

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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Farewell from Pastor Jonny

by Rev. Jonny Finlayson

May 3rd will be my last Sunday as Interim Pastor at OVCC. I am taking a full-time pastoral position at another church in Edmonds. So on the verge of this transition, I want to say 3 things: “goodbye,” “thank you,” and “keep going.” First, goodbye Olympic View. Though I will continue to care deeply about this little community, I will not be present on Sunday mornings anymore. Mine will not be the primary voice from the pulpit. Yours will not be the primary place I go to worship. Anything with the label “interim” in front of it is inherently temporary. And the end has finally come. Goodbyes - though sometimes hard, awkward or confusing - are also helpful. We get to name the fact something is ending, and something else is beginning. Secondly, thank you Olympic View! From my perspective, the last 2 years have been a mutually beneficial partnership that has worked quite well. A big reason for that is the flexibility and hospitality you’ve shown me as someone who is not an anabaptist, in my background. OV took on some risk in agreeing to take me on. Who knows what this weird Presbyterian guy is going to say every Sunday! And I’m sure I’ve said some

weird things. But despite the risk, you’ve always been courteous and understanding, as well as willing to be challenged by a fresh perspective. And of course, for all the ways you’ve prayed for me, encouraged me, and challenged me over this time, thank you! Finally, keep going Olympic View! I don’t know what is going to happen or even what your next steps as a church should be. To be honest, there are all kinds of variables out of your control that will determine that. What I mean by “keep going” is to remain faithful! Both to the Lord and to the ministry he’s called you. Providence will lay out the road before you and his Word and Spirit will show you how you ought to walk. What’s next for you might be a difficult ending, or it might be a great new beginning, it might be a combination of the two. Regardless, Christ’s voice is speaking, calling, leading and guiding. And I pray that you will have the wisdom, humility and confidence to hear and follow well. For his glory and your good.

*Signing off for the last time,
Pastor Jonny*

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The New Olympian
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 75032
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Getting to Know Anita LaFranchi

our Administrative Secretary

by Roger Edmark

Unless you come to the church's Leadership Meetings, which are open to all and occur on the second Tuesday each month, or drop by the office at our church building some weekday afternoon, you may not have met Anita. Even though I have known her for many years now, I realized from her interview, that there was a lot I did not know as well.

The first question I asked was "How did you become our church secretary?"

Answer: In 2016 I was taking care of my mom, driving her here and there and doing some housework for her. My cats were getting very expensive, so you could say I needed a job to "support my cats." In April 2016 my mom had a hemorrhaging stroke, and in July we placed her in a memory care home. I wasn't needed to care for mom, other than visits. So, I answered an ad in Craig's list, interviewed and "got the job at OVCC." It was a miracle how this position just dropped in my lap, so to say. It's my opinion that when something is that easy, it's something that was "meant to be."

Next, I asked: "Can you tell me a little about your story and how you ended up living in Seattle?"

Answer: "I was born in Seattle, but I have lived a few short times out of state. Other than that, I have been in the Seattle area all my life. I lived in Minnesota for 2 whole months when I was 7 years old. I hated it there and was really happy when my dad said we are going back to Seattle. I also lived in La Canada just a little north of Los Angeles in 1971 (in 1976 it was incorporated into La Canada Flintridge). This was during the Boeing bust and neither my husband at the time, nor I could find a job, so we went south and he went to work at Lockheed. That lasted from December to February 1972. Both of us hated it - It was awful, smog alerts daily. We decided to go back home - we didn't want to raise our daughter there. Ever since I have always appreciated the blue skies and the green here in Seattle. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. My partner and I moved into

the Maple Leaf Neighborhood in 1992.

Question: "Can you tell me a little about your work history and schooling before being hired at Olympic View Community Church?"

Answer: "I worked mostly at SeaFirst Bank for 12 years and my job could be described as a security software librarian (I also worked a few years here and there at Boeing)."

"After the SeaFirst layoffs in 1986, I started to teach dance through Continuing Education at all three Seattle Community Colleges, Edmonds C. C., Pierce College and several YMCAs. It turned into a part-time job several nights a week from 1987 - 2017. Teaching dance was something I really loved and was a part of me. I taught: Ballroom, Swing, Latin, Country Western and Line dance. How I got there is a very long story. That all came to an end with torn tendons in my ankles on both feet."

"My last Boeing stint was from 1989 to 1994. After that I went to school at Shoreline College and got two degrees one, in Graphic Design and another in Digital Media. Using my graphic education, I volunteered to do layout for the Victory Music Magazine. The editor and several writers had all just quit. I managed to single handedly get a whole 24-page issue put together in a week, by deadline, by getting various musicians to "tell their stories". The result was that they offered me the editor position. I then wooed the writers to come back. I had 3 or 4 copy editors, that I appreciated beyond belief, as I'm not that detail oriented. I continued to be the monthly magazine editor for 6 years."

Question: Anything else you want to share about your church background and connection to OVCC?

Answer: "I was raised and baptized in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. My mother was very active at "Prince of Peace Lutheran" in North Seattle. When I hit my teens, we were required to attend to our religious education/Confirmation, which lasted 3 years, meeting every Saturday. I was confirmed in the Lutheran church in 1962; this achievement allowed me to drink as

much coffee as I wanted as I was considered a member of the Church. (*Bribery to graduate from my parents?*)"

"While I have worked for Olympic View, I need to say I admire the teachings of the Brethren as well. I recently found out that my Grandma LaFranchi, was raised as a Quaker. She met my grandpa in Oklahoma and moved to Snohomish, WA in 1916. Her family came to the America's in 1636; I imagine due to religious persecution."

[it was just a few years after that (about 1650's), that the Quakers came to America; the Dunkers (early Church of the Brethren) did not come to America until the early 1700's.]

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun. May. 3

Bring food for Northaven Pantry to worship service

Thurs. May. 7

Bible Study at 8pm on Zoom

Wed. May. 9

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Tues. May. 12

Leadership Team Meeting 8pm

Tues. May. 14

Bible Study at 8pm on Zoom

Thurs. May. 21

Bible Study on Zoom at 8pm

Wed. May. 23

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. May. 24

Communion Sunday 11am

Thurs. - Sun. May. 28

Bible Study at 8pm on Zoom

Odds and Ends

by the Leadership Team

Church Building / Construction Update

The new stairs within the building are just about done! The old skinny steep stairs with no handrail and insufficient headroom clearance are a thing of the past. Soon, (maybe by the time you receive this newsletter), we will be able to safely navigate new wide stairs from the attic room to the living room and offices; from the living room to the landing on the garage level; and then all the way to the worship space on the daylight basement level.

Additionally, a new ramp and porch to the front door are also in work, with new stairs already built and the ramp soon to follow.

There are quite a few other miscellaneous things to do after the major construction is completed in early May. Once the majority of it is done, we will schedule a dedication service and then start using the building full time.



A Visit by David Radcliff of New Community Project

A Visit by David Radcliff of New Community Project In early March, David Radcliff, the Director of the “New Community Project” (NCP), was in town. He first went to Tonasket to preach at the Ellisforde and Whitestone CoB churches on Sunday, March 8th, and then came back to the Greater Seattle area to talk with grade school children in Everett on the 9th and in Seattle on the 10th. Gretchen hosted him on Sunday night, and Roger did on Monday night.

We encourage the people of the church to designate outreach gifts to NCP because we know what a great organization it is. NCP focuses on environmental sustainability, social justice, and creating hopeful communities. Gretchen, Frosty, Kathy, and Roger have all participated in Learning Tours, which were amazing. NCP calls themselves “The small non-profit with a big goal: To change the world”. To find out more about NCP, visit their website:

Environmental Sustainability | New Community Project

<https://www.newcommunityproject.info/>

And then give generously as you are able by designating a gift to the church to be sent to NCP as part of the churches outreach to the world!



Upper right photo: Stairs going down from the living room

Middle Right photo: Stairs going up from the lower level worship space

Lower right photo is the construction of the porch.



Northhaven Pantry

Giving a Gift from the Heart

by Roger Edmark

After my wife Kathy's mother passed away, the family started the task of sorting through all of her possessions. While Kathy was going through items in her mother's bedroom, she wondered what to do with her mom's underwear. I told her that I had heard that you should just throw them away. But instead, Kathy did some research and found out that Union Gospel Missions Women's Shelter in Spokane welcomed those kinds of items, so that is where we took them.

Many women down on their luck or fleeing abusive relationships arrive with nothing. Even something as insignificant as some underwear can meet their present needs.

This got me thinking of how the smallest item that I might give, is not a minor item to someone that needs it. The congregation has decided to give to the Northaven pantry on the first Sunday of every month this year. In May, that Sunday is the 3rd. You may not have much to give and think your small gift is insignificant. But it is not! I would encourage everybody to bring at least one item for the Northaven pantry. Those that can bring more should, but even one small donation is a blessing to those in need.

This reminded me of scriptures about the widow that gave a very small gift at the temple (in Mark 12 and Luke 21). Other people were bringing large noisy offerings of coins that jingled into the receptacles, but her gift, two small coins, hardly made a noise. She did not give because she had plenty to give, but rather she gave from her heart, and Jesus noticed!

When we give from the heart, not because we have plenty to give, but instead because the need is great, we know that our gift will make a difference.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Meets via Zoom on Thursdays at 8pm.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Meets via Zoom every
1st & 3rd Saturday at 3pm

Look for the email invitations in your mailbox.

Book Group

by Harriet Koscho

Book Group meets once a month. We start the season by having a special party to select books for the upcoming year, which will be held at 7pm on April 29, 2026.

We are meeting in hybrid sessions - both on Zoom and in person in our new church house.

WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A GOOD TIME FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS: [email harriet@koscho.net](mailto:email.harriet@koscho.net) if you would like to join this group!

Here's how we pick books:

- Bring some books to the meeting (or information about them).
- We take turns telling everybody about our books and why we think they might be good ones to read.
- We make a list including all the books and vote. Everybody gets 5 votes. Vote for five different books, of course!
- The votes are counted, and the most popular books are selected for the group.

We usually select some books on the Bible or Christian theology, a book written from the perspective of a religion other than Christianity, and some general fiction and non-fiction.

Last year some of the books we read included: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson, *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan, and the *Confessions of Saint Augustine* translated by Sarah Ruden.

There is a link to our current selection list here:

<https://tinyurl.com/jb4khae8>

Please join us in person or on Zoom

on Wednesday, April 29 at 7pm!

Zoom Meeting ID: 857 2403 5342

Passcode: 309318

