



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 33

September 21, 2007

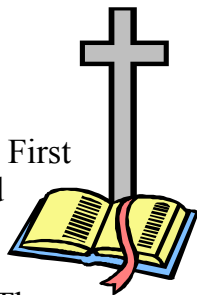
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This Sunday, September 23,
at the end of the worship service

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

4TH GRADERS TO RECEIVE BIBLES, TEACHERS TO BE COMMISIONED

It is a tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ that we give bibles to students in their 4th grade year. These bibles are engraved with their names and are a gift from our congregation that celebrates their maturing faith. We will bestow bibles upon our class of 4th graders this Sunday in worship as a part of our commissioning of our Christian Education program. Join us as we celebrate the gifts and commitments of our church school program, our church school teachers, and mark this important place on the journey of some of our young people.



MISSIONFEST IS OCTOBER 7

Do you know what *dal-bhaat* is? How about *chياهو*? Have you ever wondered what it is that UCC missionaries do in the 21st Century? Find out the answer to these and other questions when **Mary and Farley Maxwell** visit our congregation on *Sunday morning, October 7*, during our MissionFest. Activities will begin at 9:30 when the Maxwells will speak to the Adult Forum about their time spent as missionaries in Nepal. Farley will preach during worship, after which all are invited to a light Nepalese-style lunch at which time our speakers will be happy to answer your questions about global missions. Join us!

THIS SUNDAY

September 23

Adult Forum: At **9:15** we will watch the video of the much-talked-of speech given by **Bill Moyers** at General Synod.

Scriptures: Luke 16:1-13
1 Timothy 6:6-19

Sermon: "Gift or Struggle?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

The Endowment and Memorial Funds Board, along with the Trustees, have begun the process of articulating the relationship between the ministry of the church, endowment funds, and annual budget funds. As part of that process, I was asked to contact several other churches to ask them how they use their endowments. I've just finished that survey, and it leads me to two musings:

First, that the body of church people have, over time, entrusted their churches with amazing gifts. I talked with churches that give scholarships to all of their congregation who attend college; another church funds support for students who attend theological seminary; a third has an endowed theological lectureship; a fourth, a musical fund for a public concert; and still another, a significant endowment through the church for feeding the poor (an endowment now directed to soup kitchens, food distribution centers, and the church's emergency assistance fund). All these wonderful specific ministries alongside the more traditional endowment categories of buildings and grounds, worship and music, Christian education. Every church I talked with was a thriving church. Every church I talked with used their endowed funds to extend their ministries in ways creative and thoughtful. It made me grateful both for the faithful church members who entrusted their gifts to the church's management, and to those who had carefully shepherded those gifts, sometimes for generations. It also sparked my imagination: What if we had a lectureship endowment? What if we conceived our music program as a gift to the general public? What if we were to build an endowment to support the church of the future through supporting seminary education? And what else might we do?

Second, it was interesting to me that there was fairly wide variety among churches about how they used their endowments and how they understood the relationship between annual budget funds and endowment funds. However, every church I talked with seemed pretty clear that theirs was the most logical way to understand the problem. That was interesting to me not so much in terms of the specific question I was asking, but because too often in too many arenas, we limit ourselves in our thinking, assuming there's one right answer, or that the way things have been is necessarily the way they should be. I know I do that; I fight against it, but it's all too easy to fall into familiar patterns of thought just because they are familiar. I was reminded of that, so now I'm reminding you!

Maybe the most important gift God gave us is the gift of flexible, creative minds. As long as we honor those, we will make good use of all the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Have a thoughtful week.

Liz



The youth groups will be doing apple picking and cider pressing at the **Rycraft/Storm/Juntunen** property on Sunday afternoon. The address is 4205 SW 53rd Street. The Middle School group will gather from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and the High School group will be there from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please wear clothing appropriate for climbing ladders in an orchard, being outside in the weather, and getting sticky from cider! See you there and as always friends are welcome!

“IT” HAS A NAME AND IT NEEDS PICTURES!

The worship and fellowship gathering that was the focus of last week's thought for the week from **Ryan** now has a name. The gathering will be called **"The Open Door."** Be on the look-out for forthcoming publicity and information. Our first gathering, on *Wednesday, October 10* at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster House, will focus on "Being the Body of Christ." In an effort to speak in creative ways about what that means we will be using images to provoke our understanding of the many ways to represent the body of Christ. To that end, Ryan Lambert is seeking digital images that can be used during that initial worship service to help explore the theme. The scriptural

basis for the worship will be: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. If you have images you would like to share please contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail. This is a great chance to have a creative role in this new worship experience!

WANTED: Soup 'n' Bread coordinator

-- to organize sign-ups for cooks, bread bakers, set-up and clean-up crews, and recruit additional people for these tasks, if needed; to make reminder phone calls to volunteers prior to the event. Contact the church office if you can help keep this much-enjoyed event going.

FALL GATHERING IN EUGENE

Eugene First Congregational UCC is hosting the Fall Gathering, *October 19-20*. "God is Still Speaking: Keep it Shining through All the Generations" is the theme.

Friday evening's keynote speaker will be Ken Brown, Minister of Youth and Young Adult Empowerment on the Justice and Witness Ministries Team at the national level. Our youth will be there to hear him and participate in the other youth activities, including the "World Café" Intergenerational Dialogue.

Non-delegates wishing to attend Fall Gathering should have their registration forms (available in the church office) in by *October 12*.

VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Have you been to the church library lately? If not, you might be surprised at the shelves overflowing with new books. These are the shelves closest to the window into the hall plus the counter space under that window.

Many thanks to folks who have returned long-overdue books and a reminder to those who received a summer telephone call to continue to search your bookcases for your checked-out items. Also, thanks to **Janice Engle** and **Marion Whitney** for their assistance in keeping the library orderly!

HELP GET THE LATEST HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME READY FOR MOVE-IN!

The latest Habitat for Humanity home is nearly ready for the new owners to move in; however, there is still some detail and clean-up work to be done. The **Mission and Outreach Board** is seeking volunteers to help at the home on *Saturday, October 6*, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We need a crew of 6-8 people to help at the project site, located at 1090 NW Conifer Blvd. Youth and adult helpers are welcome! Sign up for the crew on this Sunday at church.

ZOMBIES WANTED!

The Majestic Theater's October production of "Night of the Living Dead," a stage version of the George Romero zombie movie, needs more adult or high-school-age zombies. Zombies need only

show up for a couple of hours of rehearsal on either Saturdays or Sundays, so the time commitment is minimal, although it might pick up a bit during the week of dress rehearsal. The production itself runs only about an hour. Performances are scheduled for *October 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13* at 7:30 p.m., with a midnight show on *October 12*. The Majestic will handle makeup for zombies, and you can provide your own costume or find something suitable from the Majestic's wardrobe room. If you're interested in being part of the horde of undead stalking the Earth, you can contact **Shannon McInally**, the show's assistant director and head zombie wrangler, at smmcinally@aol.com. And watch for a zombie "attack" Saturday morning at the Fall Festival.

MISSING: Round wooden plate I used to take fruit to Munford service. **Kathie Merriam** (752-5308).

CHILI COOK-OFF RESULTS

Voters selected Marionberry Blaze, made by **Ray William**, as the winner at last Sunday's lunch. Guacamole Chili from **Eric Hall** and Garden of Eating by **Rhonda Mueller-Warrant** tied for second place, one point behind the winner!!! Thanks to **Karen French** for organizing this wonderful event, and to all the folks who helped with set-up and clean-up.



WE STILL COLLECT "BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION" AND CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Labels for Education to be sent to Crossroads School in Indiana (a residential center for children sponsored by the UCC) and cancelled postage stamps are still being collected to assist with utility bills in Washington county. Please bring these to the church and place in the second drawer closest to the office in the nametag cabinet. The stamps are collected by Church Women United of Oregon to support the Care to Share project.

PFLAG TO MEET

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bi and Transgender People) holds its next meeting on *Monday, September 24*, at 6:45 p.m. All people, straight or gay, who celebrate diversity are invited to attend for sharing and fellowship. The meeting is at First United Methodist, 1165 NW. Monroe, Corvallis. Call 231-9598 with questions.

L' arte di mangiare bene ITALIAN DINNER BENEFITS CAMERATA ORCHESTRA



An Italian Dinner Fundraiser for Camerata: Corvallis and Crescent Valley High School Orchestras will be held at our church on *Saturday, September 29*, at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person. For tickets contact

one of our participating youth: **Justin Chi, Robin Miller, Chris Rorrer, Julie Rorrer** or **Patrick Yun**. Enjoy good food for a good cause!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray William 10/1, Douglas Pentland 10/3, Patrick Yun 10/3, Kiko Kimura 10/4, Paul de Lespinasse 10/4, Ryan Lambert 10/5, Beth Riley 10/6, Mary Vedaa 10/7, Kay Harris 10/7, Terry Robertson 10/9, Neal Peterson 10/9, Beth Christianson 10/9, Luke Elbinger 10/11, Irwin Harris 10/12, John Koch 10/13, Karen Miller 10/15, Rose Christianson 10/16, George Mueller-Warrant 10/19, Nancye Ballard 10/19, Doug Richmond 10/21, Sean Skyllingstad 10/21, Emily Chi 10/24, Chris Koch 10/25, Chase Cochran 10/25, Nancy Groesz 10/27, Eric Hall 10/28, Hokie Adams 10/30, Alan Holcombe 10/30, Julie Rorrer 10/31



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jan and Larry Thornton 10/1
Cliff and Jo Anne Trow 10/10 38th

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Becky Flitcroft, Jeff Snyder** and Becky's family following the suicide of her brother, **Patrick**, in Portland on September 13.

... and with **Gavin Milligan** as he continues chemo therapy.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.
 Corvallis OR 97333-3825. Published weekly
 except twice a month in July and August by
 First Congregational United Church of Christ



Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 25.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 23

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5
- 9:15 a.m.** Adult Forum
- 9:30 a.m. God@Home class
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, including
Congregational Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
(see page 3)
- 5:00 p.m. High School Youth
(see page 3)

Monday, September 24

- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 6:45 p.m. PFLAG *(see page 5)*

Tuesday, September 25

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:15 p.m. Church Council
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1,
 Meeting Hall

Wednesday, September 26

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group

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

Thursday, September 27

- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, September 28

- 7:30 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS PROGRAM YEAR

Liz Oettinger will be speak about the ethical issues around stem cells at the upcoming Women's Fellowship meeting. The lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. on *Wednesday, October 3*; the program follows. Sign up this Sunday in the foyer or call the church office.

Newsletter Alert

Copy and information for the September 28 issue of the *Congregational News* should go to the church office newsletter mailbox or to **Ann Hawkins** at office@ucc-covallis.org.