



Tide-ings



January 2009

Mission Statement

As members of Ocean Park Lutheran Church, we promise to be a witness of Jesus Christ by sharing the love of God and Christian faith in our community.

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Pastor</i>	2
<i>December Stewardship Report</i>	3
<i>Community Table Report</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4
<i>Groups Serving</i>	5
<i>Birthdays, Anniversaries, Meeting Notes</i>	5
<i>Advent and Christmas Photos</i>	6

From the President

What a great year we have had in 2008. We have brought the message of Christ to many in the community. Not with words, but with action. We have opened our doors to the community in many ways. From the famous “Do Nothing Club” who meets on Tuesday mornings to the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Sunday evenings, we have opened the doors of God’s house to those in need. The list goes on. We can be proud.



There is some business that we still have to take care of. One is the development of some type of landscaping for the front of the church. Gary has received a couple of ideas. If you have some ideas, please submit your ideas to Gary or the council. We hope to make some decisions by spring.

Some suggestions have included the development of a small park where people can congregate before or after services on nice days. Another idea suggested a reprise of the memorial brick patio in the back. Whatever the case, the primary goal is a place of beauty that will not take a lot of upkeep or money.

Some discussion has taken place concerning some type of money raising project that will help make the funds available to finish the project. Perhaps a “night out” which would include dinner and entertainment, maybe additional offerings focused on the landscaping or your idea. So if you have an idea concerning the landscaping, let one of the council members know.

Looking again at the message you gave us concerning the self-evaluation, two types of small group sessions are being planned. These are planned to be discussion groups which will consider questions that Christians have in modern society and how to answer them.

Some questions are “Do Jews, Muslims and Christians worship the same God? or “How do I know God’s will for my life?” These sessions are slated to begin in late January. They will be either during the day or in the evening. They will be either at the church or in homes. What we need from you is what you would be most interested in. Let your council members know.

Remember, the annual congregational meeting is happening this month. You will want to set aside that Sunday to take part and let your wishes be known. New council members will be elected at the meeting. If you are not a member, you might enjoy sitting in. You won’t be able to take part, but it will give you an idea of the structure of our congregation.

From the Pastor

January Greetings to Each of You!



Happy New Year!!
As we enter 2009 it is a good time to review the Top Ten Items for Small Churches and adapt them to us as a congregation where we need to.

1. **Caring**

We do this well and we work at “folding in” new folks as they arrive.

We could improve on finding ways to have a mentor or buddy for a few months when folks arrive here.

2. **Quality Sunday School**

Our Sunday school uses lectionary based materials, and study the same lessons as our Sunday worship. They are age appropriate

3. **Worship Music**

We continue to work on music and try to meet the needs of four generations. It is not always easy but rather a work in progress.

4. **Enthusiastic Invitations & Hospitality**

Guests come primarily because you invite them. Follow-up is important, we will work at increasing our on-line information and obtaining a physical ad-

dress from them in order to have better follow-up.

5. **Attractive Facilities**

Our building and grounds will be in tip top shape when the area lawn area on the east front side is transformed in early spring.

6. **Yearly Stewardship Education**

Knowing/learning giving as a part of spiritual growth.

7. **One to three new experiences each year.**

This will be a fun item to work on. Do you have any ideas? Let Bob know if you do. It may be something you did at another congregation.

You know everything old is new again.

8. **First-class Printed Materials**

Our printed materials are looking great! We need to work on a printed brochure to have available.

9. **Strong Emphasis on Prayer**

Grow our prayer life and group.

10. **Planning Process**

Based on the congregational self-study the Church Council has made some recommendations to help us improve.

May the work we do in God’s name be blessed!

Pr Linda

Life After Death:

“Do you believe in life after death?” the boss asked one of his employees.

“Yes, sir,” the new employee replied.

“Well, then, that makes everything just fine,” the boss went on. “After you left early yesterday to go to your Grandmother’s funeral, she stopped in to see you!”

Palm Sunday:

It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. “People held them over Jesus’ head as he walked by.”

“Wouldn’t you know it,” Johnny fumed. “The one Sunday I don’t go, he shows up!”

Children’s Sermon:

One Easter Sunday morning as the minister was preaching the children’s sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, “What’s in here?”

“I know!” A little boy exclaimed. “Pantyhose!!”

December 2008 Community Table Report

Community Table continues to grow in service to our community. We have welcomed new volunteers to join our existing teams this last year. They include **Candy Cullen** and **Sandra Farrell** on Team 5, **Rose and Terry McCabe** on Team 4, and **Carnita Wall** on Team 3. They join the dedicated crew that have been with us since the beginning of Community Table: **Carol Payton, Lois Brass, Laurie Carter, Bob Lindberg, Bud and Ethel Runyan, Rose Wallace, Kathleen and Curt Davis, Mary Ellen and Claude Langridge, Dwayne and Heather Smallwood, Ann Powell, Helen McBride, Jerry and Ann Furgurson, Joyce and Russ Jones, Jim Wirth, and Jeri Dawson** and her team from the **Ocean Park United Methodist Church**. The Methodists will be adding a new team after the first of the year, so we will have seven teams in rotation in 2009. All these folks have worked tirelessly and cheerfully to make this program happen.

Since August, we have served 1193 meals at Community Table. November 24th's Thanksgiving meal served 130 people. In this period we have had expenses of \$1535. We have received \$2750 in donations in this period, including a Thrivent donation of \$800. Ocean Park United Methodist donated \$200 in this last quarter, and we continue to receive donations from individuals.

We thank all of you who support this ministry with gifts of time, money, and prayer. We are privileged to belong to this kind and generous church community.

Mike and Sidsel Tompkins

Special Birthday

It is Charlotte Davis's 98th Birthday on the 5th! Why don't we send her cards and well-wishes. She is our oldest member.

Charlotte Davis
Park Rose Care Center
3919 S. 19th Street #329
Tacoma, WA 98405

December Stewardship Report

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us. . .

Our time. . .

December 7	67
December 14	61
December 21	no church
December 24	not available
December 28	not available

Ourselves. . .

Our possessions. . .

December 7	\$300
December 14	\$1,724
December 21	no church
December 24	not available
December 28	not available

. . . signs of your gracious love, receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year Office Closed 11:00 Grief/ Loss Support	2	3
4 CHRISTMAS 2 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Women's AA	5 10:00 Prayer Group 11:30 Community Table Team 1	6 10:00 Do Nothing Club 10:00 Text Study 5:30 Epiphany Chili Feed, Tree Burning and Caroling	7	8 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Choir Practice	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 12:00 DVD and Conversation 5:00 Women's AA	12 10:00 Prayer Group 11:30 Community Table Team 2 1:15 DVD and Conversation	13 10:00 Do Nothing Club 10:00 Text Study TBD Worship Planning time	14 12:00 WELCA Lunch	15 9:00 Quilting 12:00 Reach Out Board Meeting 5:30 Grief/ Loss Support 7:00 Choir Practice	16	17
18 EPIPHANY 2 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Annual Meeting 5:00 Women's AA	19 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed 10:00 Prayer Group 11:30 Community Table Team 3	20 10:00 Do Nothing Club 10:00 Text Study	21 11:00 WELCA Bible Study 1:00 Book Club at Senior Center	22 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Choir Practice	23	24
25 EPIPHANY 3 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Women's AA	26 10:00 Prayer Group 11:30 Community Table Team 4	27 10:00 Do Nothing Club 10:00 Text Study	28	29 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Choir Practice	30	31

Groups Serving in December

	<i>Coffee Hosts</i>	<i>Worship Steward</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
January 4	Pr. Linda and Jim Wirth	Heather Smallwood	Ann Powell	Kathy Aase	David Aase Rod Anderson	
January 11	Volunteers Needed		Russ Jones	Rod Anderson	Gordon Duscha	
January 18	Volunteers Needed	Bob Lindberg	Dorothy Kenrud	Dwayne Smallwood	The Davis Family	
January 25	Volunteers Needed		Rose McCabe	Chelsea Smallwood	Dave Kingsbury	

Altar Guild - Mary Ellen Langridge

Assisting Minister - Rose Wallace

January Birthdays

2 - Stephanie Johnson
3 - Cheryl Gordon
5 - Charlotte Davis
12 - Candy Cullen
14 - Carole Barger
14 - Barbara Niemi
17 - Stephen Shaw
18 - Bud Runyan
18 - Udell Shaw
22 - Ann Powell

23 - Pat Wall
24 - Doris Hunze
27 - Bill Brooks



January Anniversaries

1 - Ross and Judy Willison
23 - Waldo and Gulvie Lindberg

FISH NEEDS YOUR HELP

Donations are desperately needed for FISH. Meals in a can (spaghetti, ravioli, etc), dry cereal, jams, jellies, bread, and peanut butter are easy gifts. Please leave your gift in the basket in the narthex.

NEW ACOLYTES Helen McBride is seeking new acolytes. If this is a ministry you're interested in, please contact Helen.

COMMUNITY TABLE We continue to serve Monday lunches every week from 11:30 to 1:00. A staff of six teams, along with coordinators Sidsel and Mike Tompkins, provides food and plans for their week. We welcome people of the community to come, eat here or take a meal home...and to others!

WELCA MEETINGS SET FOR THE YEAR Mark your calendars now for these dates: Meetings on January 14, 2009, March 11, 2009 and May 13, 2009 at 10 a.m. Bible Studies on January 21, 2009, March 25, 2009, April 22, 2009, and May 20, 2009 at 1 p.m.

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Page 6

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From the Editor....

Gentle Readers,

*This is the last newsletter
I will be able to produce
for you.*

*If anyone of you has a
calling to take this
project on, please speak
with Pr. Linda.*

*Thank you,
Laurie Carter*



Thanks to
Rose Wallace for
submitting these
photographs!

