

The New Olympian

March 2015

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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Our world isn't black and white

by pastor Ken Miller Rieman

This last weekend I officiated a memorial for a 48 year-old woman who died from alcoholism. During the service, her father expressed a most compelling combination of regret and insight into the conflict that plagued their relationship.

"I struggled with guilt over the personal failures that led to her addiction. I was angry with her for deciding she couldn't raise her son. I just didn't see how any person could make that choice..." he shared.

But shortly after her death, he got a call from one of her closest friends. The friend had some hard words for him. "You've always seen this as a black and white thing! You've never understood how complicated it was. She wasn't healthy enough to raise him, but she was wise enough to know that."

I've seen how regret can complicate grieving. It's always hard to lose loved ones. It's even harder to lose one's own children. When one harbors resentment, death can leave us fearing that the pain of that resentment will never end.

Before the memorial service, the father poured out his heart to me. He wanted to forgive his daughter but he knew he'd lost the chance for her to forgive him. I invited him to write her a letter. He brought that



letter to the service and asked me if I could read it to the family and friends gathered.

There's something about grief that binds us together. I've rarely felt the Holy Spirit move more powerfully than during our rituals of grief. I think it's because at grief's core is love. Love is the reason for the pain. When a community of faith creates a space that is safe for those in pain to acknowledge their brokenness and need it is powerful medicine indeed.

After I read the father's letter, I gave the rest of those gathered a chance to share their own memories or blessings. One man shared of his own struggle with alcoholism. He had words of thanks and comfort for the father. "You may not have related to her as well as you could have or should have, but her sickness was not your fault. There's

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The New Olympian

('Our world...' continued)

nothing you could have done that would have freed her from that disease."

Alcoholism is something that true addicts are powerless, on their own, to overcome. Alcoholics Anonymous teaches that surviving the addiction requires recognition of its power and a surrender to a power that is even higher. We may call that God, or Love, or Truth. What matters most is not one's precise theology. What matters is one's recognition of true need and the true source for meeting that need.

This last weekend, one father confessed his blindness and need for healing and though his daughter is no longer living, the community of family and friends that carries her spirit brought him sight. His courage opened the door. His love for his daughter cried out for wholeness. The Spirit poured in. "I know what forgiveness is, now," he said. Thanks be to God.



All-Church Work Party

Saturday, March 28: 9 am to 12 pm

Spring is upon us, and we've scheduled our annual spring cleaning work party. Come together and support our ministries by tending to some much needed work around our building and grounds. Chores are always available for volunteers of any and all abilities, so please join us!

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

"The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more."

— Jonas Salk

Join us

For the 13th annual...

St. Patrick's Game Day & Green Potluck

Saturday, March 14, 2015

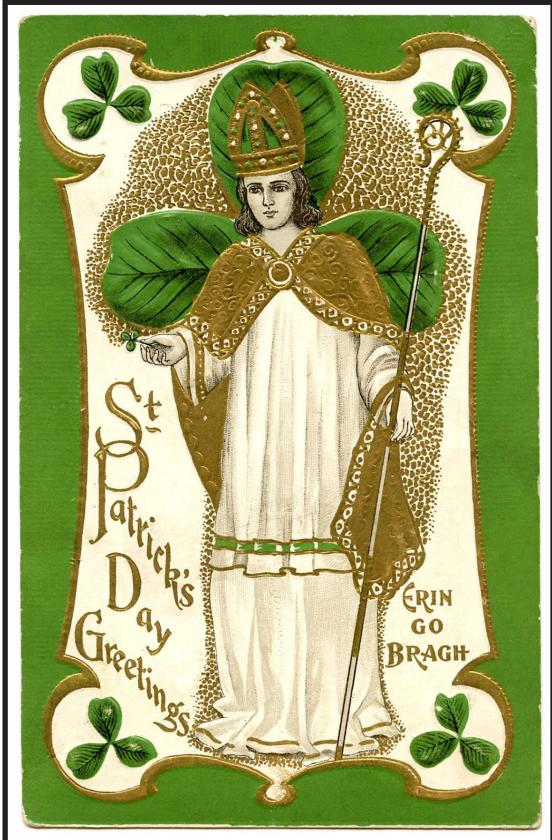
3:30 pm - Games begin!

5:00 pm - Potluck Dinner

Irish or otherwise, people around the world honor the life of the legendary St. Patrick and the unique culture of Ireland... and Olympic View does it with FOOD & FUN!

Please bring a hearty dish to share! Traditional corned beef & cabbage will be served, but other entrees, side dishes & desserts would be welcome contributions.

Some games will be provided - some classics & some new, but if you have a favorite game, feel free to bring it too.



Acting on the Vision Today

February 2015 Board Report

by Roger Edmark, Board Chair

Wow! What a start to 2015! This year has started off at full speed ahead. In just a short time we have already had two well received fellowship events – the Jan 11th International Potluck led by Jessica, and the Feb 8th St. Valentine's Feast put on by the Guatemala Immersion delegation. On Jan 25th we welcomed back Nate and Angela, who are with BVS in Guatemala. It was a great opportunity to hear about the village they support (Unión Victoria) as well as kick off the mission trip with a breakfast fund raiser. A few hearty souls went to the Winter Retreat at Camp Koinonia from Jan 30th to Feb 1st, and a couple of us are going down to the Men's Retreat at Camp Myrtlewood in Oregon. And that is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of active involvement of the people of Olympic View in ministry.

God's love is not just something 'out there' we try to embrace. It is something **in us** that needs to get out. We do that by serving each other at church events and by reaching out to help people to improve their lives. Whether that reaching out touches youth at Camp Koinonia, older adults at Northaven, families in Guatemala, or at risk youth in Seattle, it has the power to transform lives. That is what we are about – making a difference. Keep it up!

As with any year we have several challenges and opportunities ahead to tackle with prayer and action.

1) Mission Trip to Guatemala

Six youth and adults have committed to go to Guatemala on a spring mission trip from April 10th to the 19th. They will live with the people of Unión Victoria for most of that time and find out firsthand how the people of the village live. Because Nate and Angela are there through BVS, the group will get a much more in depth understanding of how we can come alongside the people of Unión Victoria in support and understanding. Though there is a value to the people of Unión Victoria of having others care about their village, the greatest impact of a mis-



Roger Edmark leads a Children's Story about car washes, and about how baptism cleanses us.



sion trip is often in the hearts and minds of those who participate. It helps foster a life of caring and serving when we really know the plight of others and the world they live in every day. Pray for those going and continue to support them as they raise funds. They are about halfway to their goal, but there are only a couple of month left to go.

2) Early Financial Challenges

The beginning of the year is usually a challenge financially. Several annual and quarterly payments come due at the first of the year which almost always hit us like a ton of bricks. In January alone these early payments made our monthly expenses \$3,000 higher than normal. We started 2015 with an unusually small cash reserve and our January income was low so we already have a financial challenge. Your faithful giving has seen us through financially tough times in the past, so I wanted to let you know exactly where we stand. We continue to encourage community groups to use our facility, which is such a great asset for the community, but that is the only other income we receive. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to accelerate giving or to give a special gift to help us get on firmer financial footing as we start 2015.

(‘Board Report’ continued)

3) Spring Retreat “How shall we sing the Lord’s song?”

The Pacific Northwest District COB churches are putting on a Spring Retreat this year. It will be held in Lacey Washington on the weekend of March 6-8 and is an opportunity to gather together for fellowship, singing, seminars and messages of hope and inspiration. The special guest will be Jonathan Shively, the executive director of Congregational Life Ministries for the COB and also a very accomplished musician. He was the pianist for all of the worship services at NYC this last summer. It will be a great event! Roger and Kathy, Frosty, Bobbi and Ken are already committed to go, but there is still time to come with us. It is only \$110 per person for a full weekend which includes all accommodations and food. A great deal! Let any of us or the office know and we can help you sign up.

4) All Church Spring Work Party – Saturday, March 28

Every spring we gather together to help get the church in shape for the rest of the year. We will be doing that on Saturday March 28. Come as early as you want but usually by about 8 or 9 AM and with many hands we can finish up by about 1 PM. Even if manual labor is no longer your cup of tea, we have a simple meal together at lunch time, so maybe that is a way you can help. Remember, the more that come, the more we can do!

Thanks for your faithful support to the ministries we accomplish together!

— Roger

(below) The joyful faces of Yvonne Vierthaler, Bobbi Dykema, Kristi Morris & Griffin Hernandez



(above) Grace Edmark shows off her antique traditional Brethren attire for our International Potluck in January. Simple elegance!

Don't miss this year's Northaven Wellness Fair!

Friday, March 13th

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

at Northaven Retirement
11045 8th Ave NE

Over 35 agencies and vendors will be there providing information and answering questions regarding senior-related services!

SENIOR LIVING WITH A **HEART**
NORTHAVEN

Adult Sunday School Lenten Study Focus

The church has much to learn from an often overlooked community--those with disabilities. We explore with theologian Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier, founder of the worldwide L'Arche communities, how everyday Christians can embody a different way of being--one marked by gentleness, peacemaking and faithfulness.

Class meets Sundays at 9:30 am, led by our own Bobbi Dykema, PhD.



Rico & Cortez Williams keeping Marigold entertained...or is it the other way around?

Creative Space Available

for local community groups & non-profits

As a community church we are committed to partnership with like-minded non-profit organizations to enrich the lives of those closest to us and enhance our combined impact on our community. In addition to hosting meetings for community groups, we also have dedicated space available for rent. Our facility offers a quiet and welcoming atmosphere full of natural light in a great North Seattle location!

If you are a community based or non-profit organization in need of office, meeting, classroom or creative activity space, we welcome your inquiries.

Please contact our secretary, Jessica Quiroz at 206.525.8900 or ovsecretary@gmail.com.



Enjoying a flavorful meal together at our International Potluck in January: Dorothy Bollinger, Betty & George DeBon, Jerry Vierthaler and Haile Bedada

Love Feast and Easter Schedule

Holy Week comes early this year, and our annual **Maundy Thursday Love Feast & Footwashing** ceremony will be held at **6:30 pm on April 2**. Join us as we renew our commitment to follow Jesus' example of sacrificial love.

Our Easter Sunday plans are still being finalized, with details for hopefully repeating last year's sunrise service not quite solid as of yet, but here's our anticipated schedule for **Easter Sunday, April 5**:

- **8 am - 'Bob Marley' Sunrise Service (tentative)**
- **9 am - Easter Breakfast (our final fund raising event for the Guatemala trip!)**
- **9:30 am - Sunday School**
- **11 am - Traditional Easter Service**

We look forward to your presence during all or part of our Easter Sunday celebrations!



De-cluttering? Donation Drive for ADWAS

(Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services)

If you're anything like the average Jane or Joe today, what little storage space you have at home is FULL. It seems like we are always in need of more room for miscellaneous stuff! A lot of times we receive a gift or update a room and replace slightly worn household items, but hang on to the old, yet perfectly good ones "just in case".

If you have some of those "just in case" items hanging around your home, and you'd like to liberate your storage space for something more, this donation drive is for YOU!

ADWAS has a supportive housing unit here in the Maple Leaf neighborhood, and they are always in need of donated items to stock their apartments.

Here is their Supportive Housing Wish List:

- Coffee makers (6 to 8 cups)
- Cookie Sheets
- Hand Mixers
- Mixing Bowls - medium & large
- Kitchen Towels
- Pots/Pans: 8" & 10" skillets, 1 QT sauce pans, 3 QT sauce pans, Dutch Oven pots (prefer NO non-stick coating on pans)
- Slotted spoons
- Spatulas
- Toasters
- Tongs (nylon)
- Bath Towels
- Shower Curtains
- Bathroom Rugs
- Set of twin size bed sheets/cases
- Brand new pillows
- Twin size and/or double size blankets & comforters

In support of ADWAS (and your spring cleaning efforts), we'll be collecting donations here at the church of the above mentioned household items during the month of March. Feel free to contact the office with any questions about this donation drive. Thanks for your support!

More information about how you can support ADWAS can be found at:

www.adwas.org



The Goodman family...



The Bosselman family...

Sharing Together in Prayer

In Our Community:

- For the **Goodman family**, mourning the death of **Shellie Goodman** on January 17.
- For the **Bosselman family**, mourning the death of their son **Alex** on February 16.
- Thanks for **all of the love and support** from the church and community to help with their memorial services over the same weekend.
- For Kathy Edmark's niece **Emily**, who is seriously ill once more, prayers for her healing and for strength for her family.
- For **baby Isabella**.

In Our State, Nation, and World:

- For our brothers and sisters of **Ekklesiayar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)**, prayers for their safety and unity in the face of continued regional violence.
- Thanks for the **generous support from our congregation** of the women of **Unión Victoria, Guatemala**, who are now making plans for the construction of their much needed women's community center!

