



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 14

April 8, 2005

DOES YOUR FAMILY NEED AN UPDATED PHOTO?

Mark Thackray, photographer extraordinaire, will once again be taking photos of our church family this *Sunday, April 10*, following worship. Those of you who have children, infant through middle school years especially, need annual photos; our youth change so quickly during that time period (of course, the adults never do!). Bring all family members, and come prepared to smile.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR LAITY SUNDAY, MAY 1

On *Sunday, May 1*, we will celebrate families with a special lay-led service. If you are interested in creating and participating in this service, please contact the church office or **Sue Richmond**, Worship Committee Chairperson (745-7994 or suedougrich@msn.com). Youth as well as adults of all ages are invited!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 1

6:30 p.m. dessert,
followed by the meeting

Spring Fling Craft Faire

Includes:

- Arts and crafts by local artists
- Raffle of original works by Mary Youmans
- Prints by the late Bonnie Hall
- Portion of proceeds go to support youth mission trip



First Congregational Church Phone: 757-8122
4515 West Hills Rd Fri. April 15 - 12 noon - 7pm
Corvallis Sat. April 16 - 9 am - 5 pm

SOUP 'N' BREAD THIS SUNDAY

Join us for Soup 'n' Bread lunch following worship this Sunday in Gatton Hall. Everyone is welcome. Donations are \$2/person; maximum of \$10 per family.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: The video "Death and Dying" will be shown, followed by a discussion led by **Caroline Zaworski**.

Scriptures: Matthew 16:13-23
John 21:15-19

Sermon: "The Rehabilitation of Peter"
Harold Hunter

Two newsworthy events are rumbling around in my head at the moment. First, when I picked up the latest edition of the *United Church News* I noticed it features an article entitled, “Transformed at Selma.” This article recalls the involvement of UCC seminary students from Chicago Theological Seminary in the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march to appeal for federal voter-rights. Our own Gary Massoni is the source for most of the information in the article and as such it is with more than a little “I know him!” pride that I read the article. Also, seeing the pictures of young students left me to wonder if they had any idea what they were about to experience.

The other event that I am thinking a lot about is the death of Pope John Paul II. Specifically, I have watched with great interest as mourners gathered in Rome and in communities around the world to remember his life and ministry. As a non-Catholic watching from the outside I am quite interested in the relationship that Catholics have to the Pope and how many Catholics personally identify with the Pope. And I wonder, as a seminarian named Karol Wojtyla, whether he could have even imagined what his life would hold and how many people he would touch as the one who would become Pope John Paul II.

Clearly we cannot forecast what will become of our lives. I would suspect that in each of our lives there are unforeseen events that catapult us into places and relationships that we would never dream about. But as I read about history and watch it unfold before my eyes several thoughts have crossed my mind. First, I can’t help but think about describing faith as a “who knows!” exercise. For all the work and energy we expend in planning our lives, our planning simply puts us into places for which we could never prepare. Second, as millions pause to remember a man from Krakow, and as millions of us reap the benefits of the work of the civil rights movement, I realize how broad our unintended reach can be. Finally, in remembering Selma and Pope John Paul II I am also reminded of the importance of the church in the world. Living in Oregon, one of the most “un-churched” states in the nation, this is easy to forget.

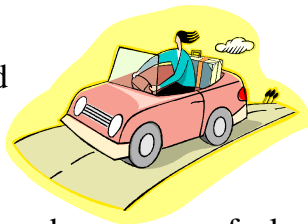
So, as I read Gary Massoni’s words about Selma and watched as many celebrated the life of Pope John Paul II, I heard again the importance of one person, of one person’s faith, of the church, and of the ripple effect that anyone might have on the life of another. As we continue to live in the afterglow of Easter this seems like a message that we should not forget. We are not alone in our faith—God’s presence does not end—and neither does our opportunity to touch and connect with others. “Who knows” what will happen next!

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan

TEST DRIVE THE CHOIR

Go ahead and take a test drive of the choir. Smell that new-car smell, feel the leather seats, and feel free to push on the gas a bit.



Are you interested in trying the choir for a short while to see how it feels? This is the perfect time to join the choir on a short-term commitment. We only have about two months left in the choir season, just long enough for you to see if the choir fits you. I will be programming a plethora of joyful and exciting music to bring us through spring. Just come by on Wednesday nights at 7:15.

See you there, and feel free to kick the tires (but leave the tenors alone!).

Steve Zielke, Choir Director

THANKS TO “COLLECTORS”

Many thanks to those folks who have been collecting used postage stamps, soup labels, and “Boxtops for Education” the last few years. In 2004, the sale of used stamps raised \$70 for the “Care to Share” program in Washington County. This project is continuing but no “flag stamps” are needed. Please leave ¼-inch margin of envelope around stamps as you cut them out and bring them to church by the end of April

We have received several letters of appreciation from Crossroad residential school in Indiana for our contributions of labels and boxtops. The new school

president is J. D. Dollar, an ordained UCC minister who also has a Master’s Degree in social work. We need to send this year’s collection of labels and boxtops by the end of April. Please bring any that you have accumulated at home to the drawer in the nametag cupboard in the church entry so that they can be included in this shipment

Both of these projects give us an easy way to recycle and benefit others!

SAVE THE DATE

The Central Pacific conference UCC is putting together a valuable seminar on *Saturday, April 30!* **“Living with Mental Illness: Our Own and Our Neighbors”** promises to be a very engaging event for all of our conference churches.

A brochure giving details about the seminar offerings is available on the Just Peace bulletin board. Registration deadline is *April 13*.

WOMEN’S CLUSTERS SCHEDULED

The spring cluster meeting which is sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference women is scheduled for *Thursday, April 21*, at Knight Memorial UCC in Salem. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and a worship service led by Salem First Congregational women will begin at 10:00. The Rev. Dana McBrien will be the program resource leader with information about Celtic women in history. The \$7 fee includes lunch. An offering

for the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Loan Grant Fund will be taken during the worship. This is a chance to meet other UCC women from the Willamette Valley. Please contact **Priscilla Zaworski** or **Nancy Klingeman** to make reservations. Carpools from Corvallis will be organized.

A second cluster gathering will be held at Ainsworth UCC in Portland on *Saturday, April 23*, with the Rev. Lynn Smouse serving as the program resource leader. The time and fee will be the same and reservations should be made directly with the church by *April 20*.

The Open House for Josh Groesz has been postponed.

WITNESS FOR PEACE SPEAKERS' TOUR 2005

When: *Wednesday evening, April 20,*
7:00 p.m.

Where: Corvallis Oddfellows Hall,
223 SW 2nd Street

Contact: **Aleita Hass-Holcombe**
(753-8267)

On this Witness for Peace Speakers' Tour, Ivonne Gaitan will address the "Cycles of Military and Economic Violence in Nicaragua." Ivonne has been working in "maquilas" for over 12 years, and she is currently a supervisor in a Free Trade Zone factory near Managua, Nicaragua. She has worked to organize unions in several factories, and she is currently the Secretary General of her

union. Ivonne also works with the Network of Maquila Workers, the Labor Roundtable, and other organizations, giving weekend and evening workshops to factory workers on diverse subjects such as human and labor rights, self esteem, and gender and reproductive rights. She has studied nursing and dressmaking, and she is married and has four children.

Accompanying Ivonne will be Melissa Fridlin. Melissa is a member of the Witness for Peace International Team in Managua, Nicaragua, where she is an interpreter, a group leader, and a researcher, among many other things. My first experience with Melissa was as a delegation member with me in Colombia in the summer of 2001.

As a Witness for Peace Northwest Board Member, I am looking forward to hosting Ivonne and Melissa in Corvallis. Please come to hear their message. Learn how U.S. policy continues to shape the path of Nicaragua's development, and hear about the real life effects of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Aleita Hass-Holcombe

BASIC RIGHTS OREGON NEEDS TO HEAR

Have you experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If so, Basic Rights Oregon needs to hear from you.

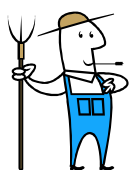
Basic Rights Oregon is working in the Oregon Legislature in 2005 to pass the

Oregon Basic Fairness Act (HB2519). This statewide non-discrimination bill would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, public accommodation, employment, education and public services.

Law makers need to hear that this discrimination is real and happening all across the state of Oregon. Therefore, Basic Rights Oregon is collecting stories to submit for written testimony to law-makers. If you feel that you have experienced discrimination because of your sexual orientation or gender identity, please visit the following web site: <http://www.basicrights.org/issues/story.asp?HEADER=LAC>

Brochures describing the kind of situations that fall under discrimination are available at the Just Peace Counter.

MEET YOUR FARMER



Kudos to First United Methodist and St. Mary's Catholic Church of Corvallis for partnering to raise awareness and to promote sustainable food security initiatives. On *Tuesday, April 26* from 6:30-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church will host **Meet Your Farmer**. This event will help those in attendance learn more about Community Supported Agriculture.

Over the last few years, St. Mary's has been very proactive in helping their parishioners explore the call to recognize the sacred in God's gifts of food from the earth. First Methodist has recently

accepted the challenge to raise the awareness and the skills of their congregation in responsible food production and consumption.

As a Just Peace Church, our own congregation values the integrity of the earth and with that we are called to raise our own awareness and invest in new behaviors that will sustain the earth and nurture the health of its inhabitants. Please consider attending the Meet Your Farmer event on *April 26*.

Aleita Hass-Holcombe
Just Peace Committee

READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will meet to discuss Terry Tempest Williams' *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* this *Sunday, April 10*. **Bill** and **Susan Wickes** will host the gathering which starts at 7:00.

CYS CONCERT TICKETS AVAILABLE SUNDAY

The Corvallis Youth Symphony is having its spring concert on *Sunday, April 24*, at 3:00 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Children and students are free if accompanied by an adult. Otherwise, student tickets, including college with ID, are \$2. Please see CYS members **Emily Chi**, **Justin Chi**, **Robin Miller**, or **David Jones** for tickets.





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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 12.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 8

6:00 p.m. **Confirmation retreat**
(through Sunday)

Sunday, April 10

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:30 a.m. C E classes
10:30 a.m. Worship
Noon Soup 'n' Bread
4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
6:45 p.m. High School youth
7:00 p.m. Read & Feed (*page 5*)

Monday, April 11

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

Tuesday, April 12

Noon Lectionary class

Wednesday, April 13

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
6:30 p.m. Troop 1 leaders
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 14

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
Friday, April 15

Noon-7:00 Craft Faire, Gatton
Hall (also Saturday)

A D CIRCLE TO MEET

The A D Circle will meet *Wednesday, April 13*, at 1:30 at the home of **Welcome Lahey**, 2450 NW 13th Street. **Priscilla Zaworski** will lead the discussion. For further information, contact **Coral Torley** (752-0114).

Bravo!

... to the actors and singers who participated in last Sunday's wonderful "What About Saturday?" **Beth Riley** wrote the play based on ideas from her Lenten class.

Congratulations!

... to **Gary Massoni**, honored by Chicago Theological Seminary with its 2005 Alumni/ae Award.