



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 10

March 10, 2006

## Spring Fling Craft Faire

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fling Craft Faire will occur on *March 18* from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the church. Local artists will be displaying their works (and donating a percentage of their earnings) and the youth will be staffing the snack and raffle booths. This event will benefit the youth mission fund to help our youth attend the Western Regional Youth Event and the attached mission work in Colorado.

Also, a fountain by **Karen French** and other works will be raffled off at this event. Raffle tickets are \$3 each or four for \$10 and will be for sale on Sunday after worship and at the fair. Plan to buy a raffle ticket, attend the event, and support local artists and our youth!

## BACH-A-THON IS BACK

You are cordially invited to attend a Bach-a-thon, celebrating the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The Bach-a-thon will be held at our church on *Saturday, March 11*, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come hear local instrumentalists, including string students of Janet Throop and Rebecca Williams. Audience members and participants are free to stay as long as

they wish. Please call **Kristin Rorrer** (753-2848) for more information.

## CAMP ADAMS STAFF OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSTED

Applications for summer camp staff positions are available in the church office. Job titles, requirements, stipends, and position descriptions are posted on the foyer bulletin boards, so check them  
*(continued on page 3)*

## THIS SUNDAY

*March 12*

**Adult Forum:** The second session of the Mental Health series is "Mental Health and Our Community: Serving the Mentally Ill." **Lon Rycraft** will review the Corvallis groups that serve the mentally ill and lead the discussion.

**Scriptures:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Mark 8:31-38

**Sermon:** "The Bad News  
About Discipleship"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

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

Dear Friends,

As some of you might remember, I went to Montana last week to see Lois Van Leer, former Associate Minister in this church and a dear friend of mine. Those of you who know Lois will be pleased to learn that she is thriving in Montana, and the people of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship she serves have taken her into their hearts. I had a great five days with Lois and her partner, Lori, and their two dogs Yzzil and Jessie. It included serious evening games of cribbage, a magical day traveling around Yellowstone Park, and lots of ministerial shop talk. Lois is the only minister in her congregation and she's had to learn a lot of new skills. She has taken to that task with the passion and attention she brought to her work here, and it led to spirited discussion by two very different women bound together by eleven years of collegue-ship and mutual respect.

Wherever we went, however we talked, the landscape of Montana was the backdrop: harsh, majestic, so different from our corner of Oregon and yet equally beautiful in its own way. The whole time I was there I kept reflecting on Oregon and Montana, Lois and Liz. And it was one of those moments when the wonder of diversity – both geographic and human – came clear to me. Lois and I are so different, as different as Montana and Oregon, and yet I would not change either one of us to make us more like the other. Just as I would not change the multiple landscapes of this country, and the different cultures that thrive in those landscapes. When I drove home from Boston last May after my sabbatical, I took the long route home, all the way down through the South and across southern Texas, then up through New Mexico and Utah before heading west to Oregon. I remember thinking on that trip, as I did in Montana, that the crazy diversity of this country and its people makes government a nightmare and conversation about what is important so difficult, as our needs and concerns change from region to region.

Different people, different landscapes, different cultures; sometimes you wonder if it's worth the fight to understand it all and try to hold it together. And then there are the moments, like one I had with Lois where she laughed at me and my way-more-traditional-than-hers religious sensibility, and she asked, "Reverential, don't you wonder how we became such good friends?" And I realized how impoverished my life would be without Lois. I looked around at the mountains and the endless Montana plain, and I realized I was glad for it as well.

There are moments when it feels the world would be a lot safer and more understandable if we were all more alike. And then there are the other times, when we revel in difference, and know it adds richness to our lives. My time in Montana was one of those "other" times, and I am still loving the gift of that.

Have a thoughtful week,

**Liz**

### **CAMP ADAMS** *from page 1*

out. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Leaders needed for this year's camp are: **Arts and Craft Director, Program Staff Coordinator, Musician/Campfire Director, Naturalist, and Waterfront/Recreation.** The application deadline is April 1, 2006.

The summer 2006 Camp Adams schedule will be printed next week.

### **READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY**

**Sandy Piper** is hosting this month's book discussion on *Sunday, March 12* at 7:00 p.m. *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant will be the topic.

### **NEW DISPLAYS IN LIBRARY**

There are a number of books dealing with the Holocaust on display in the library—for adults and children. They are ready to be checked out as we observe Holocaust month and are a good addition to your Lenten reading. We also have a new guide to the symbolism in the "Narnia" series.

### **LEARN TO BE AN ACOLYTE**

After worship on *March 19* there will be a short training for all children interested in serving as acolytes. This training is offered for all children kindergarten through Grade 5 and is meant to help us get a list of all those interested in being acolytes, and also to make sure that everyone feels comfortable with the duties. Following the training we will put together a schedule to help plan when your child will help with this part of worship.

### **REGISTER FOR "DREAM ON, SISTERS!" MEETING**

"Dream On, Sisters!," the first national UCC Women's joint gathering with Disciples of Christ Women, is scheduled for *June 21-25* in Indianapolis, Indiana. Included in the program are worship, Bible study, forums, exhibits, and activities with international sisters.

Registration forms are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall. The fee of \$375 includes six meals as well as registration. Financial aid grants forms for our conference women are in the office. More information in next week's *Congregational News!*

**Wanted to buy or borrow:** stationary bicycle. Call **Jim Hall** (752-7967).

### **Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with **Sheila Schweizer** and her family following the death of her father, **Gene Beasley**, in the Dalles on February 28.

... and with **Clara McCormick**, recovering at Heart of the Valley.



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

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

- Saturday, March 11*  
 10:00-5:00 Bach-a-thon [see p. 1]
- Sunday, March 12*  
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. C E classes  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Piper
- Monday, March 13*  
 5:30 p.m. Basketball  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
- Tuesday, March 14*  
 9:00 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation
- Wednesday, March 15*  
 5:00 p.m. 40+ Basketball  
 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper  
 6:15 p.m. Child care available  
 6:20 p.m. Lenten worship  
 6:45 p.m. Classes begin  
 6:45 p.m. Bell Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
- Thursday, March 16*  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142  
 7:30 p.m. Men's Spirituality

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

I am writing to express my deep gratitude to all who were present to celebrate with me at my Installation Service at United Campus Ministry at Westminster House this past Sunday. I appreciate your loving support and look forward to serving with you in ministry to the OSU campus and Corvallis community.

Thank you, too, to those who helped clean and prepare the McLean room before the service and stayed to clean-up afterward; to Liz who shared her pastoral gifts in worship leadership; to Liz and Ryan who have welcomed me as a colleague and continue to offer collegial support; and to the church family for providing the beautiful flowers to adorn and add color to the worship space.

In Christ's love, Leah