



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

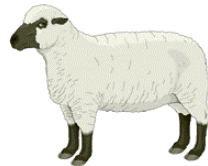
Vol. XLIV, No. 36

October 14, 2005

## A MESSAGE TO THE FLOCK

Stewardship season is coming, our annual opportunity to support this church that gives us so much. This year, as well as making pledges to the church's annual budget, you will also be given the opportunity to pledge support to the Central Pacific Conference's Widening Our Welcome (WOW!) campaign. Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about both the needs of the church and the WOW campaign. We hope you will save the date of *October 30* after church to enjoy a "camp lunch" and a special program about WOW's support for our Conference camps and new church starts.

Your Stewardship Committee believes that making our pledges should be a joyful (and even fun!) event that builds our community. This year, we have come up with a new process for making pledges. We call it "Each One Meet One...Every Sheep Counts!" We will be matching up the members of the First Congregational "flock" in pairs of family units. Each twosome will arrange a time



to meet, to talk about the church, and to make your pledges. Then you will bring your completed pledges to worship on *Sunday, November 20*, where we will celebrate and give thanks for the gifts of this community. If you can't be at worship that day, you can give your sealed pledge envelope to your new "sheep friend" to bring for you. A group of 15 particularly pastoral individuals will serve as "shepherds," guiding their small "flocks" through this process, answering questions, making sure that all pairs are able to meet and make their pledges.

You're going to be hearing a lot of sheep language from us in the next sev-  
*(continued on page 6)*

## THIS SUNDAY

**Adult Forum:** Nancy and Pete Klingeman will report on the UCC General Synod in Atlanta, July 2005

**Scriptures:** Exodus 33:12-23  
Matthew 22:15-25

**Sermon:** "From Out the Cleft  
of the Rock"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

On the news tonight, I watched the footage of the earthquake in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. I was sobered by the report. Twenty thousand known dead, at least double that probably dead, infrastructure destroyed, refugees everywhere.

Like many of the rest of you, I could not help but reflect back on the American experience with Hurricane Katrina. Here we are, the richest nation in the world, and we know first hand the devastation following the wake of the hurricane, the enormous cost in property, lives displaced, and health hazards. The problems seem insurmountable to us as we seek to rebuild on the gulf coast, despite our ability to mobilize more resources of all kinds than any country in the world..

There is something disquieting about comparing the magnitude of disasters, to say that one particular disaster is X times greater in magnitude than another; for those affected in any disaster, it is a nightmare. That being said, we need to be aware that the earthquake affects significantly more lives than Katrina—this in countries with severely limited resources, fragile infrastructure, minimal health care. If there is any good that has come out of our recent brush with catastrophic disaster, I hope it is that when we see disasters elsewhere, we understand better, we empathize more, we are more willing to help. Ways to contribute to earthquake relief follow below. It seems like a lot, when we have just made substantial contributions for the victims of Katrina, to give again for victims on the other side of the world. However, I hope we rise to this challenge.

There is so much of sadness and suffering in the world. This is not a revelation, but I am more aware of it these days. The world seems a very small and fragile place, and my life in comparison seems ridiculously easy and privileged. I pray that God give us the compassion and wisdom to be grateful for our abundance, to keep our eyes open even when it is hard, and to work for solutions in small and large ways.

**Liz**

**THE UCC RESPONDS  
TO EARTHQUAKE**

In response to the earthquake earlier this week, the UCC has provided an initial gift of \$20,000 from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to Church World Service, and an additional grant of \$5,000 to the National Council of

Churches in Pakistan. The funds will be used for medicine, tents, clothes, blankets and clean water. Our contributions may be made to First Congregational Church, Corvallis, marked for “International Emergency Fund-Pakistan earthquake.” The checks will be forwarded through the Conference Office.



There is no youth group this week due to the **Holy Sox game** in Portland. However, youth are invited to join in the trek up to Portland to see this battle for

Central Pacific Conference bragging rights. If you are interested, please contact **Ryan** so we have enough seats!

The **Fall Youth Event (FYE)** is a gathering of youth from across the Central Pacific Conference that is coming up on *November 4-6*. FYE will be at Bethel Congregational UCC in Beaverton this year and for only \$40 (scholarships are available!) you can explore the theme "Musique: Living Life's Beat . . . y'all." This event is open to all high school youth, but forms are due by October 26. If you would like to go, pick up a registration form from Ryan or e-mail to [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com) for more details.

### **NEW PEW-END CANDLE STANDARDS ARE COMING!**

The Diaconate and Worship Committee are pleased to share that we will have new pew-end candle standards for Christmas this year. Safety concerns with the old pew-end standards have increased in the past several years. These new standards, made possible by the **Eva Rickert** bequest, will address those safety concerns. The standards are being crafted by a local woodworker, Brian Krabill of Halsey. Look for a special

preview of the new standards at the All Saints Day service on *October 30* and a full display Christmas Eve. Our old standards will still be used at Easter with the flower bouquets.

**Sue Richmond,**  
Worship Committee Chair

### **HEALTH MINISTRY LOOKS AHEAD**

The Health Committee welcomes new members and we move forward to encourage family and congregation preparation for natural disaster, like flood or earthquake. We'd like to promote the idea of congregational members who live in neighboring areas assisting each other in the event of disaster as well as optimum preparedness for waiting out difficult weather conditions at home. If you'd like to plan, organize or explore other ideas to address health needs, please join us at our first meeting, *October 23*, right after worship in the library. If you have questions, call **Eileen Marma** (753-0540).

**QUARTERLY FINANCIAL GIVING RECORDS** are available and will be on the name tag table this Sunday for pickup.

### **POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP**

The discussion group will meet this *Sunday, October 16*, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of **Ann and John Hawkins**, 2910 NW Taft Ave. Anyone is welcome.

## MEN'S SPIRITUALITY MEETS

The Men's Spirituality Group will meet in the Fireplace Room on *October 20* at 7:30 pm. Men of all ages are invited to join us for a time of worship, fellowship, and conversation. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com).

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ,

*God Is Still Seeking Racial Justice!*

As chair of both our Just Peace Committee and the Central Pacific Conference UCC Justice & Witness Ministry Team, I want everyone to be aware of an extraordinary opportunity to connect with issues of racial justice. Some of you may have already read about the upcoming National Convocation to be held in Portland *November 10-13*. The event entitled "God is Still Seeking Racial Justice" will feature many powerful voices including Rosemary Maxey who spoke at the Kahneeta women's retreat and our former national UCC President Paul Sherry. The Thursday events will address "The Journey Past," "The Present," and "The Future." The Friday and Saturday program format is a proclamation of justice through the arts which promises to be a very rich experience for everyone. Throughout the convocation, programming for youth and children will also be very engaging.

The planning team for this event is very excited about the opportunity that this convocation will provide to look

critically at how God is still seeking racial justice. The event is also a time to honor the retirement of Hector Lopez who, in addition to being the CPC Co-Conference Minister with Gene Ross for many years, served the larger United Church of Christ in many capacities throughout his ministry with a strong focus on racial justice.

I encourage you to consider participating in this extraordinary opportunity.

Sincerely,

**Aleita Hass-Holcombe**

More information about registering for the convocation can be found at [www.cpcucc.org](http://www.cpcucc.org)

**SUBLET WANTED:** We are looking for a sublet apartment for 3-6 months in early 2006 for Isaac's U.S. grandmother. She is a working artist thinking about moving closer to family. Preferably, the apartment would be within walking distance of downtown Corvallis or within an easy bus ride. Contact **Hannah Field** if you can help (phone number available from the church office).

## SALEM PEACE LECTURE

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Salem Peace Lecture will be presented on *Wednesday, October 19*, at 7:30 p.m. in Hudson Hall in the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center of Willamette University. It is open to the public at no charge.

This year's speaker is **Phyllis Benis**, a senior analyst at the Institute for Policy Studies and a fellow of the Trans-

national Institute in Amsterdam. She has been a writer, analyst, and activist on Middle East and UN issues. Her talk is titled "Challenging Empire: How People, Governments and the UN Are Defying U.S. Power."

### CHAMBER MUSIC OF MOZART AT ARTCENTRIC

On *Sunday, October 16*, at 4:00 p.m., ArtCentric presents **Chamber Music of Mozart**. The event, produced in conjunction with ArtCentric's **Music Made Visible: Neil Jussila** exhibit, features **Rachelle McCabe**, piano; **Jessica Lambert**, violin **Sila Cevikce Saman**, piano; **Anne Ridlington**, cello; and **Nathan Reiman**, viola.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at ArtCentric, 700 SW Madison (754-1551) or at Grass Roots Books & Music. Any remaining tickets will be sold at Art Centric's doors beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at ArtCentric on Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday at Grass Roots Bookstore from 11:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. Seating is limited to approximately 100 people.

### R.E.A.D. WORKSHOP

A **Reading Education Assistance Dogs** information and training workshop is scheduled for *Saturday, October 22*, at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library in the Main Meeting Room. **Session 1: Getting Started** is an introduction to the R.E.A.D. program: Learn how

to become a part of the program for helping children improve their reading skills and find out if your dog has what it takes to be part of a R.E.A.D. team. **Session 2: Training** is for R.E.A.D. Handlers. Hours are 12:45-4:00 p.m. For further information call Barbara Keelen (928-7658) or check the foyer bulletin board.

### TWO-TWO-TWO CONCERTS IN ONE!

On *Sunday, October 23*, Fourth Sundays at Four offers a pair of musical performances. At 2:00 p.m. in Simpson Hall of Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Corvallis, the Con Grazia Wind quintet will present an interactive 50-minute performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* for children of all ages and their parents. An adult should accompany children under age 10

At 4:00, the quintet will present a concert of musical favorites for woodwind quintet. The group was formed in 1995 by wind players of the Oregon Chamber Players.

The performance is free, but financial contributions for the support of the series are gratefully accepted.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

... continue to be with **John Koch** and his brother **Richard**, gravely ill in Los Angeles;

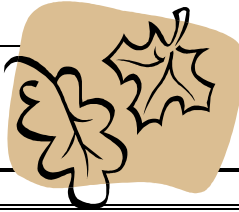
... and with **Molly Chambers** and her family, following the death of her sister and niece.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 18.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, October 16*

9:30 a.m. C E classes  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
**3:00 p.m. Soft ball game: Holy Sox vs. Bridgeport UCC in Portland**

*Monday, October 17*

5:30 p.m. Basketball  
 6:30 p.m. Youth Committee, Conference Room  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1  
 7:30 p.m. C E Board, Conf. Rm.

*Tuesday, October 18*

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

*Wednesday, October 19*

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

*Thursday, October 20*

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

7:30 p.m. Men's Spirituality Group, Fireplace Rm.  
 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee  
 Conference Room

**STEWARDSHIP from page 1**

ral weeks. Just remember, sheep are very intelligent animals, fiercely loyal to their flock and to their particular shepherds! More random sheep facts to follow. And more details about our Stewardship process this year. Have fun, and give the flock your full support!

**Bob Stebbins, Beth Riley, Liz Oettinger, and Norm Vedaa**  
 Shepherds-in-Charge  
 (aka your Stewardship Committee)

**K a m p K u d o s**

... to all the women who made last weekend's Women's Camp so wonderful—including **Kristin Rorrer, Beth Ri-**

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**ley, Priscilla Zaworski** and especially  
**Nancy Klingeman.**