



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

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January 2, 2009



## Epiphany Art Festival

Each year after the Christmas decorations come down, we mark Epiphany with an exhibit reflecting the artistic gifts of our congregation. Take some time after worship this Sunday to appreciate this display in the sanctuary.

**Artists of all ages:** Submit your art work for our art display in the sanctuary, from *January 4* through *February 22*.

Bring ready-to-hang or ready-to-display pieces to the narthex on or before 10:00 a.m. on *Saturday, January 3*. Each piece should have, attached to the back, a paper with the following: Artists' name, Title of work, Medium, Price (if for sale) or insurance value.

If you need a pedestal for your work, or if you have any questions, contact **Karen French** (754-9639).

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO KICK-OFF NEW YEAR WITH INTERGENERATIONAL CLASS

On *January 4*, the Adult Education Forum and our Children/Youth Christian Education program will gather together for an intergenerational learning oppor-

tunity led by the **Caring for Creation** team. Have you ever wondered how much electricity your appliances use? Or how erosion happens? Have you ever struggled to determine the difference between recyclable materials, compostable material, and trash. Join us **this Sunday** at 9:30 to learn about putting our faith in practice by caring for creation.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN FIREPLACE ROOM THIS WEEK

Due to the floor refinishing in Gattton Hall, we will gather for coffee and conversation after worship this Sunday in the Fireplace Room.

**Remember that there is to be NO foot traffic in Gattton Hall until *January 9!***

## THIS SUNDAY

*January 4-- Communion*

**Adult Forum:** *[see left]*

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon:** "No Longer Kneeling"  
Ryan Lambert

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

Dear Friends,

The Christmas rush is over. The end of the year is upon us. This morning after worship we "un-hung" most of the greens. As I watched the small army of instantly-recruited volunteers step up to do the work, all I could think about is the steady march of willing hands and feet through the church this past month. We put on the Advent Festival; we hang the greens; the choir sings special music; the bell choir and Occasional Congregational Orchestra tune up; our financial volunteers work to close out 2008 and get us set up for 2009; we stage a Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. It's hundreds of hours of work if you think about it--through rain and snow and sleet and dark of night. It is the ordinary work of the church in this season, but in this case the ordinary is extraordinary.

I hope I tell you often enough how humbled I am by your generosity, by your multi-faceted commitment to this church whose ministry we share. I never want to take the ordinary expression of your extraordinary grace for granted, and I don't want you to take it for granted either. This is a special community. I feel honored to be a part of it, and that sense of privilege keeps being renewed.

Thank you.

Happy New Year!

**Liz**

**JACKSON STREET YOUTH  
SHELTER IS JANUARY MISSION  
OFFERING**

During the cold of winter is a wonderful time for all of us to think about those without shelter. In addition to the winter shelter at the Westside Church, there is a shelter for youth that is open all year round. The **Jackson Street Youth Shelter** provides emergency shelter, as well as transitional housing for youth waiting for a new permanent residence. Staff are on duty 24/7 to make sure that youth are supported and supervised. Medical care, clothing, personal items and recreational opportunities are pro-

vided. Linkages to services, case management, classes on independent living, family support, tutoring and aftercare are also services the shelter provides.

Benton County Juvenile Department Director Al Krug says, "The Jackson Street Youth Shelter is a valued resource that fills a need in the community. Lack of shelter shows by kids ending up in detention or on the street."

When you are giving to our church in January, please consider also giving to the mission offering for the Jackson Street Youth Shelter. There are also opportunities to volunteer at the shelter so contact the staff at 754-2404.

## NO WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY

Women's Fellowship will not meet this month.



### BUSHEL OF THANKS!

The Christmas Eve 5:30 service was a moving experience due to the collaborative (and heroic) efforts of children, teens, parents, and staff involved. It took everyone's effort to work around busy schedules, weather, and illness to make the pageant a fun learning experience for all. A special thanks goes to **Lauren Hurt** for directing our eclectic group of actors and being flexible with her time, **Molly Chambers** for overseeing the production, **Nicola Zielke** for leading the Children's Choir and **Sarah Hoffman's** assisting the Children's choir in Kristen's absence. **Susan Wickes** and **Rachell Carlisle** were our stellar costume and makeup team, **Joe Chambers** fashioned the "moving star," **Megan Chambers** worked with **Ryan** on lights and sound for the production, and **Natalie Lucker** took care of our shepherds and sheep when they were off stage. Thanks to all our **parents** that brought snacks, games, props, and provided chauffeur services through inclement weather. It took the efforts of a (heavenly) host of volunteers to put together what will surely be a life-long memory for many of those involved.

## DIAL-A-BUS SAYS THANKS

Thank you for your recent donation of \$1022.50.

We have decided to use a portion of these funds to purchase a digital camera for the program. This is one of the items we have had on our wish list for a while now. We have disposable cameras in all of our vehicles in the event of an accident. These cameras are convenient but costly, not only to purchase, but also to develop. In the event of an accident the protocol is to call in to the office and document the incident. The digital camera will allow us to send someone from the office, circumstances permitting, to document the incident and then we would print only the pictures needed instead of having to utilize a whole camera and incur the development costs just for the few pertinent pictures required.

The remainder of the funds would remain in the general fund earmarked for special projects that would benefit the program and continue to allow Dial-A-Bus to serve our target population.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our mission to provide transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Sincerely, Linda Elder, Director  
Benton County Senior Citizens  
Dial-A-Bus

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARY ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

Beth and Wally Christianson 1/14 **65<sup>th</sup>**  
Pat Johnson and Dorothy Price 1/26 **1<sup>st</sup>**



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 6.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, January 2*

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,  
 Shari's

*Saturday, January 3*

10:00 a.m. Hanging of the art  
 show, Sanctuary  
 [see page 1]

*Sunday, January 4*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 (see page 1)  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 (following) **Fellowship in  
 Fireplace Room**

*Monday, January 5*

9:00 a.m. Staff

*Tuesday, January 6*

Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board  
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate  
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1,  
 Meeting Hall

*Wednesday, January 7*

**NO** Women's  
 Fellowship

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, January 8*

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*Friday, January 9*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

**MISSION OFFERING THANKS**

Thank you for your generous donation (\$175) to the South Corvallis Food Bank. A \$25 donation will provide enough food for 2 households for 405 days. Every dollar is tax-deductible.

Your generosity and concern for those in need in our community are greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your support of the South Corvallis Food Bank.

Mariol Wogaman,  
 South Corvallis Food Bank volunteer