



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 37

October 17, 2008

## YOUTH CAR WASH BENEFITS CORVALLIS DAY- TIME DROP-IN CENTER



This Sunday morning, *October 19*, the middle and high school youth will be doing a car wash during church school and worship. The money collected will be used to help defray the operating costs of the **Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center** which provides services for the homeless and mentally ill in our community. The Drop-In Center has recently moved into a new space, but in doing so has seen their rent increase dramatically. This is your opportunity to help!

**How does it work?** If you want your car washed, please pick up a car wash ticket as you enter the parking lot on Sunday morning. Leave the ticket and your keys on the dash of your **unlocked** car when you park. We will wash your car and return it to a parking space where you can pick it up after worship. Please place your donations for the Drop-In Center in the can near the entrance to Gatton Hall. Thank you for helping meet the needs of the homeless and mentally

ill in Corvallis!

## *Reminder* FILM FESTIVAL HERE SUNDAY

The film festival, offered by our local Community of Welcoming Congregations churches and OSU, is showing "Call Me Malcolm" at our church this *Sunday, October 19*, at 7:00 p.m. This documentary feature about a transgender seminary student is not a "how to transition" film, but a film about the universal self-seeking that we all do. Please join us. (Check out page 5 of this issue for the remaining films in this series and their locations.)

## **THIS SUNDAY**

*October 19*

**Adult Forum:** **Cliff and Jo Anne Trow** conclude their consideration of the 2008 state ballot measures with Measures 54, 55 56, 63, 64 and 65.

**Scriptures:** Exodus 33:12-23  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Sermon:** "Is It Enough?"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Fall Gathering is coming! About 100 of our friends from all over the Central Pacific Conference will be descending on our church Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25. Fall Gathering is traditionally a time for education and fellowship. In recent years, we have instituted one business session, but mostly, still, the focus is on offering workshops and getting to know each other better. This year, we have the added draw of hosting the service of installation for and hearing the first address from our new Conference Minister, The Rev. Walter John Boris. A complete schedule of the Gathering, as well as workshop topics, follow.

Fall Gathering is open to all of you. You might particularly enjoy the installation service on Friday night or the Conference Minister's address on Saturday morning. If you would like to attend any or all of the event, please sign up by Sunday. Though we will not charge registration fees for visitors from the church, if you would like to participate in Friday dinner or Saturday lunch, there is a nominal charge. Volunteers, of course, eat for free!!! And we still need food service volunteers for Friday evening and Saturday lunch. [See Monine Stebbins on Sunday morning.]

So come as you are able and participate in the life of our Conference. It's a wonderful way to get a sense of the larger church and meet some really nice folks.

**Fall Gathering Schedule**

*Friday, October 24:*

4:30            Registration  
 5:30            Dinner  
 7:00            Installation service for The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris

*Saturday, October 25:*

9:00            Worship  
 10:15          Conference Minister address  
 11:15          Business meeting  
 12:00          Lunch  
 1:30            Panel Discussion on "Sacred Conversation on Race"  
 2:50            Workshops *[see below]*  
 4:00            Closing Communion

Workshop topics are Holy Humor Sunday; Together in Mission: The CPC Back Bay Mission Trip; Latest Stewardship Developments; Including Your Church in Estate Planning; the National Youth Event 2008; and Oregon Fall Ballot Measures: A

Faith Perspective. A more complete printed description of these workshops will be available for pick-up at church on Sunday.

See you there!

Liz



**The Middle and High School** youth groups will be going on a field trip on Sunday afternoon to **Mike and Carol Huntington's** house, a home built with ecological thought as a focus. Please meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. to car-pool out to the Huntington home.

Following our tour of the Huntingtons' home we will go for pizza. Please bring \$5 to help purchase pizza. We will return to the church around 6:30 p.m.

*Mark your calendars*

#### UPCOMING

#### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- *Saturday, November 1* (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.) – **Dia de los Muertos** Come experience the “The Day of the Dead” celebration with us as we eat a meal, learn about this Latin American cultural tradition, and participate in some of the activities associated with remembering our loved ones that are no longer with us. Please bring mementoes, pictures, and stories of loved ones you would like to celebrate on this festive occasion. The CE

Board will provide meat and vegetarian main dishes plus dessert and you are invited to provide a side dish or salad.

- *Sunday, November 9* – after worship (Bring your soup and bread with you.) **Christmas Pageant parent meeting** – find out what we’re doing and how you can get involved!
- *Saturday, November 15* (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) **sort food for the Thanksgiving Baskets** – all ages can participate in this community wide service project - Guerber Hall, Benton County Fairgrounds
- *Sunday, November 30*: – (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.) **Advent Festival** – Gatton Hall
- *Saturday, December 13* **Hanging of the Greens** – (2:00 – 5:00 p.m.)
- *Wednesday, December 24* (5:30 worship service) **Christmas Pageant**



Our Tuesday to provide Stone Soup this month is *October 21*. Please look for the sign-up sheet this Sunday and add your name to join the crew for preparation (which begins at 3:00), serving and/or clean-up at First Christian Church.

### "HOW TO WELCOME - 101"

While greeting at the front door on Sunday, October 5, I observed an encouraging encounter. **Carol Huntington** entered with a woman I did not recognize and announced, "This is Michelle." Carol then moved away, leaving me to speak with Michelle.

Assuming that the two were acquainted, I asked Michelle how she knew Carol. "I don't," she replied. "We came in together from the parking lot and she welcomed me." Then our visitor mentioned how much she appreciated a church member going out of her way to make her feel less like a stranger.

Later, listening as the scripture (Matthew 25:31-40) was read, I recalled the earlier incident. "Come, you that are blessed by my Father...I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ... Just as you did it to one ... of those who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Thanks, Carol, for providing such a good example to the rest of us.

**Nancye Ballard**

### **CAR CONTENTS CAUTION**

A lot of people, many unaffiliated with our church, pass through our parking lot. Unlocked cars, and interesting stuff on display inside them, may offer a considerable temptation. Even mail on the seat, with your name and address visible, can constitute a security risk. Help avoid car damage and/or theft, but taking precautions.

### **ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT HEALTH?**

*Unnatural Causes* is a documentary series that shows how work, wealth, neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to resources and power can make people just as sick as germs and viruses. Learn how effective social policies and local action can create healthy communities.

The **Health Equity Alliance** invites you to a conversation about health in our community *Monday, October 27, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.* at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe St.

Join us to view the new "Place Matters" episode of the *Unnatural Causes* series. Voice your ideas about important health issues facing our community, participate in a community assessment, and help define priorities for next steps

A light dinner catered by FireWorks will be served starting at 6:15. This event is free and open to the public.

### **F.Y.I**

The canned and packaged food we gathered last month in the sanctuary, faithfully delivered by **Tim and Larry Thornton**, was received with gratitude by the South Corvallis Food Bank. They called to report that our donation totaled an impressive 639 lbs.!

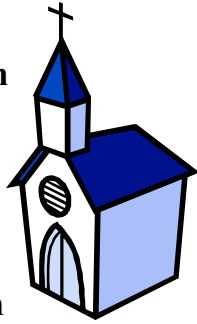
You can follow the travels of **Ed and Karen Miller** to Japan and Thailand on Karen's blog:

[nautilus-fiberarts.blogspot.com](http://nautilus-fiberarts.blogspot.com)

## WHY GO TO CHURCH?

[Passed along by **Ann Hawkins**]

A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.



"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

## FILM SERIES *from page 1*

- *Sunday October 26, 3:00 p.m.*  
First United Methodist Church" A Jihad for Love"-- Filmmaker Parvez Sharma travels the many worlds of the dynamic Muslim faith discovering the stories of its most unlikely storytellers: lesbian and gay Muslims.
- *Sunday, November. 2, 5:00 p.m.*  
Beit Am (625 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street)  
"Trembling Before G-d." Intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, and who seek to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.

Dear Church Family,

I arrived home Saturday afternoon and immediately set to work harvesting from the frost damaged tomato and squash plants, mowing the lawns, and cleaning and checking the furnace for winter operation. Now that I've had a chance to attend the Sunday service and read through the mail and e-mail, I am grateful for all your caring cards, notes, and messages related to the death of my father. Many thanks.

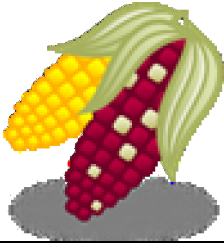
Brian Lee

## Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Sandy Murphy**, recovering at home at elbow replacement surgery performed last Tuesday.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 21.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, October 17*

6:00 p.m. Confirmation overnight  
 (through 1:00 p.m.  
 Saturday)

*Sunday, October 19*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5  
**9:30-noon Youth car wash**  
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 (following) Inquirers' class  
 3:30 p.m. Youth meet for trip  
 to Huntingtons' home  
 7:00 p.m. "Call Me Malcolm"  
 film [see page 1]

*Monday, October 20*

7:00 p.m. C E Board  
 7:00 p.m. Fall Gathering planning

*Tuesday, October 21*

8:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup  
 7:00 p.m. EMF Board

7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1  
*Wednesday, October 22*  
 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, October 23*

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

*Friday, October 24*

**4:30 p.m. Fall Gathering begins**  
 [see page 2]



to the group of caring people who have recently provided meals for members of our church family, and fruit and cookies for our recent memorial services. There are more folks than we can name here, but we welcome anyone who'd like to be added to the "to-call" list. Contact the church office and tell us you'd like to help in this way in the future.