



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 24

June 17, 2005

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS THIS WEEK

We are now worshipping at earlier summer times until the second Sunday of September. Beginning this Sunday, there will be a second worship service for those early birds who enjoy having more of their summer Sunday morning time available. An **informal service** in the chapel will begin at **8:30** and last for approximately 40 minutes. Rather than a sermon, the service will focus on discussion of the scripture passages for the day—not unlike what happens in Lectionary class on Tuesdays. Bring your celebrations and concerns and a curious mind. The Rev. **Caroline Zaworski** will lead this first service.

Our usual sanctuary service will begin at **9:30**, instead of 10:30. There are no Christian Education classes during the summer. See you in church!



## HAVE A GREAT TRIP AND STAY IN TOUCH!

You can continue to receive the *Congregational News* while you travel if you can access e-mail or the Internet. The latest newsletter appears on the church website ([www.ucc-corvallis.org](http://www.ucc-corvallis.org)) on Thursday morning of

each publication week. Archived newsletters from the last couple of years are there too. Contact **Susan Wickes** to sign up to receive an e-newsletter, if desired.

## POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP CONTINUES FRIDAY

This *Friday, June 17*, the newly formed (and forming) political discussion group will meet at the home of **Ann and John Hawkins**, 2910 NW Taft, at 7:30 p.m. At the last meeting, we discussed the short book “don’t [sic] think of an elephant,” by George Lakoff. This month, we will be discussing what we, as Christians, value and how we can articulate those values clearly to others. Everyone is welcome.

## THIS SUNDAY

Scriptures:	Genesis 21:8-21
8:30 service	(See above left)
9:30 Sermon:	“Between Two Brothers” Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I'd like to use this space this week to express some well-deserved words of appreciation on two separate but related fronts. First, I have some words about my colleague Ryan. I could barely believe it when he told me a week ago that the youth mission trip had fallen through. Even in that first telling, he didn't waste time whining; he told me of the phone calls he had made and was planning to make, e-mails sent, web sites checked. Do you know what a small percentage chance there was that we would be able to find an alternative trip for the youth outside of the Pacific Northwest? The chances were negligible. I am happy to award the overall credit for this opportunity in San Antonio to the grace of God, but as they say, God helps those who help themselves, and Ryan's hundred plus contacts helped find the way through. He deserves a lot of credit. So do the youth of this church and their parents. I went to the meeting where Ryan told them that the trip to Mexico City was not going to happen and, at that point, we were just beginning to search for alternatives. It was one of those rare meetings where everyone acted out of their best selves. Disappointment and frustration were expressed, but everyone supported Ryan, looked for ways to be helpful to Ryan as he searched for an alternative. It made me proud to be part of this church.

My next set of words of appreciation are for Gene Ross, who retires from 30 years on the Central Pacific Conference staff at the end of this month. My original plan was to use my entire thought this week to talk about Gene, but if there was ever a person who wouldn't mind sharing his space with words of appreciation about youth work in the church, it's Gene. As part of the Spring Assembly of the Conference two weeks ago, we celebrated Gene's years of ministry in rich, varied, and wonderful ways. I've been thinking a lot about him ever since. If any one person can exemplify all that is good in our denomination, it is Gene. He is theologically astute, a powerful and prophetic preacher. He has a passion for the education of children and youth, the future of the church. Wherever there is a meeting protesting injustice, you'll find Gene there. Wherever there's a local church pastor in need of pastoral care or a church in trouble, you'll find Gene there. Wherever there's song to be sung, Gene will be there too. And when he doesn't have to be anywhere else, you'll find him at Camp Adams or Pilgrim Cove, for he has a deep love and commitment to outdoor ministries.

In the thirteen years I have been part of this Conference, I have watched Gene set the example for other clergy, always listening and responding with equal care, always continuing his education, pushing the limits of the church that it might become more inclusively the body of Christ. There have been moments when I haven't agreed with Gene or wanted his gentle pushing, but always I have respected him, trusted him with my vulnerable moments, and been proud and grateful to call him my Conference Minister. He is a joyful, careful, prayerful, powerful, and faithful servant of God, and we

have all been blessed by his ministry. For as long as most of us can remember, he has been the rock on which the Central Pacific Conference has been built. It's hard to count the ways in which he will be missed. So keep Gene and the Conference in your prayers in the weeks ahead as he and we move through this time of transition.

We have much to be grateful for.

**Liz**



### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND FABRIC BAGS NEEDED**

There is a collection box labeled "For Church World Service" in front of the food barrel in the narthex. This is for the school supplies and the bags which are needed for the UCC General Synod service project. Some Synod attendees will fill the bags to be sent to children around the world. The goal is to fill 6000 bags! Please deliver them to the collection box or **Nancy Klingeman** by *Sunday, June 26*.

Items needed are:

- 12"x14" cloth bags with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)
- blunt scissors
- 12-inch rulers (30 centimeters)
- pads or notebooks of ruled 8½"x11" paper with 150-200 sheets
- simple pencil sharpeners
- new pencils with erasers
- large erasers
- colored construction paper
- boxes of 24 crayons

### **THEY'RE HERE!**

The 2006 calendars, produced by **Mark Thackray**, and the T-shirts designed for the Mission Trip, are available for pick-up this Sunday in Gatton Hall. A few extras will be on hand for those who didn't get a chance to pre-order. Proceeds from these sales help fund the San Antonio trip which starts *June 18*.

### **TWO CONCERTS REMAIN**

The final two concerts of this year's **Chintimini Chamber Music Festival**, held in our sanctuary, will be performed at 7:30 on *Friday, June 17* and *Sunday, June 19*. Tickets are available at the door (\$15 for adults; students are free; those younger than high school must be accompanied by an adult).

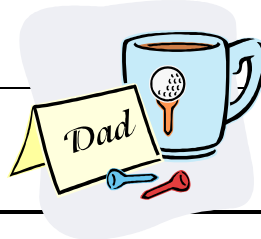
### **LOTS OF SOFTBALL THIS WEEK**

The Holy Sox have two make-ups games in addition to their regular schedule. They take on the Tack Box at 7:20 on *Sunday, June 19*, at Pioneer Park. The two Friday make-up games are both at 7:20, one at Pioneer Park on *June 17*, and one at West Sunset on *June 24*. Fans are encouraged to come out and cheer!



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)  
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR  
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
 Congregational News, 4515 S.W. West Hills Rd.  
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly  
 except twice a month in July and August by

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**  
 4515 S.W. West Hills Road  
 Corvallis, OR 97333-3925



Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 Office Phone: 757-8122  
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor  
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net  
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, June 21.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, June 17*

7:20 p.m. Holy Sox make-up  
 game, Pioneer Park

*Saturday, June 18*

(real early!) **Mission Trip departs  
 for San Antonio**

*Sunday, June 19-Father's Day*

**8:30 a.m. Informal worship,  
 Chapel**

**9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary**

7:20 p.m. Holy Sox, Pioneer Park

*Monday, June 20*

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, June 21*

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

*Wednesday, June 22*

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

*Thursday, June 23*

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

*Friday, June 24*

7:20 p.m. Holy Sox make-up  
 game, W. Sunset

**Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with the participants in the  
 2005 **Mission Trip** to San Antonio  
 .... and with **Bob Stebbins**, as he re-  
 covers from a broken ankle.

**Congratulations**

... to **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant**,  
 who passed the state and national real  
 estate licensing exam on May 21, and is  
 now employed as a real estate broker at  
 Keller William Realty in Avery Square.

*Save the date!*

**Salmon Barbecue**



**Sunday, July 24**