



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 17

April 25, 2008

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4

6:30 p.m. -- Dessert

7:00 p.m. -- Meeting

- Submission of new proposed guide lines for the Endowment and Memorial Funds Board (to replace current EMF Board by-laws)
- Report/update by Caring for Creation Committee on its activities and goals
- Election of lay leaders

month for 6 months! **Mark Esary** will be our able (and entertaining) auctioneer for this event.

Thank you to all the skilled cooks and bakers that have volunteered to supply goods to be auctioned. We need still more delicious items, so it is not too late to show off your skills! Please bring your contributions by 10:00 Sunday morning, to the Fireplace Room.

There is also still time to join the teens and adults walking for the cause at OSU on *Friday, May 16*. See **Kim Thackray** or **Molly Chambers**.

RELAY FOR LIFE



DESSERT AUCTION

Bring your appetites -- and your checkbooks -- to the Auction, to be held immediately after the service this *Sunday, April 27*, in the sanctuary. Your dollars will go to support the American Cancer Society.

There will be both ready-made desserts to eat right away, and certificates good for the future -- including a pie a

THIS SUNDAY

April 27

Adult Forum: Part 4 of the "From Jesus to Christ" series: The Rock of Masada & the Rabbis, and the Gospel of Mark. **Ed Henderlite** will lead the discussion following the video this week. This series continues through *May 18*.

Scriptures: John 14:15-21

Acts 17:22-31

Sermon: "Telling the Story"

Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

On page 5 in this newsletter, you will find a notice concerning Bill Moyers' upcoming interview with Jeremiah Wright, former pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, Barack Obama's home church. The insinuations and allegations that have swirled around the Obama campaign as a result of reporters' looking back at Wright's preaching history should be troublesome to all of us, Republican and Democrat alike.

Is this to be the new standard then, that preachers should tune their voices to the possibility that someone in their congregations might someday run for office? Heaven forbid that Ryan or I or any of our other preachers might say something that would make it difficult for any of you seeking a career in public service.

I find myself with two problems with the media attacks on Obama based on limited statements made by his pastor. First, and Obama made this point in his speech after the incident: People don't always agree with everything their ministers say. Nor should they. One of the great strengths of our theological tradition is independence of mind. My job as a responsible preacher is to present a point of view and support that view in such a way that you understand where I come from. If you disagree, you understand how and why we differ.

Second, context is everything. The attacks on Jeremiah Wright would make him out to be a racist and an extremist. Little attention has been paid to the context of where and to whom and under what circumstances his most inflammatory comments have been made. How do they compare to the long and distinguished body of his preaching and teaching? Like most ministers and theologians, I speak differently within the context of my home congregation than I would speak to a reporter or to a public event at the university. The difference is not about deception, but about a shared body of understanding and a shared history into which any one comment finds its intellectual and spiritual home.

My greatest concern about this incident is what it foreshadows for our body politic. Where is the line between responsible investigative journalism and scandal-mongering? When we evaluate candidates for public office, what matters? Do we really want to reach a point where we expect our public leaders never to have done anything wrong, never to have associated with anyone with even one inflammatory idea, never have considered anything out of the mainstream? Does that really best equip us to deal with the complexities of the world around us?

I have a lot of respect for Bill Moyers, a good Baptist turned UCC. The conversation Friday evening should be interesting.

God bless you all, **Liz**



UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU

WestM (United Campus Ministry at Westminster House), your UCC campus ministry for students at OSU and LBCC, has several upcoming 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 revleah@comcast.net.

Student Gathering

Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Students gather weekly for a free meal followed by a time of fellowship, study, singing, and prayer. This quarter we'll be sharing our faith stories using images and truths from various forms of media, literature, scripture, and art that have informed and formed our spiritual journeys.

Spring Clean-up Day

Thursday, April 24, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

We invite all members of our supporting churches to bring your garden gloves and tools and join the party as we spruce up and clean up the landscape around this venerable old house. Let us know that you are coming and plan to stay for pizza as we finish.

Donor "Thank You" Dinner

Wednesday, April 30, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Students, board members and staff will say "Thank You" to our donors by providing a delicious meal, personal stories

and a video re-cap of the year. RSVP by *April 23*.

Reel to Real

Friday, May 2, 8:00 p.m.

Together we view a popular film, *Atonement*, and share conversation seeking out the images of faith and/or spiritual truth it holds for us ("nutritainment").

Film: *For the Bible Tells Me So* and Discussion – Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (at WestM)

Film Synopsis: Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by respected religious voices, this film offers clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity. **All members of the Corvallis community are welcome.**

FIELD TRIP FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Woman's Fellowship on *Wednesday, May 7* will start earlier than usual. Gather in the Fireplace Room around 10:40 a.m. for Installation of Officers for next year. The group will then car pool to Taylor Street Ovens for a 11:15 tour of this bakery owned and operated by Cornerstone Associates, Inc., a local not-for-profit organization dedi-

cated to creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Taylor Street will cater a sandwich and salad lunch for us at their office complex which houses several other of the business operated by Cornerstone Associates. This unique organization also operates B & J Bookbinding, Colorwheel Gardens and Landscape, Crystal Lake Cleaning, Packaging Plus and Cornerstone Wood Products. Please join us on *May 7* for this tour and lunch. Please sign up on *Sundays, April 27* or *May 4* or call the church office. You will have an opportunity to pre-order the personal lunch.

Choral Festival Sunday

The Good Samaritan Foundation has sponsored a concert in memory of Bill Burger for the **FOURTH SUNDAYS AT FOUR** Concert Series. On *Sunday, April 27*, at 4:00 p.m. the members of several area church choirs, including **Good Samaritan Choir, First Presbyterian Choir, First United Methodist and First Congregational UCC Choir**, will present a concert conducted by **Gabriel Crouch**. The choirs have been preparing the music for twelve anthems which will be performed. Pieces from all style periods and genres will be presented. An all-day choral workshop will be led by Mr. Crouch on *Saturday, April 26*.

Currently, Mr. Crouch is Director of Choral Activities at DePauw University

in Greencastle, Indiana. Previously, he held the position of Second Baritone in the world-renowned King's Singers. Between 1996 and 2004, Gabriel made a dozen recordings on the BMG label (including a Grammy nomination), and gave more than 900 performances in almost every major concert venue in the world. His work took him from the Lincoln Center in New York to the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, from Opera houses in Cape Town and Vienna to the great recital halls of the Santa Cecilia (Rome) and Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), and included two performances at the PROMS festival in London's Royal Albert Hall.

The concert is free and it will be followed by a reception in Simpson Hall. Donations to support the series will be accepted.

JOIN THE DAYS OF PRAYER AND ACTION

Last year hundreds of churches in the U.S. and Colombia joined together in prayer and action in Colombia. Now churches in both countries are preparing to commemorate the third annual Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia on *April 27 and 28*. Ricardo Esquivia, a longtime Witness for Peace partner and the President of the Colombian Protestant Council of Church's Peace Commission sends a special note of encouragement. "Because the Bible says the prayer of the righteous is powerful, we the people of



COLOMBIAN
CHURCHES
CALL FOR
PEACE

God in Colombia humbly ask our brothers and sisters of the United States to join us on April 27th and 28th in Days of Prayer and Action for Peace in Colombia. May we be of one spirit as we pray and act for peace in Colombia, the United States and around the world."

REV. WRIGHT TO GIVE TELEVISION INTERVIEW

The Rev. **Jeremiah Wright**, former senior pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, will be interviewed by **Bill Moyers** on *Friday evening, April 25*, on the PBS program "Bill Moyers Journal" at 9:00 p.m.

This will be Wright's first interview since snippets of his preaching became a central issue in the U.S. presidential campaign.

PROGRAM OFFERS PRACTICAL ANSWERS FOR END-OF-LIFE QUESTIONS

A free lecture on caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias, sponsored by Benton Hospice Service, is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on *Tuesday, May 13*, at the Corvallis-Benton County Library Community Room. Learn about identifying needs, managing care and finding resources.

CORVALLIS YOUTH SYMPHONY 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Tickets for the Corvallis Youth Symphony 25th Anniversary Concert (*Sunday, April 27*, at 7:30 p.m.) are available

online at www.cysassoc.org and sales can be credited to CYS musicians in this church: **Justin Chi, Robin Miller, Gavin Milligan, Chris Rorrer, Julie Rorrer, and Patrick Yun.**



SIGN-UPS SUNDAY

Our fifth Tuesday, second Stone Soup shift for April, is the 29th.

New people are always welcome to join the regulars at First Christian Church kitchen. Preparations begin at 3:00 p.m., but helpers can come later for serving and clean-up. Contact **Pat Johnson** with questions about this important ministry or to volunteer, or sign the sheet this Sunday after worship.



FOR SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Spring Craft Festival. We took in nearly \$1200 to benefit the youth mission fund. The soups and baked goods were excellent and we received many wonderful comments about the children's activity table. Thank you to everyone who helped out with this fund-raiser!

Thanks especially to **Jody Eleveld** and **Karen French** who spent hours cultivating vendors, organizing publicity, and planning nearly every part of the event. Your support for the youth is deeply appreciated!



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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 27

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Dessert Auction,**
Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Choral Concert,
Good Samaritan
Episcopal Church
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Tuesday, April 29

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

Wednesday, April 30

- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 1

- 5:30 p.m. Church Basketball
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice
- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 2

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- John Hawkins 5/2, Ellie Erkkila 5/4, Christine Cantey 5/7, Rachel Pearce-Smith 5/10, Ginny Lucker 5/11, Susie Nelson 5/13, Sheila Schweizer 5/13, Charlene Hunter 5/14, Larry Thornton 5/14, Marj Elwood 5/15, Bettie Muckleston 5/15, Jean James 5/16, Maryann Som 15/16, Ginny White 5/17, Mike Schweizer 5/17, Liz Oettinger 5/18, Jacqueline Smith 5/19, Ruth Leeper 5/20, Kim Jones 5/21, Verlyne Phillips 5/24, Grant Smith 5/25, Lafe Harter 5/28 Peter Klingeman 5/31, Andrea McDaniel 5/31



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Mary Bolton and Karen Herold 5/8 (34th)
- Greg and Rose Christianson 5/17 (28th)
- Jane Capizzi and Bob Burgess 5/26