

THE OLYMPIC NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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February 2006

LIVING THE WORD

By Pastor Ken Rieman

2006 is becoming a big year. From the middle-east and southern Asia to South America, the world is experiencing major political upheaval. Wars rage, regimes change, and even the Canadians are getting restless. In the U.S., the politics of war, national disasters, Washington scandals, and mid-term elections promise even more of the conflict which has divided us so bitterly in recent years.

But there are a few bright spots on the horizon. I just celebrated the beginning of my second year as your pastor. I'm anticipating the upcoming victory of our hometown team in the Superbowl next Sunday. Go Hawks! And the world awaits the grand spectacles of the upcoming winter Olympics and the 2006 World Cup Soccer Tournament—two events in which the dreams and pursuits of our young people remind the nations that there is more that unites us than divides us.

For our congregation's own young people, a different event may stand out—the Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference. Those of you who have already attended know that NYC

is an adventure. Of course, anytime you put 5,000 youth together in one place you are bound to have any number of adventures. :) But for me, NYC stands out in my life as a mountaintop experience. And that's not just because it's held in the Colorado mountains.

There are times in each of our lives when events conspire to elevate our perspective, and give us a vision of our world, of our relationship with our families, our friends, and even with ourselves. Sometimes these mountaintop moments are lonely, as when we grieve the loss of a loved one and ponder the meaning of everything we do. At other times, these moments accompany the end of a great struggle or achievement which gave us a new sense of our inner strength or ability.

For me, NYC was the kind of mountaintop experience which could only have come from rubbing shoulders with all kinds of people, from all over our country, and even our world. It is the kind of mountaintop experience which clarifies what is most important in life. Morning and evening worship services with some of our denomination's, and nation's best preachers, workshops led by people who have done some of the most extraordinary things, and a geo-

The Olympic News

Olympic View Community Church
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graphic setting which builds community and launches youth into the wilderness make of the week a faith expedition. NYC is not something you can recreate on your own. It takes a group of people committed to a vision which is larger than that of any one of its members.

I guess the bottom line is that NYC was a significant part of my discovering my call to ministry. It taught me that there is no group quite like the church. There is no group nearly as well equipped to inspire us beyond our individual opinions or experiences to work together to heal the divisions in our world. And NYC gave me a vision of a thousand different ways that I could faithfully respond to God's call in my life.

I hope this year that each of you will lend your encouragement and support to the young people in our church who will be going to NYC. But even more than that, I hope that you will help our congregation to be truly open to the discoveries with which they will return.

Our church believes that each person who is baptized is called into ministry. At our best, we get together as Christians, not to pat each other on the back for being good people, but to help each other respond faithfully to the call which God gives each one. And when we gather each week, we too climb a mountain to get a bigger view of the world in which we live and work and serve and recreate to life anew. We allow our souls to be seasoned with the flavors and perspectives of people who are different from us. And in coming together we learn to get clear about the common purposes which binds us together, our many parts, into one body.

We are here to be the love of God in our world. We are here to heal the sick and brokenhearted, to strengthen our community, to inspire our nation, and to serve our world. In short, we continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

JUANITA POLLARD: AN OBITUARY

Age 93, Juanita M. Alspaugh Pollard passed peacefully on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 in Seattle.

Juanita was born on September 29, 1912 in Rumsey, Alberta, Canada, third of four children to Albert Alspaugh and Cleo Hedlund. She was brought up there until age 12, and then moved with her family to Seattle, attending Queen Anne High School. She loved to dance, frequently sneaking out of the house starting at age 14 against her father's wishes to attend dances in Seattle. She recalled coming home before dawn greeted by her dear mother, who never gave her away. In later years, mother and daughter loved to go dancing together. Juanita left school at age sixteen to work in her family's dry cleaning business in Enumclaw, WA, making deliveries driving a Model A Ford truck. She lived in the San Francisco area in her early adult life, returning to again live in Seattle to marry and raise her daughter Janice. During her long life she was a member of the Salmon Bay Fraternal Order of Eagles 2141 in Ballard, serving as Madame President, and enjoyed playing cards, dancing, bowling, and camping. She spent her retirement years taking trips to Hawaii and Alaska, donating time to Ballard Senior Center and Ballard Hospital before moving to Northaven II Assisted Living in 2000. Her amazing strength of character, devout faith, generosity, kindness, and delightful sense of humor leaves a lasting legacy for those who know her. She was a remarkable friend and enjoyed relationships in number and depth few can imagine or experience. She will be remembered for her quick wit, vivaciousness, and perseverance. She had a great spirit, full of love and wisdom, touching many lives wherever she went. She will be dearly missed by all.



Juanita was preceded in death by husband Wade Pollard, her parents, and brother Bob. She is survived by sister Maxine Bender of Renton, brother Don Alspaugh of Kennewick,

daughter Janice Kelly of Seattle, grandson Michael Kelly and wife, Kingston, WA; Shannon Clark and husband, Buckley, WA; and four great-grandchildren, Heather and Nicole Kelly; Genevieve and Daniel Clark, many nieces and nephews, close friends Joanie Harless, Post Falls, ID, Jayne Muir, Seattle and adopted granddaughter Mary Catherine Andersen, of Moses Lake, WA.

JUANITA POLLARD: A REMEMBRANCE

by Jayne Muir

I first met Nita, as I called her; in 1988 in her later years when I moved into the duplex building we shared. We became much closer over the last ten years as our need to look out for each other grew. I never met her husband, who had passed away from lung cancer complications the year before. After she became a widow, and from what I heard from others, she blossomed into her own person. She told me she spent a long career in dry cleaning, a family business started by grandfather in Canada. Both she and her husband (who was more than ten years younger) traveled in their motor home all over the Northwest after his retirement from Boeing. They were both active in the Salmon Bay Eagles in Ballard. I heard stories of her marching year after year as a majorette in the Seafair parade as part of this service organization. She loved get together to dance and play cards. And I know there are many stories details untold to me of "wild and crazy" fun times shared with her Eagles pals. So many she remained close to until they left this life before her.

I had no idea of her age when we met but my first impressions of Nita were influenced by her early invitations to stop by for a visit where we shared our troubles and cares. That was unique. She was already an active volunteer at the Northwest Senior Center in Ballard, driving her big red Ford sedan to deliver Meals on Wheels to folks ten plus years younger. I believe she received at least two marriage proposals while she was at it. Any leftover food donations she would generously share. When I got home from work often I would find a bag of or-

anges, apples, or donuts hanging on my door knob courtesy of Nita. Her doing for others less able was her motivation. As years went by her eyesight was failing and finally she was no longer able to drive. This was a big blow. To top it off, her heart failure disease became more of an issue. As a neighbor, I figured somewhat in her life, but only when she called on me when frequent health emergencies came up, did I realize how much I was involved and cared deeply of the outcome. Yet she overcame obstacles in her way, never turning down an opportunity to go on a drive or short trip despite how precarious her health was because her zest and forward thinking never held back the desire to keep going. We would often spontaneously jump in the car to get a dairy queen cone or grab a bite of breakfast or lunch. After age 87 when she had to give up her Ballard home, she quickly became adjusted to her new place and was able to attend church regularly again, which renewed her spirit and hope each Sunday. She easily gained friendships and looked after those at her dining table who needed loving care and assistance. It's not to say that she didn't have her down days or anxieties because she was not always on the sunnyside, but would pull out of the doldrums, being ever more thankful to God for giving her each day. Her philosophy was "when God is ready to take me he will".

I recall on more than one occasion when leaving after a day or two of frequent hospitalization stays Nita insisting on stopping for pancakes on the way home, even while wearing a hospital gown and slippers. I obliged because we both knew she was determined to live in the moment. Another time she came home from the hospital in the morning, and we were going out for hamburgers in the evening! We saw people in the elevator on our way down at her Northaven home who said incredulously Nita, you are home!, are you going out!? She was like the Energizer bunny, and she earned her nickname "the comeback kid". She had a fierce independence, exemplified by her sense of control over her environment. Her memory for phone numbers was phenomenal. She maintained her friendships with former

neighbors, made new close vital friends with younger folks along the way, never failing to entertain. Some of our travel adventures, many taking place over the past six years, were to twice to Moses Lake. We flew in a single engine airplane to go to the wedding of her adopted granddaughter Mary Catherine, and then drove out two summers later, stopping to view the Columbia River on the way back. Mary Catherine actually adopted Nita as her grandmother, since she never knew her own. Our last day trip was last August when we drove up to the Lummi Indian reservation to participate in the first elder gathering and to hear the children's peace chorus. The best part was driving back through the backroads, and stopping for soup in Mount Vernon. Nita was the greatest car passenger companion keeping me engaged in conversation and paying attention to all the sensations around. Not only that, she could always tell just where we were out of the corner of her eyes, and would say so even though she was legally blind. As our friend Victoria said at her funeral, Juanita possessed a third eye, seeing far beyond what we, the sighted all recognized.



Living Peace Church News & Notes

Greetings from On Earth Peace!
This is a column focusing
on the peace & reconciliation
ministries of the church.

Practical Peacemaking Idea: Prayer and Faxing

It's important to balance the inner work and the outer witness in our peacemaking. Here's a practical idea that includes both.

Interested persons meet for a time of prayer together, focusing on prayers for justice, healing, and peace in situations near at home or on a global scale. This could include silent, sung, and spoken prayers.

After prayer, each person writes one or more letters to be faxed to members of Congress or other policymakers. If the group's meeting place has a fax, the messages can be sent immediately. If



not, someone can take the letters to a public or personal fax machine. Faxes are better than posted letters because paper mail to the U.S. government is held up for weeks for security testing. Handwritten faxes are fine – perhaps better than typed.

The fax or phone number of your representative or senator, as well as some basic guidelines for writing a letter, can be found at www.congressmerge.com/onlinecd. To reach the White House, the fax number is 202-456-2461.

Those who work closely with lawmakers report that brief, thoughtful personal letters and faxes can make a difference. This simple form of democratic participation may seem old-fashioned, but it remains an effective tool for communicating our beliefs to those whose decisions affect millions of lives.

For more practical peacemaking ideas, see www.brethren.org/oepe/ideasLPC.html.

~ Bob Gross, Co-Director, On Earth Peace

*On Earth Peace: An agency of the
Church of the Brethren helping people discern
the things that make for peace*

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BISTERFELDT BABY SHOWER

On February 26th the Fellowship Team will be hosting a baby shower for the Bisterfeldt baby. The expected arrival date is March 23rd. The baby shower will begin following worship. Tim and Aimee have registered at *Babies 'R' Us* (Alderwood Mall). But a selection of items and the registry can be found at *Toy's 'R' Us* at Northgate Mall and also on line at www.babiesrus.com. They are also registered at

OV BOOK CLUB

Please join the Olympic View Book Club for this month's meeting. The book for February is: "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smiths. The club will meet at 10:30am on February 24th at Grace Edmark's home.

AARON AND CARMEN LAU WOO'S UP-COMING RECEPTION

Congratulations to Aaron and Carmen, married at Olympic View January 28th. Everyone is welcomed to a cake reception in their honor during the Valentines' Day "Red" Potluck. Aaron and Carmen are registered at Target.



Monthly Shared Prayer Requests

In our community...

For **Dorothy Rhodes**, who under went hip replacement surgery Monday, January 30th.

For **Brent Willems**, who had surgery for an Aortic Valve replacement.

For **Willy Mooyman's daughter** undergoing more medical tests at Stanford University.

For **Tom Twigg** who is facing an upcoming corneal transplant.

For **Ernie Ricketts** at Ida Culver House, 12505 Greenwood Ave. North Seattle WA, 98133.

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Rhea Whiteside; Lenore Unger; Sharon Haley's brother, Mark; Xuny Haley; Nole Ann Horsey; Lowell Geiver; Melissa Hinton; Violet Lauridsen; Adam Ford; Russell Jarboe; Dennis & Susanna Remple; Ryan Halifax; Marie McKimens; Alvida Fite; Michael Rogers, Lew Fortin's Nephew; Ron Russell.

In our state, nation & world...

For the **four Christian Peacemaker Team members** who were kidnapped in Iraq, that they may be released unharmed, and for other **CPT workers** in Iraq and in conflict areas around the world.

Those people living in the areas affected by **Hurricane's Katrina, Rita & Wilma, and the Earthquake in South Asia** and for those who are traveling into the disaster areas to bring aid.

Thanks for **John Irby's** recent safe and successful trip to raise emergency shelters in Pakistan.

For **peace in Iraq, recovery from the trauma of war and ongoing violence, and wisdom for the country's new leadership.**

For the **safety and return of all combatants,** and for the difficulties which **their families** face in their absence.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MESSENGER MAGAZINE

Subscriptions are 14.50 per year (\$27 for two years). First-time subscriptions are 7.25 for the first year. Please leave checks in Nancy Bedada's box no later than February 12.

Church of the Brethren General Board Prayer Calendar

February prayer focus:
Evangelism/Church development

Week of February 5: Give thanks for new church plants and the vitality they provide to their communities and to our faith family. Pray that God will walk with them through their growing pains.

Week of February 12: Pray for the strengthening of relationships between sister congregations. May their building up of one another be a witness of the importance of community to us all.

Week of February 19: Ask that the Holy Spirit be with those in our communities who have not yet experienced the love and peace of knowing Jesus.

Week of February 26: Remember the non-active members of your congregation and those who've left. Pray that the Creator might show you ways to reach out and invite them back into fellowship.

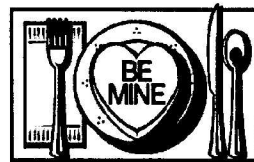
The OVCCB Board of Administration met on January 10, 2006.

- We shared concerns and prayed for all within the church family.
- We reviewed the contract for the new church secretary, Matt Lavagnino.
- We rejoiced in having new church members Doris Tanning, Nancy Green, Lew Fortin, Mark Steuart, and Anden Hormann join and Kathy Korff. We (also rejoiced for) the upcoming wedding of Carmen Lau and Aaron Woo.
- We reviewed the end-of-the-year financial report for 2005 and are happy to report that we ended the year with a surplus of \$6672.
- We listened to proposals for upgrading and repairing the sound system and for upgrading outside door security. We will further discuss these items at the next Board meeting.
- We agreed to financially support the Youth (using 2005 surplus funds) as they prepare to attend the National Youth Conference this summer. We will provide "matching grants" to youth, in addition to their fund-raisers and support from families.
- We are thankful for everyone in our church family and ask all to hold in prayer those who have special needs at this time.

~Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk

VALENTINE "RED" POTLUCK

We will be having our annual Valentine potluck on February 12 following worship. Sponsored by the Friends group and the Fellowship Team. Please bring a red dish to share.



THANK YOU CHRISTMAS ELVES!

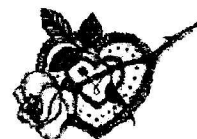
On November 29 a good crew assembled to decorate Olympic view Narthex, Sanctuary, and Social Hall. A special thank you to Mike Helmuth and John Berg for delivering the tree at 8:30am.

On January 9th a small dedicated crew met to disassemble and store decorations. My sincerest thanks to Mary Warstler, Dorothy Johnson, Jim Crider and Jean Erickson.

~Grace Edmark

G.U.I.L.D.

*Give Up Inactivity &
Live with Dignity*



Olympic View Women's Breakfast Group has grown and will meet again this month with breakfast... This month's meeting is on February 15 in the Northaven I dining room from 7am-8am. The cost is \$2.00 for breakfast. Breakfast will be followed by a 20 minute program. You are cordially invited to attend. Please let Grace Edmark know if you will be able to attend one week prior to meeting so that she can let the cook know how much to prepare. We hope to see you there.

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We welcome you to our services.

Sunday School	9:30 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Children's Church	11:00 am