

# 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

March 2007

## LIVING THE WORD

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

*...let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

Amos 5.24

Do you know your watershed? Do you know the path which water takes toward the sea when it falls on the land around your home? Prior to the advent of motorized vehicles, and before the installation of urban sewers and water supply lines, our forebears knew the waterways of their communities the way we know our streets. Some of humankind's first maps were lines that marked the places where creeks joined rivers. Maps have always marked points of navigation and interest, but few of the maps we use these days give us much information about our waterways.

Honestly, this is understandable. We've learned to trust those who handle the supply and disposal of our water, and they don't require too much of us in return. We just cut them a check every now and then and they deliver the single most important thing that

we consume. Yet this is beginning to change. In the last half of the 20th century, water became a serious concern for the majority of the world's population. The majority of global deaths due to preventable disease occur for lack of safe and adequate water for drinking and sanitation. Millions of people walk miles each day just to obtain water. Increasingly, concerns over access to water are fueling conflict and violence.



This last weekend, John Jones, co-manager of our district's Camp Myrtlewood on Oregon's coast range gave me a tour of Myrtle

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Creek, which runs through the camp. With a background in forest ecology, and 23 years of experience at the camp, John has come to some key understandings about the roles water plays in our lives, and about the way society's attitudes about water and the land effect God's creation.

This summer, our youth will have the opportunity to participate in a work camp at Myrtlewood in order to restore Myrtle Creek to its natural state. I've always thought that the creek looked beautiful, but I had no idea that my ideal of beauty had been shaped by ignorance for what a healthy creek system actually looks like. It turns out that the very things I used to think of as 'cleaning up' a waterway can actually cause it deep damage. And it also turns out that a damaged creek means a damaged forest. One of the primary sources of nutrients in Northwest forests is salmon. Salmon bring energy from the oceans to wildlife and plants thousands of miles inland. Whole species of animals and plants depend utterly on salmon! When humans clear log-jams and boulders out of streams, they destroy salmon habitat. When we clear-cut trees, mud flows into streams and suffocates their eggs. When we re-plant the clear-cut areas, we lose the diversity of plant species that made the whole system stable. When we lose our old-growth timber, the forests that grow in their place are very susceptible to drought and forest fire. Fortunately, we've learned a whale of a lot in the last twenty years about the way forests and streams really work. In the three years since Myrtlewood's restoration work began, salmon have begun to spawn again at the camp. Dozens of youth have learned to see the natural consequences of their personal lifestyle choices. Most importantly, we are finding a better way to live on the earth.

Lent is the season of repentance. It is the time when we look carefully within our-

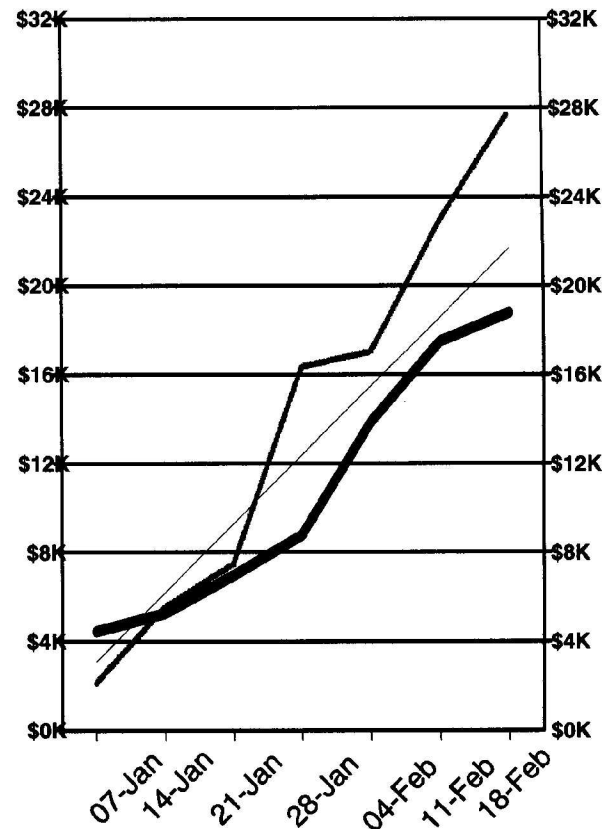
selves, and at the ways we as a people live, to see whether we can find a better way. In biblical terms, this means learning to be bringers of justice and righteousness to a dry and thirsty land. It is no surprise that the ancient Hebrew prophet Amos offered a vision of God's justice and righteousness rolling down the hills like waters and an ever-flowing stream.

Let's use this time to learn about our watersheds. Let's learn about how we can bring the flow of God's justice and righteousness, long polluted and paved over, back to the light of our day. And in so doing, we will bear witness to the ever-flowing life of Christ in our midst.

Pastor Ken.

### 2007 YTD Financial Support for Ministries

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren



— Target Income    ■ Actual Income    — Actual Expense

## Shared Prayer Requests

### In our community...

For **Russell and Eunice Jarboe**, and all those at Bethany Health Care, who are fighting the flu.

For **Trisha Bolden-Williams's** son, who is ill.

Trisha is moving to Portland, Oregon to help care for him.

For **Nola Russell**, recovering from pneumonia.

For family and friends of **Elsworth Bires**, especially his wife, Maxine.

Elsworth passed away on 1-12-2007.

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

### Ongoing prayer requests:

**The Smith-Derksen family; Elaine Rankin; Mike Titus; Keith Russell; George Jorgensen; Russell Jarboe; Jacob Cochran;**

**Jeff Keuss Sr.; Dick Nash; Francis Bunger; Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother; Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;**

**Charles Walker; Gene Harnden; Adam Ford; Eileen Birkey's mother; Ernie Ricketts;**

**Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt, Diane Peters;**

**Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers**

**Mike Helmuth's father, Bill, and nephew,**

**Ryan Halifax; Alvida Fite;**

**Sharon Haley's brother, Mark.**

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

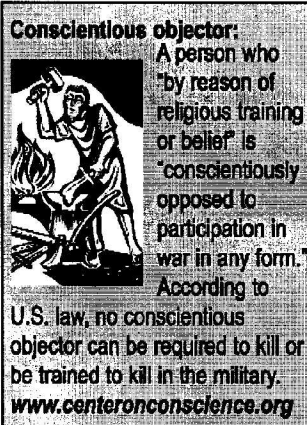
- That we offer a vision of justice, peace, and healing which will form the basis of a bi-partisan commitment in our nation to work together for the common good.
- For a renewed commitment by our leaders to open disarmament talks with Iran.
- For an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for the safety and return of all combatants, and for the difficulties which their families face in their absence.
- For a revitalization of our District churches and a deepening sense of our unity in Christ.
- For safe and peaceful conditions for the people of the Middle East.
- 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!

### Conscientious Objection: The Logic of Christ



While being against war is only a part of Christian peacemaking, it is a foundational belief of a living peace church. Conscientious objection is a main way that Christ-following pacifists depart from the logic of the world around us.

Many, Christians and otherwise, believe that a threat to the country requires a violent response to eliminate the enemy, and that

God blesses this aggression. Those who choose to follow Christ fully are tuned to a different logic, which encourages nonviolent response and sacrificial love. This peculiar logic of love is based upon the recognition of the image of God in each person, friend or foe. These Christians give allegiance to the Christ who refused to rain down fire on a village that turned his group away (Luke 9:51-56).

Of course, conscientious objectors also object to many other tangling kinds of violence. But commitment to the nonkilling love of Jesus becomes a pledge which represents all the rest.

Will you stand up and be counted as a conscientious objector?

-**Matt Guynn**, Program Coordinator for Peace Witness

*In case a draft might be reinstated, it is recommended that all who may want to be officially recognized as conscientious objectors begin a file showing a record of their beliefs. Contact the Brethren Witness/Washington Office for an update on the draft and info about starting a file at 1-800-785-3246.*

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

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## Call for Flowers and Arrangers

By Cathy Oberg

Spring is almost here! Anyone who is interested in contributing time, energy, or funds to the weekly altar arrangement, or to working on new banners, is invited to call me, Cathy Oberg, 206-525-4516. Let me know if you would like to work on a silk arrangement or if you have flowers you would like to donate. Do you have flowers in your yard you would like to arrange yourself? Do the basics of arranging interest you? If so, contact me and we'll schedule a class. If you are willing to come on a Saturday and help decorate the altar, please let me know. I can arrange transportation if you need it.

Soon there will be a new Flower Memorial calendar for 2007 posted in the Narthex. Choose a Sunday on which you would like to memorialize a special person, event, etc. Next, fill in your information on the appropriate line and write "2007" beside it to designate that your request is for the current year.

Financial donations (whatever you can afford) may be made to the Altar Fund, or designated "flowers," etc. Remember that time spent helping to arrange the flowers is a valuable donation. We also welcome new vases, con-



## Attention: Graduates of 2007

If you are to graduate from High School, University, or another phase of your educational career this Spring, please let the office know: we'd like to celebrate with you and congratulate you on your success on the first Sunday in June. Did you graduate from a program mid-year? Tell us, so we can congratulate, and celebrate, you, too!

## Lenten Bible Study Continues in March

This past week, Pastor Ken Miller Rieman led the first of three Lenten Bible Study sessions. The study, team taught by Pastor Ken and Jay Patterson, will explore the themes of poverty and wealth from the perspectives presented in Luke's Gospel.

Our study will continue to meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>. We will arrange additional times for the group to view and discuss several films relating to our theme. These will be announced in worship, in bulletins, and the on-line calendar. If you are interested in viewing the films, but feel unable to attend the classes, just let the office know and we will call you with the viewing schedule.



## Choir Practice and Performance

Wednesday Practices:  
February 28, March 14 & 28

Sunday Performances:  
March 4 & 18

## GUILD

Guild's next breakfast and program will take place **Wednesday, March 21st, at 7:30 am**. Our group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, September through June. Call the church office—206 525-8900—for information or to leave a message for the group's leader, Grace Edmark.

## Deacon News

Deacon Consecration is to be held during the **Sunday, March 11th** worship service, to be followed by the Deacons' Spring meeting and potluck.

The next Deacon Training meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm**

## 300th Anniversary Brethren Devotionals: *Fresh from the Word*

Church of the Brethren 300th Anniversary devotionals are now available for order.

The devotional's title, *Fresh from the Word*, is taken from the experience of the first eight Brethren on that early morning in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708. They were reading the Bible with new eyes. Now we celebrate that beginning with 366 devotions, one for each day of the anniversary year.

Building on that early encounter with the Bible, each meditation lifts up the Word's freshness for our day. Read and be moved by this collection every day during 2008, and then return and be enriched again. Because the devotionals are perpetually dated, *Fresh from the Word* can be used and treasured for years to come.

The discounted "early bird rate" of \$12.00 will apply to all orders placed before March 12, 2007. Orders placed after March 12th will be billed \$20.00 per copy. To order, please contact the OVCCB office before March 12, 2007.

206 525 8900 (or) [kim@olympicchurch.org](mailto:kim@olympicchurch.org)



## OVCCB Friends Game Day & Green Dinner for Adults

The Fourth Annual "OVCCB Friends Game Day and Green Dinner for Adults" will be held on Saturday, March 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite game to share. Game playing will begin at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a Potluck dinner at 5 p.m. (It's rumored that there will again be Corned Beef and Cabbage as one of the main dishes at the potluck.) All adults who will be attending are asked to please RSVP to the church office (206-525-8900) by March 8th and to bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share at the potluck. Please join us for game-playing fun and lots of good fellowship.

### Olympic View Book Club

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

*Date:* Friday, March 30, 2007

(Yes, this is one week later in the month than is usual)

*Place:* Betty DeBon's home

*Book to read:* The Bean Trees, by Barbara Kingsolver