



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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December 30, 2005

MYLES, ADAM OFFER MUSIC FOR NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY

Welcome back to **Myles Criss**, who will be our guest organist this Sunday while **Kristin** enjoys a well-earned week off with her family in Michigan. Tenor **Adam Grieve** will sing "O Holy Night."

FINANCIAL BOOK CLOSING

Pledges for 2005 must be physically be at the church by this *Sunday, January 1*, to be included on 2005 Giving Statements. Any 2005 contributions must be dated no later than *December 31*.



EPIPHANY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Beginning *Sunday, January 8*, our sanctuary will be filled with the work of artists in our congregation as well as the wider community. All artists of First Congregational Church are welcome to display their work at this year's show. Hanging day is *January 7*. All two-dimensional work must be ready to hang, preferably framed. Three-dimensional works should be ready to display on a table or pedestal. Please write the title, medium, artist's name, price or insurance

value on a slip of paper. Work must be at the church by 9:00 a.m. *Saturday January 7*.

Also, we are looking for help in hanging the show. Please contact **Karen French** (740-3491) if you are available Saturday morning to help hang the show.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 22

UN-HANGING OF THE GREENS

After worship on *Sunday, January 1*, help is needed to take down the greens and trees from around the building. Many hands make for quick work. Please plan to stay for a short time after worship and help "de-deck" the halls! Thank you!

THIS SUNDAY

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Luke 2: 22-40
Galatians 4: 4-7
Sermon: "Still Going..."
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas filled with joy and celebration. As I write on Tuesday afternoon I do so still enjoying the glow of Christmas, even if you wouldn't know it by looking at our house. Due to some home construction, our Christmas tree was on the curb by 11 a.m. on Monday. At our house it was a quick turn around as we moved rather seamlessly from a leisurely Christmas night to beginning a major kitchen remodel on December 26. Although it was a bit more abrupt than usual this year, I always struggle with what to do in the days after Christmas. How do I keep the spirit and joy of Christmas alive when there is a whole new list of tasks rising up on the "to do" list? Do I have time to linger with Jesus in the stable? Last year I remember being ushered quickly out of Christmas by the scope of the tsunami disaster. Thankfully nothing of that sort has jolted the Christmas hymns from my mind, but this year drywall dust and appliance decisions have had the same effect. Whatever it is, it seems that life does in fact continue at a brisk pace immediately after Christmas.

When we gather for worship on Sunday we will do so for the first time in the year 2006. Not only will Christmas be gone, but we will be into a new year as well. The beginning of the new year always provides a natural time to look back on what has been accomplished and look ahead with an eye toward what is possible. Due to the workings of the calendar it isn't often that we worship together on January 1, which is too bad, I think, because it seems that worshiping together and sharing a meal at Christ's table is the perfect way to welcome a new year and continue to celebrate the blessings brought by the Christ child's birth. As we move together through Advent our energies are focused largely on getting to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, which always seems to be at odds with the reality of Christ's birth. Christmas is one of the most holy beginnings ever known, yet we remain there for precious little time.

On this New Year's Sunday we celebrate the beginning of the calendar year with the image of Christ's birth fresh upon our hearts. We will celebrate by looking back as we begin worship with a hymn sing so that we can sing our favorite Christmas hymns one more time. We will also read from Luke's gospel about Jesus being presented in the temple and beginning to grow up. Time, it seems, waits for no one, even Jesus.

Happy New Year to everyone! May you find peace and joy in the journey from the stable into 2006.

Ryan

NO CHURCH SCHOOL THIS WEEK

Church school for all ages will return again beginning on *January 8*.

CHECK OUT THE ORIGINAL!

Have you seen the new “Narnia” movie? The church library has the complete set of the Narnia series by C. S. Lewis in the children’s section for anyone who wants to follow up on the film.

Flowery thanks

...to the following people who also donated to the Flower Fund, in addition to those listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins: **Beth and Wally Christianson; Cliff and Jo Anne Trow; Ginny White, Susan Wickes**, in memory of her father, **Clare Monroe**, and her aunt, **Adele Bauernfiend**

Warren Hovland wishes to offer his donation also in celebration of his son, **Jeremy**.

JOIN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP IN HAWAII

Come to Women’s Fellowship for a taste of Hawaii and an interesting talk by **Christine Storm and Lon Rycraft** on *Wednesday, January 4* at noon in the Fireplace Room. Lunch will be served promptly at noon, so come a little early to visit.

Lon was the UCC minister at Kalaupapa, Moloka’i. He and



Christine served a congregation in a very remote area that was established in 1865 to isolate people with leprosy in the Hawaiian Islands. We will learn about the congregation there, the history of the area and some information about the disease. Sign up in the lobby at church on *January 1* or call the office to make a reservation. If you would like transportation or child care, please call **Pat Johnson** (619-4943).

Dear Friends at First Congregational,

Many thanks for your generous outpouring gifts to Senior Meals/Meals on Wheels. \$1333 will go far toward helping a homebound/frail senior stay home during a time when preparing meals in a true chore and might not be a real meal.

I appreciate your dedication to helping agencies in our community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Janes, Site Manager



[above] Worship on Christmas Eve, led by **Elizabeth Oettinger**.

(Thanks to **Brian Lee** for the photo.)



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, December 30

Youth overnight ends

Sunday, January 1—New Year’s Day

NO Sanctuary Choir

NO C E classes

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) **Unhanging of Greens**

NO youth groups

Monday, January 2

Office closed

NO Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

6:15 p.m. Worship Committee

7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

Wednesday, January 4

Noon Women’s Fellowship
 lunch,

Fireplace Room

NO 40+ Basketball

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, January 6

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Burton’s

7:00 p.m. Bridge Group

LOOKING AHEAD: *Thursday, January 19:* Women’s Fellowship evening meeting features Reader’s Theater at 7:00 p.m.



TROOP SWIM SCHEDULED

The Boy Scouts of Troop 1 will swim at Osborne Aquatic Center from 1:00-4:00 on the afternoon of *Sunday, January 7.*

Important Reminder
 The Gatton Hall floor has been refinished and cannot be walked on until *January 7.*