



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 28

August 5, 2005

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to those who were received into membership on July 24, Salmon Barbecue Sunday:

Osa Martinson

Sponsors: **Kay** and **Irwin Harris**.

Laura Foerst

Sponsor: **Eileen Marma**.

Lon Rycraft and **Christine Storm**

Sponsors: **Ann** and **John Hawkins**.

Bev Whitmore

Sponsor: **Pat Johnson**.

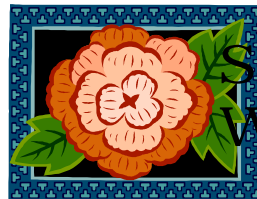
Hiroshima Memorial

In honor of the Hiroshima Day of Remembrance, we will offer a brief (10 minutes or so) showing of slides, following worship this Sunday in the Meeting Hall. The powerful photographs show the atomic cloud and the aftermath of the explosion in the city sixty years ago.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Any month we have more income than expenses is a good month. We had a good July! Your contributions reduced our deficit from \$8,700 to \$4,800. This congregation pays attention, even in the summer. Thank you for your generosity.

Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer



Summer Worship

THIS SUNDAY – August 7

Communion

Scriptures: Matthew 14:22-23

Romans 10:5-15

Sermon: “Called to the Water”

Ryan Lambert

NEXT SUNDAY – August 21

Scriptures: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Sermon: “Ordinary Heroes”

Elizabeth Oettinger

Think about the following list of church programs: church school, confirmation, summer camping programs, the children's message, vacation bible school, youth groups, and mission trips. Why do we do these things? During my time away on vacation I had some pretty serious conversations with friends and ministerial colleagues about the way we in the UCC approach education and faith development for our children and youth. Based on these conversations and some of my summer camp experiences I have spent a great deal of time evaluating what I understand Christian Education to be and how we should set goals for all our Christian Education settings.

From my experience and conversations I have been struggling with what I would describe as a lack of focus that I have seen and heard about in several key areas of many Christian Education models: camps, youth groups, and church schools. Several colleagues that I have recently talked to spoke of wrestling with programs that melded popular culture (Harry Potter, pop music, a Survivor theme) into programming as a hook to get youth and children in the door. Several also spoke of increased problems in recruiting churched volunteers to serve as counselors for summer camps (in three different conferences). In some places traditional camp songs have given way to secular day camp chants because they are easier to teach and don't require a musician. One of the sentiments that I heard over and over again was desire to make things fun and somehow connect with the current group of children and teens.

And on some level I grew frustrated by our conversations. I believe that one of our most important reasons for being the church, in all of its locations and configurations, is to teach our stories and develop the faith of our young people. I have been thrilled by the national and local response to the "God is still speaking" campaign because I have seen adults (and some teens) excited about finding language to describe their faith and claim their church with new enthusiasm. However, I wonder how we doing with our youth and children?

In many places there is a struggle to make the church relevant to children and youth who have a multitude of options competing for their time. We encounter it here too. The challenge is to make faith development a key part of our educational experience and to make it fun! I am excited about our renewed effort with Vacation Bible School and hope that all our children will participate from August 22-26. We still have room for volunteers if you are interested in helping!

As I interacted with our youth on the mission trip and as I have spent time at Camps Adams and N-Sid-Sen (the UCC camp of my youth) I have been reminded of the impact of adults mentors and teachers on the faith journeys of our young people—as we move toward fall we need adults for our church schools and for helping with the youth groups. We need adults who will share pieces of their story and spend time with our youth and children. Let me know if this is how you are being called.

Blessings, **Ryan**

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 continue 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.

We have a great group of teachers and leaders that includes: **Julia Lont, Bettie Muckleston, Kiko Denzer, Molly Chambers, Kristin Rorrer, Julie Rorrer, Megan Chambers, Steve Zielke** and **Karen French** as Camp Cook.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING SCHEDULED

The CE Board, VBS teachers, craft people, and musicians will gather on *Tuesday, August 9*, at 7:00 p.m. for a training event. We will walk through the rotational schedule, look at curriculum and do some group planning. Let **Ryan** know ASAP if you cannot attend.

WOMEN, SAVE THESE DATES!

Registration brochures are now available for the women's retreat at Camp Adams during the *October 7-9* weekend. This year's resource leader will be the Rev. **Dana McBrien**, pastor of Knight Memorial Church in Salem. "Lessons of the Spirit: From Our Church Mothers" will be the theme. The event is sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference Women's Board. Pre-registration fee is \$50 with \$35 due on arrival at camp (or the total may be paid in advance). Blue brochures are located in the literature rack by the entrance into Gatton Hall.

A national Women's Event is scheduled for *June 21-25, 2006*, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Called "Mix in '06: Dream on, Sisters," this will be a joint gathering for UCC and Disciples of Christ women. It is possible to register on line at www.dreamonsisters.com. Completed registration information will be available in the church office.

Grant application forms from the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Fund for both of these events may also be found in the church office.

CHECK OUT COLONIA LIBERTAD

On the foyer bulletin board (or at www.fhdc.org), you will find a photo of the beautiful new farmworker housing project, to be dedicated on August 14 in Salem. **Ann Hawkins** mentioned this last Sunday as a celebration!

ORGANIST SEARCH UNDERWAY

Our organist, **Myles Criss**, has let us know of his plan to retire effective the end of August. Though we are sad to lose him from our midst on a weekly basis, we appreciate his desire to spend more time at his home congregation and will look forward to having him substitute from time to time.

Liz Oettinger and **Steve Zielke** are working with the Worship Committee to search for a new organist. If you know of possible candidates, please contact us.

AUGUST MISSION OFFERING

The Mission Offering for August is for **Camp Adams**. In addition to the summer camps there are many other opportunities for all of us to enjoy Camp Adams. Families enjoy camping together at the Spring Family Camp. This is a good opportunity to add our support to Camp Adams.

OSU SUMMER CHOIR CONCERT

The Summer Choir, sponsored by the OSU Choral Department, and coordinated by **Steven Zielke**, will present a concert at our church on *Wednesday, August 17*, at 7:30 p.m. In addition to Steve, there will be six great conductors. The choir will be singing Purcell's

Birthday Ode to Queen Mary (1694), with orchestra and soloists. Purcell wrote six such birthday odes to Queen Mary; the piece performed by the choir, "Come Ye Sons of Art," is his last and considered his finest.

The choir will perform some additional wonderful music (under Steve's heading of "Music of the Great Outdoors"), including songs by Haydn and Brahms, as well as several pieces by the hot contemporary composer Z. Randall Stroope (guest conductor at last summer's Heart of the Valley Choir Festival). Accompanist for the Summer Choir is **Nicki Nine Zielke**.

Mark your calendars now (there will not be another newsletter before the concert) and come enjoy some great music as the summer winds down. The concert is free.

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).

DON'T JUST DUMP IT!

Electronic waste may contain toxic substances such as lead and various CRT coating phosphors and rare earth elements.

Corvallis Disposal now accepts computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, point of sale equipment (cash registers), etc. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at their office on Walnut just east of 99W. The items must be brought inside their office. There is no charge for this environmentally responsible disposal service.

SALMON BARBECUE RESPONSE

I thought of all of you on the day of the Salmon Barbecue. I always appreciate receiving a ticket. However, because of my work in Nampa, Idaho I was unable to attend.

So far, I have been in my longest interim period at the Nampa UCC. We are moving along to becoming an intentional UCC church. It has been difficult and challenging work. Hopefully, in the next few months ahead, a permanent pastor will be called. The church and myself are always appreciative of the support the Corvallis church has given us.

Thanks again for sending me an invitation. My love to everyone.

Phil Oliver

PARENT INVOLVEMENT SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S CARE

Are you the parent/caregiver of a child with emotional or behavioral struggles? Do you want to be involved in helping children receive better care? You can help improve the Children's Mental

Health System of Care in Benton by joining the Parent Advisory Committee.

The Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the main lobby of the Benton Country Health Department, 530 NW 27th Street, Corvallis. Please RSVP to Brandy Steiner (call 766-6238 or e-mail brandy.steiner@co.benton.or.us).

Salmon Barbecue Thanks

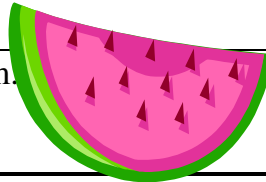
... to **Bart Eleveld**, overall chair; **Jerry Groesz**, emcee; **Regan McMorris**, set-up; **Jim Cantey**, barbecue crew; **Tammy Skubinna**, fellowship activity coordinator; **Sue Richmond**, publicity; **Cynthia Janes**, ticket coordinator; **Becky Flitcroft**, beverages; **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant**, food coordinator; **Marsha Gulick**, hospitality; **John Holmes**; sound, and **Dee Loomis**, clean-up. We had an perfect-weather day for food and fellowship with friends from near and far.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, August 16.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, August 5

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

Sunday, August 7

8:30 a.m. Informal service
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Slides from Hiroshima,
 Meeting Hall
 (following) Outreach & Evangelism
 Sam's Station
 8:40 p.m. Holy Sox, W. Sunset

Monday, August 8

5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:30 p.m. **NO** Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, August 9

Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School
 teachers and C E
 Board, Fireplace Rm.

Wednesday, August 10

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

Thursday, August 11

6:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice

Sunday, August 14

8:30 a.m. Informal service
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

Monday, August 15

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

Tuesday, August 16

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

Wednesday, August 17

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 7:00 p.m. OSU Summer Choir
 Concert

Thursday, August 18

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

READ & FEED MEETS AND EATS

The discussion of *Paula* by Isabel Allende begins at 7:00 on *Sunday, August 14*, at the home of **Bob and Monine Stebbins**. Dessert follows