



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 10

March 11, 2011



Daylight Saving Time begins this *Saturday night, March 12*. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour.

VISIT OKINAWA IN FEBRUARY 2012

You are invited to participate in our mission trip to Okinawa with our partner church in Japan, Takarazuka Church. The planned dates of our visit are *Thursday, February 9 – Wednesday, February 15, 2012*. With our Takarazuka Church friends, we will witness the situations created by the military presence in Okinawa.

An introductory discussion about the trip will be held after the worship service on *Sunday, March 13*, in Gatton Hall for all those interested. Look for the table with **Kiko Kimura**. If you are unable to attend, you may contact **Brian Lee** or Kiko Kimura.

ARSON RESPONSE IS TOPIC FOR PORTLAND RADIO PROGRAM

Arson at the Islamic Center of Corvallis, followed by an outpouring of community support, is the subject of a

forthcoming broadcast on Portland radio station KB00. Four leaders of the community response will discuss events leading up to and after the arson attack. The program will be broadcast on FM 90.7 and FM100.7 at 9:00 a.m. *Wednesday, March 16*, for one hour.

Participants are: **Mohamed Siala**, director of the Salman Al-Farisi Islamic Center; Rabbi **Benjamin Barnett** of Beit Am Jewish Community Center; Rev. **Elizabeth Oettinger**, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, and **Laurie Childers** of the Corvallis Friends Meeting.

THIS SUNDAY

March 13

Adult Forum: This is the final week of the *Creative Aging* series. The topic is "Beginning Again with More Focus."

Scriptures: Luke 4:1-13

Psalm 32

Sermon: Barbara Brown

Taylor's "Lenten
Discipline"

Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

About two months ago, a longtime clergy friend of mine sent me a gift: a collection of William Sloane Coffin's sermons from his time as pastor of Riverside Church in New York. My friend knew both that I love preaching and that Bill Coffin had been a mentor and friend to me when I was a student at Yale. I started reading the sermons – there are about 250 of them in the two-volume set. Even as I reveled in the best of them, I found myself thinking that they deserved a wider audience. Then I thought of some of the other great preachers of the past 40 years whose sermons I have heard or read, and I began thinking....

The liturgical season of Lent is upon us. Lent is the season of the Christian year when we are invited to pay particular attention to our religious life, to better attend to old spiritual disciplines or take on new ones, to refresh our knowledge of and commitment to our faith. Sometimes that renewal can be aided by hearing the Gospel proclaimed in an unfamiliar voice: fresh images and interpretations. It's like hearing a familiar hymn played in different rhythms or on a different instrument; it can touch our minds or hearts in a new way.

So Ryan and I are going to give up preaching for Lent! More precisely, through this Lenten season, we will be preaching sermons written by some of the best progressive preachers of the past fifty years. William Sloane Coffin, John Vannorsdall, Barbara Brown Taylor, Yvette Flunder, Peter Gomes, Matthew Boulton: each of these preachers has a distinctive voice and has been widely successful in articulating a thoughtful and compelling vision of what the church and Christian life give us, teach us, challenge us to do and be.

Choosing six sermons has been difficult! Over the past month, in preparing this series, Ryan and I, between us, have read well over 100 sermons by more than a dozen preachers. The list of preachers above is still provisional. We're still reading, and we want to share with you the best we find that fits into a Lenten context. Let us know what you think. Better yet, talk with each other about the sermons. The purpose of this endeavor is to stimulate both personal reflection and open discussion.

When I was a child, I thought of Lent as a kind of punishment, strenuous Christianity just for the sake of discipline. Now I think of Lent as an annual invitation: voluntary discipline undertaken so that our faith might better serve us and we might better serve God. I hope this sermon series will be part of that for you.

God bless you all,

Liz



Thank you to **Brooke, Heather, Anna, Noelle, Brooks, Claire, Gwyneth, Tim,** and **Carl** for all of

your help at Community Soup! You all did a great job!

Ryan is working on getting a time set for rock climbing at OSU during Spring Break...watch for more details and plan to join the group!

HIRE OUR GUATEMALA-BOUND YOUTH

Do you (or your friends, neighbors, or relatives) need help with spring cleaning chores? Several of our youth will be participating in the Guatemala Pilgrimage this summer, and some of them are seeking to raise funds to offset the expenses of this service-learning experience. They are available for hire (with payment through a donation to the Guatemala fund in their name) for a variety of jobs, including childcare, house sitting, pet care, housecleaning, tutoring, yard work, general maintenance/manual labor, -- and other special projects for which you need assistance. They will be in Gatton Hall after church this Sunday, to take your work orders. Free up your time by having one of our able and hard-working youth provide fun and energetic childcare for your kids, or clean out the garage or basement, weed the yard, plant your vegetables, scrub your floors, tackle that long-overdue project you've been

putting off too long -- or anything you might need help with. You may also contact any of the youth directly or **Ted McCann** at elprofemac@comcast.net or 541-738-8811 for a direct referral. Thanks for supporting our youth.

Mission Offering for March **"DO YOU LOVE ME?"**

Jesus asked his disciple, Peter, "Do you love me?" Of course Peter protested that he did; wouldn't you? But Jesus wasn't looking for quick words. He asked twice more; he wanted substance. Instead of being satisfied with the words, Jesus told Peter, and us, "Feed my sheep."

We know we are called to feed and tend Jesus' sheep around the world, but we often feel overwhelmed. Where? How? What is needed most? There are so many millions of Jesus' sheep nearby and far away!

This month's Mission Offering, **One Great Hour of Sharing**, offers us one good way to help tend some of the sheep around the world. Our special offering, combined with those of other congregations, will work with local partner organizations in more than 80 countries. Most of us cannot be in person in these areas where people need tending, but our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing can help us be there in spirit. Our gifts will help provide relief in crisis situations: they will care for refugees and displaced people fleeing unsafe places; and they will also help tend for the long term with de-

velopment programs such as water and agricultural projects, micro-credit loans, health and sanitation campaigns, etc. No one sits here in the United States deciding the most pressing needs for others. Instead our gifts are used to help respond when we ask our partner organizations, who know their own situation best, “What would you have us do with you? What are your highest priorities?”

Please give generously for our March mission offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

SIGN UP FOR WOMEN’S NIGHT AT THE MOSQUE

Women of the congregation are invited to an evening with the women of the Salman Al-Farisi Islamic Center on *Friday, March 18*, at 6:00 p.m. They need to know how many are coming so sign up this Sunday or call our church office to indicate your interest. We will carpool from First Congregational that evening.

Have an old, good-condition laptop that you want to get rid of? One of our housebound members would love to have it! This would allow her to be in communication with so much that is currently not available to her. Contact the church office.

COME SEE WHAT’S NEW AT CAMP ADAMS!

The Camp Adams Task Force is planning a Camp Round-up for Camp Adams on *Saturday, April 9*. Please save

the date and pass the word on. The plan is to have families with camper age and younger children spend time at camp; they will have activities and tours to check out the changes. The time will be announced later.

They are looking for young adult counselors to help, so if you are interested please let **Patty Todd** know at pstodd@comcast.net. More information about the Camp Round-up will be available at www.campadams.org.



Sign up this Sunday to help with Stone Soup this month. Join the FCC crew to prepare, serve and/or clean up the evening meal offered to needy Corvallis folks on *Tuesday, March 15*, at First Christian Church. Work begins at 3:00 p.m. for this important ministry.

CALLING ALL CONGREGATIONALIST HEALTHCARE ADVOCATES!

Please come to an educational workshop on health care reform on *Saturday, March 12*, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our church. Learn what you can do to help guarantee healthcare for all, “everyone in-nobody out.”

Call **Mike Huntington** at 541-745-5635 or e-mail him at mchuntington@comcast.net. Registration deadline is *Friday, March 7*, for reserving lunch and the educational packet but late registrants may audit the class.

**Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.
 Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.
 Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.
 Painful moments, TRUST GOD.
 Every moment, THANK GOD.**



FOR YOUNG ADULTS TO START NEXT MONTH

Starting in early April, **Kim Thackray** will be forming a Young Adults Bell Choir. Several OSU students are interested in ringing, but we also need young adults from our congregation to fill out the choir. No experience is required, but you should know the basics of reading music. Practice time is not yet set, but one possibility is Wednesday evenings after choir. The group will play in our service once, and possibly at OSU once. We'll let you decide if you are a "young adult." If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate, please contact **Kim Thackray** at 541-758-8542 or thackray_family@yahoo.com.

BOY SCOUTS OFFER PLANTS

Boy Scout Troop One, sponsored by our church, is selling garden plants as a fund-raiser. The plants are from the same certified organic green house as last year. Check out www.newleafgreenhouse.com

to see what they offer. The deadline for ordering is April 12. Contact **Rachell** and **Ian Carlisle** for an order form at rachell.carlisle@hotmail.com.

Please mail the form and check to Rachell and Ian, 5260 NW Highland Dr. Corvallis 97330. The plants will be delivered to you on *May 11* or *12*.

CHAIR PILLOWS NEEDED

Furniture Share delivers about 900 items to families each month. **Ray William** repairs about 1% or 9 items monthly. Pillow are needed to complete chair repairs. Please call Ray at 541-753-1979 or williamr@peak.org.

DROP-IN LENTEN QUIET AND PRAYER DAY

On *Saturday, March 12*, the Church of the Good Samaritan invites you to enter into the Lenten season by spending time in quiet; just drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for as long as you like. Quiet Day will be in the lounge, parish hall, and chapel area, not the main sanctuary. Enter from the parking lot. The church is at 35th and Harrison Streets. You are also welcome at the informal Holy Eucharist at 2:00. For more information, call **Cammie Bella** (541-753-0020 or bellacd@peak.org).

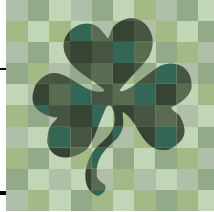
Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Karen Miller**, recovering from knee replacement surgery, performed on March 7 in Salem.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 15.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, March 11

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, March 13

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread
 (following) Inquirers' Class
 (following) Okinawa trip meeting,
 Gatton Hall
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Wickes
 7:30 p.m. Young Adults Group

Monday, March 14

6:00 p.m. Priority on Young
 Families,
 Fireplace Room
 7:00 p.m. Visioning Implementa-
 tion, Fireplace Room

Tuesday, March 15

10:15 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
 7:00 p.m. Spirit Quest
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, March 16

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
 6:10 p.m. Child care begins,
 Room 6
 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship
 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 17

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
 1:00 p.m. Hands Together
 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, March 18

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sharon Calhoun can now be reached
 at her old phone number: 541-758-3517.
 She's still at Corvallis Manor.

READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

The group will gather to discuss *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America* by Timothy Egan, on *Sunday, March 13*, at 7:00 at the home of **Susan** and **Bill Wickes**.