



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 18

May 2, 2008

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

***This 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

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

We will receive new members into our congregation this Sunday and next, *May 4* and *11*. Be there to meet and welcome them -- and celebrate with cake in Gattou Hall following the service!

## **EMERGENCY MEALS COORDINATORS NEEDED**

We are in need of emergency meal coordinators for the months of June, August, and September. The coordinator, when contacted (usually by the church office) about a family in need of meals, contacts the family for information about the family -- when they eat, special dietary needs, etc. Using a list we have de-

veloped, the coordinator calls individuals who have volunteered to prepare and deliver meals. If you are able to do this, e-mail me at [morrowam@comcast.net](mailto:morrowam@comcast.net).

**Alice Mills Morrow**

## **LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS SEMINAR OFFERED BY NAMI**

A seminar with Julie Fast on living with mental illness: "Struggles, Challenges, Triumphs: Living with Mental Illness" will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on *Saturday, May 10*, from 11:00-2:00. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Mid-Valley will be sponsoring the event for May, which

*[continued on page 3]*

## **THIS SUNDAY**

***May 4***

**Adult Forum:** Part 5 of the "From Jesus to Christ" series: The Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John

**Scriptures:** John 17:1-11  
Acts 1:6-14

**Sermon:** "Don't Look Up"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Now that I'm back in Corvallis, I hope for a long time, it doesn't seem right sending a link, and yet so many of you have asked how Jessie is doing that I thought I would use this space this week for an update. After a two week "chemotherapy vacation," yesterday Jessie started a new 12-week phase of her treatment called "interim maintenance." This phase includes both chemotherapy and radiation. She takes two chemo drugs by mouth, has five rounds of spinal chemo, nine days of low-dose radiation to her whole brain, and 21 days of radiation to the site of her tumor. Doesn't that sound easy!

Over the past two weeks, I have developed a whole new appreciation of the science of cancer medicine. For example, if you remember, the reason Jessie got so sick on her last round of chemo was that she's missing an enzyme in her blood responsible for metabolizing one of the drugs, so the drug just kept circulating in her system, and she ended up getting a huge dose. Actually, it turns out that she's not really missing the enzyme; it's just defective. So over the past two weeks, the lab people have been testing blood samples with this drug. It turns out that for Jessie 1/14th of the normal dose works for her as "normal." It's amazing to me that we have the capacity to test for such things as individual blood enzymes, and to micromanage chemotherapy dosages. Jessie's whole chemotherapy protocol is a marvel really. Her cancer, ALL, is one that primarily affects children and is very aggressive; therefore it has been extensively researched. Last week I was up in Seattle with Jessie, and her doctor explained all the drugs in her two-year protocol, and the various ways they act on her cancer. Hooray for research!!

Which brings me to the efforts members of the church are making for the Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society. The dessert auction last Sunday was a great success with wonderful desserts and spirited bidding! There is still a bake sale coming up and the relay itself. The American Cancer Society has set itself the ambitious goal of eradicating cancer, and serving those living with all forms of the disease. They support a variety of programs, including research, education, advocacy, and service. Few of us live untouched by this disease. In my immediate family, my mother is a cancer survivor; my father and sister died of cancer, and my 25-year old daughter is now in treatment. I so appreciate the efforts Kim and Molly and the rest of the Relay for Life team are making. It's a personal blessing for me, and, I hope, for many of the rest of you.

God bless you all.

**Liz**



## UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU

All members of the community are invited to attend the screening of the award-winning film, "For the Bible Tells Me So," on *Wednesday, May 7, 7:00--9:00 p.m.* at Westminster House (23<sup>rd</sup> and Monroe). Conversation, facilitated by members of Team Liberation from Oregon State University, will follow the screening.



No youth groups this week due to the Dessert and Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. As a reminder, as confirmed members of the church you can vote in this meeting! Plan to be there!

Looking ahead: Rather than have youth group events competing with Mother's Day events next Sunday, the youth groups will meet jointly for a picnic lunch on *Saturday, May 10* at 11:00 a.m. at the fountain in Riverfront Park. Bring a sack lunch (or money to buy something at the Farmer's Market) and we will hang out downtown, explore the market, and grab some gelato!

### MAY MISSION OFFERING

**Community Outreach, Inc.** is the organization our church is supporting for our mission offering in May. COI has been helping people since 1971. Former board president Janet Swinyard, says it

all, "Community Outreach serves the most vulnerable in our community. One measure of our humanity is how we treat those who need help as they navigate life's paths."

In 2007 the transitional housing program helped 274 men, women and children; and medical programs served 3,987 patients. Over 6,000 calls were made to the crisis, information and referral phone lines.

As you can see, COI helps people who need a helping hand. Please support this worthwhile organization with your mission offering this month and by contributing to our church's food barrel which helps supply COI's emergency food boxes. Thanks!

### NAMI SEMINAR *from page 1*

is Mental Illness Awareness month.

There is no cost for the seminar, but a goodwill offering will be taken. It is open to all: leaders, people with mental illness, family members, friends and health care professionals. Julie will also be selling her books at the seminar.

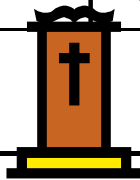
### RELAY FOR LIFE DESSERT AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone that helped with the Dessert Auction--the bakers, the buyers, the youth who tempted everyone with the lovely desserts -- and a special thanks to **Mark Esary**, our auctioneer. The total collected to support the American Cancer Society's work for all of us was \$1420!



**Congregational News** (USPS 128-820)  
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR  
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
 Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.  
 Corvallis OR 97333-3825. Published weekly  
 except twice a month in July and August by  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Annual Meeting



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 6.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Friday, May 2*

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, May 4*

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) New member reception  
**6:30 p.m. Dessert, Gatton Hall**  
**7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting**

*Tuesday, May 6*

8:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism  
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate  
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, May 7*

**10:30 a.m.** Women's Fellowship  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir,  
**Meeting Hall**

*Thursday, May 8*

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

**LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, May 11:**  
 Bake Sale for American Cancer Society

Congratulations to **Alex Sveta** and **Julia Clark** on the birth of their son, **Torin John-Carter Sveta**, (8 lbs. 7 oz.) on April 23 in Corvallis. Grandmother **Pam Ruzek** is celebrating too.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

...are with **Jordan Rogers**, recovering from surgery on April 25 for a ruptured appendix;

... and with **Norm Elwood**, recovering from pneumonia;

... and with **Karen Herold** after the death of her father, Clifford "Buzz" Saugstad, last Tuesday in Corvallis.