



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 21

May 26, 2006



## WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUMMER MUSICIANS

Would you like to share your music with the congregation during summer worship? If you are interested or have questions, contact **Steven Zielke** ([szielke@oregonstate.edu](mailto:szielke@oregonstate.edu), 737-5584) or contact the church office.

submit information about your 2006 high school and college graduates. The list will appear in the *Congregational News* on *June 9*, so be sure to e-mail [sbwickes@comcast.net](mailto:sbwickes@comcast.net) or write and drop off in the office the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information.** The deadline is ***June 6***, but sooner is better.

## STONE SOUP HELPERS NEEDED ON MAY 30

We have agreed to cook the meal for Stone Soup on all third Tuesdays and fifth Tuesdays...and May is one of those months when we have both! If you are interested in helping with Stone Soup on *May 30 [date corrected]*, please contact **Ryan** at the church. This is a great concrete opportunity to serve the needy in our community. Come out and help!

## GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

Thanks to those who have responded already. If you haven't, please



## THIS SUNDAY

*May 28*

**Adult Forum: Lon Rycraft and Ryan Lambert** will share reflections on their January trip to the Earl Lectures in Berkeley, California. The Earl Lectures, sponsored by Pacific School of Religion, were focused this year around the theme of "Gathering the Beloved Community: Voices of Faith in the Public Square." 9:30 a.m., Meeting Hall

**Scriptures:** Luke 24:44-53  
Acts 1:1-11

**Sermon:** "Finding Our Own Way"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

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

Dear Friends,

The combination of gorgeous sunny days and Holy Sox rain-outs remind us that spring is in full swing in Corvallis. The advent of spring, of course, brings the inevitable look ahead to summer and, as a part of looking ahead, I wanted to put in a plug for some of the upcoming events and opportunities that will happen around the church this summer.

First, during the summer we have a tradition of **informal lay-led services** at 8:30 on Sunday mornings. The leadership of these services is organized by our Worship Committee, but lay members who volunteer are then free to do what they wish for the service(s) that they sign up to lead. These services take place in our chapel and provide a great chance for an early worship experience and/or an experimental foray into worship leadership. In our worship bulletins we proclaim that every member of the church is a minister and these services are a chance to take your place leading worship. These services are often interactive or conversational due to their small size and they provide a great place to weave in silence, a cappella singing, or other varied worship elements. If you have been looking for a creative outlet for your worship ideas please sign up and plan to help lead these services this summer!

On July 16, we will be celebrating **“Integrity of Creation Sunday”** by worshipping in the outdoors. Liz and I are still evaluating what this worship will look like, but we hope that worshipping on the lawn or in the grove will provide new insight into what it means to follow God’s call as stewards of the earth. We live in a beautiful part of the world and we hope that by worshipping “in the elements” that we will be challenged anew by the God who surrounds us with growing grass, wetlands, and budding trees. Plan to join us on July 16 for an experience of meeting God “out there.”

On July 23, the Fellowship Committee of the Diaconate will host the annual **Salmon Barbecue**. This traditional event sees members return from places far and wide and is a wonderful time to invite friends and neighbors to check out the church. It is one of the most anticipated events of the year around here so plan now to be at your church on July 23 for fellowship, fun, and great food!

Finally, July 23 will also mean the beginning of **Vacation Bible School**. We are once again running an evening program from 5:30-8:30 p.m. from July 23 to July 27. The evening program slot provides us greater opportunities to tap a wide array of adults for help with this important part of our Christian Education program *and* also allows us not to compete with day camps and other summer events. There will be programming for children age 3 through grade 5, please plan to enroll your children! Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed to help!

I hope all of you are enjoying spring in Corvallis and I look forward to what lies ahead during summer “quiet times” in the midst of the heat of the Oregon summer.

Blessings,

**Ryan**



There will be no youth groups this weekend due to the holiday. However, both the Middle School and High School groups will meet on *Sunday, June 4* when we will be making didgeridoos. Didgeridoos are aboriginal instruments from Australia that have a unique sound. Plan to come make an instrument and join in the “band.” We will be making an “urban” version of the instrument

#### PLAN NOW FOR

This year’s Vacation Bible School will take happen *July 23-27*. Once again this will be an evening event running Sunday-Thursday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We will begin each night with brown bag dinners and then move into our program rotation. This year’s theme is: “Adventure of the Treasure Seekers: Exploring God’s Promises.” We will have programming for children ages 3 through grade 5 and are seeking people who are interested in helping with teaching, crafts, and recreation. Contact **Ryan** for more details.



#### PICK UP DISASTER KITS JUNE 4

Disaster kits that were ordered in April may be picked up after worship on *June 4*. **Brian Lee** completed a thrifty shopping marathon for all the items. Troop 1 Boy Scouts did a great job assembling the kits this week. Due to this

weekend’s holiday, we’ll wait until June 4<sup>th</sup> before distributing the kits.

**Have you identified your neighborhood Congregational members to prepare for disaster assistance with each other?** You may use the “Three Buddy Household Survey” forms located at the hallway bulletin board for sharing needed emergency information about your household.

#### RED FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST

*Sunday, June 4* will be Pentecost which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. Red is the liturgical color of the season. In honor of the day, please **bring a bright red geranium plant to decorate the chancel area – and wear red yourself**. When Pentecost is over, the flowers will be planted on the church grounds to be enjoyed by all of us and to remind us of the working of the spirit in the world. If you have questions please contact **Marsha Gulick**.



## Ask Reverend Manners

Dear Rev. Manners,

**I recently sat behind a couple where one of them was hard of hearing. The woman frequently asked her husband, "What did they say?" Please remind people as they use a microphone, you must hold it directly in front of your mouth or it does little good. We don't want anyone to be left out!**

**A Concerned Congregant**

Dear Concerned Congregant,

Thank you for your comments. I don't really understand why some people are shy about using microphones, but many are. Surely this newsletter is a good place to remind people that when we use the portable bulb-end microphones that are typically passed through the congregation, it is important to hold the microphone **no more than two inches** from our mouths.

When using the lapel microphone or the pulpit and lectern microphones, the problem is getting too close to them. People often lean into the microphones to make their point, and then we get a terrible popping sound when they get to a hard consonant.

Some people think their voices are loud enough without amplification. In fact, for those using our hearing assistance system, it is important always to use a microphone so that the sound can go through the system. There are few things more frustrating than not being able to hear the conversation around you.

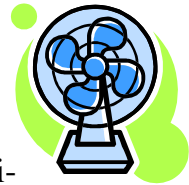
At First Congregational, so that all may hear, the church has invested significant resources in good quality microphones and a hearing assistance system. We just all need to train ourselves to make use of the resources available, and use them correctly.

Sincerely,

Rev. Manners

### JOIN THE FAN CLUB

A new way to help Community Outreach is to donate your unneeded electric fans. The dormitories on the second floor of their facility receive no shade from trees, have no air conditioning, and become noticeably hot when the temperature is 80° or more. To help cool off the dormitories, they would appreciate a variety of fans such as window, box, and oscillating fans. Each year, they burn out some of the fans and thus need replacements. A total of twenty fans is needed. If you have a fan to donate, call COI (758-3000) to arrange to deliver it. Fans can also be left at the church, but call the church first to make sure the need hasn't already been met.



**STILL COLLECTING:** New hand towels, wash cloths, combs, metal nail files, nail clippers, bath size soap bars, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and Band-aids for Church World Service Health Kits. Bring to church foyer.

### TRINITY CATHEDRAL HOSTS SUMMER SEMINARS

In June, the Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, offers two Summer Seminars and an evening lecture with Brian McLaren. The Center's Summer Seminars are a rare opportunity to share in conversation with some of the most inspiring and influential scholars and theologians of our day. Each day includes morning presentations by all three presenters and an afternoon round-table discussion between the presenters with audience discussion.

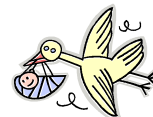
**June 14-16 – “The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”** Historical Jesus scholar Marcus Borg, church historian and author of *The Practicing Congregation* Diana Butler Bass, and Emergent Church leader Brian McLaren will join forces to explore developments in mainline and evangelical churches today. The Seminar meets 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and lunch is included in the \$300 price. Register by May 26 for \$270.

**June 16 – 7:30 p.m. Lecture with Brian McLaren. “Beyond Us and Them: Being Christian in a Generous Orthodox Way”** Brian D. McLaren is the founding pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church, an innovative, non-denominational church in the Baltimore-Washington region. He is a leader in the

Emergent Church Movement, a popular speaker, and author of many books including, *A New Kind of Christian*, which won *Christianity Today's* “Award of Merit” in 2002, *A Generous Orthodoxy* and *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything*. \$20 in advance or at door.

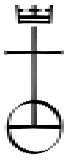
**June 19-21 – “The Bible in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”** Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan return to the Center to continue their discussion of the social, cultural and historical foundation of the Bible. They are joined by Lutheran theologian Barbara Rossing, author of *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* for an exploration of the Bible and its significance for Christian life. This Seminar meets 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. each day and lunch is included in the \$300 price. Register by May 26 for \$270.

For tickets and/or answers to questions, call (503) 478-1225. Scholarships are available. More information can be found at their website: [www.center-for-spiritual-development.org](http://www.center-for-spiritual-development.org).



### Congratulations

... to **Charlene** and **Harold Hunter** who just acquired a grandson! **Joshua Kyle** was born on May 16 in California. His parents are **Jason** and **Kathlyn Hunter**.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 30.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, May 28*

- 9:30 a.m. NO Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- NO youth groups

*Monday, May 29—Memorial Day*

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

*Tuesday, May 30*

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class
- 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup, West M

*Wednesday, May 31*

- 5:30 p.m. 40+Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, June 1*

- 7:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,  
Chintimini Park
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*Friday, June 2*

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,  
Elmer's

**MANY THANKS FOR HELP WITH CLUSTER**



A big bouquet of thanks to **Priscilla Zaworski** for her “hospitality goodies,” **Nancy William** for serving as pianist, and **Monine Stebbins**, who planned and coordinated the luncheon for last week’s cluster meeting of Central Pacific Conference women from the Willamette Valley.

Thanks also to the luncheon committee: **Nancye Ballard, Alice Morrow, Bettie Muckleston, Doris Sherry, and Rhonda Mueller-Warrant.**

**Our Thoughts and Prayers**

...continue to be with **Frank Rinkus** and **Pamela Wood Rinkus**, as Frank struggles with lung cancer.

... are with **Alice Sperling**, recovering from back surgery on May 24 at Providence Hospital in Portland.