

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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Pastors Message Come Lord Jesus

by Pastor Jeffrey L. Barker

Dear brothers and sisters; as we go to press, with the December newsletter, we are just beginning the season of Advent. Just a few days ago, we celebrated the 1st Sunday of Advent; November 27th. On that Sunday, we lit the first candle in the Advent wreath. Over the next four Sundays, we will light a candle to celebrate the four unique gifts; Christ brings to the hearts and lives of those who believe. Those gifts are hope, peace, love and joy.

As advent progresses ever closer to Christmas, please seek to remain positive and prayerful for God to reveal his love and grace in your lives. As we are "bombarded" by secular messages and worldly distractions from our collective, and personal prayer life, seek to remember the real "reason for the season." That reason is the birth of our Messiah! Born of a virgin in a manger. Born to save us from sin and separation from God. Born to set all men, women and children free!

Truly, as Christ was born into a sin darkened world full of war, violence, injustice, spiritual apathy and even rejection; so too will he come again!

When the blessed day comes, may Christ find us working, praying and serving the poor in his blessed name. As you read further in this newsletter, you will read of "mission and ministry work," Olympic View has been engaged in recently. You will also find information and content on our Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day worship services.

We look forward to seeing you all in worship during the remaining Sunday's of Advent. I want to

close my article with an Advent Prayer. This prayer was written by Rev. Henri Nouwen. It speaks to humanities need, and call for Christ to come into our hearts, and guide our earthly steps.

In this season of Advent preparation, I say, in concert with brother Nouwen; "Come Lord Jesus." Come, save and redeem us all. Praise be the coming of Christ our Lord!

Peace be with you all, Pastor Jeff

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, Send your Holy spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Christmas Worship Services at Olympic View Church

Please come out and join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. The service time is 4:30 pm. Come out and join us in a worship service filled with joyful Christmas hymns and a liturgy centered around the classic birth narrative of Christ, found in St. Lukes Gospel, Chapter 2:1-20. We look forward to seeing you and your families Christmas Eve. We will also have a Christmas Day service at our usual time of 11am on Sunday, Dec. 25th. This service will be simple, tasteful and centered around Christmas carols, hymns, prayer and a brief homily. Once again, we look forward to seeing you all on Christmas Day.

Peace be with you all, Pastor Jeff

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The New Olympian
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
425 NE 95th Street
Seattle WA 98115

ELDERWISE DAY PROGRAM

You may be aware of our new partnership with Elderwise, a community-supported leader in enrichment programming for people living with memory loss. Based in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood, Elderwise wanted to better serve participants who lived on the north end of Seattle, so they expanded their day program for the first time in 20 years to OV. Currently meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm, Elderwise is a tremendous community resource. The day program creates gracious, welcoming space for those living with memory loss, delves into the present moment in a group setting, provides spirit-centered care and emphasizes the creativity within all people.

What is the Elderwise Adult Day Program? An enriching day program for older adults living with memory loss Meets weekdays from 10am - 2pm (Maple Leaf and First Hill locations) Provides spirit centered care through discussion, art, music, movement and an approach grounded in mindful awareness of the present moment Lunch, snacks, art supplies and two skilled facilitators for a group limited to eight participants are all included! Fees: \$90/day (\$45/day reduced rate for those with an income at or below \$1500/month - based on available space)

We have room for more participants as well as volunteer opportunities, so we hope to see some of you at Elderwise soon!

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DISTRICT SNOW RETREAT AT CAMP KOINONIA

by Josh Bisterfeldt

The District Snow Retreat at Camp Koinonia will take place on January 27, 28 and 29th. Camp Koinonia is only about an hour and one half drive east of Seattle over Snoqualmie Pass. We have a great time enjoying the beauty of camp in the winter while fellow-shiping together when eating, playing games, doing some fun crafts and sledding and snow shoeing. The weekend is informal, but we do gather on Saturday evening for some fun, singing and inspiration and then on Sunday morning for worship. This is a family event, so children and youth need to come with an adult. The retreat goes from dinner on Friday to lunch on Sunday. Come for the whole time or as much as you can. The cost is about \$50 per person, but not more than \$150 for a family for the whole weekend, but don't worry if you are a little short of funds, come anyway and give what you can.



International Potluck

On January 8th we will be celebrating our diversity by encouraging everyone to bring a potluck item to share from their heritage or an international one you just want to share with others. Very few of us have a cultural heritage which started here as a Native American. We are a melding of many cultures and backgrounds and acknowledging that through the potluck is a fun way of remembering where we came from. It also is a delicious way to enjoy some amazing dishes we seldom get a chance to eat. Many even wear outfits commemorating the culture of their roots.

Don't miss it! It will be right after church on Sunday, January 8th.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

by Bill Hershberger, Treasurer

The current budget information available for this summary is through the end of October 2016. Thus, there will be two months of financial activity yet to come prior to the end of this calendar year.

As of Oct. 31, 2016, our offering for the budget totaled just under \$92,000 and income from other sources (church use, showcase, interest on money market) totaled a little over \$23,000 yielding a grand total of about \$115,000 for budgetary expenditures. The difficulty is that expenditures for all budget categories were just under \$127,000. A little subtraction yields a deficit of about \$12,000. How, you may ask, do we meet our financial obligations with a shortfall in income of about \$1,200 per month?

The answer to this question has many facets, including some sleepless nights for the treasurer. Another, more beneficial one is the generosity of our members for giving to designated purposes that are outside of the budget, for example the special giving areas highlighted each month, or the recently completed Thanksgiving baskets. Up to the end of October we have given over \$21,500 for these types of funds. We use this money, when needed, to meet budgetary costs. However, we also make sure we disburse the designated funds outside of the budget in a timely manner. Sometimes it makes for a delicate "balancing act" but to this point we are meeting all our obligations.

What is the "take home" message from this information? While we have a very generous congregation in giving to worthwhile causes and required improvements, we each need to consider the gifts we receive from Olympic View and exhibit our gratitude in the form increased giving for the offering to meet the everyday needs of our church.

Okanogon County Long Term Recovery Group

by Forest Wilkinson

Eight volunteers from The Pacific Northwest District COB enjoyed a successful week November 13 to 19, working with the Okanogon County Long Term Recovery Group, in Washington State. Devastating wild fires destroyed hundreds of homes in the summers of 2014 and 2015. Our team blew insulation into the attics of five new houses built for deserving folks who lost their homes. We also installed door knobs and locks, set up a wood stove, cleaned plaster and paint drips from windows and bathtubs, scraped floors to prepare for flooring, hauled a ton or more of construction debris to the dump, and various other jobs. One of our volunteers was our cook and prepared our meals in the Church of Christ in Pateros, WA, where we stayed. Funds from the District Disaster Auctions were used to pay for the food and transportation expenses.

DRIP, DRIP, DRIP

In case you have not heard, a flat section of the church's roof is leaking and we are raising funds to fix the problem. The contractors' quotes for this work range from about \$5,000 for a fix estimated to last around 10 years to about \$9,000 for a more permanent fix (about 20 years). Gratifyingly, in a little over one week more than \$3,300 has been contributed in support of this needed work! It has been decided that whatever we can raise for this work by December 11th will determine which approach we will take to fix the leak. If you would like to contribute money or pledge an amount for the future, please contact the Church Office at the address or phone number shown on this newsletter.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

by William Hershberger

The pastoral search committee, consisting of Olive White, Harriet Koscho, Jana Helmuth, Roger and Cathy Edmark, Rob and Jeanesse Miller, Haile and Nancy Bedada, and Bill Hershberger, has met several times to sharpen its focus on the primary needs of Olympic View Church with regard to pastoral leadership and to review a number of applications that have been received from the Church of the Brethren offices

in Elgin, IL. In addition, we had the opportunity to consult with Rev. Jeremy Ashworth with respect to the opportunities and pitfalls of taking different directions with our search for a pastor for Olympic View. Jeremy was formerly pastor at Covington Church of the Brethren and is currently pastor

at the Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren in Phoenix, AZ, and a good friend of Rob and Jeanesse Miller. Further, Jeremy was able to provide us with some potentially valuable contacts in the greater Seattle area and in the Church of the Brethren leadership who may be able assist us in our search process.

The committee has an exciting, yet difficult and arduous task ahead of it in the effort to select a pastor to walk with us into the future with some assurance that our congregation will be vital, active and growing. We will be meeting regularly over the next couple of months to identify pastoral candidates that will help us meet the needs you have identified as important to our church for the years to come.



Youth Group News



We put together Thanksgiving baskets for 75-80 families this year. Many thanks to Dorsey for bringing the first donation to the drive - a large sack of potatoes. We also had 20 pie pumpkins, which were turned into pumpkin

pies baked by Royal, Janay, Kiasherae, Lyah, and Harriet. Carmen turned cash donations into dozens of Turkeys, and brought massive amounts of cans, boxes, and frozen

pies. The girl scouts helped us pack the boxes with customized contents according to the size of the recipient family. Charles, Rob, Cathy, Kristi, Bobbi, Karen, Cay and so many others helped contribute to the bountiful harvest accumulating over the weeks before Thanksgiving. In the end, we donated 200 pounds of extra food to the Lake City food bank!



Fall General Assembly Highlights

November 13, 2016

We had approximately 20 congregants participate in our Fall General Assembly. The following are the highlights of the meeting:

- The body called Harriet Koscho as our 2017 Annual Conference representative. Bill Hershberger will be the alternate
- Treasurer Bill Hershberger reported that we are approximately 11k short in meeting our 2016 budget. The community groups and renters are making a positive contribution.
- The proposed budget for 2017 was accepted. The total budget for 2017 is \$149,779.50, a 1.79% decrease from last year. (Copies available in office)
- The balance in the Jubilee Fund is \$88,876. The net income from the Jubilee Fund for 2016 is \$1,123.35. It will be determined if it will be used or left in the account. The Trustees will be looking at alternative investment opportunities that have the same investment values that the church currently supports through the Brethren Foundation.

There is an additional leak in the roof that will cost between 5 - 9k to repair. It was agreed to move forward and send out an appeal to the congregation for support. Reports were heard from all committees and ministries of the church. Copies are available in the office.

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Hershberger, Church Clerk

“Today is a day that is great.

It will not be like yesterday gloomy & rainy.

It's gonna be sunny & happy.” by anonymous author

Salvation Army Giving Tree

This year, once again, we will focus our Christmas outreach around collecting gifts for the “Salvation Army, Giving Tree Program. Sister Carol Landis has contacted the Salvation Army about the Christmas cards, we will place on the giving tree. People can then take a card, and shop for the requested item. More information will be given once the cards arrive. Please contact Anita or Carol, if you have any questions about this outreach project for Christmas.

Pastor Jeff.

November 2016

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 October <i>Pentecost 24</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	31	1 November	2	3 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	4	5
6 <i>Pentecost 25</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	7	8	9 5:30 OV Exec. Mtg. 7:00 OV Board	10 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	11	12
13 <i>Pentecost 26</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	14	15	16	17 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	18	19
20 <i>Pentecost</i> 279:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 <i>Advent Sunday</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	28	29	30			

November Outreach	
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November Birthdays!	
1 Kenny Gallagher	22 Sandi Keuss
6 David Kissinger	25 Fred Utter
9 Bill Shoemaker	26 Kate Miller Rieman
12 Susan Thomsen	27 JoAnn Shoemaker
13 Geri Oakley	27 Betty Stanton
15 Aaron Woo	

Upcoming Events
November 9 OV Executive Meeting 9 OV Board Meeting 13 General Assembly

December 2016

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 November <i>Advent Sunday</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	28	29	30	1 December Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	2	3
4 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	5	6	7	8 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	9	10
11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	12	13	14 5:30 OV Exec. Mtg. 7:00 OV Board	15 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	16	17
18 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	19	20	21	22 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>
25 <i>Christmas</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	26	27	28	29 Mens Breakfast 6:30am Youth Night 6pm	30	31

December Outreach

*COB Advent
Mission Offering*

December Birthdays!

1 Shannon O'Brien	14 Andy Thill
1 Lenore Unger	15 Bill Hershberger
3 Lew Fortin	15 Willy Mooyman
3 Dorsey Harris	20 Tiare Sheller
3 Sylvia Hershberger	24 Sid Bosch
3 Cesar Suarez	27 Eileen Birky
5 Liz Lindley	27 Mildred Combs
12 Carmen Lau-Woo	28 Taylor Grandison
13 Harriet Koscho	30 Melissa Hinton

Upcoming Events

December

- 4 *Hanging of the Greens / Wassail*
- 14 *OV Executive Meeting*
- 14 *OV Board Meeting*
- 24 *Christmas Eve - Service at 4:30pm*
- 25 *Christmas Day - Service at 11am*