



# Disciples Dispatch

First Christian Church of Corvallis

Disciples of Christ

December 16, 2014 vol. 14, issue 41

## Join us for Worship and Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 21 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:** Neil Reynolds, Cherie Reynolds

**Home Communion:** Alice Kelling

**Preparing Deacons:** Christy Wright, Pat Malone

**Serving Deacons:** \*Mona Gerig, Chris Clausen, Danny Aynes, Susan Peterson

**Flowers:** Sherry Sisson

**Coffee Cart and Snack:** /

**Greeter:** Karen Griswold

### Stone Soup Meal Count

Tuesday, 12/9-140

Saturday, 12/13-130

Sunday, 12/14-133

### 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.

**Holiday Hours:** The church office is closed from December 24-January 4. Regular hours start January 5.

## Sunday, December 21-the Christmas Pageant and Advent Walk

**Christmas Pageant** - Our children and youth (along with some kids at heart) present the Nativity Story. All youth and children are invited to participate. Be there at 9:30 to be in the play.



A scene from the 2013 Nativity play.

**Advent Walk** at 5:00 p.m. Join us for a traditional German/Bavarian Christmas lantern walk-a quiet reflection on the coming of Christ. We will begin our walk at the Bald Hill parking lot on Oak Creek. There will be about 45 minutes of walking, a short program and singing. Bring a lantern that provides a soft light, such as a candle or kerosene lantern. Bright lights, such as Coleman type lanterns and large flashlights are discouraged. Please plan to join us on this special walk and after for refreshments in the parking lot.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. - The folk musicians and the church choir sing carols and announce the miracle of Christmas! Bring your whole extended family to this fun service. Everyone is invited to this special celebration.

## Advent Faire Sunday

...continued on p. 3



Left: Paper folding magic-Paper is transformed into a 3D box.

Above: Focused on the finishing touches.

## Matt's Minute

### Update from the Long Range Planning Committee

*"Begin with the end in mind." - Stephen Covey*

Stephen Covey developed a book on leadership over a decade ago called *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Much of his process has to do with visioning, or in other words, imagining the future. Step Two is "begin with the end in mind."

I am thrilled that after months of conversation and fact-finding, the long range planning team is beginning to think about our vision. I believe that much of our conversation about the past and present were crucial for our vision casting. We developed some priorities and are beginning to create some long range goals. Our first goal statement comes from conversation about the different properties we own.

First, a little history. Several years ago, one vision of the church was to own the whole block surrounding the church. Part of that vision found us purchasing Disciples House and two properties on Jefferson Street (659 and 661). Later, we decided that the properties on Jefferson Street would be torn down to build a parking lot for the church. For many reasons including city code issues, this was not accomplished. So, we were left with two apartment buildings. Presently there are 13 single bedroom or studio apartments among two properties. Right now, we work with Elite Property Management to handle all the affairs of the building and they send a check monthly. Over the years, we have put some resources into repairs, but there is still work to be done.

At our last long range planning meeting, we came up with the following statement. "We recommend that over the next 3 years, we work at creating a clean, safe, affordable housing opportunity at 661 and 659 Jefferson Street." We will continue to work a property management company. Our goal will be accomplished in the following ways:

- Earmark 10% of income received from the apartments to go back into repair at the apartments.
- Create a priority list of repairs
- Explore intentional partnerships with Willamette Neighborhood Housing and Habitat for Humanity
- Explore grant options for low income housing grants
- Provide ongoing information about our progress to residents
- Provide information about church-sponsored activities to residents

We will continue to create goals for 2015 and beyond. As always, your feedback is welcomed.

*Peace, Matt*



*Joy is the third Advent week theme. We certainly felt joy and excitement during the Advent Faire.*



**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.

### Disciples House Wish List

We strive to make Disciples House a fun, engaging community. If you have any of these items or see them at garage sales, we would love your help.

**Wish list:** pizza stone, wall-mount spices holder, new (or barely used) bathroom mats and towels.

**Thank you for your generous donations of a knife set, blender, pizza cutter, TV and DVD player and floor lamps.**

Items may be dropped off at the church office or arrangements made to pick them up.

*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 week in Sunday School was the Advent Fair! This is an annual Advent tradition here at First Christian Church Corvallis. It has been going on for many years and features handmade gingerbread houses that the children can decorate, sugar cookie decorating, pomander ball making, and several other fun crafts and games! The children look forward to this activity. It was held during the Sunday School hours and then continued after church.



## *Noel Women's Coffee*

It was a festive gathering of women in the church sanctuary. They shared stories, laughs, songs and treats. Thank you Cherie Reynolds-with inspiration from Viv Ellsworth-for pulling this together and for your lovely piano playing.



## *In Our Prayers*

Matthew Clark in the hospital with appendicitis.

Ramona Wheeler passed away. Prayers for her and her family

Linda Shurtleff's nephew Justin

Pat Malone's friend Greg

All those suffering from the flu including Pat Eide's Katie, Sam and Abby

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

Lynn Evans

Will Keim

Finance Cabinet

Peace on Earth

## *Ramona Wheeler Passes Away*

Ramona Wheeler passed away on Saturday, December 13. Services will be at First Christian Church at a later date.

## Looking Ahead

### 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

- 12/16 - James Mohr
- 12/17 - Elias Herb
- 12/22 - Kathleen Eide, Moses Gordon
- 12/25 - Mandy Dyer
- 12/29 - Lisa Luthy, Tyler Berry

## Anniversaries

- 12/16 - Cherie and Neil Reynolds
- 12/17 - Carol and Tom Garbacik
- 12/21 - Susan and Bob Schulz
- 12/22 - Donna and Will Keim
- 12/24 - Darlene and Jerry McCabe

## Excerpts from Mildred Evans' letter...

*"Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia the very cute card and beautifully written "Walking With Our Neighbors" surprise today... Please give my thanks to the congregation. God bless you all with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of God you find in each other."*

## Smitten by Mittens



*We were tickled to get an anonymous batch of freshly knitted mittens in the mail. Thank you whoever you are!*

## What's Happening...

### Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21st our children and youth (along with the help from some kids at heart) presents the Nativity Story. All youth and children are invited to participate. Be there at 9:30 if you want to be in the play.

### Advent Walk

Also on Sunday, December 21st is the Advent Walk starting at 5:00 p.m. join us for a traditional German/Bavarian Christmas lantern walk. It is a time for quiet reflection on the coming of the Christ. We will begin our walk at the Bald Hill parking lot on Oak Creek. There will be about 45 minutes of walking, a short program and singing. Bring a lantern that provides a soft light, such as a candle or kerosene lantern. Bright lights, such as Coleman type lanterns and large flashlights are discouraged. Join us on this special walk and for refreshments afterwards.

### Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24th 7:00 p.m.-The folk musicians and the church choir will be working together to sing the carols and announce the miracle of Christmas! Bring your whole extended family to this fun service. In-laws, out-of-town guests and friends are invited to celebrate with us at this special service.

## Announcements

### Next Disciples Dispatch in January 6

This is the last *Disciples Dispatch* for 2014. We resume our regular schedule on January 6. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

### 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.

### 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.

### Pastoral Counseling Center: Closed but Still Available

Our offices will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, but our confidential answering service is available all day/every day, and we will frequently retrieve your call. Just dial 541-753-9217 (541-451-5015 toll-free in East Linn County), and our staff will call you back on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.

## 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.

# December 2014/January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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> -Inter-generational Worship, Lessons and Carols, no 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 2015</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>10</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>11</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> -Finance Cabinet	<b>13</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	<b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast






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

First Christian Church  
602 SW Madison Avenue  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

