



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 22

June 2, 2006

C E RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Join us this *Sunday, June 4*, in Gatton Hall during fellowship hour for cake in honor of our church school teachers. They will also be recognized during worship. This year's teachers are: **Alex Mueller-Warrant, Annie Mueller-Warrant, George Mueller-Warrant, Molly Chambers, Pat Johnson, Dorothy Price, Ginnie Esary, Ryan Lambert, Aleita Holcombe, John Hawkins, Bob Stebbins, Pete and Susie Nelson, Mike Huntington, Amanda LaBonte.**

RED FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST

This Sunday is Pentecost. 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.

MISSIONARY VISIT, DINNER SET

On *Wednesday, June 7* First Congregational Church and First Christian Church will be hosting **Ali Nebot** during her visit to Oregon as she shares about her work as a missionary in the Philip-

pinas, where she works through the Disciples/UCC partnership "Common Global Ministries." She has a long history with missionary work and her visit gives us an opportunity to hear about how UCC outreach works in other parts of the world. Please sign up this Sunday or call the office if you plan to join us for this informative evening. We will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and follow with a presentation by the Rev. Nebot at 7:00.

THIS SUNDAY

June 4

Adult Forum: Delegates will report on the recent Central Pacific Conference Spring Assembly which was held in Vancouver, Washington on April 28-29. Our lay and clergy delegates were: **Ann** and **John Hawkins, Anna Marie and John Holmes, Beth Koch, Lon Ry-craft, Liz Oettinger, and Ryan Lambert.** Join us to learn more about this important meeting in the life of our conference.

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "A Church on Fire"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

There is a movement afoot in the conservative Christian churches to mark this coming Sunday, June 4, as Marriage Protection Sunday. They will be mobilizing their congregations to call or e-mail members of Congress to pass a national law banning gay marriage. The Senate will take up discussion of this measure on June 5 or 6.

I am so saddened that this is what the Southern Baptist Church, the largest American denomination, calls “the most important vote of the year.” For me, from a theological point of view, I think that Jesus would be more concerned over the dwindling resources we, as a nation, give to help the poor and marginalized. I think Jesus would be more concerned about the state of our prisons and the number of guns in the hands of middle school-aged children. I think Jesus would be more concerned with this war against Iraq.

I don’t say this because I think the issue of gay marriage is unimportant. I just don’t understand why churches who claim to be biblically centered would choose this particular issue as “most important” when both Jesus and the writers of the epistles had little to say about marriage as an institution. It was not a major concern for them.

That aside, those of us who believe that Christ’s love equally blesses all loving covenantal relationships between two people have a choice in this moment. We can let this go, or we can lift our voices as well so that the message is heard that not all Christians agree that marriage should be limited to relationships between men and women. Our church is an Open and Affirming congregation. Passage of this law would seriously hurt people we know and love as well as millions of others who struggle for dignity and legal protections in their sacred relationships.

Contact information for our senators follows and will also be available Sunday morning. For years, the voice of the conservative Christian community has passed as the voice of the whole Christian community simply because those in the conservative churches have been more diligent than we in translating their faith into action. It’s one of the ways we can learn from them. Now would be a good moment for us to learn the lesson.

Have a thoughtful week, **Liz**

Senator Gordon Smith:

<http://gsmith.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Home>

404 Russell Building (202) 224-3753
Washington, DC 20510 Fax: (202).228-3997

Senator Ron Wyden:

<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703
(202) 224-5244



The youth groups will be meeting on Sunday to make didgeridoos. **Middle School** will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and **High School** will meet from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Join us for fun night of musical exploration. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at rylamb@yahoo.com.

COOKS NEEDED

We are looking for cooks to prepare a simple dinner for the evening of Ali Nebot's visit (*June 7*). Please call the church office or sign up this Sunday to help.

MORE DISASTER KIT RADIO AND FLASHLIGHT ORDERING

The Health Ministry Committee is putting together new group orders for crank flashlight-radios and hand-powered flashlights. Those who didn't order a starter disaster kit may still order the flashlight or radio with prepayment. Contact bclee@peak.org to place your order by *Sunday, June 11*. Payments should be made to the church and notated for "disaster kits."

ORDERED KITS READY FOR PICK-UP

Starter disaster kits will be available to pick up this *Sunday, June 4*. Through smart purchasing and quantity pricing, we were able to our target prices were

very close to what was charged in spite of cost increases on some items.

You will be contacted individually with the overage or underage of payment. Overpayments may be refunded, donated to the Youth Mission fund, or donated to any other church fund or mission offering you wish. The dollar total on the sheet accompanying your disaster kit is not fully accurate since a few changes in the items occurred.

1. **Totes** – The optional 10 gallon totes were Sterlite instead of Rubbermaid. The local stores stopped carrying Rubbermaid 10 gallon totes.
2. **Crank radios and crank radio-flashlights** –I was able to find crank radio-flashlights at the same price as our target for the crank radios. Everyone who ordered either of these will receive a crank radio-flashlight. I was surprised to find that the radios can tune in a Newport weather station just outside of the normal AM band.
3. **Shake flashlights** – Most of the kits were ordered with these. I discovered the shake flashlights were of a defective design that would prevent electrical current generation. These are being returned. You should let me know which option you prefer for the \$4.50/flashlight already paid:
 - a) take it as a credit in the final kit price balance

- b) applying it to a hand squeeze-powered dual LED flashlight (\$4)
http://www.premiumconnection.net/index.php?i_gif=tpc-images/060-55496.gif&i_nfo=tpc-nfo/060-55496-nfo.txt&click=description&category_home=out&u=1
- c) applying it to a crank radio-flashlight (\$10)
http://www.premiumconnection.net/index.php?i_nfo=tpc-nfo/190-799-nfo.txt&i_gif=tpc-images/190-799.gif&click=description&category_home=out&u=1

Brian Lee

OSU CHAMBER CHOIR COMES TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

The OSU Chamber Choir will perform “The President’s Concert: The Sacred in Song” at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on *Saturday, June 10*, at 7:00 p.m. The concert will include internationally-known composer and conductor David Childs in a selection of his compositions, including the premier of a new work written for the OSU Chamber Choir. Also on the program will be music of Mendelssohn, Mahler, and Nystedt, as well as a diverse and exciting selection of spirituals, gospel songs, and folk songs. The title of the concert, “The Sacred in Song,” does not refer to whether or not the text is sa-

cred, but rather that all of the music, whether about a secular or a sacred topic, has at the heart a sacred spirit. Admission is \$5 at the door.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP BOARDS TO MEET

There will be a joint meeting of this year’s and next year’s Women Fellowship boards at noon on *Wednesday, June 7*, in the Fireplace Room. Bring your 2006-2007 calendars and a salad or dessert.

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.

OREGON’S INCOME TAXES: ARE THE SUPER-RICH REALLY GETTING ALL THE BREAKS?

A panel discussion will be presented at the Corvallis/Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe, on *Tuesday, June 13*, at 12:15 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

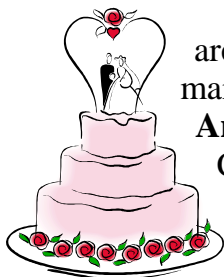
Featured speakers are: **Anthony Ruffolo**, Professor, School of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University; **Charles Sheketoff**, Executive Director, Oregon Center for Public Policy; **Charles Vars**, Emeritus Professor of Economics, OSU, and former Mayor of Corvallis; **Paul Warner**, Head of the

Legislative Revenue Office for the State of Oregon. The moderator will be **Michael Smith**, Corvallis Resident and Republican Candidate for President of the U.S.

The program is sponsored by the Willamette Valley Forum, a non-partisan, non-profit group dedicated to informed discussion of current policy issues. For more information, contact **Dick Johnston** (541-753-8321) or dnjohnst@msn.com or see their website: www.willamettevalleyforum.org.

Thank You

... to **Joan Overturf**, for the psychology and philosophy books she donated to the church library. **Jack** and **Joan** will be moving to the East Coast in a few weeks. Take a moment to wish them well before they go.



Tim and **Susan Cowles** are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, **Anna**, to **Fritz Owens** of Connecticut. The ceremony took place May 20, 2006 on Block Island, Rhode Island.

Kiko Kimura was among family and friends at the weekend celebrations. Anna and Fritz live in New York City.

LAST CHANCE FOR GRAD NEWS

The list of 2006 graduates will appear in the *Congregational News* on *June 9*,

so, be sure to e-mail by **June 6** to 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.**

We will honor our high school graduating seniors during worship on *June 11*.

Congratulations!

... to **Terry Robertson**, named "Member of the Year" at the recent Association of Office Professional Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon.

... and to **Hannah Field** and **Kiko Denzer** on the birth of their son, **Eben Adler**, on May 22. Eben was born at home and weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. He joins big brother **Isaac**.

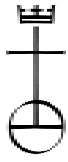
Ed and **Karen Miller** will be out-of-town during the time the youth are in Colorado (starting *June 22*). They are looking for either a house-sitter or pet/plant-sitter to care for things for several days. Call them if you can help. (754-1573)

PLAN AHEAD

FOR FAMILY PHOTO



The church photo directory pictures will be taken on *September 14, 15, and 16*. Plan to assemble your family members so they can all be "shot."



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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, June 6.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, June 2

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

Sunday, June 4

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 4:20 p.m. Holy Sox,
 N. Chintimini

6:00 p.m. Middle School youth

7:30 p.m. High School youth

Monday, June 5

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

Tuesday, June 6

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 6:15 p.m. Outreach &
 Evangelism, Library
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee,
 Conference Room
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee,
 Conference Room

Wednesday, June 7

Noon Women's Fellowship
 Boards [see page 4]

6:00 p.m. Dinner [see page 1]

7:00 p.m. Ali Benot program

Thursday, June 8

7:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

LOOKING AHEAD: Summer Worship hours (8:30 a.m.- chapel service; 9:30 a.m.- sanctuary worship) begin on *June 18*. The early summer worship services will continue through August with the exception of Salmon Barbecue Sunday, *July 23*.

Thank you!

... to **Dale Kirk** for making and installing another shelf in the Gatton Hall kitchen, providing more much-needed storage.