

The New Olympian

May 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
tel. 206-525-8900 • www.olympicchurch.org e-mail: info@olympicchurch.org

Outreach Focus Up Close

Earth Ministry Seattle was Olympic View's Outreach Focus for the month of April, 2009. The following information has been excerpted from the organization's resource-filled web site, www.earthministry.org. You can always make a donation to this organization through our congregation. May's Outreach Focus will be announced shortly.



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Earth Ministry works in partnership with individuals and congregations to respond to this great moral challenge through education, modeling sustainable lifestyle choices, and organizing for social change through environmental advocacy. While rooted in Washington State, our resources are utilized across the U.S. and internationally.



Earth Ministry: In The Home

After eating, home maintenance is the third most creation-impacting, human activity. Our congregation's celebration of healthy habitats can inspire us to live more sustainably in our own.

The manner in which we heat, cool, furnish and live in our homes, as well as the way we plant, water and maintain our yards, have a decided effect on creation. These activities have a particular impact on those creatures, human and non-human, that live in our local watershed. In a parable found in both the Gospels of Matthew

and Luke, Jesus warns his followers against the folly of building a home on an insecure foundation—being a hearer of the gospel without being a doer of the gospel.

Culminating Activity: A blessing of products and services donated by congregants to make the household of the church more sustainable (such as "green" cleaning products, energy efficient light bulbs, volunteer time to caulk windows, etc.). Together, we can better care for God's creation in our own house of worship.

Earth Ministry: On The Road

Driving is the most creation-impactful activity in which individuals engage. Our congregation can model other ways of "getting there" that can bless creation (including ourselves).

Driving adversely affects creation more than any other activity in which we regularly engage. When we drive, we not only consume fossil fuels, but we also release emissions into the air that cause air pollution and significantly contribute to global warming. Though it is unfortunate that contemporary society often requires automobile use, much of our driving remains for our own convenience. Decreasing non-essential driving reminds us that the earth is to be used for God's purposes, not our own, and helps us meet God's original vision of a whole and healthy creation.

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

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Culminating Activity: A Car Pool/Car Free Sunday, where parishioners walk, bike, bus, or car-pool together to church. It is a great way to reduce air pollution, get exercise and enjoy time with our neighbors!

Earth Ministry: Voluntary Simplicity

If the levels of consumption that...the most affluent people enjoy today were replicated across even half of the roughly 9 billion people projected to be on the planet in 2050, the impact on our water supply, air quality, forests, climate, biological diversity, and human health would be severe. (Worldwatch Institute)

As Christians, we recognize the abundance of which Jesus spoke as essential to our wholeness. Yet more often than not, we don't experience or feel that abundance. Could it be that in seeking and attaining more things, we have actually lost something of inestimable value? A loss that comes from the misunderstanding that this abundance is essentially and primarily material; a loss that may in no small measure result from confusing our society's ideal of the "good life" with the "abundant life." If the good life is materialism and the pursuit of the American Dream, the abundant life is authentic wealth. If the good life is individualist and me-centered, the abundant life is characterized by the extension of compassion to all of creation.

Voluntary simplicity must call people to a broader vision -- a vision that sees the connections between ecological and social decline; between environmental and social justice, between personal choices and global issues -- that emerges as a prophetic, compassionate response to today's world. Once people begin to explore simplicity as it speaks to their own concern, they often see how that concern connects to many other issues. And those in the process of modifying their own daily choices might discover the need to work for political change.

Note from Secretary: These excerpts have been selected to help the congregation become more familiar with the work and vision of this month's outreach focus; when you discover the efficacy and power of love behind an organization such as the ones your leadership chooses, it makes giving much more meaningful and focused.

Shared Prayer Requests

In Our Community:

- For **Eunice Jarboe**, recently hospitalized for pneumonia and now receiving ongoing treatment at home. Calls and cards are appreciated: **12407 4th Ave W #2104, Everett, WA 98024 (425) 710-9750**
- For **Ken Miller Rieman**, working with his sisters in Indianapolis this next week and a half to pick up their parents' belongings.
- For healing for Tim Bisterfeldt's Aunt, **Diane Peters**, severely ill with Lyme's Disease.
- For Sharon Haley's brother **Paul** in need of a hip replacement and healing and strength for Sharon Haley's sister **Ruth**.

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Jerry Bowers; Jimmy Barnes; Geraldine Campbell; Evelyn Merritt; Chris Pride; Jean Ulery; Ed Enzi; Elsie Clayton
Bill Case's daughter, **Carol Kamada;**
Lew Fortin's nephew, **Michael Rogers;**
Vera Gastfield Wolfe; Lois Thomsen;
Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother
Sharon Haley's brothers, **Mark & Paul Andrews**
Gene & Donna Harnden; Lowell Geiver;
Patti Berg; Eileen Birky's mother

Nation, State, and World:

- For the families of the victims of last month's earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy.
- For all who have been affected by rising unemployment and economic challenges, including all of our locally situated family and friends impacted by layoffs.
- For peace in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all countries.
- For people throughout the world coping with the death or imminent loss of a loved one.
- For democratic reform and the protection of civil rights in Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Chad, Burma, Zimbabwe, and Tibet.
- For health and safety for the Smith-Derksens serving MCC in Moundou, Chad.

A Letter From Your Secretary

Dear Olympic View,

This month will be my third anniversary as secretary at Olympic View, and I wanted to share some important, good news with you. I was recently admitted to a Master's program in Communicative Disorders at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City where I will work toward becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist. School begins in late August, so I will be leaving Olympic View in mid-July and Seattle in early August to begin.

Working as your secretary has been nothing but a pleasure these three years. While I know the office volunteers best, I have had the pleasure of meeting many more of you during the course of my day in the office. What a gift to work among friends for such a wholeheartedly generous organization. Time and again I have seen you give of yourselves to help your community thrive, to beautify the church, and to lift up those among you who are in need. On many occasions I have been the recipient of your generosity and goodwill, your understanding and forgiveness, and it has made such a difference in my outlook on life.

Many of you, perhaps Ken and Kate Miller Riemann most of all at this time, have faced personal challenges, losses, and emotional upheavals; during the last three years, I have started to see that life's transitions never really end regardless of whether one has married, discovered a profession, given birth, etc. I had looked forward to adulthood as an upcoming plateau where the ground would be easy to travel and certain underfoot. No, no, apparently this is not the case. Transitions continue indefinitely; life has stages when one looks back, but no plateaus while we're looking ahead. The time I have spent with all of you, particularly the Miller Riemans, Bill Case, Lois Thomsen, and Jean Ulery through the office, has been refreshing and reassuring. Life's transitions will keep coming and each of you has demonstrated for me, through your manner of living, ways of gracefully and healthily greeting transitions, and even how to make the most of them.

I've lived in Seattle for most of my life and won-

der how it will feel to be in a desert climate. I really don't know what to expect, but I am ready to see what's next. Thank you for providing me with such a warm and positive work environment since I've been with you.

Love, Kim

2009 Deacon Training Meetings

Wednesdays, May 27 & September 30
Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

Spring Deacon
Meeting and Potluck
Sunday, April 26, 2009
After Worship in the Social Hall

Please join us!

Roosevelt High School Drama

Thanks to everyone who donated to the RHS Drama Boosters. For donations of \$10 or more your name will be in the CATS program. The musical CATS will be May 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 and the final performance is Sunday May 31 at 2:30. Tickets are \$15. There is a \$3.00 discount off senior and student tickets, so these tickets cost \$12.00.

You can order tickets on-line at www.showtix4u.com or call the Box Office at 206-252-4967. Thanks for all your support. Hope to see you at RHS in May! I am a backup singer. Call Jana at 206-930-9608 if you have questions or need help ordering tickets.

Amy Helmuth

Olympic View Graduate Breakfast

If you or a family member will be graduating from High School, College, or another stage of your education, please call the church office or Goldie Barnes so that we can honor you at our June 2009 Olympic View Graduation Breakfast.

Contact Info:

Goldie Barnes 360.659.4703
Olympic View Office 206.525.8900

Greetings From Camp!

It's hard to tell with the foot-and-a-half of snow that is still on the ground but winter is at long last giving way to spring. As it does our thoughts have been increasingly turning to our summer camping program. My purpose for writing today is to let you know about opportunities to gather here together as Brethren this summer and fall.

We are asking you to pass this information on to members of your respective congregations and to put the dates on your planners as well.

NWBAG (N.W. Brethren Arts & Gifts) will be held here at camp from 8/7-8/9/09. NWBAG is in its third year now and is building into a fun opportunity for Brethren of all ages to gather and share their gifts, be they music or crafts.

The Brethren Camps will run from 8/9-8/15. We hope to have registrations and brochures out within the next week. Our camps have been a source of inspiration and development for Brethren campers since this camp was founded over fifty years ago. They remain the core of what Koinonia is all about.

We are excited to be hosting **District Conference here at camp once again this year. The dates for District Conference will be 9/25-9/27.**

We look forward to seeing all of you at one or all of these events. Peace, Mike O'Cain

Annual Conference Info Resources

Greetings from the Annual Conference Office, The Annual Conference schedule for San Diego is online at:

<http://www.cobannualconference.org/sandiego/schedule.html>

To find out about meal events, insight sessions, worship and more... Just visit the link above. Please do not hesitate to call if there is any way we may be of service to you.

800-688-5186

410-635-8740

Hope to see you in San Diego!

Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus

<http://www.cobannualconference.org/ac/>

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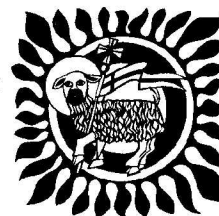
Owning Up to Our Choices

Fresh from the Word devotional reading, by Timothy P. Harvey

...no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed...Daniel 6:15-18 (NIV)

Meditation: One of the pressing justice issues in our society is how hard it is to break out of the cycle of poverty and homelessness. For those who live near the bottom of the economic scale, bad choices and unexpected expenses have significant ramifications. An unexpected illness, job loss, pregnancy, or fire can perpetuate poverty and homelessness for years - even generations.

Many live with the idea that poverty and homelessness can be changed: "If the right person will just do something." Some blame the system: "If the government would do more to help people out, things would get better." Others blame people: "If they would just get a job, they wouldn't be in the place they are." But when we play the blame game, attention gets diverted from the real issues, and people are left to suffer in their situations.



Whatever our circumstances, it is saddening to realize how many times we are the victims of our own choices. Change may be easy or difficult, but our own choices play a huge part. King Darius certainly never intended to harm by his edict, yet it was his own choice that led to Daniel's predicament. The blame was the king's alone. King Darius grieved his bad choice, but had to live with it.

It certainly looked like Daniel's situation "might not be changed" (Dan. 6:17). Whenever we find ourselves a victim of our own choices, it's tempting to think our situation also might not be changed. The thing is, we know how this story turns out - Daniel will survive the lions. The question facing us is, Do we believe we will, too?

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We welcome you to our services.