



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 13

April 1, 2011

## RUMMAGE SALE COMING!

Our youth will hold a rummage sale in May to help pay for their mission trip to Guatemala. Do you have furniture, jewelry, house wares, children's clothing, gardening items, or linens to the cause? Donated items, clean and in good condition, can be placed on the designated table in Gatton Hall or the table in front of the office. Contact **Ginnie Esary** (541-754-8077; [ginsbiz@comcast.net](mailto:ginsbiz@comcast.net)) or **Rich Kaestner** (541-929-4589; [richk@alyrica.net](mailto:richk@alyrica.net)) to schedule delivery of your items. (Just a note: this is an intergenerational mission trip, but the adults who will be going to Guatemala will pay their own way.)

## A VISION OF YOUNG FAMILIES

As you may recall, our congregation participated in a Visioning process during the 2009/2010 program year. This year, the Council created a Visioning Implementation Committee, whose mission is to find ways to act on the priorities that emerged from this process.

Our number one priority was to make our church more attractive and welcoming to young families. A Young Families action group has met throughout this

year, developing and researching ideas to make this happen. The group is now ready to share their work with you, to get your feedback and to enlist your active support. You have two opportunities to hear the presentation:

- *Sunday, April 3*, during Adult Forum (9:30 a.m., Meeting Hall)
- *Thursday, April 7*, 7:00-8:00 p.m., at the home of **John and Ann Hawkins** (2910 NW Taft Ave)

Please choose the one of these opportunities that best fits your schedule. If you plan to attend at the Hawkins home, please RSVP to the church office (541-757-8122) so that they will know how many to expect. The Adult Education hour does not require RSVP.

## THIS SUNDAY

*April 3 - Communion*

**Adult Forum:** Young Families Action Group presentation. [*See above.*]

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**Sermon:** Yvette A. Flunder's  
"The Body of Christ"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

After the Lenten Islam class last week, Mohamed Siala spoke to those who were interested about the situation in Libya. He is Libyan by birth and still has family members in that country, some of whom he has not heard from for nearly two months. I like to think of myself as a generally well-educated person, aware of the world around me. I was totally unprepared for Mr. Siala's stories of unprovoked brutality, disrespect for human life, lack of even the most basic freedoms. He said to his audience, "Be thankful. You do not know what you take for granted here."

Those words have haunted me all week. They have made me scour the media outlets for news of the Libyan people; they have also made me take stock. What are the freedoms we enjoy that we take for granted? What are the other privileges in life of which we are unaware? At some level, all of us live lives of privilege, and the problem with privilege is that it is usually blind. It assumes itself; it takes itself for granted. So we don't realize it is privilege. So we don't remember to be thankful. And our imaginations do not easily stretch to comprehend the suffering and danger in which so many live. Surgery without anesthesia, antibiotics, or painkillers. Random shootings of citizens. People powerless to protect their own property, their own families, their own lives.

I have no brilliant conclusion to offer to you this week. Instead, I am merely sitting with my increased knowledge of how hard life is in Libya. I am asking myself questions about how much I do take for granted. I am trying to be more aware of privilege when I see it. That's all we can do sometimes: to sit and try to wrap our heads around a new perspective and see how it becomes part of us. It is a part of faithfulness.

Those in the Fireplace Room last Wednesday asked Mr. Siala how best to help the Libyan people. Mr. Siala recommended giving to Mercy Corps or Doctors without Borders. He also asked for our prayers. I told him I would share his request for prayers with you all.

God bless you and God bless the all-too-many people in this world who live in fear and hopelessness every day of their lives.

**Liz**

**DESSERT AUCTION!**

There is still time to support our Guatemala youth pilgrims by baking a sweet temptation for the dessert auction fund-

raiser on *April 10*, immediately after Soup 'n' Bread. For questions or to volunteer, contact **Jan Thornton** at (541-738-8704 or [hugstrees99@gmail.com](mailto:hugstrees99@gmail.com)).



Our youth groups will meet at the church on *Friday, April 8*, at 9:00 p.m. to participate in a Skype call to Jerusalem. Dessert follows. More detail to come!

### **EASTER SIGN-UPS!**

Easter is coming and we want to give everyone an opportunity to choose their **Easter breakfast** activity: making casseroles, providing breads or sweet rolls, juice preparation, set-up, Easter morning kitchen duty, serving, clean-up, and dishwashing. Check out the sign-up sheet on Sunday in the foyer to help on Easter morning or the day before.

Also available this Sunday will be sign-ups for **Easter Vigil** and **Maundy Thursday** dinner/service (*April 21*).

### **APRIL MISSION OFFERING**

The **Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center** operates weekdays in the lower floor of the First Christian Church at 6<sup>th</sup> and Madison. It is a comfortable place for homeless and low-income people to have a cup of coffee or snack, read a book, play games with friends, or talk to a volunteer. It is also a place for them to connect to needed services.

At the Drop-in Center people can find help for health or addiction problems, or advice and counseling on dozens of other issues. They can arrange for transportation to appointments, or get help applying for benefits or housing.

Sometimes they just need a sympathetic ear. There are rules that have to be followed, and the police are on call in case someone's behavior gets out of hand. This is seldom needed but helps volunteers and guests feel safe.

The Daytime Drop-in Center is an important and necessary part of our community, helping our less fortunate neighbors.

### **THE BELLS ARE RINGING**

The **Young Adult Bell Choir** is up and running and will rehearse *Thursday evenings, April 7* through the end of May. It's wonderful to have young adults wanting to join this group, but that means we also need child care from 7:20 through about 8:30. If you are high school age or older and can do paid child care for one or more of these evenings, please let the office know.

### **HOLY SOX PRACTICES START!**

The Holy Sox church coed softball team is starting up for the 2011 season! Adults and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join. The first practice is *Tuesday, April 5*, 5:30 p.m., in Gatton Hall.

Bring your mitt and your smile! If you cannot make the practice let **Tammy Skubinna** ([Skuby1@comcast.net](mailto:Skuby1@comcast.net); 541-752-4214) know that you are interested in being on the team. Cost is \$32 if you live in the Corvallis city limits and \$42.00 if you live outside the city limits. Games are from mid-May through early August.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 5.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### *Friday, April 1*

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

### *Sunday, April 3*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

### *Tuesday, April 5*

10:15 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
**5:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice,  
 Gatton Hall [ p. 3]**  
 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, April 6*

Noon Women's Fellowship  
 lunch, Gatton Hall  
 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper  
 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship  
 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### *Thursday, April 7*

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142  
**7:30 p.m. Young Adult Bell  
 Choir, Music Room**

### *Friday, April 8*

7:30 p.m. Badminton  
 9:00 p.m. Youth Skype session

## ALL-AGES BOWLING FUN

The **CE Board** is organizing an all-ages bowling event on *Saturday, April 9*, at 3:00 p.m. Bowlers of all skill levels are invited to Highland Bowl for a fun afternoon of fellowship and bowling. We will have some lanes with bumpers down so that everyone gets a chance to have a good experience! Plan to join us! Questions? Contact **Ryan** or **Kristi** at the church or via e-mail.

## Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Ed Henderlite**, recovering from eye surgery late last week in Salem.