



## UNITED CHURCH OF MOSCOW MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

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### *Words From Your Interim Pastor*

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In case you missed it, (with all the commotion of the recession/job losses/wars and suddenly hungry & homeless people issues) our church season has changed! We have moved along in our worship themes from Epiphany to Lent. We've told the story and now we're going to consider "walking the walk" with Jesus. Let me tell you, it isn't always an easy walk.

Some churches observe the transition with an Ash Wednesday service of worship. I once preached a sermon on the nursery rhyme popularized in a children's game: "Ring around the Rosie". In case you've forgotten how to play let me remind you. The words are: Ring around the rosy, a pocket full of posies; Ashes! Ashes! We all fall down." I imagine by now the game is bringing back memories. Throughout the years many cerebral people have penned their interpretations of what the words originally meant. Great elaborate theories of meaning have emerged but common sense tells me it probably originated with the simple motivation to allow kids to play a fun game where they could legitimately roll around on the ground. Anyway, I'm sure that's why I enjoyed it.

The part I sermonized about was the "all fall down" phrase. It seems to me we should be able to relate to those words in the times we're living through right now. We've been thrust, like it or not, into an age and time when many people and institutions are all falling.....those that haven't yet seem to be leaning heavily in the direction of falling. Maybe it's true that hard times will teach us things about living that we've refused to learn during the good times: We'll see. In the meantime, Lent comes along with its reminder of "The Big Story"! That, of course, is the life, teachings, and walk to the cross of Jesus. Church is a place where we remember that story often, because we value it and know the meaning that it thrusts into the world. It's an old story, but it's also a new story. Modern scholarship is bringing new truths and ideas to us all the time. One of our "theological" beliefs in our church is that God IS Still Speaking! That's a big one too because it calls us to realize daily that God is still calling and shaping the world. God didn't create and leave. God is present, a reality, a continuously Creating God. Our task is to listen and respond; which takes daring and courage.

The Adult Education Class meets at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. During Lent we are reading together a book called "The Last Week". It's an interpretation of the final week events of Jesus' life, written by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, several of today's finest biblical scholars. The book follows the events as outlined in the gospel of Mark, the earliest gospel record we have. It presents a challenging Jesus, one who gave his life in a protest against the rich and powerful of his day. The book relates the struggles of that walk to Emmaus to the world we live in. Join us if you care to. We'd love to have you sit in with us.

Lent! We'll be gathering with friends from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches on April 9<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday. Our choir members will be joining the choirs from those churches and I will be presenting a meditation. Please plan to worship with us. In the meantime, use these coming weeks to prepare for Easter. Believe me, Easter is a lot better if you do some thinking and planning ahead of time. Use the 40 days of lent to grow your own spirituality a bit. Read a spiritual book, spend a little time in prayer or thoughtful meditation, call or write to someone you've lost contact with, ask someone's forgiveness whom you've harmed. Forgive yourself, and make a decision to reach out to others more than



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you normally do. Support a food bank, come to church, call a grandchild or a son or daughter. Hold the hand of someone dying or ill, write a letter to your senator or representative about being honest and not cheating people, and passing laws that truly benefit the majority of people. I could go on, but you get the idea. Allow Lent to be a time for personal spiritual growth and development. Let's do something to make our world better than it was when we came into it. Let's join the creative process God started.

Pastor Warren

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### ***FOLKS TO REMEMBER***

Some of our church family has concerns we need to remember:

- ❖ Reta Boyd – Good Samaritan Home. A friendly call or card would be welcomed. Did you know she and her husband were the first to be married in our remodeled church back when?
- ❖ Scotte Hecht – Scotte passes along wonderful computer ideas. A card or email would also be good. [sjhec@moscow.com](mailto:sjhec@moscow.com)
- ❖ Lou Stevens will be having some back surgery on March 3rd in the Lewiston Hospital. She'll be there for a few days recovering.
- ❖ Pearl Jensen is recuperating at Aspen Park Care Center. Please remember her with calls or cards.
- ❖ Peter Lanting is also rehabilitating at Aspen Park after some knee surgery. Cards and calls are good.
- ❖ Sheila Batey has moved. A big job and we're still trying to catch up with her.
- ❖ Pat Gentry – anxious for spring and appreciates your cards and calls.

Please remember all these people in your prayers and surround them with your support and concern.

Please remember all the church officials of our United Church of Moscow! This is a challenging time for them as they prepare the budget for the coming year and try and anticipate programming needs that will encourage our ministry in healthy directions. These folks work hard and deserve our thanks and appreciation!

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### ***THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY'S MARCH***



11<sup>th</sup> – Ravi Hatch

16<sup>th</sup> – Brent Barber

18<sup>th</sup> – Heather Leonard

20<sup>th</sup> – Donna Francis

23<sup>rd</sup> – Delores Sanchez



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### *The Palouse Peace Coalition*

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The Palouse Peace Coalition (PPC) was formed by a number of community groups and individuals during the run up to the Iraq War. Many activities and events were held to educate the public and politicians in an effort to avoid the rush to war.

Since the start of the war, the Peace Coalition has continued activities to keep people aware of the costs of this war and to rally support to end it. PPC may be best known for the weekly Vigil for Peace held every Friday afternoon, 5:30 at Friendship Square. Other activities include providing an information table at Farmers' Market, sponsoring several films and film series, bringing in speakers and holding forums to discuss war and peace issues. We also provide information at local high schools on careers in peace and peace based sources of funding for higher education.

The Palouse Peace Coalition has recently been meeting periodically at the United Church. These are relatively small meetings, but are open to anyone interested in attending. Our current focus is to maintain ongoing activities, develop a speaker's forum for March, and increase outreach to veterans and their families.

We are happy to have President Obama making a commitment to end the war in Iraq, but feel that he will need grassroots support and pressure to make sure this happens. We are also concerned about the continued emphasis on a military solution to the problems in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The PPC is not only interested in ending wars but in promoting nonviolent strategies for dealing with world conflicts. We need your help. Our next meeting is Friday, March 13th, at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Bob & Linda Rasmussen

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### *Faith Advocacy Day*

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Faith Advocacy Day will be held in Olympia on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at United Churches of Olympia. This annual event is an opportunity for members and friends of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations to gather together with other faithful citizens of the State of Washington.

Our state and nation face difficult decisions in the months ahead. We are facing unparalleled deficits and a deepening economic depression. Our voices, as people of faith, are needed more than ever to speak out for justice and compassion. We are working with the Washington Association of Churches (WAC), our statewide ecumenical ministry, to insure "the least of these" are not forgotten by decision makers.

You are invited to participate in the activities listed on the "So You Can't Make It to Advocacy Day" sheet that can be found at [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org). If you would like to participate, our regional coordinator for this day is Rev. Kathy Coggins who can be contacted at [granolacupcake@gmail.com](mailto:granolacupcake@gmail.com).

~~Hold Tuesday, March 17th in your prayers~~



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### ***HOW TO KEEP WARM IN CHURCH***

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As you know, Greg Skinner, one of our own members, is serving as the Interim Pastor at North Hill Christian Church in Spokane. This was printed in their February newsletter. With some of this cooler weather still lingering we thought you might enjoy it too!

#### HOW TO KEEP WARM IN CHURCH

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn – and then watch the sparks fly!

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### ***Movie Night***

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*Every first Saturday of the month, at 7 pm, will be Movie Night.*

*The next one will be March 7th and it will be*

*"Believe in me" with Jeffrey Donovan, Samantha Mathis and Bruce Dern.*

The movie takes place in a conservative small town, in 1964, Clay Driscoll takes what he thinks is the dream job: coaching boys' basketball. Instead, what he gets is the opportunity of a lifetime, coaching the girls basketball team. This is the true story of a young man whose dream of coaching boys' high school basketball are derailed when the school board assigns him to the girls' basketball team instead. The girls and the coach need to earn each other's trust, and despite the opposition of the small conservative town, they learn how to play to win. Getting the girls to believe in themselves is half the job -- finally believing in himself is the rest.

*Everyone is invited!*

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### ***Announcements***

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- Ross Point will be offering gift certificates that can be purchased and given to a youth to attend their Summer 2009 camp – it's an exciting opportunity to invite an individual to participate for the first time in camp. Details have been posted on the bulletin board.
- Please remember the first Sunday of each month is our designated food donation day – we can also take donations throughout the week; there are many in need and your support through the donation of food is greatly appreciated.



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### *Stewardship Month*

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As you know by now, February has been the month that our Official Board designated as Stewardship month. That has given us an opportunity to reflect together about why we give money to support our church. On the past Sundays we have listened to members of our congregation present their ideas about why it is important to them to give money to the church and it has been a blessing to listen to these remarks. Our thanks go to Brent Bradberry, Bonnie Nelson, Alberta Hill, Iris Manning, and Ginny and OZ Garton. This newsletter includes the remarks delivered by Bonnie Nelson and Giny and OZ Garton. Please read them thoughtfully.

Pastor Warren

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### *What the Church Means to me*

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*My faith and "the Church" are integrally tied to my childhood and early teens. The Matthews Christian Church (Matthews, MO) was a part of my life from my earliest memory. My grandparents and mother were charter members of the congregation. Mother taught the Women's Bible Class from my childhood until she moved to live with me in 1994.*

*Faith in the Lord has always been present in my life and a great support in times of stress. Attending services always seems to recharge my spiritual batteries. Growing up in a Disciple church, communion every Sunday was an important part of that recharging. As I grew up and left home, I participated in other faith communities (denominations) that might be available in the locations where I lived. However, I have always felt more at peace if the service included communion.*

*A few weeks ago, Pastor Jensen asked us to remember our baptism. Mine was a full immersion baptism. The service was held at a church in a neighboring town, because our church had no baptistery at that time. It was the only time in my life that I was not afraid of the water. I really felt the arms of the Lord supported me in that minute. I think perhaps that is why I always feel the presence of Him in my life.*

*Bonnie Nelson*



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### **THANK YOU!**

- 1) A special thanks this month to the members of the choir and our music people for the wonderful presentations they share with us in morning worship. We are so lucky to have them!
- 2) Thanks to Annette Hatfield, our church secretary, who after only 3 months on the job already has the office organized and has learned "the way we do things"! Annette has been so willing to work extra and hard to make sure our church can function. Cards and calls would be good..... (But not long calls during her office time or she'll never get done what we've come to expect her to do.) (ha)
- 3) Iris Manning, who despite a bad ankle, continues to run the church and make sure everyone shows up and gets the job done in a great way.
- 4) To the congregation, who participates so well in greeting one another and making sure no one who comes to church, leaves without a greeting. A "Welcoming" congregation makes a big difference. You do a great job seeing to it that people who come do feel welcomed!
- 5) Also, a thanks to the congregation for being people who do care about one another. The phone calls, the cards, the personal errands run, the interest you convey in one another, all make our ministry together meaningful and healing.

### ***Why I give to the United Church of Moscow***

*I give to the UCM for many reasons, and I'll touch on just a few here. From early on the UCM has been family for us. When we moved to ID in 1977, we moved away from all our family, and knew no one here in Moscow. Since Oz was raised in the American Baptist tradition, and I in the Disciples, this church seemed a natural for us. And it was! We immediately inherited a Family of grandparents, aunts & uncles, friends & playmates for us & our small kids. It's been Family ever since. On a personal level, I give to the UCM because it gives me:*

*Sermons that make me think*

*Discussions that are stimulating, questioning, even exciting!*

*Singing, & music, that often just fills me with joy*

*Fellowship that includes laughter, sometimes tears, communion of both bread & cup and of the Spirit.*

*On a broader level, I give to the UCM because it gives me an away to extend God's love beyond my physical limitations, in times of natural disasters, war, and poverty - both locally & globally, the church is there when I can't be. It provides teams of helpers, builders or financial assistance - whether from a meal & motel room for the night here in Moscow, to sitting at a bedside, visiting a lonely person, giving food &*

*money to Food Banks, buying Christmas gifts for kids, and sending clothing & blankets for the Yakima reservation. On a more global level, to name just a few examples, the church has been there to help the victims of hurricane Katrina, earthquakes and tidal waves in SE Asia, and to help a young woman named Immaculee leave the genocide and war torn chaos of Rwanda and begin a new life here on the Palouse.*

*I give to the UCM because it is my feet (for going), my hands (for helping), and my arms (for hugging, holding, and supporting in God's love). I give - still, I feel that I get the better part of the bargain.*

*Ginny and OZ Garton*



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	2 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	3	4 10 am - 12 pm Palouse Water Color 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	6 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	7 <i>Movie Night</i> 7 pm featuring "Believe in me"
8 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	9 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	10 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 pm AA Meeting	11 12 pm Cancer Support Group 7pm Board of Directors Mtg.	12 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	13 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7pm Palouse Peace Coalition	14
15 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	16 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	17	18	19 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	20 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	21
22 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	23 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	24 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 7pm Deacon's/Elder's Meeting	26 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 5:30 pm AA Meeting	27 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial	28
29 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	30 10:45- 11:45 am Janitorial 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	31				

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elders/Deacon</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Communion Bread</u>	<u>Communion Preparation</u>
3/1	Bonnie Nelson	Karen Davis	Joan Gustaveson	Kim Stockton
3/8	Steve Talbott	Steve Talbott	Joan Gustaveson	Kevin & Sandy Cooper
3/15	Bonnie Nelson	Paul Santoro	Joan Gustaveson	Lee Fruits
3/22	Glenda Hawley	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Joan Gustaveson	Chris & Steve Talbott
3/29	Karen Davis	Bob Johnson	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Tammy Lanting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter/Ushers</u>
3/1	Chris & Steve Talbott
3/8	Frank & Linda Fleener
3/15	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
3/22	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
3/29	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Meetings  
 Board of Directors: Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
 Deacon's/Elders: Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm



*The United Church of Moscow*  
American Baptist/Disciples of Christ  
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