



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

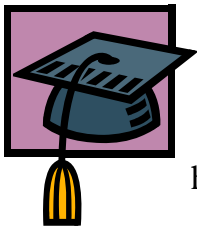
Vol. XLVI, No. 19

May 11, 2007



MUSIC RECOGNITION SUNDAY

This Sunday we will honor the many contributions from our church musicians who enrich our worship service weekly throughout the year. We especially thank **Steve Zielke**, Music Director; **Kristin Rorrer**, organist; **Adam Grieve**, Bell Choir conductor; and the many members of our sanctuary and bell choirs. This Sunday the choir will sing the spiritual, "Sit Down Servant." The **Children's Choir**, under the direction of **Kristin**, will sing four pieces during the service: "Peace Like a River," "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me," "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace," "Go Now in Peace." This Sunday is sure to be a special musical treat for all on Mother's Day.



GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

It's that time of year again! Please submit information about 2007 high school and college

graduates for the newsletter. The list will appear in the *June 1 Congregational News*, so be sure to e-mail sbwickes@comcast.net or write and drop off in the office the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information.** The deadline is **May 29**, but sooner is better (additions and/or corrections are welcome right up to the deadline).

SOUP 'N' BREAD THIS SUNDAY!

After a one-month hiatus from Soup 'n' Bread (none on Easter Sunday), we resume this fellowship event. We will celebrate our church musicians by offering some special desserts!

THIS SUNDAY

May 13

Adult Forum: First of a two-part series featuring Bill Moyers' journal on the media's role in the Iraq war.

Scriptures: John 5:1-9

Sermon: "Do You Want to be Healed?"

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

First of all, thanks to all of you from me and my mother and my sister, Mary, for all your expressions of love and concern over the past months. For those of you who missed the news Sunday, my sister Margaret died last Wednesday. Since my whole family was gathered here, we had a memorial service for her at the church Monday afternoon.

It was an almost surreal experience for me to be on the receiving end of this church's care for the grieving. I was the person seated with my family in the Library rather than wearing a long white robe and checking on last-minute details. I was so grateful for the ministries of Ryan and Caroline, for the reception being put together in the Fireplace Room, for all those who came to be with me and my family even though they knew Margaret not at all. All I had to do was sit and be, and let you all take care of the work.

There is, at times, an almost immobilizing lethargy in grief. Thoughts are scattered, energy unfocused. Small tasks seem much larger than they should. I can't tell you what comfort there was yesterday in sitting and still knowing that all that should be done would be done. And I tell you this, partly because it matters to me, but more importantly because this is what we do for all members of the congregation. I'm not sure that those of you who usher, and do flowers, and prepare receptions, and wash dishes know how great a gift you are giving. I didn't realize it until yesterday. All those tasks add up to a lot of comfort and peace of mind.

I will be back in Seattle the end of this week dealing with the business of closing down a life. I'll be back next week. Thank you again for your concern, your patience, and all of your many kindnesses.

Liz

WELCOME TO LEAH McCULLOUGH!

This Sunday, while Liz is in Seattle and Ryan is on a week of family leave, we are privileged to have Leah McCullough as our guest preacher. For those who may not yet know, Leah, along with Tim Stover, is one of our United Campus Ministers. This is the first time since the Rev. Lois Van Leer was at UCM (close to 20 years ago!) that a UCM minister has been a member of the UCC. A big welcome to Leah!



will be no youth groups.



We are ready for your donations! This Saturday (May 14th), our youth will be eagerly awaiting your items, which may be brought to Dana Poling's home, 2825 NW Mulkey, between 9 a.m. – Noon. If this Saturday is inconvenient, we will be available the same time on May 21 and May 28.

Due to space restrictions, we will **not** be accepting any clothing donations. Small appliances and electronics that are in good working order will be accepted. Please include operating manuals, if possible.

If you have items you would like to donate but are unable to deliver them, please **call Molly Chambers** (754-5824) who will be happy to make arrangements to pick them up. Thanks in advance for your support.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED!

Last Sunday at the Annual Meeting we elected new officers, Board, and Committee members for the coming

2007-08 year. This column **thanks all whose service will end May 31, 2007:** Moderator, **Cliff Trow**

Diaconate members: **Regan McMorris, Karen Herold, Doug & Sue Richmond, Marsha Gulick, and Cynthia Janes.**

Mission Board members: **Betty Masoni, Larry Thornton, & Susie Nelson** (all agreed to another second three-year term!), and **Nancy Groesz.**

Christian Education: **Eric Skillingstad, Joe Chambers, Lon Rycraft, and John Hawkins.**

Trustees: **Dale Kirk & Frank Hall** (who agreed to serve another 3 yr. term!), **Wayne Phillips** and **Gregg Smith.**

Endowment & Memorial Funds Board: **Neal Peterson & Larry Small** (who agreed to serve another three-year term!)

Stewardship Committee: **Beth Riley**
Nominating Committee: **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant & Monine Stebins** (Monine agreed to serve a full three-year term.)

Personnel Committee: **Mary Bolton & Mark Esary** (Mark has agreed to serve a full three-year term)

Just Peace Committee: **Aleita Hass-Holcombe & Caroline Zaworski** (who agreed to another three-year term).

United Campus Ministry: **Gary Enschede.**

UCC Delegates: Priscilla Zaworski and Pete Klingeman (Pete has agreed to serve a full three-year term).

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

This past Sunday at the Annual Meeting, we elected new church officers, Board/Committee members, UCC delegates, and United Campus Ministry representatives for the new year, beginning June 1, 2007. Our newly-elected Moderator for the year is **Sue Richmond**. Annual reports from church Boards and Committees, year-end financial statements for the operating budget and Endowment & Memorial Funds were also accepted. We recognized the 19 new members who joined during this past program year and honored two among our congregation who died: **Charlotte Harter** and **Frank Rinkus**.

Annual Report Corrections / Additions: The Just Peace Committee report: **Aleita Holcombe** reports that the missionary who visited our church on June 7, 2006 was from Puerto Rico (not the Philippines), where she worked with Disciples/UCC Common Global Ministries. **Gregg Smith** had agreed to serve only through May 2007 on the Board of Trustees; as a result, a one year opening now exists on that Board. Nancy Groesz has resigned from the Mission Board, and **Marsha Gulick** will fill the one year remaining in her term; following the meeting, **Kim Thackray** agreed to serve the open one year term on the Personnel Committee, resulting from Alice Sperling's resignation.

STONE SOUP

Sign up this Sunday to help with Stone Soup on Tuesday, May 15th at the First Christian Church. Food preparation people are asked to report at 3 p.m. Those who choose to serve and clean up are asked to report at 5 p.m.

MISSION OFFERING FOR MAY

Our May Mission Offering supports the ministry of **Northwest House of Theological Studies**, an extension program of graduate theological education for mainline Protestant students, which allows weekend attendance and summer courses while students honor their professional and family obligations. First Congregational UCC member, **Kate Stewart**, currently enrolled at NHTS shares this: "The NHTS was created in 1998 as a local option for students wanting to test the waters of God's call on their life. Students at the House range in age from late 20's to early 60's. These students gather on weekends to study and dig deeper in their walk with God while keeping their day jobs. Connected with four Northwest seminaries, NHTS provides a way to enter into seminary and follow God's call. It is not uncommon to hear the phrase: "I knew God was calling me to the ministry but I didn't know how to make that happen until I found this place." This place will allow the church to grow and influence society. Your giving makes this possible!



A MUSICAL MOMENT FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

This Sunday afternoon, May 13th, here at our church (and the night before at LBCC in Albany),

Steve Zielke's Corvallis Repertory Singers

celebrate the City's 150th Birthday. There's a Baroque setting of Psalm 150, with double choir and 8 brass instruments, rousing spirituals, and works by Corvallis composers, including Ron Jeffers, Hal Eastburn, and Judy Walls Freeman.

CHEER ON THE HOLY SOX!

The first game for the Holy Sox co-ed softball

team is **Sunday, May 13, at 5:40 p.m.**, Washington field (behind Avery Square). Come cheer on your church softball team! Practices are on Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Chintimini Park. Players who have not signed the roster must go to the Parks Office (Avery Park) and sign up right away. Since the fee has already been paid, please **pay Tammy Skubinna** \$35 for Corvallis residents; \$45 for non-residents) whenever you can. Call Tammy at 752-4214 to let her know if you can play in this first game.



ANNUAL MEETING FOR CONFERENCE WOMEN

The Rev. Lynne Smouse Lopez and Pat Rumer will present a program titled: "A Better World is Possible: Voices of Women from Africa" at the Central Pacific Women's Annual Meeting on **Thursday, May 17 at 1st Congregational UCC in Salem**. The meeting registration begins at 11:30 and lunch will be at noon. These speakers attended an international conference on debt reduction that was held in Africa last January. **Pat** is chair of the Oregon Jubilee Committee. Price for the gathering is \$10 which includes lunch. Our "Celebrate the Gifts of Laywomen" from the Conference will be honored (this includes **Aleita Hass-Holcombe**), a worship service will be held by women from the Vancouver, WA, UCC, and new members of the CPC Women's Board will be installed. To make reservations for this meeting, please contact **Nancy Klingeman** by Monday morning, May 14. We will try to arrange carpools to Salem for those who wish to attend. Men are also welcome.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BOARDS MEET (2006-07/2007-08)

The outgoing and the incoming WF Boards will meet on **Wednesday, June 6**, noon to 2:30 at the home of **Alice Mills Morrow**, 1644 NW Arthur Avenue.

HOMELESS CAMP FIRE VICTIMS' NEEDS

Two weeks ago, two fires swept through a homeless camp in an area behind Home Depot, incinerating the possessions of some of the people. Although Vina Moses was able to provide some items, there are still many items needed not normally carried by Vina Moses or other local emergency supply organizations. The following is a list of needed items:

Dishes, pots, pans, disposable tableware

Tarps (waterproof, fire-resistant)

Bedding (fire-resistant if available)

Fire extinguishers, hatchets

Men's clothes, sizes:

Pants 34"W/ 36"L

Shirts XXL

Shoes 12

(other clothing/sizes to be determined)

Cash/check donations (made out to the church with the notation: "homeless fire") will also be accepted to purchase items not covered by donations. Items may be taken directly to Jennifer Ambrosius, director, at Circle of Hope, 215 NW Monroe, or contact **Brian Lee** bcline@peak.org.

"GLOBAL WARMING: CHANGING CO₂urse"

All Are Welcome! Join this new discussion group, which explores personal values and habits as they relate to climate change with a deeper understand-

ing of the history and science of global warming. To find out more, the FREE introductory session will be held on May 8, 6 – 7:30 p.m., at the Episcopal Church. The four-week discussion group will then meet on succeeding Tuesday evenings, May 15, 22, June 5, and 12, from 6 – 7:30 p.m., with a celebratory "Home Eco-Party" on June 19. The book costs \$16 and the course discussion is free! Contact course coordinator **Vicki Hesse** for more info: telephone 754-1170 or e-mail vhesse@luminessesolutions.com.

DAYS OF PRAYER & ACTION FOR COLOMBIA

People of faith and conscience from across North America have heard the call from Colombia. It is time to come together to pray and act for justice and peace in Colombia! On May 20, hundreds of local congregations in North America will join with hundreds of congregations and people of faith in Colombia to pray for the peacemakers and justice seekers in this war-torn land. On May 21, we will make our voice heard in an International Day of Action for Peace in Colombia.

*Every day more than ten people are killed in Colombia due to a war that makes civilians its primary target.

*Clergy and lay church leaders are especially at risk in the conflict. Paramilitaries, guerrillas and some sectors of the Colombian Armed Forces con-

tinue to attack religious leaders and representatives of peace initiatives due to their work for human rights, peace and life.

*The U. S. Government has provided \$4.7 billion dollars to Colombia, 80% in military aid. Recent news articles have shown close ties between high Colombian officials and paramilitary groups.

Our church will be among the 500 invited North American churches participating in Days of Prayer & Action for Colombia. Please join us on Sunday, May 20th, as we focus our attention on the current situation in Colombia.

WITNESS FOR PEACE TEEN DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA

Although July 13-17 seems “way out there” on the time line, it is really getting close as **Megan Chambers** works out all the details of participating in a Witness for Peace Delegation to Nicaragua. Megan will be joining about 20+ young people as they journey from Chapel Hill, North Carolina to Nicaragua for what has come to be the traditional Witness for Peace “Teen Delegation.”

The young people will meet with community leaders, visit schools and also health centers. They will visit farms and learn about the impact of Nicaragua’s debt on the poor as well as the impact of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

While in the countryside they will share the life of a Nicaraguan family in a rural cooperative. While in Managua, they will live with families who work in sweatshops and learn about their struggles to survive in this era of globalization.

Megan will join one other Oregon youth on this delegation, **Emily Loberg**, from Salem. Most of the other teens will be from the east coast, although several are from Ohio. The delegation leader is **Gail Phares**, SE regional coordinator for Witness. Gail lived and worked in Nicaragua and Guatemala delegations to Latin America. **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** will also be one of the three adults traveling with the July delegation.

COMMEMORATIVE PLATES NOT FOR FOOD

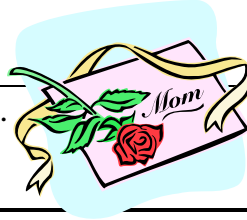
Some decades ago, our church issued a gold-rimmed commemorative dinner plate with a drawing of the church on the front in reddish brown, and the old address of 4001 West Hills Road. The back of the plate has text briefly describing the church. The manufacturer was marked as World Wide Art Studios, Covington, Tennessee.

A colorimetric test kit that is frequently used in screening for lead gave a strong positive test. Unless it is determined that lead is not present, please do not use the plates for eating or other food contact purposes.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 15.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 13

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
 11:45 a.m. Soup 'n' Bread
 3:00 p.m. **CRS Concert**
 5:40 p.m. Holy Sox game, Wash-
 ington Field

Monday, May 14

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

Tuesday, May 15

Noon Lectionary class
 3:00-8:00 Stone Soup
 7:00 p.m. Trustees
 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, May 16

Noon Planned Giving lunch

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 17

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 18, 19

All day 1st Cong. UCC, Salem

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS are with **Coral Torley**, whose sister, **Nancy Margaret Cannell Anderson**, died on April 11th, in Texas.

I wish to thank my church family who was so good to me during my strange illness. I appreciate all that was done for me: flowers, plants, cards, notes, and all the prayers that were said in my behalf. I am now living at Stoneybrook Assisted Living for a few weeks as my strength comes back. I hope it won't be much longer before I'm back at Stoneybrook Lodge and back in circulation. Thanks to all.

Eleanor Martin