



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 29

August 19, 2005

## CRAFT FAIR PROCEEDS GO TO PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

First Christian Church's Craft Fair will raise funds for the Pastoral Counseling Center. Over fifty vendors will offer items for sale and a silent auction features a vacation at the coast, a gourmet dinner for eight, rounds of golf and much more. So plan to enjoy fun, food and music on *Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26*, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. First Christian Church is at 602 SW Madison (south of Central Park).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS HERE!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is happening from *August 22-26* at the church. Our theme is "Hero Quest" which looks at biblical heroes as a way of introducing faith to our children. Traditionally VBS has run during the day, but we are trying an evening schedule this year, so we will begin at 5:30 with a brown bag supper and end at 8:30 each night. It is not too late to include your children or their friends. Please contact **Ryan** at the church (757-8122) or via e-mail [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com) if you would still like to register your child.

## JAPANESE GUESTS TO SPEAK ON PEACE MINISTRY

In the fall of 2001, six members of this congregation traveled to Japan as part of the Central Pacific Conference's ongoing relationship with the United Church of Christ in Japan. The travelers' first stop was Kyosei-an, a small retreat center run by the **Rev. Arakawa** and his wife **Natsue**. At Kyosei-an, we dug pota-  
*(continued on page 3)*

## SUMMER Worship

### *THIS SUNDAY – August 21*

**Scriptures:** Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Romans 12:1-8  
**Sermon:** "Ordinary Heroes"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

### *NEXT SUNDAY – August 28*

**Scriptures:** Exodus 3: 1-15  
Romans 12: 9-21  
**Sermon:** "Ashes or Embers?"  
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

Our Mission Offering for this month is for Camp Adams. I have been thinking a lot about the camp lately. It is our most valuable asset in the Central Pacific Conference. I say that both for its value as a piece of property, and also as a place where the opportunities for educational ministry are unparalleled. Church camp can be one of the significant spiritual experiences in the lives of children. Over and over, if you ask ordained ministers how they came to love and church and experience a sense of call, they say it began at church camp. Beyond that, the desire for retreat ministries for adults is growing, an important source of spiritual renewal.

Despite all the value and possibility that it represents, Camp Adams is always on shaky financial footing. Our facilities are in need of long-deferred maintenance and most of the camp's facilities are not particularly "friendly" for older adults. Because the camp is not a comfortable place for many adults to stay, the facility is underutilized by the churches of the Conference as a center for spiritual renewal.

The Camp Adams Committee has plans in hand to upgrade the camp and build a retreat facility that will allow the camp experience to be accessible for all. I believe that if we are able to see this project through to the end, it will allow the camp to find a more stable financial footing as this new lodge is rented out for retreats and seminars in the larger community. However, the key to Camp Adams' future lies in our willingness to invest in that future.

The Mission Offering for this month is one way to support Camp Adams. The money we raise through the offering goes into the annual budget to allow the camp to function as it has. However, this fall, alongside of our annual Stewardship drive, we will be challenging the congregation to support the WOW (Widening Our Welcome) campaign of the Conference. This campaign will provide funds to allow the Conference to continue starting new churches and to upgrade our Conference camps at Camp Adams and Pilgrim Cove. You will be hearing much more about this project in the weeks and months to come. However, I wanted to use my space this week to share with you all my sense of the importance of our addressing the needs of Camp Adams. There is so much promise there. There is new leadership in the Camp Adams Working Group. Ryan serves on that committee, and so I have seen first-hand the amount of thought and hard work that is going into building a new day for this beautiful camp with which our Conference has been entrusted.

These are tough days for many church and other non-profit camps. Many are being forced to sell, and one by one, the places where children and adults can go to seek God in the out-of-doors are dwindling. The folks who gave the land for Camp Adams

wanted to create a legacy of outdoor ministries that would persist for generations. It is up to us to do our part to protect and enhance that legacy.

And if you ever have questions as to its value, I invite you to visit Camp Adams. Go for a walk in the woods, listen to the music of the creek, feel yourself relax, and just imagine the possibilities.

Enjoy the last of summer.

**Liz**

### **...WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

Pick up a free “God Is Still Speaking,” T-shirt from the county fair this Sunday – first come, first served.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE**

As First Congregational’s liaison, I’ve been attending the monthly prayer meeting for Habitat for Humanity. It is truly gratifying to see folks from a variety of denominations come together for such a good cause. Each meeting has a lesson (lately the text being followed is *The Purpose Driven Life* with supporting biblical passages), a review of previous concerns and their resolution, a discussion of current concerns, ending with prayers for those concerns. The meeting is held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the library of the Grace Lutheran Church at Kings and Harrison. The meeting is open to all, and it provides a wonderful way to learn more about the organization and its issues while adding your own prayerful voice to the support of Habitat for Humanity.

One of the members of this group is beginning the work to have an “Apostle Build” house here in Benton County.

This is a project where 12 churches come together in support of building a Habitat for Humanity House. The support comes in three categories: labor, food, and financial. A congregation’s responsibilities as a sponsor would be to provide two days of labor teams to work on the house, two days of lunches for other labor teams, and 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the cost of the supplies to build the house. Because the current estimated cost of supplies is approximately \$60,000, 1/12 is \$5,000. The Linn County Habitat Chapter has already built two Apostle Build houses, and this model of support has been used successfully across the country. I plan to meet with our mission board to explore the possibility of becoming one of the Apostle Churches, if not in the current effort then perhaps in a future build.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about Habitat for Humanity, please give me a call at 753-2337, talk to me next time you see me, e-mail me at [jrivsmith@comcast.net](mailto:jrivsmith@comcast.net), or join us at our monthly prayer meetings. Thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve both the congregation and Habitat.

**Jacqueline Smith**

### **JAPANESE GUESTS** *from page 1*

toes as part of the Arakawa's organic gardening project and learned of Rev. Arakawa's lifelong commitment to peace activism. Then Rev. Arakawa took us to Hiroshima where we met with students, church members, and a Buddhist group, all interested in peace education and activism.

Rev. Arakawa, who spent his active years in ministry teaching and serving churches in Hiroshima, is intelligent, articulate, and a wonderful resource for peace education. He and Natsue are coming to Corvallis *September 1-6*. We would like to give the congregation a chance to meet him and hear about his work, both in Hiroshima and at Kyoseian. Therefore on *Sunday, September 4*, at 5:30 p.m., you are invited to a simple supper at the church and a presentation by Rev. Arakawa. So that we might plan the dinner, please call the church to let us know you are coming or sign up after church the next two Sundays.

## Kudos !

... to **Tammy Skubinna**. She was the first recipient of a new award from the Benton County Fair Foundation. The award recognizes contributions to Benton County agriculture by a local OSU Extension Agent and includes a \$500 contribution to the recipient's choice of Extension programs.

Tammy has been the Benton County 4-H Extension agent since 1983. Foun-

dation Chair Barte Starker praised Tammy's 22 years of work, saying, "Tammy has helped educate and train a whole generation of leaders in our community. The 4-H leadership program is outstanding and Benton County agriculture, and the community in general, benefit every day from the graduates of Tammy's program."

The award was presented at the annual Fairgrounds foundation "Friends of the Fair" dinner on August 4.

### **MEN'S SPIRITUALITY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP TO BEGIN**

Following up on the Lenten men's gatherings we will be starting a monthly men's group this fall. Our first gathering will be on *September 22*, at 7:30 p.m. Men of all ages are welcome to this group where we will share in a mixture of prayer, worship, study and fellowship. Contact **Ryan** if you have questions.

### **EARLY SUMMER WORSHIP THANK-YOU**

A big thank-you to those who led our early Sunday summer worship services in over the past two months. Our last early service was on Sunday, August 14. Worship leaders were **Caroline Zaworski, Dorothy Price, Pat Johnson, Kim Thackray, Judy Juntunen, Liz Pearce-Smith, Priscilla Zaworski, Ann** and **John Hawkins** and **Gary Enschede**. Thanks to you all!

**Sue Richmond,**  
Worship Committee Chair

## **WOMEN'S CAMP BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE**

Blue brochures are available in the literature rack for registration at this fall's Women's Camp. *October 7-9* is when women from all over the Central Pacific Conference will gather at Camp Adams to learn about "Lessons of the Spirit: From Our Church Mothers." The Rev. **Dana McBrien** from Knight Memorial UCC in Salem will be the resource leader. Pre-registration is \$50 with \$35 due on arrival to camp to pay for two nights lodging and five meals. Forms for financial assistance are available in the church office.

## **ARE CHURCH LIBRARY BOOKS HIDING AT YOUR HOUSE?**

Many library books have been checked out for a very **looong** time and are in danger of getting lost! The Library Committee is currently in the process of taking inventory. It would be very helpful if they have the books to count. Many thanks to **Janice Engle, Marion Whitney, Dorothy Sperling, and John Hawkins** who have been helping with this huge job.

## **MOPS GROUP SUPPORTS MOMS**

Grace Christian Fellowship sponsors a **Mothers of Preschoolers** (MOPS) group. Mothers who are pregnant or have a child under the age of 5 can come for two hours for fellowship and interaction with other mothers. Meetings are every Tuesday (except the first) at 440 SW 9<sup>th</sup>

St., Corvallis. Check out the bulletin board for more information or e-mail [MOPS@grace-cf.org](mailto:MOPS@grace-cf.org) or call 758-4444.

## **GRACE CENTER WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS**

Grace Center brightens the days of adults who need assistance managing their health challenges and helps relieve the pressure felt by their caregivers. Its ongoing daytime program for frail elderly and disabled adults offers support services in a stimulating and home-like atmosphere. Volunteers help make this possible. Currently volunteers are needed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00-9:45 (bingo, exercise, walking); all week days, 11:00-11:30 (games, lunch set-up) and 1:00-3:00 (crafts, table games, trips, active games). Musicians and entertainers are also needed. Call Judy (754-8417) to volunteer.

## **Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with the friends and family of **Cecil Compton** who died on August 10. A memorial service for Cecil will be held in our chapel on *Monday, August 22*, at 11:30 a.m.

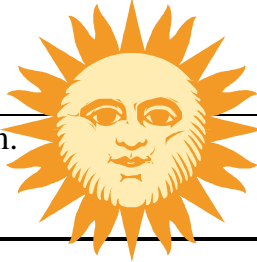
... are with **Pete Nelson** and his family. Peter's mother, **Rae**, died on July 29. **Caroline Zaworski** officiated at a memorial service for Rae on August 2.

... are with **Marilyn Starker** and her family. Marilyn's father, **Dan McCornack**, died on August 3. A service was held on August 13 in Eugene.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, August 30.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, August 21*

9:30 a.m.      Worship

*Monday, August 22*

**11:30 a.m.      Cecil Compton  
    memorial, Chapel**

5:30 p.m.      Basketball

**5:30-8:30      Vacation Bible School**

7:30 p.m.      Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, August 23*

Noon            Lectionary class

**5:30-8:30      Vacation Bible School**

7:15 p.m.      Church Council

*Wednesday, August 24*

7:15 a.m.      Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m.      40+ Basketball

**5:30-8:30      Vacation Bible School**

*Thursday, August 25*

**NO Spirituality Group**

**5:30-8:30      Vacation Bible School**

*Friday, August 26*

**5:30-8:30      Vacation Bible School**

*Sunday, August 28*

9:30 a.m.      Worship

*Monday, August 29*

5:30 p.m.      Basketball

7:30 p.m.      Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, August 30*

9:00 a.m.      Staff

Noon            Lectionary class

*Wednesday, August 31*

5:30 p.m.      40+ Basketball

**NO Sanctuary Choir**

*Friday, September 2*

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

**LOOKING AHEAD:** *September 4:*  
 Ecumenical worship in Central Park,  
 10:00 a.m.; *October 7-9: Women's  
 Camp* at Camp Adams

**Choir Notes**

Rehearsals for the **Sanctuary Choir**  
 will begin on *Wednesday, September 9,*  
 at 7:15. The choir's first Sunday to sing  
 for worship will be *September 11.*