



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIV, No. 45

December 16, 2005



## **MARY'S HEART THIS WEEK**

*Mary's Heart*, a short play written by **Elizabeth Oettinger** and starring **Jean Heath**, will be performed in our sanctuary on *Thursday, December 22* at 3:00 p.m., *Friday, December 23* at 8:00 p.m., and as part of the early worship service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. A free-will offering goes to Community Outreach.

## **DEADLINE FOR 2005 GIVING**

Financial books will close on *January 1, 2006*. We gratefully receive your donations anytime, but if you want a contribution on your 2005 Giving Statement, it must be physically at the church no later than *Sunday, January 1, 2006* and dated by *December 31, 2005*. Do your treasurers a favor and turn in requests for reimbursement of 2005 expenses now! After reporting strong October income, we had a weak November. If we have a good December, we can still end the year without a deficit, but it will take all of us doing what we can to complete our pledges.

**Verlyne Phillips**

## **ELECTRONIC DONATIONS NOW AN OPTION**

Beginning in January, the church will be offering the opportunity for you to make your regular donations to the church by electronic transfer from your bank account or credit card. This program is entirely voluntary and is being set up because of interest expressed by members of the congregation. A packet containing an explanation of how the program works and an application form is being sent to all households in the church. If you wish to participate starting in January, please return the completed application to the church office by *December 20*. Contact me with questions at 758-5307 or 760-7437.

**Jim Cantey**

## **THIS SUNDAY**

**Adult Forum:** This year's final "Faith Journey" will be by **Peggy Carrick**. Join us at 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

**Scriptures:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11  
Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon:** Elizabeth Oettinger

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

Dear Friends,

There has been a flurry of activity taking place in the sanctuary recently as preparations for the performances of *Mary's Heart* reach a fever pitch. Most nights you can enter the sanctuary and see actors running lines, trying to hit their marks. Others can be seen muttering their lines to themselves. The props and sets are being assembled. Lighting is being tucked away in "heaven" above the narthex. Ready or not, the opening matinee on December 22 is near at hand.

As I sat in on last Sunday's rehearsal I was very much aware of the way that *Mary's Heart* offers a new way to hear the story of the birth of Jesus. As I sat watching the rehearsal this retelling of Christ's birth invigorated me because it offered a new view of a story that I've heard so many times. And so I encourage all of you to set aside a time to see *Mary's Heart* as you prepare for Christmas. Come to hear the familiar story of Christ's birth as it comes alive in a new way.

Another reason to take in a performance of *Mary's Heart* is that all performances will benefit Community Outreach. Community Outreach is our local safety net offering food, shelter, housing assistance, mental health care, and more to 90,000 client contacts every year. Community Outreach is continually seeing more need within our community and the offerings taken during the *Mary's Heart* performances will help them meet the needs of our community members. This is a great opportunity to add meaning to this Christmas season and make a difference in the lives of others this holiday. Invite your friends and neighbors to this wonderful play and this wonderful opportunity to share.

Blessings,

**Ryan**



**PLAN AHEAD FOR GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS**

Again this year **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** and her friend **Zoe** are selling "great stocking stuffers" alias packages of dry soup mixes. The proceeds go to South Corvallis Food Bank, formerly known as the Tunison Food Bank.

These Stone Soup packages were on sale at Gifts For A Better World and also

at several Holiday Events, including our own Advent Festival. Thank you to those who have already purchased a package. For those of you who may have missed these opportunities, Aleita will have the soups available in Gatton Hall this *Sunday, December 18*.

Please consider getting some for your own consumption as well as for stocking stuffers or just nice gifts for the always-hard-to-by-for folks on your list.



The **Middle School** and **High School** youth groups will have a Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange at the Chambers home on *Sunday, December 18*, at 6:30 pm. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift, a pair or two of new men's socks to be donated to Circle of Hope, and a snack to share with the group. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com) for details.

### REMEMBER THE GIVING TREE

The small Christmas tree in the foyer invites you to take an ornament from the basket to hang on its branches and to leave a donation in the basket there. Funds raised benefit the Vina Moses Center and the needy families it serves.



### CHURCH PHOTO COPIES, RE-DOS AVAILABLE

For those of you for whom I have taken church photos: if you wish to re-do the photo for any reason, please let me know. If you are unhappy with your expression, lighting, clothing choice or whatever, let me know and we can try again.

Also, should you want a print or a copy of the file just let me know. The easiest thing for me is to email the digital

file to you and you can then send it electronically or get as many prints made as you wish. I enjoy the project.

**Mark Thackray**

### MEN'S RETREAT DEADLINE IS APPROACHING

We are putting together carpools to attend the men's retreat at Pilgrim Firs near Port Orchard, WA on *February 3-5*. The theme of the retreat is "Conflict, Courage, and Commitment in the Context of our Lives." The cost is \$85 if postmarked by *December 31*.

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC sponsors this retreat, and retreat leaders include pastor/musician Tom Hunter and chaplain Alan Johnson. There will be around 120 men at the retreat that will offer times of fellowship, reflection, and laughter. **Ryan Lambert** has registration forms if you are interested.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the **Lucker** family. **Steve's** mother, **Catherine**, died on December 8 in Salem. A memorial service will be held in our chapel on *Friday, December 16* at 2:00 p.m.

... and with **Priscilla Zaworski**, recovering from a shoulder injury;

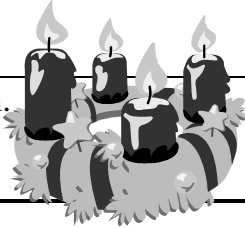
... and with **Betty Johnson**, recovering from a shoulder fracture;

... and with **Robin Frojen**, who father, **Bob**, died on December 11 in Los Angeles.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)  
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR  
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
 Congregational News, 4515 S.W. West Hills Rd.  
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly  
 except twice a month in July and August by

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**  
 4515 S.W. West Hills Road  
 Corvallis, OR 97333-3925



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, December 20.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, December 18*

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Occasional Congrega-  
tional Orchestra
- (following) Children's Choir
- 2:30-5:00 *Mary's Heart* re-  
hearsal-  
all participants
- 6:00 p.m. Youth white elephant  
Exchange (*see p. 3*)
- 7:30 p.m. Corvallis Repertory  
Singers, Sanctuary

*Monday, December 19*

- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:00-9:00 *Mary's Heart*-cast only
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1  
**NO** C E Board

*Tuesday, December 20*

- 9:00 a.m. Staff  
**NO** Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:00-9:00 *Mary's Heart*- cast  
only

*Wednesday, December 21*

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:00-9:30 *Mary's Heart-all*
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, December 22*

- 1:30 p.m. *Mary's Heart* cast
- 2:00 p.m. *Mary's Heart* choirs
- 3:00 p.m. *Mary's Heart* (first  
performance)**

*Friday, December 23*

- 6:30 p.m. *Mary's Heart* cast
- 7:30 p.m. *Mary's Heart* choirs
- 8:00 p.m. *Mary's Heart*  
performance**

**Corvallis Repertory Sing-**

**ers** offer carols at 7:30 p.m. this *Sunday, December 18*, in our sanctuary. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$4 for students, at Scandinavian Trading Company, Grass Roots Books Beard Frame Shop in Timberhill, and Sid Stevens in Albany. Car pooling is encouraged.

