

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 6

February 9, 2007



Sign up after church on *February 11* to participate in this year's small group pancake suppers to be held on *February 20* from 6:00-7:30 p.m. You may also call the church office by *February 16* to sign up.

Supper groups will be formed and those participating will know what group they will be a part of by *February 18*. If you have questions, stop by the table in the foyer after church or call **Marsha Gulick** (754-8367) or **Sue Richmond** (745-7994).

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING SET FOR FEBRUARY 23-24

We will be offering a two-part training for those who work with the children in our congregation, and for any who are interested in receiving training or updating their skills.

- *Friday, February 23:* From 6:30-9:00 p.m., at the church, we will have a basic First Aid Course.
- *Saturday, February 24:* From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., we will have a

CPR course which will include training in how to use our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine. This device is usable by non-medical people and greatly increases the odds of someone surviving a heart attack.

The cost of each session is \$30, but if you attend both the total cost is \$40. You can choose either or both, to meet your needs. Transportation can be arranged for those who don't drive at night. Please call the office to sign up.

THIS SUNDAY

February 11

Adult Forum: The second and final session on the new cold weather homeless shelter, led by **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** and **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant** – 9:30, Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 6:17-26

Sermon: "A Visit from the Guilt Fairy"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I returned late last night from a week where my most ambitious undertaking was a seven-mile hike around a volcano. In the mornings, I would sit on the lanai of my host's house and watch for spinner dolphins, whales, and turtles in the sea in front of me. At night we would listen to the whales calling eerily across the water. Several afternoons found me face down in the water where eels, rays, and fish of all sizes, shapes, and colors paraded before me. I know a lot of people who feel closest to God hiking the mountains and wilderness areas above ground. For me, the God of creation nurtures and delights me most when I enter the world of coral and rock, and the brilliant, often humorous, variety of life under the sea. I put on my mask and snorkel, and within seconds I know myself a transient on this planet, and I feel that fierce protectiveness that is what I would call theological environmentalism.

"The earth is the Lord's, and all that dwells therein." More and more, the church is finding that to proclaim, reclaim, and protect the integrity of creation is fundamental to any love for and obedience to God. And this is true not just in the liberal church. One of the most encouraging (to me) theological developments of the past decade is a growing environmental consciousness and commitment preached from what we would call conservative or fundamentalist pulpits throughout the world.

There are so many issues that divide us in the church, so many ways that the body of Christ is at war with itself. What a gift it would be if we could find common cause around the issues of environmental stewardship that loom ever larger for us as a global community.

While in Hawaii, I walked into every open church I found. There are small beautiful churches all over the Hawaiian islands, a reminder of our checkered missionary past. I went into churches of several denominations as I was traveling around, and in every single one of them, I found literature that spoke of that body's concern with our planet's future. The theological language differs from tradition to tradition, and maybe such issues are more focused in a place like Hawaii, but I found myself encouraged that everywhere I went, the word was out that to love God was to love God's creation and act in ways respectful and restorative. This is not to say that we heed that word enough or that the church's voice is loud and active enough. But maybe it is a beginning that in time will bring greater wholeness to the church as well as the earth.

It made my time with the sea creatures that much sweeter.

But, as always, it's good to be home!

Liz



The youth groups will meet at regular times next week. The Middle School group will meet from 5:00-6:30 and the High School group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. to work on preparing Valentine's gift bags of FairTrade chocolates to be sold to the fraternities and sororities as a fundraiser for the General Synod trip in June.

Youth from both groups are invited to gather outside of the **Ed and Karen Miller's home** on *Tuesday, February 13* at 3:30 to canvas the fraternities and sororities to sell the Valentine's gift bags. Contact **Ryan** (ryan@ucc-covallis.org) via e-mail if you are available to help!

Confirmation: The Confirmation class will meet on Sunday in the Fireplace Room. Please get your soup and bread and bring it to the Fireplace Room where we will eat together and then watch "Jesus Christ Superstar" as a way of beginning our conversation about what it means to be a Christian. See you Sunday!

JOIN THE GOD@HOME CLASS

The God@Home class meets during the education hour in the fireplace room and is currently reading *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*. This class focuses on the intersection of faith and parenting but is open to everyone. This week we will be discussing the chapter entitled, "Stuff." Join us!

TOY DRIVE FOR CE WING

The nursery and the Activity Hour room are in need of new items. Used/good condition toys (including plastic food for the play kitchen), chairs and other related items would be gladly appreciated.

LENTEN ADULT ED SERIES

During Lent, the Adult Forum class at 9:30 Sunday mornings, will read and discuss the book, "The Last Week," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. It comes with a study guide. The book costs \$10, and 20 have been ordered for those who plan to participate in the class—please one to a family. They will be available for purchase beginning this Sunday. Those participating in the class will have first choice of purchase. If you do not plan to participate in the class, the book may also be ordered/purchased through Grass Roots Bookstore.

THANKS FOR SUPPLIES FOR HEALTHY MOUTHS!

Thank you for the generous response to our request for toothpaste, brushes, floss and mouth wash; the collection box was overflowing. These supplies will go to 52 pregnant women who attend a dental screening clinic that is being organized by Love, INC. As it develops, we'll share more information about this service. If anyone hasn't contributed yet and would still like to do so, we could use seven more boxes of floss.

The Health Ministries Committee

Wednesdays in Lent†

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, *February 21*. Again, we hope to provide opportunities for conversation, worship and study during this special time in the Christian year. Call the church office to enroll in classes or sign up this Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, our traditional soup and bread supper is at 5:30 (donation), followed by a brief service of penitence and the imposition of ashes at 6:15. At 6:45, classes begin. Child care is available beginning at 6:10. You are welcome at any and all events.

On each subsequent Wednesday in Lent through *March 28*, the schedule will be the same:

5:30 p.m.	A simple supper (with vegetarian alternative), Fireplace Room
6:10 p.m.	Child care begins, Room 5
6:15 p.m.	Worship in the Chapel
6:45-7:25 p.m.	Flash classes (see below)
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Full-length classes
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir

"Flash" classes 6:45-7:25 p.m.

Experienced Bell Choir -- Adam Grieve, Music Room. Ringers will rehearse pieces on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning February 21 (Ash Wednesday). This choir will perform during Holy Week.

St. Matthew's Passion – Barbara Clauson, Conference Room. Contemplate the Lenten season by listening to the musical oratorio, *The St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach. We will open the musical score and discover together the rich musical imagery, symbolism, and tragic beauty of Bach's brilliant setting of the Biblical text of the passion from the gospel according to St. Matthew.

"Who Do You Say That I Am?" – Liz Oettinger, Library. The class is an exploration of the images of Jesus – in the Gospels, in Paul's writing and in the history of the church.

Full-length classes 6:45-8:15 p.m.

Healthy Planet, Healthy Children –Maureen Beezhold, from the Northwest Earth Institute, Room 8 Northwest Earth Institute's eight-week discussion course *Healthy Children-Healthy Planet: Raising Kids in a Consumer Culture* is for parents, teachers and anyone involved in raising children. Many families feel they are swimming against the tide of popular culture. This course will offer support while you explore the effects of cultural pressures, advertising, technology and media, food, and time while learning how to keep a balance of healthy activities through ritual and celebration and by exploring nature. The cost is \$16 for materials and people can share the course book if they want. One participant noted that "These issues were so close to my heart, so many of the things I was struggling with."

Finding Faith on Film – Ryan Lambert, Meeting Hall (6:45-9:00 p.m.) Using Hollywood films as a vehicle to explore issues of faith this class will also use scripture, a short reading each week, and post-viewing conversation to explore how religious themes are portrayed in contemporary film. Included in the six films we will be viewing are: "The Truman Show," "The Spitfire Grill," and "Fearless."

* * *

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF LAY WOMEN

Acknowledging formally the contributions of individuals is a very nice thing. It is truly more than a gesture because it really does affect the receiver in a very special way. Over the years I have had the opportunity to give formal recognitions to people in the various organizations of which I have been a part. The receivers always say how truly meaningful it is to them and how it really brings a sense of joy that someone or group has recognized their work.

At this time, I have the opportunity to say the same thing and to thank this church family for all the support it gives me. Your formal recognition of my lay leadership means a lot to me. It is a privilege to be surrounded and supported by all of you who are definitely gifts to me.

Aleita Hass-Holcombe

CLASSICAL CABARET SUPPORTS YOUTH SYMPHONY

Corvallis Youth Symphony will have a Classical Cabaret on *Saturday, March 3*, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center. Tickets for the event at 8:00 p.m. are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. The pre-Cabaret dinner costs \$85 and starts at 5:00 p.m. Both tickets can be ordered from a CYS member. The CYS members of this church are: **Justin Chi, Robin Miller, Chris Rorrer, and Patrick Yun**

spend a beautiful 3-day weekend at the coast, the last weekend of January. We were blessed with sunshine, a nearly full moon, and a very restful honeymoon. We felt your presence with us. You are a remarkable community of faith; we are blessed to be a part of it.

Caroline and Charles

Thanks

.. to the **Girl and Boy Scouts** who led worship so well last Sunday, and to **Troop 1** for the delicious pancake breakfast.

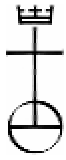
... and to **Doug Caldwell**, for replacing all the light bulbs in Gatton Hall.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS

EXCLUSIVE: Born at 4:19 p.m. today, February 7, Marin Trudy Lambert, 8 lbs. 15 oz. Mom Shauna, Dad Ryan, Grandparents Mike and Cathy, and big sister Grace -- and the baby -- all doing fine.

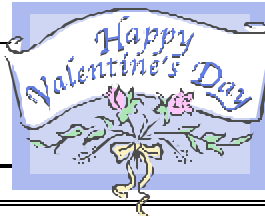
Thank you all for your generous support of us, from the wedding and reception to housing Charles while we sorted out the remodeling issues, to the many gifts to Church World Service.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of "The Church Ladies" we were able to



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 13.

WEEKLY CALENDAR 9

Sunday, February 11

- 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
- (following) Soup 'n' Bread
- (following) Confirmation class
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

Monday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 13

- Noon Lectionary class
- 3:30 p.m. Youth candy sales

Wednesday, February 14-

Valentine's Day

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 1:30 p.m. A D Circle [see right]
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 15

- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

READ & FEED THIS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will meet on *Sunday evening, February 11*, at 7:00 at the home of **Bob and Monine Stebbins**. The discussion will focus on the first part of Thomas L. Friedman's *The World is Flat*.

A D CIRCLE TO MEET

The A D Circle will meet on *Wednesday, February 14*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of **Anna Marie Holmes**, 3848 SW Neer Avenue. **Priscilla Zaworski** will lead the discussion. For more information, contact **Coral Torley**.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Jean Heath**, continuing to recover at home from a stroke.