

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 17

April 27, 2007

**ANNUAL
MEETING**
Sunday evening, May 6
Dessert at 6:30, Gatton Hall
Meeting at 7:00, Sanctuary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

On *Sunday, May 6*, the Christian Education Board will be hosting a Open House in the CE wing after worship. Plan to wander through the CE wing to check in on what our classes have been up to this year and get a preview of this summer's Vacation Bible School. We promise cookies, coffee and other goodies too!

HOLOCAUST AND POETRY BOOKS ON DISPLAY

In honor of Holocaust Month and Poetry Month, the church library has book displays for both children and adults on these subjects. These books are available to be checked out and include some by Nikki Giovanni, the Virginia Tech professor/poet who spoke in Corvallis several years ago.



SOFTBALL TEAM NEWS

There is still time to join the Holy Sox coed softball team! Anyone from the church can join who is at least a 12th grader in high school. Practices are Thursdays 6:00 p.m. at Chin-timini Park.

Games are *Sunday, May 13* through early August on Sunday afternoons and evenings. The cost is \$32 per Corvallis resident; \$10 more for others (payable to **Pete Nelson**).

Call **Tammy Skubinna** (752-4214) or Pete Nelson (752-1278) for more information.

THIS SUNDAY

April 29

Adult Forum: "Planned Giving: How" with **Jeanne Smith** at 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Psalm 23
John 10:22-30
Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon: "A Word to the Flock"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Over the past several years, this church's life has been enriched by our connection with the church in Japan. Last fall, our second delegation of members visited Japan, and were offered gracious hospitality there, not only by our partner church in Takarazuka, but also by others. One of those others is the Rev. Dr. Tsugikazu Nishigaki, who spent a day with our travelers in Hiroshima. Rev. Nishigaki is the retired president and current chancellor and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Hiroshima Jogakuin University, a Christian women's college. His special areas of interest are Christian Education and Pastoral Counseling. He travels to the United States to deliver a paper at a national meeting of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. The focus of that meeting is Grief and Loss.

Rev. Nishigaki has four theological degrees from universities in both Japan and the United States. He speaks excellent English. He has spent his career as an educator, administrator, scholar, and translator. One of the books he has translated from English to Japanese is Henri Nouwen's classic, *The Wounded Healer*. His ministry has been honored with a "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Boston University School of Theology and a distinguished service award from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Nishigaki will be visiting Corvallis Sunday-Tuesday, April 29-May 1. He will be present in worship this Sunday morning and has consented to read the scripture that day. After church, we will be having a special fellowship hour where the whole congregation will have an opportunity to meet him. The Partnership Committee has also scheduled two other times where smaller groups of congregation members can have the opportunity to speak with Rev. Nishigaki. The first is at a no-host lunch on Sunday after Fellowship Hour at the Broken Yolk (119 SW 3rd Street, Corvallis). The second is a no-host dinner at Michael's Landing, Monday night at 6:00. If you are interested in participating in either of these opportunities, please call the church office or me. We have limited numbers for both of these opportunities, but we want to accommodate all who are interested.

We are so fortunate in this church to have Rev. Nishigaki with us. American Christians have a tendency to be parochial, to forget that there is a world of Christian reflection and experience outside our own. This visit is one more opportunity for us to see the church and the world through other eyes. I am looking forward to it.

Have a thoughtful week.

Liz



The youth groups will not be meeting this week due to the very busy schedule

around the church and community (confirmation retreat, Professor Nishigaki's visit, CYS concert). However, we will be meeting from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on the afternoon of *May 6* to explore responses to violence in the wake of recent events. This will be a joint meeting of both youth groups, but there will be several different activities that will divide us up. Please plan to attend!

TREASURER'S REPORT

We recently passed the end of the first quarter of our financial year. Because of the way we structure payment of on-going known expenses, the end-of quarter report gives the clearest look at our financial picture. As of March 31st, expenses are right on target. Not so for income. Pledges are behind by \$13,000. Better-than-expected building use keeps the deficit down to -\$10,600. This compares to -\$4,300 in 2006 and -\$5,900 in 2005. Though the Trustees and I are not alarmed, we will be paying close attention to income in the weeks to come.

Many of you picked up your first quarter giving record in the last two weeks; others received them in the mail this week. Be sure to review them, both for accuracy and to see if your pledge is up-to-date. We often get a bump in giving after statements go out; we're hoping

to see improvement in the next few weeks. Remember, it is easier to keep up than it is to catch up! I will keep you informed of our progress.

Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO VISIT PASTEGA HOUSE

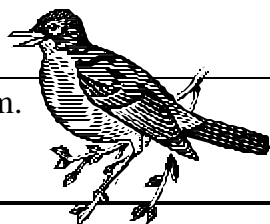
The Women's Fellowship luncheon on *Wednesday, May 2* will begin at **11:45** (15 minutes earlier than usual) in Gatton Hall. At 12:45 we will carpool to the Mario Pastega Guest House at Good Samaritan Hospital. Please sign up in the foyer this *Sunday, April 29* or call the church office. For questions contact **Julie Maloney** (752-6468) or **Alice Morrow** (752-3541).

NORTHWEST REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE

Brochures with registration material for the Northwest Regional Women's Conference VIII are now available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall. The meeting will be at Kah Nee Ta resort in Central Oregon on *November 2-4, 2007* and feature storyteller Valerie Tutson as the keynoter. Registration fee which includes meals is \$150 before *July 1*, after that the price increases by \$25. This year's theme is "Recreate! Re-Create" and there will be nine workshops to sign up for after you register. For additional information, contact **Linda Hadfield**, registrar, at 752-3168. Carpools from Corvallis will be arranged this fall.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 1.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 27

5:00 p.m. **Confirmation retreat**
 (through Sunday)

Sunday, April 29

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
 (Activity Hr.) Children's Chimes
 (following) Children's Choir
 11:45 a.m. Fellowship hour with
 the Rev. Nishigaki
 (following) Lunch at Broken Yolk

Monday, April 30

9:00 a.m. Staff
 5:30 p.m. Basketball
 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Michael's
 Landing [see Thought]
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, May 1

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, May 2

11:45 a.m. Women's Fellowship
 luncheon,
 Pastega house tour
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 3

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,
 Chintimini Park
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 4

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Shari's

Thanks for Mission Offering

Your contribution to **We Care** [\$425] is very much appreciated. **We Care** proudly assists with housing, utility, medical, transportation, employment and other needs of the

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community. Greater than 99% of funds contributed goes directly to those in need.