

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

July 2008

Living the Word in Pictures

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman



From top right: Attendees of "Meet the Moderator;" Worship with Chic Streetman; Congregation at Worship; Donna Liberty, ASL interpreter; Attendees of "Meet the Moderator,"



The Olympic News

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
425 NE 95th Street
Seattle, WA 98115

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July 2008



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 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.



Spiritual Growth Retreat: Sept. 12 & 13

Come to recharge your batteries - 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 Sunday, Sept. 13.

Shared Prayer Requests

In Our Community:

For **JoAnn Shoemaker** and the motorcyclist, both recovering from their recent collision.

For **Jimmy Barnes**, coping with fluctuating blood sugar levels.

For **Alice Dalrymple** whose heart surgery has been rescheduled for July 15th.

For **Olive White** who continues to recover from surgery on her broken shoulder and blood clots in her legs.

For **Thorn Ford** who had a 3rd stent successfully inserted in his heart.

Ongoing prayer requests:

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

Our Nation, State, and World:

- For the survivors of Myanmar's cyclones and the earthquake in Chengdu, and their families.
- For the communities in the Midwest US burdened by substantial flooding.
- For peace in Iraq.
- 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 Work of God's Hands

Reading: Hebrews 1:10-12

In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain...(Heb. 1:10-11a)

"Do all your work as if you had a thousand years to live, and as you would if you knew you must die tomorrow." (Mother Lee Ann, 1816)

A friend shared this quote with me as we walked together following the news of spiritual writer Henri Nouwen's death in 1996. We were very aware in that moment of the fleeting nature of life. We also felt as if we had brushed against something timeless in Nouwen's gift to us, something that resonated with God's own nature in and beyond time.

That we are the "work of God's hands" speaks to these two aspects of our identity. We are part of God's creation, all of which is changing, perishing. But we are also those who create with God and thereby become the work of God's hands as in bearing in the world God's nature and intention. The Apostle Paul in his beautiful hymn of love in I Corinthians 13 proclaims, "Love never ends." In our love we join what is eternal in the midst of all that passes.

Three hundred years is both a long time and a drop in time's bucket. What springs eternal from our living as Brethren? Surely there is something here of our manner of seeking to live close to the love of God in Jesus. There is something of the way we've embodied love in peacemaking and service that has graced our world these three centuries with the fragrance of God. Our living remains both that which is fleeting and passing and that which yet invites us to become in the day before us a part of God's eternal work.

Prayer: *Creator God, I thank you for all the ways my living can join your work in the world you love. Amen.*

By Glenn Mitchell
Excerpted from *Fresh From the Word*.

Alien Times

Reading: Deuteronomy 24:14-22

The Lord said, "Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt." - Exodus 23:9 (NIV)

In scripture, the plight of those with few advocates or resources is addressed over and over. Throughout history, the people of Israel experienced periods of bondage. Because of this, God expected the Israelites to be tenderhearted toward others and act justly toward all, even to aliens and outsiders.

God's will on this issue also applies to us. We followers of Christ in the 21st Century are expected to be sensitive to the needs of the disenfranchised or lonely: to extend a smile to the foster child new to church, to share a meal with the exchange student who feels overwhelmed and bewildered by a new culture, to take time to speak with the elderly neighbor whose spouse of fifty years has died.

Most of us have experienced the sensation of being on the outside, aliens in a new setting, whether it be coping with a new job, school, or neighborhood, or adjusting to a new family. Remembering our "alien times" can motivate us to take the initiative to extend God's love with kind words and actions.

Prayer: Lord, remind us often that you place specific people in our path not as an inconvenience but as an opportunity to bless someone. Amen.

Thought for the day: What am I doing to help meet the needs of an outsider?

By Maureen Baird
Excerpted from: *The Upper Room*, May-June 2008

Call to Gardeners

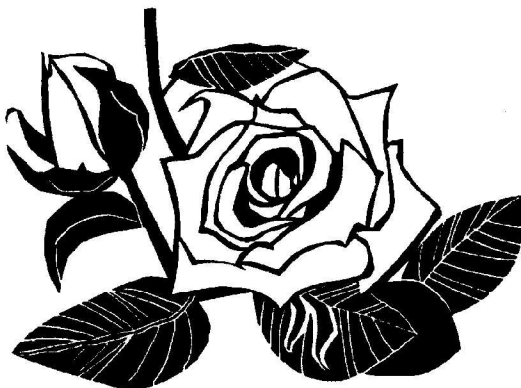
We are going to eliminate as much grass as possible on the south side of the church. When you are cleaning out your own garden we can use ground covers such as wooly thyme, regular creeping thyme, Irish moss, cornus canadensis, thrift, blue star creeper, ajuga, arabis, creeping phlox - anything that likes full sun and is 'steppable'. We can also use perennials that you are dividing-day lilies, peonies, rugosa roses, cistus, etc. if you are willing to share them to be used in the courtyard or elsewhere in the garden beds. Monetary donations are also welcome. Since we will be hosting the District Conference in September, we would like the gardens to look as good as possible.

This is your church. If you see a weed, pull it or tell someone who will take care of it. If you would like to be included in gardening or maintenance, let us know. We can do the planting if you don't wish to. Call the church or Cathy Oberg 206-525-4516.

If you have flowers we can cut for the altar we would also appreciate them; or if you are willing to arrange them, or want to learn to do altar arrangements on Saturdays, let me know.

Blessings and thanks,

Cathy Oberg



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.



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

No breakfasts in July or August.

Deacon Update

*No training will be held in
July or August*

The Outreach Focus for
July 2008

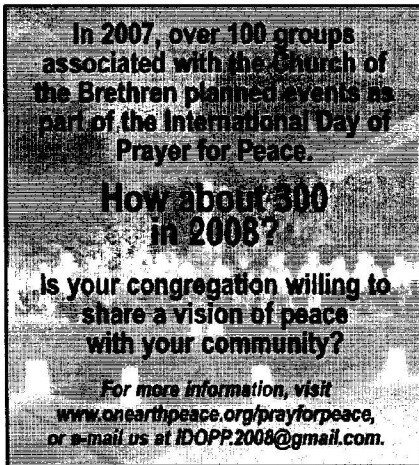
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Living Peace Church News & Notes

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

**International Day of Prayer for Peace
September 21, 2008**



For our first International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDOPP) event (2006), a handful of congregants from each of the three participating churches joined in candle-lit processions from their church buildings to the town park.

Our second year, 2007, we found our voices to be stronger, and our events to be bolder and, of course, to be more highly attended. This year (2008) we will strive to reach more deeply, more gently, to those who have so far been hesitant to join the chorus.

Middlebury is a small conservative town. By emphasizing familiar faith-based phrases in this year's promotions, we hope to lessen the resistance of those who may associate the peace message with only secular and political agendas. My hope is to gently raise consciousness within our historic peace churches, so we can bring more voices to the chorus in Christ's living peace churches.

Once the ears of new hearts have been gently opened, and new faces find themselves in public union with their neighbors, we can then, as Bob Gross shared in the On Earth Peace Spring 2008 newsletter, ask not, "Are we a peace church?," but rather, "Are we a church that follows Jesus?"

~ **Melissa Troyer**, Middlebury (IN) 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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7/08

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.

Correction/Addition:

The name of Mark Whiteside was unintentionally omitted from a recent article about the history of Northaven, a senior living community begun through the efforts of many Olympic View members. Mark Whiteside's daughter, Kay Whiteside Dodson, wrote a letter to Olympic View earlier this month to alert us that her father, who had been instrumental in "kicking off" the planning and building of Northaven, had not been recognized in our article. My apologies to you and your family, Mrs. Dodson. If anyone else has or had a relative who was strongly involved in the planning or building of Northaven, please feel free to call or write to us so that we can perhaps run a follow-up article, or make additional corrections for those who have not been recognized.

Sincerely, Kim Thomas, Secretary

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We welcome you to our services.