

The Newsletter of the **Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren**
tel. 206.525.8900 • olympicchurch.org • email: ovsecretary@gmail.com

You monkeys, you!

by Ken Miller Rieman

If my daughter, Marigold, is any gauge, one-year-old humans aren't a whole lot different from the monkeys in the classic children's book, *Caps for Sale*. And that got me thinking about being a follower of Jesus.

The 1940 book by Esphyr Slobodkina features a peddler of caps who—whether for spectacle or convenience, carries all of his multi-colored caps stacked high on his head. One day, not finding any buyers in town, he takes a walk out to the country. When he spies a great tree he decides to take a rest but when he awakes, his caps are all gone. A quick search reveals a tree full of monkeys, all wearing his caps!

Of her many books, *Caps for Sale* is one of Goldie's top favorites, but up to this point, the actual story is of absolutely no interest. What happens next captures the whole of her attention. Our cap peddler with no caps stands up, angrily shakes his finger and cries, 'You monkeys, you! You give me back my caps!'

Goldie LOVES this part. Of course we put lots of emotion into reading it and she rewards us with peals of laughter and gestured imitations of our anger. She can't say the words yet, but she shakes her finger just like the peddler. In the story, the monkeys appear to mock the peddler. They shake their fingers back at him and say 'Tsk, tsk, tsk.'

Of course, the situation escalates. The infuriated peddler shakes both hands and repeats his command. 'You monkeys, you! You give me back my caps!'

The monkeys indulge him with more imitation. The peddler stamps his feet, and once again the monkeys infuriate him by doing the same, and that's just fine with Goldie because by now, she's SO glad she thought to have us read THIS book to her. How often does she get Mama and Papa both shouting and waving their hands and stamping their feet and laughing at the same time?

Well the story goes on, and so does Goldie—on to other things that is. With the emotional climax over, Goldie is off hunting for other excitement. The creative twist that turns a funny catastrophe into a life-lesson is lost on our own one-year-old-almost-monkey. Surrendering himself to the ridiculous impossibility of the situation,



'You monkeys, you...you give me back my caps!'

On these pages:

2. Sunday School
3. Board Report
4. Senior Services Survey
5. Celebration of St. Francis, Oct. 7
6. District Conf.

(continued on page 4)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The New Olympian
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
425 NE 95th Street
Seattle WA 98115

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Seattle, WA
Permit #01259



Classes for Children & Youth

New curriculum starting September 7

Age appropriate Sunday School classes for children and youth start on September 7. All kids are welcome to attend.

The Junior & Senior High youth class (grades 5-12) will meet at 9:30 am.

Preschool, Kindergarten & Primary (grades 1-4) classes will continue to meet during worship services.

We offer a nurturing setting in a family atmosphere where every child is valued and loved! This year we're rolling out the Church of the Brethren's new curriculum, Shine! *Shine: Living in God's Light* is a dynamic Sunday school curriculum for age 3 to grade 8 that engages Christian communities in their life together.



Adult Sunday School Classes

Beginning September 7 at 9:30am

Prayer is simultaneously the most common, as well as the most confusing, aspect of the Christian life. This fall season, join our adult Sunday school class as we meet to read and discuss the book *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* by Philip Yancey. We'll consider together such questions as:

Is God listening? Why do so many prayers seem to go unanswered? How can our prayer life be more satisfying?

This class will also serve as a new membership class for those seeking to become members of our church community.

Questions about prayer will be placed in conversation with Brethren spiritual practice and heritage, for what promises to be a very rich discussion.

Please let the church office know if you'd like us to order you a copy of the book! Cost is \$15; any additional donations will cover costs for those who cannot afford books. *Facilitated by Bobbi Dykema.*



Carol Mason reads from scripture during the consecration of Bobbi Dykema in her ministerial licensing renewal, August 17.

The Board Report

Highlights of the August 13 meeting

Here is a quick overview of our Ministries in action over the summer.

Throughout Summer - Nate and Angela continue to volunteer with BVS in Guatemala; Stephanie Herkelrath and Sue Daniels worked with Brethren Disaster Relief in Oso; Thursday Youth Drop-in regularly attracts over 25 youth.

June - The Koinonia Dessert Auction raised over \$1,500. We recognized 5 graduates.

July - Frosty was our delegate to Annual Conference in Columbus, OH; 5 advisors and 9 youth from OV joined PNWD youth at NYC in Colorado; Maple Leaf Summer Social (10 from OV)

August - Camp Koinonia (5 leaders, 15+2 youth)

Coffee Hour / Fellowship - people have been awesome in Jim & Goldie's absence!

Our current focus:

Rally Sunday is Sept. 7. This is when we return to our 11am worship service, with Sunday School for all ages from 9:30 to 10:30. A special pancake breakfast will begin at 9am and there will be special activities to follow. Special music is planned during the worship service, featuring our pianist, Annie and her husband Mike Center. Thank you Annie and Mike, we are looking forward to this!

Our all church retreat will be October 18.

We are working with Jan Wood to facilitate our retreat this year. She has been with us before and we can look forward to a motivating, empowering event. Mark your calendars!

Bobbi's licensing renewal, Sun. Aug. 17.

Plans were made for a licensing renewal ceremony during the worship service and an Ice Cream Social the day before with Bobbi's parents.

Maintenance items. We repaired a leak in the roof over the back entryway. We've gotten some of our exterior trim and siding painted and made some repairs to the van. We're seeking bids to repair the front entrance railing.

Sunday School Teachers for Fall. We are working on having a full compliment of classes and teachers for the fall. If you feel called to help in this area let us know.

Finance Report. Our giving is down during the summer months and we have had unexpected expenses so our cash flow is challenged.

Membership. We're celebrating Olivia Russell's baptism at Camp Koinonia! Several others have also expressed interest in joining the church so the class on Prayer that Bobbi Dykema will teach in the fall will include information about the teachings and spiritual practices of the Church of the Brethren.

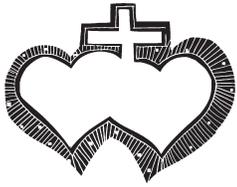
Coming up:

- All-Church Work Party on Sat., Sept. 6, 9am to noon.
- Fall Schedule, Sunday School at 9:30am / Worship at 11:00 am, begins Sept. 7.
- District Conference in Portland September 26-28: Ken is the Moderator. Frosty, Roger, Bill and Sylvia will be our delegates.
- PNWD Disaster Relief delegation serving in New Jersey September 28 - October 4.
- Cider Squeeze Saturday, October 11 at Frosty Wilkinson's in Mt. Vernon.
- Northaven Summit Celebration is on October 17.
- Youth Retreat with David Radcliff, November 7-9.

—Sylvia Hershberger, Moderator



Sam Edmark's debut as worship leader, August 17



(*'You monkeys, you!' continued from page 1*) the peddler takes off his own cap, the only one he still has, throws it on the ground, and starts to storm away. The monkeys love it. They, too, throw their caps down on the ground and our despondent peddler sees he is **SAVED**. Without delay he re-gathers his caps, stacks them all high on his head, and walks into town crying 'Caps! Caps for sale!'

The life lesson we learn from monkeys is that sometimes we misunderstand how others are relating to us. We might imagine that they are mocking us or trying to make our lives more difficult. They could just be entertaining themselves and imitating what we do.

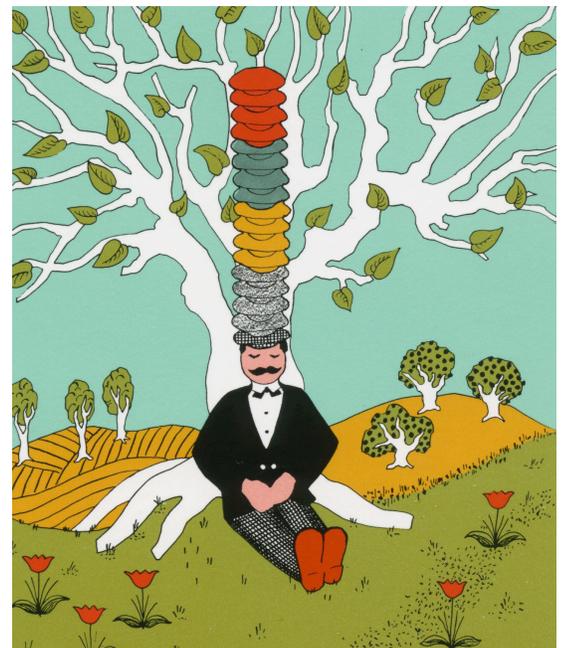
Marigold has only learned a handful of words, and not all of those can rightly be called words. They are vocalizations that represent ideas. 'Bye bye.' 'Ba' (plane). 'Wow.' In the absence of a greater vocabulary, Goldie relies upon other patterns of expression: guttural sounds, emotion, gestures, faces and especially eye contact.

We who have spent our whole lives in 'the church' are not always aware of the distinctiveness of our thinking, our language and our culture. Those who've been raised outside the church can have trouble understanding our behavior, let alone what's behind it. And are we any different? Aren't we often puzzled by the practices of other faiths, or the factors which lead people away from religion? Don't we often assume that the problems of these others could be solved if they simply became like us?

I wonder if this is part of why our world is so full of people shaking their fingers and stamping their feet. Maybe our relative lack of spiritual vocabulary has left us trying to interpret the most obvious emotions and gestures of others, all the while missing what is behind them.

Marigold is one year old, but in another few months she'll understand hundreds of words. In another year or so, it will be thousands. But for the time being, we're left with more obvious things. We show her love. We pay attention to her. We play. We make things and she tears them down. She tracks our emotions.

Wouldn't our neighborhoods and cities and world be healthier if we tried to make sure we got the basics of communication right? Do our most passionate actions express love and respect for the dignity of all people? Is our silence an indication of our listening and learning or a sign of our reluctance to challenge injustice? Is our speech an act of self-justification or confession of failure and repentance? Can those who don't speak our language tell the difference? If not, maybe we need to be still more clear. Maybe its time to make love the most visible mark of those who follow Jesus.



Senior Services Survey

at OVCC on Sunday, Sept. 7—9:30am

ARRYVE, a local consulting company, is conducting a survey for Northaven. They are interviewing seniors over the age of 65 to understand what variety of services would help seniors remain independent in their homes longer.

They will be at Olympic View Community Church on Sept. 7th at 9:30am and would be interested in gathering senior volunteers to partake in a short interview. They are not taking any names and all data is anonymous for research purposes. ARRYVE looks forward to hearing the valued opinions from our community. Come early for pancakes at the Rally Sunday breakfast, 9:00 am!

Rally Sunday is Sept. 7th!

Fall is just around the corner, kids are headed back to school, and here at Olympic View we are ready for an uplifting autumn full of activities for the whole family, starting with our annual fall kick-off event, **Rally Sunday!**

- 9:00 —Pancake Breakfast
- 9:30 —Sunday School Classes begin for all ages; senior services survey with AARYVE.
- 11:00 —Worship
- 12:15—Fellowship
- 12:45—CWS School Kit Assembly Line

We look forward to your presence and participation at this fun-filled event for all!

...and did we mention the pancakes!?!? Yum!



All-Church Work Party

Saturday, Sept. 6—9 am to 12 pm

Come together and support our ministries by tending to some much needed work around our building and grounds. Help get classrooms ready for Sunday School, or spruce up the gardens if a green thumb is one of your talents. Chores will be available for volunteers of any and all abilities at the next OVCC Work Party!

Please contact the office, or check in with our Building Trustee, Kristi Morris if you have any questions.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men..."

— Colossians 3.23



Earth Ministry's 20th Annual Celebration of St. Francis

October 7, 2014, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Olympic View Community Church welcomes Earth Ministry and John de Graaf, an international speaker on issues of sustainability, time balance, and happiness, the featured presenter at Earth Ministry's 20th Annual Celebration of St. Francis.

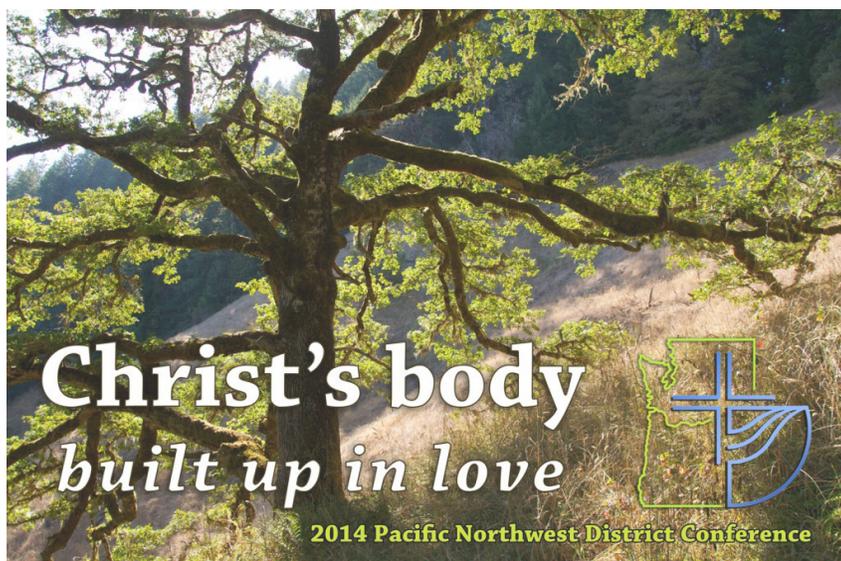
John, Executive Director of *Take Back Your Time* and co-author of *Affluenza* and *What's the Economy For, Anyway?*, has been producing documentaries for public television for 37 years. He will make the case that Americans work too much and consume too much, and that our passion for economic growth is a key driving force toward increasing inequality, unhappiness, stress, and poor environmental stewardship in the United States. Throughout the evening he will point to promising possibilities for improving our quality of life. The plea of St. Francis to slow down and become re-enchanted with the sacredness of the world has never been more relevant than it is today.

Join us for this special event on October 7 to learn how time away from the workplace can improve your health, community, life satisfaction and stewardship of all God's creation. We look forward to seeing you here at OVCC for this special celebration!



*John de Graaf is a documentary filmmaker, and producer of fifteen prime time national PBS documentaries. He is the co-author of *Affluenza: the all-consuming epidemic* and *What's the economy for, anyway?* He has taught at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.*





2014 District Conference, September 26-28

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Eph. 4.15-16

**Peace Church of the Brethren,
Portland OR, September 26-28**

All are welcome!

Debbie Roberts, will preach at Friday's opening worship. Matt Guynn, will lead workshops 'Dealing with Difficult Conversations' and 'Deliberatively Christian Conflict Transformation' and Sarah Kinsel, will preach at Sunday morning's worship.

Stay tuned for registration information and thanks for sharing this event with your friends.



Save the date!

CROP Walk 2014—October 5

Time: 12:30 pm
Location: Green Lake United
Methodist Church
6415 1st Ave NE, Seattle

Sharing Together in Prayer

In Our Community:

- Thanks for **Griffin Hernandez'** successful surgery to remove a non-cancerous growth from his foot.
- For **Dorothy Bollinger**, recovering from surgery on August 26 to remove one of her kidneys.
- For **Charles Walker**, waiting for back surgery to be scheduled.
- For **Jimmy Barnes'** ongoing recovery from back surgery in July.
- For Stephanie Herkelrath's sister-in-law, **Julie**, facing cataract surgery at age 61 and for **Julie's friend** who is terminally ill and healing from a significant burn injury.
- Thanks for **Bill and JoAnn Shoemaker's** safe return from their cruise to Alaska.
- For j. Scott's partner, **Marie**, just diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer (Glioblastoma).
- Thanks for three healthy and growing children celebrating their first birthdays: **Miles Miller, Marigold Miller Rieman** and **Emilee Lau Woo**.
- For **Terence McBain**, homeless and applying to Bible College in Woodland Park, CO.
- Prayers for a healing and inspiring **District Conference** in Portland, Sep. 26-28.

In Our State, Nation, and World:

- For **Nate & Angela**, working with BVS in Unión Victoria, Guatemala.
- For **the people of Unión Victoria, Guatemala**, fighting the fungal blight that is destroying their coffee plants, their principal source of income.
- For **the people fighting against the growing outbreak of the Ebola virus** in West Africa.
- For the **cease fire between Gaza and Israel** and lasting measures to promote justice and peace.
- For the civil strife in **Ukraine**, and growing international tension with Russia.
- For the ongoing violence in **Syria**.
- For **racial justice** in Ferguson, Missouri AND communities across our nation.
- For **all students** returning to classes, success in the new school year!