

# THE OLYMPIC NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
tel. 206-525-8900 • [www.olympicchurch.org](http://www.olympicchurch.org) e-mail: [info@olympicchurch.org](mailto:info@olympicchurch.org)

May 2008

## Living the Word

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

*We have made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when we plant shade trees under which we know full well we will never sit.* D. Elton Trueblood

As we enter the liturgical season of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that gave birth to the church almost 2,000 years ago. In the original Greek, the word for Spirit is *pneuma*, a word also used for 'breath' and 'wind.' This same word creeps into English when we refer to the *pneumatic* tools or tires which operate on pressurized air.

It is this same wind which moved over the face of the deep in the Genesis account of creation. It is the same breath which brought life to Adam and Eve.

I remember being taught in grade school about ecology. The teacher, trying to convey the importance of keeping our air, earth, and water clean, said these are things which belong to everyone. If we foul the air around us, others will have to breathe it. If we pollute the water, we are polluting something which we will later need to drink.

Woodsy Owl said, 'Give a hoot, don't pollute!'

It only seemed fair that we needed everyone to do their part. The part I didn't care for so much, as a germaphobic 10 year-old, was the idea that I was breathing the same air as everyone else in my classroom. It almost made my head spin—I mean, that air was going way deep down inside of me. To think of where that air had been!

The apostle Paul tried to teach his congregations that spiritual gifts are those gifts given for the common good. Like the air, which we all share, spiritual gifts, by definition, are gifts which can't be hoarded.

As we move from the springtime celebrations of Earth Day to the season of Pentecost, we are reminded that the growth of our spiritual lives coincides with the awakening of our consciousness to all that we share with all of God's creation.

Elton Trueblood reminded us that this consciousness is necessarily multi-generational. As surely as our pollution will make its way downwind and downstream—into the world's atmosphere and oceans—the way we live affects the way our children will live.

In May, our congregation will designate our outreach offerings to Earth Ministry, a Seattle organization that helps Christians who care

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

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about environmental stewardship to make a real difference. I hope you'll consider what you can do to help us care for the earth we'll leave for the generations to come.

The Outreach Focus for  
May 2008  
is Earth Ministry

## Shared Prayer Requests

### In Our Community:

For **Ernie Ricketts**, struggling with pneumonia.

For **Percy Dawson's wife**, recovering from successful brain surgery.

For **Roger Edmark**, recovering from heart valve replacement surgery.

For Kathy Edmark's brother, **Kenn Boulton**, recovering from emergency abdominal surgery.

### Ongoing prayer requests:

**Geraldine Campbell; Jeanesse Miller; Gene Harnden; Charles Walker;**

Bill Case's daughter, **Carol Kamada;**

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

**Richard Shoemaker**, Bill Shoemaker's brother;

**Eileen Birky's mother; Chris Pride;**

**Lowell Geiver; Marie McKimens;**

Sharon Haley's brothers, **Mark and Paul Andrews;**  
**the Smith-Derksens;**

the Edmarks' daughter, **Melissa Hinton**,  
and birth granddaughter, **Amber Compton**

### Our Nation, State, and World:

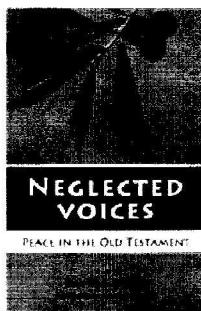
- For wide and thoughtful participation in the United States' 2008 elections.
- For peace in Iraq.
- For an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement
- and an end to the occupation of the West Bank.
- For democratic reform and the protection of civil rights in Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Chad, Burma, Zimbabwe, and Tibet.



## Living Peace Church News & Notes

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

### Book Review – *Neglected Voices: Peace in the Old Testament*



A popular understanding is that the Old Testament contains violence, wars, and the wrath of God. While that cannot be denied, in his book, *Neglected Voices: Peace in the Old Testament*, David Leiter (pastor, Green Tree (PA) Church of the Brethren) has made an excellent case that this understanding is one-sided. The concept of peace is also central to the Old Testament.

In the opening chapter, Leiter explores many facets of the Hebrew word *shalom*, the word most often translated into English as *peace*. He does not limit the book to exploring peace as the absence of war, but – following the concept of *shalom* – the peace explored in this book includes social conditions and personal situations "as they ought to be." As Leiter demonstrates, the establishment of peace may depend as much on eliminating basic causes of war as it does on active opposition to war.

Chapters 2-6 each explore a different "typology" of peace: Peace as Non-Violence, A Post-Violence Peace, Visions of Peace, Mandates for Peace, Piety and Peace.

A valuable part of each chapter comes at its end, with reflections and examples on contemporary implications of the particular typology of peace discussed.

The aims of this book are modest. Leiter admits that more comprehensive studies about the concept of peace in the Old Testament need to be explored. He has certainly made a good start showing that he is in touch with contemporary scholarship on essential issues. The scholarship is not obtrusive, however, and it remains an eminently useable book.

~ **Robert Bowman**,  
Professor of Old Testament, Manchester College

*On Earth Peace is  
sponsoring an  
insight session  
at the 2008 Annual  
Conference featuring  
David Leiter on  
July 15 at 6:45pm:  
"The Proclamation  
of Peace in the  
Old Testament."*

*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.brethren.org/oepa](http://www.brethren.org/oepa)  
[oepa\\_oepa@brethren.org](mailto:oepa_oepa@brethren.org)

