



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 3

January 21, 2011

Annual Budget Meeting This Sunday, January 23

The congregation will meet to discuss and approve our operating budget for 2011 at the congregational meeting at the end of worship on *January 23*.

We had a successful stewardship campaign, resulting in a 3.63% increase in pledges over 2010. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we also ended 2010 with a strong surplus, allowing us to devote \$9,000 of 2010 surplus to the 2011 operating budget.

Updates to the preliminary budget based on final 2010 results:

- Decreased child care \$300
- Increased Diaconate Fellowship \$200
- Increased CE events budget by \$300 for the monthly Family Service
- Replaced estimated benefit and tax expenses with actual rates, increasing \$40

Cuts made to the preliminary budget to bring it into balance:

- Decreased COLA (cost of living adjustment) from 1.5% to 0.75%, saving \$1,700.

- Eliminated Sabbatical and Road Improvement set asides, saving \$1,500.
- Reduced building maintenance by \$1,000.

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THIS SUNDAY

January 23

Adult Forum: Perspectives On The Palestinian/Israeli Conflict: Gary and Betty Massoni will be sharing observations on the current situation from their recent trip to Israel and Palestine, reporting on their conversations with people on both sides, and showing some photos of life on both sides of the "security barrier." They will also talk about our church's connection through UCC Global Ministries and its partners in the Middle East, and suggest a couple of things we can do to help. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: "Exercising Our Faith"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear church family,

One of the reader's theater pieces that my college drama group performed keeps running through my head. It's called "Bits and Pieces" by Lois A. Cheney. Some excerpts follow:

"Bits and Pieces. People. People important to you. People unimportant to you cross your life, touch it with love and carelessness and move on. Some people leave and you breathe a sigh of relief and you wonder why you ever came in contact with them. Others leave and you wonder why they had to go away and leave such a gaping hole. . . . You think on the many who have moved into your hazy memory. You look on those present and wonder. You find you are made up of bits and pieces of all who ever touched your life, and are more because of it."

from God Is No Fool by Lois A. Cheney

First Congregational has touched my life in so many ways already, and I am thankful. I am thankful that a church body like this exists, and that I have the opportunity to be a part of it. You have combined the Christian faith and love and giving in a way that I have not ever seen, much less experienced. Before meeting you, I had come to the conclusion that someone who chose the label Christian also chose to judge others based on pieces of scripture that seemed applicable to the topic at hand. I completed seminary in a very conservative denomination, before realizing that I did not fit in that group in more ways than one. Here I find a congregation often represented by the face and arms of someone like Anna Maria Holmes who greets each person that walks in the door with a smile, an offer of service and open arms. I am amazed and humbled and so very, very grateful as I see how you extend your support and respect for so many different and diverse groups and people in our community. You are a church that does embody so many of the qualities that we believe Jesus taught and exemplified.

Serving as CE Associate over the past several months has allowed me to get to know this congregation even better. I believe that "I am more because of it." Unfortunately, I have come to a decision that I should step away from the position of CE Associate. This was not an easy decision, and it is based on a couple of things going on in my life. An upcoming job opportunity will prevent me from giving the time to the church that is needed as CE Associate. I can't talk about that job much at this point. The decision to leave the staff has also been influenced by my inability to resolve my current theology on church and commitment to church in a staff posi-

tion. This is complicated and involves a long history in organized religion as referenced earlier.

Despite my own indecisiveness about how much of myself to plant in a church, I am so glad that Corvallis has a group of people like you forming a consistent place for our community to explore spirituality and Christianity. The month of February will be my last as CE Associate, but I do want to continue to worship and learn with you. This is the church in Corvallis where Shelly and I feel most at home.

Peace to all of you, and thanks,

Donna



The next gatherings for the youth groups will be on *January 30* and *February 6*.

On *January 30* the **Middle School** group will meet at 5:00 p.m. and the **High School** group will meet at 6:30.

On *February 6*, we will have our annual Super Bowl party—come for the game, commercials, snacks, and the fellowship. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

Confirmation class: The confirmation class will be meeting **THIS Sunday, January 23**, at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your bibles and your books! See you there!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

All of us will need vital human services to live safe, happy, and healthy lives at home, or in supportive housing, in our own communities. Help us plan for the future and the now! Please attend a public meeting on *January 27*, from

2:00–4:00 p.m., at Salbaugeon Suites, 1730 NW 9th Street, to help shape the local Area Agency on Aging Area Plan.

Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to **Ann** (541-924-8421 or ajohnson@ocwcog.org).

EVERY STITCH TELLS A STORY



At the **Women's Fellowship** meeting on *Wednesday, February 2*, **Mary Maxwell**, a UCC global missionary, will share her personal life legacy – a trunk show of 35 studio art quilts. She will take you on a tour of 18 countries. On this journey you will experience her spiritual and creative response to the impact of modernization and development on the traditional life of indigenous people.

The presentation will be a 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall preceded by a lunch (\$5) at noon in Gatton Hall. All church members and friends and their guests are invited. Sign up before church on *January 23 or 30* (so we now how much food to prepare), or call the church office.

Winter Weekend

REGISTER SOON!

Our annual Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake will be *February 19-21* (Presidents' Day Weekend). This multi-generational event is a great opportunity to have outdoor fun inner-tubing, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, playing in the snow, and indoor fun playing games, reading, and visiting all while enjoying the company and community of church friends in a low-key and beautiful setting.



Registration will continue until we reach our maximum number of 40 participants. The cost per person is: Adults (over 18) \$72.00; Youth (13-17) \$62.00; Children (6-12) \$55.00; Children (2-5) \$36.00. This will pay for two nights' lodging, Saturday and Sunday dinner and Sunday and Monday breakfast as well as covering our fee for tubing.



Full payment is due to the church by *February 11*. If you have questions, or if you would like to register, but will not be in church this Sunday, please contact **Ryan Lambert** in the church office (757-8122), or via e-mail.



FOOD DRIVE YIELDS BOUNTIFUL HARVEST!

On January 17, Mission Board member **Lee Lazaro** loaded his pick-up with 33 cases (!) of food collected at Safeway as part of our food drive. The **South Corvallis Food Bank** and **LBCC Lunch Box** were the recipients of 33 cartons of food, weighing 428 pounds. This, added to the carloads of food we donated at Thanksgiving time, adds up to more than 550 pounds for the hungry folks in our area— a remarkable effort! Thanks to all who donated, who transported, and who contributed in any way to this success.

My heartfelt thanks for the many cards and good wishes I received from members of our church during my recent bout with chemo. What morale boosters they've been.

Sincerely,

Ginny White

A BOOK THAT HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE

Given the Epiphany theme of transformation, on Laity Sunday, *January 30*, our service will be built around books that have transformed our life and spiritual selves in significant ways. Is there any such book in your life?

The **Worship Committee** would like to put together a list of books recommended by congregation members that have been significant in their understand-

ing of themselves, God, and the world. This list will be made available as part of our *January 30* worship. If you would like to make a submission, please write a note with the title of the book and the author's name, and a sentence or two about why it was significant to you. You can e-mail your submissions to **Liz** (liz@ucc-corvallis.org) or put them in the marked box in the church office. The deadline for submissions is *January 22*.

The **Corvallis Repertory Singers**, with members of Arabic Ensemble Ala-Nar, present the Pacific Northwest Premiere of Karl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater*. They will be accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ, as well as Middle East instruments: Egyptian riqq, darbuca and dombek.



The concert is *Sunday, January 23*, at 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis.

Steve Zielke is the conductor of the group and the singers include present and former FCC choir members **Jan Maitland, Barbara Clausen, Nicki Zielke, Jill Miller, and Virginia Stockwell**.

For more information, check out: <http://repsing.org/>

GRADUATION NEWS

Ashley Walker was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative

Physiology from the University of Colorado at Boulder this December. She has accepted and started a post-doctoral position at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles researching muscular dystrophy.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pearl Doolin 2/2, Nancy Swain 2/2, Don Leeper 2/2, Jane Capizzi 2/4, Lauren Meara 2/4, Jan Small 2/5, Pete Nelson 2/6, Karen Herold 2/7, Anna Marie Holmes 2/8, Jo Anne Trow 2/10, Dory Nafshun 2/10, Davis Nafshun 2/10, Erin Richmond 2/11, Janice Engle 2/12, Steve Milligan 2/12, Laurel Goldner 2/13, Rachel Zielke 2/15, Shauna Lambert 2/16, Larry Small 2/16, Harold Hunter 2/19, Claire Esary 2/22, Ian Milligan 2/23, Eleanor MacDonald 2/26, Marsha Gulick 2/26, Anna Gay 2/27, Noelle Gay 2/27



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bond and Marilyn Starker 2/3 (32nd)
Bill and Susan Wickes 2/13 (40th)
Bart and Jody Eleveld 2/15 (36th)

To everyone in our church family:

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, kind words and meals. This has been a difficult time and your support has meant the world to us.

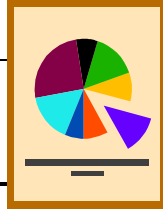
God bless,

Amanda, Michele and Diana La Bonte



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Budget Meeting



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 25.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, January 21

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, January 22

3:45 p.m. Meet at church to
 carpool to
 U2charist, Portland

Sunday, January 23

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

**10:30 a.m. Worship and
 Annual Budget
 Meeting**

(following) Youth and Children's
 Committee,
 Conference Room

5:00 p.m. In the Beginning

6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

Tuesday, January 25

10:15 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, January 26

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
NO Bell Choir

Thursday, January 27

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group,
Fireplace Room

Friday, January 28

7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: *February 12-14:*
 Winter Weekend at Suttle Lake; *January*
30: Laity Sunday; *March 9:* Ash
 Wednesday

BUDGET from page 1

Copies of the budget are available in
 the church foyer by the nametags for
 your reading pleasure. If you have any
 questions, please come to the meeting or
 call **Jacqueline Smith**, Budget Chair, or
Verlyne Phillips, Treasurer.

OFFICE VACATION SCHEDULE

Ann Hawkins will be out of the
 church office from *January 24* through
February 1. During her absence, the of-
 fice hours will be 9:00 a.m. to noon. **Su-
 san Wicks** will be filling in during this
 time.