

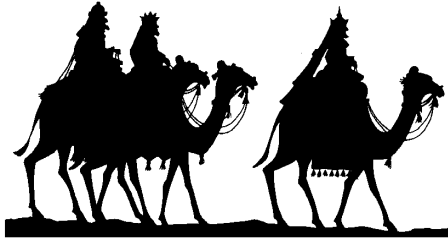


Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 1

January 4, 2008



EPIPHANY

This *Sunday, January 6*, in celebration of the wise men's gifts for the baby Jesus, we invite you to bring gifts of commercially canned and packaged food for Linn Benton Food Share. These gifts may be left in the decorated boxes in the church foyer before the service.

GUEST MUSICIANS FROM WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

The **Willamette University Chamber Choir**, under the direction of **Wallace Long**, will sing for our worship service this *Sunday, January 6*. The service will feature a variety of sacred and secular works, both a cappella and accompanied. [See choir photo in foyer.]

The Willamette Chamber Choir is a 40-voice ensemble that performs throughout the Northwest. Archbishop Desmond Tutu invited the choir to perform in South Africa in 2004. The

Chamber Choir has sung at many state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the Music Educators National Conference, and the Oregon Music Educators Association.

CD recordings of the choir will be available for sale in Gatton Hall during fellowship hour. Take some of their beautiful music home with you!

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BEGINS SUNDAY

Plan to stay a few minutes after worship this Sunday to enjoy the works of local artists that adorn our sanctuary. Thanks to show organizer **Julia Lont**.

THIS SUNDAY

January 6

Adult Forum: The first of a series on sustainability and faith [see page 2]

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Just a Few More Gifts"
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a "Happy New Year." I offer my prayers for a peaceful and joyous 2008 to all of you! As we start 2008 I am excited about an important series of events and conversations that will take place during the January Adult Forums. I believe that one of the most important issues facing humanity concerns how we interact with the planet Earth and how we use the Earth's resources. I believe the questions that surround stewardship of the planet are particularly important for people of faith to grapple with as I understand us to be entrusted with a great deal of responsibility by the one we call our Creator God. However, for many of us the conversation about ecological stewardship is simply too large and too confusing, and thus we don't know where to begin.

To help all of us start from a more equal place Larry Thornton, Shauna Lambert, and I have organized the January Adult Forums in a way that we hope will provide information, inspire us to dream about how we as individuals might be better stewards of the Earth, and begin a conversation about how we as a congregation can grow as stewards of the Earth as a component of our ministry together. To that end the January Forums will have the following themes:

- January 6:* Theology of Ecological Living
- January 13:* "Blue Nuns Go Green"- A Profile of Faith in Action
- January 20:* Planning for Home Energy Savings
- January 27:* Becoming a Green Faith Community

I hope that many of you will join us for these Forums and provide input and ideas as we seek to respond further to the blessings that God has provided to all of us.

Ryan

HOMELESS SHELTER HELP NEEDED!

First Congregational Church is taking our turn staffing the Cold Weather Men's Shelter from *January 6-January 12*. Each night we are responsible for providing three volunteers from 6:45-11:00 p.m. as well as one overnight volunteer from 11:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. Additionally, we are asked to provide snacks such as cookies, fruit, and other goodies. We have over half of the shifts covered, but we need additional help to make sure that we have enough coverage during our week. **Charles Helsabeck** is organizing our sign-up lists—contact him at 753-1108 to sign up to help.





The youth will be meeting after church on Sunday to carpool to Eugene to go ice skating. Admission and skate rental are \$7. The session last from 1:30-3:15 so we will leave the church by 12:30. Plan to bring warm skating clothes and a sack lunch to church on Sunday so that we can leave on time. Contact **Ryan** via e-mail or at the church if you have questions and to RSVP so that we can arrange enough drivers.

CAAIR Benefit

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF ISLAM

Professional photographer Don Lyon offers a look through his lens at the history and geography of "The Human Face of Islam" on *Wednesday, January 16*, at 7:30 p.m. Corvallis and Albany Assisting Iraqi Refugees (CAAIR) sponsors this armchair tour, which includes 17 countries from Spain to Indonesia, Egypt to Albania and Greece, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 Circle Blvd, Corvallis. The slide-show program includes historical background on the origins of Islam, Christianity and Judaism as well as the common experience of the Islamic World and countries influenced by Islam. A donation of \$4 to CAAIR is suggested.

A D CIRCLE BEGINS 2008

The first A D Circle meeting of the new year will be on *Wednesday, January*

9, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of **Coral Torley**, 1920 NW Woodland Dr. All are welcome. Contact Coral (752-0114) for further information or for transportation.

WORDS OF THANKS FOR MISSION OFFERINGS

Dear Friends at First Congregational,

Thank you for your continued generous support [\$425]-- and especially for sending your Joni Peterson, with her excellent skills and light touch, to be a real leader on the We Care Board.

We Care proudly assists with housing, utility, medical, transportation, employment and other needs of the community. Greater than 99% of funds contributed goes directly to those in need.

Because of generous donations like yours, We Care is able to continue assisting residents of Benton County in emergency situations when no other help is available.

Dave Kaye, Secretary
We Care Board

Dear Friends at the First Congregational United Church of Christ,

On behalf of Food Share, our member agencies, and the individuals and families we serve -- thank you.

Cuts in government commodities and an decrease in donations from food manufacturers have made your support more important than ever.

People are eating because you care.

Sincerely,
Mike Gibson, LBFS Director



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 8.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, January 4

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Epiphany Sunday, January 6

9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum

9:30 a.m. God@Home class,
Library

10:30 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Middle School and
 High School Youth
 ice skating

Monday, January 7

5:30 p.m. Basketball

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Tuesday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

1:30 p.m. A D Circle

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 10

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142



CARLOADS OF THANKS

A word of appreciation is in order for those who, in the last few months, have provided transportation to church for folks who otherwise would have been unable to attend the worship service. Thanks to **Jane Capizzi and Bob Burgess, Karen French, Kiko and Sho Kimura, Brenda Koenig, David and Tracy MacKenzie, Pat Phillips, Doris Sherry, Tammy Skubinna, Marion Whitney, Susan Wickes, Pamela Wood-Rinkus** and any others whose names we may have missed.

If you need a ride to church or are willing to occasionally give one, call Doris Sherry (756-5707).