



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 40

November 7, 2008

CHORAL MUSIC FESTIVAL THIS SUNDAY

Choirs and ensembles from mid-valley Methodist Churches and partnering congregations, will present a concert this *Sunday, November 9*, at 3:00 p.m. at the Corvallis First United Methodist Church. Our church sanctuary choir, under the direction of **Steven Zielke**, will be singing "The Kontakion." The combined choirs will sing "How Can I Keep from Singing." A free-will offering in support of United Campus Ministry will be taken; refreshments follow. Please join us for an hour of joyful music.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sign-ups begin this Sunday after worship (or call the church office) to participate in the preparation, clean-up, and, best of all, eating of our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The event takes place following worship on *Sunday, November 23* in Gatton Hall.

When you list your name to attend, please add the item you will bring to share. We will need about two times more side dishes/salads as desserts.

Our sharing will extend to the wider
[continued on page 3]

PAGEANT MEETING AFTER CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Parents of children and youth are invited to pick up a bowl of soup and gather in the Fireplace Room on Sunday for a brief meeting about the Christmas Pageant that will be the focus of the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve. This is an important meeting as we will talk about our rehearsal schedule, seek volunteers for costuming and other help, and answer questions. If you are unable to be there, please contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail to assure a role for your child or youth.

THIS SUNDAY

November 9

Adult Forum: The Rev. **Tim Stover** and OSU students will report on Westminster House.

Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "From the Past to
the Future"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

This month marks the 125th birthday of our church! As part of the annual Stewardship campaign, we have prepared "memory books" with pictures, collected facts and figures, and quotations from the church's past. Stewardship calls will begin next week. We hope that you will enjoy the memory book and your time with your caller. These visits are a chance to think about where the church has been and where it is going, and what gifts you have to give as we move forward together.

Over the past week, I have spent many hours reading around in the old records of the church. They tell a tale of good times and difficult times, of a congregation of people squarely approaching the challenges of ministry in their time. Always, as part of that mission, they have insisted on intellectual integrity and spiritual and theological depth. Always, the church's mission moved beyond itself and outward into a variety of forms of service. I am proud to claim our history and excited by the possibilities for ministry ahead of us.

Our proximity to OSU is a continuing theme throughout our history. For me, one of the most impressive facts I found in my journey through many years of Trustee and Church Council minutes, along with year-end reports, was that in 1923, our church adopted an annual budget of \$4500 and a budget for ministry among college students of \$600. This commitment to student spiritual life was a huge stretch for the congregation, but a project taken on with great enthusiasm.

We still support bringing together the best of education and theology through the ministries of United Campus Ministry at Westminster House. In a world where both absolute secularity and fundamentalist religion are gaining ground, there are too few voices that call together for intellectual integrity and spiritual depth. West-M is one of those places. This Sunday, you will have the opportunity to hear more about the current work of Westminster House at Adult Education. Our monthly Soup and Bread lunch will be a benefit for West-M, our chance to provide extra support to what has been a historic commitment of our church to having a liberal protestant voice ministering to the OSU campus. The nature of campus ministry has changed through the decades, but not the need.

Throughout this month of November, we will be celebrating various aspects of our history. May a better sense of our past be our friend as we work together to thoughtfully and prayerfully create our future.

God bless you all.

Liz



The **Middle and High School** youth will meet this *Sunday, November 9*, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively. Next weekend (*November 15 and 16*) we will have two activities. First, we will sort food at the community food drive collection site at the Fairgrounds from 10:00 am to noon on *Saturday, November 15*. This is an intergenerational event so friends and parents are welcome! Secondly, on Sunday the 16th both groups will meet at the church at 4:45 pm for a progressive dinner. We will be going to four different homes for appetizers, salad, a main dish, and dessert. More information will be available on Sunday.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES TO SHIFT LOCATIONS

We are excited to have Gifts for a Better World using some of the church space over the next couple of weeks. Their presence in our building does create some logistical challenges on Sunday morning, however, and will necessitate moving two of our CE classes for the remainder of November. For the next few weeks our **First-Third Grade class will meet in the Fireplace Room** and our **Fourth and Fifth Grade class will meet in the library**.

HELPING HANDS OF ALL AGES

Our youth group will be joined by Boy Scout Troop 1 in sorting the food

donations that come in during the Community Food Drive. We are staffing the slot from 10 a.m. to noon on *November 15* and we would like to extend an open invitation to church members and friends to join us. The relatively light work involves sorting items food items so that they can later be easily by packaged into the food boxes that will be given to needy families in advance of Thanksgiving. This is a great event for families with young children (**Grace Lambert** focused on corn when she helped two years ago!) and it offers a great opportunity to make a difference in the community while working alongside our youth and scouts. Plan to join us! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

THANKGIVING DINNER *from p. 1*

community as we bring forward canned and packaged food items during the first hymn of the service on the 23rd. Checks to the South Corvallis Food Bank, who will receive the donated food, will also be gratefully received.

SING A HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY TO THE CHURCH

As a concrete way of celebrating our 125th birthday, we will be buying copies of "The Faith We Sing" as a supplementary hymnal for worship. These soft-cover hymnals contain both a larger selection of new hymns than our current hymnal and some older hymns that our hymnal left out. The cost for one hymnal

is \$14.00. You can give the hymnal in celebration of or in memory of a person or persons you want remembered. Singing has always been an important part of our congregational life. We'd like to order 125 to 150 copies of this new singing resource. Would you like to participate? Forms for hymnal dedication are available in the church office; please mark checks clearly for the hymnal fund.

READ & FEED THIS SUNDAY

The Read & Feed group will meet at the home of **Greg and Rose Christianson** on *Sunday, November 9*, to discuss *Saving Fish From Drowning* by Amy Tan. The talking starts at 7:00; the dessert eating follows.

MUSIC CD BENEFITS NEW ORLEANS MUSICIAN'S VILLAGE

New Orleans still needs help! That should come as no surprise. At the Fall Gathering of our UCC Conference, one of Saturday's workshops focused on telling the story of the UCC Back Bay Mission project and our CPCUCC delegation that went down to help. Among those in that group were **Nancy and Peter Klingeman**.

Fall Gathering raised awareness of another helping project. Denise Anderson, pastor at Clackamas UCC, and her talented son began to gather support from Portland area musicians to put together a benefit CD for the New Orleans Musician's Village. The CD, "Way Back Home," is awesome and it is available.

Everything necessary to put the CD together was donated work and our church (and other CPCUCC churches) have them for sale (\$15.00)...just in time for Christmas stocking stuffers. See **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** after church if you are interested in supporting this fund raiser.

PIE PARTY FOR FOOD SECURITY IN CORVALLIS

Fighting hunger? Gardening to supplement your family's food supply? Concerned with the affordability of organic, local, healthy food? If so please join us for **A Holiday Pie Party** in celebration of those working toward a food-secure Corvallis on *November 16*, 3:00-5:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church of Christ. The cost is \$7-\$25; no one turned away for lack of funds.

A panel will address the role of local farmers in food security and how these issues play out on a state and national level. After the presentation, everyone is invited to enjoy pumpkin pie and apple cider while continuing to discuss how we can help each other bring food security to Corvallis, listening to a local band, and possibly winning some door prizes!

Questions? Contact "That's My Farmer" Coordinator **Anna Cates**, (thatsmyfarmer@gmail.com or 757-1988 ext.107).

The Pie Party, a benefit for "That's My Farmer!", is co-sponsored by Benton County Health Department, Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets, the Health Equity Alliance, Linn-Benton Food

Share, Slow Food Corvallis, Ten Rivers Food Web, the Youth Garden Project, and Corvallis faith communities

"That's My Farmer" is a grassroots farmers' market coupon project which connects faith communities with local farms and helps low-income families access fresh, local food. It is coordinated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Nancy Henderlite**, recovering from back surgery;
...and with **Cindy Quesenberry's** mother, **Jacqueline**, recovering from a hip replacement.

International Holiday Store



Gifts for a
**BETTER
WORLD**

Celebrating Our 19th Season in Corvallis

NOVEMBER ONLY 11/8 thru 11/30

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

4515 West Hills Rd, Corvallis

Unique Fair Trade Items by
Artisans in Developing Countries

Also gift Items for sale by many
Local Non-Profit Groups

Affordable
prices - many
items under

\$20!

STORE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm Saturday 10 am - 5 pm Sunday Noon - 5 pm

CASH AND CHECKS ONLY

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends at First Congregational UCC in Corvallis,

This fall is rather warm, and we are enjoying a good season, though the leaves have not turned red yet.

In September, we had a revival meeting as well as a retreat at our church. We held the retreat at our church this year, though we visited other churches to study together in exchange programs over the past two years. The retreat, with a theme "What is the redemption for people of today?" was participated in by 31 people. We had discussions in six groups, following 6 propositions presented by participants, and then a plenary session. The participants joined the discussions from a variety of viewpoints, covering the current trend, general definition, Japanese religious characteristics, philosophy, and personal experiences. Because the number of people in each group was rather small, everyone was able to join the discussions, and we had a good time.

We have been busy with preparing for a bazaar to be held in October. We hear a lot about the U.S. presidential election lately in our news.

Let us pray and move for peace together.

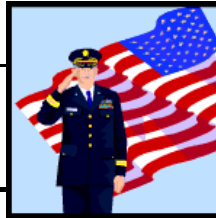
Nobumi Fukui,

a member of Takarazuka Church
(Please see the photo on the
Takarazuka bulletin board.)



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is November 11, 2008.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, November 7

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

Sunday, November 9

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
[see page 3]

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) Soup 'n' Bread

(following) Children's Choir

**(following) Pageant parents,
 Fireplace Room**

5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth

6:30 p.m. High School Youth

7:00 p.m. Read & Feed,
 Christianson *[p. 4]*

Monday, November 10

9:00 a.m. Staff

7:00 p.m. Mission Board

Tuesday, November 11-Veterans' Day

Office closed

Noon Lectionary class

6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee,

Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board, Library

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, November 12

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 13

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

SOUP 'N' BREAD BENEFITS WESTMINSTER HOUSE

This Sunday's donations for Sunday's Soup 'n' Bread will help support the work of West M. Please join us for food and fellowship after worship on *November 9*, and support this important ministry.

We still need some kitchen help that morning, starting at 9:30. Call the church office to offer your services on set-up, serving, or clean-up (including dish-washing).