



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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September 23, 2005

TWO WEEKS TILL MISSION FEST

You will not want to miss our Mission Fest this year on *October 2*. We will have a busy, interesting day. In addition to a speaker from Church World Service, a partner we support in mission, we have a chance to participate in a modest meal and some activities that will help us understand a little more about some of the issues that call us to mission in the world. This will not truly be a “hunger” meal; there will be food to eat, but it will be modest and it must be shared among all.

Now, here is your part: (1) Plan for your family to stay for lunch and a time of activity after worship. All but the youngest children should be interested and able to participate in the activity. (2) If you can, bring a small amount of a cooking green such as spinach, chard or collard greens to add to the meal, but do not miss the experience if you cannot bring a green or if you forget. (3) When you come to Gatton Hall after worship, find a spot at a table. When your table is full or nearly so, choose a person who will come to get the food for your table. One other thing you should know: silverware will be available to those who request it, but you might want to wash your hands well before you come to the table!

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: “We Are Christian Educators - Parent Panel & Group Discussion” This panel concludes our series about how we can pass on our faith practice to our children. Having addressed the developmental milestones in children’s spirituality and examined family resources, we offer this “nuts and bolts” dialogue.

Please join your fellow church members to discuss how to be a Christian Educator in our homes and hearts. The panel, representing a cross-section of families, will share what has worked for them over time. We will touch on: personal challenges, cultural obstacles, success stories, and creative strategies. Come tap into the practical, encouraging wisdom for your children and grandchildren.

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7
Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon: “Still Grumbling After
All These Years”
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

For years now the Adult Education program of the church has labored under the assumption that we should only offer short seasonal adult education opportunities for times other than Sunday morning because people either don't have time or are unwilling to commit their time to a long-term study program. Such 3-6 week opportunities are great for certain kinds of classes, but they don't allow for any kind of extended, in-depth development. Really on a whim, Ryan and I decided to put together the bulletin insert that has appeared in worship the past two Sundays inviting interest in either a year-long Adult Confirmation class (what you maybe never learned about God, Jesus, the church, and theology along the way) or a year-long Bible study. For any of you who missed church the past two Sundays, people were asked to express interest in either class and let us know if it would work better for them if taught either two Sunday evenings or two Tuesday evenings a month.

We have been overwhelmed by the response! There was enough interest expressed to teach both classes at both times. We are still counting up responses—if you are interested in one or the other class, please let one of the ministers or Ann know by Monday, September 26. Because of time constraints, we will only be offering one class this fall. But the response has triggered some questions and conversations. I thought I'd mention some of those here for your consideration as well.

Many of you have already heard me muse that we in the church spend a lot of both ministers' time and church members' time in board and committee meetings. It is important that the day-to-day work of the church get done. That firm foundation enables our ministries. But the church's way of conducting business has not changed much in 100 years. In that century, we (the culture at large) have developed a range of new ways to communicate and learned much about innovative work strategies. It's time for the church to evaluate how it conducts its business. Maybe there is a better way than our current board and committee structure. Maybe a new way of doing business would allow both ministers and members more time for worship, classes, fellowship. It's worth exploring.

We have also been bound by fairly traditional times for classes—Sunday and weekday evenings. One member asked me in the last month if we could consider an early-morning class—6:30 or 7:00 a.m. for the early birds in the congregation. Another member asked if we ever considered late night classes beginning at 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. The reality is that congregation members run on different schedules and we can't assume a "one-size-fits-all" pattern. (Ryan wants me to let you all know that I would teach any early morning classes and he's the staff night owl!)

A third option to think about is a possible shift in how clergy budget their time. The general expectation of clergy is that we will work about ten evenings a month. A lot of that time is used in board and committee meetings. Some meetings are attended by both ministers. Are there good ways to get clergy input into meetings without hav-

ing clergy at meetings if that would free up more teaching and spiritual development time for the ministers?

I don't know where any of these questions will go. I just wanted to put them out there for you all to ponder.

Have a thoughtful week.

Liz

SABBATICAL STORIES RECOUNTED FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Did you enjoy those newsy letters from Liz while she was in Boston? Then the Women's Fellowship Luncheon this month is one you won't want to miss. On *Wednesday, October 5*, we will meet in Gatton Hall for lunch at noon and then at 1:00 p.m. we will move to the meeting hall for a talk by **Liz Oettinger** about her sabbatical leave in Boston earlier this year. There will be a salad luncheon and a chance to visit with the other women in the church. Sign up this Sunday or next for lunch and let us know if you need child care or a ride. All are invited. If you have questions, call **Pat Johnson** (619-4943) or **Monine Stebbins** (754-8039).

CONSIDERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

There will be an evening Inquirers' Class on *October 2*, from 5:30-8:30. Dinner will be provided at the home of **Ann and John Hawkins**, 2910 NW Taft, Corvallis. Let the church office know if you plan to attend and if you need child care that evening.

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*.

<p>WATCH FOR CHILI COOK-OFF RESULTS NEXT WEEK!</p>
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More Stars for the Heavenly Crowns

... of Grounds Crew members **Dale**



Kirk, Susie O'Shea and Wayne Phillips, who continue to keep the church lawns and garden areas beautifully groomed. They are

assisted by deputy lawn rangers **Joe Chambers, John Hawkins and Sho Kimura**. Our thanks to all!!

WOMEN'S CAMP IS COMING SOON!

Blue registration forms for UCC Women's Camp are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hal. "Lessons of the Spirit: From Our Church Mothers" will be led by the Rev. **Dana McBrien** of Salem during the *October 7-9* weekend at Camp Adams. Pre-registration fee is \$50 with \$35 due on arrival at camp. The deadline for registration is *October 2*.

Especially invited this year are mothers and daughters (middle and high school age). Forms for financial assistance from the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Fund are available in the church office. Carpools will be formed from Corvallis. The retreat begins with Friday night dinner and ends with Sunday brunch.

CARE AND CONCERN LIST STILL HAS ROOM FOR YOU

Thank you! The web of caring within our community is growing, thanks to those that filled out the recent bulletin inserts. If you didn't get a chance to volunteer to help with emergency meals, companionship, housekeeping, or Sunday morning transportation, please call **Ann** in the church office to find your place in the web!

TTT

One area we still have a need is in Sunday morning transportation. **Doris Sherry** receives requests for rides to/from Adult Education or worship, then she matches those requests with someone in the same part of town. She has a need for drivers on a regular basis, but she also needs drivers to substitute

occasionally, when the regular driver is out of town. Would you be willing to have an extra passenger once a month or so? Please call **Ann** to let her know that you would like to help out.

TTT

A big thanks to the folks who have provided transportation in the last few months to those of our member who would otherwise have been unable to attend worship service or keep a doctor's appointment: **Jean and Hokie Adams, Wally Christianson, John Hawkins, Harold and Charlene Hunter, Alice Morrow, Peter and Susie Nelson, Kristin Rorrer, Doris Sherry, Tammy Skubinna, and Caroline Zaworski.**

JOIN THE CAMP ADAMS PRAYER AND WORK PARTY

A gathering of CPC members is scheduled at Camp Adams on *November 18 and 19* to pray and work on the prayer path (labyrinth) so that it is usable once again. The plan is to gather for dinner on Friday, and spend the evening in fellowship and silent prayer. On Saturday participants will alternate between prayer and work on the path, and then leave mid-afternoon. Housing is in Opsund Cabin. There is no charge to participate—just call Vivian Hiestand (503-357-9110) so she can coordinate the food for everyone.

Dear Friends of
First Congregational UCC,

I want you all to know that it was a great joy and pleasure for me that I was privileged to be your "interim" organist for almost three years. The spirit of friendliness and acceptance was always evident and greatly appreciated. Working with Liz and Ryan and all the staff was a real lesson in how the leadership in a Christian community of faith should function. Your music ministry with Steve and Kristin leading is a great and wonderful asset to your worship and it is my hope to share it with you frequently. You provided for me another wonderful church home. Thank you all and God bless you.

Sincerely, Myles Criss

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 25th 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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Peter Banwarth 10/1, Ray William 10/1, Douglas Pentland 10/3, Patrick Yun 10/3, Kiko Kimura 10/4, Beth Riley 10/6, Mary Vedaa 10/7, Kay Harris 10/7, Terry Robertson 10/9, Neal Peterson 10/9, Beth Christianson 10/9, Luke Elbinger 10/11, Irwin Harris 10/12, John Koch 10/13, Robin Frojen 10/14, Karen Miller 10/15, Rose Christianson 10/16, George Mueller-Warrant 10/19, Nancye Ballard 10/19, Doug Richmond 10/21, Sean Skyllingstad 10/21, Emily Chi 10/24, Chris Koch 10/25, Chase Cochran 10/25, Nancy Groesz 10/27, Eric Hall 10/28, Ella Rader 10/29, Hokie Adams 10/30, Alan Holcombe 10/30, Julie Rorrer 10/31



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Cliff and JoAnne Trow 10/10 36th

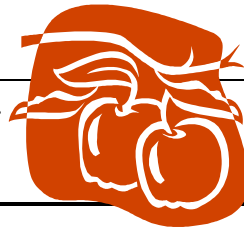
Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Christine Storm** and her family. **Marvene Storm**, Christine's step-mother, died this past Saturday.



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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 27.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, September 24

- 10:00-6:00 Craft Fair at First Christian for PCC
- 1:00 p.m. Peace Rally, Monteith Park, Albany

Sunday, September 25

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:00-6:00 Craft Fair at First Christian for PCC
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
- 6:45 p.m. High School youth

Monday, September 26

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

Tuesday, September 27

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, September 28

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

Thursday, September 29

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee

Friday, September 30
 Youth 24-hour fast

LOOKING AHEAD: *October 7-9: UCC Women's Camp at Camp Adams; October 2: Mission Fest*

THANKS

...to **Ed Miller** and **Bart Eleveld**, who modified the pews in the choir loft to provide greater comfort and support for sitting and for singing. And they did it all while the seats were out for re-padding, so the choir is sitting pretty.