



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 35

September 29, 2006

## CELEBRATE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AT MISSIONFEST

This Sunday the Mission and Outreach Board will be sponsoring **MissionFest**, which is an annual opportunity to explore how the church reaches out into the world. We celebrate MissionFest on World Communion Sunday as we recognize the global connection of the church and the many places where our faith creates partnerships. This year we are using the international efforts of Habitat for Humanity as a lens to help us understand the work of the church and others in Latin America. Join us on Sunday after worship for a meal featuring Honduran recipes and presentations about both our local Habitat affiliate and their international efforts. See you there!

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## THIS SUNDAY

*October 1*

**Adult Forum:** Health Care Reform. Richard Lague, president of the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, will present current activities at the federal level and the Archimedes Movement in Oregon. The citizens' health care working group was directed by Congress to develop an action plan to provide health care for all Americans. After one year of surveying the American public and drafting recommendations for citizens' comments, they will present final recommendation to Congress and the  
*(continued on page 3)*

**Scriptures:** Psalm 124  
Mark 9: 38-50  
James 5:13-20

**Sermon:** "When Faith is Life"  
Ryan Lambert

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

Dear Friends,

On October 21-22, Corvallis will be the host for an important conference called “Transforming Faith: A Transgender Witness.” This interfaith conference is the first of its kind, bringing together transgendered people of faith and their allies in celebration of the unique witness that transgendered folks proclaim as people of faith. This conference is jointly sponsored by the Community of Welcoming Congregations, Pacific School of Religion’s Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, and the Human Rights Campaign’s Religion and Faith Program. Additionally, First United Methodist, Corvallis Unitarian Fellowship, and First Congregational Church are the local sponsors of this conference.

Featured speakers at the conference will include the theologian Virginia Mollen-cott and United Church of Christ pastor Malcolm Himschoot, the subject of the documentary “Call Me Malcolm” which will be shown as a part of the conference. Also, the Transcendence Gospel Choir, the first-ever Transgender Gospel Choir which hails from San Francisco’s City of Refuge UCC, will perform on Saturday night.

Although this conference is being hosted at First United Methodist Church there are many opportunities for our church to be involved. The planning group has intentionally worked with people from all three local sponsor congregations and our working group includes Pat Johnson, Dorothy Price, Aleita Holcombe. However, as the event nears there are needs for more help. First, in an effort to make this conference affordable there is the desire to provide homestay opportunities. If you are willing to open your home for a couple of nights, please contact me. Second, there will be much in the way of local arrangements/set-up during the week of the conference. If you have time to give to help in this area, please contact anyone from our working group. Third, plan to attend this event! This event is not just for transgendered folks, but is also for their allies, friends, supporters, and faith partners.

Finally, because the needs of transgendered folks are varied and often new to many people, the Community of Welcoming Congregations is offering a pre-event training at 6:30 pm. on October 5 at First United Methodist Church. Essentially a “Transgender 101,” this training will be a chance to get comfortable with the needs of transgendered folks and answer questions about how this Interfaith conference will happen. Plan to attend!

Have a great week; see you in church!

**Ryan**

### **ADULT FORUM** *from page 1*

president this fall. Hear about these recommendations. Former Governor Kitzhaber leads the Archimedes Movement to develop health care for all Oregonians. Changes are coming to the current health care system. Find out on Sunday what's happening and how to influence the outcomes.

### **REACHING OUT TO FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS**

Thank you to all who filled out the inserts in Sunday's bulletin. Those who weren't at worship, or forgot to drop theirs in the offering plate, will have another opportunity this week. If you won't be attending worship, and would like to volunteer, please call the office. We need volunteers to provide: **emergency meal preparation; transportation to worship, a doctor's appointment, or for grocery shopping; companionship for a few hours; light housekeeping; emergency childcare for church members/friends; or to serve one month as meal coordinator.** Again, thank you. You make outreach within the church community work!



### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS BEGIN**

All women are invited to Women's Fellowship on *Wednesday, October 4*. Lunch is served at noon (cost \$4) and the

program begins at 1:00. **Ryan Lambert** will share some experience from summer youth camp: "Talking Peace at Camp."

If your schedule does not allow you to attend both come just for lunch or come just for the program. Sign up in the foyer this Sunday or call the church office. Let us know if you need child care or transportation.

### **FILM ADDRESSES GROWING UP UNDER OCCUPATION**

A film, "Gaza Strip," that shows why peace is so difficult to achieve in Palestine, will be shown at 2:00 p.m.,



*Sunday, October 8*, at First United Methodist Church, 165 NW Monroe Ave. in Corvallis.

The free showing, in the church's Martha Room, is sponsored by Corvallis/ Albany Friends of Middle East Peace. A discussion and refreshments will follow.

Released in 2002, "Gaza Strip" shows a population under Israeli occupation and resultant frustration of the people, especially young Gaza males. Although Israel lifted the occupation about a year ago, military and economic controls were restored after Hamas won parliamentary elections in Palestine last January. Violence and a rising civilian death toll followed.

After seeing the film, the audience will have a chance to share their views on this long-term dilemma. For more information, call 752-8020.

**REMINDER:  
WITNESS FOR  
PEACE SPEAKER  
TOUR TUESDAY**



Exploring the issues of justice for our neighbors to the South gains momentum this Sunday with the Mission Board focusing on Central America. Continue the openness to hear more about the needs of people to the South by attending the Witness for Peace speaker tour that will be in Corvallis on *Tuesday, October 3*. There are two opportunities to hear the story of Freddy Urbano, a Colombian farmer and campesino leader. He will be speaking at noon in La Raza Room, OSU's Memorial Union; and right here in our own church at 7:00 p.m. Please come!!!

**DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA  
WANTS YOU!**

If you were moved by the photo presentation of **Michael Bendixon** upon his return from Nicaragua with Witness for Peace last fall, now is the time to commit yourself to joining a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua. Witness for Peace is partnering with Jubilee USA Network to create a delegation that looks first hand at the impacts of debt and economic policies of the IMF, World Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank. Participants will meet with organizations working to cancel or refuse to pay the debt, as well as movements challenging economic policies like water privatization, trade agreements and user fees on

health and education that are hurting the poor.

Although the deadline for applications was *September 15*, there is still room for you – if you act soon!! Please consider being part of this delegation to Nicaragua, *November 11-19*. Look for the blue flyers this week during Missionfest.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR  
WOMEN'S CAMP APPROACHES**

Monday, October 2, is the deadline to register for this year's UCC Women's Camp where Marsha Gulick will be the resource leader. "Let Your Spirit Soar!" is the theme for the October 6-8 event at Camp Adams. Brochures are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall. Total cost is \$90, with \$50 due with the registration form. Carpools will be formed from Corvallis. The week-end begins with Friday dinner and ends with Sunday brunch. Here's your chance to get better acquainted with other church women and also have an inspiring week-end! Contact Nancy Klingeman for additional information.

**WALK A MILE FOR A CHILD**

Community Outreach is raising money to support Mari's Place, its on-site therapeutic child care center that focuses on the needs of children born into difficult circumstances: homelessness, chronic poverty, drug addiction, domestic violence, or mental illness. To run the program costs an average of \$689 per child per month. Some expenses are cov-

ered by the Department of Human Services; families contribute what they can; however, much of the cost must be covered by donations.

“Walk a Mile for a Child” is a one-mile walk along the Corvallis riverfront that will take place *Saturday, October 14*, at 10:00 a.m. **Liz Oettinger**, as a Community Outreach Board member, will be walking, but it would be great to have a group of walkers from the church. If you would like to walk or to sponsor a walker, there will be a table in the church foyer the next two Sundays to allow you to sign up. Mari’s Place serves the needs of some of the most vulnerable children in our community. Your support will be appreciated.

### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP TO START**

**Benton Hospice Service** will begin an eight-week Grief Education and Support Group for those in our community who have lost a loved one. Sessions are Mondays, starting *October 2*, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.; or Tuesday, starting *October 3*, 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The group will meet in the conference room at Benton Hospice Service, 2350 NW Professional Drive in Corvallis. Light refreshments will be provided.

During the first twenty minutes of each meeting, there will be a short presentation about a topic that relates to the grieving process, including the phases of grief, changes experienced during bereavement, and practical tips on how to

cope with grief. There will then be time for discussion, sharing experiences and receiving support from others in the group.

The number of participants is limited. Please call the hospice office at 757-9616 to pre-register by *September 29*. Bereavement Coordinator **Mary Miller**, LPC, FT, is available to answer questions regarding the group.

### **ONE MORE OCTOBER BIRTHDAY**

Somehow **Ryan Lambert’s** birthday never got on the list. It’s October 5.

Please join us  
as we exchange our marriage vows  
at 3:00 p.m.  
on Saturday, November 25, 2006  
at our church

At this joyous occasion we ask that you remember those whose needs are greater by donating to Church World Service in lieu of gifts. Donations may be mailed to the church.

The service will be followed by a potluck reception at the church. You may bring Thanksgiving leftover to share as we give thanks for many blessings.

With joy and gratitude,  
Caroline Zaworski and Charles Helsabeck

RSVP to Caroline if you will be able to join us.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)  
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR  
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
 Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd  
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925 Published weekly  
 except twice a month in July and August by  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 3.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### *Saturday, September 30*

10:00 a.m. Missionfest preparation

#### *World Communion Sunday, October 1*

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  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
**(following) Missionfest**  
 5:00 p.m. Middle School youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School youth

#### *Monday, October 2*

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

#### *Tuesday, October 3*

10:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism  
 7:00 p.m. Witness for Peace talk  
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee  
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate

#### *Wednesday, October 4*

Noon Women's Fellowship luncheon, Gatton Hall  
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

#### *Thursday, October 5*

7:00 p.m. Psalms Pstudy  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

#### *Friday, October 6*

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum, Shari's  
 6:30 p.m. Confirmation retreat (through Saturday)

**LOOKING AHEAD:** *October 22:*  
 Commissioning of Japan delegation

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Joni Peterson**, recovering at home after hand surgery;

... and with former member **Stephanie Jorgensen**, whose mother, **Lorna Smith**, died on September 22 in California.



**Legacy** is the title for inserts that will appear from time to time in the *Congregational News* to tell church members about various matters related to the work of the Endowment and Memorial Funds Board. Issues of **Legacy** will report on endowments and other major gifts, on donors, on how Endowment Board funds are used, and on ideas to help members with their own gift planning. This week's insert reports on a grant to Michael Bendixen and the experience that grant allowed him to have, and presents information about Herman and Bessie Scullen. Herman's generous estate gift provides for similar grants to our church youth..

### **Michael Bendixen, a grant from the Christian education endowments**

In November of 2005, Michael Bendixen, a 26-year-old member of our church, was invited to participate in a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua. His participation in the trip was made possible by a grant from the Christian Education endowments at First Congregational. The purpose of the trip was to learn how global economic policies, including U.S. policy, impact the life of the poor in third world countries, especially around issues of food sustainability.

Michael, a lifelong resident of Philomath, believes that his eyes were opened by this experience. He says, "When you lead a comfortable and relatively affluent life, and you don't actually see poverty, it really doesn't exist for you." As a professional photographer and videographer, Michael used his trip to document his experiences on film, in the hopes of making the situations he encountered in Nicaragua emotionally available to others. He is producing a 15-minute documentary slide show of his trip.

"Christianity is about trust," Michael reflects. "A lot of people in the church don't know me, and still they gave me the money for the trip. In return, I feel a responsibility to do good with what I saw and learned. In the church, we often give without knowing the clear benefit of what our money will do. I want the church to see the benefit to me and know I will use it to open other people's eyes as mine have been opened. I am grateful for the church's trust in me."

## Herman and Bessie Scullen

Herman Scullen and his wife Bessie joined First Congregational Church when it was still federated with the Presbyterian church downtown. He was a Professor of Entomology at Oregon State, working with honey bees. He was also active with the Boy Scouts, supporting Troop 1 and serving on the regional Boy Scout Council. A long-time church member remembers Herman Scullen as a gracious and delightful man, always smiling and willing to lend a hand, deeply committed to providing young people with positive role models and life experiences. Largely through his efforts, a small cabin was built on the church grounds where the children's play structures now stand. That cabin became the special and beloved domain of both Troop One and church youth groups. Unfortunately, the cabin burned in an arson fire in 1991.

At the time of his death, Scullen left a bequest to the church's endowments to be used for the benefit of young people and Christian Education. Those monies, now paired with the Fred Morgan endowment, as the Morgan/Scullen endowment provide campership funds for children and youth to attend special youth events and most commonly to attend church summer camp at Camp Adams. To support our Conference camping program and to get the children and youth of the church involved in outdoor ministries, the church will pay half the cost of any child connected with the church to attend church camp in the summer. Every year the Christian education endowments allow between five and fifteen children from our congregation to enjoy their week at camp: experiencing the beauty of Camp Adams, making friends with children and youth from other Conference churches, worshiping, singing, studying, and playing together. It is a significant gift to the children and their parents and an equally significant investment in the church of the future. We are grateful to Herman Scullen for his commitment to children and youth and his generosity to the church.

