



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 25

June 24, 2005

SALMON BARBECUE SIGN-UPS

Signups to help on the sub-committees for Salmon Barbecue will begin this Sunday: Set up, Barbecue Crew, Hospitality, Beverages, Fellowship Activities for children (following worship), Food Coordinators, Clean-Up.

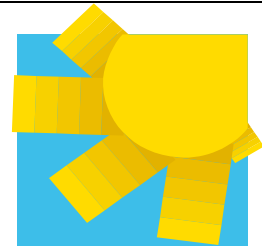
Tickets will be sold *July 3, 10, and 17*. If you know you will not be here on these Sundays but plan to attend the barbecue, please call the church office (757-8122) and leave your name with the number of tickets to be reserved for you (adult and children [11 and under]). Persons not eating salmon do not need to purchase tickets, but the setup crew will need to know if you are attending so that you may be included in the count. A separate signup sheet will also be available for those persons.

KEEPING UP WITH SYNOD

Participate in General Synod on-line. People from United Church of Christ congregations across the country will gather in Atlanta, Georgia for General Synod on *July 1-5*. Of course, our conference is sending a group of delegates, and **Pete** and **Nancy Klingeman** are registered as visitors to the proceedings.

Although Atlanta is a long way from Corvallis we still have the opportunity to keep up on the happenings at Synod simply by logging on to www.ucc.org where updates from the Synod will be posted throughout the meetings.

Summer Worship



THIS SUNDAY – June 26

Scriptures: Genesis 22:1-14
Matthew 10:40-42

8:30 leaders: Kim Thackray,
Dorothy Price

9:30 sermon: “Pondering the
Unthinkable”
Elizabeth Oettinger

NEXT SUNDAY – July 3

Scriptures: Romans 7:15-25
Matthew 11:16-19,
25-30

NO early worship
9:30 sermon: “An Easy Burden?”
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I just got home from a meeting of the church board of trustees. We had a jam-packed agenda that included items as disparate as pew-padding (you'll hear more about that later), starlings in the sacristy (we hope you won't hear anything more about that!), closet repair, lighting issues, potential Eagle scout projects, and cash flow management. The trustees have a monthly check-list of routine maintenance chores that go from opening and closing the sanctuary windows to checking freezer and refrigerator temps to servicing the lawn mower. I have been at this church for thirteen years, and over that time this congregation has spent thousands of dollars and untold person-hours on maintenance and still the list never gets any shorter. There's the stuff that repeats in the seasonal cycle, and beyond that, whenever any new issue is fixed, another one takes its place. You can just count on it.

So on my way home from the meeting, I found myself reflecting on how much of all of life is maintenance. You mow your lawn, turn around, and it needs to be mowed again. You empty the dishwasher only to start stacking the dirty dishes in there. For most of us, much of what we do at our workplace is checking regularly to see that the supporting and connecting threads that make our "real" work possible are in good repair.

All important relationships require maintenance. A couple I know in Seattle always goes away alone together for a long week-end in the winter and a week in the summer—no kids, no work, no e-mail or phones. They call it "the marital equivalent of changing the oil in the car." Every relationship is different, but the more important the relationship, the more it's going to require daily, weekly, and seasonal investment of time and energy to keep it running smoothly. You don't always have to love the maintenance. We all know things we do for or with our friends, family members, and partners that would never show up on our list of top ten favorite things, but we do it because it strengthens the basic fabric of relationship.

Relationship with God is not much different. I had a woman tell me once that she was disappointed because in a time of crisis, she picked up her Bible for the first time in 25 years and read it looking for solace, but it didn't help her at all. I'm not sure what she expected. I know that there are times for all of us when reading the Bible, praying, going to church, challenging our faith in other ways doesn't seem particularly helpful, rewarding, or even interesting. Think of going through the motions of faith in those times as maintenance. It's what makes possible the moments of insight, joy, commitment, peace, solace that come as the benefits of relationship at other times.

Someone commented at tonight's trustees' meeting that our building and especially our grounds were looking "well-loved" these days: they create a warm and welcoming space where all manner of significant interactions are encouraged to take place. That's what maintenance does for you. The cleaning, dusting, polishing, repairing, mowing, pruning, checking, and weeding—as tiresome as they may seem at times—allow the plants to become a garden, a building to become a home, and a relationship to become the place towards which you reach in both good and bad times.

So maybe tomorrow I'll mow the lawn.

Have a great week!

Liz



Mission Trip Report

Plan to be in worship on *Sunday, July 10*, when the youth will be reporting back from their experiences on the mission trip to San Antonio.

We expect to have stories to tell and pictures to show from our Texas experience. Thanks to everyone for all your support of the mission trip and all its participants.

Vacation Bible School Update

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This summer we are reprising the traditional Vacation Bible School with a few new twists. Our Bible school will run in the evenings the week of *August 22-26* from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme of our curriculum is "Hero Quest," which is focused on exploring the lives of biblical heroes. Vacation Bible School is open to children from age 4 through 6th grade and will feature classroom time, arts and crafts, music, and a whole lot more. Look for sign-up information in

July to enroll your child. **Ryan** is looking for classroom teachers, music, and arts and craft people. Please contact him for more information.

STOCKHOLDERS DINNER

All who purchased stock are reminded of the stockholders dinner on *July 9* at 6:00 p.m. We appreciated your support of the mission trip and instead of a clean car or cookies we offer dinner and conversation on the 9th. Our menu is still evolving but expect your taste buds to experience San Antonio as you eat your dinner. We will also be sharing pictures and stories from our traveling adventures. Thanks for your support!

SUMMER INQUIRERS' CLASS

A one-session Inquirers' Class for people interested in finding out more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational, Corvallis, will be held from about 10:45 (following worship) to 12:30 on *Sunday, July 17*. Brunch will be provided. Those deciding to join will be accepted into membership

on *July 24*. Contact the church office with questions or to participate in the class.



OREGON CAMPOREE 2005

The Girl Scouts of Santiam Council are sponsoring an international girl camping event on *July 10-17* here in Benton County. Girls ages 14-18 will be camping together, attending workshops and taking off site trips to explore beautiful Oregon. The steering committee needs help to find the following items.

- 2 six person tents
- 1 RV or trailer to use as a first aid station
- 1 dining canopy
- portable fireplace – the patio kind

If you can help us in any way, please call **Sally Robertson** at 753-1140.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND FABRIC BAGS NEEDED



School supplies and bags for the UCC General Synod service project should be delivered them to the collection box in the foyer or to **Nancy Klingeman** by this *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

MEN, RENEWAL, AND SOUL

The Leadership Training Program, described as "life-altering and profoundly effective," is an eight-day camp sponsored by a non-profit organization called the Men's Leadership alliance for male clergy and other men who are ready for renewal, who are grieving or searching or lost. or who simply desire a deep retreat into Self and Spirit. The ratio or experience staff is 1 to 2; the setting is near Estes Park in the Rockies of Colorado.

The retreat is not overtly Christian; all faith paths are welcome. Most men who attend are 30-55, but there is no set age. Check out the MLA website (www.mensleadershipalliance.com) for more information or contact leader Todd Smiedendorf, Associate Minister at Forest Grove UCC (jt.smied@verizon.net or 503-357-9121).

WE NEED MO' MOWERS

If you can take a turn or two this summer riding the lawn mowing tractor, **Wayne Phillips** (752-7900) would be happy to hear from you.

A WHOLE BOUQUET OF ROSES



... to **Joan Caldwell**, for her unstinting efforts on behalf of last week's Chintimini Chamber Music Festival. She and **Doug** spent uncountable hours creating the setting for an outstanding series of concerts, an event which invites many in the local community into our church. We can't appreciate her enough.

MORE GRADUATION NEWS

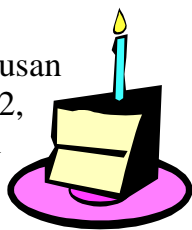
C. J. Svela completed the paramedic program at Umpqua Community College has an A.A.S. in EMT-Paramedic to add to his B.S. in Communication and B.S. in Psychology from SOU. He is currently a three-year veteran of the Mt. Ashland Ski Patrol and has worked as a river guide for six years.

Congratulations

... to **Alex Svela**, who has been chosen to study in Lyon, France for his junior Year as an OSU exchange student

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jody Eleveld 7/1, Susan Cowles 7/2, Dale Kirk 7/2, John Holmes 7/7, Erin O'Dell 7/7, Mary Youmans 7/11, Eric Skyllingstad 7/11, Justin Chi 7/13, Mary Mac-



Lean 7/16, Abigail Neely 7/16, Gloria Buckley 7/18, Will Zaworski 7/21, Karen French 7/26, Cliff Trow 7/27, Jean Heath 7/27, B.J. Bower 7/30, Alice Sperling 7/31

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Rick and Amy Nafshun 7/1
John Koch and Libby Ankarberg 7/7 (21st)
George and Rhonda Mueller-Warrant 7/12 (31st)
Kathy and Phil Mason 7/18 (17th)
Liz and Toby Pearce Smith 7/20 (14th)
Tim and Susan Cowles 7/25 (35th)

Are your family's occasions on our list? If not, or if corrections are needed, get the information to **Susan Wickes** via e-mail (sbwickes@comcast.net) or by dropping a note in the church office newsletter mailbox. We don't want to leave anyone out.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Richard** and **Pearl Doolin**. They will be living in Beaverton beginning mid-July for a three-month period to allow Richard to receive treatment at OHSU for a type of chronic leukemia. Their address will be: 4925 SW Jameson Rd., Beaverton, OR.. Their home address is 56 Weldwood Dr., Lebanon, OR 97355;

... and with **Jim** and **Chris Cantey**. Jim is back in the Corvallis hospital with an infection.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, July 5.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, June 24

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

Sunday, June 26

8:30 a.m. Informal worship
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 7:20 p.m. Holy Sox, W. Sunset

Monday, June 27

5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, June 28

Noon Lectionary class
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, June 29

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, June 30

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

Friday, July 1

General Synod begins

7:00 a.m.. First Friday Forum,
 Burton's

Sunday, July 3

NO informal service

9:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, July 4—Independence Day

Office closed

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, July 5

Newsletter deadline

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

6:15 p.m. Worship Committee

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 pm. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, July 6

5:30 pm. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, July 7

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

SOX PLAY STARKER FORESTS

The Holy Sox take on the Starker Forests softball team this *Sunday, June 26*, at 7:20 p.m. at West Sunset. They also have a make-up game on *Friday, June 24*, at the same time and place. Come on out and cheer!