

THE OLYMPIC NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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October 2006

Living the Word

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. Romans 15.2

Election time always raises a host of issues in the public square. This year, it seems that 'property rights' is a hot button. I'm aware that some get uneasy when policy questions enter the places we worship. Call me old-fashioned, but I try to take my cue from the Bible when it comes to ruling issues in or out of bounds. And when it comes to property rights, both Christian and Hebrew scriptures have a few things to say.

Unfortunately, too much of our public discourse paints issues in black and white, and right and wrong. While there are some very clear issues, most of the tricky ones actually require wise people to find a way of balancing two rights against each other. Property rights is just such an area. It is right that government safeguards the value of individuals' property and their freedom to manage it; but it is also right that government protects the common interest, when individuals show disregard for it.

It is surely possible for our policies to err in either direction. When government acts to re-

strict freedom in a way that causes real material harm to individuals, without serving a compelling public need, it oversteps its duty. When government fails to protect the common interest in order to protect the privilege of a few, it fails in its duty to all. The ethical imperative for policymakers is to balance those interests where they exist in tension with each other.

There are a number of ways to do this. Some have faith in the marketplace. They believe that over time, without external compulsion, self-interested individuals will naturally direct their resources in the way that serves the whole.

Others have faith in the rule of law. They believe that the final arbiter of justice is the court and that only a democratic government with a balance of power among its branches can navigate the public through conflicts of interest.

Yet the success of either of these strategies requires something additional from the public. If any part of the public health or well-being

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Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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is dependent on individuals exercising discernment over how to balance their self-interest with their neighbors' good, then the value of religious instruction is clear. Nearly every major religion or philosophical system contains some version of *the golden rule*: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' This is but one of many places where faith makes a real difference in our world.

Unfortunately, those who make a religion of serving themselves to the detriment of their neighbor or God's creation are always happy to co-opt the language and trappings of Christianity to justify their behavior. We hear it all the time. *God helps those who help themselves. I can't be expected to help my neighbor when I'm struggling myself. God blesses the righteous. Why else would God give us these natural resources and the smarts to use them if we weren't supposed to?*

We've softened the language of 'manifest destiny' by which we re-possessed this land from the 'heathen' people who lived here before and were neither 'ambitious' nor 'civilized' enough to believe in private property, but we've hardly demonstrated a change in our thinking.

This is why it is so important for Christians to match our values and language to our actions. This is why it's not enough to vote for good leaders. We can't expect others to emulate, let alone respect, Christian values unless we are willing to differentiate ourselves from those who just look out for themselves and expect our government to enshrine their privileges. We cannot expect people to look out for their neighbor unless we put our own money where our mouths are and do the same.

This does not mean that Christianity must serve as the master of the state, yet I believe that the Christian ethic embodied in *the golden rule* builds common ground which makes government good for all people. Can we who are Christian be content to serve as the conscience of the state? Can we be courageous enough to make the Gospel of Jesus the perfecter of our own lifestyles?

Our world is hungry for faith that has integrity,

for spirituality that cultivates justice, and for holiness that makes us whole. I pray that those who get to know our church will encounter people who seek another way of living, continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and to-



Living Peace Church News & Notes

Greetings from On Earth Peace!

This month's focus:

**Peace & Reconciliation:
Two Kinds of Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

*Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid."*

— John 14:25

Recently, hearing the news about the withdrawal of Israeli settlements from Gaza, this scripture came to mind. The peace that Jesus shares with us is a deep and genuine peace. It is not the deceptive promise of peace to be attained through violence as the governments of the world want to offer us.

As I return each year to learn from and work with peacemakers in Israel and Palestine, I have seen powerful examples of both kinds of peace.

The Israeli government has withdrawn 9,000 settlers from Gaza, while continuing to take Palestinian land in order to expand settlements in which more than 400,000 settlers live in the occupied West Bank. This is an example of the false peace that Jesus spoke about. It is a "peace" based on fear, and on the power of violence.

The nonviolent educational work of Bereaved Families for Peace, an organization of Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost loved ones to the violence, and who call for an end to the occupation and the fighting, is an example of the other kind of peace. This "peace" is based on love, and on the power of compassion.



If you are interested in learning more about peacemaking in Israel/Palestine, and want to help those who are seeking true peace there, I invite you to join me on a delegation to the Middle East, January 12-24, 2006. Visit www.brethren.org/oepa under *Upcoming Events* for more information.

— **Bob Gross, co-director, On Earth Peace**

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

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On Earth Peace: an introduction

On Earth Peace is an important ministerial component of the Church of the Brethren, advocating and enabling congregations to foster peace worldwide and through all facets of their members' lives.

This assembly of programs began with a single meeting in 1974 led by M.R. Zigler, whose goal was to strengthen the peace witness tradition in the Church of the Brethren. Since 1998, On Earth Peace has been directly accountable to Annual Conference, alongside the General Board and the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

OVCC donates a portion of its outreach budget annually to this assembly, the activities of which range from educational retreats and discipleship-themed workshops for youth to Peace Witness activities worldwide to assisting in the reconciliation of relationships within the Church. OVCC does not direct how its donated funds should be used by On Earth Peace.

In order to perform such a wide array of functions, the assembly is subdivided into three main programs, each with its own peace focus: Peace Education, Peace Witness, and Ministry of Reconciliation. Creativity and action are the hallmarks of these programs that work to "empower people to discern things that make for peace" in family and relationships, within church and community, and between governments across the geopolitical landscape.

Some of the stated goals of On Earth Peace include "extended peace learning opportunities," "opportunities to learn effective conflict transformation skills," and the creation of a "significant community ministry to address [the] roots of violence and injustice." Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren identifies with these goals and thus contributes to the assembly.

For more information, including specific examples of the work that OEP is performing with veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, please visit the OEP Web site:

<http://www.brethren.org/oepa/about/index.html>

Monthly Shared Prayer Requests

In our community...

For the family and friends of **Ethel Kemp**, who passed away on September 11, 2006, with special prayers for her children.

For **Mark Steuart** and his fiancée, **Angel Milner**, who became the proud parents of **Crystianna Maria Rose Steuart** on September 13, 2006.

For **Kate Miller Rieman**, beginning immune suppression for her ulcerative colitis.

For the family and friends of **Vi Lauridsen**, who passed away on August 14, 2006, with special prayers for her husband, **Hal Lauridsen**.

For **Keith White**, recently hospitalized, and continuing to undergo testing.

For **Russell Jarboe**, that he may regain strength so as to return home from skilled nursing.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother; Mel Hart; Francis Bunger; Gene Harnden; Charles Walker; the Smith-Derksen family; Elaine Rankin; Eileen Birkey's mother; Ernie Ricketts; Tim Bisterfeldt's aunt, Diane Peters; Mike Helmuth's father, Bill, and nephew, Ryan Halifax; Alvida Fite; Sharon Haley's brother, Mark; Adam Ford; Michael Rogers, Lew Fortin's nephew

In our state, nation & world...

- For the continued success of the cease-fire between by Israel and Lebanon.
- For increased understanding, compassion, and generosity among all nations around the world in an effort to strengthen world peace.
- For an easing of the escalating sectarian violence in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for the safety and return of all combatants, and for the difficulties which their families face in their absence.

If you feel strongly about a cause espoused by OEP, please make a donation to On Earth Peace above and beyond OVCC's budgeted amount. Of course, you are welcome to specify how and where you wish your funds to be employed by OEP; simply write instructions on your offering envelope or check. Also, check out OEP literature soon-to-be posted on bulletin boards around the church.

GUILD Updates

Thanks to all who helped our group get up and going this month. Our next breakfast and program will take place Wednesday, October 18, at 7:30 am. Our group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, September through June. Call the church office for more information or to leave a message for the



MAY AWAY

by Carol Bowers

You are invited to the Far-A-Way Retreat House for the Church May-Away on May 4th through 6th, 2007. Elegantly landscaped, and overlooking Filucy Bay on Puget Sound, Far-A-Way Retreat House is a beautiful and unique location for small retreats about 1.5 hours from Seattle.

This turn-of-the-century estate has been renovated to recapture the beauty of its original architecture. Inside, high-beamed ceilings, warm furnishings, and a stone fireplace give the spacious living room a comfortable feel. In the main house there are 8 bedrooms on 2 floors, with 7 bathrooms, 4 additional bedrooms, and a bathroom in the annex. The annex is located a few feet away the main building. Each of the bathrooms is unique, some have showers, steam showers, Greek tubs, hydro-swirl tubs, or saunas.

Amenities include: a fully equipped kitchen, a small Eucharistic Chapel, 4 acres for walking, beach, clean, comfortable bedrooms, a big screen TV, BBQ grill, a dining room that seats 20, a hot tub, and many swings for sitting and admiring the view.

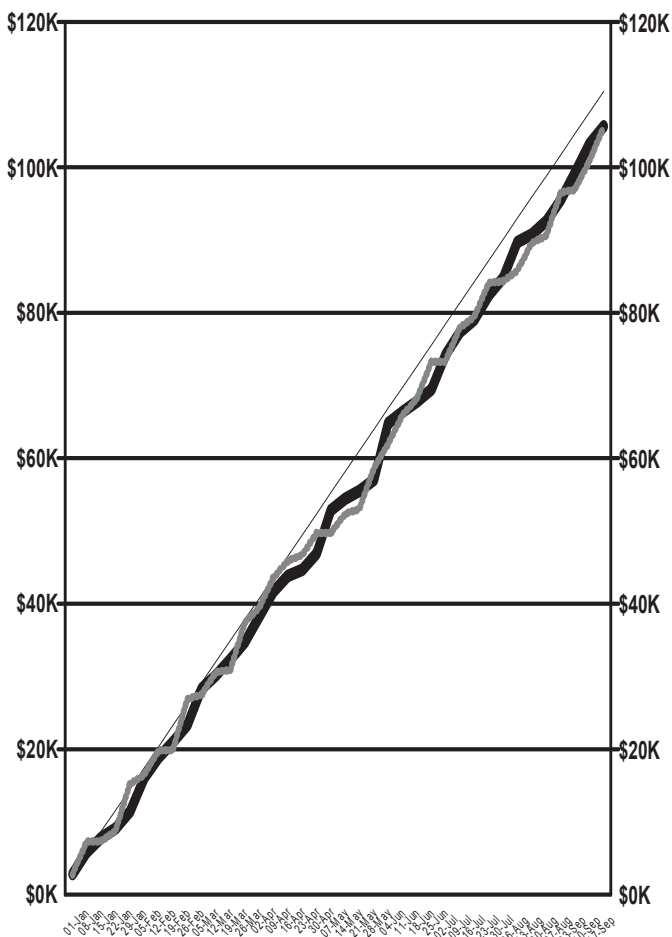
Reservations and deposits for this retreat center must be made months in advance. Therefore, we are asking you to make your reservation early. The entire house has been reserved for us. If 20 people participate, the cost will be approximately \$120 per person for the weekend. We will do our own cooking in the large, fully equipped kitchen. Please select the room you want from the floor plan and make your reservation and deposit (1/2 of rate) as soon as possible. First come, first serve. Please see Jerry or Carol Bowers to sign up.

Deacons' Fall Potluck & Meeting

On Sunday, **October 15, 2005**, the Deacons will hold their fall potluck and meeting following the after-service coffee hour.

Continue to keep your eye out for Deacon events in November as we will hold "meet your deacon" introductions during the Fall General Assembly potluck meal, **November 19, 2006**.

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren



— Target Income — Actual Income - - - Actual Expense

Actual expenses continue to come in under our actual income, which is great! However, we are still somewhat shy of our targeted income figure. Overall, giving remains strong. Thanks!

Northaven Honored as WAHSA Facility of the month

by Roger Edmark

Northaven is the featured facility for the monthly WAHSA (Washington Association for Housing and Services for Aging) newsletter that goes state wide. Check out the article online at:

http://wahsa.com/featured_members%20articles/Northaven-%20FM.htm

Or pick up a copy of the article at the church. Northaven is the Retirement and Assisted Living facility sponsored by our church, Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren (OVCCOB). Many members of our church are residents of Northaven, employees or regular volunteers, serve on the Board of Trustees, or financial supporters to the Northaven Foundation. If you would like to know how you can get involved with Northaven, there are several ways:

1) If you want information, there are several brochures in the church lobby or you could check out Northaven online at:

www.northaven.com

2) If you want to contribute to the Northaven Foundation, you can put an envelope in the church offering marked "Northaven", or you could send your contribution directly to:

Northaven Foundation
c/o Susan Thomsen, Administrative Director
11045 8th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98125

Or you could contact Susan at (206) 365-3020

3) If you would like to talk with someone from OVCCOB about Northaven, here are a few people who could help you:

Grace Edmark, Volunteer Coordinator and Receptionist at Northaven II
Jean Ulery, Resident at Northaven
Roger Edmark, President, Northaven Board
George DeBon, Treasurer, Northaven Board

A Request from Your Bookkeeper, Nancy Bedada

As a church, we donate money generously to a number of wonderful causes, including: Global Food Crisis, Food Bank, Memorials, Sound System, Camp Koinonia, Music Ministries, and Accessibility, just to name a few!

If you make your donations by check, I need to request that you designate the fund to which your donation should be sent by writing it on the memo line of each check. You may even split a single check into two donations for different funds (I.E. \$50.00 Music, \$50.00 Budget).

Unfortunately, if you write this information on the envelope, I run the risk of discarding the information with the envelope. If you are paying with cash, by all means write the fund for which your donation is intended on the envelope, but please do so in large dark letters.

Try to be as specific as possible in your memo. Instead of writing "food" write "food bank," or "Global Food Crisis." If you can do this then we can better ensure that your money goes where you want it to go. Not sure what to write? Ask me, and I'll be glad to help you.

Also, an FYI: I no longer use envelope numbers. All of your contributions are recorded by name. Therefore, you need not write your envelope number on your check.

If you are paying with cash and would like a record of your donation, please write your name on the envelope you're using. I do track children's giving, so please ensure that their names are legible. Usually I can figure out who's who, but nonetheless your assistance is appreciated.

Your giving statement is available for you to view at any time simply by visiting the Church Builder Web site. Interested? Let Pastor Ken know, and he will set you up with a login and password. Thank you.



Remembering Mom:

Ethel Kemp
*January 22, 1911 –
September 11, 2006*

Here's to the lady who loved to dance, play the piano for hours, and taught us to enjoy music. To the mom who would play games and cards when we were young and continued till the end. Course by then we could give her some competition.

Mom was there for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and any activity we were involved in. She gave countless hours of volunteer work for Children's Orthopaedic Hospital for many years. She never complained. Sorry, that's not exactly true. She always complained she couldn't eat the amounts of food they serve in restaurants!!

Mom had one great passion. She loved to bowl and boy could she knock down those pins. Her other joy was watching the Mariners and the Seahawks. She was the most happy when they won.

When Dad passed away, this is the mom who decided to wear a kelly green suit to the funeral because it was an outfit that Dad loved to see her wear. Our mom had a long, good life and will be missed, but always remembered by the many memories we have of her.

Oh, how she was loved!

Written by the children of Ethel Kemp

Upcoming Choir Dates

The OVCC choir will **perform** on the following Sundays: October 1st, 15th, and 29th; November 5th and 19th; December 3rd and 17th; January 7th and 21st. The following Wednesdays are practice dates: October 11th and 25th; November 1st, 15th, and 29th; December 13th; January 3rd and 17th. More dates to follow – watch the bulletins for changes.

OVC Red Hatters' Autumn Events

We want to thank **Stephanie Herkelrath** for hosting the first Red Hatters Tea and Luncheon Event at her home on Saturday, September 16th. Seven Red Hatters, all dressed up in red and purple clothing, car-pooled to Stephanie's on a beautiful sunny afternoon to enjoy fine food and great conversation.

We talked about everything and sampled various teas while enjoying a wonderful meal. What a special day we had sharing with one another and developing even closer relationships.

Our next event is open to all church attendees and will be a visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Pacific Science Center Sunday, Oct. 29th after the service (tentatively). Plans have not yet been finalized, but a sign up sheet is on the office door if you are interested in joining us on our field trip. We hope to receive the group rate of \$15.00 per person, and will carpool by using the Church Van. Watch the bulletins for more details. **JoAnn Shoemaker**, Olympic View Community Church Red Hatter

Olympic View Book Club

Time: the club will meet at 10:30 am

Date: Friday, October 22nd

Place: Jean Erickson's house

Book to read: to be decided upon

Future Annual Conference Dates

- June 30 – July 4, 2007, Cleveland, Ohio
- July 12 – 16, 2008 (300th anniversary),
Richmond, Virginia
- July 4 – 8, 2009, San Diego, California
- July 3 – 7, 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Olympic News is published monthly (mostly)

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We welcome you to our services.