



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 15

April 15, 2005

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 1

6:30 dessert, followed by the meeting

Items to consider:

- 1) Receipt of Officer, Board, and Committee reports for past program year;
- 2) Recognition of new members received in the past program year;
- 3) Amendment of Church Bylaws to reflect the proposed change from the current separate incorporated Foundation to it becoming an additional Board under the church bylaws with its own additional set of bylaws. The new Board would be known as the Endowment and Memorials Board;
- 4) Amendment of current Foundation Bylaws to reflect name and other changes;
- 5) Election of lay leaders, board and committee members;
- 6) Memorial service for those members and friends who have died this past program year.

Integrity of Creation Sunday

In 1989, the General Synod priority for a Just Peace was extended to include environmental concerns and was called the priority for Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace. **Caroline Zaworski** has coordinated this Sunday to focus on our understanding that we are all dependent upon each other, upon a sustaining creation, and

upon the God who cares and strives with us.

Becky Flitcroft and **Jeff Snyder** will speak during the sermon time and the choir will sing "This We Know" by Ron Jeffers, based on the words of Chief Seattle.

Spring Fling Craft Faire

Don't miss out on the Craft Faire in Gatton Hall this Friday and Saturday. Reproductions of paintings by **Mary Youmans** will be raffled off, and prints by **Bonnie Hall** as well as arts and crafts by other local artists will be for sale. A portion of the proceeds will go to support our youth mission trip to Mexico. Hours are Noon-7:00 p.m. on *April 15*, and 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. on *April 16*.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: Northwest House of Theological Studies in Salem representatives speak about the new seminary.

Scriptures: Psalm 104 (portion)

Sermon: "The Endangered/*Weeus*"
Becky Flitcroft and
Jeff Snyder

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

This coming Sunday is designated as “Integrity of Creation Sunday,” which is essentially a liturgical way of integrating Earth Day (*April 22*) into the life of the church. Living in Oregon we cannot escape the natural realities of our world as rain, oceans, rivers, and mountains often dominate our landscape. As such, it seems especially important to make sure that we celebrate the created universe at every opportunity. But I suspect that because the natural features of the world dominate our view, it is easy for them to become invisible over time. Earth Day and Integrity of Creation Sunday help re-focus us and ask us to take a serious look at the whole of the created world around us.

Of course, the hope is not just that everyone simply sees anew the marvels of God’s creation, but also that each one of us will again renew efforts to become better stewards of our earth and all its resources. In the famous quote attributed to Chief Seattle we are reminded of the web of life and our small but important place in the systems of nature. If we take this idea seriously every decision, every purchase, and every gallon of gas becomes a stewardship decision. On one level such a line of thinking can be overwhelming, but I also appreciate that it forces Earth stewardship onto the front burner rather than being something that is an afterthought as we take our recycling toward the curb. The challenge presented by Earth Day is to move our thinking toward the proactive rather than reactive. As someone who wouldn’t dream of throwing away a tin can, I am asked to stretch a little bit by a focus on the integrity of creation, and be a better steward of the Earth.

Martin Luther once wrote, “Do you think God is sleeping on a pillow in heaven? God is wholly present in all of creation, in every corner, behind you and before you. If you truly understood a grain of wheat, you would die of wonder.” This statement I think speaks to the challenge of Integrity of Creation Sunday. As we interact with creation we interact with God – in very personal ways. Not sometimes, but in everything we do. And that is why Earth Day really cannot be celebrated just once a year. How do we want to treat and care for our God? This question never really goes away; it merely demands new and ever more faithful answers.

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan

FILL OUT INTEREST SURVEY: LAY-LED SUMMER WORSHIP

The Worship Committee is exploring the congregation's interest in lay-led summer worship. Historically, this service was intended to (1) provide an alternate time of worship that might better fit people's summer schedule and (2) create an opportunity for lay members to create and lead a simple worship service. This service is short (typically a half-hour), very informal and usually includes music, scripture and prayer (no sermon). The format and content can be flexible. For those interested, support and ideas are available to help create a service. While this service has usually been offered at 8:30 a.m., we are interested in exploring other times that might better meet those interested. This alternative service would begin on *June 19* and run until Labor Day weekend.

The survey, found again in this Sunday's worship bulletin, asks if you would be interested in attending an alternate Sunday summer service at 8:30 a.m.? at 7:00 p.m.? Other times? How often would you be interested in participating? Would you be willing to (co)lead such a service? Please take a moment to fill out the survey and drop the insert in the offering plate when it is passed.



GIVING STATEMENTS READY FOR PICK-UP

Our Financial Secretaries (those officers who receive, deposit, and report the church's income) have prepared quarterly statements for contributors. Pick up yours by Sunday and save us 37 cents! It is important to review your statement to see that all your contributions were recorded as you intended. Of course, it is a good way to make sure you are up to date on pledge payments. We all know it is easier to keep up than it is to

catch up. Remember that every pledge is important, but at the same time, it is not a contract. If you have a change in your situation that prevents you from following through with payment of your pledge, please report that to the Assistant Financial Secretaries, **Brian Lee, Jacqueline Smith** or **Eleanor MacDonald** (not **Jim Cantey** while he is ill).

The end of a quarter is the best time to look at our financial situation. We have several quarterly bills that make our expenses "lumpy." Therefore, a look at the end of a quarter has the most meaning. Our expenses are right on target, but our income is significantly less than 25%. As you know, income is largely from your pledges; by the end of March, we received \$10,000 less than expected. Your response to the Easter Offering was excellent, \$1,454; so was your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, \$1,416. I anticipate your pledges will be paid as well!

Did you know there is always a copy of the most recent financial statement posted in the office, available for anyone to peruse?

Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer

A memorial service for **Marvin Kirk**, son of **Dale** and **Esther Kirk**, will be held in our sanctuary on *Friday, April 15*, at 3:30 p.m. At the request of the Kirk family, **Elizabeth Oettinger** will officiate. A reception will follow in the Meeting Hall.

CHILDREN WILL BE CHIMING IN!

Beginning *Sunday, April 24* and continuing through *May 22*, children in 1st-4th grades will spend the last part of Activity Hour learning to play hand chimes, under the direction of **Adam Grieve** in the Meeting Hall. Mark your calendars so your kids don't miss out!

Where there's a will....

PLANNING AHEAD

When we are no longer around, do we want to leave our church something besides just an empty pew?

We are all familiar with the importance of being faithful stewards of all that we have been given in this present day. Now our church is undertaking a program to invite all of us to be faithful stewards of the future as well. Planning for such future stewardship allows us to continue to support the mission of our church even after we are gone. This planning for future gifts is called "planned giving". It is a vital component of our support for our church, separate from and in addition to our regular current stewardship. Such planning will assist our church members with financial and estate planning for their own families and in giving to our church as part of their families.

A planned giving committee has been formed by our church foundation to educate the congregation about the ways in which wills and estate planning can provide mutual benefit for the church member and the church. Members of the committee include **Harold Hunter, Gretchen Morris, Joni Peterson, Lafe Harter, Mike Huntington, Steve Lont, Ryan Lambert, and Elizabeth Oettinger**. The committee has met monthly since last fall and is planning a series of educational events for the church over the next six months.

At one of our first meetings Liz asked us several thought-provoking questions: "Do you have a will?" "How recently have you updated your will?" "How well does your will reflect your values?" She reminded us that when someone dies without a will, his or her property passes according to the state law irrespective of the person's wishes or the needs of his or her family. If

someone dies with an outdated will, his or her estate may be distributed in unintended ways.

Liz then posed the question, "If you could direct the future of our church and have a vast supply of money to draw from, what programs and services would you start or strengthen?" A lively discussion ensued. Each of us was eager to propose his/her idea. We could help church members and the community with a variety of social services. We could help out our youth program in innumerable ways. We could embellish our music program. We could provide stability for the church finances during times of crisis.

In late May at an Adult Education Forum we invite you to study the Quicken account of a person outside our church. We will try to determine the values of the Quicken account by noting how he spends his money. In September we plan to have an Adult Forum on the topic of Faith in Money.

Stay tuned for the next bulletin from the Planned Giving Committee.

The Planned Giving Committee

JUBILATE! IS TEN!

Ten years ago, **Betty Busch** founded **Jubilate! The Women's Choir of Corvallis**. Jubilate! invites the community to celebrate ten years of song at an Anniversary Concert on *Saturday, April 30*, 7:30 p.m. at our church. Tickets are available at Grass Roots Books & Music and at the door on a \$10-15 sliding scale.

The Tenth Anniversary Concert features many songs that **Jubilate!** has performed over the years. The program also includes a brand-new composition by Betty Busch, set to a poem, "Ode to My Eureka," by fellow Women of Achievement Award recipient Carole Ann Crateau.

Everyone who has sung with **Jubilate!** over the years has been invited to a reunion gathering and dress rehearsal dinner the evening before the concert. Many past members will join the choir on stage to finish the concert with some favorite songs.

Two small ensembles spawned by Jubilate! will also be performing: **Four-in-Hand**, a close harmony quartet, will reunite for a performance. Four-in-Hand includes Betty Busch and three of the original choir members: **Virginia Stockwell**, **Lucy Watts**, and **Julie Williams**. And a new a capella group begun by Julie Williams, will also perform at the concert and join Four-in-Hand for a song.

Jubilate! is participating in a Choral Festival with seven local choirs and Cantus, a professional 20-voice a capella choir from Uzhgorod, Ukraine. This event, at 7:00 p.m. on *April 23* at LaSells Stewart Center, is sponsored by the Corvallis/Uzhgorod Sister Cities Associations.

Congratulations!

... to pianist **Emily Chi**, who won a \$500 Loene P. Guthrie Scholarship for 2005, and to oboist **Lara Wickes**, recently invited to participate in the Lucerne Music Festival Academy this summer in Switzerland.

Emily will be playing violin with the Corvallis Youth Symphony on *Sunday, April 24*, at 3:00 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. Lara will perform at this June's Chintimini Chamber Music Festival, held at our church.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 19.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 15

Noon-7:00 Craft Faire
 3:30 p.m. Memorial for Marvin
 Kirk, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 16

9:00-5:00 Craft Faire

Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 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, April 18

9:00 a.m. Staff
 5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:15 pm.. Mission Board
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
 (see right)

Tuesday, April 19

Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
NO Spirit Quest

Wednesday, April 20

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 21

11:45 p.m. Lunch Group
 6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,
 N. Chintimini
6:45 p.m. Women's Fellowship

evening meeting
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142



EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

David Jones will have his Eagle Scout ceremony in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m. on *Monday, April 18* as part of Troop One's spring Court of Honor. The church community is invited to attend. Of course, cake will be provided afterward.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... continue to be with **Jim Cantey** as he recovers from surgery.