



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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May 15, 2009

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

It's time again to make a new picture directory, including all our great new members and updating the rest of us. I'm very excited about this as we are GOING LOCAL. Ball Studio is doing the photo shoots at their studio. The process will be so much easier as you can do this on your own time schedule beginning *June 15*, extending into July. If you are planning to be away during this time, we can accommodate you in the fall. How easy is that?

Sign-ups will begin this Sunday. More details will follow.

Linda Hadfield

CAPACITY OF THE VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

This *Sunday afternoon, May 17*, The **Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition** will be hosting a "Fish Bowl Forum" on the capacity of volunteers to meet the growing needs of low income and homeless in our community. The forum will be at our church from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Members of the congregation are welcome to participate along with other representatives from the many faith groups and other organizations that have pro-

vided volunteers at the shelter and/or drop-in center during the past few years. Your voices are valued in this important community discussion.



GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

Please submit information about 2009 high school and college graduates for the *Congregational News*. E-mail sbwickes@comcast.net, or drop off in the office the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information**. The deadline is *June 9*, but sooner is better.

THIS SUNDAY

May 17

Adult Forum: Ed Henderlite leads "The Spirituality of Home."

Scriptures: Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53

Sermon: "You Will Be My Witnesses..."
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

As we gathered this week for our Tuesday lectionary bible study, a question was raised about how we might provide easy access to the lectionary readings for people interested in reading the weekly texts ahead of our Sunday worship. This question inspired my thoughts as I sat down to write this column.

First, I want to give some basic information about the lectionary, because we "church geeks" often assume that everyone else knows church terms. The lectionary runs in three-year cycles (creatively divided into years A, B, and C) and includes four separate readings per week. The four readings include:

1. A passage from the Hebrew Bible or Acts of the Apostles,
2. A passage from one of the Psalms
3. A passage from one of the Epistles (letters) or Revelation
4. A passage from one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

The gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, and in the third year (or Year C) come from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Eastertide, and are used during the liturgical seasons including Advent, Christmastide, and Lent.

Next, I would note that both our library and the internet offer many resources for bible study. Our church library is rich with many versions of the bible which are conducive to looking at how specific words have been translated and thus revealing how texts offer different meanings. Our library has several commentaries that are written to help clergy and lay people interpret scriptural meaning. I would specifically note that the library has a set of the *New Interpreter's Bible Commentary* which is a comprehensive commentary that offers in-depth analysis of every text in the bible.

Finally, I would note that I find the internet to be an incredible resource for biblical study. The internet is a challenging venue for biblical study because there is such breadth of theological opinion online, and I am the first to note that not all theological writing is created equal! For lectionary study I highly recommend <http://www.textweek.com>. Textweek lists all the weekly texts, offers links to a wide array of biblical analysis and commentary, and includes scriptural, film, and art indexes. In a recent week the commentary links stretched 1700 years! I also recommend resources from Australian scholar Rev. William Loader. His lectionary writings can be found at: <http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/lectionaryindex.html>. I also read Chris Haslam's weekly post from the Episcopal Diocese of Montreal. He writes at: <http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/> and I appreciate the concise analysis he

offers in his "comment" page and the more in-depth textual analysis he offers in his "clippings." Finally, although she is no longer producing new commentary, I recommend searching the lectionary site from Episcopalian scholar Sarah Dylan Breuer, whose archives are available at <http://www.sarahlaughed.net/lectionary/>. She has an excellent search function on her site and her faithful writing via the lens of liberation theology is well worth reading!

I hope these suggestions are helpful for your lectionary study and reflection time. Please feel free to inquire about other resources as my bookshelves and my "favorites" menu are full of suggestions!

Blessings,

Ryan



There will be no youth group for the next couple of weeks due to the Confirmation retreat and Memorial Day Weekend. We will resume youth group gatherings on *May 31*.



WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!

Thanks to all, especially the church school children, who donated for the Heifer sheep purchase. Gifts ranged from 10 cents to 5 dollars, so the success of this project is shared by many.

UU SPONSORS

WAR RESISTER BENEFIT

On *Sunday, May 17*, a wonderful acoustic duo called "**Emma's Revolution**" will be playing a benefit concert at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd. The beneficiary of this concert will be local war resisters. It will feature Corvallis

resident **Benji Lewis**, speaking about his personal resistance to reactivation and redeployment to Iraq.

Read more about their work for progressive causes including peace, human rights, civil rights and LGBT issues, as well listen to their music and read reviews of their performances on their website: www.emmasrevolution.com

The doors open at 7:00 p.m., and tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and are available at the Grassroots Bookstore, Happy Trails Music or online at rock4thecause@gmail.com.

Please contact **Leah Bolger** (541-207-776)1 or leahbolger@comcast.net or more information.



If you've been interested in joining the crew, this is a good time. New people are particularly welcome to learn the ropes and maybe fill in during upcoming vacation times. Sign up this Sunday or call the church office to volunteer for *Tuesday, May 10*.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 19.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 15

5:00 p.m. Confirmands meet
 at Lamberts' for
 Camp Adams retreat

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, May 16

2:00 p.m. Billie Grant memorial,
 Adair Officers' Club

Sunday, May 17

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Guatemala trip meeting
(see right)
 2:00 p.m. Fish Bowl Forum (*p. 1*)
 5:40 p.m. Holy Sox opener,
 Washington Park
NO youth groups

Monday, May 18

9:00 a.m. Staff
 7:00 p.m. C E Board

Tuesday, May 19

Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, May 20

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 21

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,
 Jefferson School

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 22

7:30 p.m. Badminton

**GUATEMALA PILGRIMAGE
 PARTICIPANTS MEET SUNDAY**

The group will gather to discuss the book, *Love in a Fearful Land*, in the Fireplace Room following worship this *Sunday, May 17*.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Tanya Andersson** and her family. Tanya's grandmother **Margaret** died in Los Angeles on May 10.