



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 21

May 22, 2009

SAVE THE DATE: *AUGUST 28-30* ALL-CHURCH CAMPING WEEKEND

The CE Board is planning an "everybody is invited" camping weekend for *August 28-30*. We are arranging for a group camp site within two hours of Corvallis and planning for a fun, intergenerational event! Set aside the weekend and watch for details over the next couple of weeks!

HOLY SOX START SEASON WITH POTLUCK

At the game last Sunday the team decided to start a new tradition -- a Start of the Season Potluck -- not to replace the End of the Season Potluck (we hope) but to give everyone a chance to get together, get to know our new players and returning-from-haitus players better, and, as it turns out, celebrate our perfect season (so far).

As always, all players, families, fans, members of the congregation, and friends are welcome. Join us at **Norm and Mary Vedaa's**, *Monday, May 25*, at 5:00. Bring a main dish or salad and bread or salad and something else. We'll provide desserts, lemonade, plates and

utensils. Feel free to bring beer, wine, sodas. We'll have a cooler ready.

If you have some easy to transport lawn chairs, please bring them. Anyone just dying to provide a dessert, let Mary know. Call or e-mail for directions:

Norm and Mary Vedaa
3015 NW Christine Street
Corvallis 97330
754-7143

An e-mail RSVP would be welcome.

THIS SUNDAY

May 24

Adult Forum: "The Question of Palestine – A Human Perspective" Dr. Iyad Barghouthi is a sociologist by training at Leningrad/St. Petersburg State University, Russia, 1980). He has taught at Annajah University in Palestine for 25 years, and has published on many topics
continued on page 2

Scriptures: Psalm 1
John 17:6-19

Sermon: "That They May All
Be One"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I just returned from a week of vacation in Bermuda. I know, it's a tough gig but someone had to do it! The vacation was lovely in many ways. I knew almost nothing about Bermuda before I went there, and was delighted, not only by the weather, the beautiful turquoise water, and the pink sand beaches, but also by the people, and the museums, and, well, the cleanness of the place. Bermudians are aware that they live on a remote island 22 miles long and a mile wide at its widest point. The population density is high. There is no natural source of fresh water on the island except for rain. Most food and consumer goods have to be imported. Bermudians are careful about their environment. The roofs of their houses are designed to catch rain water for personal use. There is a huge investment, both public and private, in "green" technology. The use of automobiles is strictly limited. Public transportation is excellent. Traveling from one end of the island to the other by ferry, bus, and on foot, we never saw any graffiti anywhere. We also never spotted any litter: not on the ground, not in the water, not even in the grubbiest, most industrial part of the port. None.

It made me think about what we come to accept as unfortunate but normal, almost inevitable. We bemoan the careless befouling of our forests, beaches, rivers, and highways, but at some level, we take it for granted. We organize beach clean-ups and adopt-a-highway programs, but it doesn't often occur to us that we could create a culture where people don't just toss stuff out of windows and along trails. It can be done. I saw it. And it was good, really good.

I don't know what it would take to create such a culture here. Our "island" is a lot bigger. Even most of us who accept the idea of limited resources intellectually still haven't changed our lives enough. I'm not trying to say that Bermudians have all the answers, or are a perfect environmentally-friendly society. But they are farther ahead than we are. And it made me think. It was--almost--the best part of my vacation.

God bless you all.

Liz

ADULT FORUM *from page 1*

-- particularly political sociology, sociology of religion and sociological perspective of conflict situations like military occupation. Dr. Barghothi is General Director of a research center in Ramallah, focusing on human rights. The center's

URL is <http://www.rchrs.org/>. He is also a founding member of the Arab-wide Tolerance Network: <http://www.tasamuhnet.org/>.

His visit to Oregon State University and to our community is sponsored by the State Department.



No youth group this week due to the Memorial Day weekend! Plan to be in worship on *May 31* to support our amazing Confirmation class! Watch this space for plans for the last weeks of the program year!



GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

We're looking for information about 2009 high school and college graduates for the *June 12 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**. It's fine to add details or make changes after the original submission, if necessary. The deadline is *June 9*, but sooner is better.

MORE MOWERS!

Volunteer mowers needed. If you have not yet signed up but would like to help keep the church lawn looking nice, please contact **Pete Klingeman** now.

WORLD SERVICE IN PAKISTAN

Dear Friends,

Because you are asking, I wanted to give you a brief update on the very beginning of the Church World Service re-

sponse to the situation in Pakistan. This morning CWS staff participated in a conference call led by Donna Derr, director of the Emergency Response Program and Wajahat Latif, CWS staff person for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At the present time the United Nations estimates 1.2 million people are displaced within Pakistan, and the number is growing. CWS is providing family food packages and shelter kits, and plans are underway to expand our 60 year old health program to include mobile clinics to serve these displaced people.

CWS is uniquely positioned to assist because of our long-term presence and our trusted relationships with local partners. In a few weeks there will be a clearer picture of how CWS will be responding in the long-term.

For up-to-date information, please go to our website. To make a donation, you may send it directly to:

Church World Service
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart IN 46515

Thanks for caring!

Lynn Magnuson, Regional Director
Church World Service - PNW

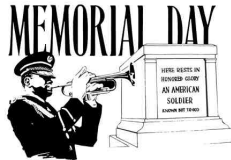
CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

On Pentecost, *May 31*, we will observe the Rite of Confirmation. Plan to be with us to celebrate this day with our Confirmands. There will be cake afterwards in Gatton Hall!





Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly
 except twice a month in July and August by
 First Congregational United Church of Christ



Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor: 754-0117
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Website: www.ucc-corrallis.org

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 26.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 22

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day

Office closed

Tuesday, May 26

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, May 27

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 28

1:30 p.m. Spirituality Group
 6:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice,
 Jefferson School
 7:00 Sanctuary Task Force

Friday, May 29

5:45 p.m. Holy Sox make-up

7:30 p.m. game, Porter Park
 Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: June 7: Music and
 C E Recognition Sunday

SOFTBALL FANS!

Come out and root for the Sox at their Sunday games this summer. The current schedule is listed below: watch the *Congregational News* for updates on cancelled and make-up games.

Holy Sox Game Schedule

May 31 6:00 p.m. West Sunset
June 7 5:40 p.m. N. Chintimini
June 14 8:40 p.m. Pioneer
June 21 7:00 p.m. N. Chintimini
June 28 7:00 p.m. N. Chintimini
July 12 6:00 p.m. Pioneer
July 19 4:20 p.m. N. Chintimini
July 26 4:20 p.m. Porter