



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 44

December 1, 2006



Children and adults, join us for our annual Advent Festival this *Sunday morning, December 3*, during the Christian Education hour (9:15) and during the fellowship time after worship in Gattton Hall. We will prepare for Christmas by making Advent wreaths, pine cone bird feeders, potato-stamped cards, and nametag lanyards. There will be cookies to decorate, too. (Donations help defray the cost of wreath materials.)

In addition to a Heifer Alternative Giving table [see page 4 for details], there is another, new opportunity to buy gifts and also help those in need. **Suzanne Hovland's** collection of vintage note cards, including some from UNICEF and museum stores, will be sold. These can be great stocking stuffers or gifts for colleagues. The proceeds from the sale of these donated cards will help purchase mats for the Coalition for Sheltering the Homeless winter shelter.

The Advent Festival is a wonderful intergenerational 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* at 2:00. Your help is needed for decorating set-up beginning at noon and with children's activities: (paper chain making, graham cracker houses, etc.) starting at 2:00 and with Refreshments, cookies, fun and laughter will be served to all.

**Congregational Meeting, called for December 3, is cancelled. [See Shelter Update, page 4 for more information.]**

## THIS SUNDAY

*December 3*

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Luke 21:25-36

**Sermon:** "Hurry Up and Wait"  
Ryan Lambert

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Yes, Advent is coming! And while the world rushes headlong towards Christmas, we in the church take our stately time to stop and wait, to listen, to prepare. There is no time of the year when the rhythms of the church are less in sync with the rhythms of the culture.

We need to remember in these days the church waits for something different than our culture does. We do not measure our Christmas joy by the number of packages under the tree, but by the degree to which our hearts are moved. Satisfaction comes not from bustle and things, but from lives transformed and even the smallest steps towards peace on earth.

It is true that in Advent, we wait for the story of the child born in the manger, but in fact that story is only meaningful if we connect it to the stories of the child grown, if we take it as a sign of God's surpassing love and God's unwillingness to conform to the ways and means, the rhythms of the way things are. God wants something more—from us, from God's world—and in Advent we tune our ears to listen and understand what that "more" might be.

So keep Advent this year. Find your way into its laments, its hopes, its proclamations, and its silences. Let them grow in your hearts week to week. And maybe you, unlikely as you are, may hear the beat of angels' wings and know in your lives God's message of good will to all people.

Keep advent.

**Liz**

**JOIN THE OCCASIONAL  
CONGRGATIONAL ORCHESTRA!**

Orchestral instrumentalists, young and old, are invited to play Christmas carols from 5:00-5:30 on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be in the Fireplace Room after worship *December 3, 10, and 17*.

**Reminder: YOUTH FUND-RAISERS**

**We will bake Christmas cookies** on *December 16* and deliver them to your home. They are \$5/dozen and for every four dozen you order you get a free dozen!! Order on *December 3 and 10*.

**We will wrap gifts** on *Sunday, December 10* and *Saturday, December 23*. You will have at least three choices of wrap and ribbon. Just bring your gifts when you come to church on the 10<sup>th</sup> and we will deliver them to your home in the evening. On *Saturday, December 23*, you will need to get your gifts to us but then we will again deliver them to your home.



## UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU

Dear Members  
of First Congregational UCC,

I and the students were so glad to be a part of the worship leadership in November. It is truly a joy for me to stand alongside students as they have these opportunities to share their gifts and talents. Thank you for providing this opportunity to us.

Additionally, a huge thank you for the generous contributions that you gave to United Campus Ministry at Westminister House through the recent Soup 'n' Bread lunch. We appreciate your ongoing financial support that allows us to continue our important work with students and the campus community. We are also grateful for the many other ways – prayer, volunteering, moral support – you encourage us in our ministry.

Blessings to you,  
**Rev. Leah McCullough**



This week the Middle and High School youth groups will meet at the church at their regular 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. times for a look at Christmas, consumerism, and faith.

Looking ahead, the groups will combine on *December 10* for a progressive dinner. More details will be available at youth group this week.

## YOUTH ARE GOING FAIR TRADE!

The Youth Groups are starting an ongoing service to the congregation of selling Fair Trade coffee, teas and chocolate this week. During the Advent Festival, we will have a table set up in Gatton Hall with samples of chocolate. The great coffee served at Fellowship Hour will serve as our samples of both regular and decaf we will have available in 12 oz. bags of beans. Please come see us and give us your input on what to provide and how best to serve you.



## CHILDREN'S ADVENT CHOIR

It's not too late to join! The choir, for all children in grades 5 through 8, will sing songs of the season during the service on *Sunday, December 17*. Rehearsals are immediately after worship this *Sunday* and *December 10* in the Meeting Hall. Contact **Kristin Rorrer** with any questions.

## HOLIDAY BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY

Holiday books for Advent, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Chanukah are currently on display in the church library and ready to be checked out.

## HOMELESS SHELTER UPDATE

Although we recently hit a snag when our tentative site fell through, there is still hope that we will find a new site to provide safe and warm space for local homeless folks. The recent article in the *Gazette-Times* has led to more visibility concerning the needs of the homeless and we remain hopeful that a site will become available for our use. Although the article noted that we had agreed to be the “fiscal agent” for the shelter project, our involvement is in helping with the organizational structure, helping to secure insurance, and many other things.

After looking into the role of fiscal agent it seems that assisting the “Coalition to Shelter the Homeless” to incorporate as a 501(c)3 entity is more helpful in the long run, and therefore we will not have a congregational meeting this week. As the process for the 501(c)3 status evolves there will be the need for congregational input. Please feel free to contact **Ryan** at the church if you have questions or have ideas concerning this project.

### HEIFER ALTERNATIVE GIFTS AT ADVENT FESTIVAL

Some folks have asked what we mean by “alternative gifts.” In the case of Heifer International, it means contributing funds, in honor of your friends and family, to buy animals or trees for people in need around the world, instead of purchasing more things. The sales table will be set up in Gatton Hall beginning at 9:15 this Sunday and continuing after the worship service. We will have a selec-

tion of gift cards available as well as catalogs and animal inserts about your choices. Prices range from \$10 to \$1500 and all contributions are tax-deductible. Here is a list of costs:

- \$10—A share of rabbits; tree seedlings; pig; sheep; or a goat.
- \$20—Flock of chicks; flock of ducks/geese; or a llama share.
- \$25—Share of a buffalo
- \$30—Package of honeybees with a hive
- \$50—Share of a heifer; or a share of a “Knitting Basket” (1 pair sheep + 1 pair of llamas)
- \$60—Trio of rabbits; tree seedlings; or a “Flock of Hope” (chicks, ducks, and/or goslings)
- \$100—Share of “Milk Menagerie” (heifer, 2 goats, + a water buffalo)
- \$120—Entire pig, sheep, or goat
- \$150—Entire llama or share of “Joy to the World” (2 sheep, 4 goats, a heifer, + 2 llamas)
- \$250—Entire water buffalo
- \$500—Entire heifer or “Knitting Basket” (1 pair sheep + 1 pair llamas)
- \$1000—“Milk Menagerie” (heifer, 2 goats, water buffalo)
- \$1500—“Joy to the World” (2 sheep, 4 goats, 1 heifer, 2 llamas)

Checks should be made out to Heifer International and we will forward them to the regional office. If you are unable to attend the Advent Festival but want to order from Heifer, contact **Nancy Klingeman** right away since our church’s order will be sent in next week.

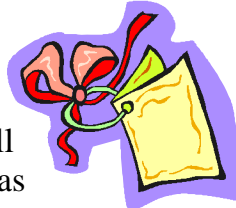
## UPDATE FROM THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMITTEE

We are ending the fourth year of the five-year pledge period for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century addition and remodeling. Information on the status of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Project pledges has been included with your quarterly statements and we ask that you review the most recent one to determine the status of your pledge. Payments on the pledges can be made this year if you wish. If possible, we would hope the final payments can be completed by the end of next year. If you cannot find your most recent quarterly statement or have questions relating to the report, please call **Verlyne Phillips**. We are making good progress on paying the notes that were issued to cover our costs while we collected the pledges and hope to close those accounts in the coming year. We again want to thank the congregation for supporting the renovation and building addition. It has made a great positive impact on our programs and our reach to the community.



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

Again this *Sunday, December 3*, tags identifying recipients (children and adults) will hang on the Christmas tree in the foyer. Take one or more of your choice, purchase a suitable gift for the person described, and bring



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



### **SAVE CANCELLED STAMPS**

Help pay utility bills for needy folks in Washington county by saving the cancelled postage stamps from your Christmas cards. Simply cut stamps off the envelopes, leaving ¼-inch margin and bring them to the church. The second drawer closest to the office on the name-tag stand is designated to collect these stamps for Church Women United. This same drawer is the collection box for "Labels for Education" and Campbell or Swanson soup labels to be sent to Cross-road residential school in Indiana (a UCC affiliated agency for troubled children).

### **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 worship this *Sunday, 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. For questions call **Julie Maloney** or **Alice Morrow**.

## DIVERSITY FORUM SEEKS RESPECT FOR ALL

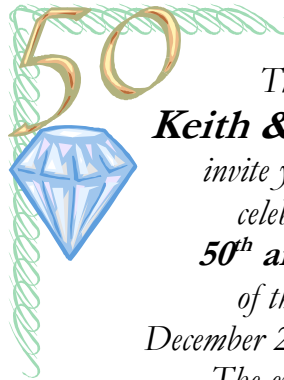
A Community Forum on Diversity is planned in response to the graffiti recently painted on the garage of a local lesbian couple. Plan to join the discussion on *Tuesday, December 12*, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Senior Center in Albany at 489 Water St. NW, next to the Willamette River. **Bonnie Tinker**, from "Love Makes a Family," will facilitate this dialogue aimed at keeping the respect for all individuals alive and well in our communities.

## YOU ARE INVITED

This holiday season, I am exhibiting my work at Contemporary Crafts Gallery in Portland and at White Lotus Gallery 767 Willamette, Eugene. White Lotus will host a trunk show on *Saturday, December 2*, with a gallery talk scheduled at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon the exhibit and sale will continue as part of the monthly Oregon Crafted Open Studio weekend.

If you are interested to see what I make and how I make it, or to find or commission unique art textiles for yourself or others, please stop by my home studio sometime between 1:00-5:00 p.m. on *December 3*. I will be delighted to give you a personal guided tour of my world.

**Karen Miller**



The family of  
**Keith & Doris Sherry**  
invite you to join in the  
celebration of the  
**50<sup>th</sup> 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**

## *Our Thoughts and Prayers*

... are with **Joan Pelto**, recovering at home from a fall.

## Advent, Christmas & Epiphany 2006



**Sunday, December 3: Advent Festival** for all ages in Gatton Hall at 9:15 and after worship. Activities include potato stamping, cookie and card decorating, handprint banners, Advent wreath making, face painting, and bird feeders. Heifer Project alternative gifts will be available. Note cards for sale will benefit homeless shelter. There are no C E classes this Sunday.

**Tuesdays in Advent:** The noon to 1:00 informal Lectionary classes this month will look at the Advent and Christmas texts. Bring your lunch, if you like, and join us in the church library when you can.

**Sundays, December 10, and 17: The Adult Forum** offers "Faith Journeys" by members of the congregation at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

**Sunday, December 10: The Bell Choir** will play. **Bright Gifts** will be brought forward during worship. Remember to bring your new, unwrapped gift to the worship service or drop it off in the church office earlier that week.

**Saturday, December 16: Hanging of the Greens** – a fun event for the whole family!

2:00 p.m. Come decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. There will be activities for adults and children (making paper chains, graham cracker houses, etc.) Refreshments, cookies, fun and laughter served to all!

**Sunday, December 17:** Children's Advent Choir will sing at this service for the whole family. Children are invited to stay for the entire service, but Activity Hour is available.

**Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24:**

- 10:30 a.m. Worship service includes Rutter's *Gloria* performed by the Sanctuary Choir with brass
- 5:00 p.m. Instrumental carols by the Occasional Congregational Orchestra
- 5:30 p.m. Family worship with Bell Choir
- 10:00 p.m. Reunion for youth group alumni, Fireplace Room (until 10:45)
- 11:00 p.m. Communion service of lessons and carols with Sanctuary Choir and instrumentalists.

**Christmas Day – Monday, December 25:**

- 7:00 p.m. Christmas night vesper service in the chapel

**Sunday, December 31**

- 10:30 a.m. Christmas carol sing during worship

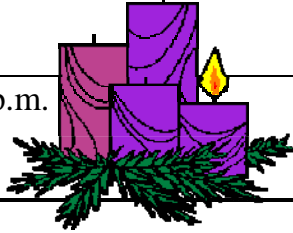
**Sunday, January 7:** Epiphany Art Festival begins in sanctuary





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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, December 5.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, December 1*

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

*Sunday, December 3*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
**9:15 a.m. Advent Festival**  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
**(following) Advent Festival**  
 (following) Children's Advent  
 Choir, Meeting Hall  
 (following) Bell Choir, Music Rm.  
 (following) Occasional Congrega-  
 tional Orchestra,  
 Fireplace Room  
 5:00 p.m. Middle School youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School youth

*Monday, December 4*

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

*Tuesday, December 5*

10:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangel-  
 ism

7:30 p.m. Diaconate  
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

*Wednesday, December 6*

10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship  
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, December 7*

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*This is to say "Thank You" for all of  
 your prayers, visits, notes and cards during  
 the last four months—Liz, who was right there  
 during very late hours at the hospital a couple  
 of times, as well as other visits; Ryan and  
 Caroline for their visits and support, and to  
 the great team who pitched in and moved all  
 the small stuff to our new address: Dale Kirk,  
 John Hawkins, Jo Anne and Cliff Trow,  
 Charlene and Harold Hunter. We feel  
 blessed and grateful to be a part of this very  
 caring church family.  
 Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
 Don and Ruth Leeper*