



WAVECREST BREAKERS

A Community in Growth

By Ed Borrowe

We would like you to share with something we are excited about. We have made plans for our quality of life home improvement projects at Abraham House. Please continue reading to find out what Cathy and Cindy think about these four projects.

Cathy and Cindy are very excited about our first project...you see, Cathy and Cindy have been sharing a room for over a year now. While it has been wonderful for both of them to be part of our community it was only possible for them to move in if they agreed to share a room, and they did.

We are very grateful and blessed to have Cindy and Cathy with us and we want them to be more comfortable and have the same opportunity for privacy that Chris, Jason and Terry have at Abraham House.

Therefore; we have made plans to remodel Cathy and Cindy's bedroom, dividing the room into two separate private bedrooms. This entails moving the window, building a wall separating the room into two, building a new hallway and a closet. This project is estimated at \$15,000.



The second project will affect all members of Abraham House. We plan to replace our overburdened electrical panel with a new, safe high capacity panel. This involves burying all the electric, cable and phone wires. The wires run from the telephone pole in the neighbors' backyard over our backyard patio to the roof of the house. Burying the wires is recommended by the electric company because it improves safety for our core members. This project is estimated at \$9,000.

The third project at Abraham House is to add an exterior staircase for emergency exit in case of a fire or other disaster. This feature is very important; with five adults with developmental disabilities in the house a safe way to exit in an emergency is the highest priority. This project is estimated at \$22,000.

The home has gone through several additions over the years prior to L'Arche Wavecrest purchasing the home in 2006, it is high time we replace our very old inefficient furnace and air conditioner, and install news units that are more energy efficient and designed to accommodate the current size of the house. This is project four and is estimated at \$12,000.

Volunteers Needed

We need help with stuffing envelopes; if you would like to be placed on the volunteer list to help when needed please email us at volunteer@larchewavecrest.org.

Donate Now

Please consider making a monthly pledge of support.

Pray for Us

We ask you to pray for the Core Members and the Assistants. Your prayers are our main source of strength.

Prayer Requests

Please send us your prayer request so that we may pray for you, your family, and your friends. Email us your request to us at prayerrequest@larchewavecrest.org

Outreach

Help us share our story, let your church, school, ministry, community group know about us. We are very happy to present our story to them. Contact us at dave.martinson@larchewavecrest.org

Wish List

Our fax machine has retired. It has served this ministry many years and has done fine work., but the time has come to find a replacement.. If you would like to donate a new fax machine to us please call Dave at 714.923.1221.

ABRAHAM HOUSE MORTGAGE

Current Balance: \$631,169.70

Monthly Payment: \$4,217.62

Becoming a Light in Our Midst

By Sister Paula Cooney

I got up to get a drink of water one night and became aware that, even as dark as it was, the light from the timer on the microwave was bright enough to guide me. I could not have sat and read my book by it, but it got me safely where I needed to go.

This may seem to be a strange way to begin to talk about Wavecrest, Abraham House and the men and women who form community there, but, especially in these times, we need every sign of hope. By their presence here in a simple home on an ordinary street, Orange County is truly blessed with such a sign.

Whatever our gifts, we are bound together in a common humanity. These unique gifts are a source of blessing to all who have eyes to see and hearts to embrace. Those among us who are challenged with a mental handicap offer us in a special way an opportunity to receive and recognize those gifts. In order for this to happen, they must be provided with an environment that fosters and celebrates those gifts.

My own journey has been blessed with the gift of a mentally challenged member of my family. My youngest brother has been a source of joy to us in so many ways. Because of circumstances, it was not possible for him to live with my parents and he has lived for many years with four other mentally challenged men and an incredible couple who provide a supportive and loving home for all of them. In finding Wavecrest and

making a commitment through membership on the Board, I have found a way to repay in some way what has been given to my brother and to my family.

My first experience with the Wavecrest Community was at a community night earlier this year. It was obvious that this was a very special place to be. As some of the core members were returning from their places of work, others were preparing part of the meal. It was the ordinariness that struck me. It was truly a home. It was so obvious that each member of the household and all of us that came that night were accepted just as we were. Isn't that all that anyone of us can ask?

Wavecrest, as a member of the worldwide L'Arche community, is committed to providing such a place where relationships can be formed in an atmosphere of trust, security and mutual affection. Transforming these high ideals into a lived reality happens every day at Abraham House. Of course there are challenges and days when the ideal is not met. But the desire to live together in mutual respect draws all of the members, AND those who are touched by their presence to get up every morning and begin again.

Sometimes the "big lights" – are too bright and, like trying to find our way in the middle of the night, we recognize the "little lights" as the guide that we need to get to where we are going. That is what the Wavecrest Community offers each of us. Do we recognize it?

Dave Martinson

Community
Leader



On October 31st I celebrated my one year anniversary as Community Leader for L'Arche Wavecrest. As I reflected on my experience over the past year one word keep popping up in my mind; *Welcome*. In June I was asked to share with Jean Vanier one gift that Wavecrest brings to the L'Arche Federation and to California. The answer was clear, Wavecrest has the gift of *Welcome*; everyday Chris, Jason, Terry, Cathy and Cindy welcome

each person they meet into their lives without any barriers. Many of you have been blessed by an encounter with the core members, and I am sure that you echo my thoughts. *As we journey together in this Ark we must continue to reach out to others and invite them on our journey.* In my journey in L'Arche I pray to our Lord that one day I am as open and welcoming to others as are the Core Members.

David

The Sign of L'Arche

By Jim Roedl



L'Arche has been called a sign of hope for the world. During my second year as an assistant in L'Arche I've been reflecting about this quite often in my prayer, and also about other significant dimensions of Jean Vanier's community. Here are some of those reflections:

L'Arche is a sign of prayer. To a society that for the most part doesn't acknowledge God and His providence in life, L'Arche voices a call to prayer. It is the children and the simple that Jesus points out as members of the Kingdom. "Unless you convert and become like this child, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." This is because children and very simple people know that they need someone other than themselves to help them with even the smallest things. They have faith in God which arises from their pure souls that haven't been dimmed from too much "heavy living". Each evening after dinner, the core members and assistants at Abraham House sit together for a period of prayer, and once a week we also have a more in depth reflection night. We also go to church on Sundays. Prayer is an important part of our life in L'Arche. We know that prayer is a part of that simple faith that makes us children of God and heirs of the Kingdom.

L'Arche is a sign of the dignity of all people. Our society is bent on its abuse of life in all forms and stages. Scientists think they can mess with the very building blocks of life. Our elderly often find themselves put into the isolation of nursing homes. We are taught that the children in the womb are things which we can dispose of. The developmen-

tally disabled are put into institutions and then forgotten. L'Arche teaches something fundamentally different- each person has dignity and the same rights as all other people. That dignity comes from God and has nothing to do with the person's human capacity. It is based on the wisdom that says that each person has a soul which is of incredible value, a value that no one can take from it. When I witness the profound attack on human life in our society I give thanks to God for the creation of L'Arche.

L'Arche is a sign of unity. We at Abraham House are of different backgrounds, ethnic groups, and religions. L'Arche has homes in Christian and non-Christian nations. We believe that L'Arche is a place where everyone can feel safe and be respected. This ideal is very difficult. It can be a daily struggle to live with those whose ideas and practices are different from those you grew up with. It takes much dialogue, understanding, prayer, forgiveness and acceptance to make things work. Somehow it does work. Each day might not be perfect, but somehow we manage. L'Arche announces this call for unity to the world. If people and nations could only strive for the unity that brings peace through mutual forgiveness and understanding there would be no more wars. This is my prayer for the world.

L'Arche is a sign of reconciliation. Forgiveness is hard, especially when someone has done their best to offend us or harm us in some way. But that is what we are called to do as Christians, and really, as humans. If we can't forgive others we build up a block of ice in our hearts and soon we end up being

very miserable. I often think that if God did not forgive me all the stupid things I have done in my life, where would I be today? Not in a good place, that is for sure. So why should I find it hard to forgive my neighbor? L'Arche extends its call for mutual forgiveness to our world. It is a sure way to peace of heart.

L'Arche is a sign of holiness. The simplicity of life in L'Arche leads to a break from the frenzied pace that our society now travels at. Our life is busy, for sure, but it is not with a concern for the "too many things" which Jesus told Martha to watch out for in the Gospel. At Abraham House we have time set aside for dinner together each day, time for prayer, time just to be together, to go for a walk, play basketball, and cook a healthy dinner. The core member's lives are important, and the assistants give up a period of time to share life with them. We get back more than we give in a hundred different ways. This mutual giving and receiving is a part of life that many have forgotten. So many people rush around with a desire only to make as much money as they can, to become famous or "important". Here at Abraham House we have found a simple way of life that leads to Heaven.

L'Arche is truly a sign for our times. It is a place set away, an ark, a place of safety from the stormy weather of the world. Here we can learn from each other, receive and give to each other, and just love each other as God loves us.

A Reflection on Community

By Sister Katherine Gray

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the Apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

This passage from the Acts of the Apostles (4:32ff) describes some characteristics of the early Christian community. The section seems to focus on physical/material needs and shared resources to meet them, but I think there are a few other ideas for our reflection.

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind.” For Christians, unity is grounded in God who is community. Believers are united in their experience of being loved and called into relationship with God—Father, Son and Spirit. As we draw nearer to God, we draw nearer to one another, like spokes converging at the center of a wheel.

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind.” In his letter to the Philippians, Paul says that Christians should have the heart and mind (the attitude of) “Christ Jesus who ...emptied himself taking the form of a slave...and who humbled himself, becoming obedient to death” (Phil 2:5). Unity in the Christian

community is fostered by a sense of self-emptying, being willing to put the needs of others ahead of one's own needs. Christian community is built on service to one another epitomized in Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples and in his going to death for us.

“No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own but they had everything in common.” In context, this clearly refers to material possessions that were made available to meet the needs of the whole community. But what if we read this with an expanded sense of “possessions”? What if members of the community did not claim joys, sorrows, or ideas as their own? Would it make for greater unity if each of us shared the joys, sorrows and ideas of others? Would we lessen the sense of “us and them”? Would it help us recognize our shared humanity? Would there be less loneliness and fear?

“The Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.” Like rootedness in the love of the triune God, the experience of the resurrection and a common mission to share this good news, is another source of unity within the community. Those of us who have known the power of Jesus' resurrection giving us life and hope are impelled (cf 2 Cor 5:14) to share this with others.

It is a community of love, unity and service that most effectively bears witness to the resurrection of Jesus, the community that is “of one heart and mind.”




A Message from the President

The last twelve months have been an exciting and busy time for Wavecrest. Two new Core members, Cathy and Cindy, have joined our community. We established a new (or “updated”) mandate. Karen has transitioned from Founding Director to a full time special needs teacher. Dave has been getting settled in as the new Executive Director. Abraham House hosted a regional meeting of L'Arche. Wayne Daniels, Ellen Bauer Hume and Bob Pietsch have left the Board after many years of dedicated service. Cathie Crosbie, Mary Metzner, Sister Paula Cooney and Jim Dempsey have joined the Board (and a couple of others are discerning Board membership). New Board Officers have been elected. Yes a lot has been going on this past year!

Unfortunately-and regrettably- the Wavecrest newsletter has been a victim of this transition. We are not making any excuses but will make a commitment to get a newsletter to our community and friends on a quarterly basis. We have a lot of challenges before us and we need you there with us!

Thank you for the support you have given Wavecrest over the years. And know that at anytime you have questions about Wavecrest, please give Dave or any of the Board members a call.

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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7	8	9	10 	11	12	13 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Schedule of Events

December 3rd: Hope University Christmas Show 7:00 pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Auditorium. Come see Chris, Jason, Terry, Cindy and Cathy on stage!

December 6th: Community Gathering at Abraham House. The gathering begins at noon. Remember, it is a pot-luck! Hope to see you there.

December 25th: The birth of our Lord. Praise God!



Schedule of Events




January 1st: Happy New Year! God bless you in this new year.

January 19th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 21st: Community Gathering at Abraham House. Come join us in celebrating 2009. We begin at 5:30 pm. See you there!



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8 	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28 	29	30	31



Kids Corner



What I Like About L'Arche Wavecrest...

My name is Madeline Martinson I am 11 years old. I like to go to Wavecrest and hang out with my friends: Chris, Terry, Jason, Cathy, Cindy, Gilbert, Karin and Jim. Each person has their own personality and talents. One example is Chris, he is funny and loving. That is one of the many talents of some of my friends.

My brothers and sister and I like to play basketball with Chris, Gilbert and Jason. When I come for community night we do singing and prayers and dinner. Community night is when people from all of the Wavecrest community come together to meet new people. I am sure that I could tell you so much more, but my time has run out. I love Wavecrest and everyone that is part of it!

Maddie

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Cut out and post on Refrigerator



Mission and Identity of L'Arche

..... Relationship..... Transformation..... Sign

We are people with and without developmental disabilities sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation. Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together. We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need of one another.

The mission of L'Arche is:

To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships;

To foster an environment in communities that responds to the changing needs of members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story;

To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.