

# 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  
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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:

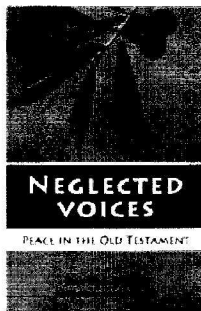
- For wide and thoughtful participation in the United States' 2008 elections.
- For peace in Iraq.
- For an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement
- and an end to the occupation of the West Bank.
- For democratic reform and the protection of civil rights in Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Chad, Burma, Zimbabwe,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

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## Devotional Readings

### Because God Said So

selection from *The Upper Room*, Mar.-Apr. 2008  
Read **1 Kings 8:56-61**

*You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. - Romans 8:15 (NRSV)*

Think back to your childhood. Who was the one person you could always count on to keep promises? When I was a child, I could count on only a few people to do what they said they were going to do. One of those people was my grandmother. If she made a promise to me, I could rest in assurance that she would do what she promised.

Isn't it wonderful to know that even as adults we have Someone who always keeps promises? God promises never to leave or forsake us, which means that God is taking care of us. Even when we may not see the fulfillment of those promises in front of us, we can rest in the assurance that our blessings are on the way because God said so.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the assurance that you will never leave or forsake us. Give us your childlike faith, so that every day we can remember that you keep your promises to us. In Jesus's name. Amen.

### The Parts of the Bible We Don't Like to Read

from *Fresh from the Word*, pgs. 158-9  
Reading: Daniel 6:24-28

*And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. (Dan. 6:24 NIV)*

Yikes! For many of us, the glorious words declaring God's praise in Daniel 6:26-28 might be muted by the rather horrific sounding words of verse 24. Crushed all their bones? The *wives and children*, too? What are we to make of verses that don't fit our understanding of God? Several options seem possible.

First, we might ignore them. This one and lots of others - just read over them, pretending that they're not in the Bible. We can choose to limit ourselves to the New Testament, or even the words of Jesus in the Gospels. But does such a choice give us a full understanding of God?

Second, we might realize that some of the verses don't describe God's choice. It was King Darius's command that led to the terrible fate of the conspirators. That's well enough for this passage, but it doesn't solve all of our so-called "problem passages." Sometimes the Bible describes God doing things of which we don't approve.

Third, we might acknowledge that God's ways are not our ways. It is a humbling yet healthy point for us when we realize that God does not always have to make sense to us. But even when God doesn't make sense, we will trust anyway. Might it be that those passages we're inclined to read over or ignore are telling us something we need to know to better understand God?

For the day: What are those parts of the Bible that you find difficult to read? How can you expand your understanding of God to find value in all Scripture?

Prayer: Precious Lord, help me move past my limited understanding of you. I will never comprehend all of you, but let me know more of you. Amen.

- Timothy P. Harvey



### **Olympic View is hosting the Oregon/ Washington District Conference**

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>

We will need volunteers to help make this a successful conference experience for everyone. You can help by volunteering to prepare, serve or clean up after one or more meal. Volunteers will be needed for the following meals:

#### **Regular meals:**

Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and dinner.

#### **Breakfasts:**

Saturday and Sunday mornings -- these morning meals could be Continental style breakfasts.

#### **Sack lunch:**

Sunday - lunch fixings for those traveling long distances.

We are looking for people who will host folks in their homes for Friday and /or Saturday. The District Office will let us know how many are signed up ahead of time and reimburse OV for our costs.

At the General Assembly on Sunday April 20th, several people already signed up to help. Please contact Kim in the office or Jerry Bowers to coordinate your volunteer efforts.

### **"GREASE"**

The Broadway Bound  
Children's Musical –  
Thursday, May 29th at the Act  
Theater, 7:00 P.M.

Carpool from the church  
at 6:00 pm to the ACT.  
Ticket prices are \$14.

Refreshments afterwards at the  
Helmuths, 8237 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE.  
Please call Jana to reserve a seat.  
930-9608.



### **Deacon Update**

Next Training Scheduled for:  
**7:00 p.m. on May 27, 2008**

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**  
**May 21, 2008 7:30am–8:30am**

Welcome, ladies!

### **Olympic View Book Club**

May 23, 2008 10:30 am  
Meets in OV Kitchen.

## General Assembly, April 20, 2008

Forty members of OVCCoB met on April 20th for General Assembly. Highlights of the event included:

— Our financial report showed we are on track in our budget year, and that our assets cover our liabilities.

— Our Jubilee Fund report showed losses over the past few months that reflect the general downturn in the US economy, but are less than those of the major stock indicators.

— A Gifts Discernment Team Report that presented us with a strong slate of officers and Board members for 2008-09, who were approved by GA for service to the church:

Moderator	Roger Edmark
Church Clerk	Stephanie Herkelrath
Board Chair	Jeanesse Miller
Building Trustee	Haile Bedada
Church Treasurer	Rob Miller
Board Member at Large	Cathy Oberg
District Conference Delegate	Carmen Lau Woo
Member at Large	Nancy Green
Member at Large	Charles Walker
Worship	Open
Mission/Outreach	Open
Children	Kathy Edmark
Youth & Young Adults	Roger Edmark
Fellowship	Goldie Barnes
Deacon Chairs	Jimmy and Goldie Barnes
District Board Rep	Frosty Wilkinson
Annual Conference Rep	Frosty Wilkinson
Jubilee Trustee	Jana Helmuth
Jubilee Trustee	Stephanie Herkelrath
Jubilee Trustee	Tim Bisterfeldt

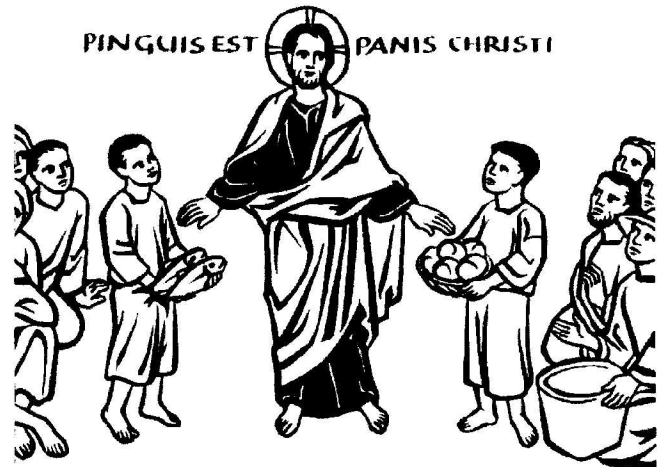
— A proposal (in ongoing study) to replace carpeting in some, or all of the church building, using Memorial Fund and designated fund monies. Committee members Pastor Ken, Jerry Bowers, Charles Walker, and Cathy Oberg are investigating all aspects of this issue.

— The Announcement of two big events in September 2008, that will need involvement and support by all of our church family: Our 300th Anniversary/60th Anniversary Homecoming to be held on Rally Sunday Weekend, September 6-7. This weekend we will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren and the 60th Anniversary of this church building. And, on September 26-28, our church will host the OR/WA District Conference, with an expected attendance of 80-100 people.

— A discussion about two inquiries from local pre-schools that are interested in using our facility. This issue will be referred to the Executive Committee for further study.

— Reports from OVCCoB Ministries and Supported Ministries.

Respectfully submitted by  
Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk



**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.**