



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 31

September 9, 2011

WATCH FOR SUNDAY BULLETIN QUESTIONNAIRE INSERT



Our **Associate Pastor Search Committee** wishes to ask the congregation several questions in order to gain some information to assist in completing the Church Profile. We have used the valuable information that comes from the Visioning Process but we need more.

There will be a bulletin insert each of the next two Sundays to ascertain your answers. "One" question is actually a long one: We are asking you to select the top 12 qualities (from a provided extensive list) that you value in our next Associate Minister.

You may wish to arrive a few minutes early for worship or stay a few minutes after, enjoy the Prelude/Postlude, and take some time to fill out the questionnaire. When you've finished, you may place your insert in the Offering plate when it is passed, or give it to a Search Committee member as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you for your assistance in this important part of our process.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING POSTPONED

Two weeks ago, due to a gas leak and subsequent investigation into its cause, the **Trustees** learned that the Sanctuary furnace (original to 1965) has reached the end of its life. We are in the process of getting bids for its replacement, but have learned that there are several options, some of which, while being more energy efficient and saving money in the

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THIS SUNDAY

September 11

Adult Forum: Adults, children and youth aged 4th grade-high school will gather for an intergenerational "Remembering 9/11: Ten Year Anniversary" discussion – 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Matthew 18:21-35
Hebrews 12:1-3, 12-14

Sermon: "Between the Past and
and the Future"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

It is mostly with excitement but also some mixed emotion that I share with you the news that I and First Congregational Church have been chosen to receive national recognition for our work in interfaith relations. This honor comes from a group called Shoulder to Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims, Upholding American Values. It is a coalition of national religious leaders from the National Council of Churches, and the denominational executives of a variety of Christian churches including the United Church of Christ, also a number of other faith groups including Muslims, Jews, and Sikhs. The group came together about a year ago when the pastor in Florida was threatening to burn Qur'ans on the anniversary of 9/11, and was active when Rep. Peter King called for congressional hearings about the radicalization of Islam.

On September 8th, Shoulder to Shoulder will be holding an event in Washington D.C. that is part memorial, part press conference. In the first half, they will be remembering the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Surviving family members from various faith groups will be attending, and several religious leaders, including UCC President and General Minister Geoffrey Black, will be offering reflections on that day and its aftermath. The second part of the program will be lifting up four individuals—two Christians, one Jew, and one Muslim—and their organizations who Shoulder to Shoulder believes have made a difference in American communities—Detroit: Arlington Heights, Illinois; Boise, and Corvallis. Each of us will be given a few minutes to speak.

I am, of course, honored that I/we have been chosen for this recognition, and that I am going to Washington. However, it feels strange and even wrong to me to stand there alone without Mohamed Siala, Benjamin Barnett, Jon Evans, Laurie Childers, Judy Kloper, and the host of others who have facilitated the coming together of the interfaith community here in Corvallis. Interfaith work, by its nature, is not something one does alone. Its very nature is the partnering, the talking, the learning to understand and appreciate each other. It is big events like the vigil after the firebombing of the mosque, but just as importantly, it is the one-on-one and small group conversations, the classes, the laughing and working together.

This November, we—this informally organized group of interfaith partners—hope to put on an interfaith day of service, bringing together high school students from across our religious traditions to work side by side at sites across Corvallis—again building relationship through one-on-one and small group interaction and a common purpose.

I will be back from Washington for Sunday morning worship, the beginning of our program year. Like communities across the country, we will be focusing in worship and education on this tenth anniversary of 9/11. I have mixed feelings about that focus as well—but you'll be hearing about that in worship on Sunday. I am excited for us to start this new year together. There is so much energy around the church about new possibilities in programming for children, youth, and families, intergenerational programs, new opportunities in mission and outreach. Interim times always bring out new ideas, and it feels like the church is almost buzzing with possibility. It's going to be a great year.

See you Sunday!

Liz



**High School
and Middle School
Youth Recreation-
al Night (Rec.
Night) EVERY**

Tuesday night from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Stay as long as you like and feel free to bring your friends! We'll be hanging out, playing badminton, volleyball, or pool, cooking brownies, or allowing you to do your homework.

Sunday night youth group will start in October (specific dates and activities will be shared at a later time.) Questions? Contact **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner**.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
BEGINS THIS SUNDAY**

This *Sunday, September 11*, worship will return to the usual 10:30 start time, with classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:20. Children pre-K through 3rd grade will meet in the Sanctuary for Back-to-Sunday School activities. Older children and youth will participate as described

below. Adults, children and youth aged 4th grade through high school will gather in the Meeting Hall (*see box on page 1*).

Register your child for the new year at the Christian Education desk on Sunday morning!

**SIGN UP FOR THE
WELCOME BACK
EVENT**



Please join us for the Welcome Back Lunch and Ice Cream Social on *September 18*. There will be a soup lunch and ice cream following worship. We ask that you bring your favorite ice cream topping to share. Look for sign-up sheets after church on Sunday. If you have any questions please contact **Tanya Andersson** (541-231-9713).

READ & FEED SUNDAY

Paul and Doris Lespinasse will host this Sunday's meeting of Read & Feed. The book to be discussed in *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. on *September 11*.

MEETING from page 1

long run, may be costly to install. The Trustees need time to receive all the bids and to decide on the best possible option. However, it is very possible that the congregation will be asked to add the cost of the furnace to the Fall Capital Campaign.

Because of our present uncertainty and this potential added cost, the Trustees and **Westside Committee** need time to rethink and prioritize the Capital Campaign proposal that will go to the **Church Council**, and eventually come to the congregation. Therefore, the congregational meeting scheduled for *Sunday, September 25* has been postponed, probably to *October 16 or 23*. Watch the newsletter for information updates. Also, two after-church information sessions will be scheduled prior to the congregational meeting so that church members will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposal. Thank you for your patience. We hope to have an update for you in two weeks.

September Mission Offering HOME LIFE, INC.

The Mission Offering for the month of September is Home Life, Inc., a private non-profit organization assisting people with developmental disabilities to enjoy active, productive and independent lives. One of the basic values of Home Life is that people with developmental disabilities have many capabilities and should be encouraged to live as inde-

pendently as possible in a safe environment that fosters growth. Home Life has eight group homes providing homes for 27 people. The homes are the Kobel House, Mumford House, Woods House, Sackett House, Teater House, and Orlleman House. The eighth is a unit purchased by Home Life in CoHO Eco Village on Crystal Lake Drive. Each house has caring staff available 24 hours a day to help residents (many of whom have jobs) with daily living skills like cooking, personal hygiene and finances. In addition to the people living in the group homes, 24 people participate in the Supported Living program. People in the Supported Living Program live in their own apartments or with roommates. They get help as needed with everyday living skills, but do not need 24-hour staffing. It is always exciting when a person is able to move from a group home into the Supported Living Program. Next week's newsletter will discuss the funding of Home Life, Inc.



SHOP AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS "BRIGHT GIFTS"

The **Borders Going Out of Business Sale**, in its last week, is a great opportunity to purchase Christmas bright gifts. You don't have to wait to get a tag off the tree. The **Vina Moses Center's** Christmas Gift Program can always use books, puzzles, art supplies, craft kits and toys. There are some terrific buys available.

HELP – HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT LAUNCHING PROJECT

Please consider hiring one of the HELP workers for yard work, cleaning out your garage, or minor painting tasks. This is a wonderful opportunity to help persons who have been homeless to move toward independence.

We have always encourage people who are homeless to look for work and we have provided some yard work and odd jobs for a limited number of people. We want to build on this effort by providing training for potential workers and aggressively recruiting persons who would be willing to hire some of our folks.

Our new expanded program is called “HELP” Homeless Employment Launching Project. We will focus on three groups: residents of Partners Place, other formerly homeless persons, and persons who are still homeless, but are healthy and stable enough to be reliable employees.

All workers will be paid through A&S Accounting and will be covered by Workers Compensation. If there is an on-the-job injury, they have insurance that will take care of their medical expenses. All workers will be screened for reliability and physical ability to work. They will receive instruction on good work habits and safety on the job.

As an employer you provide the tools needed for the job, and the workers provide their own transportation. You pay

\$12 an hour and the worker will receive about \$9.50 with the balance covering worker’s compensation and other required payroll deductions.

If you want to hire a worker, call **Kevin Weaver**, our project coordinator at (541-740-8131), and talk to him about what your needs are. HELP is sponsored by the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center.

FREE SEMINAR ON PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE

On *Tuesday, September 13*, Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute will host a free seminar on peripheral artery disease (PAD). A common circulatory problem in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to your limbs, PAD affects more than 10 million Americans.

Dimitri Greschner, MD, a cardiologist and vascular specialist with Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute, will educate attendees about PAD, its risk factors and tips for prevention. He will also demonstrate an ankle-brachial index (ABI) exam, a simple, painless examination comparing blood pressure in the feet and arms to detect PAD.

The seminar will be held at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, 3600 NW Samaritan Drive, in the HP/Starker Conference Room, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Call 541-768-4752 to register.

Heart-healthy snacks and beverages will be provide, and the first 25 registrants will receive a complimentary gift.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 13.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 9

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, September 11

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
[see pages 1 and 3]

10:30 a.m. Worship
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed,
 Delespinasse

Monday, September 12

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, September 13

10:15 a.m. Staff
Noon Lectionary class starts
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
[see right]
7:00 p.m. Rec Night [see p. 3]
 7:15 p.m. Mission Board

Wednesday, September 14

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast
 Group, Darrells'
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Friday, September 16

7:30 p.m. Badminton



Sign up this Sunday to join the First Congregational Stone Soup crew on *Tuesday, September 20*. They will prepare, serve, and clean up the evening meal for our local needy folks at First Christian Church, at 602 SW Madison.

Newcomers are always welcome; the regular crew will be happy to help you get started. Come once, occasionally, or regularly to be a part of this important ministry.

LECTIONARY CLASS RETURNS THIS WEEK

The weekly Lectionary class offers informal study of the week's Bible readings for anyone who'd would like to come, led by **Liz Oettinger** or **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner**. Join us in the church library at from noon to 1:00 on Tuesdays, beginning on *September 13*. And bring your lunch, if you'd like! If you have questions, contact Liz.

