

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

September 2007

Living the Word

Creating a climate for growth

By Ken Miller Rieman

Friends, the events of this summer have made me think about our growth as a church. Pastors, in the course of their ministry, hear many people talk about how they'd like to see the church grow. And each person, it seems, has a different idea of what that growth would look like. Perhaps the differences consist more in what type of church they are trying to grow.

Often, we think of a growing church as one that fills more pews each Sunday morning and has less difficulty funding its ministries, but as any farmer can tell you, many factors effect the growth of a crop long before it bears fruit. Even the manner of harvesting that fruit will have a bearing on the ability of the earth to bring a new crop in the next season.

Last November the Board hired Gail Grossman, a long-time church consultant with the United Methodist Church, to help strengthen our congregation's leaders for the task of growing our church. She introduced us to a way of understanding the core ministries of a healthy, growing congregation.

Every church that grows must do four things: It must **welcome** new people into its midst, **connect** them to the community, facilitate the ongoing **transformation** of their hearts and minds, and **send** them out into the world to plant the seeds that will welcome new people into ministry.

Each of these four 'core' ministries - *welcoming, connecting, transforming and sending* - call for different gifts and skills, yet all are essential for the ongoing vitality of a fruit-bearing church. In our conversation last November, we recognized that our church does a decent job of creating a warm, welcoming community; we find ways to connect with each other and even to connect with those who are curious or courageous enough to come through our doors. However, we also recognized that we long to deepen our connection with the life-transforming and renewing work of the Spirit, so that those who come into contact with our congregation will discover a people whose faith is making a powerful difference in the world, inspiring them to find ways that they can bring their unique perspectives, experiences, and energies to that purpose which we together serve.

On the Eco-Forestry work camp in July, I

(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



September 2007



(Continued from page 1)

watched our youth learn to recognize the difference between healthy forest and the land used to farm trees. They came to see that one is a treasure of creation, with habitat that nurtures and sustains an abundance of flora and fauna, with the capacity to hold moisture and release it slowly into ever-flowing streams with rich aquatic life. The other generates great monetary wealth for a few companies, and jobs for a few people, but degrades resources of earth and water that took thousands of years to accumulate. Our youth learned to see this difference not because they read it in a book or heard it in a sermon; rather, they saw it with their own eyes. They touched it with their hands and got pretty mixed up in the soil itself. That week changed their lives and the perception it awakened has the potential to change our community.

Camp director John Jones said, 'We don't tend to really live more respectfully of the earth's resources unless we have the kind of relationship with the earth that deepens our commitment to it.' The work camp deepened the youths' relationship with the forest and creek at Myrtlewood; their work on its behalf will continue to make a real difference in its health.

Now, it's our turn to tend the vitality of our congregation and its ministries in the world. That is why the board is inviting the whole congregation to attend a *Creative Planning Retreat* with Gail Grossman Saturday, October 6th. It's not enough for the board and ministry teams to attend. They may generate good ideas, but we most deeply need a re-ignition of our church-wide vision for the direction of our ministries in the coming year.

Churches that grow have something in common: They have deep and wide participation from their members in the brainstorming, planning, and activities of each of their 'core' ministries. This meeting is not intended as a sneaky way to get people to do things they are not good at or don't have time for. It is designed to help us see our unique role, the purpose which God places before us now. I hope you put Saturday, October 6th on your calendar and let the office know you plan to attend. We're planning for a hearty meal and tasty refreshments to keep us going strong. All ages are welcome and child care will be provided.



Living Peace Church News & Notes

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

**September 21, 2007:
Pray about violence, pray for peace**

The International Day of Prayer for Peace takes place on September 21, 2007. Will you raise up your concerns about violence by planning a prayer event for that day or that week?

As of mid-August, 34 congregations have signed up, and 57 more are considering sponsoring events that week. Participants include Church of the Brethren congregations from coast to coast in the U.S., as well as in Nigeria and Puerto Rico.

September 21 has been declared a day for peace by both the World Council of Churches and the United Nations. Each year, more individuals, groups, churches, and communities throughout the world are recognizing the significance of committing to One Day of Peace through prayer, meditation, and other forms of spiritual observance.

**On Earth Peace and the Brethren
Witness/Washington Office of the Church
of the Brethren jointly call on all of our
congregations to plan public prayer
events on or near September 21.**

The International Day of Prayer for Peace can be a time to proactively reach out to persons in your local community, a time for conversation and collaboration about how to **reduce violence and build peace** in your community.

We ask you to use this prayer event to lift up concerns about violence and to pray for alternative visions from God. It can be a time for God's powerful presence to be sought, in order to find creative and spiritually centered paths ahead.

Will your congregation participate?

To get involved, contact Mimi Copp at 260-479-5087 or miminski@gmail.com. For resources and a list of participating congregations, please visit www.onearthpeace.org.

*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/oepe
oepe_oepe@brethren.org

9/07

Report from the Board

The OVCCB Board of Administration met on August 14, 2007.

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

We continued our evaluation of the Church Survey results.

We rejoiced about our recent Vacation Bible School. A small but enthusiastic group of children and youth participated and our dedicated leaders were excited about the compliments they received from appreciative parents. We also rejoiced to hear that there are 43 children and youth at Camp Koinonia this week.

Summer is winding down, and we are reminded that "Rally Sunday" will be Sunday, September 9th. This is the first day of the fall church schedule (9:30 Sunday School for children, youth, and adults, and 11:00 worship). Please mark your calendars!

We rejoiced to hear that Christine Wilkinson is joining BVS. A Commissioning Service for her will take place during worship on Sunday, September 16th and Christine will also share her music with us. Please plan to attend and give your good wishes to Christine as she begins her BVS journey.

Here's a service opportunity! If you have some time and want to help out around church, in the kitchen you will find a list of maintenance items that need to be completed. Please inform Haile Bedada (Building Trustee) or Pastor Ken if you are interested in helping out, and which item you're willing to remove from the "need to do" list to the "already done" list!

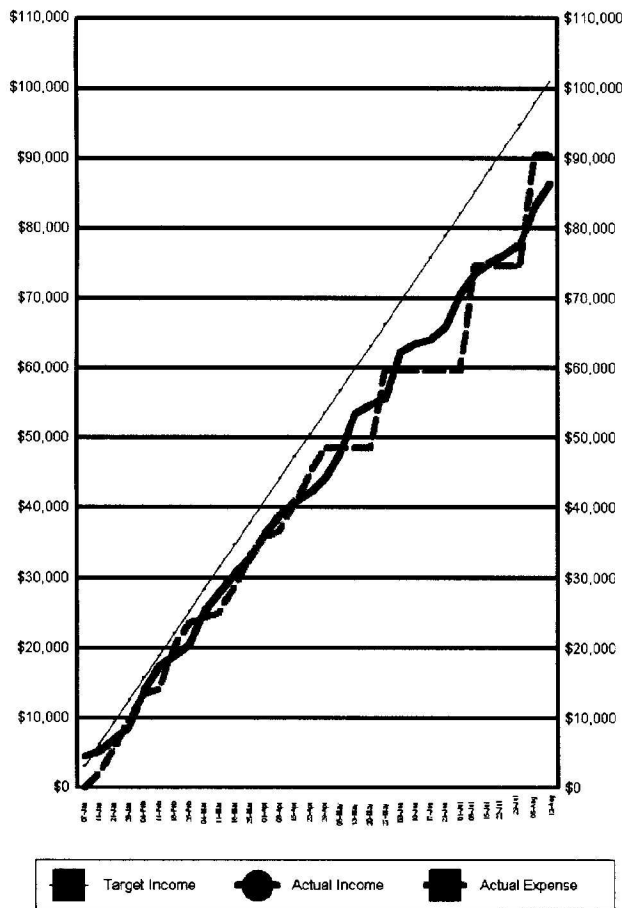
We continued to plan for the "All Church Planning Session" with the theme "Live Out Your Faith," which will be held on Saturday, October 6th from 9 am to 4 pm. (please note the change in date). Gail Grossman will again be our facilitator/leader. Board and Executive members will attend as part of the duties of their offices, and we encourage everyone in the congregation to attend at least the morning session. Snacks and lunch will be provided for a donation, and there may be some surprises throughout the day!

We reviewed the budget and noted that our liabilities are still about \$2000 greater than our income each month. We encourage all members to prayerfully consider increasing their giving to OVCCB and its ministries.

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

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



Shared Prayer Requests

In our community...

For the family and friends of **Evy Berg**,
mourning her death.

For the family and friends of **Francis Bunger**,
mourning his death.

For **Beth Hormann**, recovering from surgery to correct an intestinal obstruction.

For **Gloria Sherwood**, who will soon have surgery to remove two kidney stones.

For **Barbara Anderson**, who broke her ankle and is recovering at Anderson House, room 27.

For **Elsie Clayton**, recovering from a fall which broke several of her ribs.

For **Al Pride**, recovering at home from a series of strokes, and undergoing chemotherapy.

For **Jason Haley**, recovering from a cycling accident.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Paul Andrews; Elaine Rankin; Lyah Martinez;

Russell Jarboe; Jeff Keuss, Sr.; Dick Nash;

Gene Harnden; Charles Walker;

Alvida Fite; Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;

Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;

Amber Compton; Eileen Birkey's mother;

Sharon Haley's brother, Mark;

Adam Ford; Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt, Dianne Peters;

Ernie Ricketts; Peggy Cochran;

Lew Fortin's nephew, Michael Rogers

In our state, nation & world...

- For victims and survivors of the recent earthquake in Peru.
- For the miners stranded underground in Utah, their families, and those involved in rescue efforts.
- That we offer a vision of justice, peace, and healing which will form the basis of a bi-partisan commitment in our nation to work together for the common good.
- For an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for the safety and return of all combatants, and for the difficulties which their families face in their absence.
- For a revitalization of our District churches and a deepening sense of our unity in Christ.
- For concerted international pressure against the government of Sudan's genocide in Darfur.
- For the people of Zimbabwe seeking democratic change in their government.

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

Sept. 26, 7:30am—8:30am

Welcome, ladies, to the first "Fall Breakfast." This will be a "Vintage" show and tell. Please bring one vintage item for all to enjoy. Mark your calendars now for the *fourth* Wednesday in September.

Deacon News

August 28, 7:00 pm Deacon Planning meeting

September 25, 7:00 pm Deacon meeting

October 14, Following Worship, Deacons Fall Potluck. More to come!

Check the bulletin weekly for updates.

Thanks Olympic View Volunteers!

I would like to say Thank You for your hard work, reliability, great personalities, and patience. Some of you come in monthly, weekly, or even many times a week to keep the building and its activities running smoothly. Thank you for the pleasure it gives me to work with you, directly and indirectly. You are appreciated!

Kim Thomas
Secretary



Olympic View Book Club

Time: the club will meet at 10:30 am

Date: Friday, Sept. 28, 2007

Place: Betty DeBon's house

Book: *Cold Comfort Farm*,
by Stella Gibbons



Evy Ingeborg Fridén Borg
August 2nd, 1918 to July 25th, 2007

Evy was born in Göteborg, Sweden on August 2, 1918. She often told how her father, Arthur Fridén, revived her back to life during her birth to Gunhild (Issaksson) Fridén. At the age of five, Evy sailed to America with her parents and older brother Åke (or Art, as remembered by many). They came through New York City in 1923, on visitor visas, and traveled west to settle in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood. Her father was a cabinet maker who created many a fine piece of furniture from his shop on "The Ave", and he carved traditional dodderhult-type (old men) figures. Evy enjoyed school once she learned the language. Evy was a proud Lynx of Lincoln High, where she graduated in 1936. She enjoyed Swedish traditional dancing and the social activities of Seattle's Swedish Club.

Her mother Gunhild, and Evy's little sister Marynn, left Seattle to live in Sweden. Evy worked at Brandt's Bakery in Wallingford, where she met Nils O. Berg. He worked around the corner in a grocery, one of several concurrent jobs he held in those difficult times. Nils and Evy were married at a family friend's home in Ballard in 1939. Erik Karl was born later that year. Nils joined the National Guard and Neva Jo was born in 1941.

World War II changed everything, as it did for so many others. Nils was shipped to the South Pacific,

where he remained for 3½ years. Evy found ways to cope, with the help of family, friends, and her faith in God. She studied for and became a Naturalized American citizen in 1941.

(The picture from her Naturalization document was chosen for her obituary.)

When the war ended, they became a career military family, traveling often. Evy spoke fondly of some places and less so of others. We often heard of the fun in that horribly rustic home in Kentucky. Evy adapted to difficult situations with ease, during this time. The family moved to Germany and spent four years there. Patricia Ann (Patti) was born there, in 1951. The whole family was able to visit Evy's mother and sister in Sweden during their stay in Germany. Evy loved to travel. With a return to the States, the family moved to Centralia, WA, and then to Fort Lewis. Michael David was born in 1955, and John Arthur was born in 1958. Evy seemed happy to be a mother and an officer's wife. She was not one to gossip. Evy always tried to see the best in others, so people liked to be around her. Things changed when Nils was assigned to Taiwan. Evy had a series of nervous breakdowns. Her father Arthur passed away in 1958. Numerous hospitalizations disrupted the family situation. Hopes of permanent recovery and normalcy were not realized. Nils retired from active duty in 1960. Erik joined the Army, Neva had started college at the UW, and the family moved to Seattle's Maple Leaf neighborhood, where Evy and Nils became members of Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren.

Evy became ill again in 1961, and went to Western State Hospital in Steilacoom, WA. She remained there until 1966. When Evy returned to Seattle for good, she once more adapted to change. She became the mother that her youngest children had missed. They each have memories of this special time, when Mom returned. Evy stayed in touch with her Swedish side, and she was proud of each of her nieces and nephews (both in America and Sweden). She wrote letters and cards constantly, and remembered birthdays and holidays. She sewed doll clothes that are still

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

being used. She baked and cooked so that nobody ever went without. Childhood friends of her children will remember that cookie jar on the counter.

As years passed, and younger children left, Evy continued to stay active in the Olympic View Church with Nils. She enjoyed spending time with her five children, ten grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. Evy could smile and bring calmness instantly. There were further hardships to come. She lost her eldest son Erik in 1979. Then, Evy lost her true love in life, when Nils passed on in 1988. Evy was that special balance for Nils. Her good nature and gifts were provided freely. In the years since Nils's passing, she continued to be a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many. Her dear brother, Art (1994), and mother, Gunhild, also preceded Evy in passing. Through loss and change, she was admirable. Evy's warm smile and sparkle in those blue eyes will be missed.

A memorial service for Evy was held at Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren on August 10, 2007. More than one hundred and twenty family members, friends and members of the congregation arrived to celebrate Evy Berg's life.



Choir Starts In September

Friends, the Olympic View Choir will start practicing and singing in September. Even if you've never sun in our choir (or any choir) before, we'd love to have you join us. Our first practice will be Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 pm, and we will sing in worship the following Sunday, September 9th. As a rule, the choir will practice the Wednesday before we sing in worship and meets at 10:30 am to warm up before the services in which we sing.



Putting our Faith into Action

How does being a follower of Jesus change the way we live? Does our faith lead us to do things differently than those around us might expect? How do the teachings of Jesus transform hearts and minds? Is it really possible for Christians to make a difference in this world? On the 300th birthday of our church, do we answer these questions any differently than the early Brethren?

Roger Edmark and Ken Miller Rieman will be team teaching a new fall unit for the Youth Sunday School class beginning September 9th. The conversation-oriented class will borrow from the Church of the Brethren video series, and companion book: *To Follow in Jesus' Steps*.

If you know of Junior or Senior High aged youth who might be interested, please invite them to come. Class, as always, will begin at 9:30 a.m.

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.