Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 18 May 6, 2011

UCC RELIEF EFFORTS

The United Church of Christ's national disaster ministries has issued and appeal to help respond to the storms in the Southeastern United States. If you would like to donate to the relief fund you can do so online at ucc.org. You can also donate through the church and we will send the money to the UCC.

THIS SUNDAY TO SUPPORT GUATEMALA TRIP

The Guatemala delegation and the youth groups will be washing cars THIS SUNDAY (rain or shine!) during Sunday school, church, and Soup 'n' Bread. Donations will be accepted and all money will help defray the trip costs for our youth. If you would like your car washed, please look for the youth standing in the driveway who will give you a ticket to place on your dash. Please leave your keys on the driver's seat and an adult will move your car into the washing station while you are in the church. Thank you for supporting our youth!

SUMMER IS A TIME TO PLAY!

Summer provides us with an opportunity to hear a variety of music in our worship service while the choir is on "vacation." Are you a youth who plays an instrument or sings? If so, we would love to hear from you!

In addition to our elementary, middle, and high school youth, we know a number of students return in the summer who might enjoy playing. We welcome and encourage all ages who are interested. Please contact **Steve Zielke** (szielke@oregonstate.edu) or the church office (office@ucc-corvallis.org).

THIS SUNDAY

May 8

Adult Forum: In the aftermath of Osama Bin Laden's death we will use video resources to look at theological perspectives on war, just war, and peace-making – 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Luke 24:13-35
Sermon: "The Emmaus Road"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK *Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Osama bin Laden was killed a few days ago. I know that's not news to any of you. When I heard the news, I felt a sense of relief; I thought about all the people who have been hunting for him all this time, and what it must feel like for them to have successfully completed this "mission"; I wondered how the event would be perceived in the Islamic world. I was not prepared, however, for the news footage of celebrations outside the White House and in New York. I was also unprepared for the number of people who would ask me what I thought about the action. So what follows is my opinion, one point of view.

I am reminded in this moment of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who, during World War II, entered into a plot to kill Hitler. The action was unsuccessful, and Bonfoeffer ended up executed by the Nazis for his part in the plot, but for me, what is most important about his action is the "rules" he developed for "just tyrannicide," based on the history of Christian Just War theory. In order to "justify" such an action, Bonhoeffer concluded, the person had to present an imminent danger to innocents. All other avenues of neutralizing his actions had to have been tried and failed, and, most importantly to me, Bonfoeffer insisted, the action was still both wrong and sinful (though better than inaction), and the person carrying it out had to be willing to accept the consequences meted out by the state or by God as just.

I believe Bin Laden qualifies as a tyrant, a killer of innocents. I think the action against him can be morally justified. But Bonhoeffer reminds us of the subtle, but yet important distinction between "right" and "morally justified." There's nothing good about killing, even though at times, in the right circumstances, it is a legitimate or even the best course of action. But killing is never to be "celebrated."

It is a tragedy that the world has come to this point of polarization, of hatred, of terrorism. That tragedy is only compounded if we take the killing of anyone lightly.

That's just my opinion. I'm interested in hearing yours.

Liz

END OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

Please note that although worship will not move to the summer-schedule 9:30 start-time until *June 26* we will be ending our Christian Education programming on *May 22*. – both Church School and Adult Forum.

In worship on *May 22* we will celebrate and acknowledge our Christian Education leadership, as well as our choir and worship musicians.

Then, *June 5* is Confirmation Sunday, and graduates will be recognized on *June 12*. Yes, folks, it's cake season!

The **Middle and High School Youth** groups will both be helping our Guatemala contingent with the car wash THIS SUNDAY morning, *May 8*, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Please wear weather and car-wash appropriate clothing (boots, gloves?) and join us for a wet morning of washing! We want to be ready when the choir folks arrive! See you Sunday morning!

Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT IS MAY 13-15

A quick reminder for the confirmation class, mentors, and families that the confirmation class will be going to Camp Adams on *Friday, May 13*, for a confirmation retreat. We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. on the 13th to car-pool to Camp Adams. We will be returning by about 2:00 p.m. on *Sunday, May 15*. **Ryan** will have a packing list THIS Sunday.

PLEASE RETURN FLOWER CONTAINERS

If you took home one of the beautiful Easter arrangements from the sanctuary or a vase of flowers from the Easter Breakfast tables, please remember to return the vase and/or green plastic container to the church. We need them for next year's flowers!

SPONSOR WATER PROJECTS IN GONDAR

Join **Donna Reishus** and the **Mission Board** in supporting Walk4Water by registering and/or donating to drill wells, plant trees, or educate about water and health in Gondar, Ethiopia, *May 14.* Donna will be in Gatton Hall following the service.

GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

We're looking for information about 2011 high school and college graduates for the June 10th *Congregational News.*

E-mail susanwickes@comcast.net, or drop off in the church office the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information**. The deadline is ***June 7***, but sooner is better (last-minute changes, or additions are fine).

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the Annual Meeting on May 1:

- Slate of officers, board & committee members accepted by acclamation.
- The pastoral search committee was approved. The members are:

Anna Som, Bryan Wright, Bob Stebbins, Gwyneth McMorris, Ann Hawkins, John Erkkila, Tammy Skubinna, Tanya Andersson, Bob Hannigan, Angie Dahlke, Ted McCann, and **Ginny Lucker.**

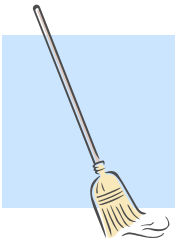
- A proposal for the initial development of the West Side property was presented. This includes widening the driveway and making it two-way. Copies of the proposal are available on the name tag cabinet in the foyer.
- A report was given on the state of the leaking sanctuary roof. The current roof cannot be repaired due to the fragile condition of the shingles and the Trustees believe it is time to replace the roof so that the wood ceiling is not damaged. Should the congregation (at a called special meeting) decide to replace the roof, the cost would likely become part of the Fall Capital Campaign, as part of the annual Stewardship Drive.

WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP

On *Thursday, May 19*, the **Central Pacific Conference Women** will hold their Annual Meeting at Highland UCC in Portland. Registration begins at 11:30 for $10 with lunch at noon. A worship service will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by the program "Between Women," a presentation by **Rania Ayoub**, public relations director of the Muslim Educational Trust. She will discuss interfaith gatherings to promote understanding among Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Portland area.

The women who will be honored at General Synod as "Celebrate the Gifts of Lay Women" will be recognized at this gathering—with **Verlyne Phillips** representing our church.

Reservations for the meeting need to be made by *May 12* with **Nancy Klingeman** for our church women. Car pools will be arranged from Corvallis. For additional details, contact Nancy (541-753-3350 or nancyklingeman@comcast.net).



SPRING CLEANING?

The youth want to thank you for your wonderful discarded treasures you have donated for their RUMMAGE SALE! They will continue to collect items such as gardening tools, furniture, linens, toys, tools, antiques, house wares, and children's clothing, for the next few weeks.

Donated goods can be placed on the designated table in front of the office. Contact **Ginnie Esary** (541-754-8077 or ginsbiz@comcast.net) or **Rich Kaestner** (541-929-4589 or richk@alyrica.net) to schedule delivery of your items. All proceeds will benefit the youth going on the mission trip to Guatemala this summer.

HOSPICE OFFERS PANEL ON DEATH, DYING, AND RELIGION

On *Tuesday, May 10*, **Benton Hospice Service** is hosting "Death, Dying, and Religion," a panel discussion featuring **Mohamed Siala,** Rabbi **Benjamin Barnett**, and Rev. **Liz Oettinger**, as part of the monthly series on End of Life Matters.

They will explore the rituals and beliefs surrounding death and dying in different religions. The talk will be noon-1:00 p.m. in the BHS Meeting Room (2350 NW Professional Drive). All are invited.

Call 541-757-9616 or speak to **Marsha Gulick** for more information.

On *Saturday, May 14*, the **Corvallis Repertory Singers** will do two performances (3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.) of "Curtain Up! A rollicking evening of songs celebrating 10 years of Tony Award winning musicals." Songs come from "Wicked," "Hairspray," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," Avenue Q," "Spamalot," and "Jersey Boys," and more. Both concerts are in the sanctuary at our church.

Familiar faces onstage, besides conductor **Steve Zielke**, will be **Jill Miller, Trina Norman, Joe Mikkelson** (who sang with our choir last year, **Bryce Tomlin** (who sang with us at Easter, and **Pete Butler**. For more information, see www.repsing.org

NEW CHURCH SIGNS

Liz sent these:

- The Best Vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.
- You are not too bad to come in. You are not too good to stay out.
- Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.
- Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back.
- Life is Hard
  Afterlife is Harder!
- Aspire to inspire before you expire.
- Where will you be sitting in eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?
- Under same management for over 2,000 years.

Kaye McCluskey sends her thanks for the beautiful white azalea and the vase of spring flowers from our Easter Sunday service. The flowers brightened her day.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

… are with **Coral Torley**, recovering at home from a fall.

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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 17.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 6
- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, May 7
- 11:00 a.m. Art French memorial *[see right]*

Sunday, May 8—Mothers' Day
- **9:00 a.m. Car Wash** *[see page 1]*
- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Noon Soup 'n' Bread
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Christianson *[see right]*

Tuesday, May 10
- 10:15 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
- 7:15 p.m. Mission Board

Wednesday, May 11
- 7:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group, Darrell's
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 12
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 20142
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adult Bells

Friday, May 13
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation retreat at Camp Adams (until 2:00 Saturday) *[see page 3]*
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

READ & FEED MEETS SUNDAY

Rose and **Greg Christianson** will host this Sunday's meeting of Read & Feed. Discussion of Rhoda Janzen's *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home* begins at 7:00 p.m. on *May 8.*

MEMORIAL SERVICE SATURDAY

A memorial service for **Art French**, **Rowland French's** father, will be held in our chapel at 11:00 a.m. on *Saturday, May 7.* A reception follows in Gatton Hall. Child care will be available in the nursery.