

# 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 2008

## Living the Word

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

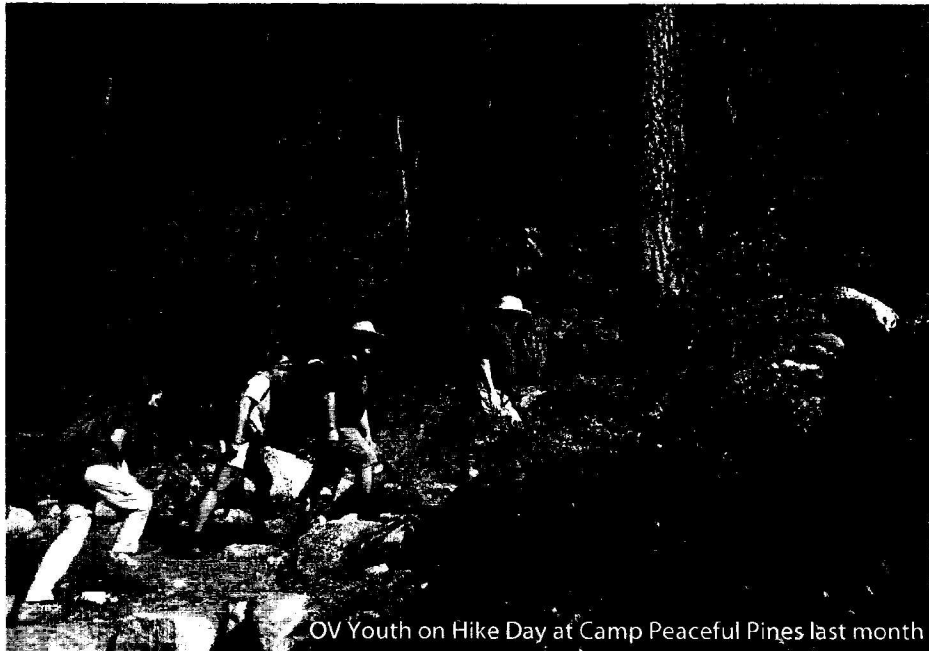
*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Colossians 3.14

One day, a friend of Church of the Brethren founder Alexander Mack asked him about the group of Christians who'd come to see their shared commitment to radical discipleship as the beginning of a new movement. "Is this a new group? How will people know who they are?" (my paraphrase)

This friend may have been wondering whether the movement would form a distinctive creed, or start living in communes, or adopt some unique type of religious clothing.

A. Mack replied, "They'll be known by the manner of their living." Maybe Mack was recalling Paul's instructions to the church in Colossae. *Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another...Above all, clothe yourselves in love,*



OV Youth on Hike Day at Camp Peaceful Pines last month

*which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

There have been times when the brothers and sisters practicing these instructions focused more on the clearness of their recognizability than on the quality of their love. I think this is still one of our struggles.

But Olympic View has another struggle.

### The Olympic News

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
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As a 'Community Church' founded by the Brethren, it has sought to widen its welcome to those coming from different faith backgrounds. At times this has been done by adopting non-Brethren practices, or de-emphasizing Brethren ones. Like Paul, we proclaimed that we should never allow our practices to cause those who are just growing in the faith to stumble.

But communities that practice their faith in distinctive ways and those who de-emphasize practice can each make the same mistake. In our attention to the forms of religious practice, we can neglect what matters most of all.

A friend of mine recently went on a hike up in the North Cascades. He was an experienced hiker, but several things distracted him as he chose his socks. After three miles, he knew he'd made a foolish mistake. After five miles, his feet were rubbed raw and bleeding. After another three miles, his pain and growing exhaustion led him to take a risk which could have ended his life. Fortunately, he only broke a few ribs. Sometimes the clothing we wear makes all of the difference.

And so it is with our spiritual clothing. The brand label may indicate the origin, but a church which is continuing the work of Jesus ought to be more concerned with the activity of the wearer. When we read the prophets, we're studying God's activity. When we read the Gospels, we're studying Jesus' activity. When we're examining the history of our denomination, we're trying to learn how our forebears put these into practice. And when we gather for worship, and depart to serve, we put our active wear to the test, building the relationships in which we discover Love's voice to us here and now.

So, may we bear with one another as we consider the places from which we've come and the way we've taken to get here, and just where it is, from here, that we will choose to go together.

## Shared Prayer Requests

### In Our Community:

- For **the Bedadas**, mourning the loss of their three-year-old great niece, **Peyton**.
- For **Rob and Jeanesse Miller** and **Stephanie Herkelrath**, celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren in Schwarzenau, Germany.
- For **Olive White**, traveling in Ireland and recovering from a shoulder injury.
- For **Alice Dalrymple**, recovering at Foss Home from heart surgery.
- For **Willy Mooyman**, recovering from a broken ankle.
- For **Barbara Ehli**, diagnosed with early onset breast cancer. Doctors are hopeful that an August 6<sup>th</sup> procedure will remove it all.
- For Rob Miller's friend, **Travis Stanley**, struggling with complications from liver cancer.
- The **Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church**, mourning 2 deaths and 6 wounded from the shooting that took place last week in Knoxville. Pastor Chris Buice was a seminary classmate of Ken's.

### Ongoing prayer requests:

- Jimmy Barnes; Geraldine Campbell; Chris Pride; Gene Harnden; Charles Walker; Roger Edmark;**  
Bill Case's daughter, **Carol Kamada;**  
Lew Fortin's nephew, **Michael Rogers;**  
**Richard Shoemaker**, Bill Shoemaker's brother;  
Kathy Edmark's brother, **Kenn Boulton;**  
**Eileen Birky's mother; Lowell Geiver; Thorn Ford;**  
Sharon Haley's brothers, **Mark and Paul Andrews;**  
the **Smith-Derksens**; the Edmarks' daughter, **Melissa Hinton**, and birth granddaughter, **Amber Compton**

### Our Nation, State, and World:

- For peace in Iraq.
  - For all who have been affected by rising unemployment and economic challenges.
  - For an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and an end to the occupation of the West Bank.
  - For democratic reform and the protection of civil rights in Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Chad, Burma, Zimbabwe, and Tibet.
  - For wide and thoughtful participation in the United States' 2008 elections.
-

## The Suffering Servant

Reading: *Isaiah 53:4-6*

*Surely he has borne our infirmities and carries our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions (Isa. 53:4-5a).*

**Meditation: WANTED:** A couple of trucks big enough to move the town of Hamilton, Washington. The town, sited along the mighty Skagit River, experiences such regular and devastating flooding as to cause FEMA to consider shifting its entire enterprise. Perhaps that's an answer, if it's located in a place that was never suitable for a town site. But there are signs it's not the case. The hillsides visible from the streets are bare. There's no vegetation to absorb and slow the moisture when the heavy winter rains hit, and too much water inundates the riverbed.

When my father lived there in the 1930s, the houses weren't built on stilts. The river's wide green power was flanked by dense fir forests that attracted loggers like him.

Yes, I said logger. In the Pacific Northwest, such a pedigree can be bane or blessing depending on the company you keep. I've felt chagrined by his profession. But rethink. Power equipment, helicopters, and clear-cutting have strip-mined the hillsides with a vengeance unknown to loggers like my grandfather, who were adept at manual cross-cut saws and horse teams. Such sustainable practices have been eclipsed by greater extraction efficiency. Now the town is regularly battered by what are increasingly being recognized as ecological transgressions.

Hence my uncustomary reading of Isaiah's Suffering Servant texts: Have we turned to our own way, gone astray from God such that this earth, this home that serves our needs, is wounded because of our transgressions, and thus carries our diseases?

Brethren have traditionally partnered with soil and the earth to bring blessing to neighbors. How can we recover that partnership and publicly recognize this suffering servant, this earth, as God's own?

For the day: In your daily rounds, where do you see the earth being wounded? What voice might you raise to ease the suffering?

Prayer: Plant in me, Creator God, a voice. Plant in us a voice like healing water, a voice to turn back suffering.

## Multiplication

Read *Mark 6:35-44*

*Taking the five loaves and the two fish, [Jesus] looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. - Mark 6:41(NRSV)*

For three years, I worked out of town. To pass the time during the daily commute, I often prayed, sang praises, and listened to Bible studies. One day as I drove, I meditated on Mark 6:41 and a picture came to mind. I saw Jesus standing before a multitude. I watched as he lifted loaves and fishes toward heaven, blessed the loaves, broke them, and gave them to his disciples for distribution. Suddenly, I recognized a wondrous truth. Only when the disciples began distributing the bread they had received were their meager resources multiplied; only then did a miracle happen.

The same is true for us. As 21<sup>st</sup>-century disciples of Jesus, we are commissioned to take what is in our hands and to use it to meet the needs of others. When we give what we have received from God - talents, financial resources, time - our gifts are multiplied to meet the needs of those in our communities, in our countries, and even to the ends of the earth.

Prayer: Loving God, help us to be good stewards of the resources you have placed in our hands. Amen

By Lynda S. Linn  
Excerpted from:  
*The Upper Room*, July-August, 2008

### Olympic View Homecoming: Sept. 6 & 7

Calling all of Olympic View's friends, family, and former members Saturday, Sept. 6 - Sunday, Sept. 7

Come to reunite! Hear Keynote Speaker **David Horsey** on Saturday night and stay for dinner at the church.

### Spiritual Growth Retreat: Sept. 12 & 13

Come to recharge your batteries and discover God's call in your life in a new way. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more news as we approach September.

Guest Presenter, storyteller, Brethren author, and historian, **James Lehman** to preach on Sept. 14.

### Launching Deaf Ministry

Olympic View's Board of Directors is offering a small honorarium to Donna Liberty, who has been signing the worship service on Sunday mornings over the last several months, as well as to other student signers who can relieve her to ensure consistent interpretation is offered Sunday mornings. Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren has started to publicize to students that we offer ASL interpretation.

### **G.U.I.L.D. Women's Breakfast Will resume in September**

No breakfast in August.

### Friends Event: Whidbey

On Saturday, August 2, the Friends are making an outing to the Oberg's cabin on Whidbey Island.

You may arrive at the Oberg's cabin anytime in the morning. We will share a potluck lunch. Transportation from church will be available in the van. Call (206) 525-8900 for a reservation. Maps will be provided at church.



### **Deacon Update**

*No training will be held in August*

The Outreach Focus for

August 2008:

**On Earth Peace**

## Where did *On Earth Peace* begin?

In 1974, M. R. Zigler brought together a group of people who wanted to strengthen the peace witness of the Church of the Brethren. Held in New Windsor, Maryland, this meeting gave birth to the On Earth Peace Assembly. On Earth Peace has always been a Church of the Brethren program, although the nature of the relationship to the denominational organization has changed through the years.

Since 1998, On Earth Peace has been directly accountable to Annual Conference as one of the three program agencies of the church (with the General Board and the Association of Brethren Caregivers).

From the beginning, peace education for youth was a priority, and remains so today. Other projects have been professional/vocational groups for peace, a peace resource book store and a series of peace assemblies held in New Windsor.

In 1990, the Ministry of Reconciliation, initially formed within the General Board program, was transferred to On Earth Peace. In 2000, the board of directors chose to add Peace Witness as a third primary program area.

The main office of On Earth Peace remains in New Windsor at the Brethren Service Center, where it has been located since the founding of the organization.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.brethren.org/oepa/>



## What is *On Earth Peace*?

On Earth Peace is an agency of the Church of the Brethren empowering people to discern the things that make for peace.

### Mission Statement:

On Earth Peace is a movement grounded in the Church of the Brethren dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus Christ in renewing and living out our biblical and denominational heritage of peace.

Our purpose, through religious and educational activities, is to empower people to discern the things that make for peace - in ourselves, within families, in our global environment, between nations - and to advocate peace and justice, seeking the realization of God's will on earth as in heaven.

### Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for every young person in the Church of the Brethren to participate in an extended peace learning opportunity.
- To provide an opportunity for every pastor in the Church of the Brethren to learn effective conflict transformation skills.
- To assist every congregation in the Church of the Brethren to offer a significant ministry to their community or beyond which addresses the roots of violence and injustice.



*Please find additional information about On Earth Peace on the table leading into the sanctuary.*

## OVCCB Board of Administration Meeting Minutes: July, 2008

Ten members of the OVCCB Board of Administration met on July 8, 2008. The meeting opened and closed with prayers, joys, and concerns for members of the congregation.

Old Business included updates on landscaping projects, the purchase of DVD/VCR players, and the purchase of new carpeting for the sanctuary and other parts of the church.

New Business discussed and approved with consensus included changes for Worship and Sunday School meeting times beginning September 7th. We agreed to continue Worship and Children's Sunday School at 10:00 AM, and Adult and Young Adult Sunday School, as well as Children's activity time, starting at 11:20 AM. Potlucks will continue to be held just after worship on days when they occur. This schedule will be in effect through the end of 2008, when we will review its success.

We also heard an update on planning for District Conference (to be held here at OVCCB September 26-28). Jeanesse Miller will coordinate OV volunteers and Jerry Bowers will coordinate housing arrangements. Carmen Lau Woo and Kate Miller Rieman have volunteered to help with food.

Pastor Ken reported on the successful youth trip to the Western Region Youth Camp in Northern California. He shared that Camp Peaceful Pines will be a wonderful location for the "Song and Story Fest," which will be held just before the 2009 Annual Conference in San Diego, CA on June 26-30. He encouraged us all to make plans to attend both events.

Rob Miller reported that our finances continue to be balanced, although several budget line items have overages. The Board discussed various budget categories and there was consensus that we are, in general, on budget.

Jeanesse Miller reported for Frosty Wilkinson that the May 31st Camp Koinonia Breakfast netted \$7000 for the camp, and the June 1st Dessert Auction at OV netted \$2100.

*Important dates to put on your calendars include:*

### **August 3**

Communion

COB 300th Anniversary Celebration  
in Schwarzenau, Germany

### **September 6-7 weekend**

Homecoming 60th Anniversary and  
COB 300th Anniversary celebration at OV

### **September 12-14 weekend**

All-church Spiritual Growth Retreat  
led by Jim Lehman at OV

### **September 26-28 weekend**

OR/WA District Conference at OV

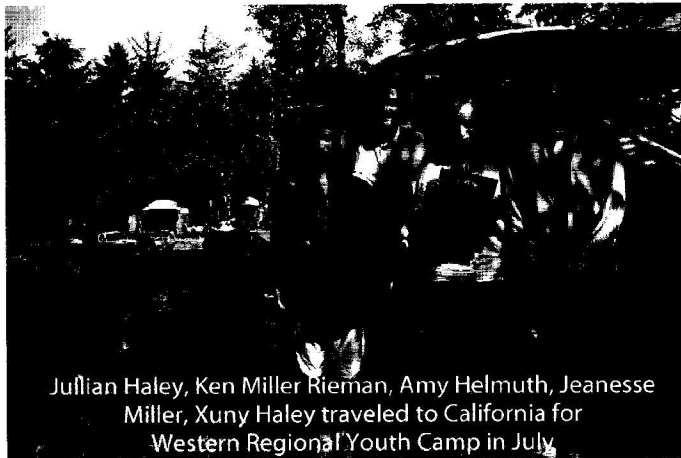
### **October 12**

Fall Deacon Meeting and Potluck

### **November 16**

General Assembly

Respectfully submitted by  
Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk



Julian Haley, Ken Miller Rieman, Amy Helmuth, Jeanesse Miller, Xuny Haley traveled to California for Western Regional Youth Camp in July.

**The Olympic News** is published monthly (mostly)  
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**We welcome you to our services.**