

# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 36

October 9, 2009

## CELEBRATING THE PRESENT VISIONING THE FUTURE

There is still time to join one of the two-hour visioning sessions coming soon to a neighborhood near you! Sign up Sunday (or call the church office) and don't miss this chance to help determine our church's future. Meetings/hosts are:

- *Monday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.,*  
**Al and Mari Goldner,**  
3315 SW Cascade Ave.
- *Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.,*  
**Norm and Mary Vedaa,**  
3015 NW Christine
- *Monday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.,*  
**Marsha Gulick,** 3355 NW Poppy
- *Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.,*  
**Doug and Sue Richmond,**  
2422 NW Molly Court
- *Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.,*  
**Cliff and Jo Anne Trow,**  
1835 NW Juniper Pl.
- *Friday, October 30, 2:00 p.m.*  
(NOTE: afternoon), **Janice Engle,** 1015 NW Fernwood

### INQUIRERS' CLASS STARTS

If you attend the Inquirers' Class this Sunday, cut to the front on the Soup 'n'

Bread line (really!) and bring your lunch to the Fireplace Room for the class.

### CARE BY CAR!

One of the quiet ministries at our church is that of providing transportation to Sunday morning worship for those no longer able to drive themselves. We need a few more people who can provide transportation, either regularly (every other week) or just occasionally. Most frequently the pick-up spot is in the Stoneybrook area. If this is something you can do, give **Doris Sherry** a call (745-5607). Thanks.

## THIS SUNDAY

*October 11*

**Adult Forum:** **Charles Helsabeck** and members of the Guatemala pilgrimage will report on their experiences.

**Scriptures:** Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
Psalm 22:1-15  
Hebrews 4:12-16

**Sermon:** "The Three Bears and God"  
Ryan Lambert

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Mary Vedaa*

Dear Friends,

By now you have received the sobering news about Liz's health. I join you in prayer for Liz's rapid and full recovery, and ask God to guide the work of her medical team and to give strength to her family.

It's my understanding that Liz will be taking this Sunday away from church and plans to be back with us on October 18<sup>th</sup>. After worship this Sunday members of the Pastoral Relations Committee and I will facilitate a meeting to address questions and to hear your concerns. *[Bring your Soup 'n' Bread to the library.]*

As Liz reported to you in her letter, she will be undergoing chemotherapy for four months. This treatment will most likely restrict her ability to meet all of her church commitments, especially in regard to pastoral care responsibilities. In response, the Council met Monday evening and took action to increase Molly's hours so that she can take full charge of the church school. This adjustment then allows Ryan to take on full responsibility for pastoral care and attend to additional board and committee meetings as necessary.

The Council also authorized a small increase in Ann's hours so she can see to any time-sensitive administrative tasks that Liz may not be able to complete. The Personnel Contingency fund will be tapped to cover Molly's and Ann's additional hours.

The Council's action addresses our immediate staffing concerns. The work of the church, however, is not solely dependent on staff. We all contribute. And as the work expands, so will our contributions, I am sure. There is much to be done this fall. The Visioning process is well underway and I encourage you to sign up for a small group session. We need to hear your dreams for our future. The Stewardship Campaign is ready to roll. More captains and callers are needed. Let Ann know that you want to help. Get on board as a greeter and host. Orientation sessions are coming up. As Liz said in her letter, our continuing the good work of the church will be some of her best medicine. It is also a way for all of us to feel useful and purposeful during this difficult time.

Finally, as we move through these next several months together, if some part of church life doesn't seem to be working well, please let Ryan, a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee, or me know. Adapting as needs change is vital to the strength of our church community. We all must resolve to meet the challenges ahead with the same courage and faith that Liz is revealing to us as she faces her personal challenges these next several months.

Blessings to all,

**Mary Vedaa**, Moderator



Our **Middle School** (5:00 p.m.) and **High School** (6:30 p.m.) youth groups will meet at the church on Sunday to learn about labyrinths in the first of our "Spiritual Practices" study series. Join us as we learn about the history and meaning of labyrinths and as we walk a large-scale labyrinth in Gatton Hall. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

### YOUTH SERVICE DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 25

On *Sunday, October 25*, the youth are available to work in 2- and 3-person teams to help church members with fall clean-up and maintenance tasks. Their work is a gift to members of the congregation and they will be available from 12:30-3:30. Beginning this *Sunday (October 11)*, we will have sign-ups to arrange for a crew to assist at your home. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.



If you like hearing bells during the Advent season, please consider joining us in the Bell Choir. It doesn't matter if you have played before; there are places for all skill levels and abilities for everyone over age 14. Practices will begin on *Wednesday, October*

*14*, from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the Music Room. If you have any questions, or to let us know you are coming, please contact **Kim Thackray** at 758-8542 or [thackray\\_family@yahoo.com](mailto:thackray_family@yahoo.com).

### THEOLOGY ON TAP MEETS

The next gathering of "Theology on Tap" will be *Thursday, October 22*, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at Woodstock's Pizza Parlor on Kings Blvd for fellowship and theological conversation as we study Mark 10:17-31. All are welcome! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.



### EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS STRIKE SOUTH PACIFIC – UCC REACHES OUT TO PARTNERS

A magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck in the South Pacific on Tuesday, September 29, causing significant tsunami washes which have resulted in numerous deaths and much damage. The UCC is sending prayers and resources in support of our partners.

To assist impacted families, you may, send gifts payable to your congregation marked for "OGHS – South Pacific Tsunamis" with the request they be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

OR

Send gifts, made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "OGHS South Pacific Tsunamis" to

Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

You can make a secure online donation to the OGHS South Pacific Tsunamis:

[https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df\\_id=1720&1720.donation=form1](https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=1720&1720.donation=form1)

### MISSION OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

The **Neighbors in Need** offering, which we will receive this month, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Working with members of the **UCC Justice and Peace Action Network**, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's **Council for American Indian Ministries** (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM.

Thank you for your support.

### *Raise Your Voice*

#### **GREAT MUSIC, GREAT CAUSE**

The **Oregon Youth Choral Festival and Gala Concert** will happen on *Wednesday, October 28*, from 7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe, Corvallis. Conducted by international composer, conductor and clinician Eric Whitacre, the concert features Grammy Award-winning soprano Hila Plitmann, and the Combined Choirs of Oregon State University.

All proceeds from ticket sales benefit **Community Outreach** of Corvallis. For more information or to purchase tickets on-line (\$13, \$18, \$22), see [oregonstate.edu/cla/music/chorus/whitacrefestival09](http://oregonstate.edu/cla/music/chorus/whitacrefestival09).

### **PROCRASTINATORS' ALERT!**

If you are considering attending the **Central Pacific Women's Camp**, time is running out. *Monday, October 12*, is the absolute deadline for registration, since we must give Camp Adams a meal count by then. Rev. **Denise Andersen** is the resource leader for the weekend of "Creative Spirituality" beginning on *Friday, October 16*. Brochures are still available in the Gatton Hall entrance rack and the Women's Fellowship bulletin board. Total cost is \$100 with \$60 due at registration. Carpools will be arranged from Corvallis. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** (753-3350) for additional information.

## READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Read & Feed will meet at **Greg and Rose Christianson's** on *Sunday, October 11*, to discuss *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

## JOB TRANSITION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

"On Your Way to Work" is a six-week workshop for those seeking new employment, to be held at the Church of the Good Samaritan, 333 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. The workshop will be *Mondays, October 26-November 30*, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and will cover skills assessment, job search and networking, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing, online and community resources, and local networking.

Please e-mail [officegs@peak.org](mailto:officegs@peak.org) or call 757-6647 to register by October 20. Childcare can be provided on site if requested in advance.

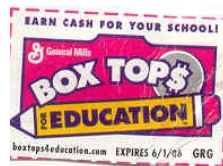
A free-will donation of \$10, if you are able, contributes towards costs.

## 'MAKING ROOM FOR GOD' RETREAT STARTS FRIDAY

The Church of the Good Samaritan, 333 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, is offering a Franciscan Retreat, *Friday evening and Saturday, October 9-10*. It will be led by Brother Robert Hugh, an Anglican Franciscan Friar from the Society of St. Francis, in San Francisco. He will also help celebrate the "The Blessing of the Animals" at 4:00 p.m. on *Sunday, October*

*11*, at the Episcopal church. All are welcome at any or all events!

No fee will be charged, but a free-will offering will be happily accepted. Call the church at 757-6647 ASAP to pre-register.



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION NEEDED

We are still collecting "Box Tops for Education" and soup labels to send to a UCC-sponsored residential facility for children in Indiana. **Crossroads School** has benefited with equipment from this program for several years. Please place your box tops and labels in the second drawer of the nametag counter.

## THANKS FROM CHINTIMINI WILDLIFE CENTER

On behalf of all of us here at the Chintimini Wildlife Center, I want to thank you for your very generous donation [\$870]. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to provide the service of caring for Oregon's injured and orphaned wildlife and education the public about our local wildlife.

Chintimini is dedicated to providing quality services in wildlife rehabilitation and education, and your contributions help make this possible.

Thank you for caring about your wildlife and for supporting our work.

Sincerely,

Jeff Picton, Executive Director



**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 97333-3825. Published weekly  
 except twice a month in July and August by  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 13.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, October 9*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, October 11*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread  
**(following) Inquirers' Class,**  
**Fireplace Room**  
 (following) Interim staffing Q & A,  
 Library

5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth  
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed [page 5]

*Monday, October 12*

9:00 a.m. Staff  
 7:00 p.m. Mission Board

*Tuesday, October 13*

Noon Lectionary class  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, October 14*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

**6:30 p.m. Bell Choir begins,  
 Music Room [p. 3]**

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, October 15*

7:00 p.m. Children's Committee,  
 Room 7  
 7:00 p.m. Endowment/Memorial  
 Board,  
 Conference Room  
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*Friday, October 16*

**NO Badminton**

**Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with **Liz Oettinger**, as she begins her chemotherapy treatments;

... and with the victims of the earthquake/tsunamis, as well as those in our congregation who are personally affected, and our Samoan church in the Conference;

... and with **Brady Sahnaw**, recovering from knee surgery.