



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 32

September 14, 2007

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Sunday, September 23,*  
following worship

to vote on the church's endorsement of  
Corvallis and Albany Assisting Iraqi  
Refugees (CAAIR)

## A WARM WELCOME-

## A CHILI LUNCH



This *Sunday, September 16*, the Fellowship Board of the Diaconate hosts our annual Welcome Back Event. Again this year it will take the form of a Congregational Chili Cook-off. If you haven't signed up to provide food, you are still welcome to bring chili or cornbread, if you like. This is a great opportunity to catch up with people after the summer, so plan to join us after worship for a chili lunch. There is no charge for this event.

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOLLOWS

After lunch, we will help celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of **Kathie** and

**Larry Merriam**, and **Hokie** and **Jean Adams**, with a cake provided for us by the couples. So come for a great meal, including dessert!

## BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY

Join the FCC crew for Beach Clean-Up Day at Beverly Beach this *Saturday, September 15*. Carpools will leave the church at 8:15 a.m., or you can meet us at the beach at 10:00. We will work until 1:00. Remember your gloves!

## THIS SUNDAY

*September 16*

**Adult Forum:** Our General Synod youth participants offer their perspective on the event at 9:30. (Next Sunday, the Forum begins at **9:15** to allow time for the Bill Moyers' speech video.)

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 4:11-12,  
22-28

Luke 15:1-10

**Sermon:** "On Going Astray and  
Being Found"  
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

Since mid-summer I have been engaged in ongoing conversations with Courtney McHill, the Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Corvallis, concerning how our churches might work together to reach out to young adults in the 18-30 age demographic. We have had many conversations about what critical mass for young adult ministry might look like, about the diverse needs and the surprisingly diverse demographics of young adults, about whether current worship styles or church structures are speaking to young adults, and about some rather specific ways we might look at 'doing' ministry with young adults in Corvallis. One of the tangential results of this conversation is that our churches will be sharing an information table at the "Where It's @Beaver Community Fair" on the OSU Campus during the first week of classes as a way of meeting new and returning students.

One of our foundational beliefs about young adults is that they (I like to say "we" and pretend that I still fit within the demographic!) are seeking ways to find connection with one another as they investigate their faith. For that reason much of our conversation has focused on doing something with worship that will draw young adults into community together. These conversations have led me to become more familiar with a contemporary Christian movement known as the Emerging Church Movement. The Emerging Church Movement draws upon postmodern thought, has a focus on deconstructing and reconstructing the Christian tradition, and often uses both new media tools such as the internet and blogs along with ancient practices such as labyrinths and contemplative prayer as tools for ministry. From what I am learning about this movement I wonder if it isn't one of the key next waves in the evolution of the church.

Based in the desire to more fully reach out to young adults in our community Courtney and I are planning to "roll out" a new worship experience that is focused on young adults, but open to everyone, on the evening of October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster House (WestM). We have included WestM's co-Campus Ministers Leah McCullough and Tim Stover in this conversation and dream of this being an ongoing "monthly or more" experience for young adults (and others!) seeking to meld the traditions and theology of mainline Christianity with a new, creative, and worshipful movement of the Spirit. We are still building the outline for what the first gathering will look like, but I know it will include a mixture of traditional and non-traditional elements, corporate and individual prayer, and the opportunity to celebrate communion. We are hopeful that this gathering might fortify our outreach to young adults and build upon the ministries at WestM, First United Methodist Church, and First Con-

gregational United Church of Christ to create something new and vital. Something is emerging on October 10...stay tuned for more details.

Blessings to all,

**Ryan**



### **UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU**

As a way to participate locally in The International Day of Peace on *Friday, September 21, 2007*, you are invited to attend PRAYERS FOR PEACE at Westminster House (on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monroe). You may drop in at any time between 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. and stay as long as you like. This event is open to **all** OSU students, staff and faculty, local churches, and the Corvallis community. Contemplative prayer stations where you can engage experientially in prayer through art, stillness, contemplation, writing, music, quiet, and movement will be set up throughout the space. In the midst of those gathered, you will move individually, choosing your stations and your own pace. Come connect with the Sacred while offering prayers of peace for the world, humanity and yourself. For more information contact Rev. **Leah McCullough** at [revleah@comcast.net](mailto:revleah@comcast.net) or 753-2242.



Thanks to everyone who came for dessert and chocolate pudding

Pictionary last Sunday night for our kick-off event. We have a full schedule of events planned for the fall and look forward to seeing you at many of them! If you have not received an invitation for the "Yahoo group" for youth and parents please contact **Ryan**. The Yahoo groups list will be a key part of our communication plan and it gives everyone an easy way to communicate with one another. We will begin our regular meeting schedule **this** Sunday with Middle School meeting from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and High School meeting from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Bring a friend if you would like! Questions? Contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail.

### **YOUNG ARTISTS: REMEMBER THE CLIPBOARDS!**

In the narthex on wall hooks and in the narthex in a large basket, there are many small clipboards with blank paper and crayons. Near the basket you will also find children's bulletins (for two different suggested age groups) with puzzles and activities based on the morning's Bible readings. They are there for your doodling pleasure -- help yourself!

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

... to 2008 National Merit Scholarship semifinalist **Kyle Thackray**.

### MISSIONFEST IS APPROACHING!

The Mission and Outreach Board will lead us in marking Worldwide Communion Sunday by welcoming **Farley and Mary Maxwell** to a series of events surrounding worship on *October 7*. The Maxwell's served as missionaries in Nepal on a joint appointment by the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They will share about their time in Nepal during the Adult Education Forum, Rev. Maxwell will offer the sermon during worship, and we will welcome them to a post-worship meal provided by the Mission and Outreach Board which will feature food from the Nepalese tradition. Plan to join us on *October 7* to hear about the Maxwell's work on behalf of our denomination and to learn more about the work of the Common Global Ministries Board.

### FILL THE BASKETS!

During the months of September and October, the South Corvallis Food Bank is particularly in need of **(commercially canned) jams and jellies, dental and personal hygiene items, toilet paper and diapers**. Items may be dropped off in the church foyer. Thanks for your help.

### KUDOS

... to special education teacher **Karen Jones**, for her 2007 Mario and Alma Pastega Golden Apple award.

### MAKE PINWHEELS FOR PEACE!!



After worship on Sunday you have an opportunity to join in the preparations for the *Friday, September 21* Celebration of International Peace Day. Our children got a head start last Sunday and have already made some prototypes which you will notice on your way into church on Sunday. Please stop by the Pinwheel Table in Gatton Hall and make several pinwheels for you and your family. Pinwheel packets are also available to take some home to assemble later.

Bring your pinwheels to the Benton County Courthouse south lawn, at 4<sup>th</sup> & Monroe and/or display some at home. There will be a Corvallis Community Celebration of International Peace Day at the Courthouse south lawn on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:00. There will be a variety of children's activities to do at the event.

### CARING WITHIN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON YOU

Sunday's bulletin will have an insert asking you to sign up to provide: emergency meal preparation; transportation to worship, medical appointments, or grocery shopping; companionship for a few hours; light housekeeping; emergency childcare for church members/friends; or being meal coordinator for one month. Help must frequently be arranged on short notice during the week; having lists of volunteers is critical to providing help with a minimum number of phone calls.

**We have two special needs: Monthly meal coordinators and worship transportation volunteers.**

The monthly meal coordinator is given a list of people who have volunteered to prepare meals. The coordinator calls these volunteers and gives them the information about what is needed and when and where. **Alice Morrow**, as past-president of Women's Fellowship, oversees the monthly meal coordinators and will be happy to answer your questions.

Frequently there are folks in our congregation who need a ride to adult education or worship. These requests go to **Doris Sherry**. She needs volunteers who can provide adult education transportation on a regular and/or occasional basis.

Look for Sunday's bulletin insert, sign up, and thank you for making the statement in our bulletin, "Ministers: Each member of the church," a reality.

**CANCEL DEBT FAST UPDATE**

Several weeks ago many of us cut out and glued messages onto paper plates. These messages to our legislators regarding Jubilee Network's project "Cancel Debt Fast" have been mailed and arrived in time to be part of this fall's 40-day Cancel Debt Fast.

Rev. David Duncombe (UCC from Oregon) started walking the halls of Congress on *September 6* delivering the messages, urging lawmakers to support the Jubilee Act (H.R. 2364). This legislation would provide expanded debt cancellation for many countries that were

not included in the 2005 G8 agreement and need debt cancellation to address extreme poverty.

Besides sending our plates, I signed up to participate in a 24-hour fast. I chose Sunday the 16th...oops Chili Cookoff. Oh well, I will stick with the date I selected. However, in an earlier newsletter, I invited others from our church to also participate in the fast. So far I have had no one rush up to volunteer...I am hoping for 9 other folks. The good news is that you do not have to select the 16th! Please let me know on Sunday if you would be willing to be one of the Corvallis UCC fasters.

Thanks, **Aleita Hass-Holcombe**

**"THAT'S MY FARMER"  
COUPON BOOKS**

Thanks to those folks who purchased "That's My Farmer" coupon books last Sunday....I think we are still in the running for being really strong supporters of this interfaith project.

As fall weather approaches, the kind of vegetables and flowers may change a bit but the abundance of great options is still awesome. Please take advantage of these coupons to 1) motivate yourself to get out there and see the diversity of what is available in our valley and 2) help support (with the extra \$2) a resource for folks who may not be able to purchase nutritious fresh food without our donations.

See you at the markets or farm stands!!



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 18.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, September 14*  
 7:00 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall

*Saturday, September 15*  
**8:15 a.m. Beach Clean-Up Day**  
 (meet at church)

*Sunday, September 16*  
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5  
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
**(following) Welcome Back Event**  
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

*Monday, September 17*  
 5:30 p.m. Basketball  
 7:00 p.m. C E Board  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, September 18*  
 9:00 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board  
 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

*Wednesday, September 19*

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, September 20*

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group  
**4:00 p.m. Betty Johnson memorial service**  
 7:00 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

**DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT**

If you have been considering registering for the Northwest Regional Women's Conference, do it NOW because the deadline is October 1! Brochures are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall. **Valerie Tutson**, a storyteller from Rhode Island, is the keynoter for "Recreate! Re-Create!" at Kah Nee Ta resort on the *November 2-4* weekend. Many women from our church are already registered so carpools will be arranged for travel to Warm Springs.