

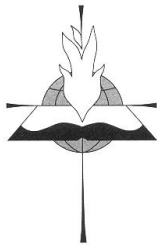


Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 22

May 30, 2008



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RECOGNITION

This *Sunday, June 1*, during worship, we honor all those who make our Christian Education program happen: our teachers, who are **Annie McDaniel, Alex Mueller-Warrant, Amanda LaBonte, George Mueller-Warrant, Ryan Lambert, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Mike McNally, Pete and Susie Nelson, Mike Huntington, and John Hawkins**; and our C E Board, who are **Peggy Carrick, Ginnie Esary, Becky Flitcroft, Charles Helsabeck, Ed Henderlite, Ted McCann, George Mueller-Warrant, and Tracey Meara**. Join us for the service and a reception afterwards in Gatton Hall.

Also, during the service, **Kellyn McKenzie MacLean** will be baptized.

RESCUE ME!

Next week, the Christian Education wing will be cleaned and re-organized. If there are items stored there that you want to be sure are saved, please come by and label them or take them away before *June 13*.

A CHANCE TO SUPPORT THE TROOPS BUT NOT THE WAR

The Lake Oswego UCC has started a fund drive to raise money to purchase top-of-the-line helmet pad kits for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The military already supplies shock-absorbing pads to most front-line troops but the government uses the cheapest ones, pads that can cause headaches during continuous helmet wear on long patrols, so often the troops remove the pads. Our soldiers

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THIS SUNDAY

June 1-Communion

Adult Forum: We will view and discuss an excerpt from **Bills Moyers'** interview with the Rev. **Jeremiah Wright**. (See p. 5 for background info.)

Scriptures: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24,
8:14-19, 9:8-17
Matthew 7:21-29

Sermon: "Finishing the
Rainbow"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

One of the faith-based groups that I became aware of some time ago is the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). In the aftermath of the Abu Ghraib scandal this interfaith group coalesced around the idea of abolishing torture as a technique used or supported by the United States. The NRCAT is currently comprised of over 130 religious groups including representatives of Roman Catholic, evangelical Christian, mainline Protestant, Unitarian, Quaker, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities. Included in their list of participating members are both Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the United Church of Christ.

NCRAT has designated June as "Torture Awareness Month" in an effort to draw attention to the moral implications that the use of torture has on us as a nation. Their statement of conscience concerning the issue reads as follows:

"Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved -- policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.

Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now -- without exceptions."

During the month of June, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has invited congregations to join a "Banners Across America" campaign in order to highlight faith-based objections to torture. During this campaign congregations will be displaying banners that proclaim religious objections to torture. Locally, through our Just Peace Committee, we will be joining with First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Unitarian Fellowship in this effort. Our banner will simply say "Honor God—Stop Torture." There will be information available about the NRCAT on the information table in the church foyer and I would invite anyone who is interested to sign onto their statement of conscience via their website at www.nrcat.org. This is an opportunity for our congregation and for us as individuals to speak about our desire for a more just world!

Blessings,

Ryan



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.

Prayers for the Journey:

An Evening of Contemplative Prayer

June 2, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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, music, lighting

candles, and movement. Choose your own pace, engage in the stations of your choice and stay as long as you like.

Reel to Real

Friday, June 6, 8:00 p.m.

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

Finals Week Pancake Feed

Monday, June 9, 8:00 -11:00 p.m.

All students are invited to enjoy free pancakes and good company during finals week!



This week will be the last regular meeting of the youth groups.

Middle School will meet at 5:00 p.m. and **High School** will meet at 6:30. This week we will be doing a little bit of planning for some summer gatherings (barbecue, drive-in night, swimming, youth room clean-up day, etc.) as well as playing some games and enjoying a summer snack!

Next week there are a plethora of graduation parties scheduled for Sunday so there will be no youth groups while we celebrate! However, we will all celebrate the end of the school year with a party from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on *Saturday, June 14* at the **Rorrer** home. Watch this space for more details!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

Vacation Bible School will happen from *July 13-17*. This year our theme is: **Beach Party: Surfing Through the Scriptures.** We are currently seeking volunteers for all teaching, crafts, and other roles. Contact **Molly Chambers** or **Ryan Lambert** if you are interested in helping!

This year we are working very hard to purchase a minimal amount of our supplies as we seek to be as sustainable as possible and focus on re-using items that people may have lying around. Therefore, over the next few weeks you will find requests for items in this space. If you have the requested items please bring them to the church and leave them for Molly or Ryan marked "VBS." Please also mark them with your name if the item is to be borrowed! This week we are seeking sea shells, and small glass jars (8 oz. and smaller)

We are also seeking luau decorations to help with our decorating. If you have surf boards, palm tree decorations, coconut shells, or fun beach towels that you would be willing to loan for VBS, please contact Ryan or Molly.

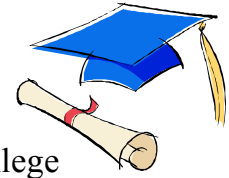
CELEBRATING ANOTHER ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

June 1 marks the 25th anniversary of the ordination of our former Associate Minister **Lois Van Leer**. Her current ad-

dress is: 417 W. Story, Bozeman, MT 59715.

LAST CHANCE FOR GRAD NEWS

Please submit or add information about 2008 high school and college graduates for the newsletter by ***June 3***. E-mail sbwickes@comcast.net, or drop off in the office the following: **graduate's name, school, plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information (honors, activities, etc).**



TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Graduation ceremonies are performed in March and Entrance ceremonies are performed at schools in April in Japan. The new school year begins in April when cherry blossoms are at their best. Graduation and Entrance ceremonies seem to become special memories because of cherry blossoms. Among our Church School students at Takarazuka Church, 4 students went on to junior high school, 5 students to senior high school, and 3 students to college. We are hoping that we will be visiting Corvallis someday with our youth group members. We will pray to be seeing you again.

All the members of the Partnership Committee

[Please see the Takarazuka bulletin board for a picture of the elementary school graduation.]

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share with you that I will be leaving my position as Co-Director and Campus Minister at United Campus Ministry at Westminster House (WestM) effective June 30, 2008. I have accepted the position as Director of Spiritual Life at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. I am excited about this new endeavor as it will provide opportunities for continued personal and professional growth. Additionally, the move gets me back "home" to the North Carolina mountains (where people drink sweet tea and talk like me) after a ten-year sojourn in the west.

I am grateful for the ways our lives and work have connected during my time in Corvallis. I truly appreciate the love and support that this church community has given to me personally and to the ministry of WestM. You have truly been a gift from God! I will always cherish the relationships that have meant so much to me during my time here at Oregon State University.

Know that I will continue to hold you and the ministry of this church in my prayers.

Peace to you,
Reverend Leah McCullough

SUPPORT TROOPS *from page 1*

need to be able to focus their attention on trying to stay alive, and not be distracted by questionable equipment. The pads that Lake Oswego UCC will be purchas-

ing are more comfortable, stable on the head, and cooler in hot weather than the ones the government provides. The liners cost \$56. For more information and to make a donation you can contact **John Sather** (503-459-2000), or the church directly.



MORE ON SUNDAY'S ADULT FORUM

Did you know that **Jeremiah Wright** dropped out of school to join the Marines during the Vietnam War and later transferred to the Navy? Did you know that Jeremiah Wright was the cardio-pulmonary technician present for LBJ's surgery? Did you know that Jeremiah Wright intended to major in Church History until he got a call to be the pastor at Trinity UCC, a church of less than 100, in Chicago's South side? Did you know that Trinity UCC now is the largest UCC congregation in the nation with about 6,000 members? So why did he utter those statements about the USA that got **Barack Obama** in so much trouble? **Bill Moyers**, a UCC member for over 40 years, asked him and we will see his response and discuss what it means to be a faithful prophetic witness these days at the Adult Forum this week. (And possibly next week if the discussion continues.)



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, June 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 30

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, June 1-C E Recognition

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
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
 5:40 p.m. Holy Sox game,
 N. Chintimini
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Tuesday, June 3

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, June 4

11:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship
 Board, Fireplace Rm.
NO Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, June 5

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

Friday, June 6

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

LOOKING AHEAD: *June 8:* Graduate Sunday; *Sunday, June 15:* 25th anniversary of **Caroline Zaworski's** ordination
Sunday, June 15: Summer worship schedule begins (worship at 9:30 a.m.; no C E classes); *Sunday, July 13:* Salmon Barbecue!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Jean Mater**, hospitalized for pneumonia;
 ...and with **Josh Mater**, recovering from a shrapnel wound in his shoulder, suffered in Iraq.