

THE OLYMPIC NEWS

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

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September 2006

Living the Word

By Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

To hear people talk, summertime is for kicking back, for chilling out, for vacations, family reunions, and neighborhood cook-outs. In short, it's the Sabbath rest time of the year, when we enjoy the fruits of all that life has to offer.

Personally, this summer has been a busy one. Somehow, getting out of the office and out of town always leaves me with more work to do, rather than less. Nevertheless, this summer's season of getting out and getting away has given me a new perspective on just what it is that we do in our church.

Have you ever agreed to serve on a church committee, or on the board, only to get bogged down in seemingly insignificant details or petty disagreements?

It started with a Saturday district workshop that Kate and I attended in Wenatchee. The gathering there introduced us to a renewal movement in the Church of the Brethren called

'Together: Conversations on Being the Church.' The movement was conceived in 2003 by a group of people from around the country who were concerned about growing

challenges in the church. Among these challenges, a tangible sense of discord in congregations, districts, and the denomination as a whole, and a growing inability to fund many of the most significant ministries of the church emerged as serious threats to the church's future.

These challenges led the group to call a series of conversations among leaders and laity to discuss the fundamentals of what it means to be the church. Participants in these conversations created a conversation guide to share with congregations, and hosted district meetings to introduce the process to congregational leaders.

Have you ever agreed to serve on a church committee, or on the board, only to get bogged down in seemingly insignificant details or petty disagreements? Too often, this is a symptom of a group that lacks a common sense of purpose. The district workshop unpacked an entire toolkit full of ideas for bringing people together in a community of ministry and mission. Kate and I brought the idea of using this conversation at Olympic View to the board, and we decided to kick off the fall

(Continued on page 2)

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Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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(Continued from page 1)

Sunday School season with a 7 week series of conversations. During this series, both the upstairs and downstairs adult classes will be meeting in the Social Hall. We will use a denominationally produced study guide and video in the class.

So this workshop was just the beginning of the summer. Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa; National Youth Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado; and Youth Camp at our own Camp Koinonia each provided their own food for thought. You'll have the chance to hear more about these in upcoming sermons, classes, and newsletters. But I'll share with you just now how these came together to provoke my own answers to the question of what it means to be the church.

As a pastor, I have the privilege of hearing a wide variety of feedback on the 'style' of our worship and the way that we present ourselves as a church. I also hear people share about what they believe, what they hear that others believe, and what they agree or disagree with. I also hear some people speak with great conviction and concern about the problems that they experience in their own lives, or see in the world around them. Underneath all of these different, contrasting voices, I sense common themes. At NYC, Jim Wallis named it well. He said that there are really two deep hungers in our world.

One of our deep hungers is for spirituality. We long to be whole people, to have whole families, and to belong to genuine communities. We long to know the divine source of all creation, of truth, of love, as well as the meanings of our own lives.

The other deep hunger in the world is for justice. There is a growing divide between rich and poor, with an ever-increasing amount of the world's wealth concentrated in the hands of those who control the world's precious natural resources. The wealthy nations are consuming more of these resources, and economic devel-

opment in poorer nations is adding to the strain. Even in the United States, the middle class works longer hours for lower wages and marriages and families are paying the price. Our health care costs keep rising, even as the state of the public's health is in decline. Violence rages in the poorest nations and tens of thousands die each day as a result of easily preventable hunger or disease. Billions in our world are hungry for justice.

In the face of two such deep hungers, our churches have become a battleground. In too many churches the voiced concerns center upon one concern or another, but far too rarely do people find in churches an understanding of the importance of both. Many Christians will preach the politics of holiness, intent on condemning all of those who fail to fit their code of individual piety or version of orthodox belief. Meanwhile, others, including many who have grown disgusted with churches, will preach the politics of justice, intent on condemning the apathy and greed which drive public policy and global injustice, yet utterly fail to create communities attendant upon the personal needs of their own members, or their neighbors close at

...the future of our church rests on our willingness to be in an ongoing conversation with each other about the very deepest hungers which we have for our lives, for our church and our world.

Jim Wallis challenged the Church of the Brethren to stand by its calling to be a bridge between those who hunger for spirituality and those who hunger for justice.

hand.

He warned that by ignoring either the public, or the personal, dimensions of faith we risk distorting the very power and purpose of Jesus' good news. Our faith is not a private matter. Our church is called to be a community for individuals engaged with the world. And here is where the rubber hits the road. Here is where the questions emerge: *Isn't the risk of discussing controversial things in church too great? Haven't*

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

we nearly died from divisions in our past? Is it not enough for us to be a fellowship of caring and good people? Surely, we won't ever agree on how to change the world.

No doubt, Jesus would understand our reluctance to take such risks with our own congregation, that most of us rely on for friendship, encouragement, insight, and hope. However, there are millions in our world who lack these very things, and even the more elemental needs of food and shelter, because there are simply not enough Christians willing to engage the greatest challenges that confront humanity; and when the well-being of anyone is imperiled, our own well-being is imperiled.

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke powerfully to this point when he said, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.'

I believe that the future of our church rests on our willingness to be in an ongoing conversation with each other about the very deepest hungers which we have for our lives, for our church and our world. I hope each of you will make your way to the beginning of our church's conversation September 10th.

Monthly Shared Prayer Requests

In our community...

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

For **Bill Case**, hospitalized last week with abdominal pain.

For **Keith White**, recently hospitalized, facing gall bladder surgery in the upcoming month.

For **Russell Jarboe**, who is recovering from his recent brain surgery in skilled nursing at *Bethany at Silver Lake*, 2235 Lake Heights Dr, Everett, WA, 98208, Room #214.

For **Kathy Korff**, that she will pass her upcoming inspection with flying colors.

For **Bob Oberg**, who has been having issues with pain as of late.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Richard Shoemaker, Bill Shoemaker's brother;
Barbara Ehli; Mel Hart; Francis Bunger;
Gene Harnden; Liz Lindley;
Bill Case's daughter, Carol Kamada;
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 reached this week 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.

Olympic View Book Club

Time: the club will meet at 10:30 am

Date: Friday, September 22nd

Place: Betty DeBon's house

Book to read: *The Sun at Lake Divine*

North Helpline Food Bank of Lake City

by JoAnn Shoemaker

Olympic View Community Church regularly donates money, food, and volunteer hours to the North Helpline Food Bank as part of our community outreach program. The Food Bank's mission is to feed the hungry and provide emergency assistance for residents of Zip codes 98125, 98133, 98155, and 98177. Specifically, the Food Bank provides emergency assistance by preventing evictions and utility shut-offs, and providing transportation, food, baby formula, diapers, hygiene kits, and referrals to other agencies as necessary. The Food Bank also offers nursing care, such as free blood pressure tests and health screenings.

Please keep those travel-size products, like toothpaste, soap, shampoo, razors, and toothbrushes coming! In the upstairs lobby of the church there is a glass container where we collect these donations.

While donations are always needed, your time is of great value, too. The Food Bank can always use volunteers to bag vegetables, set up for food distributions, and drive to local stores to pick-up donations. If you are interested in helping the Food Bank provide our community with these outstanding services for at least 1 hour per week, please phone North Helpline Food Bank of Lake City, (206) 367-3477, or leave a message for JoAnn Shoemaker at OVCC, (206) 525-8900.

Thank You to Jess Gobel

A big Thank You to **Jess Gobel** of North Helpline Food Bank of Lake City for attending Sunday Service on August 13, 2006, and accepting our donation of canned food and handmade blankets.

All donations were collected as part of an outreach project fulfilled by the children and adults who participated in Vacation Bible School this year.



With summer coming to a close, G.U.I.L.D. is resuming its Women's Breakfast meetings this month on **Wednesday, September 20th, 2006 at 7:30 am**, and will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, through June, at the same time. Meetings are held at Northaven, where breakfast is served for a very reasonable price, and includes great company and conversation.

Red Hatter Event Update

The OVCCB Red Hatters will meet for a "Red Hat Tea" on Saturday, September 16th at the home of Stephanie Herkelrath. Sandwiches, scones and tea will be provided.

Please bring finger-food or dessert to share. If you need transportation, please be at church by 11:20 am, as the church van will leave the church at 11:30 am. The tea will begin when everyone arrives (around noon). If you plan to attend, and if you will be riding in the church van, please RSVP to the church office, or see Stephanie at church for directions to her home. It would be great if you could wear purple clothes and a red hat, but doing so is not required in order to attend.

We invite all women over the age of 50 from the church to attend, and will welcome you whether or not you have previously "signed-up" with us. No dues, no rules (and probably not a very "regular" schedule of meetings) -- this is a very casual group of women who just want to have some good fellowship and fun. Join us!



Living Peace Church News & Notes

Greetings from On Earth Peace!
This is a column focusing on the peace & reconciliation ministries of the church.

...And Still We Seek Peace
International Day of Prayer for Peace
September 21, 2006

What is it?

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating September 21 each year as a day for the world to observe peace and nonviolence. The World Council of Churches, with UN support, proclaimed the same day each year as an International Day of Prayer for Peace. This year's theme is "...and still we seek peace".



What can your congregation do?

- ~ Ring a bell for peace at noon.
- ~ Be Christ's love for your neighbors.
- ~ Join with others around the world to create a global International Day of Peace Vigil (www.idpvigil.com).
- ~ Organize a service project in your community (www.serviceforpeace.org/IDP2005.htm).
- ~ Participate in a Pinwheels for Peace celebration (www.pinwheelsforpeace.com).
- ~ Practice forgiveness.
- ~ Reflect on Biblical texts which address peace:

Psalm 51:10-17	Psalm 85
Ephesians 2:11-22	Romans 14:19-15:7
Matthew 5:3-12	John 14:23-31
John 20:19-23	Isaiah 60:17-22
Galatians 5:22-25	Romans 12:18-21
James 3:18	

Check out the **Decade to Overcome Violence** and the **International Day of Peace** websites for more resources and activities (www.overcomingviolence.org/en/about-the-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace.html and www.internationaldayofpeace.org).

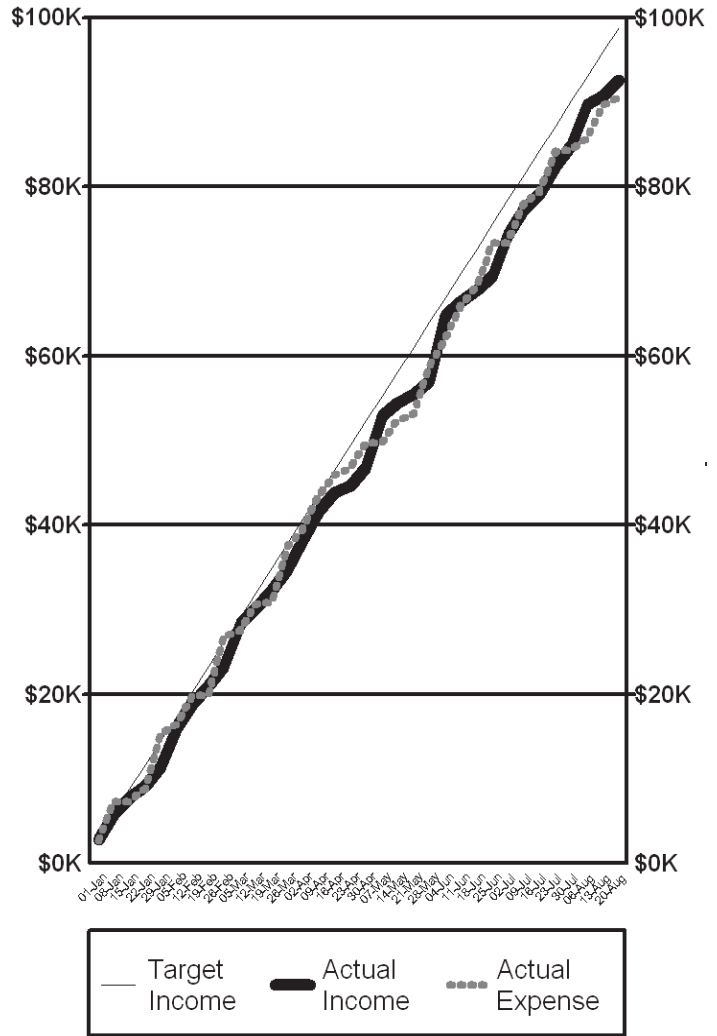
On Earth Peace: An agency of the Church of the Brethren helping people discern the things that make for peace

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9/06

2006 YTD Financial Support for Ministries

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren



Reminder for Deacons!

Monthly Deacon Training will resume on 9/26/ 2006, beginning at 7 pm at the church. All Deacons are invited to attend.



Violet L. Lauridsen

November 18, 1913 – August 14, 2006

Violet L. Lauridsen was born November 18, 1913 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada to Charles H. and Miriam F. Clarkson.

When she was 12 years old, she and her younger sister, Marjorie, moved with their parents to Ballard.

Violet graduated from Ballard High School in 1932. She enjoyed playing in all the girls' sports at Ballard High School, lettering in basketball, baseball, and volleyball. She also sang in the Glee Club.

After high school, she worked in a bakery for a short time, and then in a Danish Delicatessen for over 8 years, learning how to make many Danish specialty foods.

In 1941 she married Harold A. Lauridsen and they enjoyed over 65 years with one another. Their favorite activities ranged from ballroom and square dancing to playing cards, camping, salmon fishing, and traveling in their RV. They also made two trips to Europe and took several exotic cruise ship tours.

Violet was a lifetime member of the Eastern Star Greenwood Chapter 196 O.E.S.

Violet died August 14th, 2006 in Bothell, WA and is survived by her husband, Harold, and her niece, Carole Hart (Glenn); nephew, Michael Baker (Patricia); niece, Aline Berry (Michael), and her husband's siblings, Carl Lauridsen, Gertrude Poulsen, Ernest Lauridsen (Charlotte), and Esther Justin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Northaven Foundation, 11045 8th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98125, or Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren.

Holiday Gift & Craft Bazaar

*Saturday, November 18th,
between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm*

We are now in our fourth year of holding an annual Christmas Crafts Bazaar! Please contact Jana Helmuth in order to participate in the bazaar in any of the following ways: by becoming a vendor; setting up the bazaar on Friday, November 17th; donating items for the flea market; helping in the flea market room on Saturday; donating soups for the youths' food sale; advertising, and much more. This is a perfect opportunity for us to reach out to our community by inviting them into our home.

If you have questions, please contact Jana. Email janhelmuth@qwest.net.
Phone: 206-930-9608 (cell) or 206-281-8116 (work).

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We welcome you to our services.