



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 4

January 28, 2005



Laity Sunday, *January 27*, is our annual lay-led worship service. The Worship Committee has planned the service and all participants are lay people from our congregation. Worship leaders are **Brenda Cochran, Dorothy Price, Karen Herold, Monine Stebbins** and **Sue Richmond**. During the sermon time, **Michael Bendixen, John Holmes,** and **Cynthia Janes** will offer "Reflections on 'God is Still Speaking.'"

PLANNING FOR WINTER WEEKEND IS COMING



If you are signed up for Winter Weekend, plan on coming to a short information and planning meeting on *February 6*. We will meet in the Fireplace Room right after worship to plan menus, hand out maps and other information, and answer questions. Please try to have at least one member of each family attend. If you have yet to pay, please bring your payment with you. If you have any questions before then or ha-

ven't signed up and would like to go, call **Ginny Lucker** (753-4648).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OF THE CHURCH'S STANDING BOARDS OR COMMITTEES?

Each year at this time, the Nominating Committee begins its process of recruiting to fill the vacancies on each Board and Committee which are created when terms expire in May. One-third of each Board and Committee turns over each year. Perhaps you are interested in "re-upping" for another three- year term?

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THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: As a continued focus on our Epiphany Festival of the Arts, **Bob and Monine Stebbins, Karen Miller,** and **Don and Ruth Leeper** will talk about their art and what it means to them.

Scriptures: Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: *(see above left)*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

“God is still speaking!” As you already know this is the theme for the United Church of Christ’s advertising and branding campaign, but this is also the theme that the Worship Committee chose for our Laity Sunday. On Laity Sunday we celebrate the gifts of the lay members of the congregation and are treated to an opportunity to hear new voices and experience new things in worship. As we celebrate the many gifts of the lay people of our congregation it seems perfect to do so as we explore how God is still speaking, not just through the words of those ordained to ministry, but to all of us and through all of us! Laity Sunday places people in different roles, but calls us into worship led by people familiar to our community. Our scriptures tell us, “Wherever two or three are gathered” and this Sunday reminds us of the simplicity and importance of these words. Laity Sunday is an opportunity to experience prayers offered by someone who normally shares your pew. It is an opportunity to hear a sermon from someone who is on your committee. It is an opportunity to hear scripture read in a new voice and inflection that might reveal previously untold wisdom. I think of Laity Sunday as one of the most important Sundays of the year because it reminds each one of us of the personal nature of faith and the many abilities that God has entrusted to each one of us. It doesn’t take a seminary degree to talk about one’s faith, to lead prayers, or to minister to a neighbor in need; instead each one of us has a story of faith and many gifts to share. Laity Sunday serves as a reminder of God’s call to each one of us – to minister with all of our abilities and gifts and to respond when we hear God speaking to us. I’ll be sitting in the pews with you on Sunday. I hope you will join me as God continues to speak and as we experience God in new ways. Come and be inspired; it might be you and God speaking next time!

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan



THURSDAY NIGHTS DURING LENT

Clear your calendars now so that you can be at First Congregational on Thursday nights during Lent. Beginning *February 17* and continuing until *March 17*, we will be offering a Vesper

Service at 6:30 p.m. followed by four classes. One of the classes will be about using Lent as a time of personal transformation; another will be for couples in intimate relationships; a third will be a men’s group, and the fourth will be a group that will work on a dramatic production. Sign-ups begin soon. Watch for more details next week.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPERS – FEBRUARY 8

January 30 is the last Sunday to sign up for this year's small group pancake suppers to be held on *February 8* from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (You may, however, still call the church office by *February 4* to sign up.)



Shrove Tuesday (also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) is celebrated the night before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Historically, one made a meal to use up the lard in one's home in preparation for Lent when no animal products were eaten.

At First Congregational we have created our own version of Shrove Tuesday which gives us an opportunity to share a simple pancake supper with 6-8 people. This is a wonderful way to visit with a few Congregational friends in someone's home. You may sign up to be a host (we need 4-5) or a guest. Supper groups will be formed and those participating will know what group they will be a part of by *February 6*. If you have questions, stop by the table in the foyer after church or call **Marsha Gulick** (754-8367) or **Sue Richmond** (745-7994).

NOMINATING *from page 1*

If so, the Nominating Committee would like to hear from you; call **Nancy Klingeman** (753-3350) or the church office. Members of this committee will be contacting those persons whose terms

expire May 31, 2005 to learn who would like to continue, so be expecting a call soon!

If you would like to be a new member on one of these boards or committees – or have questions about them – the Nominating Committee would be pleased to hear from you.

Boards and sub-committees

The Board of Christian Education

is responsible for providing opportunities for nurturing persons within a community of faith. Its goals and responsibilities are carried out in part by the current following sub-committees: Adult Education Committee, Children's Committee, Library Committee, and Youth Committee.

The Board of Outreach Missions

shall generally be responsible for the promotion, nurture, coordination and celebration of all forms of outreach from this congregation in the service of humanity beyond our local church fellowship, both in our city and wider world.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the Building, Grounds, and Church Budget; these functions are carried out by three sub-committees, each of which addresses one of these functions.

The Board of Deacons (Diaconate)

assists the ministers in addressing the spiritual needs of the church, including the preparation of worship and administration of the sacraments, the provision of pastoral care, the introduction of new members into the life of the church, and

the creation of opportunities for maintaining the vitality of our fellowship. These functions are carried out by four sub-committees: Worship, Fellowship, Pastoral Relations, and Outreach & Evangelism.

THEATER EVENING SUPPORTS CARDV

Tanya Andersson has a role in the play "The Vagina Monologues," which will be performed at La Sells Stewart Center on *Thursday, February 10* (4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) and *Friday, February 11* (7:30 p.m.). Proceeds benefit the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence.

Welcome Back

... to **Lon Rycraft** and his wife, **Christine Storm**. Lon was ordained in our church in 1982 and was in care of this congregation during his time in seminary. He and Christine return to Corvallis after many years serving the Kalaupapa church on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. For the newer folks: Lon is **Judy Juntunen's** brother.

FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING TO AID DARFUR/SUDAN

Darfur, situated in the west of Sudan larger than California, continues to be insecure and a place of conflict. More than one million people have been displaced from their homes and have moved into makeshift camps within Darfur and

more than 100,000 have fled across the border into Chad.

Church World Service is supporting the work of the Sudan Council of Churches and the New Sudan Council of Churches in their efforts to bring peace to Sudan. Additionally, CWS is supporting partners' provision of literacy, basic education, and income-generating services to the war-affected communities of southern Sudan.

For more information, visit www.churchworldservice.org.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pearl Doolin 2/2, Nancy Swain 2/2, Don Leeper 2/2, Jane Capizzi 2/4, Jan Small 2/5, Pete Nelson 2/6, Karen Herold 2/7, Molly Maguire 2/7, Anna Marie Holmes 2/8, Jo Anne Trow 2/10, Amelia Estabrook 2/10, Dory Nafshun 2/10, Davis Nafshun 2/10, Erin Richmond 2/11, Janice Engle 2/12, Steve Milligan 2/12, Larry Small 2/16, Shauna Lambert 2/16, Rachel Elbinger 2/19, Harold Hunter 2/19, Sarah Gerke 2/21, Ian Milligan 2/23, Eleanor MacDonald 2/26, Marsha Gulick 2/26



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bond and Marilyn Starker 2/3 (26th)
Bill and Susan Wickes 2/13 (34th)
Bart and Jody Eleveld 2/15 (30th)

Send new dates or corrections to **Susan Wickes** to be added to the list!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Do you believe in life after death:" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, sir," the new employee replied. "Well, then that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!

BUDGET MEETING REPORT

The church operating budget and the Foundation budget were unanimously passed at last Sunday's annual budget meeting. Copies of this year's budget are available in the church office.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON THIS WEDNESDAY

Sign up in the foyer this *Sunday, January 30* to attend the Women's Fel-

lowship luncheon to be held *Wednesday, February 2*, at noon in Gattton Hall. The cost of the meal is \$4.

The program this month will be given by Dr. **Mari Goldner** of our congregation on Common Sleep Disorders in Men and Women.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Alice Sperling** and her family. Alice's mother, Anne High, passed away in her sleep on January 23 in Wisconsin.

Reminder:

This is the last week to view **Mary Youmans'** acrylic paintings on display at the Giustina Gallery of the La Sells Stewart Center.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR SUMMER CAMP

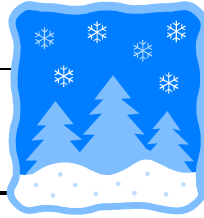
Camp Adams

Work Camp	Camp work projects for youth 12-17 and adults	June 26-29
Young Adult Camp	For those post graduation to age 30	June 29-July 2
Discoverers	For those who have completed Grades 4-5	July 10-16
Genesis/Seekers	For those who have completed Grades 2-3	July 24-30
Family	For those who want to join the camp community	June 29-July 2
High Schooler's		
Alternative	Off site-destination TBA (20 camper limit)	June 29-July 2
Pathfinders	For those who have completed Grade 6	July 3-9
Sojourners	For those who have completed Grades 7-8	July 17-23
Exodus	For those who have completed Grades 9-12	July 24-30J
	<i>(This year will be at Pilgrim Cove, McCall, ID)</i>	



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 1.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 30 – Laity Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Inquirers’ Class**
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
- 6:45 p.m. High School youth

Monday, January 31

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, February 1

- Noon Lectionary class,
Library
- 6:15 p.m. Worship Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
- 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, February 2

- Noon Women’s Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 3

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, February 4

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

LOOKING AHEAD: *February 6:* Scout Sunday; *February 8:* Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers; *February 9:* Ash Wednesday service, with meal

SUNDAY SONG REPRISE

Several people requested the text of the Charles Ives song, sung by **Joan Caldwell**, which was last Sunday’s Musical Offering. Here it is:

“There is no unbelief. And day by day and night by night, unconsciously, the heart lives by faith the lips deny;... God knows the why.”

Ives, whose father led bands at camp meetings, frequently quoted from the good old hymns he heard as a child. After the text above, we heard, in the piano alone, “Nearer My God to Thee.”