

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 11

March 16, 2007

NEW MEMBERS THIS SUNDAY

This *Sunday, March 18*, during worship, we will receive new members into the life of our church. A reception will follow in Gatton Hall.

You Are Invited to Attend and Help at

Easter Breakfast

One of the many joys of celebrating Easter Morning is walking into the church to the smell of warm bread and egg casseroles. On *Easter Sunday, April 8*, we will once again be celebrating Easter with breakfast, which will be served from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We offer breakfast casseroles, breads, fruit cups, and beverages for a \$2 donation per person/\$10 maximum per family. It is a wonderful time for gathering and eating with family and friends.

Many helpers are needed to prepare and serve the breakfast. Sign-ups will begin this *Sunday, March 18*, before and after church. Volunteers are needed to help with the following:

- Prepare breakfast casseroles (recipes provided) – 15 people
- Bake or buy bread or

sweet rolls – 12 people

- Prepare juices (Saturday before Easter) – 2 people
- Set up tables and chairs (Saturday before Easter) – 8 people
- Kitchen help Easter Morning 8:15 – 4 people to bake casseroles, make coffee, serve fruit cups, etc.;
- 9:15 a.m. – 4 people to serve to serve casserole, replenish coffee
- Clean up 9:45 – 2 people to start washing dishes and 1 person to pass dishes to dishwashers;

(continued on page 4)

THIS SUNDAY

March 18

Adult Forum: This session on *The Last Week* will cover Friday and the beginning of Saturday. The class will focus on Atonement, Sacrifice, Necessity, and Justice/Vindication.

Scriptures: Luke 15

Sermon: “Step 1: I Am Lost”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Holy Week is quickly approaching and this Sunday will be your first opportunity to sign up for the Easter Vigil that is held from 9:00 p.m. on Good Friday to 6:00 a.m. on Easter morning. The Easter Vigil is meant to provide a reflective and prayerful space during the hours of darkness between our Good Friday service and the celebrations of Easter morning. The 33 hours of the vigil remind us of the 33 years in the life of Jesus and the always-occupied sanctuary reminds us that the darkness of Good Friday did not overcome the light of Christ and that our faith story will continue even after Christ has been crucified.

Our church is very busy during Holy Week and it is easy to get caught up in the preparations and the activities as we move toward Easter. The Easter Vigil, however, provides an opportunity to center ourselves and quietly encounter God in the darkness and desolation of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. I know that the thought of a solid hour of silence and reflection can be a daunting proposition for many folks, but I would like to encourage people who have not previously participated in the vigil to think about doing so this year. Perhaps you could sign up with a friend from within the congregation or invite a neighbor to pray and reflect with you during the vigil. There is no right or wrong way to participate in the vigil; instead it is an opportunity to experience God's presence in the silence of our sanctuary. Each year I am struck by how different the sanctuary feels during the vigil than it does at any other time of the year. Perhaps it is the darkness, perhaps it is the mood, but for whatever reason the sanctuary is a uniquely holy space during the vigil. Sign-up this week and plan to make the vigil an important part of your Holy Week experience!

Blessings,

Ryan**WALK AGAINST THE WAR**

This weekend will provide two opportunities, for those who wish, to voice their opposition to the war in Iraq:

Saturday, March 17, at 11:00 a.m., people are invited to gather at the First Street bike path, just north of Harrison Blvd. The march will begin at 11:30 a.m. and wind its way south on the Riverfront

bike path, through downtown, and finish at the Courthouse. A rally follows, and **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** will be one of the speakers.

Monday, March 19, noon, at 12th and Monroe. Those who wish are invited to join in a silent procession to protest the four years of war and occupation in Iraq.



The youth groups will be meeting this Sunday at their regular times with the Middle School group at 5:00 p.m. and the High School group at 6:30. Now that we have made the switch to daylight saving time we will try to take advantage of the extra light by doing some outdoor games, so please wear shoes appropriate for the outdoors.

As a reminder the High School youth group will be taking the midnight shift at the Easter Vigil on *Friday night, April 6*. After the vigil we will head to Shari's for a late night snack. Please let **Ryan** know if you plan to attend as we will be picking up everyone to avoid having youth driving when they might be tired.

VIGIL SIGN-UPS BEGIN

Our traditional Easter Vigil begins immediately after the Good Friday service and continues without interruption until Easter morning. Members of the congregation take one-hour shifts so that the church is always attended during this period. If you would like to participate in this time of prayer and reflection, put your name on a line on the Vigil sign-up chart on Sunday morning or call the church office. [See "Thought," page 2]

AN AFTERNOON OF FOLK SONGS

You are invited to attend a Folk-Fest this *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. Stay as long as you wish during the afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact **Kristin Rorrer** at rorrer4@comcast.net or 753-2848; or **Janet Throop** at 753-1804.

The Planned Giving Herald

This is to introduce you to a new monthly column in the *Congregational News* to be authored by the Planned Giving Committee. The column will focus on how, with thoughtful planning, you can make a greater impact with your charitable giving and enjoy increased financial and tax benefits as well. We may use quotes and clever contrivances to capture your concentration on the question, "What will you leave behind besides an empty pew?"

Adult Forum on *April 22* will feature **Liz Oettinger** speaking about faith as it relates to planned giving; on *April 29*, **Jeanne Smith** will update us on current tax law and methods related to planned giving.

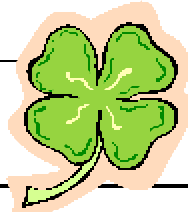
Congregational gatherings in the Fireplace Room to view our new church video and stimulate discussion about planned giving are scheduled for *Thursday evening, May 10; Wednesday noon, May 16; and Sunday evening, May 20*.

Please call **Harold Hunter** (757-3055), **Mike Huntington** (745-5635) or **Liz** (757-8122), if you have answers (or questions).



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly
 except twice a month in July and August by
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106



Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 20.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 18

- 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) New member reception,
Gatton Hall
- Noon-3:00 Confirmation class,
Library
- 2:00-4:00 Folk Fest, Sanctuary
(see page 3)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, March 19

- 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, March 20

- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, March 21

- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 22

- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

EASTER BREAKFAST *from page 1*

10:15 – 8 people (who won't attend the 11:00 service) to wash and dry dishes

Any of these volunteer opportunities will only take a minimal time commitment, but are very important for the overall success of the Easter Breakfast. Please consider whether you might be able to help out this year.

If you are interested in signing up for a position, or have additional questions, please contact **Regan McMorris** at 758-4564 or regan.mcmorris@ch2m.com.