



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 12

March 23, 2007

EASTER BREAKFAST – VOLUNTEER TO HELP

Thank you to everyone who signed up last Sunday to bake, set up, or help out with our Easter Breakfast this year. There still are many additional opportunities to participate in the breakfast. Please check the sign-up sheets in Gatton Hall this Sunday for the following needs:



- 8 egg casserole bakers
- 1 person to help mix juices for 1 hour on *Saturday April 7, 10:00 a.m.*
- 5 people to help with set-up for 2 hours on *Saturday April 7, 10:00 a.m.*
- 3 people to help prepare the kitchen and serve for 2 hours beginning at 8:15 a.m. Easter Morning (Helpers will attend the later 11:00 a.m. service)

(continued on page 3)



MAKE EASTER BLOOM

Come help prepare Easter flower bouquets for tables and the pew standards on *Saturday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m.*

until noon in Gatton Hall. Our new flower boxes don't need boxwood, so only the flowers need to be arranged. All skills levels welcome; bring gloves and clippers, if you have them. Sign up this Sunday or contact **Sue Richmond** (745-7994 or suedougrich@msn.com) or the church office.



If you have flowers from your garden to share for Easter baskets and arrangements, please bring them to Gatton Hall on *Saturday, April 7, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.*

THIS SUNDAY

March 25

Adult Forum: The final session on *The Last Week* will cover part of Saturday and Easter. The class will focus on Bodily Resurrection, History/Parable, Mark as Parable, and Mark, compared with the other Gospels.

Scriptures: John 12:1-8

Sermon: "Is That Really
in the Bible?"

Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

As most of you know the cold weather homeless shelter in Corvallis closed on Sunday morning. The shelter operated every night from December 23rd through March 17th, averaged about 17 users per night, and provided a warm place to sleep for 75 different men. The shelter was operated as a truly ecumenical venture and was staffed and supported by volunteers from St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Friends meeting, the Unitarian Fellowship, First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, the Latter-Day Saints, Grace Lutheran Church, the Mennonite Church, Knollbrook Christian Reformed Church, and our congregation too! Also, our local Veterans for Peace chapter worked at the shelter and the business community provided some of our funding. This shelter could not have operated successfully if not for each of these groups (and the ones that I have undoubtedly missed).

The shelter was always envisioned to meet the needs of homeless men during the coldest part of the year, and so it closed because it had run its course for the season. In fact, the building where it was housed will soon be torn down to make way for new development. But, for nearly 3 months, that soon-to-be-razed fraternity house was a safe and warm place for those in need. I would say that the shelter's very existence should be deemed a success for our community, but I also believe that there are lingering questions that remain now that it has closed for the year. Among the questions that remain: Who is responsible for taking care of the needs of homeless people in our community? From where should long-term funding for such ventures come? What type of building and organizational structure is needed to organize such a venture? How can we address the health care needs of the homeless and poor of our area? How can we better address the addiction and mental health issues of the homeless? Surely you can think of other questions too!

I believe that by operating this shelter the faith communities of Corvallis learned a great deal about the needs of the homeless in our area. The shelter came about simply because a small group of people of concerned citizens, driven largely by their faithful convictions, would not allow for another winter to pass without trying to meet the needs of the homeless. Thank you to everyone who helped make the shelter's operations possible this winter. Please take a breath and rejoice in the success of the venture. But please, don't rejoice too long. The questions that have arisen and enormity of the needs within our community demand that we not rejoice too long or too loud. Even though the shelter has closed the homeless remain in our midst—still needing our help. Buoyed by the knowledge and experience we have gained from operating the shelter we must be courageous and creative as we move forward and we must

push ourselves and our local leaders to respond to this need. I don't know what our next step will be; if you have ideas, answers, or the ability to help as we move forward please feel free to contact me or Aleita.

Blessings,

Ryan



It is Spring Break and summer is coming soon; have you picked up your brochure for camp at **Camp Adams**? Registrations are available in the office and on the information table in the corner of the foyer. Plan to spend a week at Camp Adams this summer.

Camp Adams Schedule

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>

* * *

The youth groups will meet at their regular times this week (5:00 and 6:30 p.m.). Plan to join us for fun, fellowship, and food!

EASTER BREAKFAST *from page 1*

- 3 people to help prepare the kitchen and serve for 2 hours be-

ginning at 9:15 a.m. Easter Morning (Helpers will attend the early 8:30 a.m. service)

- 7 people to help with clean-up for 1 hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. (Helpers will attend the early 8:30 a.m. service)
- 1 person to take home and wash any dish towels or linens used at the breakfast

We are also still in need of a chairperson to coordinate the kitchen prep and serving, and another to coordinate the clean-up. The chairperson positions do not require any additional time commitment, just a desire to help direct others on what needs to get done. Instructions are already typed out from previous years.

If you are unable to sign up on Sunday, but would like to help, please contact **Regan McMorris** (758-4564 or regan.mcmorris@ch2m.com).



VIGIL SIGN-UPS CONTINUE

The Easter Vigil begins immediately after the Good Friday service and continues without interruption in our sanctuary 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 and phone number next to your preferred time on the Vigil sign-up chart this Sunday morning. If you will be away for Spring Break and miss this Sunday or next, please call the church office to have your name added to the list.

GOD@HOME WELCOMES VISITORS, NEWCOMERS

The God@Home class continues to meet and discuss *Way to Live* in the Fireplace Room during the CE hour. This week we are discussing the chapter entitled "Play." Plan to join us, even if you haven't read the book and would just like to join in a lively discussion!

Spring Fling Craft Faire

Ah, SPRING...when one's fancy turns to thoughts of...CRAFTS! Please mark your calendars now for the Third Annual Spring Fling Craft Faire to be held in Gatton Hall on *Saturday, April 21* from 10:00-5:00. The faire is held to provide a venue for local artists and to help support the youth programs of our church. We hope you will plan to attend! For more information, please contact **Jody Eleveld** or **Karen French**.



WOMEN'S MEETING IS TOPIC FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship luncheon will be on *Wednesday, April 4* at noon in Gatton Hall. The program follows at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Four of our members, **Priscilla Zaworski, Joan Pelto, Eleanor MacDonald** and **Nancy Klingeman** will report on "Mix in 06," the combined meeting of UCC Women, and Disciples of Christ women, which took place in Indianapolis last summer.

All women of the church are encouraged to attend. Sign up in the foyer after the church service on *March 25* and *April 1*, or call the church office to add your name to the list.

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



SAVE THE DATE!

"Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God" will be

the theme of our summer Vacation Bible School that will take place in the evenings from *July 15-19*. Vacation Bible School will feature programs for children aged 3 through 5th grade. Please save these dates to ensure that your children can participate!

Maundy Thursday



WILL YOU BE THERE?

Our Maundy Thursday service (*April 5*) begins with a festival

meal at 6:30. There is no charge for this dinner. The cooking committee is already on board to prepare the food; you don't have to bring a thing! But you can make the preparers' jobs much easier by signing up in advance to attend. Of course, all are welcome to participate even if they have not signed up, but knowing ahead about how many will eat means we don't waste time or food. Thanks for your help. Sign-ups start this Sunday in **Gatton Hall**. **(As part of the Diaconate Outreach & Evangelism Committee's efforts to move the fellowship time out of the foyer, they will provide cookies in Gatton Hall!)**

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The public is invited to attend a free, bilingual presentation titled "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse" on *Thursday, April 26*. The program runs from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Albany, in the Gathering Room. Childcare is provided free. Refreshments will be available at the break. Registration is not required but appreciated; you must pre-register for childcare. Participants must be 18 years or older.

Presenters are Linn County Sheriff's Office, Linn County Parole and Probation;

Albany Police Department; Lebanon Police Department; Albany School District and ABC House. E-mail: dis_celtic862@hotmail.com

Check the hallway bulletin board for further details.

THANKS FROM CASA, JANUARY'S MISSION OFFERING

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$953 to CASA Voices for Children – and for recognizing that all children deserve a safe loving home. Your gift will help us in our work of changing the lives of children – taking them from lives of abuse and neglect to lives in safe, loving permanent homes.

Joanna Engel
Executive Director

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Larry Merriam**, recovering at Heart of the Valley from hip surgery on March 17;

... and with **Dorothy Price**, who is facing surgery following a back injury.

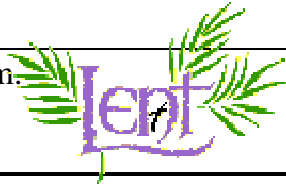
My recovery was blessed with meals (Alice, Doris, Verlyne and Kiko), cards, calls and caring from so many. You truly have been the wind beneath my wings!

Gratefully,
Ellie Erkkila



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 27.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 25

- 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, March 26

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

Tuesday, March 27

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

Wednesday, March 28

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 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. Lenten classes

NO St. Matthew's class
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

BELLS RING AFTER EASTER



We are delighted to have **Carillon Revelry**, First Presbyterian's bell choir, to play for our service on *Sunday, April 15*. This special performance coincides with

the start of our children's chimes sessions (during Activity Hour).

FOURTH SUNDAY AT FOUR HONORS BACH

The Fourth Sundays at Four concert series at the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan will feature music by Johann Sebastian Bach at the Bach Birthday Celebration. The concert begins at 4:00 this *Sunday, March 25*, at 333 NW 35th Street, Corvallis. Musicians from the Corvallis area will play.