



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 39

October 30, 2009



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Our traditional All Saints Sunday service in remembrance of the saints in our lives includes the reading of names. In this Sunday's worship bulletin will be a form to fill in the names you would like read during the service. The forms will be collected during the welcome. Also, if you wish, you may bring a candle (with holder) to carry forward and light before or during the prelude, or during the first hymn. As this is a Communion Sunday, along with your candle(s), remember your gift of food for the food bank.

Jazz music for the service will be by the **Ad Hoc All Saints Band**. The choir will sing a medley of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

¡Día de los Muertos!

After worship this *Sunday, November 1*, the CE Board is celebrating Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) by offer-

ing a lunch of rice, bean, and tortilla soup, along with a craft event that will help us learn about el Dia de los Muertos. Join us for sugar skull decorating, mask making, and altar building! **PLEASE BRING PICTURES AND OTHER ITEMS** that help you remember beloved people who have died and we will include them on our altar! Plan to join us for this all-ages event!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Remember to set your clocks back one hour this *Saturday night, October 31*.

THIS SUNDAY

November 1-Communion

Adult Forum: John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli will be the focus of this week's class, the second in our series on important theologians in Christian history, taught by **Charles Helsabeck**.

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Saints I Have Known"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Every culture, every religious tradition has its ways of remembering and celebrating those they have loved who have died. This Sunday, All Saints Day, we will be blending the remembrances of several traditions. We will be having our traditional candlelighting and reading of names, but as well as that, our worship will be enlivened with the strains of New Orleans style jazz, long a staple of that culture's memorial remembrances. And after worship, switching gears, continents, and cultures, we will celebrate Latin American style, with food, music, and crafts honoring el Día de los Muertos--The Day of the Dead. This is a family-friendly event for persons of all ages, so come and enjoy.

One of the qualities I love most about our humanity is our capacity to hold in our hearts so many, alive and dead. With every story we tell, with every scent that teases our memories, with every private smile or tear that remembers one we have loved, we honor them. So come this Sunday with your heart full of those you love and have loved, and be prepared to touch the sacredness of that which we call in the church the Communion of Saints, the invisible and yet palpable bond that binds together all in heaven and on earth.

See you there.

Liz**PICK UP YOUR
UPDATED DIRECTORY**

Some of you may have noticed that last Sunday, in the church entryway (on the name tag table), updated name/address booklets of members and friends were available. If you didn't pick one up this last Sunday, feel free to take one this Sunday. Please, one per family.

Our new church photo directories will be available *Sunday, December 13!*

**OSU'S ENGINEERS WITHOUT
BORDERS HOLDS BENEFIT**

The fourth annual benefit banquet for Engineers Without Borders-OSU focuses

on Water for El Salvador. The event, which features local, organic food from Winter Green Farms, will be held at OSU Memorial Union Ballroom on *Friday, November 6*, from 6:00-9:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker is soil science professor and expert on sustainable ecosystems **James Cassidy**, Ph.D. There will also be EWB-OSU project updates.

Tickets are \$25 for students or \$250/table; \$50 for professionals or \$500/table. For tickets or information contact **Bradley Eagleson** (503-507-1095, or osu.ewb@gmail.com). Further details may be found on their website: <http://groups.engr.orst.edu/ewb/>.



The youth groups will be participating in the Día de los Muertos event after worship on Sunday. Join us for a time of celebration and remembrance of the saints that have gone before us!

As a reminder, the Fall Youth Event for the Central Pacific Conference will be held HERE (at our church) on *November 6-8*. Be sure to register so you can participate and help host youth from around our conference! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.



Children's Choir

Students in K-5th Grade: You are invited to sing with the church's Children's Choir, which will perform two pieces on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals start *Sunday, November 8*, right after worship in the Music Room, and will last approximately 20 minutes.

A snack will be provided each week, and singers can eat Soup 'n' Bread after the first rehearsal. Rehearsals will continue each Sunday through *December 20*. Questions? Please contact **Kristin Rorer** (753-2848)

COOKING HELP NEEDED FOR FALL YOUTH EVENT!

The Central Pacific Conference's Fall Youth Event is being hosted by our church on *November 6-8*. Other than

opening our building for the event our primary responsibility is to make meals for the assembled youth: breakfast, lunch, and dinner on *Saturday, November 7*, and breakfast on *November 8*.

Ryan Lambert is seeking volunteers to help cook and clean-up for each of these meals. We will have a pretty simple menu but many hands make for light work! Please contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail if you are willing to help! Sign-ups will be available this Sunday before/after worship.

LAST OF THE VISIONING EVENTS

If you have not yet had a chance to participate in the Visioning process, be sure to sign up this Sunday for one of the remaining sessions, or call the church office to add your name to the list:

- *Thursday, November 5*, 7:00 p.m. at **Ann and John Hawkins'** home
- *Sunday, November 8*, following worship -- bring your Soup 'n' Bread to the Fireplace Room
- *Sunday, November 15*, 5:00 for the church youth at the church

DUNAWI CREEK REPLANTING

As some of you are aware, the **Caring for Creation (C4C) Committee** led an invasive weed pull along Dunawi Creek in August. As part of this ongoing process, we plan to backfill the weeded areas with some new native plants in February. We have a \$5 gift certificate from Weed Spotters and a \$100 grant from SOLV. We have also applied for a

\$200 grant from the City of Corvallis Storm Water program. Our plan is to place an order for the upcoming Benton County Soil & Water Conservation Native Plant Sale in January.

In preparation to replant, the C4C Committee is establishing a group to plan this effort and figure out types of plants (such as ground cover, flowers, shrubs or trees), quantities and planting locations. We will also discuss issues such as appropriate plants for the various locations, size of plants, and plants that attract wildlife (butterflies, hummingbirds and other birds), just to name a few. If you would be interested in participating in this effort with us, we need the additional help. This can be an opportunity for you to learn about native plants, or to share your knowledge about them. Please help us to be good stewards of our wonderful portion of Dunawi Creek by joining us in this effort.

If you are interested, please contact **Larry Thornton** at 738-8704 or freshaire2002@earthlink.net.

GRACE NOTES As we move deeper into this year's stewardship campaign, "Grace Upon Grace," we're reaching out to members of the congregation to share with us their "Grace Notes" – short profiles, complete with reflections about the moments of grace we find in our lives and how First Congregational has helped to shape those

moments.

Here's our next profile:

Name: Bob and Judy Hannigan

Members since: 2008

Why we joined First Congregational: So we could worship with our family. We also appreciate the caring supportive leadership and members who are passionate about peace and justice.

Why we've stayed: Friendships, meaningful sermons, fishing companions, outstanding music and members who share their wide variety of interests and expertise

Our fondest hope for the church: An increasing number of young families and children

Moment of grace: Some sermon messages, service opportunities like shelters and the opportunity to practice our faith with our family

Our hidden talents: Organizational skills and horseback riding

What we offer the church: Enthusiastic participation in church activities, dishwashing experience, and intergenerational interests

(If you're interested in being the subject of a "Grace Note" profile, call or e-mail **Mike McInally** at 905-4282 or mmcinally@aol.com.)

THANKS!

... to **Sidney Chase** for several repairs on the Fireplace Room kitchen faucet, and then for replacing it;

... and to the **Thackray, Chambers,** and **Carrick-Larson** families for hosting

courses of the October 18 youth progressive dinner. Thanks also to **Ginny Lucker, Kathy Mason, and Peggy Carrick** for serving as drivers for the event!

Dear Friends,

Having been the church's lead Financial Secretary for about ten years I feel it is about time that I step down from this position and have someone else take over. For many months now Karen Herold has been becoming familiar with the position and will take over the lead duties on November first. Please refer any question about the Financial Secretaries to her at 541 752 6853 (h) or e-mail at mbolkher@comcast.net.

I have enjoyed working with the Congregation as Financial Secretary and intend to continue, but with fewer duties and more flexibility. I will miss the smiling faces and cheerful attitudes of friends when they need to ask why there was something unexpected on their giving records or pointing out occasional discrepancies. I can truthfully say that in all this time I haven't had a single bad experience resolving problems we have encountered. Thank you for being such a great group to work with.

Jim Cantey

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

*Dialogue with New Takarazuka Mayor
"How can we change Takarazuka?"*

We had the Takarazuka City mayor election on April 19 and elected the very first woman mayor since the city of Ta-

karazuka established its municipal system in 1954. It was sensational news because, not only did a woman become the mayor, but she was elected from among six candidates by citizens who took the election seriously.

We had two mayors in a row, the last and the one before last, who had to resign due to conviction for accepting bribes from construction companies or waste treatment companies. Though Takarazuka has been famous nationwide for its Takarazuka Revue (all women company), we have now become famous for the disgrace of two mayors. We, as citizens, felt humiliated, and were determined to get the municipal system back into our own hands so that we could watch how our taxes were used.

Five months after we had elected the new mayor, an organization "Walking with the mayor, Tomoko Nakagawa" was set up by interested citizens. The main objective of this organization is participation in the municipal system by citizens, not leaving it only to the mayor or city officials. The mayor will listen to the what the citizens want and make the town better through dialogues with them.

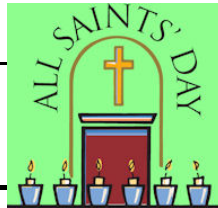
The Takarazuka church facilities were used for the first town hall meeting on "Dialogue with Mayor Nakagawa" on September 19, which happened to be the date for our church's monthly workshop about social issues. There were about 80 attendants, including not only church members but also the general public. She

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, October 30

7:30 p.m. Badminton

All Saints' Sunday, November 1

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) Día de los muertos,
 Gatton Hall

(following) Stewardship training
 with lunch,
 Fireplace Room

Monday, November 2

9:00 a.m. Staff

Tuesday, November 3

Noon Lectionary class

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee

6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, November 4

Noon Women's Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 5

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, November 6

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Conference Youth
 Event (through Sunday)

TAKARAZUKA NEWS *from page 5*

talked about her resolutions in addition to important issues of Takarazuka City.

We learned that she had already started direct dialogues with some communities such as schools and senior citizen's institutions.

The budget for the new fiscal year will be discussed soon. We need to have budgets to support health, education, and welfare for children, seniors, and handicapped people, in particular. We are looking forward to being involved in the municipal system in order to rebuild, with the new mayor, Takarazuka City for us all.