



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 29

August 19, 2011

Special Congregational Meeting

***This Sunday, August 21,
at the end of worship***

To vote on replacing the sanctuary roof and to include the cost in the fall capital campaign, as explained in last week's letter.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESIDING BISHOP TO VISIT CORVALLIS

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be visiting Corvallis on *Sunday, August 21*. Bishop Katharine, a former longtime resident of Corvallis, was a marine biologist at OSU before she was ordained in 1994. In 2001 she was elected as Bishop of Nevada and in 2006 she was elected to head the Episcopal Church, becoming the first woman to hold this office, and the first woman to head a major Christian denomination in the United States.

Bishop Katharine will be returning to her home church, the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis on *August 21* where she will preside and preach at the 10.00 a.m. service. There will also be

a special dedication ceremony following the service as Good Sam names its
[continued on page 3]

*Summer
Worship*



August 21

Scriptures: Psalm 124
Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon: "For Good and Ill"
Elizabeth Oettinger

August 28

Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-15
Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: "Stump the Minister"
(annual Q&A)
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I hope you all have read the letter mailed to you about the congregational meeting this Sunday about replacing the Sanctuary roof. The Trustees propose replacing the roof this fall, and deferring the decision concerning what to do about refurbishing or replacing the cross to the spring. When I first heard the option of not replacing the cross, I was dismayed. It was unthinkable to me. A church should have a cross on its roof, period. But it got me to thinking. . .

These past two weeks, as I have driven around town, I have looked at the church buildings I passed. Many of them have crosses visible on their exterior. Many of them do not. More importantly, quality of the faith a church by whether or highest peak. It's like in-Some of them choose to their faith. Others do not. wear a cross doesn't tell portant about who they beliefs.



I honestly don't know

the cross if we had to vote on Sunday. I do know that in having two weeks to think about it, I have gone from certain to uncertain. I have become curious about how others feel. I look forward to the conversation we will have in the spring, hearing not only how people respond, but also why they have come to their opinions.

The earliest Congregationalists were given that name not only because they believed in congregational autonomy, but also because of their belief that the best way to discern God's will, the best way to address questions of faith, was to gather and carefully, prayerfully, talk with each other, listen to each other, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, decide. That is our theological inheritance. It's all about the thinking, the sharing, the listening.

What to do about the cross on our roof is not simply a "facility" decision. The cross has and should have symbolic meaning to us, but how that is played out in our thinking is different for each one of us. I'm glad we're taking our time about deciding. It's an opportunity for each of us to think about what the cross means to us: both the cross on the roof and the cross in our hearts. That a great conversation to have!

God bless you all.

Liz

I know nothing about the preached or practiced in not a cross adorned its dividual Christians. wear crosses as a sign of And whether or not they me much that is im-are or how they live their

how I would vote about



FLOAT TRIP MOVES TO THE 27TH

In an effort to increase the number of the flotilla (yeah, it was going to be a fleet of one) the **Men's Group** float trip has been moved to *Saturday, August 27*. Please join us for a fun afternoon on the Willamette River. We plan to put in at the Peoria Park boat ramp off of Peoria Road and float down to Michael's Landing in Corvallis. We will meet at Peoria Park at 12:30 p.m. and shuttle from there. If you're interested but don't have a watercraft just let us know so we can borrow more canoes. If you have questions or just to let us know you are coming, get in touch with **Ted McCann** at elprofemac@comcast.net or 541-738-8811.

NEWS AND PICTURES FROM GUATEMALA!

In each of our pilgrimages to Guatemala, the work has been part of PAVA's work. PAVA stands for "Programa de Ayuda a Vecinos del Altiplano." In 2010 PAVA had financial troubles, but I am happy to announce that PAVA has worked through those problems and they are more active than ever. They are still sponsoring construction of schools, bridges, and water systems, but they are getting ready to start working on libraries.

They have posted some pictures from our 2011 Pilgrimage on their blog. The

URL is <http://pavaguate.blogspot.com/> Since the Seekers Church sponsored this trip the blog refers to the work being done by the Seekers Church, but as the pictures show, we are included.

In the near future the congregation will be invited to decide how we want to do work projects for our youth and/or adults in the future. If you have any ideas let me or **Cindy** know.

Charles Helsabeck



Sign-up sheets for the August 30th Stone Soup, as well as the next few Tuesday meals will be in the foyer this Sunday. Consider adding your name to the work crew to participate in this important ministry. Our church is responsible for the evening meal on the third (and fifth, if there is one) Tuesday of each month. Preparation begins at 3:00 at First Christian Church by Central Park. Help is welcome anytime.

BISHOP'S VISIT *from page 1*

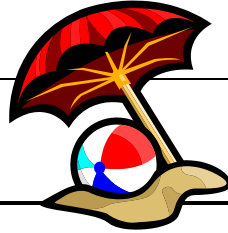
lounge in her honor. Members of Episcopal churches in Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home will also be at Good Sam for this special occasion. There will be a free barbecue after the service in the church grounds on Harrison and 35th. Members of the community are welcome.

For more information, call 541-757-6647 or see the church website at:

<http://goodsamchurch-episcopal.org>



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



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday, August 30.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, August 19

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, August 21

**9:30 a.m. Worship and
 Congregational
 Meeting**

Tuesday, August 23

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, August 24

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast
 Group, Darrell's

Thursday, August 25

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group

Friday, August 26

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, August 27

12:30 p.m. Men's float trip (p. 3)

Sunday, August 28

9:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, August 30

9:00 a.m. Staff

3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Friday, September 2

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, September 4:* Ecumenical worship in Central Park, 10:00 a.m.; *October 2:* Missionfest and World Communion Sunday



**TO THE
 PAINT CREW!**

Gatton Hall begins the new program year with a fresh, clean look it hasn't had for some time, thanks to master painters **Barb Clauson** and her husband **Dennis Hanhi**, with yeoman help from Jazzercise instructor /Girl Scout leader **Martha Lee**.

Pre-painting repairs were accomplished –LOTS of them – throughout the week by **Ed Miller**.

The hard-working paint crew is also indebted to our Friday badmintoneers, led by **Brian Lee**, and to **Bob** and **Monine Stebbins**.