

Acorn Update April 2009



This quote from Archbishop Romero of El Salvador about planting seeds seems very fitting as we enter into spring.

“It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us... **We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.** We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.”

Most of you know we named our non-profit with the idea of little acorns growing into large oak trees. This verse from Isaiah, about when God will exalt his people, is an inspiration for us:

They will be called mighty oaks, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3

We take heart in the promise of God to do the work of growth, as long as we plant seeds.

Signs of spring (or what’s been happening lately)

We are seeing more and more use of the facility, which is especially encouraging. We currently have an Acorn Center resident, Rick, who is contributing his significant abilities in computer technical support. If anyone is looking for help with their computer needs, let me know and I’ll put you in touch with him. (not for free, of course, only our non-profit gets that benefit ☺)

We’ve had a couple of dinners with neighbors and friends and we continue to see relationships develop and grow as we spend time together. We’re looking forward to more parties as the weather improves.

Four OSU students are volunteering with us until June, and that has added to the excitement in our classes. We appreciate their enthusiasm and energy, and they have an opportunity to make a difference in the community.

We’re starting to prepare the community garden for our neighbors. Peter spent some time tilling today, and neighbor Abraham will finish the work. Compost arrives next week, and then the planting can begin.

I am very aware this season, that as I make myself available, God is giving me more and more opportunities to share his love, to plant seeds of hope and joy. And I know he is faithful to produce the growth. Thank you for being gardeners along with us.

Ellen