



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 2

January 11, 2008

**Annual Budget Meeting**  
*Sunday, January 27,*  
at the end of worship  
to approve the 2008 church operating budget

**Register Now for**  
**Winter Weekend**

Get ready for some winter fun and a unique opportunity to gather as a community in the mountains of Oregon! Our annual Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake will be *February 16-18* (Presidents' Day Weekend). This multi-generational event is a great opportunity to have outdoor fun—inner-tubing, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, playing in the snow; and indoor fun—playing games, reading, and visiting—all while enjoying the company and community of church friends in a low-key and beautiful setting. Registration begins this Sunday, January 13, and will continue until we reach our maximum number of 45 participants. The cost per person is: Adults (over 18) \$59.50; Youth (13-18) \$52.50; Children (6-12) \$45.00; Children (2-5) \$29.50. This covers two nights' lodging, Saturday and Sunday dinner and Sunday and Monday breakfast as well as cover-

ing a new fee for tubing. Full payment is due to the church by *February 3*. If you have questions, or if you would like to register but will not be in church this Sunday, please contact **Ryan Lambert** in the church office (757-8122), at home (754-1214), or via e-mail ([ryan@ucc-corvallis.org](mailto:ryan@ucc-corvallis.org)).



Sign up this Sunday, or call the church office, to join the Stone Soup crew on *Tuesday, January 15*, at the First Christian Church kitchen.

**THIS SUNDAY**  
*January 13*

**Adult Forum:** The "Sustainability and Faith" series continues with "Blue Nuns Go Green: A Profile of Faith in Action."

**Scriptures:** Psalm 8  
Matthew 3:13-17

**Sermon:** "Of Water, Doves, and Other Sacramental Things"  
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

Like millions of others, I have been watching the official beginnings of the 2008 Presidential race with great interest. With all of our data-gathering capability these days, there seems to be endless grist for the mill of commentators of all persuasions. I hesitate to add one more voice to the mix, but, as one who has grown increasingly cynical about politics over the last two decades, I find myself hesitantly encouraged by two emerging factors in this race: first, that voter turn-out overall is high, and second, that young voters are participating.

As you know, I have two 20-something daughters. When I spend time with them and their friends, I am often discouraged if not shocked by their collectively bleak view of the future and their sense that they are powerless to change the way things are in this country or on this planet. The young adults I know have believed for the most part that politics is a game played by the rich and powerful for the benefit of the few. But something about this particular race seems to be energizing the young, giving them hope that change can happen and their participation matters. I hope that energy can be sustained, and that whatever the outcome, young voters have demonstrated to them that their showing up and taking part has made a difference. I realize that I am hoping it can be demonstrated to me as well that the participation of our young ones has counted. I am weary of my own cynicism.

It's a long road to November, too early to know how these initial indications will play out. But I want to be hopeful. And this is as good a time as any to give you my periodic Congregational history lesson: it is a significant part of our Congregational *theological* tradition to listen to what all have to say, to educate ourselves about the issues at stake, to take part in the dialogue, and to show up and be counted. Our theological tradition is not at all about cynicism or the power of the few. Our theology stresses the meaningfulness of every life, that God has made each one of us so that our actions and our inaction both make a difference. So let up take that gift/responsibility seriously.

Have a thoughtful week.

**Liz**

### **A THANK YOU AND A CONCERN**

What a gift it was to have the Willamette University Chamber Choir with us last Sunday. Their music made the service special. However, it has since come to our attention that sometime during the service, someone rifled through the choir's belongings that were stashed in a church school classroom and money was stolen from sev-

eral of the singers, an event both embarrassing and sobering. We tend to be lax about the security of our belongings at the church, and we have only very rarely had problems with petty or not-so-petty theft. While we don't want to over-react to what happened Sunday, it is a reminder to us all to be careful with pocketbooks, wallets, and other valuables.



**UNITED  
CAMPUS  
MINISTRY  
AT OSU**

Welcome to the New Year at WestM (United Campus Ministry at Westminster House), your UCC campus ministry at OSU. We have lots of opportunities for building community through fellowship, play and recreation, for growing spiritually through study, worship, prayer, and reflection, and for making a difference in the world through service and advocacy. Check out our January programs below. If you need more information, please contact Rev. **Leah McCullough** at WestM (753-2242, or [revleah@comcast.net](mailto:revleah@comcast.net))

**Student Gathering-Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at WestM**

A weekly gathering of students from the OSU and LBCC campuses including a free meal followed by time of fellowship, study, singing, and prayer. In January we'll explore our understandings of the nature and practice of prayer. We'll actively engage in various forms of prayer, using our bodies, minds and spirits in new ways of praying, and diligently seek to connect our inner lives with our outward journey of engagement in the world. All students are welcome!

***The Way of Prayer Small Group – Six Tuesdays, January 29–March 4, 6:30 –8:30 p.m. at WestM*** (Open to students, staff and faculty at OSU, members of local churches and the Corvallis community)

**The Way of Prayer** is a 6-week intergenerational and ecumenical small group designed to help people expand their understanding of the nature and practice of prayer. Many Christians grow up with a limited vision of what prayer is and how to pray. *The Way of Prayer* offers many forms to explore and practice, both individually and as a group. People with different temperaments, spiritual types, and learning styles will each find expressions of prayer that draw us closer to God. We will also learn to integrate body, mind, and spirit in prayer, and to live a more creative rhythm between the inner life and the outward journey of service. Cost for materials is \$12.00.

**Reel to Real – Friday, January 11, 8:00 p.m. at WestM**

Join us as we view a popular film, ***The Mission***, and share conversation seeking out the images of faith and/or spiritual truth it holds for us (“nutritainment”).

The popcorn will be warm and fresh as will time with friends.

**Prayers for the Journey -Thursday, January 17, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at WestM (Open to students, staff and faculty at OSU, members of local churches and the Corvallis community)** Just as we need food for our physical bodies, so too we need spiritual sustenance for our souls. Join us in this space that is set apart for you to be still and to listen to your heart, reflect on your journey, and attune to the Sacred. You are invited to just sit, be, and contemplate, or to engage experientially in prayer stations through art, writing, lighting candles, and movement. Choose your own pace, engage in the stations of your choice and stay as long as you like. Come connect, listen and offer prayers for your journey and the journeys of others.

**Random Acts of Play-Friday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. at WestM**

**Cheese-Making (and Pizza making) Party** – Did you know that you can make a pound of mozzarella cheese with one-gallon of milk in just 30 minutes? YEP! A-la-Barbara Kingsolver (*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*), we'll make our own cheese, and then use our fresh creation to make homemade pizzas.

**Habitat for Humanity Work Day - Saturday, January 19, 7:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m., Depart from WestM**

We're "raising the walls!" Join us for a day of celebration and building as we unite with others from the community to begin work on this Albany Habitat house. Sign up by *Wednesday, January 16*.



Welcome back from your Christmas break! This week our middle (5:00 p.m.) and high school (6:30 p.m.) groups will be making masks as we explore the difference between the people we say we are and the face we show to those around us.

Our high school youth will also be talking about the upcoming opportunities to go the February's Peace Jam here in Corvallis and a Spring Break trip to the Yakima Indian Mission in Washington. See you on Sunday!

### **ADULT BASKETBALL CHANGES**

After a review of our adult basketball program, the following changes were implemented. Monday and Wednesday evening adult basketball sessions will continue in their present format and scheduled times (5:30-7:00 p.m.), but they will be run as outside rental activities of church facilities (effective *January 21*). Thus, there will be a player fee charged for participants.

An adult basketball session for church members only has been added on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m. (no fee for participation). The age range is limited to adults and youth who have the physical size and skills sufficient to play competitively with adults (minimum middle-school age). It is anticipated that the format will include both open practice time and scrimmaging, depending on the interest of those who par-

ticipate. The Thursday session will begin on *January 17*.

Please contact **Pete Nelson** (752-1278, [peter.nelson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:peter.nelson@oregonstate.edu)) if you have questions regarding these changes.

### READ & FEED MEETS

The group will focus on *Quinine: Malaria and the Quest for a Cure That Changed the World* by Fiammetta Rocco at the home of **Bob** and **Monine Stebbins**. The discussion starts at 7:00 Sunday evening, *January 13*.

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Here's a New Year's resolution for you! Visit the church library to return any books you have checked out or to peruse the many new books and find one to check out. There are recent displays of both adult and children's books just waiting for readers.

### MISSION OFFERING FOR CAAIR

The January Mission Offering is supporting CAAIR (Corvallis-Albany Assisting Iraqi Refugees). This local organization has been set up to provide assistance to the over four million Iraqis who have been displaced from their homes. Many of the refugees are currently in Jordon and straining the local resources. Mercy Corps, an Oregon-based, non-governmental organization, with offices in Jordon has several projects to assist with war related injuries

and education for teens who must work to support their families but are currently denied entry to Jordanian public education. One hundred percent of the money collected will be sent to Mercy Corps. Please help with this humanitarian crisis.

### ONE MORE WEEK!

The Worship Committee will accept poetry/prose for the Lenten inspirational booklet through *Sunday, January 13*.

### Thank You

... to **Julia Lont**, and her "elves" for coordinating and hanging the Epiphany Art Show currently in our sanctuary.

... for contributions to the Flower Fund, from **Pamela Wood-Rinkus**, in memory of her husband, **Frank Rinkus**; and **Jean Mater**, in memory of her husband, **Milton**, and her son **Scott Mater**. These were received after the duplication of the Christmas Eve worship bulletins.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the family of **Jean Heath** as she continues to grow weaker due to cancer of the esophagus;

... and with **Clara McCormick**, following the death of **Olaf Paasche** on January 3. A memorial service will be held later at Grace Lutheran Church;

... and with the family of **Ruth Freund**, who died on December 28. Memorial date and time still to be determined.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 15.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Sunday, January 13*

- 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) Soup 'n' Bread
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

*Monday, January 14*

- 7:30 p.m. C E Board
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Tuesday, January 15*

- 9:00 a.m. Staff (plus Lent planning)
- Noon Lectionary class
- 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
- 4:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations, HP
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, January 16*

- 6:00 p.m.** Sanctuary Choir
- Thursday, January 17*
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
- 5:30 p.m. Church Basketball**  
[see page 4]
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAS EVENING MEETING THIS MONTH**

Come one, come all to the Women's Fellowship (men and children invited) on *Thursday evening January 17*, to hear and see about the mission trip two of our members made to Nicaragua this summer. **Aleita Hass Holcombe** and **Megan Chambers** participated in a Witness for Peace project in Central America. The excitement of local members journeying to assist and learn is an important part of the energy and commitment of this church. Come for dessert at 7:00 in Gaton Hall and learn more about their trip afterwards in the Meeting Hall.