



The Faith Connection

◆ The Wesley Foundation United Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Oregon ◆
◆ Winter Term 2005 ◆

FROM THE CAMPUS PASTOR'S PEN:

I am not much of one to make New Year resolutions. But this year is different.

You see, there has been a lot of talk about the way in which so-called "values" were extremely influential in November's presidential election. The conventional wisdom is that those who hold self-proclaimed "Christian values" voted overwhelmingly for one candidate. What I find most discouraging is that in both pre- and post-election analyses, "Christian values" have been defined in very narrow terms, primarily based on issues of sexuality and abortion. That is, "Christian values" are reduced to an anti-choice and anti-homosexual marriage stance (with support for prayer in schools and public displays of the Ten Commandments thrown in for good measure).

Allow me to be blunt: what a load of baloney! I and millions of other Christians (yes, millions), as well as people of other faith traditions, also voted out of deeply held religious convictions that led us to make different voting decisions. Personally, my values, shaped by my Christian faith, led me to consider a broader range of issues: the morality of a pre-emptive war, what Jesus would say about pouring billions of dollars into a military budget when people in our country and around the world live in poverty, how to truly care for God's good creation, and the morality of a tax policy that unfairly benefits wealthy individuals and corporations, Let's face it: even a casual reading of the Gospels demonstrates that Jesus says much more about issues of wealth and poverty than he does about issues of sexuality. Jesus repeatedly sides with the outcast. Indeed, he was so threatening to the religious and political powers of his time that they killed him by nailing him to the cross. The Biblical prophets are downright harsh in condemning those who would get rich while the poor are oppressed (read Micah or Amos). Indeed, for the prophets, a nation primarily is judged according to how it cares for the poor and vulnerable. Let us beware of falling into the trap of oversimplifying and distorting what it means to hold so-called "Christian values."

Christian values?

So my resolution for 2005 (and beyond) is quite simple: I will do all I can in my little corner of the world to boldly live out a Christian faith that challenges conventional definitions of what it means to embrace "Christian values." Care to shed your inhibitions and join me in this ministry?

In the Power of the Spirit,

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen
Campus Pastor

Great Opportunities for Travel, Mission, and Spiritual Renewal!

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Jeremy as soon as possible!

Young Adult Winter Retreat

Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp

January 21-23, 2005

A weekend of spiritual renewal and fellowship with other young adults from around Oregon. Suttle Lake is beautiful in the winter!

United Methodist Student Movement Western Jurisdiction Conference

Palo Alto, California

February 18-21, 2005

Gather with Christian college students from around the Western U.S. for a weekend of service, fellowship, and worship!

Alternative Spring Break

March 19-22, 2005

Do something different for Spring Break! An experience of living out your Christian faith.

A pilgrimage of spiritual renewal to...

Iona, Scotland

a site of ancient Celtic Christianity

September 9-17, 2005

We will stay at Iona Abbey, on the remote Isle of Iona in Scotland, where St. Columba established a Celtic Christian community in the 7th century. This will be an incredible experience of Christian community and spiritual renewal. Limited space.

Campus Pastor Winter Term Schedule

These hours are subject to change occasionally depending on Wesley Foundation activities.

Monday, Thursday, Friday...9 - 5:30

Wednesday..... 11 - 9

Sunday.....8:45 - 11 (at church)

1 - 5 (at WF)

Tuesday and Saturday.....OFF





More Great Winter Term Activities!

Fellowship Night commences on Wednesday, January 5 at 6:30 PM for a FREE simple supper followed by lively singing, stimulating conversation, and heartfelt prayer. All students—new and returning—are welcome!

Come meet-up with Jeremy for a double-shot of conversation on theology, politics, and other topics that matter at the Buzz (lower level EMU) on Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30 AM. A safe place to hang out and talk!

A NEW Bible Study begins Sunday, January 9, 4-5 PM at the Wesley Foundation. **We'll start by re-examining the Biblical evidence on same-sex relationships**, and then see where that leads us!

Our annual Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk will be held on February 9 at Fellowship Night. The Prayer Path is a Christ-centered Labyrinth experience. A wonderfully meaningful way to begin the season of Lent!

The Wesley Worship Team is scheduled to lead worship at Junction City UMC on Sunday, February 27. A great opportunity to practice liturgical leadership!

A Winter Semi-Formal Dinner and Dance at the Wesley Foundation?!

Several students have expressed interest in organizing an evening candlelit dinner and dance at the Wesley Foundation during the winter term (we can finally put our disco ball to good use!). Students from other campus ministry groups will be invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and frolicking.



Are you interested in helping to plan a menu, dream up fun decorations, and set-up?

If so, talk to Katie or Jeremy soon!



People in the News

A rousing welcome to the many new and returning students who have joined us for Fellowship Night during the Fall Term: **Marianne Berg, Amber Samuel, Courtney Nelson, Sarah Dickey, Ken Elder, Cheri Young, Heather Schwartz, Michelle Mathew, Alyssa Carter, Ben Munson, Jill Scott, Andrew Edwards, Margaret Gander, Monica Armstrong, and Joe Baily** (apologies if I overlooked anyone!) *** Congratulations to **Margaret McGladrey** on landing a news show on the UO television network and on her marriage engagement! *** A hearty thank you to all the students who helped to carry on Wesley activities while Jeremy was away on his paternity leave, especially **Beth Tveit, Katie Moss, Mike Stear, and Margaret McGladrey**. *** **Ken Baker** reports that his study abroad in Germany is going great! *** Welcome back to **Chris Porter** who is back on campus after a year of volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina. *** **Wesley Foundation Campus Pastor Jeremy** and wife Allison celebrate the birth of their daughter, Miriam Grace, on November 6.

When the professor continues to drone on-and-on, remember:

Christ is precisely that point at which the divine and human intersect, where God meets us in our mundane daily reality. This is one of the most beautiful insights of Christianity: that God comes into our place, with all its ordinariness. ***Our God is willing to live through our boring days with us.***

— Sarah Parsons on MethodX.net

**The Wesley Foundation
United Methodist Campus Ministry**
1236 Kincaid Street ♦ Eugene, OR 97401
541-346-4696 ♦ jeremyhp@uoregon.edu
www.uowesley.org

Campus Pastor..... Rev. Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen
Administrative Assistant Sherry Lader