

THE OLYMPIC NEWS

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

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March 2006

LIVING THE WORD

by Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?* Isaiah 43.19

With the first Sunday in March, the season of Epiphany comes to an end. Literally meaning *the unveiling, or the revealing*, the Epiphany journey has been like the climbing of a mountain. Each of Jesus' confrontations with the authorities of his day, each of the miraculous stories of healing and casting out of demons, each of the twists and turns in this story has brought us to a new view of God's glory and divine purpose revealed (Mark 1 and 2). Now we stand at the mountain top. (Mark 9.1-9)

In Mark's ninth chapter Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a high mountain and there the disciples describe a remarkable sight. Jesus becomes transfigured, a dazzlingly bright vision before them. Then at his side appear two of the greatest figures in all of Israel's history. Right there, talking with Jesus is Moses, the one who liberated Israel from Egyptian bondage, led the people through the wilderness, delivered them the law by which they could live faithfully with God and each other and then led them to the promised land of Canaan. On his other side is the most revered prophet of all Hebrew proph-

ets, Elijah, the one who courageously condemned the human faces of arrogance, pride, and blasphemy in his day and reminded the people to remain faithful to God's covenant. Standing with these two, Jesus is revealed as the human manifestation of God's *new* covenant. The message is clear. God's promises of old were great, they were fulfilled, and even in the face of human infidelity God's covenant will not expire. The promise is being renewed!

But from this mountaintop, our journey makes a turn. Now we are descending into the valley of Lent, which will lead us to the culmination of Jesus' earthly ministry. Upon this road we will tread into the depths of human brokenness. And our journey will lead to the cross. The disciples follow Jesus from this great unveiling of God's purpose and glorious revealing of divine will into the reality of the world's vehement resistance to the good news he has come to proclaim.

We too stand on the brink of a dark and dangerous journey. We too face the reality of a world which stands in utter denial of the power of the cross. Instead of the cross, we prefer to herald the power of humanity to choose and shape its own destiny. We'd rather preach the 'good

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March 2006



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news' that God has anointed humanity as judge and jury, as lawmaker and enforcer, as creator and destroyer of worlds. We prefer to proclaim the easy truth of a cynical age, *God helps those who help themselves*. That way we can justify the fact that we have helped ourselves to more than our fair share of power and wealth.

And so in this age, the people of God are called again to turn to God and tune our will to the will of the divine. God has had enough of our empty sacrifices (Psalm 50.7-15). God seeks something else from us: a true acknowledgment of our need for healing and redemption. Can we remember the promise? Do we have the courage to believe it?

What action will mark our response? What words will come from our lips? What symbol will define the legacy of our lives? Upon whose altar will we present our sacrifice? And what sacrifice will it be?

Our answer to these questions will define our relationship with God and with our world. On the day when God stands to judge our response, we may be found lacking in perfection. Our failures and missteps will be revealed, but I pray that we will not be charged with truancy. Let it not be said that in the face of this test, we got up, went out to have a smoke, and then just went home. Let it not be said that we did not even have faith enough to look back at the old story, to see where this has happened before, and to see where the word of God might live in our lives today. Let it not be said that because we did not know what any of us could accomplish on our own, that we didn't even try to get together and give something our best shot.

Are we ready to take this thing to the next level? We might have to go deeper before we can be raised up.



OV BOOK CLUB

Please join the Olympic View Book Club for this month's meeting. The club will meet at 10:30am on March 24th at Jean Erickson's home.

Recycling Reminder

by Bill Shoemaker, Building Trustee

In order to assist OVCCoB with its recycling program and comply with the city's new waste management rules, we wish to remind everyone to please put our recyclables in the blue containers and regular garbage in the proper waste containers.

If you need to put garbage, recyclables or yard waste outside please use the "marked" proper containers. Please note the labels on the bins. Outside, the blue bin is actually for Yard Waste.

If we are lucky, waste management will simply not pick up improperly sorted materials. If we're unlucky, we could get fined.

Thank you for your help.

New Electronic Entry to be Installed

by Ken Rieman



In an effort to increase accessibility to our building while enhancing security, the board recently decided to install an electronic entry system on the front downstairs doors (on 95th St.)

Two factors drove the decision. For several years now, visitors have been able to communicate with the secretary and office staff through a remote camera and intercom. But once staff learned that someone needed let into the building they still needed to go down the stairs to open the door. For our new secretary, in a wheel-chair, and for a few of our volunteers, that ranges from impossible to cumbersome. **Our new system will feature an electronic remote release so staff can unlock the door with the push of a button.**

The second issue has been security. Because we are a church and want our building to be widely accessible, especially to community user groups, we give keys to many people.

Occasionally we have members who lose them, or user groups whose leadership changes and then we lose track of who has keys and who doesn't. Sometimes, people even make unauthorized copies of keys.

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The common remedies for these issues involve re-keying all locks, severely restricting key access, and issuing new keys. This can be costly, especially when it needs to be done every few years.

The remedy we've chosen allows us to issue new keys which cannot be copied. If keys are lost, stolen, or not returned, they can be deactivated. The electronic entry system will also be able to limit the access of our facility to some of our user groups to times which we specify and it will create a log of each electronic key used to enter the building.

The vast majority of those entering our building do so when the doors have already been opened by staff or leaders. A few of our members routinely require access through doors which will not be equipped with electronic entry. They will continue to have keys to those doors. Others will get to choose between a key card (suitable for a wallet) or a small key fob which fits onto a key ring.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, our transition to the new system should be underway. For a while, people will be able to access the building with either system. After a period of time in which we allow everyone to turn in their old keys and then pick up their electronic keys, we will change the locks on the other doors.

Please note: If you have keys to any of the building's entry doors, we would like you to return them, and we will be able to then issue you new keys. We thank you, in advance, for your help with this and hope you will contact the office if you have questions.

Also, we felt that the urgency of this security matter warranted proceeding before we raised special funds for the project. We are using about \$3,000 that was saved out of last year's budget. Nevertheless, we know that our higher budget this year will stretch us, especially later in the year, and **we would be very grateful to receive additional gifts to offset this expense.** All donations designated 'electronic entry' will replenish the account from which funds were drawn.

What Happened to Our Old 'Check Request' Forms?

by JoAnn Shoemaker, Treasurer

New forms are now available in the office for reimbursement of items purchased as authorized by the Board of Administration or Executive Board. They are now titled 'Expense Statement,' and can be completed in five easy steps. As always, completed forms should be placed in Nancy Bedada's beautiful box.

Additionally, we ask that all those submitting expenses for re-imbusement turn in their receipts with attached expense statement forms as soon as possible. Receipts dated over 60 days from purchase may be reviewed by the Executive Board.

If you have purchased something as a donation for the church, we would still like you to submit an expense statement. You can check a box on the form that says, 'Consider this a donation.' Doing so helps the church to keep track of costs associated with our ministries, and helps us to track the value of all donations made by our members and friends. Donations will be indicated on your year-end charitable giving statement.



The OVCCoB Board of Administration met on February 7, 2006

We reviewed church office operations and finances. We ask that everyone continue to uphold the church with gifts of your money, time, and talents.

We learned that the Executive Committee is launching an evaluation of ministries at Olympic View. The process will begin with an Executive Board evaluation of the pastor. It will then implement an all-congregation evaluation of all of the ministries of the church, and self-evaluation of its own leadership.

We were in consensus to use \$10,000 from the Memorial Fund for "Phase 1" of the repair and

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upgrade the sanctuary's sound system, which will include construction of a secure cabinet for the new equipment. We will seek to raise \$5000 for the second phase.

We were in consensus to upgrade the security of the church's outside doors and encourage contributions from the congregation to pay for these necessary repairs and improvements.

We heard reports from the Deacons and Ministry Teams and updated our church calendar. Please note the many upcoming activities.

We shared concerns and held in prayer those within our church family who have special needs at this time. We ask all to hold our church family in your prayers.

~Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk

Maple Leaf's "First Friday Out" thanks Olympic View

Last night was our twelfth "First Friday Out!" It was a particularly rewarding evening for me. Besides having a great turn out of 21 participants, people seemed particularly connected and appreciative of the opportunity to be there. The youngest little girl said, "I wish we could do this every Friday." A first-time participant, a "very stressed" (her words) mother gave me a hug for my having played Monopoly with her son while she relaxed. I noticed a father take some time out to sit in the wing chair and read a book while his two kids continued to play a game. Several people brought refreshments and the donations were generous. A group of seniors plus some fellow mid-lifers continue to participate on a regular basis. I feel like our time and efforts are worthwhile.

Thank you for continuing to let us use the Social Hall for First Friday Out. I feel like we are establishing a valuable community support system with your assistance.

Sincerely,
Chris Syrjala



Living Peace Church News & Notes

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

Lenten Preparations for Peace

As we seek to follow Jesus' call to be a Living Peace Church, it is easy to constantly **go** and **do**, and not allow ourselves to **be**. We can also get caught up in noticing what others are or aren't doing, and forget to allow time for our own realization and confession for what we are or aren't doing. As we enter this season of Lent, this is the opportune time for individuals and congregations to set aside time for prayer, fasting, and silence, and to take time for this repentance. It is not a time for guilt over our inadequacies. Instead, taking this time allows us to seek forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for the ways of peace and justice to which Jesus calls us.

A prayer for Ash Wednesday:

Merciful God, I come today entering this season of Lent recognizing that I have fallen short of what You have called me to be. (Silence)

Help me let go of the burdens that turn me away from You. (Silence)

Help me set aside the darkness and fear that is prevalent in our society. (Silence)

Help me release my anger, self-pity, and guilt so that I can open myself to healing and wholeness. (Silence)

As I feel the ashes upon my skin, bring forth a spirit of commitment for this journey through the Lenten wilderness. Amen.

~ Barb Saylor, 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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Monthly Shared Prayer Requests

In our community...

For the family of **Reah Whiteside**, grieving her death Feb. 14th.

For the **Bergum-Hartz family**, close friends of Patti Berg, who were in a fatal car accident Feb. 17th. Ken and Kathy (both 49) were killed. Kirsten (17) and Kyle (13) are both seriously injured and are in Harborview's ICU.

For the family of **Judith Ford's mother**, grieving her loss.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Dorothy Rhodes; Tim Bisterfeldt's Aunt **Diane Peters Ernie Ricketts**; **Ryan Halifax**; **Alvida Fite**; Sharon Haley's brother, **Mark**; **Nole Ann Horsey**; **Lowell Geiver**; **Violet Lauridsen**; **Adam Ford**; **Russell Jarboe**; **Dennis & Susanna Remple**; **Michael Rogers**, Lew Fortin's Nephew; **Ron Russell**; and Keith Russell's Son-in-law **Tom Twigg**.

In our state, nation & world...

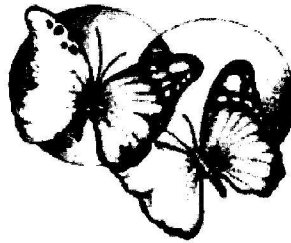
For a peaceful resolution to the growing discord between Iran and nations concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapon technology there.

For the people of Israel & Palestine who are facing uncertainty in the transition of their governments.

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

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.



In Memory of Reah Whiteside

Reah Kathryn Whiteside went to be with her Lord on February 14, 2006 in Bothell, WA. She was born June 18, 1914 in Seattle, to Jane Jensen and Henry Ritzman, the granddaughter of a pioneer Seattle family. Reah was a Roosevelt High Grad in the class of 1930. She married Mark Wellington Whiteside in 1937. She worked for Safeco Insurance in the surety and bonding department until her retirement. She spent leisure years in Mesa, AZ, and on Whidbey Island. Reah was on the shuffleboard team that won the Arizona Senior Championship in 1995. She was also a deaconess of Olympic View Community Church for many years. Reah was also a member of Ahmes Court # 41 of Ladies of the Oriental Shrine. Reah is survived by her daughter, Kathryn Dodson Magnus of Bothell and son, Leon Whiteside (Patricia) of Greenbank. She has 5 grandsons and 10 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Mark and granddaughter, Mindy Dodson Royal. The family wishes to acknowledge her adult family home, "Someplace Special" in Bothell, for their loving care of Reah. At her request a private family service will be held. Remembrances in her honor can be made to Shriner's Children's Hospital.

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 for breakfast. This month's meeting is on Wednesday, March 15, in the Northaven I dining room from 7:30-8:30a.m. 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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Then Olympic View Community
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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

March Friends Event

The Third Annual OVCCoB Friends Game Day and Potluck Dinner for Adults will be held in the Fellowship hall, Saturday, March 18th, at 3 p.m. for games (please bring your favorites) and 5 p.m. for a "Green" Potluck Dinner, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Please bring your favorite green main dish, salad, or dessert; breads and beverages will be provided. All adults are welcome. We hope the earlier time of day will encourage all to attend. Please RSVP to the church office (206) 525-8900 by March 16th.

New Cleaning Supply Closet is Available to All

by Bill Shoemaker

In an effort to ensure that everyone has access to cleaning equipment needed, cupboard #1 located in room 110 (the Germantown Room) is now available with supplies. We have even temporarily placed our large commercial vacuum there, but we would like to put a smaller upright or canister vacuum there and so we are on the lookout for any who might have a used vacuum to donate to the church.



"New Community Project" Thanks Olympic View

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your support of the New Community Project — and especially your recent generous donation! These gifts help us continue our work of calling all of us to greater care for God's earth and more justice for God's people. They will help us offer Learning Tours to six different destinations in the coming year, including first-time trips to Nepal and Sudan. They will allow us to visit congregations, colleges, schools, civic clubs — anywhere that will have us — to speak of the challenges facing the earth and its people. And they will let us continue to give a special focus to youth and young adults, both for what we have to offer them and what they have to give us.

Please let us know if there are ways we can be of service to your congregation. We are enthused to have partners like you as we carry out our work. Hope it won't be long until our paths cross again!

Sincerely,
David Radcliff

Sacrifice and Redemption: Re-thinking the Power and the Promise of the Journey to the Cross

Ken Rieman and Mark Steuart are collaborating on a new Sunday School offering for Lent. The class will begin on Ash Wednesday (March 1) with a 6:45pm. showing of the movie 'The Mission' starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons. Participants unable to catch this viewing can watch the movie on their own, and come to class Sunday morning at 9:30a.m. for a discussion, and a look at the ways our culture and faith think of sacrifice and its purpose. Our conversation will consider both the personal and the societal dimensions of these powerful ideas.

Future classes will engage two other films, 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon' about the life of St. Francis of Assisi shown March 15th, and 'Romero' about the real-life transformation of El Salvador's Archbishop from a defender of the wealthy to an advocate for the poor shown March 29th.

Skagit Peace Fellowship Begins Monthly Services

In February, the Skagit Peace Fellowship began holding a regularly scheduled fourth Sunday inter-generational worship service. The mostly Mennonite and Brethren group welcomes all to join them. The informal worship begins at 4:00 p.m. and is followed by a simple 'finger food' potluck. Gatherings are held at the home of Frosty and Nancy Wilkinson at 14812 Dunbar Lane. Their phone number is (360) 848-1827.