

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

November 2007

(Not exactly the) Pastor's Page

Since the pastor is out of the office at newsletter time, and I am looking for something that will work on the first page of our November newsletter, I turn some of this-time-of-year's regularly visited topics over in my mind. Thankfulness jumps out at me, but I am not sure that I could bring anything entirely new to the table on that one. Remaining sane during the hectic holidays - remembering what is really important during the approach of Advent? You guys are already experts at these sorts of things. What can I share with you that might cast a new light on thankfulness, holidays, remembering what's important, the changes this time of year brings in weather and spiritual outlook?

I know that many of you have already read the old thing, but I will recommend a book. Sure it is taught in high schools, etc., and its religious themes have been discussed almost as far and wide (I love exaggerating) as the Old Testament from which its author draws his syntax and diction. So, from my long list of things for which I am thankful, I pluck out and hold up *Moby Dick*.

Do not shudder or take flight; this book has one of the warmest hearts a book can have. You know Ishmael, the young man setting out to see the world, barely passing enough muster with the boat's owners to gain passage on the Pequod; and Captain Ahab, as broken and startled and disappointed by God as inexperienced Ishmael is hopeful about his prospects for surviving the disfiguring waters of life. And Starbuck, biding his time in silence to reckon with the captain who steers their ship by the compass of his unruly heart; Starbuck, whose presence makes Ahab's quest to kill the whale that ate his leg more than a man-against-nature story, but a monstrous misadventure against God.

These characters seek aspects of the whale to fill what is missing from their bodies and lives.

Or, perhaps you've been learning lessons all year and are tired, really tired, and would appreciate a small respite before the bounty of joy, repentance, and soul-seeking that is Advent turns the corner and addresses you square in the face with meaning and metaphor, etc. Well, this book still will work for you. Smell the pot roast on the fire in Peter

(Continued on page 2)

The Olympic News

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



November 2007



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Seattle, WA
Permit # 01259

Coffin's Inn, feel the braids within braids of the Pequod's woven ropes: this is a story for the ears and eyes, the kind that one follows with ease on land and over waves and through dangers, guided by Ishmael, so that he filters Ahab's fury, wrath, and vengeance, allowing readers to feel the heat of the captain's distress because we are close to it without suffocating from inside this character.

It is an experience to read Melville's famously unpopular (in the 19th century) novel. One of the best kinds of experiences, not just the library kind, but the kind that blocks out every other want—is there a brand of thankfulness that can be called contentment? I don't have a fireplace, but I read this book to feel I have.

Humbly submitted by your dedicated secretary who begs your pardon for not actually being qualified to shape your spiritual life in any measurable way—peace be with you.

Friends' Christmas Event on Camano Island

The Friends' Christmas Event will be held on Saturday, December 16th at the Shoemakers on Camano Island. Please bring a food item that will complement soup as well as an item for the gift exchange.

- Arrive anytime after 3pm
- Maps are in the church office
- If you need a ride the van is available, but please sign up on the sheet located in the office.

Deacon News

Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 PM

Deacon Training meeting.

Check the bulletin weekly for updates.

Aye, Here's a Tempting Excerpt from Moby Dick, by Herman Melville

It needs scarcely to be told, with what feelings, on the eve of a Nantucket voyage, I regarded those marble tablets, and by the murky light of that darkened, doleful day read the fate of the whalemens who had gone before me, Yes, Ishmael, the same fate may be thine. But somehow I grew merry again. Delightful inducements to embark, fine chance for promotion, it seems -- aye, a stove boat will make me an immortal by brevet. Yes, there is death in this business of whaling -- a speechlessly quick chaotic bundling of a man into Eternity. But what then? Methinks we have hugely mistaken this matter of Life and Death. Methinks that what they call my shadow here on earth is my true substance. Methinks that in looking at things spiritual, we are too much like oysters observing the sun through the water, and thinking that thick water the thinnest of air. Methinks my body is but the lees of my better being. In fact take my body who will, take it I say, it is not me. And therefore three cheers for Nantucket; and come a stove boat and stove body when they will, for stave my soul, Jove himself cannot.

November Red Hatter Event

No, the Olympic View chapter has not regrouped, however it will be Red Hatters Day at Victorian Christmas at Puyallup Fairgrounds November 29th. JoAnn Shoemaker will be going with her south end (Camano Island) Red Hatters group and Geraldine Campbell will be going with her group from the Shagg apartment complex.

If you have a means of transportation and would like more information, please see JoAnn Shoemaker for details.

Olympic View Book Club

Time:

the club will meet at 10:30 am

Date:

December 7

Place:

Group will meet in **the Friendship Room** in Olympic View Community Church or the Brethren on an ongoing basis.

Book to be announced in a bulletin soon.

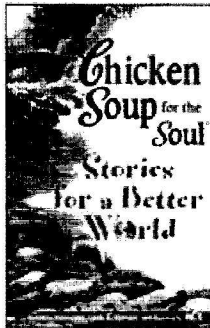


**Living Peace Church
News & Notes**

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

**Chicken Soup for the Soul:
Stories for a Better World**

Did you know that you can buy a great book AND support On Earth Peace? Chicken Soup for the Soul and HCI are providing an opportunity for On Earth Peace to earn commission on each *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Stories for a Better World* book sold from our website. This is made possible because one of our great supporters and Church of the Brethren member Linda K. Williams (San Diego, CA) is a co-author of this book.



Visit our website at <http://brethren.org/oepa/support> to find out more or to purchase a book. When you make this purchase, 20% commission will come directly to On Earth Peace. And since the holidays are coming soon, this would make a great Christmas gift for a friend or family member. Thanks for your support!

Check out this endorsement by Desmond M. Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town:

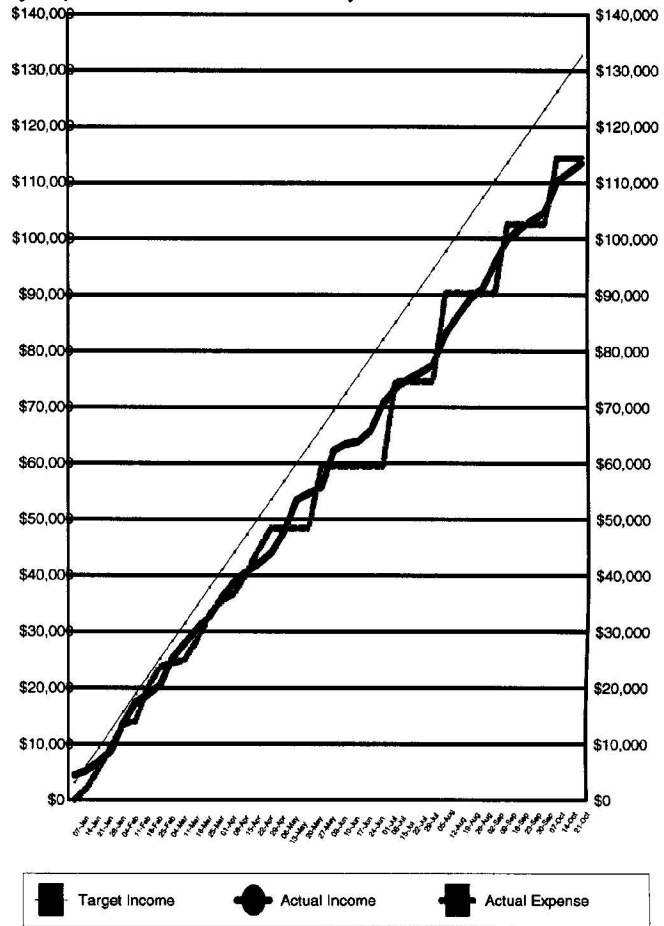
What a splendid anthology of stories that tell so eloquently how each of us can make a difference as a peacemaker; sometimes spectacularly on the international level; but more often no less spectacularly, on an intimate personal level.

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

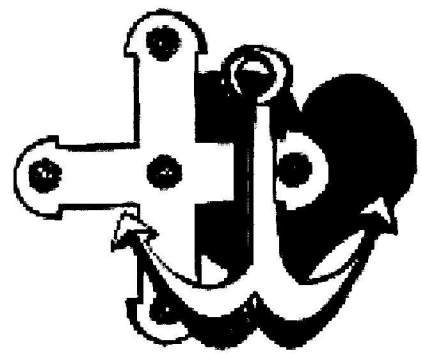
P. O. Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776
410-635-8704 • www.brethren.org/oepa
oepa oepa@brethren.org

11/07

**2007 YTD Financial Support for Ministries
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren**



The above chart shows the progress of actual giving as compared with the annual budget and actual spending. During the past 9 weeks the gap between our targeted income and actual income has slightly widened. Please balance, through prayer and pragmatism, what is realistic for you and your family in terms of giving—while also keeping in mind the ongoing expenses of operating the church. Your generosity is wonderful and gratefully appreciated.



Report from the Board

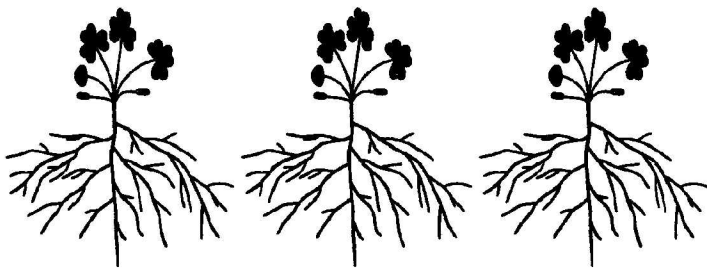
The OVCCB Board of Administration met on October 9, 2007, with 11 members present.

We shared information and prayed for those with our church family.

We rejoiced in the outstanding All-Church Planning "Live Out Your Faith" led by Gail Grossman. We celebrated accomplishments, and used small group sessions to define goal areas for the next year. Seventeen dedicated individuals participated, and we hope for a larger group next year. We're already planning events for the 2008 year.

Most of the meeting focused on a review of the 2008 church budget, which will be presented to the congregation at the November 18th General Assembly. Treasurer Roger Edmark has worked extremely hard to present us with a "do-able" church budget.

Pastor Ken has kept busy in the past month attending District Conference, the Pastors Gathering, and the "Plains to Pacific Roundtable" in Kansas City. He is now awaiting approval of a grant he has written regarding the district-wide pastoral excellence group he is leading.



G.U.I.L.D. Women's Breakfast November 21, 7:30am—8:30am

Welcome, ladies! Do you remember what G.U.I.L.D. stands for? *Give up inactivity and live with dignity!* Mark your calendars now for the *third* Wednesday of each month. Next meeting on November 21st at Northaven.

Upcoming dates to remember include the November 10th workday at Camp Koinonia, and the December 1st "Hanging of the Green" church decorating event.

We are thankful for all those in our church family and ask everyone to hold in their prayers those who have special needs at this time.

Respectfully submitted by
Stephanie Herkelrath, Church Clerk

Our church welcomes you as you are.

Shared Prayer Requests

For Dorothy Rhodes' daughter, **Merrily Taylor**, who has moved into a group home for care for her MS.

Ongoing prayer requests

**Elsie Clayton; Al & Chris Pride;
Elaine Rankin; Barbara Anderson;
Russell Jarboe; Lyah Martinez;
Dick Nash; Gene Harnden; Charles Walker;
Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;
Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;
Amber Compton; Eileen Birkey's mother;
Jason Haley; Sharon Haley's brothers,
Mark and Paul Andrews;
Adam Ford; Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt,
Dianne Peters; Smith-Derksens in Chad;
Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers;
The people of Darfur, Sudan;**

The victims of violence and war around the globe.

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

425 NE 95th Street, Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-525-8900 Fax: 206-525-1574
www.olympicchurch.org
e-mail: info@olympicchurch.org

We welcome you to our services.