faith communities and nonprofits across the state of Washington. The day's activities include workshops on issues and advocacy (topics: **the state budget, environment, disability services, and housing/homelessness**), legislative briefings, visits with your legislators, and an interfaith worship.

Early bird registration: \$20 before January 31; \$25 after. Includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials and organizing.

Visit <http://fanwa.org> for on-line or mail in registration.

Prayers For

- ✦ **Ethel Lowe**, mother of Dan Lowe, at Highline Hospital after a stroke.
- ✦ **Judy Schultz**, surgery this week
- ✦ **Tyra Lindquist**, upcoming cancer treatments
- ✦ **Muriel Hastings**, Panorama C&R
- ✦ **Shari Kelly**, sister of Sandi Trudeau, ongoing battle with breast cancer