



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 26

July 8, 2005

Call for Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 17, following worship

- to consider and vote on the proposed expenditure of bequest funds.

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Church Council will be available in the Fireplace Room after worship this *Sunday, July 10* to answer questions and discuss the proposal.

SALMON BARBECUE TICKETS SALES CONTINUE

Tickets for the annual Salmon Barbecue, *July 24*, are still available this Sunday (or by calling the church office). Adult tickets are \$5; \$3 for children 12 and under. The tickets have information about what to bring: potluck item(s) and table settings. Those who would like to attend but don't eat salmon do not need to buy a ticket, but do sign up so we have an accurate count.

Each year, our former clergy are sent tickets to attend the barbecue. This year we are delighted that **Greg and Kathy Turner** and **Charles ("Hassel") Helsabeck** (chh42yh@yahoo.com or 301-589-4357) will be joining us on the 24th!

FAIR BOOTH WANTS YOU!

Last year, we decided to make our church presence more widely known in this and surrounding communities by having our own church booth at the Ben-
(continued on page 3)



THIS SUNDAY- July 10

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:10-13
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
8:30 leader: Priscilla Zaworski
9:30 sermon: "Postcards from San Antonio"
Mission Trip participants

NEXT SUNDAY- July 17

Scriptures: Romans 8:12-15
8:30 leaders: Dorothy Price,
Pat Johnson
9:30 sermon: "Patience?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

I love summer! I like the hot temperatures, baseball box scores, fresh fruits and vegetables, and vacation opportunities. Already this summer I have enjoyed all of the above, but I have also found that great summers can be about mission trips and Synod resolutions, and so that is what I am writing about!

First, a brief mission trip re-cap: The average daytime temperature in San Antonio was 93 degrees, the humidity was higher than we were used to, and rather than the comforts of our bedrooms we slept on air mattresses. We stayed in two rooms at the San Antonio Mennonite Church and during the day we left to work either at the San Antonio Food Bank or the Presa Community Center's summer children's program. We had very little real privacy, our families and friends were only available via phone, and everything we ate was flavored with "Tex-Mex" inspiration. These are a few of the details from the June 18-25 Mission Trip to San Antonio, but these few words do not begin to tell the story of our trip. For the real stories, I hope everyone will join us at the stockholder's dinner on Saturday night and/or for worship on July 10th to hear about the trip from each of the youth who participated. Throughout the trip I was consistently proud of the maturity, work ethic, and faith development evidenced by our youth. The trip offered them many chances to grow and I look forward to hearing their thoughts now that they have had a bit of time to recover from the trip.

I mention the Synod resolution because as many of you know our General Synod met in Atlanta from July 1-5. The United Church of Christ garnered many headlines when the Synod voted to endorse "equal marriage rights for all people regardless of gender." In a press conference after the vote, the Rev. John Thomas, the UCC's General Minister and President noted, "On this July Fourth the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has acted courageously to declare freedom, affirming marriage equality, affirming the civil rights of same gender couples to have their relationships recognized as marriages by the state, and encouraging our local churches to celebrate and bless those marriages." I believe this historic vote is a very important step toward recognizing the sacredness of all families, and as I celebrated the 4th of July I was once again proud to be a member of the UCC. Although this decision has been the focus of the most of the press concerning Synod, I am equally impressed by the Synod's faithful wrestling with many tough theological issues and have appreciated from afar the processes and faithfulness with which delegates have come to Synod. Again, I have been proud to be a member of the UCC.

Summer is always good, and this summer is no exception! Youth working in San Antonio, living theology playing out in Atlanta and across the denomination, the Salmon Barbecue, Sunday worship, working at the fair, Vacation Bible School...don't you love summer!?!

Enjoy the sun – I'll see you at church!

Ryan

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

Parents, you deserve a night off and here's your chance. Our regular church child care providers are offering child care for children of church families on *Saturday, July 23*, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the church. Fun for the kids, a break for the parents, and it's free.

“IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME...”



Once again, it's time for the **Garden Produce Table**. Each week, except *July 24*, you are encouraged to bring fruit, vegetables, or flowers so that others may eat and enjoy the abundance of the Willamette Valley. All donations by “purchasers” will go to WE CARE to help others. Look for the table in the Fireplace Room following the worship service. The table will be staffed through September by the Mission Board.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

We assume you've noticed the classy new “First Congregational United Church of Christ” sign on the church front lawn. This new aluminum (though it looks like stone) double-sided sign was researched and chosen by the Outreach and Evangelism and the 21st Century Committees and paid for by special gifts from several members of the congregation. For optimum visibility, it is lighted at night and is as large as Corvallis city code will permit. Landscaping around the base is coming soon.

Other smaller signs offer further welcome. At the end of the entrance driveway, service times are announced and

directional signs to various church locations are near the parking lot. Thanks to those who helped this happen.

FAIR *continued from page 1*

ton County Fair. We will, once again, be at the Fair this year. The sign-up sheet for staffing the Benton County Fair booth will be in the Gatton Hall entryway, beginning this Sunday, following worship: (Shifts are 12:00–2:00; 2:00–4:00; 4:00–7:00; 7:00–10:00; two people needed per shift). Dates for the fair this year are *August 2-6* (Tuesday-Saturday).

Many of us enjoyed this experience last year. Contact **Dorothy Price** (dorothy@corvallis.com) or **Becky Flitcroft** (becky.flitcroft@orst.edu) with any questions.

READ & FEED MEETS

The July gathering of Read & Feed will be held at the home of **Bob and Monine Stebbins** at 7:00 this *Sunday, July 10*. The novel *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel will be discussed.

MISSION OFFERING FOR JULY

The Sunflower House was a familiar agency to many in Corvallis, and it served some of our community's most needy residents for many decades.

When Sunflower House moved to their new facility, **Community Outreach (Inc.)** in 2002, many rejoiced. Finally, shelter services were available not only to men, but also to women, children and families.

The new facility allows them to do so much more: offer outpatient treatment for recovering addicts, provide a child-

care facility for families in transition, and help bridge the gap between substance abuse and mental illness through their mental health services. Generous donors have made this possible.

In the last half of 2004, 1,992 clients received homeless emergency services; 17,829 meals were provided through the food bank; the crisis line answered 2,691 calls and the medical clinics had 2,173 visits.

This is a needs-based program, not dictated by government demands. At perhaps the most frightening time of their lives, clients find quick acceptance and security in Outreach Programs. Community Outreach clients understand what it means to participate in their own success.

BENEFIT RECITAL PLANNED

Soprano **Linda Larson**, **Arne's** sister and **Joan Pelto's** daughter-in-law, will sing, accompanied by **Rebecca Jeffers**, a benefit recital in our sanctuary on *Monday, July 18*, at 7:30 p.m. Linda was one of the featured performers at the recent Chintimini Chamber Music Festival. Linda will sing seven early songs of Alban Berg, songs by Ron Jeffers based on poems by e. e. cummings., and works by David Heuser, Stefano Donaudy and Henri Duparc. She and Rebecca will also perform, with **Jay Chen**, trumpet, a Handel cantata. The recital will benefit a local social service agency.

SPIRITUALITY MATTERS!

On *Thursday evening, July 21*, all are invited to a gathering designed to help us deepen our spiritual lives within our

community of faith. We will meet in the atrium at 7:30 p.m. Call or e-mail **Marsha Gulick** if you would like more information about the event.

CORRECTION

In the last newsletter, **Pearl Doolin's** address was incorrect. For a three-month period, starting mid-July, she and **Richard** will be at 4975 SW Jamieson Rd., Beaverton 97005, while Richard undergoes treatment at OHSU.

THANKS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Many thanks to everyone who contributed school supplies for the Church World Service project at General Synod! And special thanks to whoever made the lovely striped fabric bags for children to carry their supplies in! Your wonderful donations filled a suitcase.

To the Women of First Congregational United Church of Christ (Bakers **Anna Marie Holmes, Charlene Hunter, Pat Johnson, Alice Morrow, Bettie Muckleston, Joan Pelto, Kim Thackray, and Priscilla Zaworski**)

All of us on the Grace Center Board want you to know how much we appreciate the great contribution you provided by baking the shortcakes for our [Strawberry] Jubilee! I know it is a VERY big job, and you did it so perfectly!

With an open invitation to "buy your tickets at the door," we have no way to really know how many people we will serve, and so we did have some shortcakes left over. But the kitchen crew packaged them for sale and they were quickly gone, with a bit more money in our total earnings.

For those of you who did not attend, the Jubilee was a great party again, our 17th annual, and the fund raising factor was better than ever. Both of these successes, of course, are because people like you make it all happen.

We will be hoping that next year you may want to help with our very valuable cause once again!

Thank you, thank you, again and again!
Louise Van Vliet, Grace Center Board

OVER 200 NEW TITLES AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY

Have you noticed all the new books and videos which are ready to check out in the church library? They are on the shelves and book cart near the hallway window and quite a few of them are fiction. Many thanks to **Marion Whitney**, **Janice Engle**, and **Pete Klingeman** for the time they have spent processing over 200 items.

Since we need to do an inventory of the entire library this summer, it would be very helpful if books which have been checked out for awhile could be returned soon!

Nancy Klingeman

Don't miss **Karen Miller's** work at Gallery Zen, 525 NW 10th Ave. in Portland's Pearl District for the month of July as well as at the Japanese Garden *July 15-31*.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS HERE

Remember this Sunday to pick up your quarterly financial statement this Sunday in the foyer.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Dorothy Price**. **Betty Price**, Dorothy's mother, died last week. A memorial service for Betty will be held in our sanctuary on *Thursday, July 7*, at 1:00 p.m.;

... and with **Jim and Christine Cantey**, as Jim continues to fight a resistant staph infection;

... and with **Bob Stebbins**, recovering from foot surgery;

... and with **Jeff Snyder's** mother, who suffered a heart attack in Idaho.



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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 9

2:00-4:00 Tea for 90th birthday of
 Winbourne Ranney
 6:00 p.m. Mission Trip stock-
 holders dinner

Sunday, July 10

8:30 a.m. Informal worship
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Q and A on bequests,
 Fireplace Room (*p. 1*)
 10:30 a.m. O & E Committee,
 Library
 4:20 p.m. Holy Sox, Porter Park
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

Monday, July 11

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

Tuesday, July 12

Noon Lectionary class

Wednesday, July 13

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, July 14

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

Sunday, July 17

8:30 a.m. Informal worship
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) **Congregational
 Meeting**
 10:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class
 4:40 p.m. Holy Sox, Pioneer Park

Monday, July 18

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

Tuesday, July 19

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, July 20

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, July 21

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
 6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice
 7:30 p.m. Spirituality Matters!
 (*see page 4*)