

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 17

April 23, 2010

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 2

Dessert at 6:30; Meeting at 7:00

Election of officers and lay leaders
Report from Visioning Committee
West side church property update

POSTLUDE PLUS SUNDAY

The 25th is the last Sunday in April and therefore we will enjoy another Postlude Plus. The extended musical piece at the end of this week's worship will be performed by **Gavin Milligan**, tuba, accompanied by **Kristin Rorrer**.

FACE THE DISPLACED: ADULT EDUCATION AND MORE!

Did you get a chance to see the photos in the hallway to Gatton Hall this past Sunday? These beautiful photos are of the faces of some of the 4.9 million displaced people in Colombia. That huge number makes Colombia second only to Sudan as the world's largest internal displacement crisis. There are intense, wonderful faces in the photos. But behind each of those faces is so much loss and grief, as well as so much strength and

endurance. If you read the short quotations or stories by each photo, you will get hints to some of what is behind those faces. The faces and the stories call us to learn more and to care more. They call us to work to change the situation that causes them such pain and loss.

[continued on page 4]

NEW PHOTO BOARD IS UP!

Check out the newly painted and reformatted church photo display in the corridor outside the church office. This wonderful resource has been restored and updated thanks to the work and dedication of **Linda and Earl Hadfield, Ginie Capan, Amanda LaBonte, Gary Enschede, Bob Stebbins, and Ryan Lambert**.

THIS SUNDAY

April 25

Adult Forum: *[See article left.]*

Scriptures: John 10:22-30
Acts 9:36-43

Sermon: "The Good Shepherd?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, my mother died last Thursday. When the time came, her death was a blessing. No one would want someone they loved to continue in the state she was in. And my mother had an unshakeable and very concrete belief in heaven. She trusted absolutely that in death she would be reunited with my father, my sister, and all her family and friends who had gone before her.

As a child, I unambiguously adored my mother. She was elegant, fun, loving, and like my father, a little on the zany side. They were well matched, a true love story. After my father's death, my mother changed. She grew more difficult. Our relationship grew more ambiguous. I did not find her easy to be with, and taking care of her these last few years too often felt like a burden. It is a gift that with her passing has come the freedom to remember easier times, fun times, the sweet and joyful memories of my childhood.

Because of the changes in relationship over the years, grieving my mother's death is complex for me. There's actually a name for it: "complicated grief," and knowledgeable professionals write articles and books about it. I find it comforting to know that I am not alone in the conflicting emotions lodged side by side in my heart. Many of you, I am sure, have faced the same ambiguity. And I write about it because I know that there is a myth pervading our culture that the experience of loss should fit sweetly and tidily in an eight line verse on a Hallmark card. The passing that is death should carry away with it all injury, anger, conflict. Sorrow should be framed with clean edges. Should. Should. Should.

It doesn't work like that, not for many people. This morning I talked with an old friend. For her, it was her father whose death was complicated for her. And she shared with me her shame when the "shoulds" would bear down upon her, and the anger that would follow the shame because she could not be honest about her feelings. She loved her father, but.... Many people wanted to hear about the love; few would allow her to give voice to the "but" without trivializing, denying, or worst, chastising her for having such feelings.

Fortunately, I haven't experienced that kind of affront when people engage me in talking about my mother. I tell myself it is because I have wonderful friends and I live in a church family that lovingly understands and supports complex feelings much like we support the diverse combinations of faith and doubt that are our individual theologies. Even so, we all need to be reminded from time to time that the starting point in caring for each other is allowing, encouraging each other to be honest about what we feel and don't feel, about what we know and don't know. Such open listening is so

important. It can enable healing, self-knowledge, increased faith. There are as many faiths as there are believers. There are as many griefs as there are grievers. I am thankful to be part of a community which allows us to speak that truth and have it be respectfully held.

God bless you all, and thank you to all of you for your many expressions of caring for me and my family in these past days.

Liz

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next gathering of Theology on Tap will be *Thursday, April 29*, at 7:00 p.m. at the downtown McMenamins (420 NW 3rd Street). Our text for the night will be Hebrews 12-13. Join us theological conversation over the beverage of your choice! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT IN THE AFTERNOON!

Join us this Saturday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m. at the Frisbee Golf course at Willamette Park in SE Corvallis. Bring a Frisbee (Play it Again Sports is a good Frisbee source) and join us for a trek around the course. Men of all ages are welcome! Contact **Ted McCann** (elprofemac@comcast.net) or **Ryan** for more details. See you there!

YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING THIS SUNDAY

Our young adult group will be gathering this Sunday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the downtown American Dream Pizza for an evening of fellowship and food. We'll chip in for pizza to share and plan our next couple of gatherings -- bring

your calendars and join us! All adults between 19-30 are welcome! Contact **Ryan** for more information.

CAMP HAVALOTAFUN RE- SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21

Camp Havalotafun, our summer camp primer for children, has been re-scheduled for *May 21-22*. Camp will start at 5:30 p.m. on the 21st and conclude at noon on Saturday, the 22nd. Our camp experience will include dinner and breakfast, games, a group hike, campfire and singing, and more! Children between 5 years and 5th grade are invited to come to camp and younger children are welcome with parents for a "family camp" experience. Watch this space for registration information or contact **Ryan** or **Molly** for more information.

HOLOCAUST BOOKS ON DISPLAY

Our library has many books which relate to the Holocaust---for both adults and children. Come, look at the display and check out some of these resources for your family. And if you have had a library book at your house for a long time, please return it so that others may read it.

HOLY SOX UPDATE

Practices for the Holy Sox coed church softball team are:

- *Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m.,*
Cheldelin Middle School
- *Tuesday, April 27, 5:30 p.m.,*
Cheldelin Middle School

Please let **Tammy Skubinna** (Skuby1@comcast.net) know if you are interested in playing. Anyone who is a high school 12th grader or older is welcome to join the team. Cost is \$35.00 for Corvallis residents and \$45.00 for non-residents. Games start on *Sunday, May 16*. All games are on Sunday afternoons or evenings, except for makeup games due to rainouts.

FIELD TRIP FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On *Wednesday, May 5*, Women's Fellowship will have its monthly lunch and program at the Old Mill Center for Children and Families. Dr. **Bev Larson** will speak.

Sign up this Sunday or next in the church foyer (or call the church office to let us know you're coming), and then plan to gather at 11:45 on Wednesday to carpool to Old Mill. The cost of the meal, which begins at noon, is \$5.

ADULT EDUCATION *from page 1*

Nearly 10 years ago in Colombia I saw a partly muddy, partly dusty hillside covered with incredibly inadequate shelters. I saw "homes" made of pieces of cardboard, pieces of plastic tarp, sticks,

pieces of cloth, sections of rope strung from any available tree, bush or pole, some palm thatch, and a few – not many – pieces of corrugated tin roofing. I see that hillside again in my heart now when I look at the faces of some of those displaced in these last 10 years. I look at the faces and I see them filling many more hillsides like the one I saw. And I hear some of the voices I heard 10 years ago. These voices, like the faces in the photos, are calling to us all to care and to act.

Come to Adult Education this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to "Face the Displaced": to see a couple of short videos and have a discussion that will help us have more understanding about the current situation in Colombia, about the continuing U.S. role, and about how we can care more about our sisters and brothers there. After church, in Gatton Hall, you can spend a few minutes helping to put together posters from the photos and stories. These posters will be part of an exhibit that will go up at Westminster House to help the University community also "Face the Displaced."

Betty Massoni

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR REPERTORY SINGERS HERE

Don't miss **Steve Zielke's Corvallis Repertory Singers**, back in our sanctuary both *Friday, April 23*, and *Saturday, April 24*, at 7:30 p.m. with *Curtain Up! Songs of Inspiration in Hard Times*. Duets, choruses, and solos from "Annie,"

"West Side Story," "Les Misérables," "Cabaret," "Avenue Q," and many more. Familiar faces on stage include **Betty Busch, Jill Miller, Barb Clauson, Trina Norman, Anna Seitz, Joe Mikkelson, Virginia Stockwell.** Gale Hazel sings "Smile;" **Pete Butler** sings "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"

A percentage of the ticket revenue will go to collaborator Linn-Benton Food Share. A grant from the Benton County Cultural Coalition helps to make possible a more nearly staged production.

After last year's way-overful house — and parking lot! — there will be two performances. If you have a season ticket, you're probably sure to get a good seat. If you're just getting one now, come early! Tickets are \$15 at Grass Roots, Gracewinds, Beard Framing in Timberhill and Sid Stevens in Albany.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT THIS FALL

Join us at Kah.Nee.Ta in Warm Springs, Oregon, where the sky is always blue, on *November 5-7*. You can register at www.nrwr-ucc.org or contact **Linda Hadfield** (541-752-3168, or hadfield2@comcast.net).

Fantastic workshops are planned and the keynote speaker will be Carolyn Scott Kortge, author of *The Spirited Walker*. Hold your space now!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

... to **Jo Anne Trow**, a recent recipient of the distinguished National As-

sociation of Student Personnel Administrators 2010 Pillar of the Profession Award. A reception, hosted by the Division of Student Affairs at OSU, was held this past Wednesday, April 14, to honor Jo Anne;

... and to **Pete and Susie Nelson** on the birth of grandson **Kai Devon Nelson**, 8 lbs. and 8 oz., on March 26. Kai and his parents, **Greg and Caitlin**, are all "doing great."

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Anna Marie Holmes**, at home with a back injury;

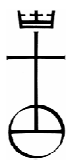
... and with **Liz Oettinger**, her sister, **Mary Westra**, and their families following the death of their mother, **Logan Oettinger**, on April 15. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on *Saturday, May 1*, at 10:00 a.m.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

John Hawkins 5/2, Ellie Erkkila 5/4, Christine Cantey 5/7, Frances Agnew 5/7, Ginny Lucker 5/11, Susie Nelson 5/13, Charlene Hunter 5/14, Larry Thornton 5/14, Marj Elwood 5/15, Bettie Muckleston 5/15, Jean James 5/16, Maryann Som 5/16, Ginny White 5/17, Liz Oettinger 5/18, Jacqueline Smith 5/19, Ruth Leeper 5/20, Kim Jones 5/21, Verlyne Phillips 5/24, Grant Smith 5/25, Lafe Harter 5/28 Peter Klingeman 5/31, Andrea McDaniel 5/31

(Anniversaries next week!)



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. - Noon
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

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

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 27.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, April 24

3:00 p.m. Men's Night Out,
 Willamette Park

3:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, April 25

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) Children's Choir,
 Music Room

(following) Vacation Bible School
 planning,
 Conference Room

1:00 p.m. Middle School and
 High School Youth,
 Jackson St. Shelter

7:00 p.m. Young Adults, Ameri-
 can Dream Pizza

Monday, April 26

7:00 p.m. Visioning Committee,
 Fireplace Room

Tuesday, April 27

8:45 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class
 5:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice,
 Cheldelin MS
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, April 28

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 29

7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap,
 McMenamins, 3rd St.

PLEASE RETURN CONTAINERS

At Easter we hunt eggs; after Easter we hunt for the green plastic flower containers! If you took a flower arrangement on Easter, please check to see if the container is still hanging around your house. (Each of them was marked, "Please return to First Congregational UCC," so they should be easily identified.) We need them for next year's arrangements, so please help them find their way back to the church office.