



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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October 21, 2005



TRY OUT FOR “MARY’S HEART”

This year at Christmastime, the church will again be mounting several performances of “Mary’s Heart.” For those of you who have joined the church in the past five years, “Mary’s Heart” is a 50-minute Christmas play, written by **Liz Oettinger**, and directed by Liz with assistance from **Jean Heath**. The play will be performed *Thursday, December 22* at 3:00 p.m., *Friday, December 23* at 7:30 p.m., and *Saturday, December 24* at the 5:30 worship service.

The play includes acting parts for adults and children, a children’s choir, and an adult choir. We will be having try-outs for the acting parts on *Wednesday, November 2* from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Just show up any time in that time frame, and you can audition. Scripts and a preliminary rehearsal schedule will be available on *Sunday, October 30*. Jean Heath will be playing the lead role as the older Mary; however, we are interested in finding an understudy for that part—it is a highly demanding role. We need

high school or college-aged actors to play young Mary and Joseph. There are 6 small speaking parts for children fourth grade and above (these children can also be in the children’s choir); and adult
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NEW MEMBERS THIS SUNDAY!

During the worship service this Sunday, we will receive new members. A reception will follow. Join us as we welcome these folks into the life of our church.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: There will be a presentation by **Lon Rycraft** and **Christine Storm** on their 11 years of work and service on the island of Molokai at Kalaupapa. A short 15-minute video will be shown as part of their presentation.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon: “The Greatest
Commandment”
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Mailings, and newsletter articles, and presentations—oh my! We have once again arrived at the time of our stewardship campaign and thus the onslaught of information is headed your way. We are aware of how much information we are giving to you as we simultaneously begin the stewardship campaign to underwrite the 2006 budget for First Congregational Church AND ask people to give serious consideration to contributing to the (CPC) Central Pacific Conference's Widening our Welcome (WOW!) campaign. Although thinking about two stewardship campaigns is a bit overwhelming, it is important that we support the WOW! Campaign and join with the other Central Pacific Conference churches in support the long-term ministry needs of our conference camps and current and future new church starts.

The WOW! Campaign is a capital campaign to be used for building and modernizing camp facilities and helping to facilitate new church starts across our conference. Much like the 21st Century Campaign that allowed us to add an elevator, meeting room and chapel, and designated music room, the WOW! campaign is designed as an "over and above" campaign. By this we mean that we ask that you consider gifts to the WOW! Campaign as gifts beyond your annual pledge to First Congregational Church. Just like gifts received for the 21st Century Campaign, the WOW! Campaign anticipates gifts being paid over time; in this case three years. One additional opportunity of this campaign is to designate where you would like your funds used, which therefore allows you to choose to have your gifts specifically at Camp Adams or for new church starts. Capital campaigns often set goals for constituency groups; the goal that the conference has offered for our congregation is \$100,000. Thanks to an earlier gift we have already contributed \$10,000 and thus have a wonderful start. The next faithful step is ours!

In an effort to get us thinking about that next step, about the ministry at Camp Adams, and the importance of new church starts, we are having a Camp Lunch and WOW! Campaign presentation after worship on October 30th. A typical camp menu will be served, and Rev. Susan Leo, from the Bridgeport UCC in Portland will speak about her experience starting the Bridgeport church. Plan to join us for a wonderfully fun meal and a whole lot of information and fellowship!

Thank you for your ongoing stewardship for this congregation and the ministries we support. As we look toward another year let us dream together about the places where our shared ministry will take us – to new programs in our building, to new things at Camp Adams, to new congregations...

Blessings to you all, **Ryan**



Please remember that the conference's **Fall Youth Event** (forms should have arrived in the mail) is in Beaverton, *November 4-6*. Please send your forms in and let **Ryan** know you are going so that we can arrange enough transportation. Scholarship funds are available to help with the \$40 event fee, please contact Ryan for information.

The "Fast that Lasts," a 24-hour fast and hunger education event has been re-scheduled for *November 13-14*. We will begin our fast after Soup and Bread on the 13th, fast together through the afternoon and evening, sleep over at the church, and break our fast with a late brunch on Monday about 1:00 pm. There is no school for middle and high school students that day and we encourage all youth to participate in this important event that will help us come to a greater understanding of local and global hunger issues.

Finally, this week we once again have youth groups on Sunday night. Middle School will meet from 4:30-6:30 and High School will meet from 6:45-8:45. Call Ryan at the church or e-mail rylamb@yahoo.com if you have questions.

"MARY'S HEART" from page 1 roles for both men and women. If you wish to try-out for a part, but absolutely

can not make it on *November 2*, call Liz or Jean.

Along with actors and singers, we will need volunteers to work with sets, costumes, make-up, and lighting. So find your inner thespian and be a part of "Mary's Heart"!

SIGN UP FOR WOW! LUNCH AND PROGRAM

Come, enjoy great food and fellowship, and a chance to learn more about the Central Pacific Conference's **Widening our Welcome!** campaign! On *Sunday, October 30* after worship, the Stewardship Committee has put together a fun and informative program to acquaint you with the Conference WOW! campaign. **Ryan** and **Shauna Lambert** will be heading the cooking crew making the best camp lunch ever! The Rev. **Susan Leo**, Pastor of Bridgeport United Church of Christ in Portland, will be our guest speaker. She is an exciting and charismatic leader, and pastor of one of our Conference's flourishing new church starts. You will also have a chance to sing camp songs, and hear members of our congregation share some thoughts on the ministry of Camp Adams, another major recipient of WOW! funds. Please sign up this Sunday or call the church office if you can attend so that we know how many to cook for. WOW! It will be a great event.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO HEAR UCC SYNOD REPORT

UCC Synod made the news this year with their support of same sex marriage. **Nancy** and **Pete Klingeman** were visitors at Synod. Nancy will share an exciting video and some insights into the business of the United Church of Christ. She will also talk about the upcoming National Women's Meeting "Mix in '06," to be held in June at Indianapolis, Indiana. Come to the Women's Fellowship luncheon on *Wednesday, November 2* for an interesting report on the national church scene.

Lunch (\$4) will be served in Gatton Hall promptly at noon, so come a little early to visit. The program will be in the Meeting Hall at 1:00. Child care or transportation can be arranged if you let us know in advance. Sign up in the foyer at church this Sunday or next – or call the church office. If you have questions, call **Pat Johnson** (619-4943) or **Monine Stebbins** (754-8039).



CONFUSED ABOUT MEDICARE RX PLANS?

I am taking the training necessary to help you enroll in the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. Enrollment begins in mid-November and runs through May of 2006. It is an on-line enrollment process which can be confusing. I will be happy to set up individual appointments to help you with this process, in addition to the times that I and other volunteers will be

available at the Senior Center and other locations. Call me or the church office to let me know that you are interested.

Caroline Zaworski, Parish Nurse

WHAT IS THE PRC??

The **PRC** or **Pastoral Relations Committee** is a three-person committee of the Diaconate board. The purpose of the PRC is to provide a supportive "space" for the clergy to discuss church issues or plans AND to provide another path for the congregation to raise concerns about the clergy and/or church. As might be expected, the business of the PRC generally remains confidential. The current members of the PRC are **Alice Sperling**, **Pete Nelson** and **Doug Richmond** (chair). One major responsibility of the PRC is the annual performance evaluation of the clergy. In May we surveyed the congregation on **Ryan's** performance during the prior year and used that data as the basis for his evaluation. **Liz** was just completing her sabbatical and we chose to not evaluate her. While this is very late, the PRC thanks those of you who sent in your surveys on Ryan's performance. Please keep the PRC in mind if you have concerns or questions about the church or clergy that you would like to voice. You may contact any member of the PRC to initiate this process.

GIFTS FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

We received a gift of nearly \$900 from the Takarazuka Church (our partner

church) for emergency USA Hurricane Relief. Also, members of our own congregation contributed over \$4,700 to aid hurricane victims.

AWARD WINNING AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT CORVALLIS PFLAG

Robert Bernstein, an award-winning author of a earlier book about families with gay children, will appear at the Methodist Church in the Martha Room at 7:00 p.m. on *October 24* He will read from his new book, *Families of Values: Personal Profiles of Pioneering Lesbian and Gay Parents.*

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered People) Monthly meeting *Monday, October 24*, doors open at 6:45. First United Methodist Church, 1165 N.W. Monroe Ave., Corvallis. Meetings are open to the public. Questions? Call 231-9598.

CORVALLIS WOMEN ATTENDED CAMP

Twenty-three women from our church recently attended the retreat at Camp Adams which was sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference women. Many thanks to **Beth Riley** and **Kristin Rorrer**, our music team, and to **Priscilla Zaworski** and **Doris Sherry**, who presented Morning Watch. Others who experience the weekend were: **Teresa Bodwell**, **Chris Cantey**, **Pat Johnson**, **Katherine Keniston**, **Nancy Klingeman**, **Eleanor MacDonald**, **Alice Mills Morrow**, **Bettie Muckleston**, **Andrea**

Mueller-Warrant, **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant**, **Joan Overturf**, **Joan Pelto**, **Dorothy Price**, **Winbourne Ranney**, **Julie Rorrer**, **Mary Seeman**, **Tammy Skubinna**, **Monine Stebbins**, and **Bev Whitmore**. Check with any of them to find out what they learned about Christian women leaders of the first three centuries. Thanks, also, to Monine who brought a box of apples to share!

INDIANA SCHOOL SAYS THANKS

We have received a thank-you letter from the Crossroads School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the "Labels for Education" we collected and sent to them. These labels are still being collected, so you can put them in the second drawer at the office end of the nametag cupboard.

The **Corvallis Repertory Singers**, under the direction of **Steven Zielke**, will perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt* with soloists and orchestra, at the First Presbyterian Church on *Sunday, October 30*. The church address is 114 SW 8th Street, Corvallis. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Concert tickets are \$15/adults and \$4/students, and are sold at Scandinavian Trading Co., Grass Roots Books, Beard Frame Shop in Timberhill, and Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany. Season tickets (for all four concerts) are \$40/adults and \$8/high school or college students.





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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 14.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, October 22

9:00-5:00 CPC Fall Gathering, Portland
 9:00-5:00 Creation Celebration,
 First United Methodist

Sunday, October 23

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Health Ministry,
Room 8
Noon Shepherd training 1, Library
 Noon Sanctuary Choir and
 potluck, Fireplace
 Rm.
 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
 6:45 p.m. High School youth

Monday, October 24

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

Tuesday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation

7:15 p.m. Church Council,
 Library

Wednesday, October 26

7:15 p.m. Breakfast Group
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir begins, Music Room

7:00 p.m. Endowment Board,
 Conference Room

Thursday, October 27

11:00 a.m. Spirit Group
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
7:30 p.m. Shepherd training 2, Library

LOOKING AHEAD: *October 30:* All Saints' Sunday with performance of Mozart's *Requiem* during worship; *November 6:* Stewardship Sunday/Laity Sunday; *November 20:* All-church Thanksgiving Dinner (following worship and the dedication of pledges)