



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 32

September 16, 2005

## WELCOME BACK CHILI COOK-OFF!



Come to our Welcome Back Event this *Sunday, September 18*. The chili cook-off will be accompanied with music by **Emily Chi's** Asparagus Quartet. The socializing and music will begin immediately follow our church service with the food served shortly after. Child care is provided. There is no charge for the meal, which will also includes cornbread. Volunteers for set-up and/or clean-up are still needed.

## MISSION FEST IS OCTOBER 2

*October 2* is World Communion Sunday, a day that gives us the opportunity to celebrate our connection to the global Christian community. It also offers us an opportunity to concentrate our efforts to address an issue or concern that has global implications for our church and the church as a whole. This year our theme is "Hunger," a broad theme that allows us to look at resource distribution, international needs, and our own consumption patterns. Following worship on *October 2*, the Mission and Outreach Board will sponsor a "hunger meal" and an educational time focusing on global hunger relief. Mark your calendars now; more information is coming!

## CONSIDERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

There will be an evening Inquirers' Class on *October 2*, from 5:30-8:30. Dinner will be provided. The last two hours will focus on the United Church of Christ as a denomination and our church in particular. The class is for anyone interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ whether or not s/he one is considering joining. Those wishing to join will be received into membership during worship on *October 23*.

## THIS SUNDAY

**Adult Forum:** "Our Children, Our Faith," second of two parts: **Ryan Lambert** will share specific resource for family-based religious observance and activities – 9:30 in the Meeting Hall

**Scriptures:** Exodus 16:2-15  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Sermon:** "The Parable  
No One Wants"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Ryan Lambert*

Welcome back! It was wonderful to see globe-trotting, beach-combing, Scout-camping, family-visiting folks back in the pews, ready to reconnect after a busy summer. For a moment or two during worship I wondered (happily!) if our “Passing the Peace” time would ever end. From all corners of the church it seemed that people were happy to be back at the beginning of the church year. The noise of the many overlapping voices was wonderful to hear and instantly moved me into a celebratory state. But the celebration is not over; all that excitement and energy was just Phase 1! Prolong the excitement! Make plans to join the rest of your church family for the Welcome Back luncheon after worship on Sunday. This year our welcome back will feature a chili cook-off and wonderful music. But there is no other agenda, and that is why this event is so great. The Welcome Back event is simply an opportunity to gather around tables with friends both old and new, and hang out together. Together we will nurture the body of Christ with food and fellowship!

Another part of our celebration will occur in worship as we commission our Christian Education teachers and give our fourth grade students gift bibles. Although only our fourth grade students will receive bibles, we all participate. This is an opportunity for all of us to again commit to the educational endeavor of our faith. As we give bibles to the fourth grade students we are marking another passage on their way toward Confirmation and an adult understanding of faith. For the rest of us we stand as the cloud of witnesses with our students and their teachers, offering prayerful support and a promise that we too will commit to a faith that will continue to grow this year and always. As teachers, students, or other living examples we all play a role in the commissioning exercise.

See you on Sunday as we share food, fellowship, and celebrate the start of the new program year.

**Ryan****HEALTH CARE FORUM**

Our church is co-sponsoring the upcoming Health Care Forum titled “Why Not Health Care for ALL?” The forum will be held in the Upper Social Hall of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 501 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street, on *Thursday, September 29*, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge or registration.

Presenters again this year are Dr. **Ray Tricker** from OSU who will speak on health care in New Zealand and Great Britain and Dr. **Chunhuei Chi**, also from OSU, who will speak on health care in Taiwan. **Chinh Le**, M.D., will present from the medical perspective. The forum will include time for questions. Refreshments will follow.



The youth groups will begin meeting at their regular scheduled times this week. **Middle School** youth will meet at the church from 4:30-6:30, while

**High School** will meet from 6:30-8:30. This will be our standard meeting time, except when pre-empted by other activities. **Remember, friends are always welcome at any event!** Two things to keep at the front of your schedules are: our 24-hour fast and lock-in on *September 30–October 1*, and the Fall Youth Event in Beaverton on *November 4-6*. Watch your mail for details and registration forms.

### JOIN US IN THE CHOIR!

If you have been thinking about singing in the choir, this fall is the perfect time to take the plunge. Wednesday night rehearsals start promptly at 7:15 and continue until 8:45. The choir also rehearses on Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:30, but releases in time for the educational hour. Rehearsals are focused but light-hearted, and will allow everyone, regardless of ability and experience to enjoy the reward of singing.

### CHOIR “TAKES OVER”

Choir Director **Steve Zielke** mentioned in his article last week that some seats in the pews were being reserved so choir members who wish to could sit with their families—and also to allow for those times when our choir loft cannot accommodate all of our singers.

Seats at the end of the two pews closest to the choir loft are being reserved for

those members. There will be signage on those pews to remind you; come early to get the seat you want!

### MEN’S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Conversation, prayer, friendship, worship, and laughter...do they all go together? Men of all ages are invited to gather in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m. on *Thursday September 22*, for our next step into men’s ministry. See you there! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com).

### POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS SUNDAY

The next meeting of the political discussion group will meet at the home of **John and Ann Hawkins** this *Sunday, September 18*, at 7:00 p.m. We will continue our discussion about what we value as Christians and capturing language that will articulate that. All are welcome.

### PAULA MARTIN’S RETIREMENT PARTY

Paula Martin, the Director of Camps and Conference Ministries is retiring on *September 30, 2005*. Please join us for a potluck and festivities in her honor at Camp Adams at 4:00 p.m. on *Saturday, September 17*.

Please bring a main dish or a salad; the camp will provide finger food, dessert and drinks. Please come and bring your remembrances of her ministry

### CARING WITHIN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON YOU!

One of the wonderful benefits of being a part of our church is the support we give to each other in times of need. At

this time of year, we have the opportunity to decide how we want to participate in this web of support. There are many ways to help—what would you like to do?

- Emergency meal preparation
- Transportation to worship, to a doctor's appointment, grocery shopping, etc.
- Companionship for a few hours
- Light housekeeping or yard work
- Emergency childcare
- Serving one month as meal coordinator

Currently, we have two special needs: Monthly meal coordinators and worship transportation volunteers. Being a monthly meal coordinator involves using a prepared list to call volunteers who have indicated an interest in providing meals. **Kim Thackray** oversees the emergency meal coordinators and would be glad to answer your questions.

Frequently, there are members of our congregation that would like to attend Adult Education or worship, but need a ride. These requests go to **Doris Sherry**. She needs volunteers that can provide transportation on both a regular and occasional basis.

If you have already filled out the insert in last Sunday's worship bulletin—thank you! If you missed your chance last weekend, look for the insert in this week's bulletin, and join the web!

## SQUARE DANCING INVITATION

The Corvallis Squares 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday square dance club, invites all skill levels, ages to a free square dance on *October 8, 7:30* in Gatton Hall. Parks and Rec offers dance lessons starting *September 26*; the first one is free!

## FOOD BARREL – OUR CONSTANT SERVICE PROJECT

**How many of you have noticed that we have a food barrel in the foyer of the church?** It is located close to the front door of the church and stands ready to receive your food donations. Canned and boxed food (no home food preservation items, please) can be put in the barrel when you come to the church. When the barrel gets full a member of the Mission Board brings the food to Community Outreach, an agency which serves many of our limited income residents.

It would be great for families to bring food on a regular basis, so the children get to put the food in the barrel and feel they are making a difference. Many of us who are single or married with no children can also feel like we can do something about the hunger problem in our county. Even Christian Education teachers could tie in a lesson (Jesus feeding the 5000, for example) with having their students bringing food for the food barrel.

It would be great to have the food barrel full each week, so that First Congregational United Church of Christ is always making an impact on the hunger problem in Benton County! Thanks!

**Tammy Skubinna**  
Mission Board Member

### **SEPTEMBER 24TH PEACE RALLY**

September 24<sup>th</sup> is a very significant day for peace advocacy! In Washington DC there will be a huge Peace Rally. In San Francisco and Los Angeles and Seattle there will also be huge events. In many local communities events are beginning to take shape.

The Just Peace Committee is encouraging members of this congregation to show solidarity with peace activists throughout the world by attending the Peace Rally being planned in Albany at Monteith Park. The event will start at 1:00 p.m. and will include music, speakers and information booths. People are encouraged to stay as long as they would like—the park closes at dusk—but the program will probably be over by 5:30 at the latest.

### **CONVOCATION HONORS WORK OF CONFERENCE CO-MINISTER**

The Rev. **Hector Lopez**, Central Pacific Conference Co-Minister, is retiring after 40 years of ministry. A special event has been planned to focus on a common theme throughout Hector's ministry: racial justice. A national convocation is slated for *November 10-13* entitled "God is Still Seeking Racial Justice," at the Ambridge Conference Center in Portland. All are welcome.

The church office has registration forms. Registration fee is \$75, which includes Convocation packet, the Saturday evening banquet, and child care for children under five years. Homestays are available. More details are on the entry bulletin board.

### **CRAFT FAIR BENEFITS PCC**

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 next *Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25*, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. First Christian Church is at 602 SW Madison (south of Central Park).



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 20.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, September 18*

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Welcome Back  
Chili Cook-off**
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
- 6:45 p.m. High School youth
- 7:00 p.m. Political discussion  
group, Hawkins (p. 3)

*Monday, September 19*

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

*Tuesday, September 20*

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

*Wednesday, September 21*

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, September 22*

- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Spirituality  
Group, Fireplace Rm.