



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 21

May 25, 2007



PENTECOST

Red is the color of Pentecost, so congregation members are encouraged to wear that color to worship this *Sunday, May 27*. The choir will wear their red stoles. Those who wish can bring a **red geranium plant** to the brighten the chancel during worship, and then to be planted on the church grounds for beautiful color all summer.

EARLY SUMMER WORSHIP – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to try something new this summer? Plan to attend the 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship services held in the chapel beginning *June 17*. Better yet, volunteer to lead one of the services!

The Worship Committee is looking for people who would like to lead this informal service. This service was created to (1) provide an alternate time of worship that might better fit people's summer schedule and (2) create an opportunity for lay members to create and lead a simple worship service. The ser-

vice is short (30-45 minutes), very informal and usually includes scripture and prayer. An informal discussion on the scripture replaces a sermon. Music is optional. The format and content can be flexible but a format does exist for those who prefer to not create their own. Support is available. If you are interested or would like more information, contact the office or **Michael Henthorne** (Worship Committee Chair) at 929-3415. An interest form will also be provided in the Sunday Bulletin for next two weeks.

THIS SUNDAY

May 27

NO Adult Forum or Sunday School. At the final Forum, *June 3*, we will evaluate this past year's programs.

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17

Anthem: "I Will Lift My Eyes
Unto the Hills"

Sermon: "Where the Past Meets
the Future"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

General Synod is just one month away and the last time I counted our church will have at least 18 members representing us in Hartford beginning on June 22. General Synod is the bi-annual business meeting of the United Church of Christ, but this year it is also the site of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. I am excited that we will have eight youth representing us in Connecticut because they will not only get to experience the festivities of the anniversary party, but they will also learn a great deal about the financial, political, and structural workings of our denomination. In my estimation General Synod is akin to a laboratory and our youth will have an opportunity to participate in the grand and faithful experiment that is the United Church of Christ.

The laboratory setting will feature resolutions dealing with the church's response to immigration policy, covenantal relationships within the denomination, environmental responsibility, the meaning and definition of marriage, and physician-aided death. Our young people will have the opportunity to see our polity in action as the synod debates these ideas and resolutions. They will also experience the church in action at the "Synod in the City" experience which is the centerpiece of the 50th Anniversary celebration. Synod in the City will feature musicians, theologians, artists, political voices, and much more as the synod participants fan out into the community to learn from and experience workshops and events led by the diverse voices of Bill Moyers, Barack Obama, Chicago's Still Point Theater Collective, hip hop historian Davey D, and many others. They will also worship with the 6500-plus registered attendees, gather for youth activities with youth from across the United Church of Christ, and have the chance to participate in the General Synod service day. I imagine that our young people will come back from Synod with a whole new perspective on the United Church of Christ and we are anxious to share the experience with the congregation.

Beginning on June 3rd the youth will be selling "\$25 Stock Certificates" in our trip which will "mature" in the form of two postcards mailed from Synod and an invitation to a post-Synod dessert. This is a great opportunity to connect with one (or more!) of our young people who are attending Synod and a great opportunity to support our youth as they travel to Synod.

Finally, as a part of our Synod travels I will be asking our youth to "blog" about the experience so that folks can get "real time" information about Synod happenings and experiences. We will be blogging via myblurredvision.com and, thanks to digital cameras, we hope to post pictures as well. I expect that our youth will have an amaz-

ing time at Synod, but I also hope that through our church's delegation we can connect everyone with the Synod experience.

Blessings,

Ryan



Weather permitting, the youth will meet at the **Lambert** home at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday night, *May 27*, to carpool to the Motor-Vu Drive-In in Dallas, Oregon. The cost is \$4 a person which will go toward the \$16 carload price and perhaps some popcorn too. Plan to bring munchies or \$\$ to buy them at the drive-in. The Motor-Vu is showing "Pirates of the Caribbean 3" which is rated PG-13 and the second feature has not yet been announced. If it is raining we will have a movie night at the Lambert's. Adult drivers are needed to insure we have enough vehicles for the drive-in! Contact **Ryan** if you have questions or to volunteer to drive.

LAST WEEK FOR GARAGE SALE DONATIONS!

Our youth will once again be eagerly awaiting your donations on *Saturday morning, May 26*, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at **Dana Poling's** house, 2825 NW Mulkey.

We have some fabulous items already and are looking forward to receiving



your "no longer needed" items to add to our collection. If you have items you would like to donate and would like someone to pick them up, please call **Molly Chambers** (754-5824) to make arrangements. Watch next week's newsletter for details about the sale including the time and some "big ticket" and popular items we'll have!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Christian Education year will end on *June 3* with our final Sunday of classes. **Middle School** and **High School** will meet in their normal spaces, but the classes for the younger ages will meet in Room 5 for a "one-room school house" experience to end the year. Plan for your children to attend as we close out our Christian education program **and** gather with us in worship where we will celebrate the work of the CE teachers and our graduating seniors.

CONCERT BENEFITS WEST-M

There will be a United Campus Ministry Fundraiser on *Monday, May 28*, at 7:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church. The entertainment will be the Inner Strength Gospel Singers and West-M students will share how this ministry has affected their college years. A free will offering will be taken.

SPRING AND SUMMER USHERS, HOSTS NEEDED

Our worship services need a few more volunteers to assist in distributing the Sunday worship programs and passing the offering collection plates, and in helping to welcome visitors. An insert in this Sunday's worship bulletin will ask for available dates for those who will serve in this way. Bring your calendars so you can check on times that work for you and note the dates you sign for. The finished schedule will be confirmed with participants later. You can also contact **Brian Lee** (bclee@peak.org) to offer to usher.



SIGN UP TO HELP!

May has a fifth Tuesday so we have a second May date to provide the Stone Soup meal at First Christian Church: *Tuesday, May 29*. Please look for the sign-ups in the foyer on Sunday or contact **Ryan** or **Pat Johnson** to volunteer. Many hands are needed to cook, serve and clean up and make this important community service possible.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

A group of Corvallis citizens is sponsoring *Notes for Goats*, a benefit concert and raffle for the **KIDS for KIDS** organization on *Saturday, June 2*, from noon-2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis (8th and Monroe).

The program includes African dancers and drummers, a jazz quartet, tap dancers, and other groups. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. for ticket sales and raffle.

KIDS for KIDS raises money to purchase goats, donkeys, well supplies, building materials, plants and offers veterinary, health, and horticultural training to help villages in Darfur survive, sustain and remain during this time of political unrest and drought.

Tickets are \$8 for adults \$5 kids(2-18), students and seniors, and \$25 for a family. They can be purchased in advance at Grass Roots or at the door, or by contacting **Beth Jordan** (267-626-8210). A raffle will be held as well featuring items such as quilts, books, toys, tools, garments, musical instruments, fiber art supplies, and agricultural products.

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FOR NORTHWEST REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE VIII

Yellow registration forms are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall for the Northwest Regional Women's Conference which will be held at Kah Nee Ta resort on *November 2-4, Recreate!*

Re-Create! is this year's theme with storyteller **Valerie Tutson** as the keynoter. Registration fee is \$150 until *July 1* and increases to \$175 after that date. This price includes all meals. Housing costs depend on the type of room re-

quested and range from \$56.50 for four people in one room for two nights to \$170 for a single room. Housing is paid at Kah Nee Ta. Financial assistance is available from the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Loan/Grant Fund and grant applications are available in the church office. Contact **Linda Hadfield** for additional information.

LIBRARY DISPLAY FEATURES SYNOD SPEAKERS



Several books in the church library were written by people who will be speakers at General Synod in Hartford next month. On display next to the computer are books by **Bill Moyers**, **Barack Obama**, and **Marian Wright Edelman** where they are waiting for you to check them out. Many thanks to **Janice Engle** and **Marion Whitney** for their assistance in the library!

BENTON FURNITURE SHARE SEEKS DIRECTOR

Benton Furniture Share accepts donated furniture, making it available to families in need within the Corvallis community. The Director manages staff, volunteers, budgets, grant writing, donor support, and reporting functions.

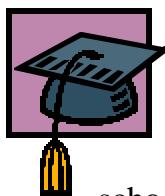
If you are interested in this half-time position directing a non-profit organization, or if you know of someone else who may be, please call **Ray William**, Board President (737-5441, or

williamr@hort.oregonstate.edu) and see our website, www.bfs.peak.org, for details on the position and the difference we make in the community.

Board member needed: The Board of Directors provides guidance to the organization and Director. The board meets once per month with an occasional request to volunteer. Please call Ray to see how you can make a difference in our community.

Congratulations

...to **Sean Skyllingstad** and the other members of the Crescent Valley High School who placed third at the 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Their Energy and Transportation Project developed a system for the absorption of sulfur compounds from land-fill gasses utilizing a carbon system.



GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

Please submit or update information about 2007 high school and college graduates for the *June 1 Congregational News*. 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).



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 29.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 25

7:30 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall

Sunday, May 27

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
NO C E classes

10:30 a.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Youth drive-in trip
(Meet at Lamberts')

Monday, May 28-Memorial Day

Office closed

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, May 29

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

3:00-8:00 Stone Soup

Wednesday, May 30

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

7:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Friday, June 1

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

7:30 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall

LOOKING AHEAD: *Saturday, June 2:* Garage Sale (for youth fundraising), 9:00 to 3:00; *Sunday, June 10:* Summer worship schedule beings; *Sunday, July 15:* Salmon Barbecue.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR PFLAG

PFLAG will not be having its usual fourth Monday meeting on *Monday, May 28*. Instead, they will meet on *June 11* in the room across the hall from the usual meeting place at First United Methodist Church.

SOUP 'N' BREAD APPRECIATION

Thanks to all the people who helped make Soup 'n' Bread possible this past year. The latest bunch were: Cooks **Eileen Milligan, Karen French,** and **Carol Huntington;** bread/sandwich providers: **Jody Eleveld** and **Brenda Koenig;** set-up and clean-up help: **Julia Lont, Rowland** and **Topher French,** and **Bob Stebbins.**