



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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January 20, 2006

BUDGET MEETING SUNDAY

The Annual Budget Meeting will be held following worship this *Sunday, January 22* in the sanctuary. Church members will vote on the adoption of the new church operating budget and the Endowment Board budget.

STILL ROOM AT WINTER WEEKEND!



Winter Weekend is an intergenerational, family-friendly weekend of fun and fellowship, bringing folks together in the casual, relaxed atmosphere of a lodge at Suttle Lake. It is always from noon on Saturday to noon on Monday of President's weekend (this year *February 18-20*). The lodge has separate sleeping rooms, communal bathrooms and showers, and we all take a turn at creating and cleaning up a fabulous breakfast or dinner for the group. We'll have snow to play in and a tubing hill to slide down as well as HooDoo Ski Resort which is about 20 minutes away. Puzzles, board games and dominos are all popular ways to interact and get to know our fellow weekenders a little better. The lodge

holds about **45 people** and is comfortable and accessible for all ages and abilities.

There are a few spots left so if you think you'd be interested in a very laid-back, sweatshirt-and-slippers kind of weekend, be sure to sign up and pay your deposit (50%) soon, as it is on a first come/first serve basis. Two nights lodging is Adults (18+ years) \$45; Youth (13-18) \$36; Children (6-12) \$32; Children (2-5) \$21. Communal meals are paid for equally and run around \$8 per person for the weekend.

Sign-ups continue this *Sunday, January 22* before and after worship. Contact **Peggy Carrick** (754-9045) if you have questions.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: **Marsha Gulick** will speak about her trip to Viet Nam.

Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 3:10-4:3
Mark 1:16-20

Sermon: "And How Shall
We Respond?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I like to think it's a generational thing. I look at the difference between Ryan and me and how we use the Internet. Until this last year, I used it only for e-mail, shopping, and very occasionally for information. But, over time, watching Ryan go to websites to do his sermon prep, to find information, to interact with other ministers about issues of common concern, I have started wading into the vast theological information pool available online. Last night is a good example.

First, I went to visit Ryan's website: www.myblurredvision.com. I admire Ryan's commitment to think theologically in this public way, and I would recommend to all of you that you pay a visit to his site. From there, I went to my favorite religious blog: www.reallivepreacher.com. Roy Atkinson—a real live preacher—is pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas. He is liberal, progressive, funny, often irreverent, always thoughtful in his insights about religion, politics, and culture. Through his site, I got introduced to the online magazine *The Witness* www.thewitness.org and I also found out that one could read *The Christian Century*, the best basic liberal theological magazine, online www.christiancentury.org. When web wandering, I find myself going more often to the UCC website www.ucc.org. It contains all kinds of information about our denomination, also good links to other theological sites. Finally, I like to visit The Pluralism Project www.pluralism.org. Based in Boston, this organization is the brainchild of Diana Eck, a Harvard faculty member. It provides a wealth of resources about the religious diversity of the United States and a respectful look at all major world religions. If you have a question about Islam or Orthodox Judaism or Hindu rituals, this site is a great place to begin.

Some of you are already intrepid web surfers. You don't need my help to get started in the world of theological reflection online. But for the rest of you, try the above sites. Not only are they good in themselves, but they all have a variety of links to other sites.

I read last week that, though it is impossible to judge with any accuracy, up to 20%-30% of the Internet is populated by pornography sites! It made me want to support sites that deal in theological discourse all the more.

Have a thoughtful week.

Liz

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Norm Elwood** and Norm's father, **Morrie**, and mother, **Doris**. Doris is recovering from hip surgery in Arizona.



The **Souper Bowl of Caring** is a multi-denominational effort to use Super Bowl weekend as an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the hungry among us.

Our youth groups will participate this year by selling and preparing sandwiches for congregation members to pick up on Super Bowl Sunday (*February 5*). All profits will be donated to Linn-Benton Foodshare. Order your sandwiches and chips this week or next at the table in Gatton Hall and your Super Bowl party planning is well in hand!

There will be no youth group this week as **Ryan** will be on study leave in Berkeley, California, beginning Sunday afternoon. Youth groups will resume their normal schedule on *January 29*.

REMEMBER THE SOX BOX

Through the end of the month we are collecting socks for the clients in need at the Circle of Hope. Thank you to all who have donated so far, there is still time to add your donation of new “sox to the box.” As you can imagine, in our wet weather the need is great.

TAKARAZUKA: BE A PART OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Would you like to be involved in continuing to build our partnership with Takarazuka Church in Japan? Our Partnership Committee will be considering

plans to send a delegation from our church to visit our partner church. We will also look for areas of common interest where we can share experiences. Contact **Brian Lee** (bcline@peak.org or 758-4697) for further details.

ART CENTRIC IS WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Learn more about the arts in our community at our Women's Fellowship Luncheon on *February 1*. Lunch begins promptly at noon. A presentation by **Micki Reaman** of the Corvallis Art Center/Art Centric follows at 1:00 in the Meeting Hall. She will give us an overview of their offerings and programs here in Corvallis. Lunch is \$4.00—a bargain for the wonderful meal that will be served. If you need a ride to the luncheon or would like to have child care available, please contact **Pat Johnson** (619-4943) or **Monine Stebbins** (754-8039). You can sign up for the luncheon after church on the next two Sundays or call the office. We encourage reservations, but if at the last minute you find that you can join us, please do.

Congratulations!

...to this year's nominees for Corvallis First Citizen awards. They include three members of our congregation: **Tammy Skubinna**, 4-H coordinator and youth advocate; **Jean Mater**, business advocate, Girl Scout and Altrusa organizer; and **Bob Stebbins**, sister cities and youth services advocate.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 24.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 22

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Inquirers' Class,
Library
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Annual Budget Meeting**
- (following) Bell Choir, Music
Room (after meeting)

Monday, January 23

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

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25

- 7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:00 p.m. Endowment Board,
Conference Room
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 26

- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

REFUNDABLE RECYCLABLES

The youth groups wish to express their appreciation to all those people who donate their returnable deposit recyclables to help raise funds for activities. We would like to ask that only items which have a returnable deposit be placed in the bins outside Gatton Hall in the entryway. A rule of thumb is "If it didn't fizz, it's not refundable."

STAMPS, LABELS STILL NEEDED

Projects using **cancelled postage stamps** and **Campbell soup labels** plus **"Box Tops for Education"** continue. These items may be left in the second drawer on the right end of the storage cupboard in the church foyer. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** for more information.