



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 37

October 21, 2011

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 30
at the end of worship

to vote on replacing the sanctuary roof and the sanctuary furnace and including the cost in the fall capital campaign. There will be a second informational meeting after worship this Sunday to provide details and answer questions.

HEAT R US!

The new sanctuary furnace is due to be installed on *October 25*. In the meantime we hope the warm weather will continue, but remember: lots of bodies help heat the sanctuary, so come to worship – and bring your friends!

Corvallis Repertory Singers:

“Heaven and Earth: Mass on the Celtic Journey” and “Misa Criolla” on *Sunday, October 23*, at 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE HELP NEEDED!

So far we have 26 of the 49 members (Stewards, Captains, and Workers) need-

ed for the campaign. Another 13 have been asked and we are anxiously awaiting their answer. That means we still need 10 members to fill out the Stewardship roster.

The job is easy and fun. As a Worker you simply visit 3-4 other church members, share conversation about each other and the church, deliver and retrieve their pledge card, thank them, and be on your way. You can be as brief as you and the person you call on want to be. You do not have to ask for money. You serve as a church family member helping us to know each other better and as a courier for the pledges that keep the church thriving.

Your Stewardship Committee

THIS SUNDAY

October 23

Adult Forum: Ted McCann will speak about Día de los muertos.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon: “The End of an Era”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Jennifer Butler*

Friends,

It is such an honor to be on this journey with you over the next few months as the seminary intern at First Congregational!

I am thankful to each of you for the ways you've embraced me and made Peter and me feel welcome and at home here.

From the moment we arrived as visitors (almost a year ago now) we were transfixed by the kindness this community reverberates with! We continue to be inspired by your open arms, your sense of mission and calling in the world, and the ways in which the ethos of Christ is made manifest here.

What a blessing it is to learn what it means to be a pastor in this place! I look forward to what the months before us hold as we learn about each other's stories and journey through life together.

I thought it would be helpful to let you know a little bit about my schedule so you know when and where you can find me! Generally speaking, I will be in my office at church on Tuesdays and Fridays. I'm in Portland attending classes (and feverishly working on my thesis), Mondays and Thursdays. Wednesday you can find me downtown at "Second Glance," where I preach the "good news" of recycling as a counter-cultural movement in the world of consumerist fashion. I'm practicing the spiritual discipline of Sabbath-keeping this year – which is how I spend Saturdays. If you'd like to get in touch, e-mail is one of the best ways to get a prompt response. My church address is jen@ucc-covallis.org. And as convenient as e-mail is, I love the old-fashioned ritual of meeting face to face, and will NEVER say no to a coffee date!

Please feel free to introduce yourself to me, drop by my office on a Tuesday or a Friday, or send me an e-mail letting me know how I might be able to minister to you.

Again, it's my honor and delight to be here – thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve.

In Faith,

Jen

HELP WANTED

- Adults to help lead our children in a story or craft during Activity Hour. Please contact Kristi to sign up or for more details at ce@ucc-covallis.org.
- Looking for a few good children (and toddlers) who are interested in helping us collect the offering during our Time with Children. No training or experience needed (except perhaps a parent to help balance the collection plate).



**Middle School
and High School
Youth:** Join us on
Tuesday nights
from 7:00-9:00

p.m. in the church to just hang out. This is a (mostly) unstructured time for youth to spend time with each other and adult advisors in community. We do everything from Wii tournaments to baking cookies together.

Every *other* Sunday we gather in a more formalized setting for Youth Group. Our next gathering will be on *Sunday, October 30* for a pumpkin carving party at **GINNY and STEVE LUCKER'S**. Costumes REQUIRED. Details coming soon.

Trick-or-Treat for **UNICEF**

Sunday, October 30

Children: Wear your costumes

Adults: Bring your spare change to our worship as the children will “trick-or-treat” among the congregation during the Children’s Message



Come to Gatton Hall on *Friday, October 28*, at 6:00 p.m. for a good meal you do not have to fix, a chance to learn a little about *Día de los muertos*, activi-

ties for children, and a chance for you and your family to remember and appreciate your loved ones who have died.

This year we will again celebrate *Día de los muertos*, a wonderful holiday from Mexico which celebrates the part death has in life. It is a very special time to remember with joy and appreciation the family members (and other loved ones) who are no longer with us, but continue to be a part of our lives.

This evening is for everyone, but especially for families with children. Unlike many Halloween events there is nothing scary about this celebration, so even little ones can enjoy it.

In addition to the other crafts and hearing a little about *Día de los muertos*, families will have an opportunity to make their own mini-*altar*, remembering and celebrating the special person (or people) in their lives who are gone. Please bring a picture of the person(s) you want to celebrate. In addition to bringing a picture, think about the person(s) and what they especially enjoyed in life. If you can, bring some things to include in your *altar* that represent the person’s special likes (e.g.: a shell or rock might symbolize a love of the coast, a Hershey’s kiss might represent their love of chocolate, etc.). We will also have lots of supplies on hand to decorate your *altar*. We have quite a few shoeboxes for the mini-*altars*, but if you happen to have any extra you might want to bring one, too.

See you on the 28th.



Have you always thought it looked like the Bell Choir is having fun? We are! Please join us and find out; we practice Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the Music Room. No ringing experience is necessary, but a basic understanding of reading music is helpful. E-mail **Kim Thackray** (thackray_family@yahoo.com) with questions or to let us know you are coming.



Grace Notes

Here's the first in this year's series of stewardship "Grace Notes" – profiles of First Congregational members, mostly in their own words. As we launch this year's stewardship campaign, "Count Yourself Blessed," we'll be checking in with other congregation members over the next few weeks.

Name: Trina Norman

Member since: May 2008.

Why I joined First Congregational:

"I first came because of the music that was being performed the Sunday before Christmas (in 2007). I noticed that the work that was being performed was a piece I liked. ... I hadn't been a member of a church for a long time. I hadn't had a home church for a long time and was feeling a need to find a spiritual connection and family." That first Sunday, Tri-

na noted that Steve Zielke, with whom she had worked in the past, was directing the choir and longtime friends like Sally McBride and Barb Clauson were in the choir. That first Sunday, Trina was sitting near Nancy William, who commented on Trina's signing. "It felt like I was home."

Why I've stayed: "I have stayed partly because of the choir. Just like I had not been committed to a church, I had not been a long-term relationship with a choir" for years. "I was really ready to commit myself to being available weekly. So it's partly because of the music. Also, the pastors and the congregation" are wonderful. "It felt like home. I've made so many friends, both in and out of the choir. It aligns with what I really believe. And Liz is fabulous."

My fondest hope for the church: "Just to keep growing. Not to necessarily become huge, (but) to keep young people interested and children interested so there are other (generations) coming along. I want us to really sustain healthy membership, multigenerational membership. And I see that happening."

One blessing that I can count: "There are really so many. ... My singing abilities. I just love singing, and I think that's really a blessing."

My hidden talent (and what I offer the church): "I actually have some leadership skills that I used a lot in sort of a past life, in my years of life with public service. I was not in a managerial role, but in an administrative role, providing

technical assistance and training with a job-training program. ... I've found that my leadership (ability) has grown some in the church. I'm finding I'm tapping into the some of the skills that I haven't used for years."

PFLAG TO MEET MONDAY

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgendered People) will hold its monthly meeting on *Monday, October 24*, at the First Christian Church in Albany. Doors open at 6:45 and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

The church is located at 432 SW Ferry St. For those coming from Corvallis, take Hwy 20, cross over the bridge to Albany, turn right on 4th Street and left on Ferry Street. The meeting will be in the Cornerstone Room which is the next set of doors down (west) from the office (which is located next to the church parking lot). Please look for the PFLAG sign on the door. Everyone, Gay or Straight, who celebrates diversity is welcome to come and listen or share. Snacks will be provided.

Questions? Please call 541-782-8829.
Look forward to seeing you there!!

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Peace Sunday, 2011

The first Sunday in August has been set as the "Annual Peace Sunday" since 1962 by the UCC Japan. It was begun by the Hiroshima District Conference, located in the A-bomb city, that had de-

sired the elimination of nuclear weapons, and was accepted by the UCC Japan that had prayed for peace.

We, the Takarazuka Church, have remembered this day and studied the importance of creating peace by listening to lectures and watching VCR tapes on Okinawa, Constitution, and wars. This year, we learned how to cook Korean food and enjoy it together with Korean residents in Japan. There are an increasing number of Japanese people who are interested in Korea because of popular Korean TV dramas in the past 8 years.

There are many Korean families who have lived permanently in Japan. They left their country because of difficulties in their life there or were forced to come to Japan, as a result of the invasion of their country by Japan over the period from 100 years ago to the end of the WW II. Unfortunately, they still experience discrimination, and the Japanese government has not provided them with enough war compensation. On the other hand, more and more Japanese people have recently visited Korea to experience Korean food, songs, landscapes, and language as Korean drama fans. They are impressed by beautiful landscapes and buildings, try their Korean words while shopping at markets, enjoy Korean barbecue at local restaurants, communicate with local people in the Korean language they have just learned, and so on. They enjoy fellowships on their own. It is important to know each other's country at

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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 25.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, October 22

4:00 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, October 23

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

9:30 a.m. Outreach & Evangelism
Library

10:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Information on capital
campaign, Library

(following) Stewardship training,
Fireplace Room

Monday, October 24

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Rec. Night

7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, October 26

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

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 27

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group

Friday, October 28

6:00 p.m. Día de los muertos,
Gatton Hall [page 3]

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Myles Criss**, recovering from melanoma surgery on October 13 at OHSU. Cards may be sent to his home address; no visitors yet.

TAKARAZUKA NEWS from page 5 such local levels, because we become aware that people live in our neighboring country in the same way as people we care about live in Japan. This will lead to elimination of discrimination. At Takarazuka Church, we enjoyed Korean food on this Peace Sunday together, including many Korea fans.

Takako Nobunaga

(Please see the pictures on the Takarazuka bulletin board.)