

# The VISITOR



University Christian Church  
4731 15th Ave NE  
Seattle WA 98105-4404

## Highlights in this issue

Lecture on Global Warming .....	page 2
Interim Insights .....	page 3
Letters to the Editor .....	page 4
Stay or Leave Motions .....	page 5
Special Easter Offering .....	page 6

Volume XLIX Number 6

An Open and Affirming Congregation

March 20, 2007



## Special Holy Week Schedule

<b>April 1</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
8:45 am	Worship Chapel
9:30 am	Processional
Please note that the processional has been revised. As you recall, we planned a procession down the Ave to replace our gathering at University Heights. Unfortunately, we are not able to get a permit to close any arterials for such a procession. So, please plan to arrive with your church banner at 9:30 am on the Ave between 45th and 47th and line the sidewalk on both sides of the street. We will fill as much of the block as necessary, and sing or do a CALL AND RESPONSE across the Ave. This new simple idea will allow us to have a meaningful event without blocking the street.	
11:00 am	Worship Sanctuary
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
6:45 pm	Communion Lounge
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
12 noon	Ecumenical Service Sanctuary
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
7:00 am	Ecumenical Sunrise Service U Lutheran
9:30 am	Easter Potluck Breakfast Social Hall
11:00 am	Easter Festival Worship Sanctuary

## Pots and pans for peace ring out

The University Congregational United Church of Christ Peace Action last Sunday found more than thirty of us on the corner of 45th and 15th raising our signs and banging our pots and pans for peace, just the way Molly Ivins last column pleaded. Now we are hoping to be joined by Peace Seekers from our neighboring churches to make some more noise and call for Peace.

Be part of the action **Sunday, March 25 between 11:30 and 12:30**. Make your own signs and bring your pots and pans to stand with us for the hour or just for a few minutes. All Peace Seekers are welcome.

## The Worship Corner

March 25, 2007  
5th Sunday in Lent

<b>Worship Service</b>	11 am in the Sanctuary
<b>Scripture</b>	John 15:12-17, Romans 12:9-21
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>The Church as Incarnation</i>
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Sandra Messick

April 1, 2007  
Palm Sunday

<b>Worship Service</b>	11 am in the Sanctuary
<b>Scripture</b>	Luke 19:28-40, Luke 23:1-49
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>As it begins, but not how it ends</i>
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Sandra Messick

The Easter Special Offering will be received during worship.

**There is a self-led worship service at 8:45 in the Chapel each Sunday.**

## Your outreach dollars at work

### Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

Twenty-two national bodies join their efforts through CMEP to influence US foreign policy regarding the Middle East, especially the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of the members of the coalition, through our Common Board of Global Ministries. Most of the mainline denominations, historic peace churches, Roman Catholic orders, Church World Service and the National Council of Churches are members of CMEP. The member groups all have in common significant mission work in Israel/Palestine—operating hospitals, schools, orphanages, refugee centers, etc. and they have ongoing relationships with the Christian community of Palestine. They have key insights to share with policy-makers in the Administration and the Congress.

Tom Quigley is involved in both of these organizations and can provide additional information about them.

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March 20, 2007

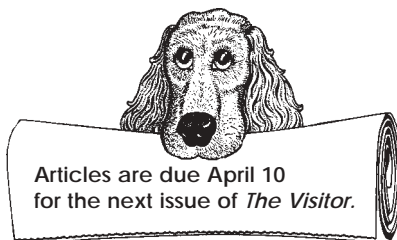


### Lecture on Global Warming April 9



Dr. James Overland, an oceanographer with NOAA (US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) for 30 years, will present an illustrated lecture on climate change on **Monday, April 9 at 7 pm in the Lounge.** University Christian

Church is sponsoring the lecture. Everyone is welcome to attend.

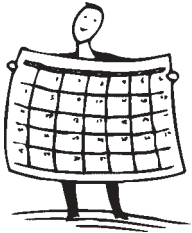


Join us for a 4th Family Fun Fight potluck this Friday. Bring a dish to share and we'll have a movie to share. Come and watch Tom Hanks in the early stages of his career as he yearns to be "BIG," never dreaming of the complications that come with being "grown up."

Join us March 23 at 6:30 pm in the Lower Lounge.

## Our Life Together

- **Tricia Emory** rejoined the church Sunday, March 18. She is transferring from First Christian, Kent. Welcome back Tricia!
- **Victoria Ritts** email address is vritss@msn.com.
- Even though Marvin Eckfeldt's is not a member of U Christian, some of you might want to know his new email address: marveck@comcast.net.



### Heads Up!

Be sure to put these important Congregational Meetings on your calendars:

#### March 25

Called Meeting to vote on Stay/Leave proposals at 12:30 pm in the Social Hall with lunch

#### May 6

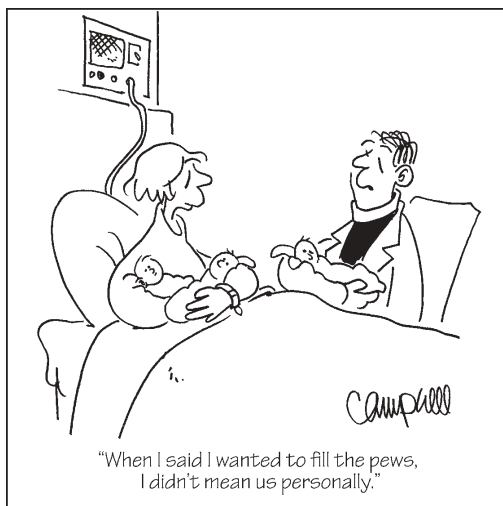
Spring Congregational Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary

#### June 17

Annual Meeting after worship, at 11:30 am in the Social Hall with lunch

## Thanks Blanchet

As part of a weekend retreat at Blanchet High School, fifteen students cleaned the alley and painted the side of our building last Saturday. They were working at Teen Feed sites to learn about how local organizations work with hunger and homelessness and wanted to show their appreciation to the churches that host it. They did a great job and it will look even better when we finish the areas too high for them to reach. Rick Eberhardt, their instructor is very excited about a possible partnership for ongoing projects like this as so are we. Talk about a win-win arrangement!



## Interim Insights

Sometimes I feel discouraged. It's easy to become overwhelmed as individuals or as a congregation when we're trying out new ways of being, trying to learn new skills or adapt to new ways of thinking. Phrases like "we can't" or "it'll never work" crop up in our vocabularies without conscious thought. When you begin to feel discouraged, remember these famous false predictions. Oh, how wrong they were!

- "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."  
—Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977
- "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."  
—Western Union internal memo, 1876.
- "The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"  
—David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.
- "The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."  
—A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)
- "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"  
—H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927
- "I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."  
—Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind"
- "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."  
—Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

May God fill our spirits with creativity and determination to persevere in the face of "can't" and to realize the glorious possibilities before us.

See you Sunday,

Sandy



## Celebrate with the Hawes

On **Sunday, April 1** there will be cake at the coffee hour to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Jerry and Gial Hawe.

## Statement of "Who We Are Called To Be"

As a diverse and inclusive community seeking to be faithful, University Christian Church is called to be a visible sign of God's grace and reconciling love for the whole human family by serving the neighborhood, city, state, nation, and world; reaching out to and being a special place of welcome for the poor and vulnerable; speaking and acting boldly for justice and peace; caring for and supporting each other; and helping each other to grow in faith and live in continual relationship with God.

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### Letters to the Editor

#### What is God calling us to do?

- **"Choose One and Let's Go"**  
submitted by Steve Bundy

The surest way to transform our church is to stop all the nonsense and start being what we are called to be. Sure we like meetings and the pretense of movement, but some things go best with a little activity.

So what is it we are called to be? Let's stop pretending we are paying attention unless we can say what it is. After all, to date it is the only area where we have reached a real live consensus. Think about that. We actually agree on something.

In list form; our calling is as follows:

- To be diverse and inclusive
- To serve as a visible sign of God's grace and reconciling love
- To reach out and welcome the poor and the vulnerable.
- To speak up and take action for justice and peace.
- To care for and support each other
- To help each other grow in faith.
- To live in continual relationship with God.

The minute we begin to actively engage on any or all of the above is the same minute we begin to transform.

- **Submitted by Irene Ellis**

Leave? No. That means scatter. Good-bye.

Struggle? No. Open up. The outside plumbing and other building improvements are wise, but charge higher rent, including an understanding of renters' responsibilities in maintenance.

Share with the renters' missions and they with ours as part of the agreement.

If the Food Bank moves out, rent the space to Starbucks. Parking problem, but university students need the walk or jog.

It will take nerve to open and share with neighbors very different from us but the dialogue would be good for all.

Continued in next column...

*Continued from previous column*

- **Submitted by Lynn Huff, Marjorie Thomas and Eugene Collias**

Based on comments at the March 11 forum, we will propose the following amendment to the "Stay and Transform" motion:

In the current University District religious environment these measures, however well and enthusiastically conducted, may not create an enduring transformation. Therefore we also authorize a \$20,000 expenditure to secure a place in the forthcoming feasibility study of the so-called Ecumenical Center.

However promising the Ecumenical Center concept, details are not well enough defined to commit to such a course at this time. Even if we were to do so, realizing that goal is years away. We can't just sit and wait as we are now. As realistic Ecumenical Center specifics are developed, further evaluation or our future will be necessary.

### Easter Breakfast

Again this year we will have a potluck **Easter Breakfast, April 8, from 9:30 to 10:45 am in the Social Hall.** Please bring your favorite portable breakfast dish. The church will provide juice, milk, coffee, and tea. We will ask for a \$3 per person donation to pay for the dish washers (that way we don't have to eat off paper plates.) Please plan on attending!



### Ecumenical Midweek Lenten Worship gatherings continue

Join your sisters and brothers from some of the churches in the University District for worship during this Lenten season by participating in Wednesday evening supper, worship and fellowship.

**The last two host sites for this shared worship experience are:**

**March 21**      **Seattle Vineyard**  
4142 Brooklyn Avenue NE

**March 28**      **University Temple**  
**United Methodist Church**  
1415 NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

## Stay and Transform Motion

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the congregation of University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at a special called meeting of the congregation on March 25, 2007, expresses its desire to reclaim our heritage here in these facilities, embracing the future in God's grace, holding the congregation together in this meaningful space, while reaching out to include other congregations in mutual ministries and re-envisioning our present location as an ecumenical campus.

In so doing, the congregation authorizes the Coordinating Board to develop and initiate procedures to

- a. aggressively pursue tenants for the North Building; redevelop other unused campus spaces of our current properties to provide housing and human services.
- b. enhance our existing buildings with physical improvements and better signage.
- c. encourage continuing ecumenical ties with other congregations with a goal of sharing space for worship, various ministries, fellowship, community service, education and administration.
- d. develop a "program rich" approach which will involve recruiting additional lay and / or paid staff to rapidly develop programs and ministries.

The Coordinating Board is further authorized to address other issues of importance such as a complete review of our financial status, including a complete statement of our indebtedness, and a rethinking of our 11:00 service (e.g., considerations of the worship space and the design and components of the service).

*If you cannot attend the Congregational meeting on March 25, there is a **Proxy Voting Form** available at the church website ([www.uchristian.org](http://www.uchristian.org)) that you can download and email, mail or fax back to the office. Instructions are printed on the form.*

*You can also pick one up in the church office and just fill it out and hand it back to the staff.*

## Leave and Transform Motion

BE HERE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the congregation of University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at a special called meeting of the congregation on March 25, 2007, expresses its willingness to begin the process of seeking a "new home" for the congregation that will enhance its worship, education, service, evangelism, mission, fellowship and administration.

In so doing, the congregation authorizes the Coordinating Board to investigate alternatives for a new home for the congregation, with a progress report and preliminary recommendations to be made to the congregation by September 30, 2007.

It is understood that

- a. The new home might include redevelopment of our current properties to provide a mix of affordable housing, human services, and possibly a new home for our congregation and one or more other congregations
- b. The new home might include the sale of our current properties with the proceeds used for a variety of ministries including a new home for our congregation, the start of a new congregation, and the funding of various denominational and community ministries that reflect the historic commitments of this congregation.
- c. The new home might include co-location with one or more other congregations and/or agencies, including the possibility of an "ecumenical center".
- d. The timing of plans for a new home might involve a short term lease of space for our congregation's worship, educational, fellowship, and administrative needs.

The Coordinating Board is further authorized to develop plans for how we would go about the sale of the properties in the event that a decision is made to do so, and how we could manage our indebtedness until such time as the properties are sold.

## A memorial to Margaret and Jim Slife

The Kaffir Lily blooming in the Lounge is a reminder of the lives of Margaret and Jim. It is an offshoot of a lily they brought to Seattle when they moved here from California. Several of us now have offshoots from the original one they shared with us. It is truly a beautiful plant. Be sure to notice it.



## Easter Special Offering

As Acts 10:39a states, "We are witnesses to all that he did."



During Lent, as we prepare for Easter, we may practice a deepened and more intentional prayer life. We may practice fasting or doing without certain foods or activities, or engage in Bible study with a new passion. Lenten practices as these remind us that all we are we owe to God, our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer.

We practice "doing without" during Lent by choice – as a discipline. Yet others suffer an unintentional fast. They do without because violence has destroyed their homes and the family's crops. They live on the street without shelter or adequate food or clothing. Many are at risk of falling into the despair of substance abuse and losing track of their own soul. Easter dawns like any other day for many in our world, devoid of redemption's hope. "Christ is risen? Who's he?"

Our acts in anticipation of Easter help us prepare to participate in God's redemption. All that "getting ready" prepares us personally and as a community of faith so the stone of our own hearts rolls away and Christ emerges. We begin to understand in new ways how God calls us into mission to share hope with all those in need throughout the world.

We are encouraged to consider one more spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter, the discipline of giving. For two Sundays our congregation will join with hundreds of thousands of Disciples in the United States and Canada in receiving the Easter Special Offering. Our gifts can change lives all over the globe.

Through this special offering, we extend our mission in neighborhoods nearby and in more than 90 developing countries. We meet spiritual and physical needs as mission partners. We provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education and pastoral care in neighborhoods in our country and all over the world through our Disciples mission partners. We pool our resources with other Disciples and do so much more than one congregation might do alone. Together we repair some of the world's brokenness and embody the hope of redemption in the lives of those we are called to serve in Jesus' name.

Through our gifts each year, people all over the world hear "Christ is risen" and can respond, "Christ is risen, indeed!"

Let us celebrate together the resurrection our Lord through our gifts to change lives by giving to this special offering **April 1 and April 8.**

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## Looking ahead to Easter

We hope to decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies again. Last year we bought the lilies. This year please buy the lily yourself and bring it to church with you on Easter Sunday morning.



*If you would like the lily to be in honor of a loved one, please let Niki know by April 2, so she can include you and your loved one's name in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.*

Our plan is to place the Easter lilies in the chancel area at the beginning of the church service, so please bring the lily to worship and hold onto it until the time to "decorate" the chancel. If you have any questions, please ask Charlotte Byers. Thanks very much!

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