



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 32

September 8, 2006

A NEW YEAR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:00 a.m. Room 7 (Nursery) - Child care available for infants and toddlers (ages 0-4) We also offer child care at this hour for young children of parents who may wish to sing in the Sanctuary Choir, which rehearses at 9:00 a.m. Child care is provided **from 9:00 a.m. through the end of worship.**

9:15 a.m.—Children and youth of all ages and their parents gather together in Room 5 for singing, recognizing birthdays, and sharing in an opening worship time.

9:30 a.m.—**Christian Education classes for all ages.** Our Children and Youth Church School program is a 50-minute weekly class for ages 2½ through high school. **Middle School** and **High School** students have their own unique array of classes. **Adult Forum** class, which offers a variety of topics dealing with faith issues and their challenges, will again take place in the Meeting Hall.

A second Adult Education program called **“God at Home”** is a reading and conversation group which will meet in

the Margaret Starker Fireplace Room. (*see page 3*).

The following are the room numbers for each grouping of grades:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
Infants, Toddlers	7 (upstairs)
PreK (3-yrs.)-K	6 (upstairs)
Grades 1-3	3 (downstairs)
Grades 4-5	1 (downstairs)
Middle School	4 (downstairs)
High School	2 (downstairs)

After the Children’s Message, during the worship service, toddler age and younger will go to Room 7; older children through Grade 3 will gather in Room 5, where **Amanda La Bonte**, our
(*continued on page 3*)

THIS SUNDAY

September 10

Adult Forum: **John Hawkins** and **Lon Rycraft** will lead a discussion on the continuing Middle East conflict.

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:4-7a
Mark 7:24-37

Sermon: “Continuing Education”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Well, here we go—another program year! Notice on Sunday morning the refurbishment of the sanctuary—floors cleaned and waxed, pew woodwork cleaned, and new carpeting. It's a great way to start the new year. We'll also be having the new start time for church school (9:15) to allow a time or the whole church school to gather, sing songs, and be together as a whole community. Adult education still begins at 9:30 and worship is back to its 10:30 time, complete with choir. So join us Sunday morning, both to enjoy the familiar and to check out what's new.

And then there's the new picture directory. I looked through the last directory and noticed that I'm not the only one who could benefit from a new picture. Putting together a picture directory is a lot of work and the Diaconate Outreach and Evangelism Committee has done a great job trying to reach every member of the congregation. Remember: even if you can't come in to the church to have your picture taken, we can arrange for our roving photographer, Brian Lee, to get your picture at home. As well as having pictures taken, we are using the opportunity of your photo visits to the church to invite you to update some important information for the church. The first of these forms is the "Lay Ministry Survey." Most of us filled out this form when we joined the church; for many of you, that was quite a while ago. The Lay Ministry Survey is used by the Nominating Committee and other groups to match people's interests with service opportunities around the church. We want to involve people in ways that make use of their particular skills and interests, and the surveys help us to do that.

The second form is titled, "In the event of my death." It asks for information about next of kin, your preferences for burial or cremation, and elements that might be important to you in a funeral or memorial service: your favorite scripture, hymns, etc. I realize this is a subject that many of us don't want to think about. However, life I uncertain. I can tell you from experience that when I am working with a family in the aftermath of a death, it is a great comfort to family to know what their loved one would like in these arrangements. So please consider filling out one of these forms as you wait for your photos.

As I have been writing this "Thought," and I realize how diverse the concerns in it—from new carpet to children's singing, worship, special skills, and memorial preferences—it strikes me what a rare and unique community the church is. Here we embrace so much of life, from major events to day-to-day maintenance. It reminds me that we live all of our lives as beloved children of God, and that the sacred permeates our every action and every day.

Come to church this Sunday and celebrate this unique community and the God whose love animates us all!

Liz



We will be kicking off the new program year with a meeting for **all Middle and High School youth and parents** at 7:00 p.m. on *Sunday, September 10*. At this meeting we will talk about the structure of the upcoming year, spend some time talking about communication, and introduce the meeting schedule for the year. Be there as we plan for an exciting year! Dessert included! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

Confirmation Meeting

After worship this Sunday **all 9th and 10th Grade youth and their parents** are invited to meet with **Ryan** in the Margaret Starker Fireplace Room for a short meeting about this year's Confirmation program. Our schedule will include three retreats spread through the year which will conclude with Confirmation Sunday on *May 20, 2007*. Please plan to bring your family's calendar as part of our meeting will be spent trying to schedule the retreats. Questions? Please contact **Ryan** at church or via e-mail.

PSTUDY THE PSALMS

Would you like to participate in a Bible study, but don't have time for another long-term commitment? Would you like to go in-depth on one book of the Bible? Do you enjoy the Bible's poetry? This fall **Ryan Lambert** will lead a Bible study on the book of Psalms.

Classes will meet every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for six weeks beginning on *September 21* and concluding on *October 26*.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *from p. 1*

Activity Hour leader, will meet them. Following worship, parents are invited to go to the appropriate rooms, to pick up their children.

A NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPTION ON SUNDAYS



Beginning this week, *September 10*, is a reading and conversation class called "God at Home" that will meet on Sundays from 9:30-10:20 in the Margaret Starker Fireplace Room. This group is open to all, but will have special focus on faith and parenting.

We will be reading from the "Faith and Family" book series, which examines the impact of faith development in families. The series is funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation and is edited by Diana R. Garland. Included in this series is "Seasons of a Family's Life: Celebrating the Contemplative Spirit at Home" by Wendy Wright and "The Power of God at Home: Nurturing our Children in Love and Grace" by Bradley J. Wigger. This is not a heavy reading load!

The readings will be used as a basis for conversation and shared reflection and, even if you don't get the reading done some weeks, there is still a place for you! Although **Ryan Lambert** will initially be leading this class, the plan is

for it to be a self-directed group that will select future texts and topics. Whether you have children young or old, you are welcome as many experiences make for rich discussion! Questions? Contact Ryan at church or via e-mail.

Food for Food

THE GARDEN PRODUCE TABLE RETURNS!

If your garden is overflowing with too much produce *or* you would like to purchase produce that has been grown locally; the Mission and Outreach Board is ready to help you as well as the community. Gardeners: You are invited to bring your extra produce before church to the produce table in Gattton Hall where the congregation can then purchase it after worship in exchange for a donation to help underwrite the costs of our Stone Soup meals.

WELCOME BACK CHILI COOK-OFF!

The 2nd annual Chili Cook-off, this year's Welcome Back event, is on *Sunday, September 17*. Music will be provided by **Emily and Justin Chi's Asparagus Quartet**. The socializing and music will begin immediately following our church service with the food to follow shortly after.

If you can prepare a batch of chili or a dessert for the event, please contact **Eileen Milligan** (757-7756 or family_milligan@yahoo.com).



BUDGET FACT AND FICTION

Myth #1: Church expenses go down in the summer. Wrong! Income goes down, but expenses are steady, with the exception of heating bills and child care.

Myth #2: September is not a summer month so collections are back to normal. Fact: September, when many are still in "vacation mode," is often our lowest income month. In part, giving patterns appear to be disrupted by the Labor Day service in the park. It is the first Sunday in September and the first Sunday of every month has the highest income; we never seem to recover from that missing Sunday. I'm sure you have guessed the budget account is behind year to date. We received a few large contributions in July and August, which certainly helped. Even so, we are \$9,000 short at this time. This is not unprecedented; your faithfulness to paying your pledges wiped out previous deficits. Let's do what we can, and that will happen again!

Thanks to all who prayed for me or called or sent me cards regarding my recent hospital stay. I am doing well again.
Wally Christianson

HELP!!

A Mother's Story of the Battle of Okinawa by Oshiro Junko was a gift from Rev. Masato Tsukuda. This book is missing from the library. It will be of interest to our folks who are going on the next visit to Japan, so we want to return it to the shelves as soon as possible.

**“LABELS FOR EDUCATION,”
STAMPS, STILL NEEDED**

We continue to collect “Labels for Education,” which appear on Campbell’s soup and some cereals, to support Crossroads School in Indiana. It is a residential facility for children and young people, sponsored by the national UCC. Any labels should be left in the second drawer at the end of the nametag cupboard in the church foyer. Canceled postage stamps should be placed in the same drawer. They help support “Care to Share” in the Portland area. Thanks for your help!

CLEARING OUT THE HOUSE?

Community Outreach and Benton Furniture Share are both planning fundraising sales. If you have good household goods or furniture to donate please contact them. Call COI at 758-3000 to arrange delivery of items. (They will also accept children’s clothing.) Benton Furniture Share can be reached at 754-9511.

**SIGN UP NOW
FOR WOMEN’S CAMP**

Several women from our congregation are registered for the UCC Women’s

Camp on *October 6-8* at Camp Adams. “Let Your Spirit Soar!” is the theme with **Marsha Gulick** as the resource leader. Registration forms are available in the literature rack at the entrance to Gatton Hall. The total fee is \$90 with \$50 due with the registration. Financial assistance forms are available from the church office. Carpools will be arranged from Corvallis to camp. Here’s your chance to get better acquainted with local women as well as those from around the Central Pacific Conference. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** for additional information.

A Celebration!

Five-year-old **Lauren Meara**, daughter of **Tracey** and **Brian**, was diagnosed with leukemia just after her third birthday. This August marked her two-year “post treatment” anniversary. For her type of cancer, AML, this is the time when doctors consider her to be disease free. This is an exciting milestone for Lauren, her family, and us!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the family of **Marie Campbell**, who died peacefully on August 31. Although she lived in Puyallup for the past 12 years, she had been a longtime member of this church. A funeral service was held in Washington on September 3;

... and with **Mike Huntington** and his family. Mike’s mother, **Tony**, died on August 31 at age 99.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 12.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 10

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15** a.m. Church School, Room 5
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, Meeting Hall
- 9:30 a.m. God at Home class, Library
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Fellowship, Gatton Hall
- (following) Confirmation class youth and parents, Fireplace Room
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed
- 7:00 p.m. Middle and High School youth and parents, Gatton Hall

Monday, September 11

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

Tuesday, September 12

- 10:30 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class begins, Library

Wednesday, September 13

- 7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 1:15 p.m. Women's Fellowship Board, Library
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 14

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
- Directory photos**

Friday, September 15

Directory photos

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, September 17:* Welcome Back Chili Cook-Off

A NOTE TO CALLERS

Church staff meetings are now at 10:30 until about 11:45 on Tuesday mornings. If you need to speak to a staff person at church, try calling before or after this time.

REMINDER:

New carpeting was installed in the sanctuary on September 5, and 6.