



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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September 28, 2007

YOUTH CAR WASH SUNDAY!

This Sunday (weather permitting), the youth will be doing a car wash beginning at 9 a.m. The proceeds from this car wash will benefit the Youth Mission Fund which provides funding for our young people to travel and learn about their faith. We are currently seeking opportunities for a mission trip during Spring Break, and the funds from this car wash will benefit that effort. How does this happen? Simple: If you would like your car washed, please pick up a colored ticket from our youth on Sunday as you enter the parking lot. Then, just leave your keys in the car, and when you return to your car after worship it will be clean! No set cost—donations are appreciated!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS

Another great year of Women's Fellowship programs begins on **Wednesday, October 3 at 11:45 a.m.** As always, a scrumptious lunch will be served (cost \$5.00) followed by our program. Women's Fellowship meets for lunch and a program on the first Wednesday of each month, October – May, except for December when a

brunch is served. This month, the **Rev. Elizabeth Oettinger** will present a program to help us understand some of the confusion and controversy of stem cell research. As medical practice becomes more complex and successful, it becomes more difficult for the lay person to fully comprehend. Please join us for this learning event. Signups will be taken again this Sunday before and after worship; you may also call the church office to sign up. All women (and men) of the church are welcome, as are their guests.

THIS SUNDAY

September 30, 9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum: A video of Marian Wright Edelman's speech at General Synod about the work of the Children's Defense Fund and important issues concerning children in our society

Scriptures: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: "Placing Our Hope in a Jar"

The Rev. Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Three weeks ago, the church was approached by the Head Start program that previously was housed in Lincoln School. Because of the move to smaller class sizes in our elementary schools, Lincoln no longer had space for Head Start. Head Start's attempts to find a suitable space at over a dozen other sites had proved fruitless. Would we be willing for the program to move into the Christian Education wing of the church?

For those of you unfamiliar with the Head Start program, it is an early education program for pre-school aged children from educationally-disadvantaged backgrounds. The goal of Head Start is to give these potentially at-risk students the skills they need to be academically successful, to make them ready to start kindergarten on an equal footing with children from more educationally-enriched backgrounds. The program receives both federal and state funding; nationally it has shown considerable success in making children ready to learn in school.

The space required for Head Start--both classroom space and outdoor play space--is highly regulated. For them to use our building means we will have to take down the partition wall between Rooms 3 and 4, making that one large classroom (they will pay both to have the wall taken down and then restored at the end of their occupancy). We will have use of that large room on Sundays but not during the week. Room 2 will become office space for Head Start and unavailable for our use. As we move into the future, the playground area outside will be fenced and perhaps the play space modified at Head Start expense.

The decision to give up so much space was not made lightly. The request came to Joan Caldwell, our Facilities Coordinator; she brought it to staff. We all decided that Head Start was an important enough community program to forward their request to the Christian Education Board--whose space is most impacted--and the Trustees for their consideration. Over the course of our conversations with Head Start, we checked their references--which were excellent--talked through occupancy issues with them and current users, considered space issues, and weighed the inconvenience to us against the importance of this community resource finding a home. In the end, by wide majority, both the CE Board and the Trustees voted for us to welcome Head Start to our church. They hope to begin their program in the next two weeks.

I have two editorial comments about our decision. First of all, I think the decision process was excellent. The Christian Education Board and the Trustees were thoughtful, asked good questions, seriously weighed all the foreseeable issues involved. It felt good to be part of the deliberative process.

Second, I had a difficult time coming to my own decision between whether this commitment was too much for the church to give up or exactly the sort of program for which we should extend ourselves. Though I had no official vote, the Trustees wanted a recommendation, and I felt it was facile to say, "I'm too conflicted to come to a decision; that's your job!" So, after much thought, I recommended that we go with a one-year trial contract. What tipped my decision was this: as a non-profit organization, we don't pay taxes to support city schools and city services; yet we benefit from all that government provides. In my mind, we have a responsibility to give back to Corvallis for what Corvallis gives us. This is one significant way, a way closely aligned with our mission as a church, that we can give back to some of the most needy in our community. Will our extending ourselves to Head Start cause us times of inconvenience and occasional headaches? Probably. Is it manageable? The staff, the CE board, and the Trustees believe "Yes."

Within five years, Head Start intends to raise the funds to build or buy a permanent home for themselves. Our initial commitment to them is for one year, with renewals after that.

So now you know our newest endeavor. I ask for both your prayers and your patience as we live into this new arrangement. I am hoping it will turn out to be rewarding for all of us.

And if you see our Head Start friends in our building, please extend them a warm welcome.

Liz

5TH SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING: JACKSON STREET YOUTH SHELTER

The Jackson Street Youth Shelter serves local boys and girls ages 10-17 years who are experiencing crisis in their lives. They have nine beds at the shelter, and it is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the year, to serve young people in crisis. Until the Jackson Street Youth Shelter opened, youth who found themselves unable to be at home during crisis situations would end up on the street, cold and hungry. Since 2001, the Shelter has offered a safe place for youth in need until a stable situation can be arranged. Our donations will continue to provide a much needed safe space.



**UNITED
CAMPUS
MINISTRY
AT OSU**

**Students, "Welcome In" and
"Welcome Back" from WestM**

WestM is your UCC campus ministry at OSU. We're an ecumenical campus ministry, which means we hang out with students from the United Methodist, Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ traditions, as well as folks from no tradition. We are a community where all are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on your journey. (Does that sound familiar?) We offer a place to belong, to ask big questions, and to serve God and others. If you would like to learn more about who we are or what we do, contact Leah McCullough at revleah@comcast.net or 753-2242.

Here's what's happening this week . . .

Wednesday, 9/26, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Student Gathering. This week will be a "welcoming back" or "welcoming in" time--a chance to see old friends and/or meet some new ones. Dinner (free!) will be the ever-popular "**breakfast for dinner**" with Leah as your chef. She will be glad to welcome you to play time in the kitchen if you want to help her prepare the meal (anytime from 3:30 or so on). We'll also have some fun following dinner as we get to know more

about each other (lightly for starters...). Join us. Bring friends or roommates. We look forward to welcoming you.

Friday, 9/28, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Hike and Picnic: We'll celebrate the end of the first week of classes by getting outdoors on a local Corvallis trail. We'll stop along the way for a picnic dinner. Meet at WestM (Westminster House, corner of 23rd and Monroe on the north side of campus). Respond to Leah if you plan to join us.

Looking ahead:

Friday, 10/5, 8:00 PM Friday Night Live / Reel to Real. Join us for our first session of *Friday Night Live* for the Fall Term as we enjoy a film night featuring *Pan's Labyrinth*. The popcorn will be warm and fresh as will our conversation following this interesting flick.

Tuesdays, beginning 10/9, 7:00 - 9:00 PM Art and Soul: Creating as a Spiritual Practice. This will be the first of six sessions as we celebrate the spiritual gift of creativity and practice creating art as a wonderful way to connect the Creator: praying, playing and being present in the moment. We will also have fun as we create mandalas, listen to our lives and share our stories. All are welcome--no special artistic talent is required.

Friday-Saturday, 10/26-27 Service Retreat. Mark your calendars for this one as we will join with campus ministry students from other western Oregon

United Campus Ministry (continued) campuses at Koinonia House (K-House) at the University of Oregon for an overnight retreat. We'll have time for hanging out, building community, worship and play--and on Saturday we will share in a community service project.



Middle and high school youth are invited to get wet this Sunday during CE and worship (that really means: come and help wash cars!). The youth groups will meet at their regular times: 5 p.m. for Middle School and 6:30 for Senior High. Plan to join us for an evening of fellowship and games; bring a friend or two! Questions? Contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail.

Looking ahead at Youth Activities:

October 7: Middle School from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Senior Highs from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

October 14: Corn Maze, organized by **Peggy Carrick.**

October 16: Stone Soup at First Christian Church 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. We will need signups!



CAN YOU SPEAK QUICHÉ?

Neither can I. It is one of the 21 native Mayan languages

spoken in Guatemala today. The Quiché and other Mayan are currently trying to put their lives and their villages back together after the attempted genocide during the 40 year civil war in Guatemala. You can, however, see pictures of the Quiché people. Come to the Adult Forum on October 14 at 9:30 and see pictures from Charles and Caroline's work trip this summer. We will be showing pictures of our work there and answering your questions. If there is enough interest in a similar work trip to Guatemala in August of 2008, we will try to offer it for our church. Stay after worship on October 14, and during the soup and bread meal we will discuss the feasibility of such a trip. I invite anyone who thinks they might be interested in going and anyone who would like to know more about the trip even if you don't think you can go. This trip is primarily for adults, but at this point we are not ruling anyone out. If you are interested but cannot make this meeting, please let me know.

Charles Helsabeck

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

Last Sunday, September 23rd, our congregation voted to endorse the project called CAAIR (Corvallis & Albany Assisting Iraqi Refugees). Any donations to this project will go towards education efforts to assist Iraqi refugees currently displaced in Jordan. Contributions can be

CAAIR FUNDRAISING**OPPORTUNITIES** (continued)

made out to CAAIR and mailed to: CAAIR, P. O. Box 365, Corvallis 97339-0365.

Upcoming fundraising events include:
Saturday, October 27th, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **lunch at Odd Fellows Hall.** Come and eat after you shop at the Farmer's Cost: \$6.00 for soup, bread, cheese, fruit and cookie. For an additional \$10, you may have your soup in a handmade pottery bowl to take home with you.

Thank You!



**WE ARE A
CARING
COMMUNITY**

Thank you to all who filled out the inserts in the September 16th bulletin. Those who weren't in worship, or forgot to drop theirs in the offering plate, will have another opportunity this week. If you won't be attending worship and would like to volunteer, please call the office. We need volunteers to provide: **emergency meal preparation; transportation to worship, a doctor's appointment, or for grocery shopping; companionship for a few hours; light housekeeping; emergency childcare for church members/friends; or to serve one month as meal coordinator.** Again, thank you.

JOIN US FOR MISSIONFEST

Plan to attend the MissionFest on October 7. **Mary and Farley Maxwell**

will visit our congregation and 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!

WALK A MILE FOR A CHILD!

On Saturday, October 13th at 10:00 a.m., Community Outreach will be hosting its annual "Walk a Mile for a Child" event at the Corvallis Riverfront. John Erkkila and Liz Oettinger are among those on the Community Outreach Board. They will be walking and are inviting sponsors. However, anyone is invited to walk for this important cause, and all walkers need sponsors. This fundraiser supports the Therapeutic Childcare Center at Community Outreach. The Center serves young children whose lives have been disrupted through parental alcohol or drug addiction, domestic violence, or homelessness. Please sign up after church on Sunday either to walk or to sponsor a walker! Thank you for your support.

CORRECTION: Last week's newsletter indicated that preliminary thoughts on the death of **Becky Flitcroft's** brother, **Patrick**, indicated suicide. It has since been determined that the death most likely was caused by an accidental overdose.



FOURTH SUNDAYS AT FOUR 2007-08

This Sunday, September 30th at 4 p.m., the concert is *That Rings a Bell!* **Nancy Hascall**, nationally known handbell composer, director, and performer, of Lake Oswego, will perform a concert of solo handbell music using her famed four-in-hand ringing technique. She will also conduct and perform with the Good Samaritan Handbell Ensemble.

Upcoming "Fourth" Sundays at Four:

Sunday, October 28: The First Annual Gladys "Pat" Beal Memorial Concert, *Cleveland Rocks*. **Douglas Cleveland** is considered by critics and musicians across the country to be one of America's finest organists. He is a past first-prize winner of both the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Playing and the Fort Wayne Competition.

Sunday, November 18 (third Sunday to avoid Thanksgiving), *Tutti Flutti*. **Diane Hawkins** will perform a concert of music composed for the flute. She will use three types of flute, including the traverse flute (17th century), the modern flute, and a Native American flute.

Sunday, December 2 (bonus concert), *Abendmusik*: A service of Evensong will be presented, followed by an organ concert by **Myles J. Criss**. He

will perform works by the Danish composer, Dietrich Buxtehude.

Sunday, December 16 (third Sunday to avoid the Christmas weekend), *Lessons and Carols*. The Good Samaritan Choir, directed by Dr. R. Ward Scott, will present a traditional service of Lessons and Carols. The service is modeled after the concert given at Kings College, Cambridge.

LET'S HELP OUR FACILITIES COORDINATOR

As our Facilities Coordinator, **Joan Caldwell** has a big job! In addition to scheduling our VERY heavily used church, she also keeps us warm by programming the temperature controls for all rooms during their use. And she does all this with a smile and welcoming attitude. We can help her by **calling her at 753-2106** (leave a message if she is not in) whenever we want to schedule use of the building--whether it be for a church use (meeting or other event) or a personal request. Since Joan works from her home, notes left in her box about a request to reserve space may not be seen for several days. The scheduled use of our building changes daily, so it is important that our requests to her be timely. We all know how difficult it is to be "caught on the run" on Sunday mornings--especially when we have no pen or pencil to write something down. Thank you for making her demanding job a little easier to manage.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 2.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 28
 7:00 p.m. Badminton, Gatton Hall

Sunday, September 30
 8:45 a.m. Car Wash
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 4
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, October 1
 5:30 p.m. Basketball

Tuesday, October 2
 9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
 Meeting Hall
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, October 3
 11:45 a.m. Women's Fellowship

lunch, Gatton Hall
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, October 4
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
Friday, October 5
 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Shari's Restaurant

LOOKING AHEAD:

Inquirer's Classes: October 14 & 21, following worship, for anyone interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and our church, in particular. A light meal will be provided by the Diaconate Outreach & Evangelism Committee for those attending. Please call the church office (757-8122) if you wish to participate. Child care is provided for anyone indicating that need. Those wishing to join the church will be received into membership on Sunday, November 4 during worship.