

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 2008

Living the Word

Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Psalm 85.10-11

The Church of High-Fidelity

It requires a stretch, I know, but try imagining me in high-school. I was all of 6 feet tall and 160 lbs. I'd worn glasses from the 2nd grade. I was the school photographer, stage lighting operator, and Audio-Visual assistant. Yes, I was a geek.

Steven, from my church youth group was my inspiration. A farm kid, Steven knew how to weld, work with wood, fix a combine or grain elevator, and wire just about anything. He got me excited about Hi-Fi stereos.

I think the first time I heard his new sound system, it was a religious experience. I'd never heard cymbals clashing so clearly. I'd never felt a kick drum on a cassette pound me in the chest. Sitting in between his speakers, I closed my eyes and the it was as if Billy

Ocean, and his whole band were with us in the room. *Get out of my dreams...get into my car....* And I heard the car drive across Steven's basement.

From that day, I became obsessed with audio equipment. I read everything I could get my hands on. I wanted to know about the latest technological breakthroughs. I picked through garage sales looking for old equipment that I could buy and have Steven help me repair. When I got to college, I put all of my spare money into trading equipment and re-creating that religious Hi-Fi experience for my friends.

I think something happens to us when we experience something in a fuller way than we've ever before imagined. It's as if our minds are exploded with the awareness of new possibilities, whole new universes of possibility.

I can't look back and point to a day that 'the possible' became my life's pursuit. But there it is. Possibility is my passion. It's why I am a morning person. It's why I like to go on adventures without itineraries. It's why I like to cook without recipe's. It's

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Seattle, WA 98115

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March 2008



why I love the process of preparing a sermon, of laying bare the possibilities that await the faithful.

The psalmist imagines the meeting of steadfast love and faithfulness, and the love which flows between righteousness and peace. And to modern minds that ask 'How do we do it?' it seems impossible to imagine. Sure, we'd like to imagine an end to the war, a congress united in diligent work on behalf of all the nation's people, a president utterly devoted to the welfare of the poorest of all nations, but does imagination or hope do a thing to bring that day closer?

When 'High-Fidelity' was coined as a term to describe audio equipment, it was grounded by a commitment to reproducing, with the highest possible degree of faithfulness, a sound's source. Furthermore, it was driven by an ever growing understanding of what was possible for the human ear to perceive. And practically, the commercial goal of 'High-Fidelity' became the living room encounter with real-world sound, something quite remarkable to those who had grown up with wax cylinders and Victrolas.

The 'Church of High-Fidelity' is the way I like to describe the church awakening fully to the true nature of the New Testament church, and utterly committed to the faithful pursuit of the possibilities which emerge when followers of Jesus bring the Gospel's promise to bear on the powers of this world.

Just as the emergence of Hi-Fi audio technology required and inspired the collaboration of theoreticians, engineers, musicians, and composers, the Church of High-Fidelity is the church of scholars and schoolchildren, pastors and poets, secretaries and social workers, custodians and cooks, midwives and fishermen, fathers and mothers, each with his or her unique ability to perceive the reality of divine love as no one else ever has.

The Church of High-Fidelity is where the dream of a world of peace gets lived out, where Democ-

rats and Republicans figure out how to set aside their individual biases and pursue policies that lower the cost of health care and reduce the number of abortions and deaths from hunger and preventable diseases and make sure that those who can work have jobs and those who do work do not live in poverty.

The Church of High-Fidelity is where the Christians, Jews, Muslims, pagans, and even atheists are able to affirm a common commitment to the care of the earth and all of her creatures and to living simply so that future generations might also know the joys of the natural order.

Above all else, the Church of High-Fidelity is the body whose senses are saturated with Love's spirit and have surrendered to Love's leading.

The Church of High-Fidelity: Faithful to the source, full-spectrum in its response.



OVCCB Reaches Out to One Great Hour of Sharing in March

by Stephanie Herkelrath

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.
Hebrews 13:16a

The outreach ministry focus for the month of March is One Great Hour of Sharing. Carol Joy Bowman, Coordinator of Stewardship Formation and Education for the Church of the Brethren, has written:

The call to give comes to us often: annual commitments, capital campaigns, denominational ministries, youth mission trips, and local projects. Each call challenges us to understand the importance of sharing -- to see beyond the dollars and respond to God's call to share as an act of worship and praise.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one way of responding to God's call to give...this offering shares resources and change lives...Hebrews 13:16 is a reminder that our actions as Christians speak louder than our words. God desires our participation in the lives of others...As our world grows smaller, our lives intersect with many more lives than they previously did. Through General Board ministries, and partnership with Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing gifts provide support to help families and villages around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable. By opening our hearts and hands to address some of the world's deepest needs, we will experience the deep joy and blessing of sharing God's love.

Although March 9th is the date of this giving opportunity, designated offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing can be given throughout the month of March.



Living Peace Church News & Notes

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

**Junior High Workcamp —
Thinking... Working... Faith-building...
June 22 - 26, 2008 — New Windsor, MD**

*They were all trying to
frighten us, thinking,
"Their hands will get
too weak for the work,
and it will not be
completed." But I
prayed, "Now
strengthen my hands."
~ Nehemiah 6:9 (NIV)*

Junior High Youth have the opportunity to engage in a week of service and integrated learning around the concept of "global injustice" this summer. Using the 2008 National Workcamps theme from Nehemiah 6:9, this workcamp will challenge thinking that limits action, and will encourage youth to overcome obstacles in our world.

Our home for the week will be the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, Maryland. Initiated by Brethren visionaries like M.R. Zigler, the Service Center has been and continues to be at the center of many peacemaking and international outreach efforts. As the body of Christ, we will join our hands in service projects that have local, national, and global impacts: A Greater Gift (SERRV) and Brethren Disaster Ministries' distribution center. Come work your minds as well as your bodies in this "thinking/working/faith-building" workcamp!

The cost is \$225 plus transportation to and from the Brethren Service Center. Financial assistance is available through On Earth Peace by contacting Marie Rhoades at 717-917-9392 or marie.oepa@gmail.com. Register for the workcamp online at www.brethrenworkcamps.org through April 1, 2008.

*Co-sponsored by On Earth Peace and
the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office.*

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

P. O. Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776
410-635-8704 • www.onearthpeace.org
oepa_oepa@brethren.org

3/08

Shared Prayer Requests

In Our Community:

Celebrating the birth February 9, 2008, of **Lenore Unger's** granddaughter, **Ruby Claire Unger**.

For the family of **Russell Jarboe** who died on February 4th.

For the family of **Elaine Rankin** who died on January 28th.

For **Roger Edmark** who is thankful for a successful angiogram, and facing an upcoming heart valve replacement.

For the **Smith-Derksens**, recovering from typhoid.

For **Dorothy Bollinger**, recovering from surgery on her broken hand.

For the **Edmarks'** daughter, **Melissa Hinton**, beginning treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

For **Ken Miller Rieman's** father, **Phil**, now recovering from a brain hemorrhage.

For **Dan Ramirez** (Men's Breakfast), recovering at home from a brain hemorrhage.

For **Jeanesse Miller**, fighting infection in her toes.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Geraldine Campbell; Chris Pride;

Gene Harnden; Charles Walker; Evelyn Woodbury;

Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;

Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;

Amber Compton; Eileen Birkey's mother;

Sharon Haley's brothers, Mark and Paul Andrews;

Lowell Geiver; Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers;

Smith-Derksens in Chad

Our Nation, State, and World:

For peace and restoration of civil rights in Chad, where political unrest had led to fighting and the withdrawal of many foreign relief agencies.

For an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and an end to the occupation of the West Bank.

For wide and thoughtful participation in the United States' 2008 elections.

For an end to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

For democratic reforms in Pakistan, Kenya, and Burma.

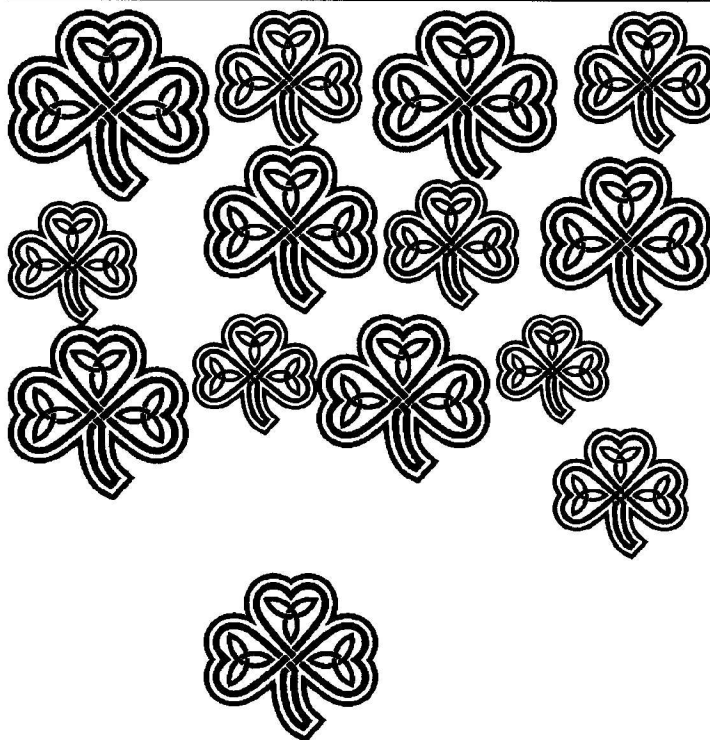
For the four-member CPT team in northern Iraq, including Church of the Brethren members **Peggy Gish and Cliff Kindy**.

6th Annual OVCCoB Game Day and "Green" Potluck

by Stephanie Herkelrath

The 6th Annual Friends Game Day and "Green" potluck dinner for adults will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 15th.

Games begin at 3:00 pm and the potluck dinner will begin at 5:00 pm. Please bring your favorite board (or other) games and a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Corned beef with cabbage and carrots, drinks, and bread will be provided. This event is always a lot of fun and all adults in the church are invited. You can teach your favorite game to others or learn a new one. There's always lots of laughter, not to mention great food. Join us for a few hours of fun and fellowship. For questions, call or email the Olympic View office, 206 525 8900.



The Olympic News is published monthly (mostly) by The Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

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We welcome you to our services.

"Fill the Need" Spaghetti Feed and Gypsy Concert to benefit North Helpline,

April 26th, 2008

An email sent to Olympic View from North Helpline

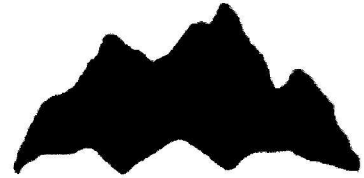
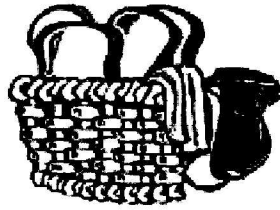
The "Fill the Need" Spaghetti Feed and Gypsy Jazz Concert to benefit North Helpline Emergency Services and Food Bank will be held at the Lake City Community Center (12531 28TH NE, Seattle) on Saturday, April 26th, 2008 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

This event will feature a spaghetti dinner and an evening of live music by the Seattle area group Ranger and the Re-Arrangers performing American swing standards, traditional Gypsy jazz songs, and world music originals. The band includes seasoned rhythm guitar, base guitar, mandolin, and drum musicians, and features the young violin "phenom" (Victory Music Review, Feb. 2007) Ranger! This show will appeal to all ages!!! (Finalist Independent Music Awards, 2007, Best Song, World Traditional; Winner, Global Rhythm Magazine Song contest, April 2007.)

Tickets for the Delizioso Spaghetti Feed Dinner (pasta, meat or vegetarian sauce option, salad, bread and beverage) and music will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10 years of age. "Friends of North Helpline" Splendido Dinner Tables for business and individual group sponsorships will include reserved parking, table service, and an antipasti appetizer and dessert for each guest in addition to the meal. Splendido Dinner Tables will be available at \$120.00 for a table of 6 or \$160.00 for a table of 8. Sponsor signage for the table will be provided upon request.

North Helpline is a nonprofit 501c3 which has served north Seattle, Shoreline, and Lake Forest Park (zip codes 98115, 98125, 98133, 98155, 98177) since 1989 with a mission to feed the hungry, keep families in their homes, and keep children in school. Largely volunteer operated, North Helpline relies on the assistance of the larger community for financial support to supplement limited public funding.

Advance purchase of tickets is encouraged; advance tickets can be obtained by completing a ticket flier or by calling (206) 367-3477. North Helpline is very grateful for the support of the Lake City Chamber, the Lake City Lions Club, and the Joe Simmons Construction Company for assistance in sponsoring this event. All funds raised by this event will be eligible for some matching funds from the Feinstein Challenge Grant and will go directly for services in our north end communities.



Deacon Update

Next Training Scheduled for:

7:00 p.m. on March 25th

Please let your deacon or the church office know if you would like to receive the weekly bulletin by mail.

206 525 8900

G.U.I.L.D. Women's Breakfast

March 19, 2008 7:30am—8:30am

Welcome, ladies! Next meeting on March 19, 2008, at Northaven.

Olympic View Book Club

March 21, 2008 10:30 am

Reading *The Sisters Rosensweig*, by
Wendy Wasserstein.

March book club hosted by Betty DeBon.

Keep an eye on upcoming bulletins
for location information.

Annual Conference 2008 Registration Around the Corner

Registration for Annual Conference begins on March 7th, 2008. Conference schedule information is now available for viewing at:

www.brethren.org/ac/

"Important Registration and Housing Information" on the Annual Conference home page can be found by going to Brethren.org, and clicking on "Annual Conference." The Annual Conference Housing page notes that Housing Registration, as well as many other Annual Conference resources, will be available for viewing on Brethren.org beginning March 7th.

Never fear! Olympic View will also make available hard copies of all Web materials for interested members of the congregation and our community. Stay tuned for additional information, and feel free to contact Olympic View for assistance accessing Annual Conference or other information. 206 525 8900.

Annual Conference will be held
July 12—July 16, 2008, Richmond, Virginia

This year's Annual Conference celebrates the 300th Anniversary of the Brethren.

March Deacon Events

March 20, Maundy Thursday Love Feast
6:30 pm

The service will include a traditional Brethren Footwashing and Communion offering, and will end with a simple meal of meat broth and bread.

March 23, Easter Sunday Breakfast
9:00 am

The deacons will serve breakfast on Easter Sunday.

Tuesday, March 25
7:00 pm, Library (friendship room)
Deacon Training Session

"A Brief History of Brethren Beginnings,"

(excerpted from *Fresh from the Word : Devotions for the 300th Anniversary of the Brethren*)

The first Brethren baptism took place in the Eder River near Schwarzenau. The exact site and date were kept secret, as was the name of the man (chosen by lot) who baptized Alexander Mack, Sr., their leader and first minister. Mack baptized his baptizer and the remaining six: Anna Margaretha Mack, Andreas Boni, Johanna Nothiger Boni, Johann Kipping, Johanna Kipping Georg Grebe, and Lukas Vetter. They did not want their community to be named after any individual; in fact, they chose no name at all, referring to themselves simply as "brethren." Since baptism of adults was considered rebaptism (they had all received Reformed or Lutheran baptism as infants) and was illegal under the laws of the Holy Roman Empire, they also may have had some concern for their safety. Indeed, when rulers of surrounding territories heard of the event, they registered immediate protest with Wittgenstein's sovereign, Count Heinrich Albrecht. He, however, was of the pietist inclination himself and defended the recent settlers. The neighboring rulers then denounced the new religious dissenters to the imperial authorities, but that inquiry was not completed until 1720, after the Brethren had left the area.

Although little is known in detail about the young congregation in Schwarzenau, it is clear that early members generated great evangelistic fervor. Large meetings were held in Schwarzenau and surrounding villages. So many people attended meetings in Schwarzenau that these were often held outdoors on a lawn still known as the "Anabaptist yard." Brethren also sent out evangelists to make converts in other parts of Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

This text was adapted from "Brethren 1708-1883," Donald f. Durnbaugh in The Brethren Encyclopedia, Vol. I, 174