



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 10

March 9, 2007



you

**DAYLIGHT-  
SAVING  
TIME  
BEGINS** Daylight saving  
time starts this  
coming *Saturday*  
*night, March 10.*  
Move your clocks  
ahead an hour so  
you don't miss church!

## AN AFTERNOON OF FOLK SONGS

You are invited to attend or participate in a Folk-Fest on *Sunday, March 18*, at our church from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists will perform folk songs from countries around the world. Participants and the audience are free to stay as long as they wish during the afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact **Kristin Rorrer** at [rorrer4@comcast.net](mailto:rorrer4@comcast.net) or 753-2848; or **Janet Throop** at 753-1804.

## KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI TO SPEAK IN PORTLAND

The Center for Spiritual Development is pleased to announce that the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori will give a Friday evening lecture and Saturday workshop, *April 20 and 21*, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland. She is the 26<sup>th</sup> (and first

woman) Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church in the USA.

Friday lecture: 7:30-9:00 p.m. (\$15 general and \$5 students); Saturday workshop: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (\$50 general and \$15 students; includes lunch). For *(continued on page 4)*

## GOT YOUR DIRECTORY?

If you haven't picked up your family's church photo directory, do so soon! In addition to names and numbers, you will have a guide to faces – especially useful for newcomers and those who want to get to know them.

## THIS SUNDAY

*March 11*

**Adult Forum:** The third session on *The Last Week* covers Wednesday and Thursday and focuses on the woman washing feet, the Last Supper, Interrogation, and Confession/Denial.

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

**Sermon:** "Found in Translation"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

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

Dear Friends,

My dog Rosie died suddenly this past weekend. It seems she had developed a heart condition that she did a very good job of masking. Obviously I will miss her. Not only was she my friend at home, but she loved coming to work as much as I did. I'd walk down the stairs in the morning carrying my laptop, and there she would be, dancing around in circles in the hallway, urging me to hurry because we had to get to the office.

As sudden events do, this one set me to pondering. First, about pets in general. There is such a wide variation in how people feel about and interact with their pets. One person told me that losing her dog would be like losing a child. Another told me he grew up on a farm and got used to seeing animals come and go and, so, never let himself get attached to animals. Most of us live somewhere between those two poles. Our animals are part of our lives. Dogs (at least my dog) give us unconditional love, that look of unswerving trust in their eyes that no matter how yesterday went, today we will do something wonderful with or for them. The difference between our pet friends and our human ones is that our pets belong to us in a way that humans never can. Humans belong to the world. Though a person has a close relationship with me, he or she also has other significant relationships. With animals, though they might know other people, mostly their affection and interaction is focused on one person or family unit. The gifts our critters bring us and our sadness when they are gone are more private than the other relationships of our lives.

Second. Saturday morning found Rosie eager to go for a ride in the car, jumping into her seat, sitting patiently through my grocery shopping, then running up the steps of the house when we returned to get her expected treat. Three hours later, with only an hour's warning that anything was wrong, her heart stopped. It's one of those events that remind me how quickly our lives can change. We take daily life for granted, and suddenly one day something happens, and after that, our worlds are configured differently. It is a difficult but important spiritual discipline to remember to give thanks every day for the daily gifts and graces that are ours. This week was a good reminder of that for me.

Third. One of my neighbors remarked yesterday that it's sad that the life span of pretty much any pet is so much shorter than human life span. We give animals a home and love and care knowing from the beginning that eventually they will break our hearts. But that is true of love in general. By the time we reach adulthood, most of us have figured out that whenever we love, unless the relationship is ended by our death, it will end with the other leaving us, either because that other no longer cares or be-

cause they die. There is no love without pain. And yet we human creatures keep giving ourselves in love. Theologian Henri Nouwen tells us that our hearts were made to be broken, broken over and over again, until the scars across our hearts resemble a railroad switching yard. In that scarred-over heart, declares Nouwen, in the paradox of God, is the making of our wholeness.

I'll leave you with that thought.

**Liz**



The Middle and High School youth groups will meet together on *Sunday, March 11*, beginning at 6:30 for an evening of fellowship and games. Options will include: Pictionary, Taboo, Catch Phrase, Chess and more. Join us!

### **BADMINTON IS GOOD FUN**

It's the same game you might have played as a kid on the backyard lawn, taken to the hardwood of Gatton Hall with smashes that can exceed 120 mph. This Olympics sport is kinder to the elbows and ankles than tennis, but still calls upon balance, reaction speed, flexibility, and strategy. More details at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badminton>

Over the past month, a small group of friendly players has devised methods to set up a badminton court in Gatton Hall. The current string line and net pole designs are now satisfactory for play. These are set up and removed for each session.

You are invited to play badminton with us. We plan to play weekly on Thursday or Friday evenings. Contact

**Brian Lee** for the irregular dates and times. You must wear soft-soled shoes. Good sportsmanship is also required. We can also bring an extra racquet or two if you want to play but don't have one yet.

### **HP HOSTS READ & FEED**

The second part of the discussion on Thomas L. Friedman's *The World Is Flat* will take place in Building 4 at HP this Sunday evening, *March 11*, at 7:00. Please be there a few minutes early to deal with security issues – and let us know ahead if you are coming. No dessert is planned for this meeting.

### **FROM WE CARE**

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your on-going support of We Care [\$1351.30 in 2006]. Your support makes it possible for us to help families obtain or remain in living situations rather than become homeless,... for people to have heat, water, medical attention or to meet emergency needs.

We are also deeply indebted to Community Services Consortium for screening... applications. Because of this, we are able to use more than 99% of our money for those in need.



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

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Saturday, March 10*

**Daylight Saving Time**

*Sunday, March 11*

- 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) Inquirers' Class
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, HP

*Monday, March 12*

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

*Tuesday, March 13*

- Noon Lectionary class

*Wednesday, March 14*

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 1:30 p.m. A D Circle, Lahey
- 5:00 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper

- 6:10 p.m. Child care begins
- 6:45 p.m. Worship, Chapel
- 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, March 15*

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

**LOOKING AHEAD:** *April 5:* Maundy Thursday; *April 6:* Good Friday

**JEFFERTS SCHORI** *from page 1*  
 tickets call The Center (503-478-1218).  
 Check the church bulletin board for further details.

**A D CIRCLE TO MEET**

The A D Circle will meet on *Wednesday, March 14*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of **Welcome Lahey**, 2450 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street. **Priscilla Zaworski** will begin the discussion. All are invited. For more information or transportation, call **Coral Torley** (752-0114).