

# The Faith Connection

*A Newsletter of the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry*

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◆ February 3, 2003 ◆

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Greetings,

I never cease to be amazed by the people and situations that gently remind me to live each day attentive to God's presence. Allow me to explain...

Recently, the University of Oregon International Programs department, along with a group of Muslim students, contacted the Wesley Foundation. The students were looking for a place on or near campus where they might go to say their daily prayers. Muslims, with whom Christians and Jews share Abraham as an ancestor, pray five times throughout the day. "Would the Wesley Foundation have some space they could make available for Muslim student prayer?" Our Board of Directors voted unanimously to invite the Muslim students to pray in our small student lounge (which had not been used much over the last six months). So we rearranged furniture and tidied up the room to welcome our Muslim friends.

My office shares a door with the Muslim student prayer room. Now that they have begun to stop by to pray, throughout the day I hear them come and go. The door will rattle softly as they enter. I can hear muffled shuffling as shoes are removed and backpacks set aside. I hear the faint sounds of knees brushing against carpet as they settle down to pray. And each time the

door softly opens, I too am reminded to pray. Their presence helps me to stop what I am doing, take a deep breath, say a prayer, and give thanks to our God who abounds in steadfast love. Throughout the day, our Muslim friends call me to prayer.

Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." To pray without ceasing does not mean that we are constantly on our knees. It means that in all things we strive to be mindful of God's presence in our daily living.

Some would note the irony in Muslim students calling me, a Christian minister, to prayer. But I like to think that it is the cleverness of a God who is always seeking new opportunities to bless us and draw us into a deeper relationship.

As we approach midterms, I wish you peace, confidence, rest and wisdom. Blessings,

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen  
Campus Pastor

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*Come and find your peaceful center...*

**Music,  
Candles,  
Singing,  
Silence.**



Taizé Service

Monday, February 17, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 2, 8 p.m.

Ben Linder Room EMU

*Taizé is a style of prayer and meditation that uses musical chants, silence, and short readings to create a space in which one may simply rest. There is no preaching, blaring music, or flashy gimmicks – just you, the music, and the beauty of the present moment. The whole atmosphere is relaxed, peaceful, inspiring, healing, and worshipful.*

*Coming Soon...*



**T** **T**

*Join Jeremy for a pizza dinner, a movie (video), and conversation about the images and questions the film raises for our faithful living.*

**Friday, February 7, 6-9 PM**

**Contact**

**Friday, February 28, 6-9 PM**

**Choco at**

*Journey to the center. Walk the...*



## **LABYRINTH**

**March 5 and 6  
9 AM – 5:30 PM**

The labyrinth is an ancient form of prayer that has been revived in recent years.

By walking to the center, and then out by another path, you are invited to get in touch with the God who lives at the core of your being. Come to the Wesley Foundation to walk the labyrinth at any time during the above hours. If you are unsure of what it is – or how it works – explanatory materials will be available.

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## **Opportunities**

Wesley Night Fellowship continues on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM for dinner in the Fellowship Hall and 7 PM for singing, sharing, and a program in the lounge. Come join us by the fire!

Want to start your weekend on the right foot? Looking for a lively conversation? Join us for our "Food for the Soul" Lunchtime Fellowship. Bring your lunch and an open heart. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Fridays, 12:00 PM. Feel free to come by early. Stay as long as you like!

Bible Study on the **prophet Micah** continues on Tuesdays at 6 PM (no meeting February 4). Come find out how this 8th century BCE prophet is relevant to our current global situation! No prior knowledge of scripture necessary.

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## **People in the News**

Congratulations to **Andy Cobble** who became engaged to his girlfriend Kathleen over the Christmas holiday! Kathleen is a student at Hope College in Michigan. The date has been set for June, 2004. \*\*\* Congratulations are also due to **Margaret McGladrey** and **Christine Keene** for landing parts in Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute." They will perform on campus the weekend of February 14. Break a leg, you two! \*\*\* It's great to welcome **Laura Riley** and **Karl Drucks** back! \*\*\* Best wishes to **David Weaver** as he completes the last of his grad school applications and awaits the results. \*\*\* Congratulations to **Chris Porter** and **Courtney King** who recently became Residence Hall Advisors. \*\*\* We wish a speedy recovery to **Karl Drucks** as he recovers from knee surgery January 31. \*\*\*

*It's not too late to do  
something different for Spring Break!*

*Join the Wesley Foundation Mission Trip to...*

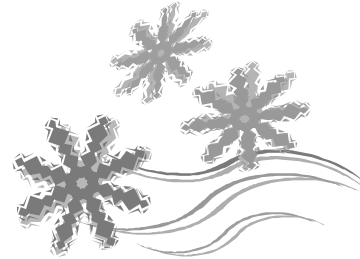
**SAN FRANCISCO!**

**March 22-28, 2003**



*Looking to do something radically different for Spring Break? Interested in serving others through volunteer work and experiencing a city as you've never experienced it before?*

**Talk to Jeremy soon! (346-4694)**



The love of God is characterized by God's persistence throughout human history in trying to rescue us from our brokenness.

- Roberta C. Bondi

## **The Wesley Foundation**

**United Methodist Campus Ministry**

1236 Kincaid Street • Eugene, OR 97401

541-346-4694

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~jeremyhp/index.html>

[jeremyhp@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:jeremyhp@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

Campus Pastor

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen

Administrative Assistant

Sherry Lader

Music Director

Christine Keene