



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 4

January 25, 2008

Annual Budget Meeting

This Sunday, January 27,

at the end of worship

to approve the 2008 church operating budget

Registration continues for

Winter Weekend

Join us for Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake, *February 16-18*. 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 covering a new fee for tubing. Full payment is due to the church by *February 3*. If you have questions, or won't be at church to register, please contact **Ryan Lambert**.

DINING OUT FOR IRAQIS

A potluck lunch will be held on *Sunday, February 3*, after worship service. Women's Fellowship and Just Peace Committee are sponsoring this as a fundraiser for CAAIR. This is for members; not for the general public. Please **bring a dish to share**: casseroles, salads, breads,

desserts. We'll keep the hot food warm and the cold food in the refrigerator during worship. The suggested **donation** would be the cost of a restaurant meal.

[continued on page 3]



Still waffling on pancakes? There is one last time to sign up Sunday to attend or host one of the small group pancake suppers to be held on *February 5*, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

THIS SUNDAY

January 27

Adult Forum: In this final session on Faith and Sustainability, **Larry Thornton** focuses on "Becoming a Green Faith Community." 9:30, Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Matthew 4:12-23
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sermon: "Leaving the Past Behind"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, at the end of worship, in good Congregational fashion, we will hold a meeting to vote on the proposed 2008 budget. This budget is largely the same as the budget you saw in October, with minor changes reflecting actual pledges received and better estimates of expenses having seen our 2007 totals. Along with those changes, you will also hear a proposal to use a small part of our endowment income to supplement three particular line items in our annual budget.

In this church, we have been blessed with endowment funds, both restricted and unrestricted, that have grown over time both because of bequests and other special gifts and because of the careful management of the Endowment and Memorials Funds (EMF) Board--formerly the Foundation. In the sixteen years I have been here, the church has always used endowment income to supplement the work of the annual budget. Our endowments have at various times: extended our mission giving, purchased new equipment ranging from computers to lawn mowers, supported the Parish Nurse, improved our landscaping, allowed us to perform special music in worship, helped our youth go on mission trips and attend special youth events, and responded to a number of one-time special needs. All of this has been done on a year-to-year basis with approval by various boards and committees, the Church Council, or the entire congregation depending on the context and the amounts of money involved.

This past fall, the Trustees and the EMF Board were asked to take a step back and consider creating formal policies around how annual budget funds and endowment funds work together to fund the whole scope of ministry in the church. This request was driven by several factors including the receipt of some new restricted endowments, the EMF Board's retooling the old Foundation by-laws into new policies and guidelines, and a desire to bring some more long-range deliberation into the question of how we use all the funds entrusted to our care to enable our ministry in the present and the future.

A special committee was created; other churches were polled about the use of their endowments; several models of endowment income use were considered; and a proposal was drafted and reviewed by the Trustees, the EMF Board, and the Church Council. The 2008 budget reflects this special committee's proposals.

At the budget meeting, you will hear more information from Harold Hunter and Mark Thackray about this process and you will be asked to accept for this one year the committee's recommendation. Between now and May, as part of the EMF Board's transition to guidelines and policies from the old Foundation by-laws, you will have a

chance to comment on, and if necessary, further refine these one-year recommendations for long-term use.

I will let Harold and Mark fill you in on the specific proposals. However, I would like to comment that this process has been carried out in the best of our denominational tradition. Thoughtful congregation members asked the question; information was gathered and analyzed; within the Trustees, the EMF Board, the ad-hoc committee, and the Church Council, there was lively discussion and not always complete agreement; and now that work comes to you, the whole congregation, for your transitional, and then potentially longer-term approval. It is textbook Congregational process—lengthy, sometimes tedious, thoughtful, and inclusive. I commend all those who have worked on this process and I look forward to your responses on Sunday.

The gifts of the congregation are many. We are fortunate to be able to make financial decisions based on principle and a view to the long-term best interests of the church rather than immediate financial exigency. We are even more fortunate to have congregation members willing to invest time and energy in the process of considering such issues and bring them to the congregation.

Have a thoughtful week.

Liz

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Ed Henderlite**, recovering from surgery on January 22 and 23.

IRAQI POTLUCK *from page 1*

Our **guest speaker** is Noora Khaki who will tell us about experiences of her Iraqi family members who fled from Iraq to Jordan. She'll describe their current situation. For better acoustics, her 15-minute presentation will be held in the Meeting Hall right after lunch.

Help is needed: Set up tables and chairs about 9:30; dishwasher; Clean up Gatton Hall after the presentation. Please **sign up** after worship this *Sunday, January 27*, or you may call **Eileen Marma** (753-0540) to volunteer to help.

THANKS FROM VINA MOSES CENTER

Christmas was a fun and joyful time for many children because First Congregational Church sponsored a Vina Moses Giving Tree. The response from those who took a tag off the tree was overwhelming. Because of their generosity, Vina Moses was able to provide gifts for the children of families in Benton County who are in need of assistance.

First Congregational Church's support of the Vina Moses Christmas Program and their program throughout the year is very much appreciated. Thank you. Happy New Year.

Christine Duffney,
Director



The **Middle** and **High School** groups will be meeting at their regular times (5:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on *Sunday night, January 27*. Join us, and bring a friend if you like! Next week we will be gathering for to watch the Super Bowl together. The game starts at 3:30 and the location for our gathering is still TBD.

CORVALLIS-ALBANY ASSISTING IRAQI REFUGEE EVENTS

Friday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.--Benefit Contra Dance with music by the Nettles, and caller, Holly Berry. Ice cream sundaes and root beer floats will be sold at the break. Tickets: \$6 at Gattton Hall.

Sunday, January 27, 1:30 p.m.--Film Festival at the Darkside Cinema, 4th Street, Corvallis Tickets are \$7. The films will be shown simultaneously so you will have to choose one:

"Marooned in Iraq": During the war between Iran and Iraq, a group of Iranian urd musicians set off on an almost impossible mission into Iraq.

"Blackboards": A group of Iranian-Kurdish teachers brave harsh conditions as they travel from village to village in search of students.

Plan ahead for CAAIR's closing Celebration Extravaganza, *Saturday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.*, featuring Americanistan, a Middle Eastern music group from Eugene--wonderful music, poetry,

singing, dancing, dance performances, peace chant, and refreshments. This will be the closing event and our opportunity to celebrate the gift from Corvallis and Albany to Mercy Corps to benefit Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Tickets: Sliding scale: \$8-12 including refreshments At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 Circle Blvd, Corvallis

FREE MOVIE THIS FRIDAY

This *Friday, January 25*, at 7:00 p.m. in the Corvallis public library, the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates will sponsor the movie "Sicko" by Michael Moore for no charge. This is a documentary-style comparison of health care in the U.S. with publicly-funded universal care systems in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Cuba. Free popcorn!



Dorothy Price
and
Pat Johnson
invite all of
our church family
to our wedding
on *Saturday, January 26*
at 11:15 a.m.
at the church.

We will be wearing our tropical attire and hope you will too! Plan to stay for the island lunch afterwards in Gattton Hall. We request only the gift of your presence.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT†

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, *February 6*. In addition to the evening service, there will be an Imposition of Ashes service at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel as part of the Women's Fellowship program.

As before, we hope to provide opportunities for conversation, worship and study during this special time in the Christian year. Call the church office to enroll in classes or sign up this Sunday at church.

On Ash Wednesday evening, our traditional soup and bread supper is at 5:30 (donation), followed by a brief service of penitence and the imposition of ashes at 6:15. At 6:45, classes begin. Child care is available beginning at 6:10. You are welcome at any and all events.

On each subsequent Wednesday in Lent through *March 12*, the schedule will be the same:

5:30 p.m.	A simple supper (with vegetarian alternative), Fireplace Room
6:10 p.m.	Child care begins, Room 5
6:15 p.m.	Worship in the Chapel
6:45-7:25 p.m.	Flash classes (see below)
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Full-length classes (see below)
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir

"Flash" classes 6:45-7:25 p.m.

Flash Bells -- Kim Thackray. Have you ever wondered how the bell choir makes that beautiful music? Ever thought that you might like to give it a try, but were too hesitant to join in with the more experienced ringers? Then Flash Bells is the class for you! We will help you start at the very beginning--how to ring a bell, how to figure out when to play that bell, and how to stop the bell from ringing. We'll try some familiar music, practicing until it is recognizable...and then playing it a few times more. If the class would like to perform, we can plan an opportunity, but performance is not required if the group doesn't feel ready. The objective is to learn about these wonderful instruments, and to have fun. To make this class most successful, it would be best if you can attend all the classes. If you must miss one or two, please let Kim know ahead of time.

Seeking Sanctuary from the Chaos: Using Spiritual Writing and Expression to Ground our Journeys--Ryan Lambert. Too often our lives are crowded with things that have to be done. For many of us this causes us to lose sight of our connection to those we love, of those things that drive our deepest passions, and even our connection to God. In this class we will be using small pieces of poetry, music, and film to guide us as we use the weeks of Lent as an invitation to write, pray, and find quiet time to explore how and where we are being called into God's peace.

Full-length classes 6:45-8:15 p.m.

Mere Christianity--Charles Helsabeck. What would you say are the essential or common beliefs of

all Christians for all time? C. S. Lewis in his book *Mere Christianity* tries to answer this question. As he puts it, "Ever since I became a Christian I have thought that the best, perhaps the only, service I could do for my unbelieving neighbours was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times."

C. S. Lewis author of many books, such as, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Perelandra*, published *Mere Christianity* in 1943, 1945, and 1952. The book is certainly dated. The mid-twentieth century was a different age which adds to my interest in it. What was life like when he wrote this book and what were people looking for in Christianity and is it any different today? Are his ideas valid for today? Were they valid for the time and place in which he wrote them? Is it ever possible to "explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times"?

Class members may pick up a copy of the book from the church office this Sunday (\$11.95).

The Heart of Christianity--Liz Oettinger. What does it mean to be Christian in a plural world? Are there places in our theology where liberal and conservative Christians can come closer together? What is the relationship between religion and science? Is Christian faith more about belief or transformation?

If these questions interest you, then you are invited to join Liz's Lenten class to read and discuss Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*. Borg's book works to set Christian faith in its contemporary context, to ask the hard questions about what it might mean to be authentically Christian in a complex, plural, and modern world. Copies of the book are available for participants this Sunday for \$14.95.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pearl Doolin 2/2,
Nancy Swain 2/2, Don
Leeper 2/2, Jane Capizzi
2/4, Lauren Meara 2/4, Jan
Small 2/5, Pete Nelson 2/6, Karen
Herold 2/7, Anna Marie Holmes 2/8, Jo
Anne Trow 2/10, Dory Nafshun 2/10,
Davis Nafshun 2/10, Erin Richmond
2/11, Janice Engle 2/12, Steve Milligan
2/12, Laurel Goldner 2/13, Rachel Zielke
2/15, Shauna Lambert 2/16, Larry Small
2/16, Harold Hunter 2/19, Claire Esary
2/22, Ian Milligan 2/23, Eleanor Mac-
Donald 2/26, Marsha Gulick 2/26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bond and Marilyn Starker 2/3 (29th)

Bill and Susan Wickes 2/13 (37th)
Bart and Jody Eleveld 2/15 (33rd)

ASH WEDNESDAY AT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Ever wondered about the origin and traditions surrounding Ash Wednesday and Lent? Come to Women's Fellowship on *February 6* to hear **Liz** tell us more about these critical components of our faith. Her short presentation will be followed by an Ash Wednesday Service. Lunch will be served at noon, and costs \$5.00. All are welcome to this event and the service. Sign up this Sunday at church or call the church office.



OUR COMMUNITY SAYS THANKS

Dear Members of First Congregational UCC,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your on-going support of We Care. Your support makes it possible to us to do our job of helping those in need in Benton County. Often we can make it possible for families and/or individuals to obtain or remain in adequate living accommodations, and make it possible for people to have heat, water, medical attention and/or provide for other emergency needs as they arise.

We are also deeply indebted to Community Services Consortium for screening and presenting us with the applications. Because of this, we are able to use greater than 99% of the money we receive for the benefit of families/individuals who are in crisis situations. We are not able to provide assistance to all those who are in need but we continue to help more people every year.

In 2007, your contribution to We Care was \$3,382.53. Thank you very much for your generosity and commitment to strengthening our community....

We look forward to your continuing support. If you have questions or need information, please call Cindy Pratt at Community Service Consortium (758-2798) or Johanna Peterson (929-5718).

Johanna Peterson, Treasurer
We Care Board

Dear First Congregational Church,

Thank you very much for your generous gift of space to house the Gifts For A Better World store for a month. We also appreciated all your advertising at church events.

Thanks to you this year fair trade industries sold \$23,000 worth of items through Gifts For A Better World, local non-profit group sold almost \$6,000 worth of items which allows them to serve the Corvallis Community and GFABW earned several thousand dollars that will be returned to needy group in Corvallis. Your generosity also created a lot of good will!

We hope you will again be able to offer us space.

Sincerely,

Sue Tappeiner, GFABW Coordinator

Dear Elizabeth and Ryan,

Benton Dog Rescue of Oregon is very grateful for the space allotted for GFABW this year. We are one of the lucky non-profits allowed to participate, and the money earned at that event will help us get more of our older dogs adopted.

I took Kindermusik with my granddaughter at your church.... I have always been touched and impressed at your cheerful welcome feeling and generous sharing of space. Thank you for being such a positive part of our community.

Sincerely, Judy Riggs and SCRO

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of hungry people around the world.

Your support is vital to Heifer's work and is greatly appreciated.

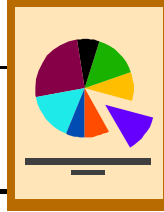
Very sincerely,

Isaak Egge, Heifer International



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Budget Meeting



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 29.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, January 25

7:30 p.m. Contra Dance and Ice
 Cream Social
 (CAAIR), Gatton Hall

Saturday, January 26

11:15 a.m. Price-Johnson wedding

Sunday, January 27

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) **Annual Budget**

Meeting

1:30 p.m. CAAIR films,
 Darkside (\$7)
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Tuesday, January 29

8:30 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, January 30

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 31

5:30 p.m. Church Basketball

7:00 p.m. EMF Board

Friday, February 1

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Shari's

LOOKING AHEAD: *Friday, February*
 8: Memorial service for **Ruth Freund**, at
 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel

January is one of those five-Tuesdays months, so Team First Congregational is up for a second Stone Soup. Veterans and newcomers should sign up this Sunday or call **Pat Johnson** (619-4943) to volunteer for *January 29*.

