



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 43

November 24, 2006



Advent Festival

Children and adults are invited to join us for our annual Advent Festival next Sunday morning, December 3, during the Christian Education hour (9:30) and during the fellowship time after worship in Gatton Hall. We will have Advent wreath-making, cookie activities, pine cone bird feeders, potato stamps for making cards, and nametag lanyards. (Donations help toward wreath cost.)

In addition to a Heifer Alternative Giving table there will also be another opportunity this year to buy dry soup packets to benefit the South Corvallis Food Bank. This is a wonderful inter-generational event and a great way to focus on the joy of Advent and the coming of the Christ child. Join us!

HANGING OF THE GREENS



This year Hanging of the Greens—our traditional day of trimming trees and making wreaths and swags—will be on *December 16*. Set-up begins at noon. The decorating will begin at

2:00. There will also be children's activities: paper chain making, graham cracker houses, etc. Refreshments, cookies, fun and laughter will be served to all.

The earlier times are because of that evening's Corvallis Repertory Singers concert in the sanctuary.

Sign-ups will begin this Sunday after service or call **Jerry Groesz** (758-3638).

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 3, following worship, to consider our taking on the responsibilities of being the fiscal agent for the proposed Corvallis cold weather shelter for the homeless.

THIS SUNDAY

November 26

Adult Forum: We will discuss the Kitzhaber DVD about Archimedes Movement shown last Sunday

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 23:1-7
Revelation 1:4b-9
John 18:33-37

Sermon: "Portrait of a King"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope everyone had a great day filled with family, friends, and wonderful foods. Personally, I am enjoying the fact that this year the calendar allows us an extra week between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. So often it feels like Thanksgiving and Advent end up collapsed together in a rush of activity. This year I am thankful that there is some breathing space before Advent begins.

I am especially thankful for the later start of Advent because it allows me to use this space to write a bit about World AIDS Day, observed each year on December 1. Obviously World AIDS Day is not exactly a holiday to be celebrated, but it is a day that I suggest we should all use to better understand the political, social, and religious issues that impact global treatment efforts. In the United States our understanding of HIV/AIDS has led to the disease being largely addressed from a health and treatment perspective. However, this has led to economic and social-strata disparities concerning infection rates and treatment options in this country and across the globe.

As you undoubtedly know the African continent has been ravaged by the effects of AIDS and while treatment plans offer hope in the western world AIDS remains an epidemic around the world. Fear and misinformation further cloud treatment efforts. Education about the disease and how it can be prevented is critical to stemming the tidal wave of infections. Confronting AIDS requires frank talk and full disclosure about risky behavior. World AIDS Day offers each one of us a chance to have conversations about the disease with our children and grandchildren, and with our partners and our friends, **and** it provides an opportunity for us to explore how our voices can help make AIDS education, prevention, and treatment a reality for all people regardless of where they live.

For information about HIV/AIDS and how you can help please check out these websites: www.ucc.org/hiv aids or www.worldaids campaign.info.

Also, as a part of my seminary education, I trained to facilitate the “Our Whole Lives” sexuality curriculum. If you are looking for ways to talk to your children or family about HIV/AIDS, let me know as I have several good resources available and would be happy to help in any way. HIV/AIDS has not gone away and we as the church must continue to respond in faithful ways.

Have a faithful week,

Ryan



Hopefully everyone had Thanksgiving! We will not be having youth group this week due to the holiday, but both groups will gather again on *December 3*.

High School youth remember to contact **Ryan** by *November 27* regarding whether or not you are planning to go to General Synod. Registration and reservations open on *December 1* so we need an accurate count for hotel rooms.

YOUTH FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The High School Youth Group will be fundraising all year for the General Synod conference on the east coast in June. In December, there are two wonderful activities to ease your holiday stress!

1. **Christmas Cookies:** We will be baking Christmas cookies on *December 16* and delivering them to your home. You can order them for \$5/dozen and for every four dozen you order you get a free dozen!! The youth will be taking orders on *Sundays, December 3 and 10*. Be sure to get your order into the youth for your Christmas cookies!
2. **Gift Wrapping:** We will be wrapping your gifts for the holi-

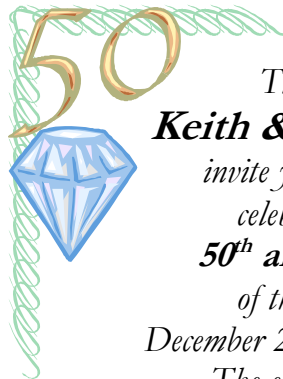


days on *Sunday, December 10* and *Saturday, December 23*.



You will be able to choose from at least three choices of wrap and ribbon. Just bring your gifts in when you come to church on *Sunday, December 10* and we will deliver them to your home in the evening. On *Saturday, the 23rd*, you will have to make a special trip to get your gifts to us but then we will again deliver them to your home.

Be sure to tell your friends about these two wonderful fundraisers!



The family of
Keith & Doris Sherry
invite you to join in the
celebration of the
50th anniversary
of the couple's
December 29, 1956 wedding.
The event will be a
Potluck at the church
Saturday, December 30, 2006
12 noon
No gifts, please

RSVP would be appreciated.
Please contact Marcia Sherry-Newby
541-601-0171



For those of you who have not returned your pledge cards yet: we need them as soon as possible in order to plan for the 2007 budget. Every gift is important, so please bring or mail your pledge soon. Thank you.

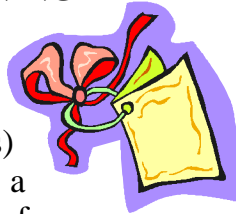
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HOSTS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Plan to join us to "savor the season" on *Wednesday, December 6*, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the Fireplace Room for a light brunch. **Gretchen Wood**, minister at the Unitarian church, will give a brief talk about winter celebrations in other cultures. Sign up in the foyer after church on *Sundays, November 26 or December 3*, or call the church office.

Please bring a toy to be donated to CARDV. Suggested are: books, puzzles, games, dolls, cars and trucks, building toys and balls. Questions? Call **Julie Maloney** or **Alice Morrow**.

Make someone's Christmas bright! PICK UP A BRIGHT GIFT TAG THIS SUNDAY MORNING

Starting this *Sunday, November 26*, tags identifying recipients (children and adults) will be hung on a Christmas tree in the foyer. Take one or more of your choice, purchase a suitable gift for the person de-



scribed, and bring the unwrapped gift(s) to worship on *December 10*. Gifts will be delivered to *Vina Moses* and *Corvalis Manor*.

Dear friends,

We want you to know how much we appreciate the support you have given area youth this year through your contributions to Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Inc.

At times during this past year, Jackson Street Youth Shelter was struggling financially to the point that many of us feared the shelter programs would have to be closed. However, the community responded warmly to our desperate appeals for help, and we now believe we have a stable financial base for the coming fiscal year – if our community continues to support us as strongly as you have in the past months.

Again, the staff and board of directors of Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Inc. thank you for your generous ongoing support in providing a safe, stable, secure environment for the youth in our community.

Ann P. Craig, Executive Director

P. S. I really enjoyed visiting your church with my son, Thor. Thank you for your warm welcome...

REFILLING THE EMPTIES

Do you have things you have saved because “someone” might need them? If they are paper grocery sacks, Vina Moses needs them. If they are big paper shopping bags with handles, Vina Moses needs them. If they are 16-32 ounce plastic yogurt and cottage cheese containers with lids, Stone Soup needs them. Bring the items into church and I will get them to their new homes.

Alice Mills Morrow

Dear friends,

Community Outreach deeply appreciates First Congregational United Church of Christ's generosity in August. We use every dollar efficiently to serve our extremely low-income clients.

Through our medical and housing programs, we help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency. We are so thankful that the members of your church help make our mission possible.

Lee Tinker, Development Officer

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Koenig-Chase 12/1, Betty Massoni 2/2, Jen Maguire 12/6, Beth Koch 12/7, Mike Huntington 12/10, Cameron Bodwell 12/15, Sue Richmond 12/16, Marion Whitney 12/17, Alice Mills Morrow 12/17, Norm Vedaa 12/18, Steve Lucker 12/18, Claire McMorris 12/23, Sandy Murphy 12/23, Martin



McLemore 12/25, Kathie Merriam 12/26, Don Olson 12/26, David Jones 12/29, Becky Flitcroft 12/29, Wayne Phillips 12/30, Pat Johnson 12/30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nick and Susan Piasias 12/17 (34th)
 Jack and Marion Whitney 12/20 (54th)
 Harold and Charlene Hunter 12/20 (26th)
 Bob and Monine Stebbins 12/27
 Norm and Mary Vedaa 12/28 (10th)
 Keith and Doris Sherry 12/29 (50th)
 Mark and Ginnie Esary 12/30 (23rd)

If your family's names and dates aren't on our list and you would like them to be, leave the information on the church office “Newsletter” box or e-mail it to **Susan Wickes**.

NEED A NAME TAG?

If you are a regular part of our Sunday mornings at First Congregational and would like a plastic-sleeved name-tag, just print your name as you would like it on the tag and indicate whether you prefer a clip or a pin fastener on the clipboard sheet by the name tag racks.

If you have lost your name tag or have one that has seen better days, sign the sheet to get a replacement. The new tags will shortly appear on the top of the cabinet in the foyer.

These tags are particularly helpful for new people trying to learn many names and match them to new faces.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, November 28.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, November 24

Office closed

Saturday, November 25

3:00 p.m. Wedding of Caroline
 Zaworski and Charles
 Helsabeck

Sunday, November 26

9:15 a.m. Church School, Room
 4
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
 9:30 a.m. God at Home class
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children' Advent
 Choir, Meeting Hall

Monday, November 27

5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:00 p.m. C E Board
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1,
 Fireplace Room
 (Court of Honor)

Tuesday, November 28

10:30 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, November 29

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 30

7:00 p.m. Psalms Pstudy (last),
 Library

Friday, December 1

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

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, December 17:* Children' Advent Choir sings for worship

We are
 thankful....



for all of you who helped make Thanksgiving Sunday a wonderful day: those who cooked, carved, served, set up, cleaned up, brought and ate food, and raked leaves on Saturday.