

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

June 2008

Living the Word

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

Common Ground - Solid Ground

Election years are filled with people looking for ideas that have 'traction' with the voting public. I think by 'traction' they mean ideas that name the way voters are thinking or feeling about their lives and their world. But the lengthening of the election season brings the danger of voter fatigue. Like those who have had to sit through too many graduation ceremonies where the speakers suggest that commencement is not an ending but rather a beginning, voters grow weary of the way candidates adopt language meant to make them feel good, without committing themselves to anything that will actually make a whit of difference to anyone.

Is it too late in this campaign cycle to be talking about 'common ground?' Are we so cynical by now about the possibility of this election actually changing anything that a discussion of what common ground really means is a waste of time?

I have a growing sense that we, as individuals and as a nation, have become conflicted within ourselves about what it really means to find common ground.

The daily news is filled with stories of destruction wrought by extremists. We are disgusted with those who are so sure of their radical beliefs that they are willing to kill those who oppose them, or even kill the innocent who haven't yet learned to fear them sufficiently.

In politics, the extremists may be less violent, but they still manage to make life difficult for far too many. In our churches and on our school boards the conversations seem dominated by those with the most bones to pick. And so we disengage. We stop voting, or going to the meetings. We decline the invitation to lead because we don't want the headaches that come from groups that can never agree on anything.

It's no wonder the fastest growing religious orientation in our region is 'non-religious.' And not far behind are those who follow belief systems which don't tend to welcome dissenting voices to the table of conversation. It is all so much more straightforward to have the answers nailed down.

Now, more than ever, I think we need to find different ways of practicing religion. While most people see religion as something that divides people, we need to practice religion

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which brings them together.

And how do we do that? How do we find common ground? By coming together and seeking to understand each other. Understanding is what makes compassion possible. It's what helps us to discover the common interests which underlie our different perspectives. And it doesn't happen when we don't get together.

But what if folks in our community don't come to church to gain that mutual understanding? That's when we who are 'the church' are called out of our sanctuaries, out of our classrooms, out of our parking lots, into the community, to go where those who have different ways of looking at the world already are.

There was a day when enough folks were glad to just get an invitation to come to church that they would show up because they wanted to belong to a community. But these days are different. Growing the church means leaving the building. It requires that we who can articulate the common ground which underlies our ever-increasing diversity must spend our time with people who share our desire, even if they (and we) don't yet know how to make it a reality.

Jesus modeled that pretty well. He started his ministry not with a group that had all the right answers, or religious practices, or lifestyle choices, but with those who were really hungry for a different kind of world. He built caring relationships upon that common ground. And that was some solid ground—solid enough for us to build upon 2,000 years later.



Graduation Announcement!

Please join Anden Hormann and his family as they celebrate Anden's High School graduation with a party on Sunday, June 15, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Olympic View Community Church Social Hall. Say congratulations to Anden when you see him!

Shared Prayer Requests

In Our Community:

For the family and friends of **Marie McKimens**, mourning her death Tuesday, May 13.

For the family of **Ernie Ricketts**, mourning his death April 26.

For **Alice Dalrymple** who is facing heart bypass surgery June 4 at Virginia Mason.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Geraldine Campbell; Jeanesse Miller; 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;

Kenn Boulton; Eileen Birky's mother;

Sharon Haley's brothers, **Mark and Paul Andrews;**

the **Smith-Derksens; Lowell Geiver;**

the Edmarks' daughter, **Melissa Hinton,**

and birth granddaughter, **Amber Compton**

Our Nation, State, and World:

- For aid to reach the survivors of the cyclones in Myanmar and comfort to alleviate the grief of the victims' families.
- For the victims of the recent earthquake in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, China, and their families.
- 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 Outreach Focus for

June 2008

is Camp Koinonia!

"Leadership"from *The Upper Room*

Reading: Romans 12:3 - 8

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. - Romans 12:6 (NRSV)

What comes to mind when you think of leadership? Do you think of great leaders from the past? Or do you think of certain characteristics that you feel a good leader should possess – qualities like vision, self-confidence, communication skills, decisiveness? In the Christian setting, many of us hesitate to lead when asked. Perhaps we feel we don't possess the skills needed to be a good leader.

Jesus' leadership was not about leading in the business sense but rather about doing what God has called him to do. Likewise, we have unique talents and gifts from God, and we are called to use those gifts for serving, for building up the Body of Christ. (See Eph. 4.12.) At times we may pretend we don't hear God calling us to serve, or we may rationalize that we are too busy. We may even try to convince ourselves that we are not capable because someone else is more qualified. However, God doesn't call the qualified; God qualifies those called.

The heroes of the Bible were ordinary people with typical human flaws and weaknesses. They show us that, when it comes to serving in God's kingdom, we don't have to be spectacular – just available. Spiritual leaders are ordinary people, called and enabled by God.

Prayer: O God, give us the courage to serve as faithful disciples in the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Life is about letting God use each of us for a purpose.

Prayer Focus: Ordinary Heroes

"Too Much Rubbish",

by Joan L. Daggett

Readings: Nehemiah 4:7-11; 1 Peter 5:6-11

The strength of the burden bearers is failing, and there is too much rubbish so that we are unable to work on the wall, and there is too much rubbish so that we are unable to work on the wall (Neh. 4:10).

Meditation: I saw a cartoon the other day where a woman is sitting at her desk piled high with papers. "I wish someone would make a desk that flushes," she says. I agree! Just when I think I'm beginning to get myself organized, more piles of paper seem to appear. Junk mail, junk email, even junk faxes! And, of course, the catalogs - lots of catalogs. The higher the piles get, the more it all becomes useless, just "rubbish" that I have to sort through and throw away to get any work done!

Rubbish caused the workers in today's scripture to become overwhelmed and discouraged. Seeing the workers' resolve unshaken, Nehemiah's enemies return to the scene and make threats to attack the builders and destroy the work completed so far. This time, however, their threats seem to work. The workers begin to lose their confidence. Instead of seeing the vision of a rebuilt Jerusalem, the builders can see only the overwhelming amount of rubble that lies between them and God's plan for their future.

It is easy to become discouraged when life gets overwhelming with work to do, people to care for, expectations to meet. In the midst of all the cares and rubble of our lives, God stands ready to help you lift these burdens. *Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7).*

Prayer: Help me to let go of all the "rubbish" and anxiety in my life that keep me from doing your work, O God. Grant me your peace, and empower me to do your will. Amen.

(Reprinted from *Fresh from the Word.*)

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Project

In Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, in the great state of Louisiana

Thirteen people from the Oregon/Washington District, along with four people from the South-eastern District of the Church of the Brethren, worked from May 5 thru May 9, 2008 to support the mission of the Brethren Disaster Ministries in the New Orleans area.

Three members of Olympic View Church were part of the effort to recover homes in support of the recovery project. Frosty Wilkinson, Haile Bedada, and Jerry Bowers represented Olympic View Church.

The whole group supports activities at five different homes. Some of the group members had contact with the residents of the homes they worked on. Some of us worked on the group house.

The group home is a two-story house that had floodwater up to 4 feet deep on the second level. About 80 to 85% of the house had been recovered by the time we arrived on site on May 5. We were able to complete another 10% during our workweek. The house needs to be completed by June 1st because FEMA wants back the trailers we were living in -- FEMA wants to destroy the trailers because they are contaminated with formaldehyde.

The homeowner of the group home had moved but wanted to keep the house in the family. He had raised six children in that home. One of his sons lived next door. The homeowner provided all the materials to rebuild the house and the COB provided the labor to rebuild. Then the COB could use the house rent-free for the next three years.

Recovery in that area will take many more than three years. The COB gives each District a chance to send volunteers on a rotating basis. OR/WA District comes up about once a year, because the rotation is based up number of churches in the district. The group home was designed and is being built to house 30 people.

The project manager said that some of the bigger districts sometimes do not have many volunteers. So sometimes the work group is very small. Those interested in helping out should contact Nancy or Frosty Wilkinson from Olympic View Church or Brent Carlson from Portland Peace Church and see if there is an opening in the recovery effort when you have time available.

I recommend that everyone volunteer at least one week of your life to this recovery effort. The benefits outweigh the cost by a factor of three or more.

Respectively submitted by Jerry Bowers



G.U.I.L.D. Women's Breakfast
June 18, 2008 7:30am—
8:30am

No breakfasts in July or August.

Deacon Update
Training Scheduled for:
7:00 p.m. on May 27, 2008

*No Training will be held in
June, July, or August*

Board of Administration Meeting Minutes

The OVCCB Board of Administration met on May 13 with 8 members present.

--We welcomed incoming Board Chair Jeanesse Miller and Treasurer Rob Miller. We are grateful for the service of outgoing Moderator Carol Bowers and Board Chair Jerry Bowers.

-- We continued the discussion about new floor coverings for rooms in the church, specifically concentrating on those for the sanctuary. More samples will be evaluated and options will be considered.

-- We had consensus to purchase a used copier for \$4,600. \$3000 will come from the copier replacement fund in the budget. We are requesting additional donations from the congregation, and the balance owed will be taken from Memorial funds.

--We had consensus to purchase a "piano truck" for \$533. This is actually a piano dolly, and will be needed to ease movement of the piano and protect the new carpeting to be installed in the sanctuary.

-- We heard our financial report and are glad that our finances are stable. We do need to watch several budgeted areas that have had higher than normal expenses in the past several months.

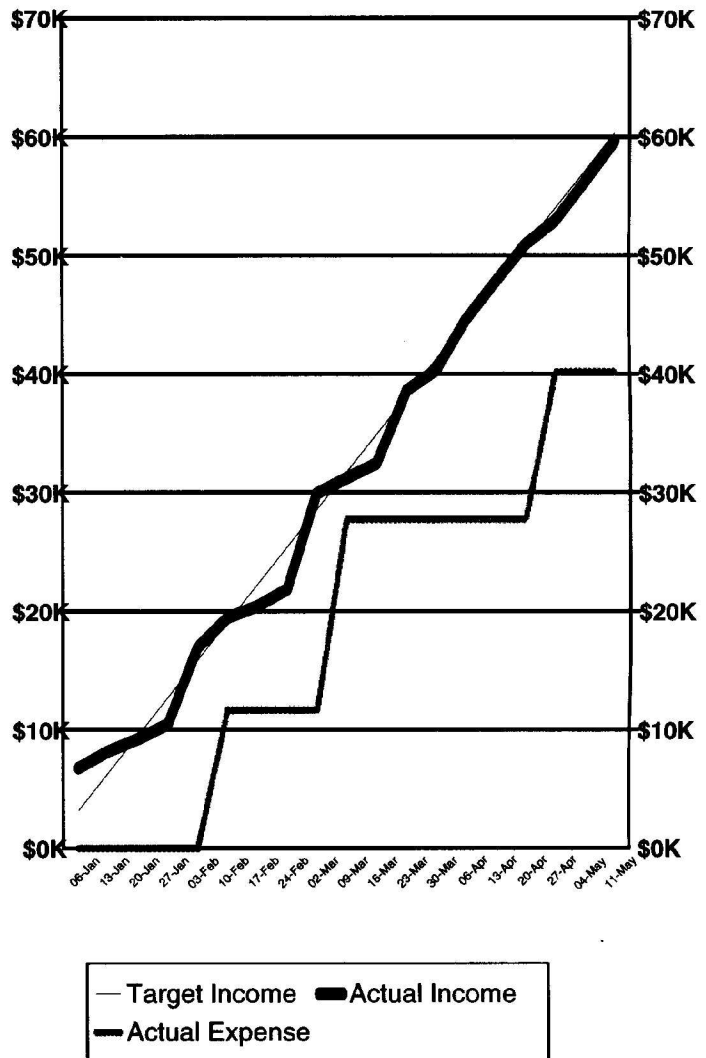
--Upcoming dates to remember were discussed, including: Sunday, June 1, Camp Koinonia Desert Auction after worship; Saturday, June 21, 9am to 1 pm Church Workday; August 16-17, BVS Group Orientation to be held in Seattle. Participants will stay at our church.

--We are thankful for those within our church family and ask everyone to hold in prayer those who have special needs, especially the family of Marie McKimens who died on Monday, and for Alice Dalrymple who faces surgery.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk

2008 YTD Financial Support for Ministries

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren



Olympic View Book Club
 May 23, 2008 10:30 am
 Meets in OV Kitchen.

The Olympic News is published monthly (mostly) by The Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
 425 NE 95th Street, Seattle, WA 98115
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We welcome you to our services.

Officers of the Church

The officers of the corporation shall be the Moderator, the Church Clerk, the Chair of the Board of Administration, the Building Trustee, and the Church Treasurer. The officers of the corporation shall meet each year on the second Tuesday of October for the annual corporation meeting. Their term of office shall be for one year and they may be eligible for re-election, with the limitation that all officers, except for the Treasurer, may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms. While in office, officers shall not hold any other committee or board positions. At least three officers of the corporation, one of whom is the Treasurer, shall sign all legal documents upon the direction of the General Assembly. All officers of the corporation shall be elected at the April General Assembly meeting and shall take office the first week in June.

VII. Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall perform such duties as will enhance or improve the spiritual influence of the services of this Church. The Board of Deacons shall elect their own members and officers and make their own rules of procedure. The term "Deacon" shall apply equally to men and women.

VIII. Board of Administration

The Board of Administration shall consist of designated members bringing expertise from other offices and ministry teams, plus three elected members. One new member shall be elected each year for a term of three years. No elected member shall have the right to succeed oneself for a period of one year. Candidates for elected members shall not be designated members of the Board of Administration.

IX. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Church Officers (Corporation officers and the Pastor), namely: **Moderator**, who shall serve as Chair (1 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms), **Church Clerk** (1 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms), **Pastor**, **Chair of the Board of Administration** (1 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms), **Building Trustee** (1 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms), **Church Treasurer** (1 year term, no term limits).

The Executive Committee shall be directly responsible to the Board of Administration and the General Assembly.

The Executive committee shall look to the future, ensuring that the Church and its elements are progressing towards defined goals. It should so counsel Church boards and ministry teams, assuring proper balance and use of personnel, money, and materials.

The Executive Committee shall preview all proposals prepared in advance for the General Assembly and shall make recommendations regarding such proposals, considering long range planning, budget, program, personnel, facilities, and trends. The Executive Committee may make emergency decisions within the confines of established policy, program, or budget. For decisions not within such confines, the Executive Committee will call a special meeting of the Board of Administration or General Assembly.

(This information reprinted from COB Constitution, 2003)

Administrative Leadership 2008—2009

Board of Administration	Executive Committee	Pastor Ken Miller Rieman
		Moderator Roger Edmark
		Board Chair Jeanesse Miller
		Church Clerk Stephanie Herkelrath
		Treasurer Rob Miller
		Building Trustee Haile Bedada
Ministry Teams		Worship
		Mission/Outreach Ken Miller Rieman
		Children Kathy Edmark
		Youth & Young Adults Roger Edmark
		Fellowship Goldie Barnes
		Deacon Chairs Goldie & Jimmy Barnes
		At-large Representative Charles Walker
		At-large Representative Cathy Oberg
		At-large Representative Nancy Green
		District Board Rep Frosty Wilkinson
		Annual Conf. Delegate Frosty Wilkinson
	District Conf. Delegate Carmen Lau Woo	
	Jubilee Trustee Jana Helmuth	
	Jubilee Trustee Stephanie Herkelrath	
	Jubilee Trustee Tim Bisterfeldt	