



UNITED CHURCH OF MOSCOW

FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR INTERIM PASTOR

I don't know about you but I think I'm about "thought out" after the busy month we've all had following the inauguration festivities and trying to fathom the economic problems facing our nation. But – there is always room for some observations.

- 1) I think there may be in our nation right now, growing evidence of a ground swell of caring about others and increasing respect for the cultures and ways of people who don't happen to follow exactly in our paths. Good!
- 2) I am excited (as are many of you) about the new possibilities for our nation and for our world that President Obama 's inauguration brings to the table. Good!
- 3) I worry that the economic downturn we're taking will get much worse before it gets better. Not so Good.....but it may soften us a bit and help us realize we are not all islands unto our selves and that helping one another is critical. That would be good!
- 4) I am so encouraged as I learn more about what the American Baptist and Disciples denominations are doing in mission work and social justice activity. Marsha Patton (American Baptist Conference Pastor and Rebecca Hale (Disciples Regional Minister) are steering the denominations in some creative and imaginative ways here in the Northwest Region. Our Church is fortunate to have the resources of both denominations to enrich our ministry! Good!
- 5) A clear picture of the goals and focus of our ministry as a congregation is still evading my capture. Maybe I've missed it? Maybe there is more yet to do as we explore possibilities in this interim period? Good? Not so Good?
- 6) The spirit and desire of our congregation to learn / grow / care / be involved / is solid. Very Good!
- 7) The future? I think we're living it now. Let's not hurry it away or miss the opportunities of living it now. Someone taught me that life becomes more precious and important all the time. Being aware of that also helps my belief that life really becomes more authentic for all people as it blends with God's mission and intent for the whole world. Sharing in and with God's dream is wonderful. That is most certainly good!

Pastor Warren

THANK YOU!

Thank You! Sarah and I would like to say thanks to all of you for the very thoughtful gifts and the monetary contribution you gave us for Christmas. You were most generous and your gifts are appreciated. We feel it is not only fun, but a joy and an honor to have this time with you. Thanks for being caring people and for being such a great church family to be part of.

Warren & Sarah



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WELCOME BACK CAROL!

As you know six months ago Carol Perkins was our Director of music and choir director. Then, she took a sabbatical, got a new heart, and has now re-cycled herself back into life. We are delighted to have her feeling well again and back with us in an official capacity. In this transition we would also like to say a huge word of appreciation to Chris Talbott who came to our rescue and did a super job. Thank you Chris!

SIX TO EAT + 2

United Church has reinstated our " 8 to eat gathering " with a few changes. We thought it might good to make groups of 6 persons with 2 empty seats to be filled by either friends of the host or students either contacted through the CCC or through the International office. We now have 5 groups that will start meeting for monthly dinner parties in February. All are welcome to participate in this friendly gathering! Come and join in - reaching out is a great way to meet new people.

If you would like to participate, please contact Christine Suquent, csuquet@clearwire.net, or the United Church at ucmoscow.com, 208-882-2924.

TAKING ACTION TO BUILD A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

I just read an interesting article about a congregation (UCC) in Duluth, Minnesota that feels compelled to take some action of its own to build a more peaceful world. On their own, not waiting for state department permission or authorization, they are sending a delegation of some 10 - 15 people, ages 15 - 70, to spend several weeks in Iraq. This is not an official trip, it is unofficial in that they will be seeking only to initiate an exchange trip mentality from Americans to Iraqians. These "ordinary" church people feel that if people get to know each other on an individual basis they might find ways to be an influence towards peace, and a better world. What an interesting idea! I think if it could happen in Duluth, MN it could happen anywhere. What do you think?



PRA YER REQUESTS

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

- ✦ Pearl Jensen - currently rehabilitating at Aspen Park, but very encouraged!
- ✦ Tammy Lanting-Leonard: Post operative care and recovery following last Friday's successful surgery.....recovering at home.
- ✦ Lou Stevens - A very painful herniated disc problem that is interrupting her life in a big way
- ✦ Pat Gentry - Rehabilitating at home (impatiently but making progress)
- ✦ Joan Gustaveson - exploring a pace maker and coping with being slowed down involuntarily
- ✦ Scotte Hecht - Winters get long when you can't do what you want to do /where you want to do it
- ✦ Greg Skinner & Monica Diteman - Living in two worlds and two places - stressful
- ✦ Carol Perkins - continuing to show us a miracle
- ✦ Agnes Kotke - Managing at home but hard
- ✦ The rest of us? After such a winter we all need some prayers.

Cards, telephone messages and e-mail welcomed by all of the above!



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PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Four people on the Pastoral Search Committee drove to Tacoma January 26th to interview a candidate. This is the first of several we hope to interview in the near future. If they are as well qualified as this one, we will have a hard decision. We continue to count on God's guidance and your prayers as we go through this process.

Glenda Hawley, Chairperson

WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP!

As part of our tradition, we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday in our worship service. That means we need a loaf of bread every Sunday and our regular volunteers are getting tired. Would you be willing to bring a loaf of bread on occasion? If so, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet on the board just across from Annette's office. The bread can be homemade or purchased; just a loaf of your choosing. With everyone participating this way it eases the task for others and strengthens our ministry to others.

MOVIE NIGHT

*Every first Saturday of the month, at 7 pm, will be Movie Night.
The next one will be Saturday, February 7th and it will be "August Rush"*



Starring: Freddie Highmore, Robin Williams, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, William Sadler, Mykelti Williamson, Ronald Guttman. Directed by Kirsten Sheridan. *AUGUST RUSH* is part romance, part gentle fantasy, but this sweet drama is all heart. *AUGUST RUSH* gives brief background then jumps to the present and begins to follow Evan (Freddie Highmore), an 11 year old who has grown up in a boys' home. As Evan embarks on a crusade to find his parents, he imagines he can communicate with them through his gift for music. His journey to New York City brings him into contact with Wizard (Robin Williams), a man eager to capitalize on the child prodigy's talent. Wizard gives Evan the name August Rush as he begins performing all over the city, but the boy's ultimate goal is to find the parents he has never met. You can't help but be touched by this sentimental film.

Everyone is invited!

Those celebrating Birthday's in February

Happy Birthday!

Bonnie Nelson - 7th

Oz Gorton - 18th

Linda Fleener - 26th



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PALOUSE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Palouse Habitat for Humanity (whose area of responsibility is Latah and Whitman counties) is recruiting members for its Family Selection Committee. This committee will select a partner family for whom a house will be built in Palouse, Washington within the next year. Committee members must be residents of Latah or Whitman counties, but no experience or previous affiliation with Habitat for Humanity is necessary. This is not a long term commitment, but will involve several meetings during Feb - April for training, interviewing prospective partner families, and making the selection. Most people who have served on these committees find the experience to be hard work but very rewarding. Anyone who is interested in serving should contact Brent Bradberry as soon as possible, since we plan to start committee training by mid-February. Exact dates/times will be set based on the committee members' schedules. Brent can be contacted at (208) 882 2830 or email brentbradberry@cpcinternet.com

JANITORIAL DUTIES

"Hey, I hate to sound like your mom here, but everyone needs to pitch in and help with the cleaning chores around the church. There's a signup sheet and lots of information on what needs to get done on the bulletin board. Don't make me ask it again!

Mom

(A Reprinted article from The Lake City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Seattle, WA

IT'S STEWARDSHIP TIME

Every church needs a plan to raise money. Here's ours!

The month of FEBRUARY has been designated by your church board as STEWARDSHIP MONTH. This means that for the month of February a major portion of our energy will be focused on understanding the financial needs of our church and dealing with the process of raising money to meet them. It was decided that it might be good to remind ourselves why we support the church financially so we're going to listen and think about some of the reasons. The following persons have volunteered to speak briefly about why they choose to invest their money, time and talents in the mission and work of The United Church of Moscow and the wider church we are connected to.

- February 1st - Brent Bradberry
- February 8th - Alberta Hill
- February 15 - Iris Manning
- February 22 - Ginny and Oz Garton

We hope you will come to church prepared to be enriched, inspired and challenged to view the world and our church in some new and different ways.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Faith Advocacy Day is in Olympia, Washington, on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. More details to follow in the March Newsletter
- Food Bank Sunday is the first of each month. February 1st we are collecting food donations to help those in need. Donations can also be brought on other Sundays as well but they will be picked up after the 1st of March.
- If you would like to reserve the Fellowship Hall – please contact United Church at: ucmoscow@gmail.com
Church Office: 208-882-2924; or Pastor Jensen at: wejensen123@netzero.net Home: 509-334-6864

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW...

On the first of every month we have an opportunity to make “over and above” contributions to The Fellowship Fund. The Fellowship Fund was started years ago and has been used by your pastor’s to help with critical and emergency needs of people in our community. Some of these needs emerge within the lives of our own members and friends, and some come from the wider community. You have supported this fund well during the years and I thought a report on its use might be helpful. Your Church Board has suggested that we keep \$1500 – \$2000 as an emergency cushion available for emergency needs and I have tried since being here, to do this. Over the past 4/5 months money from this fund has been helpful in sustaining a homeless family, trying to provide some encouragement while they re-establish themselves; the fund has enabled a homeless person to connect with a family/job in the far off state of Arizona; the fund has purchased groceries during the Christmas holidays for a suddenly destitute family without income and provided a place to sleep for a family with an emergency stop-over in Moscow. Additionally, through the very generous donation of \$500 from an anonymous donor we have been able to send \$250 to each of several food banks here in Moscow. Throughout the months the Milestone Decisions Food Bank has received special support financially as well as being the recipient of our ongoing and monthly food-in-gathering donations. The gifts of money this fund has enabled your church to make in the name of compassion and caring have made significant differences in people’s lives. Thank you!

Our church could not exist without every one of us! Those of you who serve on boards, sing in the choir, lead the worship services, maintain the property, and contribute ideas and energy: all of you are crucial to what happens here. Also, since I’ve discovered that we do much of what we do as a committee of the whole, those of you who come to worship and adult education and call on the shut-in’s and hospital people, everyone is to be thanked. February is a good month to just say thanks.

Having reminded you of all this, there are times when a special thanks is appropriate. At the January board meeting an official letter of thanks was authorized to be sent to Lee Fruits who does so many things to make it easier for the rest of us. Lee is often in the background but occasionally he surfaces in public to make himself known too. It is for all his behind the scenes work that we commend him. Iris Manning, on behalf of the official board has sent a letter to Lee thanking him for his outstanding work. A copy is posted on the bulletin board for you to read. A word from each of you would be in order as well.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
2/4	7pm	Choir Rehearsal
2/11	7 pm	Board of Director’s Meeting
2/18	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
2/25	7pm	Deacon/Elder’s Meeting



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	<i>2</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	<i>3</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>4</i> 10 am - 12 pm Palouse Water Color 12:10 Interfaith Ministry Meeting -St. Mary's Parish Center 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>6</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm to 9 pm Palouse Peace Coalition	<i>7</i> 7 pm Movie Night "Autum Rush"
<i>8</i> 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	<i>9</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	<i>10</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>11</i> 12 pm Cancer Support Group 7pm Board of Directors Mtg.	<i>12</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>13</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	<i>14</i> Valentine's Day
<i>15</i> 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	<i>16</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries <i>President's Day</i>	<i>17</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>18</i> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>20</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	<i>23</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	<i>24</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>25</i> 7pm Deacon's/Elder's Meeting	<i>26</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	<i>27</i> 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	<i>28</i>

Serving in February 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elders/Deacon</u>	<u>Communion Bread</u>	<u>Communion Preparation</u>
2/1	Steve Talbot	Linda & Bob Rasmussen	Bonnie Nelson
2/8	Bonnie Nelson	Bob & Lois Leonard	Linda Rasmussen
2/15	Lee Fruits	Carol Perkins	Alberta Hill
2/22	Alberta Hill	Kevin & Sandy Cooper	Alberta Hill

UNITED CHURCH OF MOSCOW
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 Pastor's e-mail: weijensen123@netzero.net
 Website: <http://www.unitedchurch.cc/>
 Pastor's Office Hrs: Tues, Wed, Thurs, 10-12 pm
 Church Office Hrs: Mon& Fri 2 - 4 p.m.,
 Wed. 9 - 11a.m.



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