



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 28

July 28, 2006



## REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA, NAGASAKI

The Traditional Floating Lantern Ceremony at Starker Arts Park will take place, *Monday, August 7*, at 7:30-9:00 p.m. Please mark your

calendars. The event commemorates the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who were victims of the nuclear bombs that fell on their cities in August of 1945.

The “Never Again” program includes readings, poetry, reflections and music by local musicians followed by the traditional floating lantern ceremony on Starker Arts pond. A number of our own congregation will be part of the program.

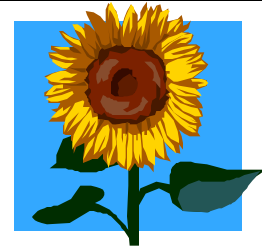
In addition, look around town for The Shadow Project. This project of silhouettes, drawn in chalk as a reminder of those who were victims of the nuclear bombs, will be visible from *August 2-9*.

Also, there will be visual displays at two places downtown commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Take a look at the Footwise Store window display from *July 25-August 7* and look at the Corval-

lis Public Library display case *August 1-31*.

The hope is of course that paying attention to the events of the past will help us to be vigilant in preventing nuclear shadows from ever being cast again. **Just Peace Committee**

## Summer Worship



### ***THIS SUNDAY – July 30***

- Scriptures:** 2 Samuel 11:1-15  
John 6:1-21
- Music:** Abi Sperling, flute  
Emily Chi, piano  
VBC Children’s Choir
- Sermon:** “The World Turned  
Upside Down”  
Elizabeth Oettinger

### ***NEXT SUNDAY – August 6***

- Music:** Steven Zielke, baritone
- Sermon:** Peggy Tooker (*page 3*)

Dear Friends,

I am just ten days removed from directing the Genesis/Seekers (Grades 3 and 4) camp at Camp Adams and by the time this reaches you we will have completed our church's Vacation Bible School with nearly 30 kids. Needless to say, over the last few weeks I have been immersed in the planning and the programming for these two events. In one sense I am feeling relieved that these two events can be "checked-off," but mostly I am invigorated by the experiences. At camp and in Vacation Bible School both, I have been able to spend time interacting with children who have come to participate and I have been thrilled and often overwhelmed by their generous spirit and enthusiasm.

"Peace Talks" was the theme for our UCC camping season and at Camp Adams we explored this theme by living together and building community, learning about peacemakers of history and of our time, training each other to be peacemakers, and growing trust that would allow us to take on the challenges of the camp's Ropes Course. We had 27 children at camp and for many of them this was their longest foray away from their parents. I admit that I am a certified "camp junkie," but because it had been many years since I worked with this age group at camp their openness and inquisitive nature made for fascinating times and made me want to celebrate the future of the church.

Our Vacation Bible School is immersed in its session following the theme "The Adventure of the Treasure Seekers." We are learning about the many treasures that God finds in us and that we have in God. We are having a great week even with the heat! Much of the success of the week is owed to the many volunteers who are teaching, leading crafts, leading singing, leading recreation, and preparing snacks. Watching our young people dig for buried treasure around the play structure, sing new songs, and explore biblical lessons leaves me thankful for their energy, their enthusiasm, and all who have come to help!

Both of these experiences are making me anxious to begin our Christian Education year on September 10. This year we will have a new format for Christian Education, one that will begin at 9:15 and include an "all-ages" opening. At camp and in the classrooms of Vacation Bible School energy abounds and it is my hope that we can harness some of this energy for our Christian Education programs this fall. And so I ask you, are you being called to teach some amazing children and youth this fall? Would you like to get to know some of these children and help them grow in faith? We have openings in several of our classrooms and would like to grow our group of teachers so that we can lighten the load on everyone. I don't have a super low financ-

ing rate to offer, but I do have a great group of children and youth to teach and learn from. We will be having a teacher training (*see article below*) on August 24<sup>th</sup>; if you are interested but want more information, please plan to come that night. Also, feel free to contact me for more information about our church school programs.

Blessings and have a great week!

**Ryan**

P.S. I will be on vacation from *July 28-August 14* with limited access to e-mail, but feel free to e-mail with questions or to volunteer and I will answer from afar if I can or when I return.

### **CHURCH SCHOOL TRAINING EVENT SCHEDULED**

On *Thursday, August 24* there will be a Training Event for Church School Teachers beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to get acquainted with the “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum, learn about the coming 9:15 start time for Christian Education, and connect with the other teachers to build support for this important part of our ministry and education program. If you have signed up to teach next year please plan to be at this important kick-off and training event.

More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter!

### **WHO IS PEGGY TOOKER?**

Most of us don’t know the name **Peggy Tooker**, but **Jane Capizzi** does! When Jane is in Vermont she attends the Second Congregational UCC in Jeffersonville, where Peggy is the minister. Peggy came there six years ago after completing her studies at Andover-Newton Theological School. She is in

Corvallis to visit Jane and to enjoy a Northwest vacation with her daughter. We welcome Peggy as our preacher for our 9:30 service on *Sunday, August 6*.



### **FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING FOR NAMI**

NAMI, which stands for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the topic **Judy Wilson** will speak about during our Mission Moment this *Sunday, July 30*.

One in five families are affected by mental illness. Family support, advocacy, and education make up the core of NAMI. Support meetings are held once a month at Good Samaritan Hospital’s main building.

There is a NAMI in all 50 states, and it has spread to other countries. Journey of Hope is a 12-week class, sponsored by NAMI, which helps educate family and friends coping with members diagnosed with a mental illness. Please give to this important program.

## COME AND COOK STONE SOUP

*August 15* is our day to prepare Stone Soup at First Christian church. If you can help, please contact **Pat Johnson** and let her know.

## MEMORIAL FOR BILLIE GRETZ

A double graveside service for **Billie Gretz** and **Darrell Gretz's** wife's mother will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Oaklawn Cemetary in Corvallis. All are invited to attend this celebration of their lives. **Caroline Zaworski** will preside. You are also invited to a reception to be held at 1:30 p.m. in Gatton Hall.

## DRIVE OR PREPARE FOOD FOR MEALS ON WHEELS!

Meals on Wheels needs an additional six drivers; time commitment is from 11:00 a.m. until a route is finished, usually by 12:30 p.m., no later than 1:00 p.m.

Meals on Wheels also needs additional "kitchen" people who assemble the meals. Time commitment is from 9:30 – 1:00 p.m. Meals on Wheels can work around your schedule. If you can help, please call **Cynthia Janes** (753-1022) between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

## THAT'S MY FARMER

Those of you who have purchased "That's My Farmer" coupon booklets already know that the harvest is good!! Local farmers and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon are working together to help

all of us recognize the abundance of our local agriculture and to provide us with a great way to share it with some of our neighbors who would otherwise have little access to the healthy fresh fruits and vegetables that our bodies need.

The purchase of a coupon booklet gives you six coupons (\$3 each) to shop at our local Saturday or Wednesday markets. They can be used at participating farm stands as well. The booklets cost \$20. The two dollars over coupon value goes back to the project coordinators to purchase coupons for needy individuals.

The Just Peace Committee will continue to have coupon books available throughout the summer. Try it – and support your local farmers.

## PFLAG – DIFFERENT DATE, TIME, PLACE

The PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgendered People) Summer Potluck will happen on *Monday, July 31*, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room at our church.

Please bring a large (for eight or more people) potluck dish to share. Drinks and silverware will be provided.

Children are welcome and if you have any outside games feel free to bring them. Everyone who supports and celebrates diversity is welcome. It would be wonderful to see some new and also familiar faces who aren't able to come at other times of the year.

Questions? Call (231-9598).

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

On *August 27 and 28* we will be hosting a one-man play that deals with the issue of depression. Titled "Side by Side: A Journey with Depression, A Funny Look at Serious Survival," it is an autobiographical play written and performed by Brian Wetzel and directed by UCC pastor Lizann Bassham. This play has been performed in such diverse locations as Stanford University and the Napa State Mental Hospital and it chronicles how Wetzel's personal life and career as a stand-up comic was impacted by his struggle with clinical depression and subsequent addiction. Plan to attend this play for a journey of laughter, painful truth, and finally, hope. The important and provocative play will begin at 8:00 p.m. on both nights and tickets cost only a suggested donation of \$10 for mental health workers and consumers and \$15 for the general public. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR WANTED**

First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis is seeking a permanent half-time Director of Children's Ministries to develop educational programs and activities for children from infancy through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are looking for someone to faithfully, enthusiastically, and appropriately serve the spiritual needs of children, and to encourage, recruit, and train adult volunteers. A bachelor's degree in

a related field or its equivalent is required. Benefits included. For more information call 541-753-2228. Send cover letter and resume by mail to: FPC, 114 SW 8<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, OR 97333.

### **FROM TAKARAZUKA CHURCH IN JAPAN**

Dear friends in faith at First Congregational Church UCC,

It is my great pleasure to send you a Peace message as a member of Takarazuka Church. It has been almost two years since I visited your church. I still remember I was very impressed by your earnestness in the interest of "peace, human rights and the environment."

When I think about peace, Japan which is sluggish about peace comes to mind. Since the war we have lived in abundance with material things. But our mind are not blessed spiritually. We see ourselves where we neglect the weak. We enjoy living in comfort and look away from true peace. When we look back shamefully what we have done, we think about Okinawa.

I will share with you the article from Ufuzato Bulletin written by Rev. Taira who is tirelessly engaged as a peace maker in Okinawa, as well as a picture of young people protesting the Henoko base, distributing fliers and collecting signatures every Saturday in Osaka. [*see Takarazuka bulletin board*].

Although Japan is sluggish about peace, I hope you will see there are people who are seriously in action for peace making. I hope we pray together in awe of God for world peace, live together hand in hand.

Etsuko Omori

### COI NEEDS SALE ORGANIZER

Community Outreach is seeking volunteers to help organize the logistics of a yard/garage sale, to be held *September 30 and October 1*. This committee would do the planning to: receive donations, set up, do sales, organize clean-up, do band set-up, and staff ice cream sales. If you are willing to help in this effort, please call **Shirley King** at COI, 758-3000. If the line is busy, please leave your name and phone number and a short message saying you are calling to help organize the garage sale.

### *Salmon Barbecue*

### RESPONSES FROM OTHER CLERGY

From **Dwight Hoelscher** (excerpts):\_

Thank you again for once again sending me a ticket to the Salmon Barbecue. I would love to come some year. I remember these cook-outs in the woods behind the church with warm and wonderful memories. It is a long way [*to come*] from Pilgrim Place in Claremont [*California; a UCC retirement home*]. My daughter Sarah lives in Seattle and I go at least once a year to see her and her family. I could combine one of the trips with the Salmon Barbecue. Maybe next year. I am married again.... Congratulation to Hassel and Caroline. They are wonderful people and I hope this will be a great marriage for both of them. My love and best regards to the whole congregation of saints at Corvallis.

\* \* \*

From **Cindy Lindner**:

Thank you for the invitation to the Salmon BBQ and your thoughtful note. I promise there's nowhere in the world better than Hanson Grove on Salmon BBQ Sunday. Instead, though, I'll be working...at a DOC General Board meeting in Indianapolis. Hope all is well at FCC. Zoe and I hope to be in Oregon in August. I'll try to stop by and say "hello."

### FROM OSU ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (ALL)

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of the Oregon State University Academy for Lifelong Learning has unanimously agreed to donate \$2000 to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. This donation is an expression of our gratitude for the exceptional hospitality and care you have shown to us as tenants of your very fine meeting facilities.

We especially appreciate how you have attended to our needs, listened to our suggestions, improved the facilities and helped us schedule and reschedule our classes and meetings. Your staff has been pleasant and helpful on all occasions.

We know that you will put the enclosed check to good use. We look forward to continuing our highly satisfactory relationship.

Sincerely,

Norman Seward, OSU/Council Chair

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

<i>July 31-August 5:</i>	Liz away for continuing education
<i>July 29-August 14:</i>	Ryan's vacation
<i>July 31-August 5:</i>	Caroline Zaworski on call for pastoral needs
<i>July 31-August 4:</i>	C E wings floors will be stripped and re-waxed

## Lots of Thanks

... to overall Barbecue coordinator **Bart Eleveld** and his committee co-chairs: **Cynthia Janes**, tickets; **Susan Wickes**, publicity; **Dee Loomis**, set-up" (did you notice that we didn't have to fight wasps and bees? Dee set traps on Saturday so we could enjoy our food on Sunday); **Tanya Andersson**, Children's Activities; **Bob Stebbins** (and everyone), clean-up; **Pat Johnson** and **Dorothy Price**, beverages (thanks for all the water); **Linda Hadfield**, food; **Marsha Gulick**, Hospitality; **Michael Henthorne** and **Ryan Lambert**, program (our "no-name: church band was awesome!)

A special thank-you to everyone on the Barbecue crew, who stood over open coals on a 107 degree day: **Pete Nelson**, chair, and crew **Joe Chambers**, **Pete Klingeman**, **Lon Rycraft**, **Jim Cantey**, and **George Mueller-Warrant**. Also, a big thank-you to Parish Nurse **Caroline Zaworski**, who was ready with wet towels for those battling the heat.

... and to **Jody Eleveld**, **Marj Elwood**, **Dale Kirk**, **Wayne Phillips**, **Susan Wickes**, and, most especially **Verlyne Phillips** for our bright new parking lot lines and markings. This "hand-crafted" job should carry us till the next re-surfacing of the area.

... and to **Amanda LaBonte**, who came in one afternoon and restored order to the C E supply closet.

## Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Don Leeper**, doing rehab at Corvallis Manor after the amputation of his leg;

... continue with **Frank** and **Pamela Rinkus** and their family;

... and with **Doug Caldwell**, recovering at home from back surgery on July 24;

... and with **Lafe** and his children, **Jay**, **Chip** and **Charlotte**, on the death of wife and mother **Charlotte Harter** on July 20. A memorial service was held at our church on July 25.

... and with **Eleanor MacDonald**, recovering from foot surgery performed on July 27;

... and with **Paul deLespinasse** and his family. Paul's father, **Franklin**, died in Woodburn on July 30;

... and with **Cathy Sams** and family. Her mother, **Sarah Straughan**, died suddenly. Sarah would have celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 26.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, August 8.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, July 30*

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary worship
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Sox, Washington

*Monday, July 31*

- 5:00 p.m. PFLAG potluck
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, August 1*

- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
- 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

*Wednesday, August 2*

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

*Thursday, August 3*

- 1:00 p.m. Graveside service for Billie Gretz
- 1:30 p.m. Memorial reception for Billie Gretz

*Friday, August 4*

- 8:00** a.m. First Friday Forum, **Stoneybrook Lodge**

*Sunday, August 6*

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary worship
- 8:40 p.m. Holy Sox, W. Sunset

*Monday, August 7*

- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- NO** Boy Scout Troop 1
- 7:30 p.m. Hiroshima memorial, Starker Arts Park

*Tuesday, August 8*

- 9:00 a.m. Staff

*Wednesday, August 9*

- 7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

**AS REQUESTED...**  
 The lyrics to the Charles Ives piece that **Joan Caldwell** sang during last Sunday's service are:  
 There is no unbelief  
 And day by day and night by night  
 Unconsciously the heart lives  
 By faith the lips deny;  
 God knows the why.