

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 29

August 8, 2008

SUMMER CHOIR SINGS HERE

The OSU Summer Choir Concert will be held at our church, *Wednesday, August 13*, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will focus on the theme of travel and will include several spirituals, French and German pieces, and Durante's *Magnificat*. The student conductors are gifted musicians, under the supervision of **Steven Zielke**, who will also conduct a piece. Twelve of our own church choir members are singing in this chorus. A \$5 admission buys you a wonderful summer evening of musical entertainment.

REMEMBER YOUR PLEDGE!

Before you leave for your vacation, please remember that church expenses continue while you are away. Paying your pledge ahead helps keep us in the black. Thanks!



NEW BOOKS AWAIT YOU

There is a display in the church library of many new books with

topics which range from carbon footprints to theology. Come, have a look and check them out. Many thanks to **Marion Whitney** and **Janice Engle** for their assistance in processing new items.



THIS SUNDAY - August 10

Scriptures: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Matthew 14:22-33
Music: David Jones, horn
Sermon: "The Danger of Dreaming"
Ryan Lambert

NEXT SUNDAY - August 17

Music: Robin Miller, cello
Sermon: Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

It is wonderful to be back in Corvallis after vacationing for ten days in Eastern Washington and at Camp N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene in Northern Idaho. While away we spent time with family and were, for a majority of the time, outside the reach of cell phones and unable to get access to the internet. Even when we had access to technology or media I was intentional about trying to ignore the outside world and take seriously the idea of a Sabbath. However, I must admit that I struggled to be disconnected when I often find myself comforted by the media conveniences that have come to be almost "natural" to many of us. The tension I felt in being disconnected has led me to think about how our culture is seemingly unable to have Sabbath time that doesn't include our "technological comfort foods" like the internet, cell phones, text messaging, and televisions.

The idea of Sabbath comes, of course, from the first creation story in Genesis where God rested on the seventh day after spending the previous six creating the world. The model offered by God led to the idea of taking one day as a day of rest was born and, at one point, Sundays were a cultural "rest" day. However, the expansion of the work week and technological advances have in many ways caused us to lose our Sabbath time because we are constantly connected to our responsibilities through technology. One of the activities offered at camp was to spend time observing nature from a specific spot in camp and to write down the temperature, the animals we saw, and anything else we observed during our slot in this "creation vigil." I was struck by the fact that it also seemed like a chance to hold a "Sabbath Vigil" where we could be intentional about taking time to enjoy the scenes around us that even our camp activities would have had us miss. Those who participated in the vigil marveled at all that was happening if one would just sit still long enough to notice!

From that experience I am left to wonder what we might observe in our yards or in our city parks if we would simply commit to a few minutes of deliberate Sabbath time. But perhaps what interests me even more is the idea of finding ways to unplug ourselves from the technological comforts of our day and have actual Sabbath time in our home environments. What would it look like if we all committed to spending deliberate time on a technology Sabbath of our own volition? The stack of newspapers and most of the mail that collected while we were gone tells me that life will go on whether I read the internet recap or not...which is probably good for me to remember!

Is anyone up for joining me in a weekly technology Sabbath? Wednesday is my day, feel free to join me!

Ryan

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO COME
TO THE FAMILY BARBEQUE
PLANNED FOR AUGUST 8**

Families with a child or children 5th grade or younger are invited for a potluck gathering at **Ryan and Shauna Lambert's** home (2626 NW Linnan Circle) at 6:00 p.m. on *Friday, August 8*. Burgers, hot dogs, vegi-burgers and the fixings will be supplied. Families are asked to bring a salad to share with the group and to RSVP to Ryan at the church or via e-mail (ryan@ucc-covallis.org) by *Thursday, August 7* so that a proper amount a food can be purchased. Older children are of course welcome to join their younger siblings for this event! Please join us for a night of food and family fellowship

**GREETINGS TO ALL
PLAYERS, FAMILIES,
AND FANS!**

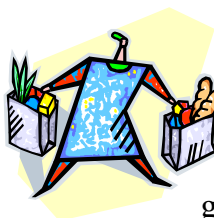
Mary and Norm Vedaa will host the Holy Sox season potluck on *Saturday, August 9*, at 5:00 at their home for players, families, fans, members, and friends. Join us at 3015 NW Christine Street, Corvallis.

Please RSVP yes or no (754-7143 or mnvedaa@comcast.net), and tell us what you plan to bring: either a main dish or a salad and appetizer. Dessert, lemonade, and a cold ice chest for anyone who wants to bring beer or soft drinks will be provided -- as well as plates and utensils.

You are welcome to bring a couple of lawn chairs, if it's convenient.



RE-USABLE BAGS FOR SALE!



Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a grocery bag project. We will be making a durable, washable and re-useable grocery bag that is similar to the handy plastic bags that are used in most stores. The fabric that is used is rip-stop nylon, so it is much lighter than the big canvas bags sold in the stores.

We will take orders for the bags to cover the cost--\$3 each. You can sign up on Sunday after church, where a sample will be available to look at, or call **Monine Stebbins** (754-8039) to place an order. You can pay for them on delivery.

The first workshop for making the bags will be held on *Thursday, August 21* from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the church. If you are willing to help with the construction of the bags, please contact Monine Stebbins. Women's Fellowship is trying to help us be more aware of our environment.

**50TH ANNUAL
RACE UNITY PICNIC**

Come and celebrate Unity in our Diversity on *Saturday, August 23*, at the Avery Park Lyon's Shelter, from noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be free food from 12:30 to 2:30 and free entertainment from Alexander Contreras (Costa Rican guitar, and Dave Chiller of Common Pulse (rhythm circle), and well as music of India. Activities for the kids are from 1:30-3:30. Everyone is welcome!

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear friends at First Congregational Church UCC in Corvallis:

Praise be to God!

Though it has been extremely hot here in Japan, all the members of Takarazuka Church are in God's blessings. We sent one of our beloved members to Heaven, but at the same time received new members. We hope you are all well. Jessie and Liz have always been in our prayers.

The Takarazuka bulletin board now has some photos showing cool scenery in Japan, photographed by Mr. Tabuchi, a church member. I hope you enjoy them.

In August, we will have our Peace Sunday Service. May God bless you with love and guidance.

Nobumi Fukui



As read in worship, August 3

PEACE SUNDAY LETTER

To our friends at First Congregational UCC in Corvallis:

Greetings on this Peace Sunday from Takarazuka Church with thanks for your friendship.

We rejoice in our strong friendship with your church in the U.S. Japanese people who experienced the unconditional surrender 63 years ago, on August 15th, 1945, could not have thought of this kind of relationship. Now, we can learn together that peace comes from understanding, respecting, loving, and con-

necting each other. In the world, however, we still observe unfortunate relationships, hurting each other without peace. We hope we can work together to build the world without pain and sorrow.

The plan to construct the U.S. military base in Okinawa has been promoted by both the governments of the U.S. and Japan. In the meantime, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly resolved in June to request the Japanese government not construct the new base in Henoko, Okinawa. Though this was a little relief not only for Okinawans fighting for peace in Okinawa but also for us, the Japanese government threatens Okinawa with termination of economic assistance. The poor trying to protect the environment from destruction are forced to be poorer and weaker.

The Bible assures us to believe Jesus stands beside the poor and the weak and invites us to stand by Him.

Peace does not mean to sacrifice others in order to protect just our own safety and wealth. Peace cannot be achieved by the weapons that scare and hurt others. Only stretching and holding our hands of love can realize peace.

We will never forget the critical sin committed by our country in the past. We hope we can walk together along the path of peace Jesus Christ walked, holding hands and learning the true peace each other.

Peace of God be with you.

From the members of
Takarazuka Church UCC in Japan



Join the Stone Soup crew for our next *Tuesday, August 19*. The meal will be prepared, starting at 3:00, at First Christian Church. The sign-up sheet will be available this Sunday.

Special thanks to **Monine Stebbins** who has agreed to coordinate Stone Soup during **Pat Johnson's** absence.

STILL COLLECTING STAMPS AND LABELS

We are still collecting canceled postage stamps for "Care to Share" in Washington county. The "Labels for Education" now need only the UPC symbols from the can labels and not the entire label. The labels "buy" supplies for the residential Crossroad School in Indiana which is related to the UCC. Many thanks to all the collectors who place these items in the second drawer of the nametag cabinet!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WOMEN'S CAMP

Women in the congregation need to mark your fall calendars for our Central Pacific Women's Camp on *October 17-19* and plan to join us at Camp Adams that weekend. The Rev. **Jean Doane** from Aloha will be the resource leader and the theme is "God Is Still Giving" (as well as speaking). Registration forms will be available at our church literature rack in August. Contact **Nancy Klinge-**

man for additional information.

READ & FEED MEETS

Read & Feed will discuss *Temptations of the West* by Pankaj Mishra this *Sunday, August 10*, at the home of **Bob** and **Monine Stebbins**. The discussion begins at 7:00 with dessert after. Next month's book is *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for believing in Northwest House as we continue to grow as an institution. Your contribution [\$262] and good wishes mean the world to the students and staff here. Through your gifts and continued efforts, you are a blessing to Northwest House.

Carla Rathbun,
Director of Development



Congratulations to **Erin** and **Evan Scheessele** on the birth of son **Peter Brady Scheessele**, 8½ lbs., on July 16. All are doing well and catching up on their sleep.

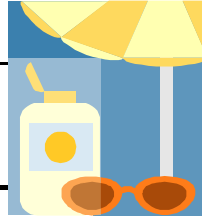
Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Barbara Clausen** and her family following the death of her father, **Carl "Bob" Clausen**, on July 10.



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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, August 8

6:00 p.m. Family barbecue,
Lambert [see p. 3]

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, August 9

5:00 p.m. Holy Sox potluck [p. 3]

Sunday, August 10

9:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Adult Education
Committee,
Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins
[see p. 5]

Monday, August 11

7:00 p.m. C E Board,
Conference Room

Tuesday, August 12

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

Wednesday, August 13

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
7:30 p.m. Summer Choir Concert,
Sanctuary [see p. 1]

Friday, August 15

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, August 17

9:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, August 19

9:00 a.m. Staff

3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest, Chapel

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Thursday, August 21

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, August 22

7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, August 31:* The Labor Day Ecumenical Park Service, will be at the Starker Arts Park, due to a scheduling conflict at Central Park; *Wednesday, September 3:* Sanctuary Choir begins rehearsals; *Sunday, September 7:* New church program year begins; *Sunday, September 21:* Welcome Back Event; *October 5:* World Communion Sunday