



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 33

September 15, 2006



TEACHER COMMISSIONING SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 17

Join us in worship this Sunday when we will commission our church school teachers. It's an opportunity to offer our support and appreciation as they begin this new program year with our youth and children.

Make pinwheels for peace, peace jewelry and print peace quotes on a banner. There will be a reading of the Proclamation of Corvallis International Peace Day signed by Mayor Berg, poetry reading by Roger Weaver, acknowledgment of the Troops Home Fast ending on the 21st by Bart Bolger and signing by the Raging!

(continued on page 5)

CHILI LUNCH MAKES FOR WARM WELCOME BACK



Our second annual Chili Cook-off happens this *Sunday, September 17*, immediately following worship. There will be music by the Asparagus Quartet (with **Emily** and **Justin Chi**) and lots of chili (as well as a non-chili vegetarian alternative) and dessert.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY/ SEPTEMBER 21

Come join in a city-wide event for young and old, children and families: the "Celebration of the U.N. International Peace Day." *Thursday, September 21*, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the south Courthouse lawn, 4th and Monroe Sts.

THIS SUNDAY

September 17

Adult Forum: Youth who participated in last June's trip to Colorado for the UCC's Western Regional Youth Event will share pictures and thoughts on their time there. Those participating in the trip were **Megan Chambers, Deniz Cok, Beth Koch, Jenny Koch, Natalie Lucker, Robin Miller, and Chris Rorer**. Come and hear about their experiences!

Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a
James 3:1-12

Sermon: "The Taming of
Our Speech"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

I like noise. Turn on the radio, the TV, stream the audio from the Mariners game on the computer, get the dog barking and then it is perfect! I'm sure my love of noise has something to do with my love of the kick-off of the church year. Last Sunday morning it seemed like heaven with the choir practicing and then helping to lead us in worship, with 14 youth in the high school church school class, with children back in all the classrooms, and with a whole lot of people greeting each other saying, "Welcome back; how was your summer!"

Much of the noise I like around the house is used just as fill, but church noise is different. Sunday morning made me think about how often noise is characterized as a distraction, when all I thought of was how much I enjoyed the noises of our community. Last Sunday I listened intently to your laughter and joy, to the enthusiasm of children and teachers, to parents and youth looking forward to youth group events, and to confirmation-age youth beginning to ask questions. What I didn't hear was "filler" noise, no noise there just to fill the space. Instead the noises I heard were of a community coming together and being reunited after travels, vacations, and time away.

This Sunday the noise will continue as we will officially say "Welcome Back!" with the commissioning of church school teachers and an after-church chili cook-off. I hope that all of you will enjoy the noise of our community and take the time to talk with each other and connect with those who have been missed over the summer. Enjoy the creative and connective sounds of our church as we "make a joyful noise" together.

Peace, and Welcome Back!

Ryan

"THAT'S MY FARMER" PROJECT COUPON BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

One of the goals of the "That's My Farmer" project has been to reinforce knowledge of the abundance and diversity of produce available and grown here in our own backyards, so to speak. For those of you who have participated by purchasing coupon books good at the Saturday and Wednesday Farmer's Markets (and participating farm stands), you will see that the fall is a great season for continuing support to local farmers.

The Just Peace Committee will continue to sell coupon books (\$20) throughout September. Remember that you can also purchase a book and donate it to Circle of Hope or any other group that helps feed our less advantaged neighbors.



This week we will be gathering at the **Rycraft-Storm** home (4205 SW 53rd Street) for Apple Picking and Cider Pressing. **Middle school** will “pick and press” from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and High School will follow from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please wear solid shoes and clothing appropriate for working in an orchard. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

All youth and parents are invited to participate in the newly created “Corvallis UCC Youth” list-serv. If you have not received an e-mail invitation to the list, please contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail.

The church owns a Werner brand aluminum two-step platform ladder. Recently it has been hard to use because we cannot find it! If you know its whereabouts, please get it to its home—the store room by the Meeting Hall.

September Mission Offering **WHO WILL LEAD THE CHURCH?**

Several years ago, the Dean of Yale Divinity School came out strongly, saying that if he could make it possible, there would be no more tuition increases for a seminary education at his institution. “Our students are facing a financial crisis.” Most of them have \$20,000-\$50,000 of undergraduate loans. Taking on another \$60,000 in loans will make it

impossible for many graduates to serve small and even medium-sized churches because they can’t make their loan payments on parish ministry salaries.

It matters that churches take an interest in seminary education. It matters that we contribute to scholarship funds that keep education affordable for all qualified candidates. If we don’t, then many of the next generation of church leaders will be dissuaded from pursuing their call.

We have already begun to see the results. Throughout the American landscape, small urban and rural churches are closing their doors because they can’t pay salaries that will accommodate ministers with \$60,000 to \$100,000 of educational debt. Support the future church. Give to this month’s Mission Offering which supports scholarships for Yale Divinity School (Liz), Pacific School of Religion (Ryan), and the seminarians in care of the Central Pacific Conference.

CONSIDERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

An Inquirers’ Class for is planned for *Sunday, October 8 and 15* for anyone interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational in Corvallis. On the 8th, there will be a light lunch following worship to begin the first session. Those deciding to join will be received into membership during worship on *October 29*. Let the church office know if you would like to attend.

FROM YOUR PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

Dear Congregation,

The Planned Giving Committee of our church is completing a video about our church and the many activities we are involved in. You may have seen parts of this production at our booth during the Benton County Fair. Most of the video work has been done by **Mark Thackray**. Part of the video is about our youth missions trips. I would like to include at least one photo from each of the mission trips that our church has sponsored since the Jamaica trip of the late '80s.

If you have photos of the kids and adults on these trips that can be digitally transmitted, please send them by email to me. A digital camera shot of a print may work fine. Since the video is only 15 minutes long, there will be room for only one or two photos from each trip. Action shots of our building crews or us meeting with the local people are desirable, especially with background that confirms the country or region where the kids were.

Sincerely,

Mike Huntington, Chair
Planned Giving Committee

P.S. Please be on the lookout for a monthly comment and a quarterly insert in the church newsletter about planned giving. You will learn how current and past church members included the church in their long-term financial goals and how we now benefit from their thoughtful planning.

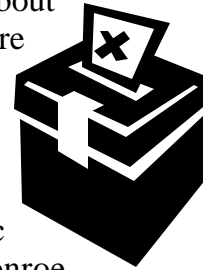
P.P.S. If you have questions about planned giving, please contact any members of the committee: **Harold Hunter, Gretchen Morris, John Erkkila, Joni Peterson, Jo Anne Trow, Liz Oettinger**, or me.

ACTIVITY DIRECTORIES ARE READY

Pick up a new 2006-2007 church Activity Directory from the cabinet in the foyer. This booklet lists the educational, fellowship, athletic and musical opportunities for all ages at First Congregational, along with information about how to get involved.

CANDIDATES AND BALLOT MEASURE FORUM

Candidates for the state legislature from this area will talk about their views on health care issues at a Candidates and Ballot Measure Forum at 7:00 p.m. on *Monday, September 18* at the Corvallis Public Library, 645 NW Monroe.



The forum is free and open to the public.

According to Dr. **Craig Leman**, a member of the forum sponsor, Interfaith Health Care NETWORK, the primary purpose of the forum is to inform the public about the candidates' positions on health care issues. In addition, the forum will provide information on several ballot measures which may affect health care in Oregon.

Candidates participating in the forum are: **Andy Olson** and **Sam Sappington**, House District 15; **Robin Brown** and **Sara Gelser**, House District 16; **Mario Magana** and **Frank Morse**, Senate District 8.

Interfaith Health Care NETWORK includes representatives from First Congregational United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Corvallis Friends Meeting, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, which is assisting in planning the forum, is an association of 17 Christian denominations including Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic religious bodies that work together to respond as a people of faith to the needs of Oregonians.

The Candidates and Ballot Measure Forum follows the initial NETWORK project, the *Seeking Justice in Health Care Workshop* in February, 2006. Interfaith Health Care NETWORK welcomes additional faith communities to participate in its educational and advocacy activities. For further information contact: bjonson2@juno.com.

PARK SERVICE OFFERING

The ecumenical Central Park worship service on September 3 received offerings for Community Outreach, Inc. in the amount of \$968.26.



... to **Brian Lee**, for his continuing care of our church's computer system, faithfully dealing with upgrades, security, and general problems with hardware and software. We'd be lost without him!

... and to the Spit 'n' Polish Team, that spiffed up the sanctuary, Meeting Hall, and C E wing last week. We began the program year with the facility looking wonderful, thanks to **Verlyne Phillips**, **Ann Hawkins**, **Wayne Phillips**, **John Hawkins**, **Jody Eleveld**, **Marj Elwood**, **Susan Wickes**, **Dale Kirk**, **Greg Smith**, **Molly Chambers**, **Grace Lambert**, and, of course, **Ryan** and **Liz**.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE from p.1

Grannies for Peace. The event is co-sponsored by four faith justice groups (including our Just Peace Committee) and six community justice groups in Corvallis. No cost. Everyone welcome.

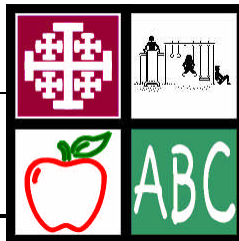
BIBLE QUIZ -- PART 1

1. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
2. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
3. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Answers: 1 Ruthless; 2. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation; 3. Samson. He brought the house down.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 19.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 15

Directory photos

Saturday, September 16

Directory photos

Benton Furniture Share
 sale

Sunday, September 17

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Rm. 5
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
- 9:30 a.m. God at Home class,
 Fireplace Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Welcome Back
 Chili Cook-Off**
- 3:00 p.m.** Middle School youth,
 Rycraft/Storm
- 5:00 p.m.** High School youth,
 Rycraft/Storm

Monday, September 18

- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Council
- 7:00 p.m. C E Board

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, September 19

- 10:30 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class,
 Library
- 3:00-7:30 Stone Soup
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, September 20

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

Thursday, September 21

- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
- 5:00-6:30 International Peace
 Day, Courthouse**
- 7:00 p.m. Psalms study class**
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, October 1:* Missionfest; *October 29:* Reformation Sunday and 50th Anniversary of the UCC; *November 5:* All Saints Sunday; *November 19:* Thanksgiving Sunday; *Sunday, December 3:* Advent Festival