

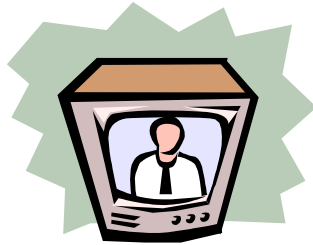


# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 7

February 18, 2005



## RAISING FUNDS FOR UCC TV AD

The “God is Still Speaking” campaign is hoping to raise \$1.5 million for a Lenten ad buy. An anonymous donor is willing to match donations made by members of the congregation up to \$500. A donation can/basket will be available in Gatton Hall following worship for any contributions people wish to make; this will be the last Sunday for receiving donations for this specific campaign. We will have a donation report for you following this Sunday regarding the number of “shares” our church is able to buy. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## STILL TIME TO JOIN LENTEN CLASSES

This year’s classes are: (1) **Marsha Gulick’s** class on “Enlightening Messengers,” which will look at a few of the Biblical messengers who model for us how to find God in the midst of our busy lives; (2) Lenten Men’s group, led by **Ryan Lambert**; (3) Couplehood as a

Spiritual Path, led by the Rev. **Jeff Lindner** and his partner, **Paula Nelson**—an eight-week series, limited to 3 - 5 couples; and (4) Drama Class, led by **Beth Riley**—the play will be presented on *April 3* during worship.

There are more “openings” for each of these opportunities; however, the Couplehood class is open only through *February 24*. Classes are held on Thursday evenings at 7:00, following the 6:30 Lenten vesper service in the chapel.

## THIS SUNDAY

**Adult Forum:** The first of three sessions on “Religion and Violence,” led by **Warren Hovland**. This Sunday addresses the questions: (1) How can we account for the global rise of religious violence? and (2) What do the world’s religions teach about violence?

**Scriptures:** Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121 (sung)  
John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** “Blown Open”  
Ryan Lambert

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Ryan Lambert*

Last weekend I attended a re-integration briefing for families and friends of Oregon National Guard soldiers who will be returning from Iraq. Oregon troops make up 7000 of the nearly 45,000 troops who will be rotating back to the United States in the coming weeks. This briefing was just one of many similar events across the country that are preparing families for the return of their loved ones. As I sat and listened to the General who commands the Oregon troops and the chaplains who minister to the Guard, I was inundated with concern for the families and friends of newly returning soldiers. I also felt rather unprepared to assist families and most especially soldiers who were returning from wartime events that I could only imagine.

The statistics that were shared were quite staggering. Although roughly 70 percent of the returning troops will adjust just fine, another fifteen to twenty percent of returning soldiers will depend upon counseling and other resources to assist in the re-adjustment into civilian life. It was noted that the other ten percent of those who return from combat areas would have long-lasting problems associated with their combat duties.

Another statistic that was quoted was a 70 percent divorce rate among combat troops. Finally, one of the pictures that stuck with me came from a video that showed children not knowing how to interact with their parent who had been away on combat duty.

The reunion process is much more complicated than I imagined and the Oregon National Guard has been diligent in preparing families for the emotional and challenging times that lie ahead for them. Simply by knowing some of the statistics about, and needs of, returning guard soldiers, I feel more prepared to assist neighbors and friends who are welcoming back loved ones. I suspect that even beyond our church family, we may all know others who will be welcoming loved ones home in the coming weeks. As such, the information that I collected at the briefing may be helpful for us all. I will put a copy of the information in the library so that copies may be made as needed. Seek it out if you would like as I think it offers much in the way of helping understand the challenges of the re-integration process.

As Oregon prepares to welcome back some of those who have served in Iraq may we pray that they may find their welcome home easy and filled with peace. May we also pray that those who need help in the adjustment process will find the help they need. Finally, may our church and all churches be a place of refuge and strength for families as they reunite.

Have a thoughtful week,

**Ryan**

*Confronting poverty is a moral imperative.*  
**INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY AT  
 THE OREGON STATE CAPITOL**

*Monday March 7, 2005*

First Congregational Church,  
 700 Marion St. NE, Salem

\$15 Registration (includes lunch).  
 You may also purchase a \$6 Day Parking  
 Pass. The registration deadline is *March*  
 2. Make checks payable to Ecumenical  
 Ministries of Oregon, Ecumenical Minis-  
 tries of Oregon, Interchurch Center,  
 Suite B0245 SW Bancroft St., Portland,  
 OR 97201

Interfaith Advocacy Day Schedule

Morning events take place at First Con-  
 gregational Church in Salem

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 to 9:15 a.m. Welcome and  
 Invocation

Bob Horenstein, Jewish Federation of  
 Portland

Pastor Gail McDougle, First  
 Congregational Church

9:15-9:45 Keynote Speakers from the  
 Faith Community

Rev. David Knapp,  
 St. Luke Lutheran Church

Shahriar Ahmed,  
 Bilal Mosque Association

9:45—10:30 Breakout Sessions:

*Anti-Poverty/Hunger Track*

Bob Castagna,  
 Oregon Catholic Conference

*Social Safety Net/Healthcare Track*

Bruce Goldberg, MD.,  
 Office for Oregon Health Policy  
 and Research

10:30 to 10:45 Break

10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Advocating for To-  
 day & in the Future

Dana Brown

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lunch

*Invited Speakers*

Karen Minnis, Speaker of the House  
 Governor Ted Kulongoski

*Response*

Jonah Edelman, Stand for Children

12:30 to 1:00 p.m. Benediction and Pro-  
 cession to Capitol Steps

1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Individual Legislative  
 Visits State Capitol

3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Debriefing

Interfaith Advocacy Day is sponsored  
 by:

American Jewish Committee

Bilal Mosque Association

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon

First Congregational Church of Port-  
 land

First Congregational Church of  
 Salem

First Unitarian Church of Portland

Islamic Society of Greater Portland

Jewish Federation of Portland

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry

NW Parish Nurse Ministries

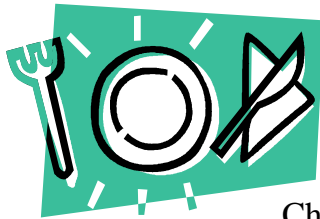
Oregon Faith Roundtable Against  
 Hunger

Oregon Islamic Chaplains  
 Organization

Portland First United Methodist  
 Church

Progressive Christianity Alliance of

Yamhill, Marion, and Polk Counties  
Two Rivers Interfaith Ministry  
Tualatin United Methodist Church  
For more information call (503) 221-  
1054 or e-mail [dbartell@emoregon.org](mailto:dbartell@emoregon.org).



### LOOK WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!

The Contus Choir, from our sister-city of Uhzgorod, will be in Corvallis for a **choir festival** in April as part of their Northwest tour. On the *Saturday, April 23*, our church will host a dinner for the choirs (about 150 people). Watch for sign-ups soon to participate in the meal preparation.

The following day, *Sunday, April 24*, we host the **Central Pacific Conference Open and Affirming celebration**. We will provide potluck dishes for this meal in Gatton Hall, which follows the 4:00 worship service. There will be sign-up opportunities for this event coming up.

*Don't delay!*

### FOURTH SUNDAYS AT FOUR: "FROM RAGS TO RICHEST"— A BLACK AND WHITE PARTY

A concert of ragtime music led by Jim Guynn with a seven piece instrumental ensemble will be given on *Sunday, February 20*, at 4:00 p.m. This concert will be performed in Simpson Hall. Seating is limited to 100 persons and, as of *February 14*, only 17 seats were left.

Please phone 757-6647 to place a reservation, and mail the \$15 suggested donation per person to confirm your reservation to Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 333 NW 35th St., 97330. A variety of desserts made by Novak's Hungarian Restaurant, Albany, and beverages from Allann Bros. Coffee Company will be served. Concert attendees are encouraged to wear clothing that is both black and white to keep in theme with the celebration.

### CHS LATINO FASHION SHOW

The second annual Corvallis High School Latino Fashion Show & Dessert is scheduled for *Friday, March 11*, 7:00 p.m., at the CHS Cafeteria. 4-H is co-sponsoring the event and **Tammy Skubinna** is selling tickets (\$5.00 for adults & \$3.00 for children 12 & under). All proceeds go for scholarships for graduating Latino students. Please contact Tammy at 752-4214 (home) or 766-6750 (work).

### Congratulations

... to **Kim Hannigan, Steve Downs** (Chico, California) and big brother, **Logan**, on the birth of their second child, **Seth**, on January 20. Kim, having just returned to Oregon this fall to begin her new position at OSU, is not listed in the church name and address book that many of you have. Kim's address is: 1755 NW Menlo Dr., and her phone number is 738-0313.

# Last Sunday at First Congregational



(left) **Grace Lambert** with **Ryan** at last Sunday's (February 13) Soup 'n' Bread in Gatton Hall

Thanks to **Brian Lee** for the photos.

(right) Beginning the Soup 'n' Bread meal, served once a month following the worship service



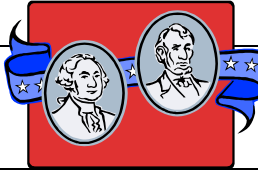
(left) **Marsha Gulick** offers **Norm Vedaa** a choice of Lenten classes while **Gretchen Morris** waits her turn.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 22.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Saturday, February 19*

7:00 a.m. Lenten classes  
 7:00 a.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

**Winter Weekend at  
 Suttle Lake, through  
 Monday**

*Sunday, February 20*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. C E classes  
 10:30 a.m. Worship

*Monday, February 21- Presidents' Day*

**Office closed**

5:30 p.m. Basketball  
 7:15 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1  
 7:30 p.m. C E Board

*Tuesday, February 22*

9:00 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

*Wednesday, February 23*

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, February 24*

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten worship

**LOOKING AHEAD: March 24 and 25:**  
 Maundy Thursday and Good Friday ser-  
 vices; **March 27:** Easter Sunday

**Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with **Bettie Muckleston**, deal-  
 ing with a bout of shingles;

... and with **Susan Wickes** and her  
 family. Susan's father, **Clare Monroe**,  
 died on February 14 in Sequim, Wash-  
 ington.

... and with **Judy Juntunen**, still re-  
 covering from her shingles-like condi-  
 tion;

...and with **Tim Peterson**, healing  
 from injuries suffered in a traffic acci-  
 dent February 7, as well as the other ac-  
 cident victims: **Shannon Hubbard**,  
**Brock Shropshire** and **Blake Shrop-**  
**shire.**