



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 9

March 2, 2007

“When was it that we saw You thirsty”

Matthew 25: 35

MISSION OFFERING FOR MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing will be the mission offering for the month of March. This UCC church-wide offering is used to support compassionate ministries:

1. Disaster preparedness and response both internationally and domestically
2. Refugee advocacy and resettlement
3. Development in healthcare, education and sustainable agriculture in underserved countries

Your offering of money is transformed into an offering of hope.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

Did you pick up your family’s photo directory? If not, make a point to do so this Sunday.

JOIN THE GOD@HOME CLASS

The God@Home class is continuing to meet in the Fireplace Room at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We are currently reading *Way to Live* by Dorothy Bass and Don Richter. This week we focus on the

chapter entitled “Creation.” All are welcome and **Ryan** has a couple of extra copies if people would like to join or try out the class!

ORCHESTRA, CHOIR CONCERT AT LASELLS STEWART

The Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra, in conjunction with the OSU Chamber Choir and Corvallis Repertory Singers will perform Walton’s *Belshazzar’s Feast*. The concert also includes
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THIS SUNDAY

March 4

Adult Forum: The second session on *The Last Week*, by Borg and Crossan, covers Tuesday and focuses on taxes, the Great Commandment, the destruction of the temple, and predications of death.

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-21
Psalm 27

Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: “Promises, Promises”
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

As I begin writing I would like to thank folks for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts following the birth of Marin Trudy on February 7. Our family has felt wonderfully loved and supported by care and your shared excitement!

Over the last couple of weeks, between diaper and clothing changes, I have had brief chances to read the magazines and newspapers that come through the mail and e-mail and I have found myself celebrating that the United Church of Christ has been receiving much notice in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazine. In an area where conversations about my job often include the need to explain exactly what the United Church of Christ is, it has been exciting to see our denomination receiving notice in so many places.

The newspaper mentions have come largely on the heels of the Federal Communication Commission's recent decision to fine Univision in the sum of 24 million dollars for failing to meet their obligations to provide children's programming. The UCC's Office of Communication's Rev. Robert Chase had this to say about raising concerns about Univision's programming. "Media has such a profound impact upon society, especially upon the youngest and most vulnerable among us. It is, therefore, consistent with the Gospel mandate to care for 'the least of these' that our concern extends into the broadcast arena." The United Church of Christ's advocacy for children has been widely touted in light of this decision!

Rolling Stone magazine's mention of the United Church of Christ was included in a report about the presidential aspirations of Senator Barack Obama. The article spoke of the importance of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's council upon the career of Senator Obama. Rev. Wright is the pastor at Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ where Senator Obama is a member and a sample of his prophetic preaching makes it into the article. I found it exciting to see our denomination mentioned in a magazine that reaches a sprawling demographic, but generally features the bombastic characters of the popular music and Hollywood films. The United Church of Christ is not the focus of this article, but our more than incidental inclusion might just provide an opening for new people to discover who we are. Perhaps *Rolling Stone* and *Wall Street Journal* readers alike will be checking out the diverse ministries and people of the United Church of Christ and that is an exciting possibility!

Blessings,

Ryan

P.S. Copies of the *NYT* and *Rolling Stone* articles will be available at church.



The **Middle School** and **High School** youth groups will meet Sunday at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m., respectively. The topic of the Middle School meeting will be “friendship” and the High School group will be working on putting together an up-coming talent show fundraiser. Join us on Sunday night and feel free to bring a friend!

To our Church Family:

Thank you all very much for your prayers, meals, cards and thoughts during my recent knee surgery. We truly belong to a great Christian Community and love abounds.

John & Anna Marie Holmes

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LOOKS AT CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Women's Fellowship will meet on *Wednesday, March 7*, with lunch at noon in Gaton Hall, and a program at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room. **Betty Masoni** will tell us about her experiences last summer at “Freedom Camp on the Road”: a visit to sites of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. All women of the church are invited to attend. Sign up in the foyer after the church service on *March 4*, or call the church office. For questions call

Julie Maloney (752-6468) or **Alice Morrow** (752-3541).

DOES YOUR NEWSLETTER ARRIVE TOO LATE?

Bulk mail can be somewhat unpredictable. If your newsletter doesn't arrive by Friday or, if you need to check information sooner than that, remember that each week's issue is available by Thursday morning on the church's website: www.ucc-covallis.org

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Nicki Zielke** and her family. Nicki's grandfather, **John Knight**, died in Idaho on February 23;

... and with **Michael Henthorne** and his family, following the death of his father, **Charles Henthorne**, on February 22 in Kansas;

... and with **Ellie Erkkila**, recovering from back surgery in Portland this past Tuesday. She will be home by Friday.

I will be one of two artists exhibiting at LaBells Giustina Gallery in the month of March. I have completed a lot of new work. (Those of you at Winter Weekend will be pleased to know I finished the white oak leaf stencil and there is one piece in the show that uses it.) The opening reception is March 9 from 6:30 -8:30. I would be happy to see any of you there. Your love and support is important to me.

Karen Miller



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 6.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, March 2

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
Shari's
- 9:30 a.m. **World Day of Prayer,**
Calvin Presbyterian

Sunday, March 4

- 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) Inquirers' Class**
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 6

- 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, March 7

- Noon Women's Fellowship
luncheon, Gatton Hall
- 5:00 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
- 6:10 p.m. Child care begins
- 6:15 p.m. Worship, Chapel
- 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
- NO** St. Matthew's
Passion or Bell Choir
- NO** Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 8

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

CONCERT from page 3

Stravinsky: *Symphony in 3 Movements*.
Steve Zielke is one of the conductors
 and the singers include **Adam Grieve,**
Barb Clauson, and **Joan Caldwell.**

The performance is at 7:30 p.m. on
Wednesday, March 7, at the LaSells
 Stewart Center. Tickets are \$12, \$24, and
 \$36.