

# 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

## January 2007

### LIVING THE WORD

by Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

*You will know the truth, and the truth  
will make you free.*

Jesus, in John 8.32

*Inner freedom is not guided by our efforts; it  
comes from seeing what is true.*

Buddha

It has been said that God's business is transformation. Our recent leadership retreat, 'Team-building for church growth' identified four core processes in ministry: Welcoming, Connecting, Transforming, and Sending.

When Gail, our facilitator, described them in detail, then asked us to identify the place that we needed most to grow, it was nearly unanimous. Transforming is the part of ministry we find difficult.

Too seldom do we feel that our worship service is a place of transformation. Too seldom do we experience transformation in ourselves, through the course of our most com-

mon interactions in the church. Too seldom do we sense that God is using us to transform the lives of those outside of our church.

The Good News in this season of 'Epiphany' is that, in Jesus, we discover the divine reality, 'the truth' in a new and surprising way. Epiphany, meaning 'manifestation' or 'revealing,' is the name given to the event of the world discovering the baby Jesus. The event is marked by a journey toward a great star and the sharing of gifts with the one who marked the place and the occasion. On that day, those journeying toward Jesus underwent a transformation. These wisest of men, these counselors of court, these magicians and sages came to understand that God had given them a gift that they could only just begin to understand. This gift would change their lives forever.

Two of my favorite authors on the subject of transformation, Don Richard Riso and Russ Hudson, name seven tools by which people undergo spiritual change. The first and most significant element is developing a love of truth.

### The Olympic News

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
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*Seeking the truth means being curious about what is going on in ourselves and around us, not settling for the automatic answers that our personality feeds us. If we observe ourselves, we will see that many of the stock explanations that we give ourselves for our behavior or for the actions of others are a form of resistance. They are a way of avoiding seeing more deeply into our current state.*

(The Wisdom of the Enneagram, p. 345)

People who know me well know that I love adventure. I tell people that I love maps because I like to go places I've never been before. People who sit with me in conversation sometimes wonder why I offer so many seemingly random thoughts.

I used to tell myself that these aspects of my personality arose from my innate curiosity and love of fun. I've since learned that my love of all things new and fun has much to do with my desire to avoid the parts of life that are difficult, painful, and anxiety producing. So it turns out that I'm far more ruled by anxiety than almost anyone can imagine.

Discovering the truth that lay beneath a 'common sense' explanation for my behavior was troubling, but it also opened a door to my personal growth. Like someone stumbling around a dark room, many obstacles to my growth and happiness would catch me by surprise. Turning on the light revealed a room full of obstacles, but it also revealed a path through them. Now, I am able to recognize feelings and situations that are unpleasant; and rather than looking for a way out of the room, I'm able to stay present in my discomfort long enough to understand its source. That helps me to deal with the source in a much more competent and lasting way than simply trying to avoid it. In seeking the truth of a situation, I discover the path of growth and transformation.

Do you find that our church community helps you to gain glimpses of the truth that lies hidden beneath the 'stock answers' our world offers to the really difficult questions in life? In glimpsing that truth, do you find the support you need to grow or change?

Do you hunger for a depth of purpose or meaning in your life that you've not yet discovered? Do you wish that you could experience more growth in your life and faith than you experience now? In what ways do you sense God nudging you to grow? In what ways do you see God encouraging you to help others grow?

I pray that the season of Epiphany will bring the light of truth to your journey of transformation so that your light and your growth can become a part of our own.

This is the work to which God has called us. May those of us with the courage to really see keep on the lookout for growth in our midst. And may those of us with the courage to speak of our own transformation find our voices welcomed in this body of faith. Amen.



Thanks to all who donated gifts to the Salvation Army's giving tree program. Your participation is meaningful to local families.

## Shared Prayer Requests

For our former pianist, **Chia-Yin Lin**, who recently gave birth to twin boys—Matthew and Joshua.

For **John Braun**, who has been called to become full-time Pastor at Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church United after serving there as interim pastor since early spring 2006.

For **Elaine Rankin**, who will be receiving hospice care for progressive kidney failure.

Continued prayers for better success as **Jim Crider** undergoes back surgery for a second time.

For **Phil Rieman**, Ken's father, who is undergoing tests to determine the course of treatment for a blocked coronary artery.

For **Mike Titus**, at home, recovering from an extended hospitalization for Diverticulitis.

For our ministry to the sick and homebound, that they may experience caring generosity, healing, and sustenance.

### Ongoing prayer requests:

Keith Russell; George Jorgensen; Russell Jarboe;

Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;

Francis Bunger; Gene Harnden;

Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;

Charles Walker; the Smith-Derksen family;

Eileen Birkey's mother; Ernie Ricketts;

Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt, Diane Peters;

Mike Helmuth's father, Bill, and nephew,

Ryan Halifax; Alvida Fite; Sharon Haley's brother, Mark; Adam Ford;

Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers

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

- For the communities in Washington affected by the recent wind and rain storms and power outages.
- 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 easing of the continuing sectarian violence in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for the safety and return of all combatants, and for the difficulties which their families face in their absence.
- That our church promote increased understanding, compassion, and generosity among all nations around the world in an effort to strengthen world peace.
- For our ministry for those with limited resources.
- For our remembrance and comforting of those who have lost loved ones.



## Living Peace Church News & Notes

Focusing on the peace & reconciliation ministries of the church.  
Greetings from On Earth Peace!

### Youth Peace Travel Team ~ Not Just Another Summer Job



Fifteen states, seven church camps, Annual Conference, National Youth Conference, hundreds of new friends, lots of free ice cream, an afternoon in Hollywood: this was my summer job. Youth Peace Travel Team (YPTT)

presented opportunities that I otherwise may not have had. I went rock climbing, then rappelled down the side of the mountain; I hiked in six different mountain ranges; I learned to kayak; I went fishing; I swam in the Pacific Ocean; I soared through the air on Camp Mack's "flying squirrel." I even conquered my fear of bears by spending the night in the woods.

Sure, YPTT isn't all fun and games — although lots of it is. It does mean spending 24/7 with the same three people, who you may not get along with 24/7. It also requires a great deal of patience and planning to fit each different camp. And spending two days on a Greyhound Bus does not top my list of favorite moments.

YPTT may put you at your wit's end occasionally, but the beauty of reaching that place is this: being a peacemaker is all about regaining your cool before you completely lose it. On the Team, the positive experiences definitely outweighed the negative. It was the most memorable summer of my life, which is pretty cool considering I have 21 other summers to compare it to. If you care passionately for peace and justice and are interested in leaving your comfort zone next summer, please consider applying for YPTT. It will stretch you spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically — and you will love it.

**Applications due  
February 4, 2007!**  
Youth Peace Travel Team is a joint project of On Earth Peace, Outdoor Ministries Association, Brethren Volunteer Service, Brethren Witness/Washington Office, and Youth/Young Adult Ministries.  
Want more info?  
Visit [www.brethren.org/bepa](http://www.brethren.org/bepa).  
Or contact Susanna Farahat at 410-635-8706 or [sfarahat\\_oepea@brethren.org](mailto:sfarahat_oepea@brethren.org).

~ Margaret Bortner, 2006 YPTT member, Palmyra (PA) Church of the Brethren

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

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## 2006 Annual Conference

By JoAnn Shoemaker, Delegate

*What a great experience I had as a "first timer" attending Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa as your delegate. My five days there were a very spiritual and enlightening period of time. The theme of the conference this year was "Together, Exercise Daily in God" and was carried out throughout the conference. The following article is a bit of what went on.*

Total attendance was about 3,000 (800 delegates). The American Red Cross Blood Drive received 253 pints of blood from Brethren attendees. The quilt auction raised \$13,240 for hunger relief. Youth helped out at the Special Olympics held in nearby Ames, Iowa. Single adults served a meal at a shelter for homeless youth. Many Brethren protested the Iraq War with an organized walk/rally.

"Passport to wellness" offered 20 activities and so gave everyone an opportunity to complete at least 12 or more to receive a T-shirt. The "300th Anniversary Committee (2008 in Virginia) gave out 63 pounds of M&M's to conference goers.

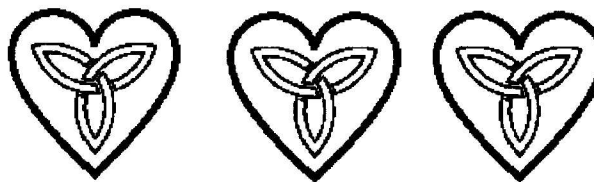
Exhibit Hall displays included a miniature 8-hole golf course representing 8 different ministries of the General Board, free massages, Brethren Press Bookstore, fair trade specialties, SERRV, and several other ministry booths were well worth seeing.

The business sessions (open to all conference attendees) held elections, received reports, approved resolutions and queries, and served many other business needs. Insight sessions from early morning to late in the evening, breakfasts, luncheons, dinners and the nightly ice cream socials kept us all on the go. Gathering for music, worship, prayer, and the memorial observance were highlights for me.

Conference business results included the following:

- Adopted a resolution for an end to the war in Iraq
- Referred the report of the Church Business Study Committee to a "Feasibility Study Committee" for next year's delegates
- Action taken on a resolution for divestment from companies selling products used as weapons
- A resolution on "Commitment of Accessibility and Inclusion" to recommit to include every person in its ministry
- Approved query concern "Call to Stewardship Education"
- Affirmed revisions to the Articles of Organization of BBT
- Approved 4.2% cost of living for minimum pastoral salary table
- Announcement of 2011 Annual Conference July 2-6 in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2003 query does not change policy that no one known to engage in homosexual practices will be licensed or ordained in C.O.B.

I thank all of you for sending me to this very inspirational Brethren Annual Conference. The Board is planning for next year's conference, June 30th-July 4th in Cleveland, Ohio, and if you would like to be a delegate and experience this "coming together as Brethren" let one of the OVCCoB board members know.



**Annie**

*Sat., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>*

The Broadway Bound Children's Musical- at the Moore Theater. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm and carpool for a 2:00 pm performance. Ticket prices are \$12. Refreshments will be served at the Helmuths' home after the musical. Save the date!

## GUILD

Guild's next breakfast and program will take place **Wednesday, January 24th, at 7:30 am.** Our group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, September through June. Call the church office for more information or to leave a message for the group's leader, Grace Edmark.



### Olympic View Book Club

*Time:* the club will meet at 10:30 am

*Date:* Friday, January 26, 2007

*Place:* Carol Landis' home

*Book to read:* The Shortest Way to Hades, by Sarah Cardwell

## Deacon News

The next Deacon Training Session will be held on **Tuesday, January 23, 2007**, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Church.

A Communion Service will be held on January 7, 2007.



### Choir Practice

Wednesday

Jan 10

&

24th

2007

7:00 pm

## World Mission Offering

The world mission offering is an annual collection that funds Church of the Brethren mission outreach on a global scale. Envelopes and fliers were passed out with the Sunday bulletins on December 17, 2006. If you haven't yet had a chance to make your contribution to this vital cause, please bring your envelope on December 31st, 2006.

## Working on your resolutions?

If you haven't made the church a part of your financial budget for 2007, consider doing so. Just stop by the church office to pick up one of the light blue Commitment Sunday pledge cards. Originally, these were mailed in October (in time for Commitment Sunday), but if you haven't turned yours in now is the perfect time to do so—and show your community the support it needs.

## The Fellowship Team says:

*Save \* These \* Dates!*

### January 14, 2007:

International Potluck after Sunday service. Please bring an ethnic food of your choice (hot dish, salad, or dessert) and dress in ethnic clothing if you like.

### February 11, 2007:

Valentine Potluck after Sunday service. Please bring your favorite food to share. We are planning a talent show and/or hobby sharing.

