



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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February 27, 2009

SHARE THE FEAST ON COMMUNION SUNDAY!

Amid difficult economic circumstances the needs of the hungry are a growing concern in our community and across the country. The **Mission Board** would like to invite our congregation to think of the hungry in our community as we are spiritually fed through the taking of Communion. Starting this *Sunday, March 1*, non-perishable foods will be collected during Communion as a way of reminding us that Communion feeds both our spirit and the body of Christ in our community. Simply bring your item with you and leave it in the basket near the front pew as you come forward for
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DON'T WAIT TILL YOU'RE BLEEDING!

Now is a better time to locate the church's first aid kits. There are small first aid kits throughout the church building. The most visible ones are on the shelf above the coat racks in: Gatton Hall, the foyer, and the hall outside the Meeting Hall. There are also bags of first aid supplies in each Sunday School room, on one of



the cupboards. If the sign designating that cupboard has disappeared, please make a new one or let me know. In the Sunday School/Parish Nurse office there is a drawer with more supplies, including a thermometer, ace wraps, and basic over-the-counter medicines.

If you use supplies from a kit and it needs to be restocked, please let me know (via e-mail, a note in my box, or phone) or check in the drawer to see if we have what is needed.

Thank you!

Caroline Zaworski, Parish Nurse

THIS SUNDAY

March 1 - Communion

Adult Forum: **Emilie Goodling** will share pictures and reflections on her year in Iraq where she served as a medic, deployed through the Oregon national Guard.

Scriptures: Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "What's in the Water?"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I know there are people who don't like the idea of Lent. They think of a penitential, reflective season as being self-denying, negative, needlessly uncomfortable. A member of a former church once told me, "Life is hard enough already. We don't need Lent to make ourselves miserable."

I don't think of Lent as a time of misery, but as an opportunity for challenge, for growth. Do I have a bad habit I want to change? Lent is an opportunity to address it. Have I been promising myself for ages that I want to (you fill in the blank)? Lent is a time to take on a new discipline, to stretch myself.

It is important to remember that the word "lent" comes from lengthen. Lent is the season of lengthening days, the season of increasing light. I am reminded every year at this time that God loves us as we are and wants us to be whole. Too often, in ways too numerous to be counted, we stand in the way of our own wholeness. We settle for being less than we can be, less than we want to be. The journey of Lent begins with honest self-appraisal, which can be hard, but which also has the capacity to free us to move forward in new and better ways.

It is one of the great gifts of our humanity that we are able through all of life to learn, to grow, to reach out in new ways, to answer the changing needs of our spirits. At its best, Lent is an invitation from a loving and supportive God to do just that. So I hope that many of you find yourselves in a place these next six weeks to answer that invitation. And we, your community of faith, will do our best to support you as you go.

God bless you all.

Liz

**LECTURE AND WORKSHOP AT
CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT, PORTLAND**

Diana Butler Bass will speak on "After Jesus: Enacting the Great Command" on *March 27 and 28* at the **Center for Spiritual Development**.

Friday evening's lecture: "Spiritual Amnesia: How We Lost the Insights of Regular People" (\$15 general, \$10 UCC members, \$5 students).

Saturday workshop: "Remembering Anew: Becoming a Community of Memory, History, and Story"; "Finding Hope: The Accumulated Human Experience of God" at 3:00 p.m., Kempton Hall (\$50 general, \$35 UCC, \$15 students -- lunch included). The Center is at 127 NW 19th Avenue, Portland 97209.

Tickets: On-line at www.center-for-spiritual-development.org or call (503) 478-1218.



Thank you to the **Thackray** family for hosting the Academy Awards party last Sunday evening!

This week our youth groups will return to their regular meeting schedule with **Middle School** at 5:00 p.m. and **High School** at 6:30. This week we will gather for an exploration of prayer practices that we might use during Lent. Join us!

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE?

In November, **Jesse Fitzpatrick** spoke in our Adult Forum about his planned trip to Malawi to teach at the Malawi Children's Village. Jesse has started a blog to help people stay informed about his experience in Malawi. You can find his blog online at: <http://jessemcv.blogspot.com/>



INQUIRERS' CLASS TO BEGIN

Inquirers' Classes will be held *Sunday, March 8*, and the following *Sunday, March 14*, following worship. Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and our church in particular, are invited to come to the Fireplace Room, where lunch will be provided. Child care is also available, on request.

Those who may be interesting in joining this church will be received into membership on *Sunday, March 29*.

SILENT PROCESSION FOR PEACE

Mark your calendars now for the *March 19* Silent Procession for Peace. The Just Peace Committee encourages you to take part in this action to mourn all killed in recent conflicts. The Silent Procession is taking place on the 6th Anniversary of the U.S. Attack on Iraq.

Details: Gather at 11:15 a.m. at 12th & Monroe Ave, parking lot of First United Methodist. Wear black. Walk in silence, single file. Gather at Quad at 11:45. Signs optional. All are welcome to participate.

Route: Monroe to 26th St, to MU Quad steps. People may choose to participate in a silent die-in; then return down Jefferson to 14th to Monroe.



ORGANIZING MEETING

Pat Johnson (with help from **Monine Stebbins** and others) has diligently served as lead cook and organizer for Stone Soup since we began taking on this task. The **Mission and Outreach Board** would like to expand the number of people who are capable of serving as lead cooks for this endeavor so that if Pat or Monine are gone we are still capable of taking our turn. After worship this *Sunday, March 1*, Pat Johnson will host a **brief** meeting for people interested in learning how to organize Stone Soup meals in the church library. The gathered group will learn a little about the process that Pat uses to put to-

gether the meal and plan a time to meet at the Stone Soup pantry to learn about gathering supplies. If you are willing to learn about organizing a Stone Soup meal, plan to attend this meeting!



**TONIGHT:
LAST CHANCE
FOR FILM FESTIVAL**

The last film in Corvallis' annual Eco-Film Festival is *Friday night, February 20*. "Renewal" presents the stories of several faith communities and their efforts to make positive environmental changes. The film starts at 7:30 at the Odd Fellows Hall, 223 SW 2nd St. Suggested donation: \$5 or canned goods. See you there!

**STILL TIME TO JOIN
THE GUATEMALA PILGRIMAGE**

Our Guatemala Pilgrimage takes place *July 25, August 4, 2009*. The people who are currently signed up for this pilgrimage are: **Caroline Zaworski, Charles Helsabeck, Jan Thornton, Mari Goldner, Molly Chambers, John and Sandy Murphy, Pete and Susie Nelson, Marsha Gulick, Beth Koch, Gary Enschede, Tim Thornton, Laurel Goldner, Julie Rorrer, Carl Lucker, Jenny Koch, Nathan Helsabeck**, and two of Nathan's friends from Chicago, **George Starr and Angie Bauerle**.

In the book, "A Mile in My Shoes: Cultivating Compassion," Trevor Hudson says, "All of us journey day by day with Christ through the Spirit but some-

times we forget Divine Presence who walks beside us. We are all on pilgrimage: every experience, interaction, or roadblock we encounter can become a grace-filled opportunity to respond with loving obedience to the gospel. But we need to pay attention to our experience and willingly reflect upon our journey."

It is not too late to join us.

Charles

**WOMEN TO LEARN
ALL ABOUT YOGA**

The *March 4* meeting of Women's Fellowship will feature a program on yoga by **Linda Erwin** and **Ellie Erkkila**. Linda has been studying yoga for 10 years and teaches it at OSU. She also teaches tap dance and is a massage therapist. Sign up this Sunday or call the church office to make your reservation for the \$5 Irish lunch and a place at the 1:00 p.m. talk. The meal begins at noon. Childcare is available if requested in advance. You do not need to be a church member to attend.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Clara McCormick 3/1,
Steve Elbinger 3/1,
Caroline Zaworski 3/2,
Natalie Lucker 3/3, Monine Stebbins 3/8,
Linda Hadfield 3/9, Meghann O'Dell 3/9,
Marilee Sherwood 3/13, Christopher Rorrer 3/14,
Greg Christianson 3/15, John Cochran 3/19,
Welcome Lahay 3/20, Tracey Meara 3/23,
Jacob Zaworski 3/28, Logan Lamb 3/31



TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

This time we would like to report our winter project to help needy people during the winter.

The Hanshin & Awaji earthquake happened on January 17, 1995, in the area where we live. Over 6,000 people were killed, many houses were destroyed, and many fires caused extensive damage in the Kobe area. Because of this earthquake, many people lost their house, became homeless, and were isolated from the rest of the world.

We decided to support those people and started a project "Support during winter in Kobe." One of the major activities has been cookouts especially at the end and beginning of each year. Night patrol has also been other work. Because the days at the end and beginning of each year are in a national holiday break, it is not easy to have meals outside while it is easy to get sick due to cold weather. Since we started this project, we have taken turns and shared the work with other organizations. Our church members volunteered to prepare and serve lunch on December 30 and January 3 together with those of other churches in Hyogo District Conference of UCC Japan at a site in Kobe as well as one in Amagasaki. There were booths at the site for life and medical consultation, where people could get professional advice. There were also volunteer barbers where people had their hair cut. On the day we worked, we fed about 300 people, 40 to

50 more than the last year. The depression first affected the weakest. There seemed to be an increasing number of young people. Although our efforts are small, we want to keep looking for something we can do for the homeless and isolated.

Reported by **Takako Nobunaga**

P.S. There are 7 photos posted on the Takarazuka bulletin board.

Dear Friends:

As we were planning for the 2008 Vina Moses Christmas programs, we had questions. Given the state of the economy, would the number of people needing assistance increase? Given the state of the economy would our donations be down? The need this year was greater than ever. Happily, our donations were not down. We served 1200 families.

This was the first year the parents had the opportunity to pick the gifts for their children. The gifts from your tree and other donations were displayed in categories on tables. Parents made appointments to select from the displayed toys and gifts. Each family received a game or puzzle, a toy, clothing, book and stocking stuffers for each child.

We thank you for having a giving tree and providing a way for many members of the community to participate in the Vina Moses Christmas Program. Your help makes this program a success!

Sincerely,

Christine Duffney,
Executive Director, **Vina Moses Center**



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, February 27

- 3:00 p.m. Shannon memorial
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, March 1

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Stone Soup organizing meeting, Library
- (following) Confirmands and mentors, Fireplace Room (lunch provided)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, March 2

- 9:00 a.m. Staff

Tuesday, March 3

- Noon Lectionary class
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism
- 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
- 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, March 4

- Noon Women's Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
- 6:10 p.m. Child care available
- 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship
- 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
- 7:30 p.m.** Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 5

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, March 6

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Betty Massoni**, doing well at home after last Monday's surgery;
 ... and with **Lee Barkley**, also at home recovering from back surgery.

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Communion. The bounty will be used to feed the hungry through the South Corvallis Food Bank and Linn Benton Lunch Box.