

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

October 2007

Living the Word

by Ken Miller Rieman

Few of the outreach efforts of Olympic View have required more hard work or sacrifice than the building of Northaven Retirement Community, and few of our efforts have made such a difference in the daily lives of so many people. Quality, affordable senior housing is something people of all stripes and colors care about. But building Northaven took more than Olympic View. It is a shining example of what can happen when people of faith partner with the government to invest in the common good. The public funds disbursed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) matched the capital raised by the church and continue to provide a subsidy that makes it possible for Northaven to serve low-income residents.

Sadly, proposed funding cuts by the administration and the mounting costs of the war are placing these much needed subsidies in jeopardy. That means that we who have a vested interest in the ongoing mission of Northaven need to make our voices heard. But how can we hope to make a difference? Who would listen to us?

William Minnix Jr., President of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) represents Northaven and similar non-profit interests in Washington D.C. He describes the shape of the bipartisan conversation on this issue in our Capitol and has some very specific suggestions for how we, together, can have a much stronger voice with the people who need to hear it.

Northaven Director, Darlene Storti and I will be organizing a response to this crisis in the coming months. If you share our concern, I hope you'll read the article below, with its suggestions for action, and keep a lookout for organizing events still to be scheduled.

It's About Political Will

Excerpts from an article by William Minnix Jr., Sept. 13, 2007.

How do we stake political will? Yesterday, I had the privilege of attending an event co-chaired by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Senate Steering and Outreach Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.). A dozen other Senators made an appearance. Governor Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas was a featured guest. Forty or so ag-

(Continued on page 2)

The Olympic News

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



October 2007



ing-services leaders were there. The hour-long meeting was billed as an "idea exchange about our common priorities for the 110th Congress, as we work toward our shared goal of making quality long-term care more accessible and affordable for our seniors."

Senators Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rockefeller (D-W. Va.), the Senators with the most seasoned experience on health and aging issues, reflected their deep interest in values-driven care: quality, access and respect for paid and family caregivers. Senator Rockefeller reminded all of the Pepper Commission, on which he served. He reflected on the strong sentiment a generation ago for an integrated plan for long-term care that was funded as an insurable circumstance in life. He lamented that little progress has been made on that agenda.

Senator Kennedy's CLASS Act, recently introduced in the Senate, was mentioned several times by Senators and participants alike as a potential model for insuring for disability, allowing the benefits to follow the person — not the provider. The CLASS Act is consistent with AAHSA's thinking about the transformation needed in the financing of long-term care.

All who spoke voiced a commitment to lead health care reform, but Senator Kennedy pointed out that not one presidential candidate has included long-term care as part of that reform. Yet, several commented that health care be reformed without long-term care

Another poignant reflection came from Senator Lincoln (D-Ark.). A relative newcomer, Lincoln is an impressive voice for our issues. She has recently authored bills related to elder justice and chronic care integration. But her most moving comments were about her personal experiences growing up in Arkansas "within walking distance of both sets of grandparents." She went on to say, "I didn't know at age 15 that I was a caregiver, but I was..." In fact, several who spoke talked of their personal experiences with elders who needed care — especially at home and the role facilities play in caregiving.

Governor Sebelius reported on an aggressive commitment to home-and-community-based services in her state. She reported on success in terms of choice, quality of life and cost control related to Medicaid. She stressed the pressure on states to adequately fund Medicaid on constricted budgets in addition to education, roads and other state responsibilities.

An overarching topic was the fact that these issues have been discussed for many years. Too much talk, too little action. The tone was a blend of hand wringing with urgent concern about addressing an emerging crisis for society in a national climate of war. One Senator said that the President threatened to veto spending bills on the children's insurance program, yet is asking for 200 billion dollars more for the war.

[I shared with them] that AAHSA has a plan to finance long-term care, that we must support caregivers because staffing is the best proxy for quality and that is it time to finally solve these issues — and that politically, they are indeed solvable.

Karyne Jones, CEO of one of our housing members, *The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged*, reminded the group about the importance of affordable housing and the issue of racial and socio-economic disparities to be addressed in reform.

I also stressed to them that we are not-for-profit. I told them many of your organizations have been in their communities for generations. You represent religious, fraternal, civic, government and locally-sponsored organizations who have stood the test of time. I reminded them that we can help them with the health and long-term care policy agenda that is so desperately needed.

As the hour came to a close, Senator Stabenow concluded with an encouraging comment: "it's about the political will it will take to make these changes..."

These Senators want our help in generating political will. How do we stake it? You'll be hear-

ing a lot more from us about that in the months ahead, but here's where we start:

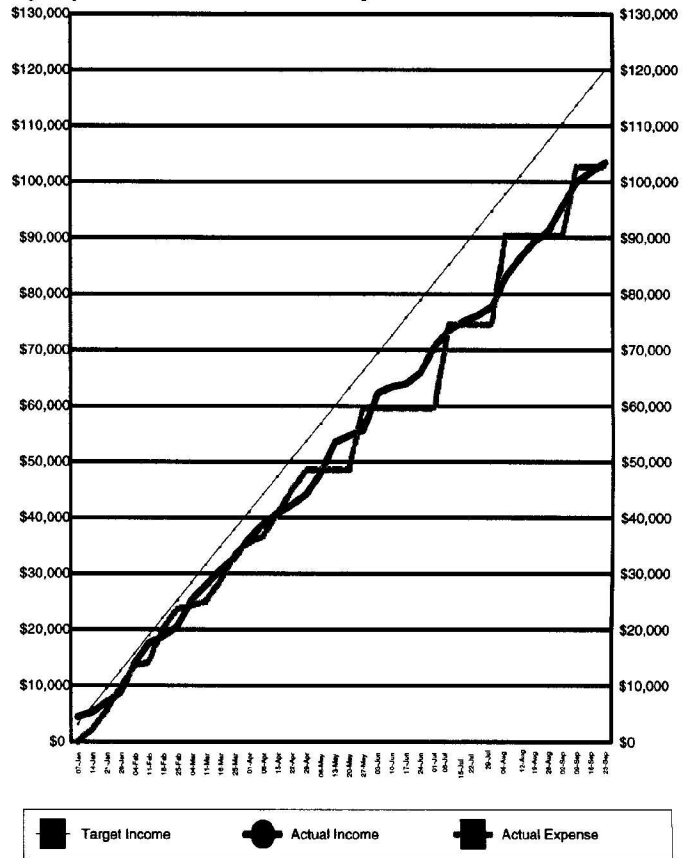
1. Find out which elected officials in your area have had personal experiences with aging parents or disabled family members and talk to them about the problems inherent in providing care.
2. Write your Senators about these issues today! Tell them:
 - The time is now to reform health care.
 - Not to freeze Medicare because it will hurt the lowest income and those who care for them.
 - More capital for affordable senior housing is an investment, not a welfare obligation.
 - We need technology support to make everyone's job easier.
3. Write each presidential candidate and ask them these three questions (courtesy of an article in last week's *Parade* magazine about caregiving):
 - How do you propose to relieve the financial burden on America's 44.5 million family caregivers?
 - Do you believe there should be more tax credits for elder care?
 - What steps can government take so the infirm need not spend down their assets to qualify for Medicaid?

Tell of these people you represent not-for-profit values and organizations that stand the test of time in every community in America. Tell them how many people you serve, how many people you employ and how many people you lean on as volunteers.

Senator Stabenow is right: It's about political will. Do you know who political will is? Political will is !

William L. Minnix, Jr.
AAHSA
2519 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008
www.AAHSA.org

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



Deacon News

Sunday, October 14, Deacons' Fall Potluck following worship.

No Tuesday night Deacon Training meeting in October.

Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 pm, Deacon Training meeting.

Check the bulletin weekly for updates.

Olympic View Book Club

Time: the club will meet at 10:30 am

Date: Friday, Oct. 26, 2007

Place: Grace Edmark's house

Book: *The Brothers K*,
by David James Duncan

Footwashing and Love Feast celebrated October 7th

Though it is traditional for Brethren to celebrate Love Feast and Footwashing during Holy Week and on World Communion Sunday every October, we have begun to celebrate them in the fall in new, and more festive ways.

Last year, we hosted a Japanese friendship delegation. This year, we plan to give those who wish a chance to celebrate them Sunday Morning, October 7th. Those who prefer to not participate in the footwashing can simply remain seated while the whole group sings some of our favorite, old-time hymns. You know the one's I'm talking about, *Precious Lord, Amazing Grace, What a friend we have in Jesus, Blessed Assurance...*and many more.

Of course, we'll celebrate the Eucharist as well, and we'll take up a special World Mission Offering and following worship, in place of social hour, we'll share the 'Love Feast', a simple lunch served by the Fellowship Team.



2007 All-Church Retreat: *Living Out Our Faith* Saturday, October 6th

For what does the Olympic View Community Church exist? We seek to build a community, grounded in love, whose members empower each other to extend that love to others. We seek God's wisdom, revealed in the living word and the spirit which speaks to us still. We seek to be peacemakers by working for justice for all people. We seek to harness our unique spiritual gifts, as individuals and as a body that our faith would make a difference in our city, our nation, and our world.

Sounds good. How do you think we're doing? What does that mean for us **right now**—the people we are, where we are, and where God is trying to lead us? In other words, How are we being called to live out our faith?

We're gathering Saturday, October 6th, from 9 to 4 with Gail Grossman, an experienced church leader who is helping us to consider these questions and our response. We'll review the conversation and ideas from last year, we'll look at how those ideas were implemented, and then develop our focus and plans for next year.

This meeting is for all members and friends of the church because each one of you is a unique and irreplaceable part of our congre-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

gation. Your energy and ideas and ways of connecting with our purpose are necessary for the growth of our church.

We hope you'll come with an open spirit, ready to enjoy yourself, some refreshments, and the company of others. Please bring a food item to share for our carry-in lunch, and whatever size of donation you can comfortably make toward our expenses.

Thank You for Donations of Hygiene Products

A huge thank you to all those who have contributed toiletries from your hotel stays to the food bank. Please keep up your giving as we think about Christmas bags filled with the following small items: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, band aids, lotions, shower wash, gels, and tooth aids.

The square glass container in the church foyer is your drop-off place—so please contribute what you can.

Thank you,

JoAnn Shoemaker

Volunteers Needed

Have you ever been so financially tight that you didn't know how you were going to buy the week's groceries, let alone host family or friends for a dinner? The holiday season can be a rough one for those with low incomes, and some of them live in our very own neighborhood. Though it's only one meal, we think Thanksgiving Dinner is an important time to give those who need it, some extra support.

This is the time of year that we begin to organize our drive to distribute Thanksgiving Baskets. Each year Pastor Ken visits Olympic View Elementary classrooms to talk with students about



poverty and how they can make a difference. The school social worker provides a list of families who would benefit from assistance, and then we collect donations of food for a Thanksgiving meal.

Last year, the students donated several hundred dollars toward our project. This year, we are looking for volunteers who could help us with some specific tasks. We need people to: Coordinate the project, choose foods for the baskets; find sales or coupons for food items; solicit donations or deals from grocers; pick up food; drivers for youth who could load your car up with food; and assemble and distribute the baskets a few days before Thanksgiving. Remember, those who go shopping can be reimbursed for their purchases.

Does one or more of these jobs interest you? If so, please call the office as soon as possible. We hope to tell the school that we can serve families again this year.

Shared Prayer Requests

For friends and family of **Ronald Russell**;
Ronald passed away peacefully
on the afternoon of Sunday, September 16, 2007.

For friends and family of **Henry Jones**,
grieving his death on September 4, 2007.

For **Alvida Fite**, who passed away
September 7, 2007.

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

For **Nancy Green**, who is giving thanks
for her brand new grand baby.

For Goldie Barnes' sister, **Donna Townsend**,
grieving the loss of her husband, Myron,
and also recovering from a broken ankle.

For **Gloria Sherwood**, who is recovering
from surgery to remove kidney stones.

Prayers for solidarity with the Buddhist nuns and monks in Myanmar (Burma).

Ongoing prayer requests:

Elsie Clayton; Al 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;**

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

Peggy Cochran; Smith-Derksens in Chad;

The people of Darfur, Sudan

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

October 17, 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 October 17 at Northaven.

Welcome Justin Harvey, New Olympic View Staff Member

Recently, Board Members Carol and Jerry
Bowers and Pastor Ken Miller Rieman held in-
terviews to find a replacement for John Sori-
ano, who completed his duties as our janitor at
the end of August. We will miss John's
friendly and easygoing demeanor and we wish
him the best. Good luck with your nursing
studies, John!

Justin Harvey, a recent transplant from Ra-
leigh, North Carolina, was hired as our new
janitor on September 14th. Before arriving in
Seattle, Justin worked at a café in Raleigh serv-
ing and preparing coffee; prior to that he re-
ceived a degree in Sociology from Appalachian
State University.

He arrived in Seattle a little over a month and a
half ago as to begin work on his Master's of
Divinity at Mars Hill Graduate School. While
school will keep Justin busy, we've already
seen good evidence that he is detail-oriented
and conscientious about caring for Olympic
View's building.

In addition to pursuing his religion studies,
Justin is a reader and he has an interest in mu-
sic, particularly guitar.

While his long term plans are as yet unknown,
he looks forward to working as a leader within
the Christian community upon completion of
his degree.

Please say hi to Justin if you see him around
the building. He's looking forward to getting
to know everyone at Olympic View.

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.