



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 6

February 6, 2009



Sign up after worship on *February 8, 15, or 22* to participate in this year's small group pancake suppers to be held on *February 24*.

Shrove Tuesday (also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) is celebrated the night before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Historically, one made a meal to use up the lard in one's home in preparation for Lent when no animal products were eaten.

At First Congregational we have created our own version of Shrove Tuesday which gives us an opportunity to share a simple pancake supper with 6-8 people. This is a wonderful way to visit with a few Congregational friends in someone's home. You may sign up to be a host (we need 4-5) or a guest. Supper groups will be formed and those participating will know what group they will be a part of by *February 22*.

If you have questions, stop by the table in Gatton Hall on Sunday or call **Marsha Gulick** (754-8367) or **Tanya Andersson** (231-9713).

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 15
at the end of worship,
to consider funding sidewalk repair

PREVIEW LENTEN CLASSES

On *Ash Wednesday, February 25*, we begin our Lenten program with a simple meal, worship and classes. There will be a display in Gatton Hall after worship this Sunday to preview Lenten class offerings (both "flash" classes that end at the start of choir practice; and full-length

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THIS SUNDAY

February 8

Adult Forum: **Annette Mills**, co-chair of the Corvallis Sustainability Commission, will speak about the city's Community Sustainability Action Plan and its implementation process.

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31,
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Sermon: "Have We Not Heard?"
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

As many of you know I spent last week in Berkeley, California, attending the Earl Lectures at Pacific School of Religion. I have written extensively about my experience on my personal blog (www.myblurredvision.com), but I wanted to share a few thoughts in this space. I am thankful for this annual time of renewal and reconnection with seminary colleagues and friends, but this year, perhaps more than any year, I feel as though my experience at the Earl Lectures has filled me with new ideas and new energy.

This year's theme for the Earl Lectures was **Behold A New Thing: Emerging Expressions of Worship**. Most of the conference was focused on exploring new worship styles with an emphasis on what is known as the "emerging church movement." Although describing the emerging church movement is somewhat difficult, this worship style builds on the theology of the social gospel movement of the early 20th century in creating worship and faith communities that seek continuity between their worship and their living out the gospel. The emerging church considers itself a post-modern manifestation of an ancient tradition and emerging church worship styles often include decentralized worship settings, new and traditional music, imaginative use of technology, and new ways of using ritual in contemporary worship. At the Earl Lectures we experienced all of this and more!

One of the questions that we were grappling with during the Earl Lectures was how the Big C Church is adapting to the needs and faith stories of Generation X and Generation Y (or the Millennial Generation). Without going too deeply into generational theory we were discussing and exploring the changing expectations of church that are being created and called for by those who were born after 1965. For those of us from the mainline Protestant church, which was most of us in attendance, our discussions were either a wake-up call, or a call to step bravely into the world of new expectations for worship and the church, all in an effort to keep the Christ story relevant to, and accessible for, Christians who are 45 and under. We also explored a part of the emergent experience that calls for the church to more clearly identify with its mission and heart as a model for liberation for those who seek to follow Christ AND for those that Jesus would have called the least of these.

It would be impossible to encapsulate all that I gleaned from the 2009 Earl Lectures in this space, but you will be hearing (and experiencing) more about this exciting time in the life of the church. I look forward to sharing more of my experiences with you!

Blessings, **Ryan**



The youth groups are helping with the Community Soup fundraiser in support of Community Outreach on Sunday. We will **meet at the church at 4:30** to get instructions for our serving duties. Please wear black pants and white shirts so that we will be easily identifiable at the event. After helping with dishes we should be done around 8:00 p.m. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

CHECK OUT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ON FACEBOOK!

Facebook is one of many social networking sites on the internet, and it is probably among the most utilized places for people to connect in the internet age. Although Facebook originally started as a way of connecting college students it has now become one of the great cultural meeting places for many. Faith communities have decided to use Facebook as one more opportunity for evangelism and, as such, our church now has a Facebook page to carve out a presence with those who seek via Facebook. All are welcome, so if you are on Facebook and want to let your Facebook friends know about your church, please search for "First Congregational United Church of Christ Corvallis" and become a Facebook fan of your worship community. If anyone has questions about accessing

Facebook or our church's new Facebook site, please contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail for more information.

ARE WE GETTING WARMER?

In the last two weeks, some of you might have noticed that the hallways, the Fireplace Room, and Music Room have been a little (or a lot) chilly. The furnace that serves those areas has officially given up the ghost. After significant research, the **Trustees** have voted to replace the furnace (installed in 1980) with a new 95% efficient unit. The new furnace was selected with consideration for our congregational commitment to caring for creation. Not only is it one of the most efficient units on the market, but also it qualifies us for a rebate from the Oregon Energy Trust. We are hoping it will be installed late this week. So, when you come to church on Sunday, you can bask in both the warmth of our new furnace and the knowledge that it will allow us to lower our energy consumption!

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU

The **Nominating Committee** is beginning its annual process of recruiting members to serve on the church's standing Boards and Committees. Each year, one-third of our Board/Committee membership turns over.

In new member classes, our clergy stress the importance of everyone's commitment of time and talent to the church. We ask each member to consider serving the church in an area where s/he

feels comfortable. One important way to make a contribution is to serve on one of the Boards or Committees listed below. Consider thoughtfully what you would like to do. We hope you will say, "yes" when the Nominating Committee calls you!

Our five boards are:

Diaconate: This Board oversees the worship life of our church; provides leadership for the all-church fellowship events; organizing, initiates and implements outreach and evangelism efforts to visitors, new and long-time members; and serves as liaison between the congregation and clergy regarding performance.

Trustees: Oversees building and grounds maintenance of the church; develops an annual budget for consideration and adoption by the congregation.

Mission: Recommends and oversees monthly mission offerings, recommends budget goals for UCC ministries, develops the theme and plans for the annual MissionFest .

Christian Education: Develops and evaluates education programs for adults, children and youth; provides opportunities for nurturing persons so that we might continue to grow spiritually and learn to act upon our Christian faith.

Endowment & Memorials Board: Accept and administers gifts to the church that are not directed to the church's normal operating budget or special missions

such as bequests, memorial gifts, endowments, and planned gifts, such as gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts. It also administers the church's planned giving program.

Our four standing committees are:

Personnel: Coordinates the formulation and review of position descriptions for salaried employees; establishes and oversees policy, procedures, and schedules regular evaluations; establishes employment and termination procedures; hears employee grievances; and evaluates long-range staff needs.

Nominating: Recruits and nominates members for all vacant officer, board and committee positions, such names to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Stewardship: Develops yearly Stewardship theme and style of campaign to be used. Encourages members to make and meet their commitments of time, talent and treasure.

Just Peace: Provides information and guidance in the areas of spiritual witness, education and theology, stewardship and resources, and community witness. The Committee oversees the infusion of Just Peace issues into the life of the whole church family.

LENTEN CLASSES *from page 1*

ones. Take a moment during Soup 'n' Bread to have a look. More details about Wednesday evenings in Lent will appear in next week's *Congregational News*.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TALK AT U OF O



Dr. **Robert Bullard**, Ware Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, will present a free talk titled "Growing Smarter to Achieve Healthy and Livable Conditions." The program begins at 7:00 (doors open at 6:30) on *Tuesday, February 17*, in Columbia 150 at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will meet *February 8*, at the home of **Karen and Ed Miller**. Discussion of *Broken For You* by Stephanie Kallos starts at 7:00.

THANK YOU!

... to the participants and planners for Laity Sunday, especially coordinator **Dorothy Price** and our speakers, **Bob and Judy Hannigan, Mike Huntington**, and **Marilyn Starker**.

Our appreciation, also, to leader **Sally Robertson** and her Girl Scouts for their leadership in worship. Thanks, too, to the Boy Scouts (**Frank Cheng, Harrison Fontaine, Andy McDonald, Gavin Milligan, Quin Peterson** and **Edward SanRomani**) and Scout leaders **Frank Hall, Don Milligan**, and **Grant Wyatt** who organized and participated in Scout Sunday. Interesting note: Grant's great-grandfather **Arthur Solomon King** was a scout in Troop One in 1921.

We also loved the breakfast and the great clean-up job afterwards!

STATE REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS HEALTH CARE

This *Thursday night, February 5*, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Bill Lunch, OSU professor of Political Science Department, will be moderating a discussion on health care reform efforts by the 2009 legislature. Those invited to speak are Rep. **Sara Gelser**, Rep. **Mitch Greenlick**, Chair of the House Committee on Healthcare, Sen. **Frank Morse**, and Rep. **Andy Olson**. Please come and add your thoughts and increase your database as we pursue the moral imperative of healthcare for all.

For more information. Please go to: <http://wecandobetter.org/node/2472> (or call **Mike Huntington** (745-5635))

Dear Liz, Ryan, and the congregation,

We would like to express our gratitude for your hospitality and generosity. We felt so welcome at UCC and really enjoyed talking to people. We will keep you posted!

With thanks,

Jesse Fitzpatrick & Jes Coyle

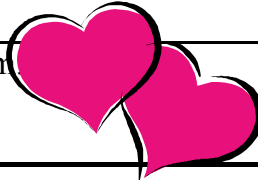
REMINDER: Steve Zielke's Corvallis Repertory Singers return to our sanctuary this *Saturday, February 7*, at 7:00, with lots of songs from award-winning musicals.





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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 10.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, February 6
 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Badminton
Saturday, February 7
 7:00 p.m. Corvallis Repertory
 Singers [see p. 4]
Sunday, February 8
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread
 (following) Winter Weekend
 meeting,
 Fireplace Room
 (following) Nominating Committee
 Library
 (following) Sanctuary design
 working group,
 Conference Room
 4:30 p.m. Youth groups [p. 3]
5:00-7:00 Community Soup
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Miller
Monday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Staff
 7:00 p.m. Mission Board
Tuesday, February 10
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
Wednesday, February 11
 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, February 12
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
Friday, February 13
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Dear First Congregational Church,
 Thank you for your recent contribu-
 tion of \$693.75 [this was one-fourth
 of our church's Christmas Offering, split
 among four agencies]. Your continued
 support as a partner church is what
 keeps "We Care" successful.
 Best wishes,
 Wendy Sutton,
 We Care Board