



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

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June 13, 2008

## **MOLLY CHAMBERS JOINS STAFF**

The Christian Education Board, with the approval of the Church Council, has hired **Molly Chambers** as a part-time Christian Education Assistant to work through the summer and into the fall. She has been and will be working with **Ryan Lambert** on closing out the current program year, organizing Vacation Bible School, and getting things set for the next program year. Molly previously worked as a Christian Education director in Flint, Michigan, and, due to ongoing fluidity with **Liz's** schedule with regard to **Jessie's** treatments, the CE Board worked to take advantage of Molly's skills and free up Ryan in the event that Liz would need to be gone for an extended period over the summer. Molly's salary will be paid by using expendable funds in the Christian Education Endowment. We welcome Molly to the staff and once again celebrate our deep bench of talented people!

## **A WORK EXPERIENCE THAT MAY CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**

The Mayas in Guatemala are rebuilding their lives after a civil war that lasted 40 years. Many from our church have

expressed an interest in becoming a part of that rebuilding. Want to know more?

We will have our first meeting to talk about what we would like to do on a trip to Guatemala in 2009 to be a part of their life-changing experience. The meeting will be *Wednesday, June 18*, at 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Hall at the church. We will see pictures of Charles and

*[continued on page 3]*

## **ORDINATION CELEBRATION**

Join us in the Fireplace Room after the service this *Sunday, June 15*, for finger foods and cake in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Caroline Zaworski's** ordination.

## **THIS SUNDAY**

*June 15*

**Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**Scriptures:** Genesis 18:1-15  
Matthew 9:35-10:8

**Sermon:** "More Than Tea  
and Cookies"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

My dear friend and mentor in ministry, Joe Williamson, died last week. None of you knew Joe, but almost everything I know, everything I do well as a Senior Minister, I attribute to him.

Joe came into my life when I was Associate Minister of Pilgrim Church in Duluth. He called one day out of the blue, told me that Plymouth Congregational in Seattle was looking for a new associate minister. Would I be interested in applying for the position? "Absolutely not!" I told him. "Why not?" he asked. "I will never be an Associate Minister again," I responded with feeling. "Senior Ministers are all pompous middle-aged men with out-of-control egos." (Actually I said more than that, but you don't need the gory details!) "I don't think I'm those things, except for a middle-aged man," Joe told me evenly. Then he gave me a list of all the staff with whom he'd ever worked, and his calling card number. "Call whomever you like," he challenged. "Then call me back."

Joe was one of the pioneers in collegial ministry. He believed that the job of a Senior Minister was not to be "the Star," but to model shared responsibility and to give his colleagues whatever support they needed to do their very best work. He didn't hog the limelight, the pulpit, or the most "prestigious" assignments in the church. He celebrated when I did well, coached me when I needed help. He was always ready to listen, to laugh, to push me to clearer thought, inclusive group process, and better preaching. No one could have a better friend in ministry.

Joe left Plymouth to be Dean of Religious Life at Princeton University. Shortly after he retired at age 70, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. The last several years have been difficult ones for him and for his wife Donna, who loved and cared for him devotedly. At one level, his death is a blessing, yet it opens the door to finally grieve the loss of his brilliant, loving, outrageously funny and generous spirit.

I have found myself this week wondering how many of you, like me, were fortunate enough to have a professional mentor? How many lives and careers have been enriched because one person took the time to care? Every discipline has its challenges and frustrations. At least in the case of divinity school, classroom learning doesn't prepare one well for the intricacies of congregational life. Being able to quote early 20th-century German theologians will only take you so far! So this week, I celebrate all the special folks who are willing, able, and secure enough to encourage their beginning colleagues. A man named Joe Williamson changed my life. I hope that many of you have been equally fortunate.

God bless you all, **Liz**



The **Middle** and **High School** youth will gather at the **Chris** and **Julie Rorrer's** home (4002 NW Walnut Ct.) on *Saturday, June 14*, to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer with a barbeque and potluck. People with last names A-L are to bring a salad to share and M-Z are to bring a dessert to share. Drinks and a main dish will be provided. **Pink Salmon**, our own house band, will play, and folks are invited to bring a friend or two! Feel free to bring a frisbee or football, and be sure to bring a smile and wear summer attire to let the clouds know we are serious about summer! See you there! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail ([ryan@ucc-corvallis.org](mailto:ryan@ucc-corvallis.org)).

P.S. Recent youth group alums are welcome, of course!

### **GUATEMALA** *from page 1*

Caroline's trip to Guatemala in 2007, talk about what the Mayas need, and how we might be a part of their growth.

Such a trip would include eating local fresh-cut pineapple and bananas, but it would also mean sitting down in their village while they feed us. It would mean seeing a beautiful country with bright flowers and birds, but it would also mean working in villages with little or no water and with homes where many still have dirt floors. It would mean shopping in their markets, but it would also mean

entering their lives of poverty. It would mean sharing their laughter and examining our understanding of what it means to be in Christian service.

If such a trip sounds interesting to you, join us on *June 18* to begin defining what we would like to do. If you cannot come to the meeting but are interested, let me know.

**Charles Helsabeck**



Sign up Sunday or call **Pat Johnson** to offer your help for this month's Stone Soup. Our day to serve is *Tuesday, June 17*, beginning at 3:00 at First Christian Church.

### **HEALTH CARE TOWN MEETING**

All are invited to a Town Hall Meeting about the Healthy Oregon Act (HOA, Senate Bill 329) on *Thursday, June 19*, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Community Building, at 12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe.

This bill is to be a mandate for health insurance for all Oregonians. You may want to influence what the state mandates us to do regarding health care insurance. All who are affected by health care in Oregon (everyone) will have a chance to express their views to a member of the Oregon Health Fund Board. The Board has been working on HOA for the past seven months and is gathering public comment now before finalizing a proposal for the 2009 legislative session.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, June 17.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, June 13*

8:00-noon C E wing clean-up

*Saturday, June 14*

5:00-8:00 Youth party, Rorrers'

*Sunday, June 15*

**9:30 a.m.** Worship  
 (following) Reception for ordination anniversary [p.1]

8:40 p.m. Holy Sox game,  
 E. Sunset

*Monday, June 16*

7:00 p.m. C E Board

*Tuesday, June 17*

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

*Wednesday, June 18*

7:00 p.m. Guatemala trip meeting  
 Meeting Hall

*Thursday, June 19*

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

5:30 p.m. Church Basketball

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,  
 Adams School  
**NO** Girl Scouts

*Friday, June 20*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

You are invited to join  
 friends, family and  
 the Rebound Jazz Quartet  
 for

Mike and Carol Huntington's  
 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance and cavort

Saturday, July 5, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
 Gatton Hall

in celebration of love, music, humor,  
 marriage, and hors d' oeuvres.

RSVP 745-5635 or  
[mchuntington@comcast.net](mailto:mchuntington@comcast.net)

No gifts, please!