



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 1

January 7, 2005

Blessings as we begin 2005. As Liz begins her sabbatical I wanted to remind everyone of my office hours and contact information. I will be working from the office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and will take Wednesdays off. I generally work in the office in the morning and early afternoon and make calls or work from home later in the day. I check my e-mail often and reply as quickly as possible. Feel free to call my home (754-1214) if you don't reach me at the church, or in the evenings. I am excited about the coming months and want to make sure that everyone knows how best to get in touch with me.

Blessings,
Ryan

SOUP 'N' BREAD SUNDAY

Join us in Gattton Hall after worship this *Sunday, January 9*, for the first Soup 'n' Bread lunch of 2005. Those going to the Mission Trip meeting are invited to take their lunch with them to Room 4.

HOW TO HELP RELIEF EFFORTS

Donations made through the church for relief efforts in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami go to Church World Service. CWS is already at work in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India. They have been leading disaster preparedness work-

shops in SE Asia for several years so these countries are better able to cope with such devastation.

Contributions may be given to First Congregational (and marked for "tsunami relief") to be forwarded, or sent directly to Church World Service, P. O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Credit cards may be used by calling 800-297-1516. Please designate contributions: **for emergency #6970, Southern Asia, Earthquake-Tidal Wave Emergency.**

For updates, please visit the Church World Service website at:

www.churchworldservice.org

or phone (800) 297-1516. If you have further question or comments, you can call the Seattle office at 888-297-2767.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: John Hawkins will lead the discussion on the Martin Luther film which concluded last week.

Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9
Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: "Beloved Still"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***The Ad-Hoc Sabbatical Committee***

After last Sunday's service, we said farewell to Liz (with cake, of course) as she prepares to leave our congregation for a well-deserved, five-month sabbatical. The Merrill Fellowship Liz received from Harvard University is a tremendous honor for her, and we support her and wish her all the best as she removes herself temporarily from our congregation, to pursue this opportunity.

As Liz mentioned in her letter to the congregation, her sabbatical allows Ryan "to be in charge, to move forward in his ministry without [Liz] looking over his shoulder." Yes, during the next five months, Ryan will be – and is totally capable to be – in charge. However, in order for him to be able to use this time to move forward in his ministry, it is essential that we do not expect him to successfully juggle two full-time jobs!

Liz outlined in her letter some pastoral care and worship-related measures that have been put in place to assist Ryan. Thank you to Harold Hunter, Marsha Gulick and Caroline Zaworski for your vital leadership and assistance. But, as we all know, pastoral job descriptions don't end there! There is much more involved in ministering to a church – and we can't expect Ryan to shoulder the burden without our help. So, Liz's sabbatical also provides the rest of us an opportunity – perhaps even an obligation – to step up and help out. As our weekly bulletin reminds us, we are all ministers of this congregation, and, during the next five months, there will be ample opportunities for each of us to demonstrate our ministry to each other.

To help monitor the "workload," an "ad-hoc sabbatical committee" has been formed, including Becky Flitcroft, Ginny Lucker, George Mueller-Warrant, Pete Nelson and Doug Richmond. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have comments, suggestions, ideas, or concerns about how things are getting done. At this point, we know that additional help is needed to work with our youth, and to assist with some Lenten activities. Beyond those specific areas, we will be assessing our needs on an ongoing basis. What you can do is to look for opportunities where you can help – and offer your assistance when and where you see those opportunities. For example, can you provide emergency substitute Sunday School teaching assistance? Can you chaperone youth events? Can you assist with youth or other programming? Can you prepare event flyers or make reminder phone calls? We all have talents and abilities, and all of us can make a contribution. If you see a need that isn't being met, please, don't wait for an invitation to help out! Consider ways that you can meet the need – or enlist fellow members to help meet the need. We don't need permission to be ministers to one another!

Let us use Liz's sabbatical as an opportunity to increase our ministry to each other, to support each other, to be generous in offering our time and our talents to furthering the ministry of our church, and, especially, to provide Ryan the support and assistance he needs so he can truly use this time "in charge" to move forward in his ministry.

We look forward to ministering with you! - **The Ad-Hoc Sabbatical Committee**



MOVIE NIGHT!

Saturday night, *January 7*, the Middle and High School youth groups are invited for a movie and game night at the **Thackray** home (4728 NW Inger Place). Join us from 6:30-9:00 for movies and games. The movie will start by 6:45 and there will be many games set up for those who would rather do something interactive. Bring a snack to share with the group, drinks will be provided.

MISSION TRIP MEETING THIS SUNDAY

There will be an important Parent/Youth meeting for all high school youth planning to participate in this summer's Mexico Mission Trip following this Sunday's worship service (*January 9*). Please bring your soup and bread to Room 4 immediately following worship. We need to finalize the participant list, and coordinate fundraising efforts and financing plans. Parents, if you cannot attend this meeting, but have a youth planning to participate, please let **Ryan, Molly Chambers** (754-5824) or **Ginny Lucker** (753-4648) know before the meeting.

SEE'S CANDY FUND-RAISER

The youth will be selling an assortment of Valentine candy to raise money for their México mission trip. They will be selling candy from *January 3-January 23*. There will be tables set up before

church in the foyer (9:15-10:30) and after worship in Gattton Hall during coffee hour to take orders. Each assortment sells for \$4.00 a box. We will have candy available for distribution on or before *Sunday, February 6*



If other youth and/or church members/friends want to support the México mission trip by selling candy, please call **Peggy Carrick** (754-9045) to get order forms.

A D CIRCLE TO MEET

The A D Circle will meet *Wednesday, January 12*, at 1:30 at the home of **Coral Torley**, 1820 NW Woodland Drive. **Welcome Lahey** will lead the discussion. All are welcome. For further information, contact Coral.

**SUNDAY IS A FEAST
FOR EYES AND EARS**

Sunday, January 9 will be a fine day for art lovers. It is the first day of the **Epiphany Art Show** in our sanctuary, featuring visual art from members of our congregation and the community-at-large.

From 2:00 to 4:30, there will be a reception for the art show of **Mary Youmans'** acrylic paintings at the Giustina Gallery of the LaSells Stewart Center at OSU. The artist's talk is scheduled for 3:00 p.m.



Then it's back to the church for **Myles Criss' organ concert** which will start at 4:00. Myles will play works by Reger, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, Walcha and Langlais, as well as French Noëls by Balbastre and Bach's *Gigue Fugue*.

A reception will follow. Admission is free.

Winter Weekend!



Get ready for some winter fun! — Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake is coming *February 19-21*. The cost for lodging per person is: adults (18+ years) \$42; youth (13-18) \$36; children (6-12) \$32; children (2-5) \$21. This covers two nights lodging. Meals are organized and handled separately by the group participating. Sign-ups will begin this *Sunday, January 9*, and will continue until we reach our maximum number of 40 participants. Sign up early as spaces fill up fast! A 50% deposit at sign-up secures your spot. If you have questions, call **Mary MacLean** (758-4530); **Molly Chambers** (754-5824); **Ryan Lambert** (757-8122) or **Ginny Lucker** (753-4648).

BLACK (INK) IS BEAUTIFUL!

Christmas presents come in all shapes and sizes. The church's best Christmas present



this year is that due to high building use income, a very strong response to the Christ-mas Offering, and your pledge contributions in December, the church ended 2004 with a \$3000-4000 budget surplus! We are still paying final bills and making last-minute adjustments so we don't have an exact figure for you yet, but both your Senior Minister and your church Treasurer want to take this opportunity to say thank you! This congregation always exceeds our expectations in your generosity, and you have done it once again. The surplus will greatly reduce our dependence on reserve funds to balance the 2005 budget. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We can't say it enough.

TAIZÉ AT GRACE OPEN TO ALL

Enjoy the chanting and candlelight of a Taizé service at Grace Lutheran Church on *January 9* at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

JANUARY MISSION OFFERING

CASA is a nationwide non-profit organization that serves children from families that are involved with the court system due to abuse or neglect. Judges request a **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)** and a well-trained volunteer is assigned to build a relationship with the child and advocate in the best interest of that children in family court. Volunteer advocates are a powerful voice for children, advising the court about what the child needs and wants. They also provide emotional support in a sea of social workers, attorneys, therapists and caregivers as a consistent and caring adult during a very unstable time in these children's lives.

Benton County is fortunate to have two full-time and two part-time staff members to support our 57 volunteers who put in about 15,000 hours of volunteer time each year. These volunteers tirelessly investigate, interview, negotiate, plead, argue, and stand firm for the children in our community who have no other voice.

Our local CASA is funded through local and state government, many grants, two fundraisers, and the largest portion through private donations such as this. Thank you in advance for your support of our volunteers and the children we serve.

CONSIDERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

An Inquirers' Class, for people interested in finding out more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational, Corvallis, will be held *January 23, 30 and February 6*, at 9:00 a.m. in the church library. Participants who decide to join the church will be received on *Sunday, February 13*. Contact **Ryan** or the church office (757-8122) to indicate that you would like to be part of this class.

READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will discuss *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd at the home of **Bob** and **Monine Stebbins**. The meeting is at 7:00 on *Sunday, January 9*.

CELEBRATE WITH THE FRENCH FAMILY

On Christmas Eve **Karen French** received word that she had passed her

real estate exam. She has since joined John L. Scott Real Estate, here in Corvallis.

<p>Annual Budget Meeting will be held <i>January 23,</i> following worship.</p>
--

HELP!

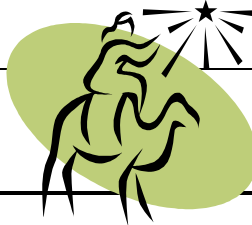
Occasional Congregational Orchestra members: Please return any music books marked with **Carol Huntington's** or **B.J. Bower's** names.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 Congregational News, 4515 S.W. West Hills Rd.
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly
 except twice a month in July and August by

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

4515 S.W. West Hills Road
 Corvallis, OR 97333-3925



Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 11.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, January 7

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Burton's

Saturday, January 8

6:30 p.m. Hanging of art show
 Youth movie night
 at Thackrays'
 (see page 3)

Sunday, January 9—Epiphany Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Noon Soup 'n' Bread
 (following) Mission trip meeting
 for youth and parents,
 Room 4
**4:00 p.m. Epiphany Organ Con-
 cert, Sanctuary**
NO youth groups
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, (see p. 5)

Monday, January 10

5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 5:15 p.m. Foundation Board

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
Wednesday, January 12
 7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, January 13
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142