



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 11

March 17, 2006

Spring Fling Craft Faire

The 2nd Annual Spring Fling Craft Faire is **this Saturday, 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 youth will be staffing the snack and coffee booths. It is a great opportunity to buy cards and gifts for Mother's and Father's Day, graduation gifts, birthdays, anniversaries, etc! There will be a benefit discussion function for the Western Region 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 faire. Plan to buy a raffle ticket, attend the event, and support local artists and our youth!

UCC WINS MAJOR AWARD

The Association of National Advertisers awarded the United Church of Christ its 2005 Multicultural Excellence

Award. Many of us saw the ad which ran during Advent of 2004. The 30-second commercial emphasized our denomination's welcome to all, insisting that "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." The UCC won out over other finalists MasterCard and Microsoft.

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THIS SUNDAY

March 19

Adult Forum: "Mental Health and Our Government: Government Priorities" is part 3 of our series. Speakers will focus on schools, human services (**John Hawkins**); and the legislature (**Cliff Trow**). **Ryan Lambert** will moderate the discussion on what agencies can do and how they should be funded.

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Sermon: "Wise or Foolish?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I missed worshipping in Corvallis on Sunday while I was away at Camp N-Sid-Sen in North Idaho. Many of you know that I have much history at Camp N-Sid-Sen; this time I was there using some of my study leave as N-Sid-Sen played host to the UCC's Western Regional Outdoor Ministries Association gathering. On the shores of Lake Couer D'Alene, twenty-four of us who are involved in Outdoor Ministries work in Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Washington, Hawaii, Montana, and Colorado gathered to connect with and learn from each other. I thank you for supporting study leave for your pastors, and believe that with study leave comes a responsibility to report back some of the "work product" that comes from my time away. Thus, I share a bit about my weekend.

Thursday and much of Friday was dedicated to travel and connecting with family around Spokane. While Grace stayed with my sister, I traveled to N-Sid-Sen where the event began with dinner on Friday. After dinner we spent time sharing about where we come from and which camp(s) we work with. We also began to talk about the "Peace Talks" curriculum being used this summer at all the sites represented. The "Peace Talks" curriculum seeks to invite children and youth into the peacemaking tradition and does so with an interactive theological process. We spent a good deal of time talking about how individual sites were using the curriculum and this led to new ideas about how we might use it at Camp Adams. The wide variety of camp locales that were represented assured many ideas and ways to do camp that I had not thought about. Since I am co-directing the Genesis/Seekers camp for 2nd/3rd graders at Camp this summer, these conversations were especially helpful as I plan for camp.

Another key part of our time was spent working on camp safety issues. The Pacific Northwest Conference has done a lot of work on this issue and put together a very good teaching document for use with directors and counselors. Their leadership led us through their document and facilitated a conversation that touched on boundary issues, physical health, privacy, record keeping, and much more. When so much of church work about safety has focused on preventing sexual impropriety, it was helpful see a document that looked at safety in a larger context.

We also had times for worship, for walking around the site, and time to share wonderful food and conversation. One moment stuck out: In the midst of the tour of the camp, while standing in an unheated building, I was struck as I watched the breath of twenty camp leaders from around the West condense in the air. For me, it was a visual reminder of how the Holy Spirit breathes life into our camps and into all those

who pass through these important places. Watching the breath of God and the energy from all those people provided a poignant moment that framed the whole weekend.

On Sunday morning we worshiped at the Veradale United Church of Christ in the Spokane Valley, which happens to be the church where my mother and sister are members. We participated in worship and actually helped lead worship by filling the sermon time with our thoughts about the role of outdoor ministries in shaping youth, children, and the future of the church. N-Sid-Sen is an important place of grounding for me and I thank you for allowing me the time to participate in this event!

Blessings,
Ryan

P.S. Former FCC member Gordy Hannigan-Luther also took part in this event and sends his greetings!

UCC AWARD *from page 1*

Ron Buford, coordinator and team leader for The Stillspeaking Initiative received the award on behalf of the church and said, "This award is a victory for every person who contributed to this effort." Thanks to all in our congregation who made the airing of this ad possible.

UPDATE ON CONNIE NEUGART BEQUEST

Connie Neugart, a long-time member of the church who died in April of 2004, remembered the church in her will with an unrestricted bequest of about \$15,000. What a wonderful gift! When the church receives such an undesignated bequest with no guidance from surviving family, our practice has been to appoint a small committee of persons who knew the giver; this small committee looks over the church's list of potential projects to decide how best to honor the

giver by the use of his/her gift. The committee then recommends a course of action to the Church Council. If the bequest is very large or if there are questions about the use, the Council can bring the matter to a congregational meeting.

The special committee for Connie's bequest consisted of **Don Olson, Sara Fisk, Jacqueline Smith, and Liz Oettinger**. Their recommendation, approved by the Church Council, is to use the Neugart money in three ways:

- 1) use up to \$8,000 to help pay for new lighting in the Meeting Hall;
- 2) use approximately \$4500 to re-carpet the chancel area and center aisle of the sanctuary and to carpet the narthex (so as to diminish sound transfer into the sanctuary); and
- 3) move the balance of the bequest into the undesignated endowment to become part of the permanent endowment of the church.

It is such a blessing to have bequests and other special gifts available for special projects of the church. In recent years, we have used the **Eva Rickert** bequest to re-pad our pews and to buy the beautiful new pew-end candelabra; **Velma Seat's** bequest purchased new choir robes; and a portion of **Betty Cameron's** gift to the church paid for the re-landscaping of the Gatton Hall entry.

If you have been thinking about making an estate gift to the church, or would like to explore possibilities for that, please contact **Harold Hunter** or **Liz Oettinger**.

**JOIN SATURDAY'S
PEACE MARCH
AND RALLY**

This *Saturday, March 18*, there will be a Peace March and Rally in Corvallis. This weekend commemorates the third anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Folks will begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. on the south lawn of the Benton County Courthouse, 4th Street and Monroe, downtown Corvallis. The Peace March will begin at noon. The route will wind through downtown Corvallis and will return to the Courthouse. The rally will begin after the marchers return (estimated time 1:15 to 1:30) and will last about an hour. In addition to speakers and musicians for the Rally, there will be information tables set up to promote peace issues, inform and educate, register voters and recruit activists.



Sponsors of the events are Corvallis Alternatives to War, Veterans for Peace Chapter 132, Corvallis NAACP, First United Methodist Church – Action for Peace and Justice Group; and First Congregational United Church of Christ – Just Peace Committee.

We hope you will be able to participate in this day of remembrance, demonstration and action. If you have questions, call **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** (753-8267).

**FROM THE HEALTH
MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

The UCC 18th General Synod (1991) voted a pronouncement and a priority with the goal to enlist all members of the UCC and its constituent parts in study and action, so that they may be knowledgeable and empowered to work for the establishment of an affordable, accessible health care system for all persons reside in the United States.... We believe that health care is a basic right and not a privilege...that the gospels convey a message from God—a very powerful message that is the Church's marching order to meet the issue of affordable accessible health care for all...and encourage local churches, conferences, associations, instrumentalities, organization, and health and welfare institutions associated with the UCC to join in education and advocacy activities to advance legislation that supports universal health care. - --The Board of Homeland Ministries, November 1999.

Help us put this priority into action here in Oregon! Join in the action planning about **Universal Health Care for Oregon**. Speakers: Dr. Evan Saulino and Dr. Chinh Le. Dr. Saulino, physician at the low-income health clinic in Portland, and chief petitioner for Measure 111, a plan to approve the affordability, efficiency and effectiveness of Oregon's health services. Dr. Le will describe a congressional request for citizen input on health care reform and will facilitate discussion on how to respond to it. This will be held *Tuesday, March 21, 7:00-8:45 p.m.* at the Corvallis Public Library. For more information, contact **Betty Johnson**, bjohnson2@juno.com.

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. It will feature UCC preach-

ers Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, Rev. Nancy Sehested, and Rev. Claudia DeLaCruz as well as choir director Les-sie Williams from Ainsworth UCC and a concert by Holly Near. 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. After *May 1*, the rate increase to \$400. Hotels will be arranged after registration. Some of our church members are already registered.

There is a children's program for ages 6 months to 8 years for \$150 per child (or \$125 per child in the same household). The deadline for children's registration is *May 1*.

Grant forms for financial assistance from our conference women may be picked up in the church office. For additional information, please contact **Nancy Klingeman** or **Priscilla Zaworski**.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR SUMMER CAMP 2006

Camp Adams

Work Camp	Camp work projects for youth 12-17 and adults	June 25-28
Family	For those who want to join the camp community	June 28-July 1
Genesis/Seekers	For those who have completed Grades 2-3	July 9-15
Discoverers	For those who have completed Grades 4-5	July 23-29
Young Adult Camp	For those post graduation to age 30	June 28-July 1
Pathfinders	For those who have completed Grade 6	July 2-8
Sojourners	For those who have completed Grades 7-8	July 16-22
Exodus	For those who have completed Grades 9-12	July 30-August 5



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 21.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 18

**10:00-5:00 Spring Fling
 Craft Faire [page 1]**

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Acolyte training,
 Sanctuary
 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
 6:45 p.m. High School youth

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, March 22

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:00 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
 6:15 p.m. Child care available
 6:30 p.m. Lenten worship
 6:45 p.m. Classes begin
NO Choral Skills class
 6:45 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, March 23
 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, April 16:
 Easter

Our Thoughts and Prayers

...are with **Ginny Lucker**. Further tests have indicated that she does *not* have breast cancer—a celebration for all of us!

...are with **Clara McCormick**, recovering from gastro-intestinal problems

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at the Heart of the Valley. Cards would be appreciated, but, please, no visitors.