



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 17

April 29, 2005

ANNUAL MEETING

This Sunday, May 1

6:30 dessert, followed by the meeting at 7:00

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.

SAVE THIS SATURDAY FOR GARAGE SALE-ING

Thus *Saturday, April 30*, from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., plan to peruse the left-

over treasures from the earlier youth fundraising garage sale. The sale will take place at the home of **John and Ann Hawkins** at the corner of 29th and Taft Ave. (one very short block south of the 29th and Walnut intersection), with everything “under cover.” Games, beautiful books for children/adults, dishes, glassware, kitchen linens, bed linens, jewelry, bicycles, an Abby Furniture custom-made home entertainment center designed to hold a 32” TV. . .and much more. The most sell-able items were saved from the previous sale. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Mission trip to Mexico City this June

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: OSU health economist Dr. **Chunhuei Chi** will speak on the economics of health care at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Acts 17: 22-31
John 14:15-21

Sermon: “Reaching for God”
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dick François from the Northwest House of Theological Studies was speaking during the Adult Forum last week when he introduced a question concerning what it meant to be the church in “The None Zone.” This question is based on the findings of a recent survey that asked questions about the religious affiliation of people around the United States. In the Pacific Northwest, the affiliation that was most chosen was not Catholic, not Baptist, not UCC, but instead “none of the above.” Now, the Northwest House of Theological Studies is hosting a May 24th workshop around this topic, but as I heard again how unchurched the Northwest is, I did so having just finished reading the Annual Report of our congregation—and from what I can see we are anything but unchurched. While we certainly aren’t unchurched, we are busy and that might be just as dangerous to our sense of community.

And that is why I want to make sure that everyone is planning to come to our Annual Meeting to be held this Sunday evening beginning with dessert at 6:30 p.m. In the midst of beautiful weather, spring gardening and dreams of summer, the business of the church is important to attend to. Again this year there are no “dynamite” agenda items, a reality that I think tells of health and stability, but could be mistaken for an easy meeting to duck out on. In fact, the election of the leadership slate and the by-laws changes concerning the foundation are vital pieces to have everyone’s input upon, and thus I hope that everyone will come to the meeting on Sunday night.

Finally, perhaps the most important part of the Annual Meeting is simply that it is an opportunity for food and fellowship. So often we come together for worship, to get a specific task done, or in our comfortable small groups, but the dessert before Annual Meeting offers an informal time for the whole community to gather. This is important time, when we don’t have to be busy, but instead we can just sit and talk with one another and feed the body and the spirit. I look forward to seeing you for dessert and the Annual Meeting on Sunday night...come in from the None Zone and enjoy!

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan



CHOIR NOTES!

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at **6:45** p.m. this *Wednesday, May 4*, due to the Opera Theater Corvallis performance of “Cosi

Fan Tutte” in our sanctuary that evening. The rehearsal, to be held in the Meeting Hall, will end in time for the opera performance.

Coming directly from work? There will be soup and bread available in the Fireplace Room before rehearsal begins.



Mission Trip Meeting

Youth and parents are invited to gather this *Sunday, May 1*, at noon in the Fireplace Room for a meeting concerning the mission trip. This will be an

informational meeting to provide an update on arrangements, schedules, and cultural issues that we need to be thinking about. Please plan to attend or let **Ryan** know if you cannot be there.

LOOKING AHEAD

On *Sunday, May 8*, we are in for a special treat. **Greg Turner**, former minister at our church, will be the guest preacher. Greg served as this congregation's Senior Minister from July 1980 through January 1991.

OSU OFFERS A MINORITY VIEW

The Ethnic Studies Department at Oregon State University invites you to attend several events on "The Experience of the Other Minority in the U.S." This series of events, part of ES 199—a course taught by Karim Hamdy—will explore the personal, social, political and educational experiences of people who are Muslim and/or Arab descent.

- "Unconstitutional - The War on our Civil Liberties"
Video Documentary & Discussion
+ Testimony by a Japanese-American and an Arab-American

Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Gilfillan Auditorium, OSU

- "Experiences of Muslim and Arab Students in the U.S."

An OSU Student Panel

Monday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Gilfillan Auditorium, OSU

WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for *Thursday, June 2*, and plan to attend the Central Pacific Conference Women's Annual Meeting at Cedar Hills UCC in Portland that day. **Betty Massoni** will be the featured speaker, discussing "Freedom Camp," and the three "Celebrate the Gifts of Laywomen" who were chosen to represent our conference at General Synod will be honored. **Monine Stebins** is one of them. Registration for the gathering begins at 11:30 a.m. for \$10, which includes lunch. Women from Corvallis will also be presenting the worship service in the afternoon. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** (753-3350) to make your reservations before May 27.

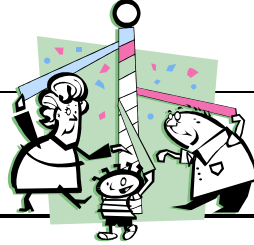
CHURCH LIBRARY HAS NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Two series of books for middle schoolers are available in the church library. Both are "fable" types: *The Narnia Chronicles* by C. S. Lewis, and *The Rainbow Chronicles* by local author Linda Varsell Smith. These sets are shelved together on the top row of children's books.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 29

3:30 p.m. Set-up for garage sale
 at Hawkins'

Saturday, April 30

8:00-2:00 Garage Sale
 (corner Taft and 29th)

Sunday, May 1

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Mission trip youth and
 parents meeting
 Fireplace Room

6:30 p.m. Dessert
7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, May 2

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

Tuesday, May 3

Noon Lectionary class
 6:15 p.m. Worship Committee
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, May 4

Noon Women's Fellowship
 Lunch, Gatton Hall

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir,
Meeting Hall

Thursday, May 5

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

**ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE
 ON NAME TAG CABINET**

Take this opportunity to peruse the reports of your Officers, Board and Committee chairs as a reminder of all that has happened at First Congregational UCC this past program year. In order to save on the number of trees who give their lives for re-producing these reports, we would ask that you take only one copy per family. Red-covered copies are on the name tag cabinet in the foyer. Thank you.