

The Faith Connection

◆ The Wesley Foundation United Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Oregon ◆
◆ Winter Term 2004 ◆

Greetings,

Happy New Year! I recently finished reading the book "Why Christianity Must Change or Die" by John Shelby Spong. That's certainly a provocative title, isn't it?! Though I was not convinced by all of what the author had to say, I appreciated the way in which he called on Christians to use their God-given ability to think and reason. Spong reminds us that the Bible and much of Christian tradition come to us from a pre-modern worldview, a time when people thought that God was literally just beyond the clouds and that hell was a physical place full of fire. As Christians who live in the 21st century, though, we cannot continue to inhabit a post-modern world while leaning on the pre-modern assumptions out of which our faith arose. This does not

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mean that our Christian faith is outdated – not at all. But it does mean that to be faithful Christians, we must use our intellectual capacity to continuously discern the deeper truths of our faith, the truths that continue to shine forth in the midst of our post-modern time.

As students, you have the opportunity to develop your intellectual abilities, not just for your own sake or for the sake of a lucrative career, but to the glory of God. Your studies glorify God in many ways, but especially when they enable you to think critically about the world, and especially about your Christian faith. In this New Year, I hope that the Wesley Foundation will be a place where you can raise your questions, live with the tension those questions may create, discuss these questions with others in our Christian community, and then arrive at a stronger, more honest place in your faith. Here's to what lies ahead!

Blessings,

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen
Campus Pastor

*Do something different
for Spring Break!*

Join the Wesley Foundation Mission Trip to...

SAN FRANCISCO!

March 20-26, 2004



Serve God and others while experiencing a side of San Francisco that not all visitors see. We will volunteer in the inner city, worship at churches that may differ from our home churches, and reflect on how what we see and hear intersects our Christian faith. And we'll have fun visiting some of the most popular sights in San Francisco!

Interested? Contact Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen at 346-4694 or jeremyhp@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Calling All Students!

Join Christian college students from around the western U.S. for this amazing conference!



***And God Saw That It Was Good:
Environmental Justice
in the 21st Century.***

Corvallis, Oregon
January 16-19, 2004
www.wrecc6.org

This conference will explore the intersection between Christian faith and current environmental concerns.

Great worship, meaningful small groups, and fabulous fellowship will make this a memorable weekend!

The cost is \$20 for three nights and all meals.

For details, please talk to Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen soon.

Space is still available!

***"LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH AND MIND.
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" –LUKE 10:27***



Winter Term Activities

The Winter Term Student Brainstorming Session will be held Monday, January 5 at 6:30 PM. Come share your ideas and energy for the Winter Term! Pizza and drinks provided.

Wesley Fellowship Night commences on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 PM for a simple supper followed by singing, sharing, conversation, and prayer. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Two Reel-to-Real movie nights are tentatively planned for Friday, January 9 and Friday, March 5 at 8 PM. Great movies, popcorn, and good conversation are what it's all about!

A new Spiritual Growth Bible Group commences on Tuesday, January 13. Stay tuned for the exact time!

Volunteer Project, Thursday, January 29, from 6-9 PM. Help out with Food for Lane County's food rescue program.

Help Create a new Prayer Path Labyrinth for the Wesley Foundation on Saturday, January 31 from 10AM-3PM. The Labyrinth is an ancient Christian spiritual tool, often found in the tile floors of cathedrals, that helps Christian pilgrims journey to God.

Interested in a Wesley Ski Day? One is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 14. Talk to Jeremy if interested.

Ash Wednesday is on February 25. At Fellowship Night we will walk the Labyrinth (see above) to mark the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This is a deeply meaningful experience!

Campus Ministry Sunday at Trinity UMC, Sunday, February 29 at 11 AM. A great opportunity to participate in worship!

Sing Your Praise!

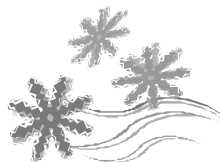


You are invited to sing in a Christian singing group! No experience necessary – just a desire to sing and make great music with friends.

Contact Christine Keene, Wesley Foundation Music Director, at ckeene@gladstone.uoregon.edu for more information and the current gathering time.

People in the News

We have been graced with the presence of many new students! Welcome to **Katie Moss**, **Emma Nelson-Munson**, **Evan Howard**, **Beth Tveit**, and **Cody Custis** ** Speaking of **Cody**, he will be returning to Montana to continue his graduate studies. Best wishes, Cody! ** **Stephanie and Colin Paddock** gave birth to a baby boy, Connor Daniel Paddock, on October 31. Congratulations to the new family! ** **Karl Drucks** has finished his undergraduate coursework and will graduate this spring. Way to go, Karl! ** **Steve Mallory** has begun his final semester of Law School. Best wishes on the job hunt, Steve! ** **Margaret McGladrey** did a great job as the Wesley student speaker at the Choral Extravaganza. And Margaret, **Christine Keene**, **Courtney King**, and **Laura Riley** sang beautifully as well! Thanks to all of you! ** **AnneMarie Knepper** is studying in France this winter and spring. ** **Laura Riley** recently sang the National Anthem at a women's basketball game. ** **Chris Porter** is taking a year off of school to work for Habitat for Humanity in High Point, North Carolina. ** **David Weaver** has begun his graduate journalism studies at the University of North Carolina. ** And finally, thanks to our Worship Team who led three worship services during the fall: **Ken Baker**, **Aaron Probert**, **Solveig Heinz**, **Emma Nelson-Munson**, **Katie Moss**, **AnneMarie Knepper**, **Karl Drucks**, **Laura Riley**, **Christine Keene**, and **Cody Custis**. You all do a great job!!



Beauty, like love,
can penetrate
illusion.

-- Deborah Smith Douglas

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