



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 18

May 6, 2005

Welcome back, Turners

This Sunday we welcome **Greg** and **Kathy Turner**. Greg was our Senior Minister from 1980 through January 1991. Kathy was head of the Pastoral Counseling Center here for a number of years and also served on our staff in an interim capacity during 1988-89. In late fall of 1990, Greg resigned after receiving a call as Senior Minister to South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire where he remained for seven years. During that time, Kathy was chaplain and head of clinical pastoral education for a large UCC complex. Their next move was to the Bath UCC church, in a suburb of Cleveland (where the UCC national headquarters are). After a time at that church, Kathy was offered a position with a large hospital complex in Madison, Wisconsin. During this time, Greg did intentional interim ministry work through the Wisconsin Conference. His church assignment was with the Ripon UCC church (**Lois Van Leer** graduated from Ripon, a liberal arts college). His next assignment was with the American Church in Paris, France (June 2003-October 2004), where he served as the

Interim Minister while that church's search committee sought to call a permanent minister. After fifteen months of living in Paris, they returned to Wisconsin and decided to "semi-retire" and return to the Pacific Northwest (what compares to Paris except the Pacific Northwest!). They have purchased a home in Seattle where their two sons, **Matt** and **Aaron** (and Aaron's wife **Robin**, and daughter **Sophie**) live. (Time does march on). Greg's parents also continue to live there. Greg will continue to do intentional interim ministry work, as may be needed.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: **Bruce Miller** speaks on the Red Cross and its crisis response (*see more on page 4*).

Scriptures: Acts 1:6-14
John 17: 1-11

Sermon: "Together"
Greg Turner

Dear Friends,

I finished my final paper last night—a ten page essay on my theology of preaching! I have five classes left, and Saturday I start my long drive home. It will be a wonderful trip, with stops to see friends in New Haven and Baltimore, and family in North Carolina and San Antonio, Texas. Also some sightseeing while traveling through the South. I expect to return to Corvallis sometime the third week of May, go to Seattle to check on my mom and sister for a few days, and then....pick up the threads of my life in Corvallis and return to work!

Let me tell you about Harvard in the spring. Yes, spring is finally here. The trees have leaves; the lilac tree behind my house is about to flower. All around the Harvard campus, the groundskeepers are spraying this weird green goop that I guess is grass seed in some sort of base. We want all the lawns to be beautiful for graduation! The groundskeepers are everywhere, but so also are the students. All winter, people walked quickly from place to place, heads down against the cold and wind. Hats, coats, scarves—that was all you saw of your fellow foot travelers. Now color abounds in Harvard Yard: orange hair, brightly colored tank tops and sandals; blankets on the lawns (which make the lawn guys grumble) while students read, doze, and flirt outrageously. Neon-colored Frisbees make transit occasionally dangerous.

Walking from one end of the Yard to the other, you hear snatches of conversation in a dozen different languages. The Muslim women in their hijab and the Indian students in their beautiful saris add an air of the exotic. Preppies and punks, and swarming everywhere, the Harvard tours. This is college visiting season and anxious, earnest, or studiously insouciant high school juniors and seniors, trailed by their eager parents, move around the campus, a new group of 30 every twenty minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There's a certain smugness to being an "insider" when you see the tours approaching. Hah! I belong here, and I will kindly and only mildly condescendingly answer questions for those standing in the middle of the Yard shaking their heads over their crimson printed map.

It was only three and a half months ago that my map traveled everywhere with me, but now this landscape is familiar. I can name most of the buildings in the Yard, point people to the Law School, the Business School, the admissions office, the Radcliffe quad, and, of course, the Divinity School at the far northeast corner of the campus. I have rubbed the toe on the statue of John Harvard for academic "luck," an old tradition about which everyone laughs, and then surreptitiously sneaks a touch.

I will miss Harvard: its excellence, its arrogance, its traditions, the barely-contained energy of the place and the people. Tomorrow I and all the Merrill Fellows go to the Faculty Club for lunch with our benefactor, Charles Merrill. Thursday I have

my last Hinduism class, and then, all I have to do is finish my packing and make sure the apartment is as clean as I can make it.

Yes, I will miss Harvard. But, I am so excited to be coming back to you all. The last word on this sabbatical will be whether this expanding time for me will result in better ministry to you. You gave me this gift; I am eager to return it to you.

See you in a couple of weeks!

Liz



Mission Trip News: Fundraisers Galore!

The Mexico City Mission Trip is fast approaching and we have several fundraisers coming up that should allow us to meet our fundraising goals. The twelve youth who will be going to Mexico City are: **Alison Pentland, Sarah Thornton, Martha Smith, Megan Chambers, Natalie Lucker, Robin Miller, Justin Chi, Steve and Ian Milligan, Kyle Thackray, Rick Mason, and Drew French.** We are very excited to be taking this group and look forward to working and growing together as we experience Mexico City. We wanted everyone to know what was upcoming so you could decide how you would like to support this trip.

Thank you to any and all who donated goods for last week's Rummage Sale where we took in over \$800. Although we had a few new items, most of the sales were of items left from the fall sale. In total we brought in over \$2000 at the two sales. Thanks for all the work by the youth, parents, the "Hawkins hosting service," and especially to **Ching-Yue Chi** for organizing the whole thing.

This week (*May 8*) we will be starting our **Stock Sale**. This fundraiser is a bit different because rather than receiving goods or services now, buying stock entitles you to something down the road. For your \$25 donation you will receive a Stock Certificate, two postcards from the trip and seats at the post-Mission Trip dinner on *July 9*. Because your purchase will be stock in one person, you will sit at their table on *July 9* and hear their recollections from the trip. The dinner will also include a slide show from the trip.

Calendar Sale: Beginning on *May 15* we will be selling a 2006 First Congregational United Church of Christ Calendar. What makes this calendar so special? The calendar features pictures of people from the congregation during church events and the photographic genius of **Mark Thackray** and **Brian Lee**. Calendars will sell for \$20 and we will take orders for two weeks, Look for the prototypes at the table as you order.

Car Wash: Beginning at 8:45 on *May 22* and running through the worship service, youth will be washing cars in the church parking lot. Donations will be accepted in exchange for returning from worship to a shiny and clean car.

T-Shirt Sale: Also on *May 22* you will be able to order your Mission Trip 2005 T-Shirt. More information on pricing is coming, but this is a great way of supporting the mission trip while also wearing a bit of advertising for the work done by our faith community. The shirts were designed by **Sarah Thornton** with input from the other youth.

FORUM'S SPECIAL GUEST SAW DISASTERS UP CLOSE

This Sunday we will hear from **Bruce Miller**, a former co-worker of mine with Children Services Division (the "old" name). Since retiring, Bruce has volunteered with the Red Cross. He will talk about the kinds of services that the Red Cross offers when responding to different crises, and specifically talk about his experiences of being called to respond to the Twin Towers and the Pentagon after the attacks of 9/11. He has also been called to respond to numerous hurricanes in the U.S. during the last several years. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after his presentation. Come join us and learn what your contributions to the Red Cross fund.

John Hawkins

FINANCIAL CONDITION: MUCH IMPROVED

A few weeks ago I reported a significant shortfall in income. Now I have the privilege of reporting that your response was also significant! April income exceeded expenses by \$5,000, taking our deficit down to \$6,000. It is remarkable

we could accomplish that in a month when we make quarterly payments for health insurance, annuities, and disability insurance. On top of that, you contributed \$1,885 toward supplies for our youth mission trip. Thank you again for your generosity.

Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer

OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The Southwest Association of the United Church of Christ is developing a partnership with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and the International Center of Bethlehem. As part of this partnership, two trips to Bethlehem are being planned for 2005. The spring trip will focus on the work of the Health and Wellness Center/and Dar al Kalima School, two of the ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church. Cost for each trip will be approximately \$2000 depending on cost of airfare. The group will be staying in the International Center Guest House in Bethlehem except for optional side trips.

For further information or to register people for this gathering, please contact either Bonnie Van Overbeke, pastor of Memorial UCC at pastorbonnie@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 608-273-1008, or Bob Mutton at swwaucc@globaldailog.com or by phone 608-244-3350.

Local Choirs Go Latin!

Two remarkable concerts of Latin American music are coming to our area. They are scheduled for *Saturday, May 14*, at 7:30 in the Corvallis High School auditorium (last chance before demolition!), and *Sunday, May 15*, at 3:00 in St. Mary's Church in downtown Albany.

Renowned choral conductor María Guinand of Carácas will work with the Corvallis Repertory Singers, Heart of the Valley Festival and Chamber choirs, and Jubilate! The Women's Choir of Corvallis. On *Thursday, May 12* at 7:00 she speaks at the Corvallis Arts Center on "Singing in South America." **Saturday night in Corvallis** she conducts the Repertory Singers and Jubilate! On **Sunday afternoon in Albany**, you can hear all three groups. Repertory Singers from our congregation are **Betty Busch, Virginia Stockwell, and Joan Caldwell**; they are joined on this occasion by **Ed Miller** and **Steve Zielke**! (Steve gets to sing this one, while María conducts.) Steve's a bass in the choir, but he has one tenor solo – and it's gorgeous.

Concert tickets (\$15 adults, \$4 students of all ages) are at Scandinavian Trading Co., Grass Roots Books, Beard Frame Shop, and Sid Stevens in Albany. They are valid for either performance.

Questions? Contact **Joan Caldwell** (753-2106).

LOOKING AHEAD TO ART AND MUSIC

The OSU **President's Concert** will be held in our sanctuary on *June 4*. In conjunction with the concert, the Just Peace Committee is sponsoring a display of art by children who lived through war in Eastern Europe. Prior to the concert, a panel discussion will be held at 6:30 p.m. The panel members will be **Steven McNeil**, Regional Director with the Friends (Quakers), who will talk about the creation of the art exhibit. **Steven Zielke** and **Ron Jeffers** will speak about the musical work to be performed by composer **Libby Larsen**.

The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Afterwards, a reception will be held in the Gatton Hall. Tickets (\$5) will be available through the church office. Watch for more details soon.

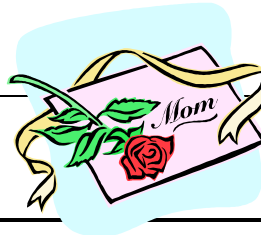
READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will meet this *Sunday, May 8*, to discuss *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. **Monine** and **Bob Stebbins** are hosting the gathering which starts at 7:00 p.m.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 10.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 8

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Noon Soup 'n' Bread
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins
(see page 5)_

Monday, May 9

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

Tuesday, May 10

- Noon Lectionary class
- 5:15 p.m. Endowment and Memorial Funds Board

Wednesday, May 11

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir,
Meeting Hall

Thursday, May 12

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

MISSION OFFERING FOR MAY

“Everybody Eats” is the hope and logo of Linn Benton Food Share. During 2003-2004 over 4.4 million pounds of food were distributed to needy individuals and families. This is a 51 % increase since 2000-2001. For every one dollar contributed, up to 15 pounds of food can be distributed. Please consider this worthy cause during the May Mission Offering.

A D CIRCLE TO MEET

The A D Circle will meet *Wednesday, May 11*, at the home of **Beth Christianson**, 4606 NW Acacia Drive. **Anna Marie Holmes** will lead the discussion. All are welcome. For more information or transportation contact **Coral Torley** (752-0114).