



# Disciples Dispatch

First Christian Church of Corvallis      Disciples of Christ

January 21, 2015 vol. 15, issue 3

**Join us for Sunday Folk and Inter-generational Worship on January 25 at 10:00 a.m.**

- 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 am - Worship (no Sunday School)
- After Service - Congregational Meeting
- 5:30 pm - Stone Soup Supper (prep at 3)

## Called to Serve

**Elders:** Prill Zobel, Don Zobel

**Home Communion:** Prill Zobel

**Preparing Deacons:** Mary Cotton,  
Sylvia Baarstad

**Serving Deacons:** \*Maya Herb, Elliana,  
Elias Herb, Tyler Berry

**Flowers:** Beth and Bill Baird

**Coffee Cart and Snack:** C.J. Sheldrick and  
Teanna McMahan

**Greeter:** Lynda Shurtleff

## Stone Soup Meal Count

Tuesday, 1/13-132

Saturday, 1/17-129

Sunday, 1/18-134

## 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.

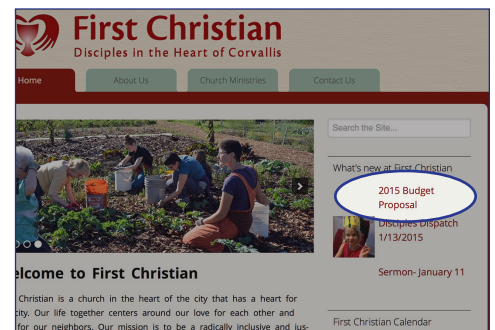
## Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25 after service join us for the Congregational meeting. The big and only agenda item is the vote on the proposed 2015 budget. A proposed budget is posted on our website [www.heartofcorvallis.org](http://www.heartofcorvallis.org). Go to this link: [http://heartofcorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FCC\\_Budget\\_2015\\_Draft\\_8.pdf](http://heartofcorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FCC_Budget_2015_Draft_8.pdf)

Be there to celebrate in the church's financial successes and to vote on the proposed 2015 budget.

## Due Knots Donate

**Due Knots** (church quilting group) recently donated \$500 to the charity organization Child Aid. This money comes from quilt sales both "in house" and at the Craft Fair. Child Aid is a non profit organization located in Portland. Its mission is to create opportunities for Latin America's rural and indigenous poor through childhood literacy and education programs. It conducts reading programs in partnership with over 52 communities in Guatemala. There are 23 languages spoken in Guatemala. It puts books into the hands of thousands of children. They provide critical training to teachers and librarians and offer scholarships to impoverished students. Child Aid as an agency rates 4 stars on Charity Navigator, an organization which evaluates the effectiveness of or-



*A link to the 2015 Budget Proposal pdf can be found on the right of the screen under the heading "What's New at First Christian."*



*Prill and Sylvia tying off a comforter.*

ganizations. A four star is the top rating (99.17).

**Due Knots** is proud to work with Child Aid's literacy work to provide the means for children to break out of poverty and build better lives for themselves and their families. Thank you for supporting us so that we can support this group.

## Matt's Minute

Over the last few weeks, our staff and I spent some time put together an annual report. This report is an outgrowth of a deep desire that I had to celebrate. We had a great 2014, a year where we experienced growth numerically, financially and spiritually. Our church is growing and this is exciting. In fact, as I did some investigation, I realized that the last three years have been a steady growth pattern. I continue to be amazed by who we are and what we are doing. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support and commitment to this community.

Last week, three people asked me about starting a second service. Then, it came up during our Sunday School class last week. Chances are, there may be others asking the same question. Am I thinking we should start another worship service? Until recently, that answer was a simple "no" but I feel like my heart is beginning to lean towards "not yet."

There are many formulas we could employ to make such a decision. One way we could make this determination is that we could look through the lens of history to a time when we had multiple services. What was our average worship attendance? What did our finan-

cial numbers look like? What was our demographic makeup like? What was the leadership and staffing like then?

We could also look through the lens of the present and the questions would be the same. What is our average attendance today? What are our financial numbers like? What is our demographic makeup? What does our staff and leadership look like?

It is also vital to listen to our church as we consider this. Many of you said at our fall small group gatherings that you loved the unity and cohesiveness of the church. Starting a second service would have a huge impact. Many of you said that you thought our worship might need to be more "modernized" by using multimedia, new music styles or a less formal service. If we incorporate these things into our existing service it would have a huge impact.

We are not in a place today where we are starting a second worship service. There are a number of things that need to be considered before we launch something new. We are at the not yet moment. I believe the time is approaching. I invite all of you to consider and pray about these things in the coming months.

*Peace, Matt*



**Rev. Matt Gordon**

**Senior Minister**

Church phone: 541-753.2671

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

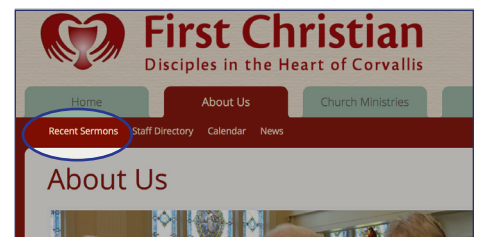
**Open Office Hours:**

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

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

## Sermons Online

2015 Sermons are now online, both text and audio. Look under the "About Us" tab on the website, [heartofcorvallis.org](http://heartofcorvallis.org). Please let the office know about any dead links or audio feed problems. Spread the word and tell your friends.



*Far left: It was great to see Gen last Sunday.*

*Left: Lynda volunteers as greeter. Here Lynda greets and "gets" greeted.*

*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.*



## *In Sunday School...*

*from Emily and Vicki*

In the previous week in Sunday School we began studying the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Both classes were very happy to receive bags of locally grown mustard seed from Carol Garbacik! She grows mustard on farms at OSU and generously shared seed with us.



In the younger class, the children learned the Mustard Seed Parable and then made bird feeders using seeds, sunflower seed butter, and orange halves.

The older class heard the Godly Play version of the Parable of the Mustard Seed, talked about how mustard is like the Kingdom of God, and then cleaned Carol's mustard seed free of chaff in

order to be able to make mustard with it next week! The older class also had a mustard bar where they tried different mustards that Carol made.

This week in Sunday School both the older and younger classes continued to study the Mustard Seed parable. Ella told the Mustard Seed story to both classes. Then the younger class learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and talked about how we all start out small like a mustard seed but can grow to do great things. Then, we drew outlines of birds, put glue on the outlines, and added mustard seeds - making the connection with birds from the mustard seed parable and birds of peace reminding me of Martin Luther King Jr. The older class made mustard from seed donated by Carol. The older kids will be selling their mustard this Sunday after church!



## *In Our Prayers*

Gen Erway has lung cancer

Ramona Wheeler passed away.

Prayers for her and her family

George Bierman and his family

Alice's friend Andrew; his mother has died

Friend of Mary's father has prostate cancer

Gilbert Whale passed away.

Prayers for his family

Linda Shurtleff's brother-in-law

Christy Wright's mother is in hospice care

Sandy Landis' son-in-law has throat cancer

Winnie Smiley

Homeless people that fall through the cracks of the system

Eli's mom and dad

Lynnie Evans

Will Keim

Bill (Lefty) and Kathy Schaub

Peace on Earth

## *Memorial Service for Ramona Wheeler*

Services for Ramona Wheeler will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, at First Christian Church.

If you are interested in helping with the reception after the service contact Pamella Doerksen.

## Looking Ahead

### January 24

- 2:00 p.m.-Memorial service for Ramona Wheeler

### January 25

- After Service-Congregational meeting

### January 26

- 7:00 p.m.-Program Meeting

### February 1

- 6:00 p.m.-Group 4 meets

### February 9

- 7:00 p.m.-Finance Cabinet

### February 12

- 11:30 a.m.-Faith Study group

### February 18

- 9:00 a.m.-Due Knots meets

## Birthdays

1/22 - Matt Gordon

1/24 - Viv Ellsworth

1/25 - Don Baarstad

1/27 - Steve Cline

## Anniversaries

1/26 - Ely Kimberlin and Lisa Luthy

## What's Happening...

### Congregational Meeting

Meets after Sunday service on January 25. Please be there to vote on the proposed 2015 budget and celebrate our financial successes as a church.

### Group 4 meets on February 1

Group 4 will meet at Doerksen's 2210 NW Elmwood Drive on February 1 at 6:00 p.m. We will provide a main dish, drinks and a place to gather. Please bring salads, desserts and veggies. Please let us know if you plan to come. Any adult who would like to join us is invited. Group 4 is a social gathering and is usually a fun time to chat, eat and get to know others from the church. We enjoy getting to know friends, spouses and new people.

### Faith Study Group

Faith Study meets on February 12 at Sandy Landis' apartment #18 at Samaritan Village. We will study "*Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*" by Marcus Borg. This book and is available from eBay or Amazon for less than \$10. If you are interested in joining us, please read the first chapter of the book before the next meeting in February. Let us know if you would like to participate. We would enjoy having you.

### Due Knots Meet

Due Knots meet on Wednesday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m., room 35. Come and help tie comforters for deserving kids. Also join us for tea time and treats.

## Announcements

### C.J.'s Throw Project

C.J. would like donations of yarn to make knitted throws for people who need some extra warmth at the Drop In Center. The yarn may be of any length or color. Please bring your donations of yarn to the church office.

### Sunday Coffee House and Flower Sign-ups

Sign up to do snacks, coffee, or flowers for Sunday services. Sign up sheets can be found in the Narthex on Sunday or contact the church office. If you have questions email Pamella at apdoerksen@comcast.net or Bill at bandjmaier@comcast.net

### 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...

### Benton Hospice Service Bereavement Programs

Grief Education and Support Group: A 6-week series with two sessions to choose from. Pre-registration required a week in advance as seats are limited.

A variety of other programs and services are available to further support the bereaved in our community including: Family Grief Support Group and Community Grief Support Group. Ongoing Programs: Comfort Crafting Circle, Circle of Supportive Friends, Community Support

Visit our website <http://www.bentonhospice.org>. There is no charge for our services and anyone in Benton or Linn County is eligible. Please call or email us with questions, to let us know feedback you may have about our program offerings or times, or to alert us of any gaps in services we may be able to help fill.

# January/February 2015


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>18</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>19</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> Church office is closed <b>7 pm</b> -Board Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	<b>21</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast <b>2:00 pm</b> -Memorial Service for Ramona Wheeler
<b>25</b>  <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Folk Worship, no Sunday School <b>After service</b> -Congregational Mtg <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>26</b> <b>7 pm</b> -Program Meeting	<b>27</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	<b>28</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> <b>7 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>1 February</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper <b>6:00 pm</b> -Group 4	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>3:30 pm</b> -First Christian's turn to prep Stone Soup supper <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>4</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>8</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>9</b> <b>7 pm</b> -Finance Cabinet	<b>10</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	<b>11</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>12</b> <b>11:30 am</b> -Faith Study Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast
<b>15</b> <b>Week of Compassion</b> <b>9 am</b> -Adult Study <b>10 am</b> -Worship, w/Sunday School <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper	<b>16</b> <b>Church office is closed</b> <b>7 pm</b> -Program Cabinet	<b>17</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 am</b> -Due Knots meet <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Lent Begins</b> <b>10 am</b> -Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> -Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>10 am</b> -Stone Soup Breakfast



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

First Christian Church  
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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

