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# ◆ The Olive Press ◆

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2011

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

### President:

Laura Britzius

### Vice President:

Lyle Johnson

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Herbert

### Properties:

Joe Rapp

### Lutheran Liaison:

Tom Lewis

### Evangelism:

open

### Worship:

Liz Blohm

### Education:

Vanessa Lindstrom

### Community Action:

Hal Hingst

### Stewardship:

Dick Bemrose

### Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

### Children & Families:

Christina Riehl

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor:

Tom Hiller

### Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

### Preschool Dir.:

Karla Hills

### Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

### Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

### Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

### Organist:

Brooke Benfield

### Custodians:

Dale/Anne Van Horn

## Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Dick Bemrose, Liz Blohm, and I attended the Oregon Synod Assembly in Eugene, June 3-5. It was a very up-beat, informative, and joyful gathering. It was also a great time to catch up with old friends.

The keynote speaker was **Shane Claiborne**, a Christian author and activist who lives in a Christian community in Philadelphia. Shane and his community have worked to help the poor around the world including in India with Mother Teresa, and in Iraq. His group also is concerned with the issue of climate change. Whenever Shane travels to speaking engagements around the country, he asks the sponsoring groups to be involved in activities that will offset the carbon released into the atmosphere by his use of a commercial airliner. The activities in the Synod included Bishop Dave Bruaer-Rieke riding a bike to the assembly in Eugene and the planting of several community gardens by congregations around the Synod. In his speeches, Shane reminded us once again of the radical nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the way in which our faith in Jesus frees us to challenge forces in our lives and in our world that oppress people with poverty, war, and hunger.

The representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churchwide offices was **Ken Innskeep**, the director of ELCA Research and Evaluation. His message was that the ELCA has a heritage in the Gospel and in Lutheran teachings that makes it possible for us to offer answers to the kind of questions that unchurched but spiritual people are asking in the Pacific Northwest. He also made use of a video that depicted a couple of people who are stranded on an escalator that has stopped moving. Ken said that often when our normal ways of doing things in the church no longer work, like the escalator, we forget that we can take simple steps to get down off the escalator and out into the world where Jesus calls us to be in ministry. That leads us to the next item.

Our Oregon Synod has started an activity that seeks to discover new ways in which we can be the church in a quickly changing environment. It is called **Project Belief**. A team has been assembled, funds have been gathered, and ideas are beginning to take shape.

One of the ideas is a website that can help congregations and church people in the Pacific Northwest to directly engage each other about common problems and solutions. It is called **Soul Café**. A group has been started on this site for Gethsemane. Other groups are also now ready for joining. If you would like to be part of this community, go to [www.soulcafe.org](http://www.soulcafe.org). If you would like to see a video about how Soul Café works, go to [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org).

In other activities, Deb Chenowith of Hood River was elected President of the Oregon Synod, and Becky Brown of Lake Oswego was elected Secretary. *(continued)*

If you would like to learn more about the Synod Assembly, the speakers, Project Belief, or Soul Café, please contact me, Dick, or Liz. It was a pleasure to serve as your members of the Oregon Synod Assembly this year.

In Christ, Pastor Tom

**Pastor Tom will be on vacation from July 4 through July 7.**

Please welcome **Katie Strobel**, our new director of our Preschool on Sunday, July 17, after both services.

## **Council Meeting Highlights for June**

The June council meeting was very brief. Stewardship reported on the *“Beyond Belief”* idea they adapted from this year’s Oregon Synod Assembly theme of the same name. Watch for more on this topic as the year continues.

Community Action highlighted a few events coming this summer, ways we can give back to our community. One way is to participate in a rummage sale at Redeemer Lutheran in Gresham, August 26-27, to benefit Portland/Metro East Habitat for Humanity. Another is a Habitat for Humanity build that is underway at 4335 N. Haight in Portland. The build is partially sponsored by funds from a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Grant. So, if you are a Lutheran and/or a Thrivent member and join in the build, \$\$\$ can be earned to support this build. For additional information on either event, please contact the church office or Hal Hingst.

Pastor Tom, Dick Bemrose, and Liz Blohm reported on the Oregon Synod Assembly. They all agreed the experience was meaningful and the atmosphere was positive.

We are a growing community with new members joining all the time. Please take the time to put on your name tag and to greet someone you may not know. Speaking of name tags, if you need one please contact Jude in the church office and she will get you set up right away! Blessings to you all and enjoy the beginning of summer.

Laura Britzius, Congregation President

## **GLC’s Social Networking Site:**

- **Meet Katie Strobel:** Katie was born and raised in Portland, the youngest of four daughters. She attended Oregon State University where she met her husband, Burke, in a microbiology class. They married in 1993 and have two daughters, Laurel (14) and Annie (10). Katie has worked in education and with children since graduating from college. For the last five years she has been the lead teacher at Gresham United Methodist Preschool. She loves having the same schedule as her daughters so she can be with them when they are home. Katie enjoys playing golf and traveling with her family; she also loves Broadway musicals. Her family goes to shows as often as possible and, when they visited New York City last summer to celebrate Katie’s 40th birthday, that’s what they did. Katie and her family also enjoy outdoor activities: Biking, hiking, canoeing and camping are favorite activities when home projects allow them the time. *(Katie is our new Preschool Director. Please introduce yourself to her and her family.)*
- **Mike and Darcy Harding** became members of Gethsemane on Father’s Day, June 19, by Affirmation of Baptism. Their granddaughter, **Raelyn Berry**, was also baptized that day. Mike and Darcy’s last church was at Lord of Lutheran in North Pole, Alaska! They’ve been married since 1986 and have two daughters. Their oldest, Sharae, is Raelyn’s mom. Christine is their younger daughter.
- **New Member Michele McGilvray** was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on May 30, 1960. In 1974 Michele, her sister and parents moved to Bend where she met her husband Les. They have lived in Portland since 1988; they were married July 22, 1995. Michele and Les don’t have children. Michele is a breast cancer survivor twice in the last 11 years. Her passion is exercise; she walks a lot and swims at East Portland Community Center. She joined Gethsemane on Mother’s Day, May 8, 2011, after taking Pastor Tom’s new member class. We are pleased to welcome Michele.

- **Randi and Jack Bateman** joined us by transfer on May 8. Randi was born in Tacoma and moved to Portland when she was six; she has a sister and two brothers. Jack was born in Tulary, CA and came to Portland when he was three. He is the youngest of six; he has three brothers and two sisters. One of Randi's brothers and one of Jack's brothers married twin sisters, and that's how Jack and Randi met. Then the twins set up a blind date for Jack and Randi and it worked! They were married 36 years ago at Milwaukie Lutheran, on February 15, 1975. They have three sons: Chris, Jeff, and Matt. Jack drove truck, then worked for Reynold's Aluminum, then went back to driving truck. He retired in September 2009 and now enjoys his favorite hobby, fishing. Randi stayed home and raised the children. She has volunteered at Zaraphath's Kitchen in Gresham for 24 years, and enjoys all sorts of crafts. One highlight for her was an around-the-world cruise in 2006; she was gone 120 days. The ship left from New York and went through both the Panama and Suez Canals. We'll have to hear more about that trip!
- **Betty Hahn** is a new member who spent much of her life as an Iowa farm woman. She grew up on a farm and married a farmer, raised a family and lived in Cedar Rapids where she was active in the Lutheran church. In 1990, already widowed, she moved to Portland to be close to her daughter. "I wanted to get to know my grandchildren," she said. She also has a son in California. She resided at Summerplace, becoming friends of Ken and Marilee Hansen. Recently she moved to Cherrywood where she enjoys all the options available to her. She has continued to be active in church, having been at Resurrection Lutheran for many years and volunteering in various ways as well as playing in the Bell Choir. As a devotee of the early worship at Gethsemane, she finds the variety in the Sunday liturgy to be stimulating, and she really enjoys the music at Gethsemane. She uses a cane these days, having had knee replacements, and is enjoying getting to know Gethsemane people. "I've slowed down in my volunteering, now that I'm in my mid-80's but I'll get involved again soon. After all, we're supposed to bloom where we're planted."
- **Rachel & Po Peterson** were married in September and live not far from Gethsemane, so it seemed a natural place for them. Rachel grew up in Gladstone and her mother is a friend of Lisa Hiller so she was aware of this congregation. After Rachel graduated from Cal Lutheran with a degree in Marketing, she spent a year teaching English in Thailand as part of the the ELCA Global Missions. It was at a Synod adult group that she met Po, who is from Burma. Currently, Rachel is employed at Adventist Medical Center in administrative and insurance work while Po is studying mechanical engineering at Portland Community College. They are enjoying Gethsemane and are looking for ways to become involved.

## Preschool Scholarship Help Needed

As we look forward to the new school year, we have had many requests for financial assistance from families expressing a desire for their child to attend our preschool program. Our preschool board has a scheduled meeting in July to determine how we can best allocate our preschool scholarship funds. At this time, our scholarship fund could use additional funds. If you would like to make a donation to our preschool scholarship fund, please indicate on your check/envelope that it is a donation for the preschool scholarship fund. Your donations help enable these little ones and their families to participate in our preschool and learn about the love of Christ. Thank you!

## What's With the Carpets Outside?

You may notice at times that shrubs are trimmed, trees are pruned, and plants are removed to make room for others. So what do carpets in the garden have to do with any of this? Funny you should ask! The flourishing green thumb by name of Ida Olson uses old carpet pieces as a non-toxic way to kill off unwanted plants and prep an area for replanting. The carpet allows water through but not sunlight, a combination which, with a little time, kills plants and their roots. This process feeds the soil and makes it much easier to remove whatever roots remain before replanting. Along the south fence line Ida and Friends recently removed many dying cedar trees and are prepping the area for blueberry plants. I understand that it is a little unsightly for a while, but the outcome will be absolutely beautiful. Just you wait and see! Laura Britzius

## Thank You, Quilters

My thanks to the Quilting Group for their hard work and camaraderie this past year. We were able to send Lutheran World Relief 101 Quilts, 79 School Kits, and 73 Health Kits. Our Quilters would not have been able to accomplish this without all the wonderful donations from our supporting congregation. You have been fantastic in keeping us supplied with useable fabric for the quilt tops and the sheets we use for the backings.

We also gave 20 adult quilts, seven baby quilts and two lap quilts to the community.

A big *Thank You* to all of those who participated one way or another in making the quilts: Karen Arendt, Bonnie Apline, Virginia Barton, Dick and Marion Burgess, Mickey Dochow, Virginia Haacke, Lillian Huston, Becky Keiper, Vera Koosman, Darlene Kuehmichel, Audrey Magnuson, Jo Nelson, Jan Perkins, Kay Qualheim, Bev Sperling, and Helen Tilkens.

A special thank you to Bob Magnuson, Doug Glenn, Carl Perkins, and Dale Van Horn for helping us put together the Lutheran World Relief Kits, packing the kits, and delivering all the boxes the next day. I want to also thank Marion Burgess for seeing that we were fed after our busy morning of packing.

Also I would like to thank Pastor Tom for his continued support and leading us in prayer.

If you are looking for a way to make a difference and to have some fun with your sisters and brothers at Gethsemane please stop by between 9:30 and noon on the first, second, and fourth Thursdays of each month. You don't need to be an expert quilter; we are all willing to help and learn from each other. We even have a few of our helpers who are not able to make it to sewing on Thursdays but work on cutting fabric, laying out the quilt top or sewing quilts at home. You are welcome to come and join us and watch God's love grow and spread through many helping hands.

Karen Reagan

**The Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group**, which meets at 10 a.m., has begun a new study of the book of Hosea. You are very welcome to join in the study and the lively discussion that takes place.

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH MARCH 2011			
INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$125,525	\$108,043	\$116,102	(\$17,481)
<b>WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:</b>	2011: 141	2010: 106	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>JULY 2011</b> <b>GETHSEMANE</b> <b>LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
3 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Adult Ed.	4 7p-Band HOLIDAY — OFFICE CLOSED  PASTOR TOM GONE THRU JULY 7	5 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-NO Bible Study 7:30p-Band	6 8:30-10a-Text Study	7 9:30a-Quilting	8 OFFICE CLOSED 7p-Band ( <i>A  make-up practice  for July 11</i> )	9 12:30p- RecovInc. 10a-Calgon Group
10 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Adult Ed.	11 7p-NO Band ( <i>Moved to Fri-  day, July 8</i> )  VBS THIS WEEK, 9-11:30	12 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-NO Band 6P-CHILDREN/ FAMILYMTG. 7P-EDUCMTG.	13 3P-STEWARDSHIP MTG. 8:30-10a-Text Study	14 12:30P-PRE- SCHOOL BD MTG. 9:30a-Quilting	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
17 8 & 10:30a- Worship (WELCOME NEW PRESCHOOL DI- RECTION KATIE STROBEL) 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Adult Ed. DAYBREAK	18 7p-Band 1p-StephenMin 10a-B-Team ( <i>This month  only</i> )	19 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 7p-Community Hall Group 5p-Mutual Ministry	20 8:30-10a-Text Study 7p- <i>Church  Council</i>	21 9:30a-Quilting	22 OFFICE CLOSED 6-8p-Family Fun Night	23 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
24 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Adult Ed.	25 7p-Band	26 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	27 8:30-10a-Last Text Study	28 9:30a-Quilting	29	30
31 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Adult Ed.						

### July Birthdays

- 1 Brandon Schie
- 2 Sue Gillen  
Gavin Hills
- 5 Karen Arendt  
Shar Giard
- 6 Shannon Kelsay
- 8 Elaine Kahler  
Penny Thoreen  
Scott Blohm
- 12 Bob Law  
Kathryn Crouse  
Braden Kelley
- 13 Kevin Blohm
- 14 Anna Dinsmore
- 15 Vernon Hopp
- 16 Alaura Kinnear
- 17 Bea Jarvie
- 19 Marian Aleckson
- 20 Melissa Solberg
- 22 Pr. Tom Hiller
- 31 Larry Stoffregen  
Mikayla Williamson

### Anniversaries

- Bud/Kay Qualheim 7/7/1946  
Jerry/Helen Tilkens 7/16/1949  
Stan/Alfhild Anderson  
7/18/1953  
Tom/Darlene Lewis 7/22/1978  
Rod/Karla Hills 7/19/1980  
Melissa/Russ Solberg 7/30/2006  
Melissa/Ray Natasia 7/7/2007

### Homebound Brothers,Sisters

- Lucille Langseth** Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #402 Portland 97230 (503)256-0553  
**Dorothy Urbach** Glisan Care Center, 9750 NE Glisan St., Portland 97220 (503)256-3920  
**Mae Lepsley**, 1280 NE Kane Dr. Fairlawn Care Ctr, Gresham, OR 97030  
**Warren/Karen Stenberg**, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267

**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; the Larson's friend Jan; Evelyn Kimpton's granddaughter Terri; Nettie Ubrick's grandson Michael; Mae Lapsley; Randy Treanor; Stan Johnson; Roland Haacke; Wynn & Jim Stafford, and their daughter-in-law Jennifer; Galvin Irby; Dorothy Urbach; Linda Babcock; Karen Arendt; Dorothy & Gerald Shouse and their daughter Gloria Miller; Karen & Warren Stenberg; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens & his sister LaVonna; Bea Jarvie; Shirla Rapp's mother Ethel Krueger; Norm & Dorothy Thoreson, their grandson Jacob & Dorothy's sister Helen Loomis; George Willett; Cathey Myers' friends Beth & Tom; John Skuzeski & his son Tom; Penny Thoreen; Vera Koosman; Liz Blohm's niece Betty; Joe Rapp's sister Nancy; Bev Sperling's great granddaughter Hailley; Colette Gill's son, Jim; and Kim Stoffregen's mother Phyllis. *Prayers of Thanksgiving:* For the birth of Alma Crouse to David and Katie Crouse, parents, and Thomas and Josie, brother and sister

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill:* Steve Rector, Joe Rapp, Ralph Nelson, Kent Cumming, Bob Edwards, and Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick.

*Those who are grieving:* The family and friends of Ken Hansen's sister Alice; and the family and friends of Martha Doversburger.



Gethsemane Lutheran  
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