



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 7

February 15, 2008

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

It's that time again, when the Nominating Committee checks with folks whose board terms are expiring to see if they want to continue on their current board or switch to a different one. This year we especially need people who are willing to take on responsibilities while the congregation is short staffed by medical emergencies. So, please, just say "yes" when you receive that call from a committee member! If there is a board or committee that you would especially like to serve on, please notify **Ann Hawkins** or **Nancy Klingeman** since we are not mind readers! Some boards have vacancies with terms that are shorter than the usual three years. Many thanks for your help!

## HIRE OUR YOUTH

To help raise funds for their Spring Break Learning and Serving Trip to the Yakima Nation Mission, our youth are available for hire (donation of any amount.) We would like to extend a huge thank you for all of who you signed up to



hire a youth after worship last Sunday! Our youth greatly appreciate your support and are eager to tackle your projects! And for those of you who didn't get the chance last Sunday, it's not too late!

Do you need a sitter to care for your pets while you are on vacation, or is your pet in need of a good grooming? How about that yard – or the garage? Is it in need of some serious pre-spring clean-up? Or do you need a break from house

*[continued on page 8]*

## THIS SUNDAY

*February 17*

**Adult Forum:** We will view the video of **Lynn Redgrave's** faith story, presented at General Synod. **Ed Henderlite** will lead a brief discussion afterwards.

**Scriptures:** Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:15-, 13-18  
John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** "Living the Promise"  
Caroline Zaworski

Dear Friends,

The past two weeks have been rather dizzying and it was evident to me in worship on Sunday that we are staggered by our grief and concern for the long list of folks who are in our prayers due to illness and loss. During this time it is important that we acknowledge our pain and our struggle because we cannot faithfully live together in denial. However, I also want to remind folks that even in our grief and concern we must continue to live, work, worship, and serve because to do otherwise would be to disregard the community that we have built together and the fullness of God's care for us. We are a strong community with many resources, both within our congregation and in our conference, and with God's grace and our combined efforts we will faithfully carry on in Liz's absence and amid our concern for all those who are struggling with illness.

As we move forward, Liz will be on a leave of absence for at least two months. During that time we will be receiving additional pastoral assistance from Marsha Gulick, Charles Helsabeck, and Caroline Zaworski, who will all help to cover our ministerial needs. We have tapped our deep bench of pastoral leadership to break up the preaching responsibilities and Caroline, Charles, and Leah McCullough will all fill the pulpit in the coming weeks. Additionally, John Gantt has offered wonderful support from the Central Pacific Conference, and many of you have already volunteered to step into roles that utilize your gifts. For all of this I am thankful, and I feel remarkably blessed by the bountiful gifts that have been offered by so many.

Finally, I want to remind folks of two important things. First, although it is true that we have a significant list of pastoral care needs at the current time, I want to be clear that I remain available to address needs as they come up and note there is no burden that we cannot share together. Please do not be reticent to lift up your needs during this time! Second, I simply want to remind folks to hold one another in prayer. Prayer is both of comfort for us and a powerful tool of healing and grace. Our Lenten journey is especially challenging this year, and thus I encourage you to be intentional about supporting one another and being close to our God through your prayers. Together we remain in the protective care of God's love...

With Christ's peace,

**Ryan**

### **COME COOK, SERVE, OR CLEAN UP FOR STONE SOUP**

If you won't be in worship this Sunday, please contact **Pat Johnson** to volunteer to help with the meal on *Tuesday, February 19*.



**UNITED  
CAMPUS  
MINISTRY  
AT OSU**

WestM, your UCC campus ministry for students at OSU and LBCC, has several February events for community building, service, spiritual growth, and play. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us! If you need more information, please contact Rev. **Leah McCullough** at [rev-leah@comcast.net](mailto:rev-leah@comcast.net).

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

Students gather weekly for a free meal followed by a time of fellowship, study, singing, and prayer. During this Lenten season, utilizing the Gospel of Mark, we'll be exploring the real passion of the Christ and what it means to be followers of the Way. All students are welcome!

**Hammer Camp at Camp Magruder** – Friday, February 15 – Sunday, February 17

A retreat for college students to gather in fellowship and service in support of Camp Magruder as they recover from damage suffered in recent major winter storms. Room and board are free for your volunteer service (donations for food accepted). **Tim Stover** is the coordinator and you can contact him at: [tgstover50@comcast.net](mailto:tgstover50@comcast.net), 541-753-2242

**Prayers for the Journey** - Thursday, February 21, 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.

**Ecumenical Bowling Night** - Friday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we continue this “friendly” rivalry with the Catholics and welcome new opponents from Luther House. Come help WestM dominate once again! You are responsible for your own costs (show rental + each game of bowling).

**Snowshoe Hike** - Saturday, February 23, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Meet at WestM

If you can walk, you can snowshoe! Join us as we travel to a Sno-park near Santiam Pass for a day of fun in the snow. We'll gather at WestM to leave at 8:30 a.m. and return around 4:30 p.m. Wear warm, waterproof clothing and bring water and lunch in a backpack. You may rent snowshoes at the Outdoor Rec center in Dixon. **Please sign up by Wednesday, February 20.**



There will be no youth group this weekend due to the holiday and Winter Weekend.

As a reminder the High School youth will be hosting the youth from the Eugene UCC church for an overnight on *Saturday February 23*, in conjunction with PeaceJam. Plan to join us beginning at 6:30. More details to come via e-mail!

### **CARING FOR CREATION TEAM WILL MEET ON FEBRUARY 21**

On *February 21* at 7:00 p.m. the **Caring for Creation Team** will hold its initial meeting as we look toward how we can be more faithful stewards of God's creation. **All are welcome (including youth!)** at this initial meeting where we will begin to work on the practical and structural workings of this group as well as begin to identify initial projects and plans. We are committed to ending the meeting by 8:15 and childcare will be offered. Plan to carpool if possible and contact **Ryan** at the church if you need a ride!

### **COME SUPPORT HABITAT!**

WineStyles, in the Timberhill Shopping Center, is having a fund-raiser for Benton Habitat for Humanity on *Tuesday, February 19, from 5:30-7:30*. WineStyles will be donating half of their \$10 wine-tasting fee and 10% of all sales to our local Habitat affiliate. If the 19<sup>th</sup> doesn't fit your schedule, there will be

two more Tuesday Benton Habitat fund raisers at Winestyles: *March 25* (Spring Break) and *April 22*. Any questions? Give our resident liaison to Habitat, **Jacqueline Smith**, a call at 829-3783.

### **SOUTH CORVALLIS FOOD BANK**

Needed in February and March:

- Toothpaste,
- Other dental hygiene items,
- Jams and jellies (not home-canned)
- Hearty soups.

Please add your donations to the food barrel in the church foyer.

### **BELIZE IS FOCUS OF LBCC HUNGER BANQUET**

LBCC is sponsoring a free Hunger Banquet at the Albany Campus, Commons Cafeteria on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the College Center on *Thursday, February 21*. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. Hunger Banquets were started by OXFAM International to increase awareness of poverty and hunger throughout the world.

**Donna Reishus**, who attends this church regularly, will be the keynote speaker. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Belize, Central America, 1974-1976. In 2000, she returned to Belize to voluntarily run a Women's Health Clinic for six years. In discussing poverty and hunger issues in Belize, she will also share her observations of international efforts (some successful many not-so successful) to help the Belizean people.

**STILL A FEW OPENINGS FOR  
THE PILGRIMAGE TO  
GUATEMALA!**

I spoke with Faith at Work on Thursday, February 7, and at that time there were still some openings for the 2008 Pilgrimage to Guatemala, July 19 - 29.

We will work for five days with the Mayans on a project for their community such as a school or a water project. The trip is open to all regardless of your skill or energy level. To reserve a place send

\$200 per person payable to "Faith at Work." The address is:

Faith at Work  
106 E. Broad Street, Suite B  
Falls Church, VA 22046-4501

On the memo line of the check write "Guatemala 2008" and include your name(s), mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. **Caroline** and I would be glad to answer any other questions you may have about what the trip involves.

**Charles**

**LIZ'S LINK**

Dear Friends,

I wanted to update you all on Jessie's medical condition. Her final diagnosis is acute lymphocytic leukemia, or ALL, a cancer that normally affects children. It is an aggressive cancer and requires aggressive treatment. We were advised last week that Jessie would need to take at least a two-month leave from work and that she will be spending much, if not all, of those two months as an inpatient at Swedish Hospital.

The news literally took our breath away. We had expected chemotherapy to occur mostly on an outpatient basis, with occasional or cyclical inpatient days. That is not the case for this particular treatment regimen. The acute phase of her treatment will be four or five months; how much she can be home or working after these first two months will depend on how she feels and how she responds to treatment. After acute treatment, she will continue lower-dose monthly chemotherapy for another two years.

Treatment starts tomorrow. A wonderful friend wrote to me that he was celebrating the day as the first day of her recovery. I'm holding on to that thought. There is so much we don't know and can't know yet. We take our information in small bites, and are praying for the grace, strength, and humor to meet each day's challenge as it comes.

What I do know is that, at least for these first two months, I need to be with my daughter. To that end, I have asked for and the Church Council has granted me an official leave of absence. Plans are being developed to get Ryan the help he needs, and I have every confidence that the church is in the best of hands: your hands. I mean that. My faith in you, in the love and ability of the First Congregational church community, tethers me to God right now. Do you remember the early space walks, when we all

gazed in awe at our television screens, watching a man free-floating in outer space attached to his spaceship home by a strong and flexible lifeline. I feel a little like that, floating over a vast unknown, but trusting you to keep me grounded and bring me safely home.

The news about Verlyne's illness coming so closely after Jessie's has, I think, reminded us all how fragile life can be. Few of us escape some period of time where we take our turn as the one suspended over a void of threat or unknowing. The church community, no matter how strong, can not spare its members that pain. But the substance of a community joined hand to hand and heart to heart can keep us from free fall and create the bridge that opens a way to know the Holy.

I am so grateful for all the many forms of support you have given and continue to give me and Jessie and Sarah and Chick. In the weeks ahead, I will keep in touch with updates on Jessie's condition. I will also try to share with you something of my theological journey through this new place. It's my way of staying connected to you in appreciation of your reaching out for me.

God bless you all.

Liz

## MISSION OFFERINGS FOR 2008

January	CAAIR (Iraqi refugees)
February	Stone Soup
March	One Great Hour of Sharing
March 30	Yakima Indian Reservation
April	Habitat for Humanity
May	Community Outreach
June	Strengthen the Church
June 29	Northwest House (seminary)
July	Environmental Sustainability
August	Camp Adams
September	Cold Weather Shelter/Drop-In Center
October	Neighbors in Need
November	Senior Meals/Dial-a-Bus
November 30	NAMI (mental health)
December	Vina Moses/UCC Christmas Fund

## CORVALLIS YOUTH SYMPHONY FEATURES YOUNG ARTISTS

There will be a Corvallis Youth Symphony Young Artists Concert on *Saturday, February 23*, at 7:30 p.m. at the Corvallis High School Performing Arts Center. The tickets are \$10 for adults from a CYS member, or \$12 at the door. Children get in free with an adult. The CYS musicians in this church are **Justin Chi, Robin Miller, Chris Rorrer, Julie Rorrer, and Patrick Yun.**

Dear Friends,

The volunteers at Stone Soup would like to thank you for your support of our efforts to feed the needy in our community, and for your donation of \$800.65. Over the years, the number of meals served has increased steadily: 26,062 in 2005, 30,624 in 2006 and 34,521 in 2007. Our food costs are rising as well and the need for community support continues.

A typical meal for Stone Soup diners includes a meat main dish, soup, salad, bread, dessert, and a drink. As an all-volunteer organization with kitchen and dining facilities provided by two churches at no cost, we are able to provide nutritious meals at less than \$1.00/meal. We are proud that approximately 90% of donations go directly to purchase food for our meals.

Caring people like you make our work possible. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Susan J, Mackey, Stone Soup Volunteer

## *Celebrations!*

We are happy to report that **Gavin Milligan** is doing well after his treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma. Tests after two months showed no signs of the cancer.

We also celebrate with **Pat Johnson** and **Dorothy Price**, and **Tanya Anderson** and **Shauna Wilson**, and with the many gay and lesbian couples across Oregon whose relationships were recognized with domestic partner status beginning on February 4!

## **Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with **Verlyne Phillips**, recovering from surgery for ovarian cancer in Eugene. Cards are welcome, but it's too soon for calls or visits. **Regular updates will be provided on Sunday mornings and/or in the newsletter.** Any phone calls should come to the church office;

... and with **Jessie Oettinger**, who began her chemotherapy in Seattle on February 13. [*See page 5 for update*];

...and with **Dale Kirk** and his family. Dale's sister died in Idaho last weekend;

... and with **Larry Merriam**, in the hospital after a heart attack on February 9. He will be at Corvallis Manor after his hospital stay.

... and with **Jean Mater**, also at Corvallis Manor, recovering from a stroke;

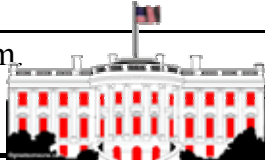
... and with **Ken Crouse**, recovering at home after hip replacement surgery. He is doing well and would welcome visits (with a call ahead).



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 19.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Saturday, February 16*

**Winter Weekend**

*Sunday, February 17*

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  
 Noon Nominating Committee  
 Library

*Monday, February 18-Presidents' Day*

**Office closed**

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Tuesday, February 19*

8:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board  
 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, February 20*

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper

6:10 p.m. Child care begins  
 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship  
 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes  
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir  
*Thursday, February 21*  
 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group  
 5:30 p.m. Church Basketball  
 7:00 p.m. Caring for Creation  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

**HIRE OUR YOUTH *from page 1***

work? Do you have a budding musician who could use cello, violin or piano lessons? Or, could you use a babysitter so you could enjoy an evening out? You will have an opportunity to hire a youth to fit your needs after worship this Sunday (and next.) If you will not be in worship on Sunday, you can contact **Natalie Lucker** at [nc.lucker@gmail.com](mailto:nc.lucker@gmail.com) or **Robin Miller** at [stringsinger@comcast.net](mailto:stringsinger@comcast.net). We look forward to helping you!