



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 3

January 19, 2007

CHURCH E-MAILS CHANGE!

Anyone who is still using ucc@proaxis.com as the church's e-mail address should delete that from their address book and replace it with our new one(s):

office@ucc-corvallis.org (for Ann)

liz@ucc-corvallis.org

ryan@ucc-corvallis.org

Our "Proaxis" account will terminate on *January 31* and will not forward messages to our new address(es) after that.

Registration continues this *Sunday, January 21*, and will continue until we reach our maximum number of 45 participants. The cost per person is: Adults (over 18) \$58.50; Youth (13-18) \$51.50; Children (6-12) \$44; Children (2-5) \$29. This covers two nights' lodging, Saturday and Sunday dinner and Sunday and Monday breakfast. Full payment is due by *February 4*.

If you have questions, or if you would like to register but will not be in church this Sunday, please call or e-mail **Ginny Lucker** (v.lucker@comcast.net or 753-4648;) or **Ryan Lambert** (757-8122; ryan@ucc-corvallis.org).



REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER WEEK- END

Get ready for some winter fun! Our annual Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake will be *February 17-19* (Presidents' Day Weekend). This multi-generational event is a great opportunity to have outdoor fun—innertubing, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, playing in the snow, and to have indoor fun—playing games, reading, visiting and enjoying the company of Congregational friends in a relaxed, low-key and beautiful setting.

THIS SUNDAY

Laity Sunday *January 21*

Adult Forum: TBA

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: "This I Believe"
Warren Hovland
Annie Mueller-Warrant
Mike McNally

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is Laity Sunday, one of my favorite Sundays of the year. Of course, part of the appeal for me is that I get to sit in the pews and be a member of the congregation, but the deeper appeal springs from the fact that year after year the Worship Committee and other interested folks plan worship and find congregation members willing to stand up and speak personally on a Sunday morning. Every year, the Laity Sunday speakers are a mix of our congregation: long-time and new members, younger and older, male and female...and so it goes. And then, of course, there are the other worship leaders who perform all of the parts of the service usually covered by clergy. Laity Sunday is a celebration and an affirmation that the church is the congregation. In fact, the word liturgy means "the work of the people," and we at First Congregational are blessed to have so many willing and able to do this work.

This year the focus for Laity Sunday is "This I Believe," personal faith affirmations from Warren Hovland, Annie Mueller-Warrant, and Mike McNally. The scripture reading is from 1 Corinthians 12 about the gifts of the spirit, their variety and necessity. I believe it is a significant gift that the first three people the Worship Committee asked to speak this year all said yes! It speaks to the theological depth of the congregation that members are willing to publicly articulate the theology most central to their lives.

So come Sunday and be part of this great work! Come and share your gifts, and marvel at the variety and importance of all the people who make up our church community.

See you there!

Liz

*Dear Friends at
First Congregational Church,*

Thank you for your continued support of Meals on Wheels. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure go a very long way toward our goal of serving frail elderly neighbors who are recovering from illness or taking care of a relative.

*Sincerely and gratefully,
Cynthia Janes, Corvallis Site Manager*

**PICK UP YOUR
GIVING STATEMENTS**

This *Sunday, January 21*, the 2006 year-end giving statements will be available for pick-up. Check for the box of statements in the foyer and find yours.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
Sunday, January 28, after worship
to approve 2007 budgets



The youth groups will be meeting at their “regular” times this week with the Middle School group from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and the High School group meeting from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our discussion will focus on different methods of prayer and we will play a game that will require sturdy shoes. Remember, youth group is always open to your friends! See you there!

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER CAMP

The following camps will be offered at Camp Adams this summer. Although registration forms are still a couple of months away the dates will help you plan ahead.

Work Camp:	<i>June 24-27</i>
Young Adult Camp	<i>June 27-30</i>
Family Camp:	<i>June 27-30</i>
Pathfinders (Grades 6/7):	<i>July 1-7</i>
Sojourners (Grades 7/8):	<i>July 8-14</i>
Exodus (High School):	<i>July 15-21</i>
Genesis/Seekers (Grades 2/3):	<i>July 22-28</i>
Discoverers (Grades 4/5):	<i>July 29- August 4</i>

Also, Camp Adams is always looking for good counselors, camp grandparents, and chaplains; if you are interested in volunteering this summer please contact **Ryan** at the church or ryan@ucc-covallis.org.



SUPPLIES FOR HEALTHY MOUTHS

Thank you for donations of **toothbrushes, dental floss, toothpaste and mouthwash** that were delivered last Sunday. It’s a great start toward our goal of having enough for 52 pregnant women by the end of January. These women, who don’t have other resources, will receive dental exams, dental cleaning and education through a volunteer dental program. Each woman will receive your donation in a bag with a label identifying our congregation. Donations may be brought to the colorful box near the food donation barrel in the foyer.

The Health Ministries Committee

WARM CLOTHING NEEDED FOR MEN'S SHELTER

Knitted hats and warm gloves and socks can always be used by the residents at the Cold Weather Shelter. They may be taken directly to the shelter at 527 NW 23rd between 6:30-7:00 p.m. each night, or brought to the church office for delivery to the shelter.

SISTER CITIES VARIETY SHOW

The Sister Cities Committee is thrilled to be able to present our community with this diverse mix of entertainers: The Aviators, Free Range Chix, and the Maharimbas on *Friday, January 19*, at 7:30, at the Majestic. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at Grass Roots.

Bob Stebbins

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS PROCESS

Each year, in January, the Nominating Committee begins its process of recruitment to fill the vacancies which will occur at the end of *May 31, 2007*. The terms of one-third of the members on each standing Board and Committee expire each year; however, Nominating Committee members will call those of you whose term expires this May to learn if you would like to continue for another term. Below are descriptions of the functions of each standing board and standing committee of the church. The Nominating Committee invites each of you to read the descriptions and to think about where best you would like to serve your church.

Standing Boards and Sub-committees

The Board of Christian Education

is responsible for providing opportunities for nurturing persons within a community of faith. Its goals and responsibilities are carried out in part by the current following sub-committees:

Adult Education Committee, Children's Committee, Library Committee, and Youth Committee.

The Board of Outreach Missions shall generally be responsible for the promotion, nurture, coordination and celebration of all forms of outreach from this congregation in the service of humanity beyond our local church fellowship, both in our city and wider world.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the Building,

Grounds, and Church Budget; these functions are carried out by three sub-committees, each of which addresses one of these functions.

The Board of Deacons (Diaconate) assists the ministers in addressing the spiritual needs of the church, including the preparation of worship and administration of the sacraments, the provision of pastoral care, the introduction of new members into the life of the church, and the creation of opportunities for maintaining the vitality of our fellowship. These functions are carried out by four sub-committees: Worship, Fellowship, Pastoral Relations, and Outreach & Evangelism.

Our "newest" Board is the **Endowment and Memorial Funds Board**, formerly known as the Foundation. Two years ago, the Foundation terminated its status as a separate entity and became the fifth standing board of the Church. It is responsible for the receipt, investment, and distribution of property of the church's designated and undesignated funds; administering the church's planned giving program; and for ensuring that the church honors donors' intentions for their gifts.

Standing Church Committees

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for developing a process for the Annual Stewardship Drive and for encouraging all members to make and

meet their commitments of time, talent and treasure.

The **Nominating Committee** is responsible for recruiting persons to fill the vacancies on Boards and Committees which occur each year as one-third of all positions rotate off at the end of May.

The **Personnel Committee** is responsible for coordinating the formulation and review of position descriptions for all salaried employees; reviewing and updating personnel policy statements; establishing and overseeing policies and procedures for regular staff evaluations; establishing procedures for employing and terminating all employees; hearing grievances and assisting in resolving such; and evaluating the long-range staff needs of the congregation.

The **Just Peace Committee** serves as a resource to the Church Council, Boards and Committees, providing information and guidance in the areas of spiritual witness, education and theology, stewardship and resources, and community witness. The Committee oversees the infusion of Just Peace issues into the life of the whole church family.

DOES RELIGION MATTER?

In recognition of the exemplary teaching and research of OSU Distinguished Professor **Marcus Borg**, the OSU Philosophy Department's 15th annual IDEAS MATTER Lecture Series takes up the ideas and phenomena of religion and examine whether and how religion "matters" in the contemporary

world. Upcoming lectures are in Gilfillan Auditorium world and begin at 4:00 p.m.

January 25—**Sally K. Gallahger**, Professor, Department of Sociology

"Why Won't Religion Just Go Away?"

February 1—**Gary Ferngren**, Professor, Department of History

"Science and Religion: Adversaries or Allies?"

February 8—**Michael Beachley**, Assistant Professor, speech Communication

"Topoi of the Mysteries"

February 15—**Kathleen Dean Moore**, Distinguished Professor, University Writer Laureate, Department of Philosophy

"The Secular Sacred: Where Marcus and I Walk Different Paths Through the Same Forest"

February 22—**Bob Nye**, Professor, Horning Professor of the Humanities, Department of History

"Is the History of Religion Too Important to be Left to the Religious?"

March 1—Rabbi **Ariel Stone**, Congregation Shir Takvah, Portland, Oregon

"We All Worship Something"

March 8—**Susan Shaw**, Associate Professor, Director of Women Studies

"Bouncing into Graceland or [with apologies to Paul Simon] Still Christian After All these Years"

March 15—Mark Unno, Associate Professor of East Asian Religions, University of Oregon

"Buddhist No-self and Narrative: a Tale of Nobody in Religion and Religious Studies"



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 23.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, January 19

6:00 p.m. Confirmation retreat
begins

Lait Sunday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:15 a.m. Church School, Room
5
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
9:30 a.m. God@Home class
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, January 22

9:00 a.m. Staff
5:30 p.m. Basketball
7:00 p.m. C E Board
7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, January 23

Noon Lectionary class
7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, January 24

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
9:00 a.m. Staff Lent planning
5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
7:00 p.m. Endowment Board
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 25

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, January
28: Annual Budget Meeting, following
worship; February 4: Scout Sunday;
February 17-19: Winter Weekend; Feb-
ruary 21: Ash Wednesday; Sunday April
8: Easter

ORGAN CONCERT SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday at Four concert series presents Dr. Marko Petricic, on Sunday, January 28. Dr. Petricic is the assistant organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana. The organ concert begins at 4:00 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 333 NW 35th Street, Corvallis. The concert is free, but good will donations for this musical series are gratefully accepted.