



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 27

July 22, 2005

IT'S SALMON BARBECUE TIME!

The annual Salmon Barbecue is this *Sunday, July 24*. Remember your potluck dish: two items for families (vegetables or bread; salad or dessert;) singles bring one item. Beverages are provided, but bring your own table setting(s). Food service begins at noon in Hanson Grove.

There will be fellowship activities following worship until noon, under the direction of **Tammy Skubinna**. Join us for Slip-‘n’-Slide (bring swimsuits!), ping-pong, croquet, badminton, toddlers’ wading pool (parent supervision needed when children are there) and team building activities for those interested.

OPEN HOUSE – YOU’RE INVITED

Those of you who remember **Charles Hassel Helsabeck** (our Associate Minister in the late ‘70s) and would like a chance to spend some time with him are invited to the home of the **Sherrys** (290 NW Armstrong Way), beginning at 4:30 on *Sunday afternoon, July 24*, following the Salmon Barbecue. A light supper will be provided; you don’t need to bring anything. Call **Doris Sherry** (745-5607) for directions. She would also appreciate an idea about how many will attend.

REPORT FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Both proposals were passed at the Congregational Meeting last Sunday: to re-pad the sanctuary pews and replace the pew-end candelabra (funded by the **Eva Rickert** bequest); and the re-landscaping of the Gatton Hall entrance and lower patio (funded by the **Betty Starker Cameron** bequest).



Summer Worship

THIS SUNDAY – July 24

Reception of New Members

Scriptures: Matthew 13:31-33,
44-52

Romans 8:26-39

Sermon: “Bigger Than We
Think”

Elizabeth Oettinger

NEXT SUNDAY – July 31

8:30 leaders: Liz Pearce-Smith,
Judy Juntunen

9:30 sermon: **Lon Rycraft**

Dear Friends,

At the risk of embarrassing myself: two weeks ago I preached a sermon based on a newspaper ad that showed a happy family with the caption “Our children tell their friends, ‘We go to the fun church!’” In my sermon I announced that Ryan had showed me this ad. In fact, he insists it wasn’t him. So now I’m wondering who showed it to me?

The reason this is important is that I am in continuing contact with my New Testament professor at Harvard. She collects interesting signs, ads, other manifestations of the Christian message in contemporary culture. For example, I shared with her the billboard I saw several times as I was driving home through the southern United States. A take-off on the “Got milk?” ads, it read “Got faith?” and showed a spigot pouring wine into a glass. On the bottom of the billboard, it says in small letters. “Try prayer,” and then gives a phone number. It turns out I was the third person to tell her about the sign, and one motorist, faster with a camera than I, got her a photograph.

So why would an academic at Harvard study such “popular culture” manifestations of Christianity? This woman, Laura Nasrallah, is rooted in biblical archeology. Her specialty is studying the physical objects a culture creates to inform a sense of what people of a particular time period believed and what was important to them. In the world of the first century, this included catacomb art and statuary inscriptions. In the 21st century, popular theology is not the words written by university professors, but bracelets asking “W.W.J.D?” (“What would Jesus do?”) or banners pronouncing “God is still speaking,” bumper stickers, self-help literature, billboards, and newspaper ads. So keep your eyes open, especially as you travel about this summer. When you see some “interesting” manifestation of religious statement or questioning, let me know, or better yet bring it in for me to see.

I find myself these days trying to put judgment aside and remain merely curious about how different groups in our culture express their faith, looking behind that to what motivates them and what they believe. Dialogue is necessary not only between groups of different faiths, but also between differing groups of Christians. It occurred to me lately when a conservative Christian characterized the UCC as concerned only with political correctness, that I may be just as misguided and misinformed about other Christian traditions. So...some interesting research at least, and if I (or one of you) comes up with anything really interesting, I’ll send it on to Laura for her file.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Liz

JOIN OUR TEAM AT BENTON COUNTY FAIR

We still need people for the following time slots at the Benton County Fair to staff our church booth. Can you help?

Tuesday, August 2

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (1 person needed)

Wednesday, August 3

Noon – 2:00 p.m. (1 needed)

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (2 needed)

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (2 needed)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (2 needed)

Thursday, August 4

Noon – 2:00 p.m. (1 needed)

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (1 needed)

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (2 needed)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (2 needed)

Friday, August 5

7:00- 10:00 p.m. (2 needed)

Saturday, August 6

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. – (2 needed)

Please call **Ann** at the church office, 757-8122 (M-F, 8:00 a.m.-noon), or leave a message as to when you can help.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT IS HERE!

Parents, how can you turn down a free night out? Our regular church child care providers are offering care for children of church families on *Saturday, July 23*, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. in Room 5 and 7 of our C E wing. Bring your children for fun and enjoy your break.

WITNESS FOR PEACE - DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA

Looking for an opportunity to travel? Join Witness For Peace Northwest on a delegation to Nicaragua. The focus is on food security and food sovereignty. The delegation will address sustainable alter-

natives to the global food system, ecological sustainability and international debt.

The delegation will begin *Friday evening, October 21* with one-and-one-half days in Seattle exploring issues of U.S. food security. The delegation will fly to Nicaragua on *Sunday, October 23* and return to the U.S. on *Wednesday, November 2*. Cost is \$950 plus airfare.

The issue of food security was identified as a very high priority for our congregation in the 2004 Just Peace Census. Participation in this delegation should lead to insights into the many variables that affect food security for our own community as well as our Latin American neighbors.

Persons interested in this opportunity contact **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** (753-8267) by *August 20*.

HELP PLAN THE HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION EVENT

Planning for the August Commemoration Event for Hiroshima and Nagasaki is underway. Last year many of our congregation participated in the Candlelight Float Event that was held at Starker Arts Pond. Again this year a similar event is being planned for *Sunday evening, August 7*. The exact time and program have not yet been set. Consider this announcement as an invitation for members of this congregation to step forward to help in the planning. If you are interested, please contact **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** (753-8267).

FIFTH SUNDAY FOR HABITAT

The Fifth Sunday Offering for *July 31* is for our local **Benton Habitat for Humanity**. Our chapter was founded in 1991, and this church has since entered into a covenantal relationship with Benton Habitat. The agency's mission is to provide affordable shelter for low-income families; it helps future homeowners to build not only new homes but also relationships and a sense of community.

"Hero Quest"

SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School, featuring stories of biblical heroes, will be held at our church from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the week of *August 22-26*. Sign-ups begin this Sunday.

A (bring your own) brown bag meal from 5:30-6:00 will be followed by the programs, beginning with music. There will be a bonfire on the last evening.

Children will be grouped: Pre-K & K, 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and 5th and 6th, with a teacher and one assistant per group. Guests are welcome too.

Craft leaders include **Julia Lont, Bettie Muckleston, Libby Ankarberg, Hannah Field, Kiko Denzer** and **Tanya Andersson**. Teachers are **Molly Chambers, Al Goldner, Shauna Lambert, Tanya Andersson, Kristin Rorrer, Hans Eleveld, Annie Mueller-Warrant, Amanda LaBonte, Martin McLemore**. The Camp Cook is **Karen French**. Music will be lead by **Steve Zielke, Nancy William, Nicki Zielke** and **Topher French**.

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The end of a quarter is always a good time to review our financial situation. It's a good time because the figures are not skewed by major quarterly payments. So far this year, our annual budget expenses have exceeded our income by \$8,700. Our expenses are right on track at 50.5% of budget. (Ask me if you want detail as to why we are over budget by 0.5%!) The usual suspect for the shortfall is in the receipt of pledges, which are off by 3.4% or \$10,400.

I hope that gets your attention! By now, you have received a record of your giving through June. This would be a very good time to bring your pledge up to date, if you are behind. As usual, notify **Jim Cantey** if you find discrepancies in your record or if a change in your financial situation affects your ability to pay your pledge.

This congregation has a very good record of completing pledges, however I have to tell you, it makes me anxious to approach summer with this shortfall. There is a notion that our expenses go down in the summer. That is largely myth. The gas bill goes down and we have fewer newsletters—that's about it! This month we pay the UCC Pension Board \$9,261.60 for health insurance, annuities, etc., and in August we make quarterly payments of \$8,675 on our mission pledges. These quarterly payments are in addition to salaries, utilities, etc.

Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer

The **Rothwell** family is moving to Vancouver, WA. **Tracy, Jamie, Evan** and **Kira** are moving at the end of this month. First, I would like to say what a wonderful church family you all have been for us and that we will miss all of you. This church has really felt like a home to me and it is all of the people here who make it that way. Thank you!

Our contact information is:

Tracy Rothwell & Jamie Barmettler
18104 SE 41st Way
Vancouver, WA 98683
(360) 254-3520

tracyandjamie@comcast.net

If you will be in the Portland area we would love visitors, our new house is only about 5 minutes from I-205. Please stop by and visit if you are in the area.

Tracy

HELP VINA MOSES BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Let's help 900 Corvallis kids be excited about returning to school this fall. That is the goal of the 2005 Vina Moses Back-to-School Program. Each child receives new shoes, socks, underwear, one new outfit, and school supplies. In addition each child can pick another outfit from very good used clothing.

You can help by donating money to purchase items. A \$25 tax deductible donation (checks payable to Vina Moses)

(checks payable to Vina Moses) will sponsor one child. You can send your check directly to Vina Moses, 968 NW Garfield Street. Corvallis OR 97330. You may help by donating good clean clothing for children in grades K - 12. You may help by purchasing new school supplies: crayons, glue, pencils, pens, markers, erasers, rulers, 3-ring binders, or folders.

Clothing and school supplies can be left at the church. Starting on Salmon Barbecue Sunday, there will be a box for items in the foyer.

DONATIONS HELPED FILL SCHOOL KITS

Donations of school supplies from our congregation were added to those from churches all over the country to complete 3,200 school kits for church World Service to ship around the world. In addition, there were 1,110 kits for children in the Atlanta area. Also, five large shipping boxes of miscellaneous crayons, scissors, pencils, and construction paper were given by the UCC General Synod to schools and projects for local children for low-income families.

During the blood drive, 101 pints of blood were donated by people attending the Synod meeting.

RESPONSES TO SALMON BARBECUE INVITATIONS

Each year, former FCC pastors are sent tickets for our Salmon Barbecue. This year, we look forward to having two in attendance: **Charles Hassel Hel-sabeck** and **Greg (and Kathy) Turner**.

Here are some response from others:

It was fun to see the First Congo envelope in my Chicago mailbox and to recall that Salmon BBQ time was near...

Coincidentally, we will be in Oregon that day, but prior to hearing from you, made travel plans that will take us through Albany and then – hooray! – to the beach.

I am indeed at Chicago these days, but at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, just across the street from CRS. I'm "director of ministry studies, and clinical professor of preaching and pastoral care" – a big title which just means I do a little of a lot of things (just like my parish ministry days.).

Rachel is 23, also a Div School student (but in the M.A. program, not the ministry track) – she's preparing for some sort of career in human rights advocacy, and is currently on internship in Ghana. Zoe's 13, a dedicated dancer and soccer player, and an avid city-dweller. Adam is in Albany with Dad.

Hope you all are well, enjoy the salmon.

Blessings, **Cindy Lindner**

.... I wish we could be there and have an opportunity to greet old friends and meet new friends, but as you are aware, we were in Corvallis earlier in the year. Hopefully one of these years we will be able to join with you for this special occasion so filled with special memories for so many of us.

It was good to visit with you and want to thank you for showing us the new facilities that have been constructed since we left over thirty years ago.

We read the church newsletter and rejoice over the good things happening in the church. The First Congregational Church will always hold a very special memory for us. It is always a good feeling for a former pastor to know that what we began many years ago continues to be a vibrant, caring and spiritually alive institution in the life of the larger community.

May God continue to bless you as you seek to minister in this difficult period of history so filled with privileged opportunities and awesome challenges that call upon each of us to do what we can to leave the world a better place.

Please give our greetings to those in the church who know us. It seems strange to think that it was almost forty-two years ago that we began our ministry in Corvallis and met in the Masonic building.... Those years have flown by so quickly.

Shalom,
Al Slighter

GIFTS FOR SILENT AUCTION BENEFIT PCC

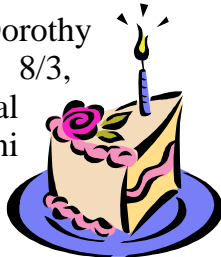
Donations are requested for the Silent Auction at First Christian Church in support of the **Pastoral Counseling Center**. The auction will take place in the church's booth at their Craft Fair during Fall Festival. Suggestions for contributions are: weekend at the coast or mountains; a fishing trip; a gourmet dinner, sport event tickets, men's tools, theme baskets, etc. If you can donate one of these or have another idea, please contact Cherie Reynolds (541-812-8754). All proceeds go to PCC.

CANCELED STAMPS, FOOD LABELS, AND BOX TOP FOR EDUCATION ARE STILL NEEDED

There is a continuing need for canceled postage stamps, Campbell's and Swanson food labels, and "Box Tops for Education." Please bring these items to church and leave them in the second drawer of the cupboard for nametags. They are used for the Crossroads residential school for troubled children and to assist with utility bills in Washington County.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Tanya Andersson 8/1, Dorothy Price 8/2, Garrett Esary 8/3, Bart Eleveld 8/6, Coral Torley 8/6, Gary Massoni 8/7, Grace Lambert 8/14, Charlotte Harter 8/16, Sally Robertson 8/16, Warren Hovland 8/17, Nancy Klingeman 8/18, Eleanor Martin 8/23, Karen Walker 8/25, Joni Peterson 8/26,



Jennifer Koch 8/26, Sho Kimura 8/26, Amanda LaBonte 8/27, Brian Lee 8/27, Bob Stebbins 8/30, Tim Cowles 8/31, Larry Merriam 8/31, Jim Hall 8/31, Ching-Yue Chi 8/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Ryan and Shauna Lambert 8/6 (11th)
Peggy Carrick and Arne Larson 8/9 (13th)
Mike and Sheila Schweizer 8/14 (34th)
Hokie and Jean Adams 8/16 (58th)
Jim and Nancye Ballard 8/19 (39th)
Bettie and Keith Muckleston 8/19 (44th)
Dick and B.J. Bower 8/21 (34th)
Gary and Betty Massoni 8/21 (41st)
Lafe and Charlotte Harter 8/23 (55th)
Ed and Karen Miller 8/23 (39th)
Greg and Kristin Rorrer 8/23 (19th)
Wayne and Verlyne Phillips 8/24 (41st)
Jay and Alice Sperling 8/26
Don and Eileen Milligan 8/28
Alan and Karen Walker 8/30 (30th)
Pete and Nancy Klingeman 8/31 (48th)
Eric and Nadine Skyllingstad 8/31 (18th)

Thank you for supporting the Food Share program [\$1,183]. Your contribution makes it possible for people to have a decent meal when they are experiencing hardship. Together we can ensure that food is available for all in our community.

Linn Benton Food Share



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, August 2.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 23

6:00-10:00 Parents' Night Out

Sunday, July 24

NO early service

9:30 a.m. Worship

Noon Salmon Barbecue

4:30 p.m. Open House, Sherrys'
(see page 1)

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox, Washington

Monday, July 25

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, July 26

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Endowment Board
 and Planned Giving,
 Meeting Hall

Wednesday, July 27

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, July 28

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

Sunday, July 31

8:30 a.m. Informal worship

9:30 a.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Holy Sox, Washington

Monday, August 1

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:15 p.m. Mission Board,
 Conference Room

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, August 2

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

6:15 p.m. Worship Committee

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, August 3

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, August 4

Office closed

9:00-2:00 Staff retreat, Wickes'

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

Friday, August 5

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