

# THE OLYMPIC NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

tel. 206-525-8900 • www.olympicchurch.org e-mail: info@olympicchurch.org

August 2007

## Living the Word

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Many of you already know that I recently drove four of our youth down to Camp Myrtlewood, in Southwest Oregon's coastal range, for an eco-stewardship work camp. We joined youth from Colorado and Pennsylvania to learn about the ecology of forest and stream on-site, and undertake two work projects. Our first involved the grooming of some unhealthy forest, thinning overcrowded trees and trimming invasive brush from the forest floor to reduce the fire fuel load and to 'release' young trees for the gathering of much needed sun-light. Our second involved the building of prayer oratory out of environmentally sustainable materials. 'Cob' is an ancient material, made of sand, clay, and straw. We mixed it with our feet and applied it with our hands! We used only buckets, tarps, and wheelbarrows to mix and transport our cob. For construction, we needed little more than a level and saw for trimming the walls and openings which we formed with our hands.

Since returning, we've begun to reflect on the experience. I will offer a few of my own, then share those of three of our participants.

On-site coordinator, and Myrtlewood camp co-director, John Jones has a strong and deep spirit. His kindness bespeaks an attentiveness all that is around him.

On our first night, our group went out to sit on the banks of Myrtle Creek. After a brief devotion, we discussed the week ahead. A few of us were pretty excited to get working and we wanted John to know that we were ready to get a lot done, and that we would probably far exceed his hopes and expectations for the week. What a wise man! He saw our bravado and deftly side-stepped it. "What I really hope for this week" he replied "is that we all find the opportunity to be present in this place, in these woods, and by this creek." He went on, "We could all break our backs down here to get twice as many trees cut down or twice as much cob stacked up and I don't think it would mean nearly as much as learning to really love the forest and creek. When we learn to love something, we deepen our commitment to it. When we are committed to something, it becomes a part of the way we live our lives, and that is how our lives really make a difference. It's not as much what we do and how we learn to be. So I hope you leave this place having had a

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Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
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good time, having made some new friends, and having grown to love God's creation in a new way."

Judging from the feelings of all in our group, our week was a success. We grew in our understanding of, our love for, and our commitment to being better stewards of creation. I thank each of you for the support you gave as a congregation so that our youth could have this opportunity.

Ken Miller Rieman

*Being not-so-skilled in the upper-body strength, it was always a challenge for me to keep up with all the manual labor our group had to do. But after working all day, then going back to the field to play and relax, I got to thinking. I was thinking of something someone said during the work camp; "we are human beings, not human doings." I was able to enjoy the beautiful scenery, and be with the other campers while laughing, joking, playing, talking, sitting... in other words, we did everything together. I had a blast, and a week definitely did not seem long enough to anyone. On the last day, our director asked us what the hardest part of our week was. Taylor, from Pennsylvania, said "When I go home, I'm going to tell my friends that the hardest part about the whole week was leaving." I agree with Taylor.*

Amy Helmuth

*I liked creating the prayer oratory with cob, meeting new people and interacting with them. I learned that I need to be aware of what is happening to the environment and how to build with cob.*

Misghana Andemichael

*I think, even though I wasn't originally all for the idea of the work camp, it was definitely worth a week (if not more) of my time.*

*The Washington/Oregon district does not have very many Brethren members in it, and this makes it very hard to get to know and relate with the other youth of the church because there aren't very many other opportunities to meet with these young adults. The work camp originally let me be introduced to 7 other youth from*



*Pennsylvania and Colorado, and later in the week, a plethora of other youth because a family camp was going on at the same time. I believe that during the week, I was able to make ties that hopefully will never be forgotten or severed, and I was able to strengthen my own feelings about the Church.*

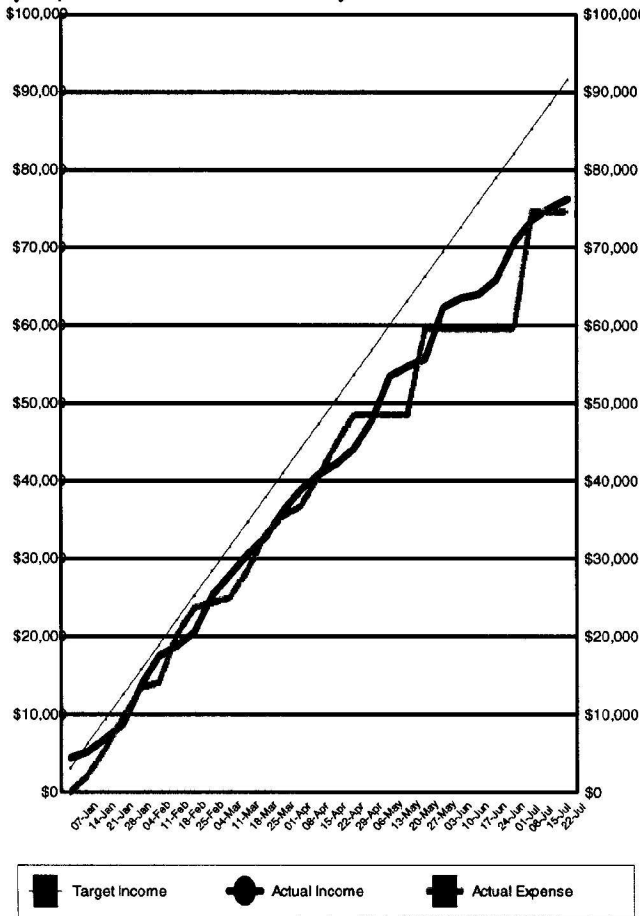
*Perhaps more importantly, I was able to experience the very home-like and welcoming environment of Camp Myrtlewood and when it was time to go back home, all of the work camp members agreed that we wanted to come back next year. After a week, I felt as close to Camp Myrtlewood as I feel with Camp Koinonia, and the staff there who played countless Frisbee and football games made that very possible.*

*Lastly, I am grateful for the 8 hour ride I spent with my fellow Seattlites. I was able to get to know them very well, and, on the way back, I was able to get to know myself through the enneagram personality types. We had lots of great laughs.*

*To all that made this trip possible, I salute you. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to become a better person, and a stronger Brethren.*

Xuny Haley

## 2007 YTD Financial Support for Ministries Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren



### Sunday Morning Worship Building Openers Needed

Olympic View is looking for volunteers to help open the church **one Sunday morning each month**. This is an easy way to donate a bit of your time—you're coming in anyway, right? Preparing the church for Sunday Worship consists in arriving early, turning on a few lights, unlocking the doors, and starting the coffee. Then, you'll have a quiet hiatus for contemplation prior to the service. If you are a member of OVCCoB, and you have yet to volunteer, this is a great way to enhance your relationship with the Church through service.

Please contact Building Trustee Haile Bedada at phone number (206) 368-9737 for more information and to sign up!

### Report from the Board

The OVCCB Board of Administration met on July 10, 2007.

We shared concerns and prayed for those within our church family

We planned for the upcoming "Maple Leaf Summer Social" where we will sponsor the "Bubble Man" and have a booth with information about OVCCB.

We reviewed the recent church survey and will continue to evaluate the results at our next meeting.

We are excited about Vacation Bible School and look forward to exploring the "Great Bible Reef."

We are organizing a "Planning Session" on the weekend of September 22nd. Executive and Board members will attend as part of the duties of their offices, and we hope that anyone in the church who has an interest in program planning for our church will put the date on their calendars, too.

We rejoiced with Pastor Ken that the "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence" cohort group he is facilitating is planning a number of gatherings in the upcoming year.

We reviewed the budget and noted that while actual income and actual expense are close, we are below our target income by about \$10,000 for the year. We encourage all members to prayerfully consider increasing their giving to OVCCB and its ministries.

We rejoiced in hearing how inspiring our youth found the "Junior High National Youth Conference" that they attended in June. Our youth were transformed by their trip, and are eager to share with others.

We are thankful for all those in our church family and ask all to hold in their prayers those who have special needs at this time.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Herkelrath,  
Church Clerk

## G.u.i.l.d. Women's Breakfast

Sept. 26, 7:30am—8:30am

Welcome, ladies, to the first "Fall Breakfast." This will be a "Vintage" show and tell. Please bring one vintage item for all to enjoy. Mark your calendars now for the *fourth* Wednesday in September.

## Deacon News

The next Deacon Training Session is set for Tuesday, August 28.

We will be having a Communion Service on August 5, 2007.

The Deacon Training dates for the next quarter (Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.) will be determined at the August session.

## Sharing....

### Giving Thanks....

### Communicating...

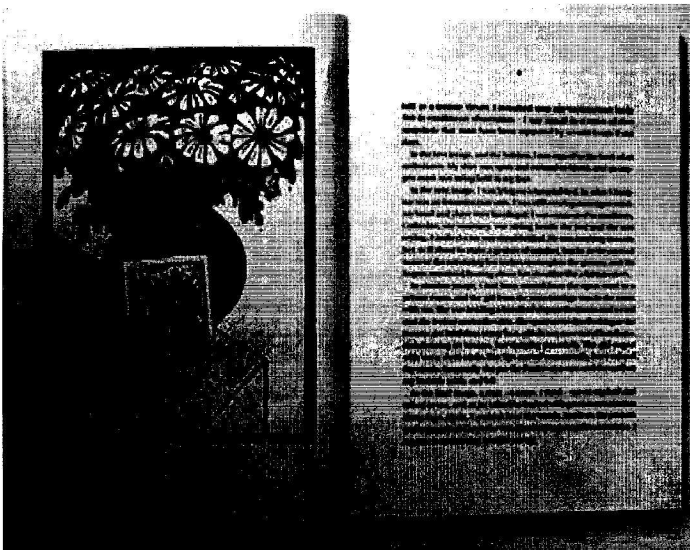
*Dear Olympic View Friends,*

Thank you for the many, many months of prayers for my father, Bill Helmuth, and nephew, Ryan Halifax. As many of you know, they both passed away within weeks of each other. We had a lovely service in Republic, Washington for my father. Amy sang a song that my niece picked out. I don't know how she got through it; not a dry eye in the church. There will be a celebration of Ryan's life the middle of August in Canada where my sister and her family live. Thank you for the cards and kind words of sympathy.

*Mike Helmuth and Family*

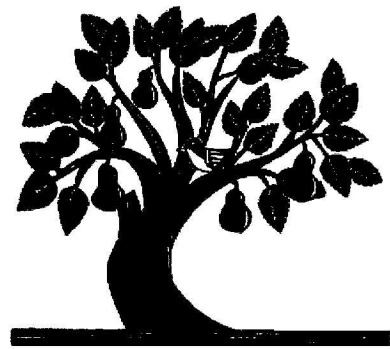
## Red Hatters...

After much fun dressing up and hitting the town, the Olympic View Red Hatters are disbanding because, well, life's like that sometimes...hectic! JoAnn Shoemaker, Geraldine Campbell, and the group's extremely active participants have decided to direct their attention toward other pressing life projects at this time. Everyone had fun and will continue to mingle and see one another around Olympic View. Thanks to all who participated in and orchestrated events!



## Olympic View Book Club

*Time:* the club will meet at 10:30 am  
*Date:* Friday, August 24, 2007  
*Place:* Lois Thomsen's house  
*Book:* *A Sudden Country*,  
by Karen Fisher



## Shared Prayer Requests

### In our community...

For the family and friends of **Evy Berg**,  
grieving her death Tuesday, July 24, 2007.

For the Brindle and Ricketts families mourning  
the recent loss of Linda's husband, **Tony Brindle**.

For Sharon Haley's brother, **Paul Andrews**,  
hospitalized in Virginia with a brain hemorrhage.

For the Helmuth family, grieving the loss of Mike's father,  
**Bill Helmuth**, and nephew, **Ryan Halifax**.

For **Barbara Anderson**, who broke her ankle  
and is in Northwest Hospital, room 417.

For **Al Pride**, recovering at home from a series of strokes  
and beginning chemotherapy.

For **Peggy Cochran**, who was recently hospitalized for a blood  
clot and is now recovering at home.

For **Ernie Ricketts**, new recovering from pneumonia  
back at Ida Culver House in Broadview.

For **Elsie Clayton**, recovering from a fall  
which broke several of her ribs.

For Ken Miller Rieman's parents, traveling in Sudan  
to assess needs for Church of the Brethren service.

For **Jay Patterson** as he begins a new job in Florida.

### Ongoing prayer requests:

**Don Boulton; Elaine Rankin; Mike Titus;**

**Amber Compton; Russell Jarboe; Jeff Keuss, Sr.;**

**Dick Nash; Gene Harnden; Charles Walker;**

**Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;**

**Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;**

**Frosty Wilkinson; Tom Snyder; Val Bradley;**

**Eileen Birkey's mother; Lyah Martinez**

**Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt, Diane Peters;**

**Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers; Alvida Fite; Sharon  
Haley's brother, Mark; Adam Ford**

### In our state, nation & world...

- For those hit with floods throughout England and the US.
- For the victims of the TAM Airlines plane crash.
- That we offer a vision of justice, peace, and healing which will form the basis of a bi-partisan commitment in our nation to work together for the common good.
- For an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for the safety and return of all combatants, and for the difficulties which their families face in their absence.
- For a revitalization of our District churches and a deepening sense of our unity in Christ.
- For the Smith-Derksen family, working with MCC in Chad.
- For the people of Zimbabwe seeking democratic change in their government.

## Vacation Bible School

### THE GREAT BIBLE REEF

### Dive Deep Into God's Word!

August 5—9, 2007

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Now is the time to think about plans for the summer, including Vacation Bible School. "The Great Bible Reef: Dive Deep into God's Word!" is a fun-filled, underwater Vacation Bible School program kids will love! Every day is packed with activities designed to help children experience the importance of discipleship. Each day at the Great Bible Reef, kids will be engaged with:

- Lively worship
- Kid-friendly Bible stories
- Videos, coral crafts, dramatic activities and reef rhythms
- A meaningful mission project
- Seawater science
- Kitchen food preparation and snacks
- Loads of laughs and lots of friends

The 5-day program will begin Sunday afternoon August 5 with a visit to Seattle Aquarium followed by the opening program at 6 p.m. in the social hall of the church. The mascots for the week will be a seahorse, dolphin, angelfish, octopus, and crab.

### Ways you can participate:

- Contribute money or material resources.
- Help decorate or paint the mural.
- Come one or more evenings to help in the kitchen, crafts area, or story area.
- Volunteer to be a leader.
- Contribute Aquarium passes.
- Tell or bring children in your family or your neighborhood.

**The Olympic News** is published monthly (mostly)  
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425 NE 95th Street, Seattle, WA 98115

Phone: 206-525-8900 Fax: 206-525-1574

[www.olympicchurch.org](http://www.olympicchurch.org)

e-mail: [info@olympicchurch.org](mailto:info@olympicchurch.org)