



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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December 29, 2006



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Join us this *Sunday, December 31*, to sing carols, and enjoy a piano piece performed by **Carl Lucker**.

In celebration of Epiphany, you are invited to bring forward the Kings from your crèche during our carol sing and place them around the manger scene.

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

After worship on *December 31*, help is needed to take down the greens and trees from around the building. Many hands make for quick work. Please plan to stay for a short time after worship and help “de-deck” the halls! Thank you.

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Beginning *Sunday, January 7*, our sanctuary will be filled with the work of artists in our congregation as well as the wider community. All artists of First Congregational Church are welcome to display their work at this year’s show.



Hanging day is *January 6*. All two-dimensional work must be ready to hang, preferably framed. Three-dimensional works should be ready to display on a table or pedestal. Please write the title, medium, artist’s name, price or insurance value on a slip of paper. Work must be at the church by 10:00 a.m. *Saturday, January 6*.

Also, we are looking for help in hanging the show. Please contact **Karen French** (541-740-3491) if you are available Saturday morning to help hang the show.

HAVE YOU, YOUR CHILDREN, BEEN BAPTIZED?

On *Sunday, January 7*, the first Sunday after Epiphany, we will be celebrating
(continued on page 3)

THIS SUNDAY

December 31

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: “Leaving by
Another Road”
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas filled with family, friends, and wonderful celebrations of the birth of Jesus. From Sunday morning's worship experience highlighted by Rutter's *Gloria* through the Christmas night vesper service I found myself thankful for the many people who worked so hard to make our Advent and Christmas worship experiences so meaningful. Whether you helped decorate, sang in the choir, read scripture, or participated from the pews, thank you for helping to make our Advent and Christmas celebrations meaningful and for taking on so many things!

In the days leading up to Christmas the efforts of the Coalition for Sheltering the Homeless, to make arrangements for a cold weather shelter for homeless men, reached a frantic pace. After being rebuffed over zoning, repair, and landlord issues over the last five months, we finally found a place, and just in time for Christmas! With a flurry of e-mails and faxes on Friday we were able to put together the insurance and the occupancy agreements to use the former Delta Tau Delta fraternity on NW 23rd to give up to 30 homeless men a place to sleep through the end of February.

The shelter will operate from 7pm-7am daily and will be staffed by volunteers from 7-11pm, a paid staff person and a volunteer from 11pm-7am, and some clean-up help each morning. Each church is supplying the volunteer staffing for at least a week and our church will take its first turn January 14-20. Rhonda Mueller-Warrant (758-1667) will be our scheduling coordinator so please contact her if you are willing to help on an evening or two or take one of the overnight shifts.

Actually seeing things fall into place felt like a Christmas miracle, and although we breathed a sigh of relief upon securing the place for this shelter, much work remains and many things are still needed to successfully operate over the coming weeks. The downtown business community has donated significantly to help with this endeavor, but the shelter is operating largely with volunteer help and donations from the public. **Our current needs include:** cookies for snacks, hot chocolate packets, paper towels, toilet tissue, sleeping bags, blankets, and money that can be used to purchase laundry vouchers for the homeless. If you can help with any of these supplies or with a financial gift please bring it to the church, contact me at the church, or contact Aleita Holcombe at 740-3235.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about the shelter or to volunteer your help. Also, please know that Aleita has worked countless hours on this project and it is open largely because of her tenacity. Thank you!

Blessings,

Ryan

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The woman says, "God help us. Has it come to this? Okay, give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."

BAPTISM *from page 1*

ing Baptism of Jesus Sunday. It is a traditional morning in the church year for baptism, and the service will include a service of Reaffirmation of Baptism for all who wish it. This is a great opportunity for baptizing both infants and older children and adults who might be reluctant to stand up in front of the congregation alone. If you have any questions about the service or how we approach baptism in the United Church of Christ, please call **Liz** or **Ryan**.

YEAR END FINANCIAL REMINDER

Contributions to the church that you wish credited toward 2006 giving need to be dated 2006 and received at the church by noon, *January 2*. Contributions for 2006 but received after this time, will appear on 2007 giving records, even if dated 2006.

Prepaid contributions for 2007 can be made in 2006; they will be credited for 2007 as far as the church is concerned, but for tax purposes they will appear on your 2006 giving records.

If you are considering prepaying your pledge, you might be interested to know that prepayments are very helpful in maintaining cash flow during the year, and we prorate them out over the year. As always, thank you for your generosity.

WALK OUT THE OLD YEAR AND WALK IN THE NEW YEAR

The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, Harrison & 35th, invites us to bring thanksgivings, doubts, concerns, challenges, hopes, dreams, plans and goals to their 2nd annual labyrinth walk. The labyrinth is open 8:00 a.m. on *Sunday, December 31* to 12:30 a.m. on *Monday, January 1*. A Taizé service on the Labyrinth will be from 5:30 p.m. to about 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Invitation

We are planning a child-friendly New Year's Eve open house from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on *Sunday, December 31*, at our home at 2626 NW Linnan Circle. We are serving appetizers and beverages, will have funny hats and noise-makers available, and games and activities for children too! Anyone who would like to ring in the New Year on an East Coast schedule is welcome. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you are planning on coming let us know when you can to help us estimate on food, beverages, and party hats!

Ryan and Shauna Lambert
754-1214 or ryan@ucc-covallis.org



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 2.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, December 30

Noon Sherrys' anniversary
 potluck

Epiphany Sunday, December 31

10:30 a.m. NO C E classes
 Worship
 NO youth groups
 6:30-9:30 New Year's party,
 Lamberts'

Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Office closed
 5:30 p.m. Basketball

Tuesday, January 2

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

Wednesday, January 3

NO Women's Fellow-
 ship luncheon
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, January 4
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
Friday, January 5
 7:00 p.m. First Friday Forum,
 Shari's

LOOKING AHEAD: *January 14:* Mar-
 tin Luther King, Jr. Sunday; *Thursday,*
January 18: Women's Fellowship eve-
 ning program: Steve Zielke on "Why We
 Sing" at 7:00 p.m.; *January 28:* Annual
 Budget Meeting; *February 4:* Scout
 Sunday; *February 16-18:* Winter Week-
 end

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with former FCC minister
Dwight Hoelscher, who is recovering
 from heart valve surgery. Dwight re-
 cently married **Jeanne Halverson** and
 they are living at Pilgrim Place, a UCC
 retirement complex in Claremont, CA.