



# Disciples Dispatch

First Christian Church of Corvallis      Disciples of Christ

December 09, 2014 vol. 14, issue 40

**Join us for Worship Sunday,  
December 14 at 10:00 a.m.**

- 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 am - Worship (Sunday School)
- 5:30 pm - Stone Soup Supper (prep at 3)

## **Called to Serve**

**Elders:** Pamella Doerksen, Lauri Morris

**Home Communion:** Pamella Doerksen

**Preparing Deacons:** Karen Griswold,  
Mary Cotton

**Serving Deacons:** \*Rick Olsen, Ely Kimberlin,  
Myron McMahan, Beth Baird

**Flowers:** Sherry Sisson

**Coffee Cart and Snack:** /

**Greeter:** Vera Rush

## **Stone Soup Meal Count**

Tuesday, 12/2-115

Saturday, 12/6-90

Sunday, 12/7-127

## **Staff**

Rev. Matt Gordon... Senior Minister

Matthew Clark..... Choir Director

Eric Qian ..... Pianist

Charlene Lincoln.... Church Secretary

Jill Shinkawa..... Communications Mgr.

Kevin Weaver..... Paladin

Church staff meets every Monday, 10:00-11:00  
a.m. We are not available during this time.

## **Advent Faire - Sunday, December 14th**



2013 Advent Faire Gingerbread house

The **Advent Faire** takes place on Sunday, December 14, the third Sunday in Advent, from 10:00– 1:00 p.m. It is an interactive and hands-on event to explore the meaning of Advent, children and youth are invited to participate in during and after church, lunch served after service. Come and build your dream gingerbread house!

## **The Ring of Vespers**

Our church is so fortunate to have such excellent singers and musicians in our midst. To hear “holy-day” music, old and new, is a wonderful way to bring the spirit of the season into our hearts.



## Matt's Minute

I love good stories. I try to tell good stories. This time of year is full of good stories. There are stories of hope, generosity, love, abundance and new life. The season of Christmas is a time of giving and receiving, a time to inspire, and a time for extravagance. That is why I have a few stories for you.

Long before I got here, First Christian Church developed a "Minister's Discretionary Fund" that would go to support people in need. This was the church's response to those who come to ask for help at the church at the money could be spent using the minister's discretion. All receipts would then be kept and recorded by the treasurer for accountability purposes. Many of you have donated to this fund, sometimes when donations are given for "those in need," the money goes in this fund. More often than you think, people who the church has helped in the past give money back to the church and these donations are put in this fund. In all these cases, items or goods are purchased for the individual, no cash is given out. Below are a few stories of how you helped this year through this fund.

After some difficult times, one young man got a job as an independent day laborer at a construction site. As a hard and talented worker, he was up for promotion two weeks after he started, but did not have the tools needed. The church was able to buy him some tools to keep him going in this industry and he is working full-time making excellent wages and just received another promotion.

One young woman was working on getting a job, but running low on money and ran out of cell phone minutes. The church was able to put some money on her cell phone card to then receive the call from a potential employer to receive a job she applied for. One young mother needed formula and diapers to get her through the end of the money. Thank you, church.

A survivor of domestic violence now staying a COI is trying to restart her life and received a scholarship to Linn Benton Community College to get started on a certificate program, the church paid for her application fee. She will start classes during the winter term.

Several tents, sleeping bags and tarps were purchased to help our homeless community during the months the shelter is closed.

One older gentleman's brother died, funds were used to get him to California and back to be with his family during a difficult time.



**Rev. Matt Gordon**  
**Senior Minister**

Church phone: 541-753.2671

Email: [matt@heartofcorvallis.org](mailto:matt@heartofcorvallis.org)

**Open Office Hours:**

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

There are many more stories, but thank you for generosity. It helps in small ways and often it can be transformative in their lives.

*Peace,  
Matt*



*Relying on the spirit and story of the gospels, First Christian Church is supported primarily by donations. There is no charge for any event. We rely on freely given offerings to support our various ministries and opportunities.*

*Your contributions and gifts allow us to continue to be a radically inclusive, justice-driven community of faith every day of the week. Thank you in advance for your gifts.*

## This Week in Sunday School...

Last Sunday the children were welcome to play and sing with the folk musicians during service. The kids also got together and decorated a table cloth with a fabric dye resist. After it dries the cloth is dyed to reveal the playful patterns.



## Splinters from the Board

The board approved the recommendation of the program cabinet for the following distribution of dollars. Interest from the Permanent Funds is distributed annually. In our current permanent fund policy, 50% of the interest income goes to support outside mission. With congregational input, we were able to distribute checks to the following organizations, for the following amounts:

<b>Mission Funds Available 2014</b>	<b>\$9,946.80</b>
We Care.....	\$1,091.72
Pastoral Counseling Center .....	1,310.07
Community Outreach (COI) .....	388.17
United Campus Ministry.....	679.29
Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition .....	1,237.28
Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center .....	849.12
Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho .....	412.43
Northwest Christian University.....	921.90
Yakama Christian Mission .....	630.77
Week of Compassion .....	824.86
Global Ministries.....	363.91
Love, Inc. ....	557.99
Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers .....	679.29

## In Our Prayers

Neil Reynolds' niece is having cancer surgery

C.J.'s friend Melissa has breast cancer

Pat Malone's friend Susan

Ann Smart's friend Linda

Christy Wright's mother is in hospice care

Sandy Landis' son-in-law has throat cancer

Vera's sister is getting radiation treatment

Viv Ellsworth

Beth Baird's friend has breast cancer

Lauri Morris

Winnie Smiley

Homeless people that fall through the cracks of the system

Mary Cotton's parents

Lynnie Evans

Will Keim

Finance Cabinet

## Thank You!

*Merry Christmas everyone! Thank you the First Christian Church, especially Matt Gordon. You make us feel so warm, welcomed and like home!*

*- The students at Disciples House*

*Dear First Christian Church,  
I would like to take the time to thank you for being a donor to my Eagle Project, I really appreciate it. I wouldn't be able to complete the rebuilding of Santa and his sleigh if I didn't have your help. Thanks to you, I was able to raise more than enough money for the project. Thank you so much for allowing me to solicit donation at the church, without your support, I couldn't have completed the project.*

*- Connor Sherlock,  
Eagle Scout, Troop 186*

## Looking Ahead

### December 11

- 10:00 a.m. - Noel Women's Coffee

### December 14

- 10:00-1:00 p.m. - Advent Fair

### December 21

- During worship-Christmas play
- 5:00 p.m.-Advent Walk

### December 24

- 7:00 p.m.-Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### December 28

- During service-Lessons and Carols

## Birthdays

12/11 - Don Coon

12/12 - Teri Doerksen

12/13 - Linnie Evans

12/16 - James Mohr

## Anniversaries

12/16 - Cherie and Neil Reynolds

## What's Happening...

### Noel Women's Coffee

Noel women's coffee to be held in the sanctuary of our church on Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to sing along to old time favorite songs. Great tasty refreshments will be served. This is a good time to become better acquainted with other women in our church.

Child care will be provided. Parking is available in our lot or try the two-hour spaces around our church neighborhood. Sponsored by Faith Study Group

## Announcements

### Stressed out by the holidays?

The professionals at the Pastoral Counseling Center can help you and yours this Christmas season with individual therapy and couples counseling to address winter's depression, anxiety, stress, and substance abuse. We are skilled at integrating your faith and spirituality with the counseling – should you wish. PCC can bill all insurance plans, and we offer an adjusted fee schedule if you are uninsured or money is tight this time of year. Call 541-753-9217 to schedule an appointment. Our offices are conveniently located in Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon.

### Give a Little Extra Warmth

Please bring new or gently used mittens, gloves and/or hats to the office for those who are without. It is getting cold out there and many can use a little extra warmth. Bring your donations to the church office or hang them on the Christmas tree in the narthex. Thank you in advance for helping.

### Food Box Collection

The food collection box in the Narthex will accept donations until December 31. Food donations go to the local Food Bank. Suggested items: canned goods, breakfast foods and boxed meals. We also collect Drop-In Center donations such as soap, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, fingernail clippers, deodorant, toothbrushes/paste, band aides and sewing kits are appreciated.

### Dinners for Disciples House

We are looking for people to help provide meals for Disciples House on Sunday nights. Dinners should be ready around 6 p.m. and serve 15 people. Monetary donations are also appreciated to defer the costs of providing food. Make a notation on your check, "Disciple House Dinners."

### Meals

Do you know or are you a church member that is in need of a meal or meals? Please contact Mary Frederick at 541-602-5977 or at fredericktg@comcast.net.

## Around Town...

### Free Christmas Storybook Land- December 5-19

A Christmas event for all ages to enjoy. A simulated walk through the woods to view over 85 scaled down Mother Goose scenes and characters, fairy tales, two model trains and more! At the end visit with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Visitors are encouraged to bring commercially packaged food that will be donated to a local food bank. Christmas Storybook Land is located at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Cascade Livestock Pavilion, Albany, OR  
Monday-Friday 6:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday/Sunday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Friday, December 12, 2 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Friday December 19, 1 p.m.-8:30 p.m.



*Our prayers and good wishes go with Helene and David as they move onto their next adventure*

# December/January 2014


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b>  <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Folk Service, w/Sunday School <b>3:00 pm</b> -Vespers <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> -Finance Cabinet	<b>9</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>10</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>11</b> <b>10 am</b> -Noel Women's Coffee	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>14</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship w/Sunday School <b>10-1</b> -Advent Fair <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>17</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>21</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship w/Sunday School, Christmas Play <b>5:00 pm</b> -Advent Walk <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>24</b> Church Office is closed <b>7:00 pm</b> -Candle-light Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> Church Office is closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>28</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, Lessons and Carols, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>29</b> Church Office is closed	<b>30</b> Church Office is closed <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>31</b> Church Office is closed	<b>1 January</b> <b>Happy New Year's Day!</b> Church Office is closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>4</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>3:30 pm</b> -First Christian's turn to prep Stone Soup <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>7</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast



**First Christian**  
Disciples in the Heart of Corvallis

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

 Please recycle this newsletter.

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The First Christian Church of Corvallis is a diverse inclusive community providing a living witness to the compassionate Christ. From our central location in the heart of Corvallis, we seek out, develop, and support ministries to meet the human needs for physical and spiritual wholeness. On the basis of our Disciple heritage, we embrace the ecumenical movement, develop lay leadership, and promote intellectual freedom in the pursuit of truth.

All are welcome to participate. Inclusivity is one of our most important values.

## Our Vision

