

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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September 19, 2008

4TH GRADERS TO RECEIVE BIBLES, TEACHERS TO BE COMMISSIONED



It is a tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ to give bibles to students in their 4th grade year. These bibles are engraved with their names and are a gift from our congregation which celebrates their maturing faith. Our class of 4th graders (and some older youth) will receive their bibles this Sunday in worship as a part of our commissioning of our Christian Education program. Join us as we celebrate the gifts and commitments of our church school program, our church school teachers, and this important place on the journey of some of our young people.

In addition to the fellowship and general silliness, there will be games (croquet, of course, for all skills levels; bocce ball, badminton) and bicycles built for two (or more!). Tea will be served along with elegant sandwiches, cookies, scones, etc.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

The great Food Wrap has begun. Remember to bring commercially-canned and packaged food items to line the walls of the sanctuary between now and *October 5*. Can we bring in a ton? Two tons? Can we "wrap" the sanctuary in food gifts for the South Corvallis Food Bank? [See page 3 for details.]



High Tea and Croquet is Here!

Join us this *Sunday, September 19*, for our welcome-back event: High Tea and Croquet. Gather on the church front lawn at 4:00. Wear your "dress whites" and most outrageous hat, if you'd like.

THIS SUNDAY

September 21

Adult Forum: "What Do We Do??: How Women's Fellowship contributes to the life of the church"

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-25
Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon: "Daily Bread"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Last week the *Gazette-Times* ran an article called "Too Many Mouths to Feed" that detailed one of the challenging realities of our current economic environment. Reporter Bennett Hall correctly, I think, noted that amid growing local needs for assistance and even with a proliferation of local non-profit organizations, the basic needs for some members of our community remain unmet simply because there are "too many mouths to feed" in Corvallis. Mr. Hall detailed the breadth of the non-profit community in Corvallis and also questioned the "stand-alone" nature of many non-profits, wondering if some consolidation might be necessary to improve our community's ability to help those in need. Although I am still ruminating upon his article and I am not sure about his conclusions, I deeply appreciate the article for raising challenging questions for our community.

One of the things that I found interesting about Mr. Hall's article was that although he listed several ministry organizations among his list of non-profits, he did not mention the work that is done on a congregation-by-congregation basis—in hours worked at shelters, in budget dollars that underwrite shelters, in emergency meals prepared and delivered, and in financial and in-kind contributions to Stone Soup and others such programs. By my count there were at least 15 programs listed in the article that our congregation directly supports and Stone Soup and others weren't among those listed. I write this not simply to give our congregation a pat on the back, knowing that, along with many community members, we are joined by congregations across the region in responding to the needs of our community. However, I do publicly want to say "thank you" for all the work that you, as individual members of our congregation, do in service to our community, both with your hands and with your financial gifts. When I look around at how much you all are doing I am inspired!

As Bennett Hall noted in his article there are many needs in our community and as such I want to again invite you to participate in wrapping our sanctuary in non-perishable food items as we prepare for MissionFest on World Communion Sunday on October 5. Our food donations will be used to stock the South Corvallis Food Bank and they will remind us of the wide range of anti-hunger work that is done on our behalf through Church World Service—the focus of our Mission Fest. Bring your food donations each of the next three Sundays as we respond to the hunger pangs of the body of Christ in our community.

Thank you again for your compassion, generosity, and hard work!

Blessings,

Ryan



There will be no separate gathering for the youth groups this week as we will be joining in the all-church High Tea and Croquet event at 4:00 p.m. The youth will be helping with the clean-up after the event so please plan to stay and help!

On *Sunday, September 28*, the youth groups will be gathering at the home of **Judy and Jim Juntunen** where we will be gathering apples and pressing cider. Middle School will gather from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and High School from 5:00-7:00 p.m. More details next week!



Our Stone Soup meal program needs a volunteer to supervise kitchen and dining room clean-up at the Christian Church on *November 18*, and *December 16*. There is a Stone Soup handbook to answer questions. Please call or e-mail **Carol Huntington** or **Pat Johnson**.

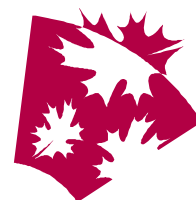
First Congregational prepares and serves the 5:30 p.m. meal on the 3rd and 5th Tuesday of each month.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS PROGRAM YEAR

On *Wednesday, October 1*, Women's Fellowship will have a luncheon at noon followed by the program "What's Up in Women's Medicine?" presented by our parish nurse **Caroline Zaworski**. All

women of the church are invited to sign up for this event after church this Sunday. Price for lunch is \$5 and childcare can be provided if requested in advance. The program ends by 2:00 p.m. Here's your chance to get better acquainted with other women in our congregation!

CORVALLIS FALL FESTIVAL BOOTH WANTS YOU!



Help introduce the church to those who may be looking for a progressive church community on *Saturday, September 27*, or *Sunday, September 28*. Sign-ups to engage your outgoing friendliness during brief 2-hour segments will be taken after Sunday's worship service, or by contacting **Marsha Gulick**. The booth will be staffed 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with a little set-up and take down each day. Perks include proximity to bike parking, library, music, food, and free admission :)

FOOD BANK WISH LIST

For September, October and November: **Any protein, vegetable or hearty soup items, dental hygiene items, jam-jellies (no canned at home) and herbal tea.**

Also, folks interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact **Bettina** by e-mail at: miller2406@comcast.net

For more information about the Food Bank, see their website at: <http://www.southcorvallisfoodbank.org/>



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 23.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 19

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, September 21

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, Meeting Hall
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 4:00 p.m. **Welcome Back Event
 High Tea & Croquet,**
 Church lawn

Tuesday, September 23

8:30 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:15 p.m. Church Council
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, September 24

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 25

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

Friday, September 26

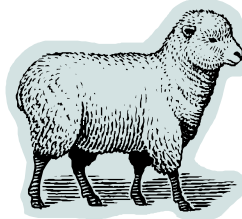
7:30 p.m. Badminton

Thanks

... to **Joe and Michael Chambers**, for creating a tray for the youth room;
 ... and, as always, to our lawn mowing and grounds maintenance crew who keep our church's green setting looking its best.

CHURCH SCHOOL KIDS!

Remember our "woolification" project for Heifer and bring your dimes to church school. Ten cents "buys" a cotton ball (up to five per week per child) until our sheep represents the sheep we will purchase for a needy family.



Our Thoughts and Prayers

... continue to be with **Karen French**, at home and doing better after her return to the hospital last weekend.