



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVI, No. 46

December 21, 2007

SHE WRAPPED HIM IN BANDS OF CLOTH, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER,  
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THEM IN THE INN.

Merry Christmas  
from the church staff

*Liz  
Steve  
Ryan  
Ann  
Cindy  
Caroline  
Joan  
Susan  
Kristin*



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 9:30 a.m. Ted McCann presents the last of this year's "Faith Journeys" in the Meeting Hall.
- 10:30 a.m. Worship includes Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham with Sanctuary Choir and brass

## CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00 p.m. Instrumental carols by the Occasional Congregational Orchestra
- 5:30 p.m. Family worship with Children's Choir
- 10:00 p.m. Reunion for youth group alumni, Fireplace Room (until 10:45)
- 11:00 p.m. Communion service of lessons and carols with Sanctuary Choir and instrumentalists

Dear beloved Friends at First Congregational UCC in Corvallis,

We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We truly appreciate your remembering us in your prayers. You are also in our prayers always.

The Bible tells us that our Savior, Son of the Most High, came to the world as a baby lying in a humble manger in a small town, Bethlehem. This is the most important message for us living in the present world where we tend to value the bigger, the stronger and the richer. In order to acquire these, we ignore and discriminate against the weak. For our own profit, we threaten the living and lives of the weak. God knows we cannot find true peace there.

In Henoko, Okinawa, the construction of the US base, largest in the world, continues with support of both the governments of Japan and the United States. This project is about to destroy the living of the people and the dugongs. Our friends in God are working today for the peace to protect all these lives.

We have to go forth to seek our Savior lying in the manger, as the shepherds did. We are glad to know that we can go forth together with you. We sincerely wish the friendship between our two churches will be strengthened further. We pray for you that you will have good news of our coming Savior.

**Members of Takarazuka Church**  
**The Rev. Masato Tsukuda**

## **TAKARAZAKA CHURCH NEWS**

We had two special worship services in November. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, we had a memorial service for our deceased members. Families brought their pictures and after the service at church we visited the church grave site. And on November 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Thanksgiving Day. Our worship service was a music service with handbells by the youth and choir of younger children and adults.

**Nobumi Fukui**

*(Please see the pictures posted on the Takarazuka bulletin board.)*

### *Third Sunday in Advent is Music Sunday* **JOIN US FOR DANIEL PINKHAM'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

Daniel Pinkham is well known in the choral world, and his three-movement Christmas Cantata is easily his most performed work and has been beloved for several generations. A distinguished American composer, he was a professor at such universities as Boston Conservatory, Harvard, and the New England Conservatory, studying with such composers as Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber.

The music is bright, cheerful, and rhythmic, with the middle movement slow and mysterious. Although the work was originally set in Latin, the Sanctuary choir will perform the familiar Christmas texts in English -- with some of the best professional musicians (**Jay Chen** and **Joe Crop**, trumpets, **Andreas Lang**, horn, and **Ed Propst**, trombone) in the

Corvallis area playing along. Sunday's performance of Pinkham's Christmas Cantata will be a wonderful way to ring in Christmas.



### **JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> IS DEADLINE FOR LENTEN BOOKLET**

There still is time to submit your favorite words of poetry and/or prose for the Worship Committee's Lenten booklet. Please consider sharing your favorite and submitting those words to a committee member or to **Ann Hawkins**.

### **ALL THINGS FINANCIAL...**

The end of the year is accompanied by a flurry of financial activity. Pledges are made, pledges are completed, and other giving opportunities abound! Please keep the following in mind as the year draws to a close.

Do your finance officers a favor and submit 2007 reimbursement requests as soon as possible!

Prepaid contributions for 2008 can be made in 2007; they will be credited for 2008 as far as the church is concerned, but for tax purposes they will appear on your 2007 giving records.

If you are considering prepaying your pledge, you might be interested to know that prepayments are very helpful in maintaining cash flow during the year, and we prorate them out over the year. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Contributions to be included in 2007 giving statements need to be at the church by the end of the year. The office is closed on Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup>. Contributions brought to the church need to be there by the 30<sup>th</sup>; those mailed need to arrive by Monday's delivery.

**Verlyne Phillips**, Treasurer

### *A New Year's Invitation*

**Ryan and Shauna Lambert** will be hosting a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration at their home beginning at 6:30 p.m. on *December 31*. Along with festive party hats and food and drinks for children and adults there will also be children's crafts and games. We will be welcoming in 2008 on Eastern Standard Time (at 9:00 p.m.) to make the New Year more child-friendly. All are welcome! Contact Ryan or Shauna (754-1214) for more details or to let them know you are planning to come!



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Sunday, December 23.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, December 21*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, December 23-Music Sunday*

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  
 (following) Occasional Congrega-  
 tional Orchestra

*Monday, December 24-Christmas Eve*

**Office closed**

5:00 p.m. Orchestral carols  
 5:30 p.m. Family worship  
 10:45 p.m. Youth group alumni  
 11:00 p.m. Worship-Lessons and  
 Carols, Communion

*Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day*

**Office closed**

*Wednesday, December 26*

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

*Friday, December 28*

4:00-6:00 Stebbins' anniversary

celebration [page 3]  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

**CHRISTMAS AND OTHER  
 HOLIDAY BOOKS  
 AVAILABLE**



Many new and old Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza books for children and adults are on display now in the church library and ready to be checked out for your holiday enjoyment.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES  
 FOR YEAR'S END**

The dates of Christmas and New Year's Days once again impact our publication schedule, so please have newsletter information to **Susan Wickes** (via e-mail or the office mailbox) by **Sundays, December 23** (for the issue of **December 28**) and **December 30** (for **January 4**). The church office is closed both ***Mondays, December 24 and 29.***