

The Church Scroll

The First Christian Church ~ Disciples of Christ ~ Salem, Oregon
Church Services ~ 8:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am ~ Sunday School ~ 9:45 & 11:00 am

Volume 67 #35

"Reaching Up and Reaching Out"

December 3, 2009



Youth Holiday Auction

Sunday, December 13

Fellowship Hall

Silent Auction 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Oral Auction with Finger Food Lunch 12:30-2:00 pm

All proceeds go to the First Christian Church Youth Missions to Yakama Indian Mission and Mission to Mexico!

Come and support our Youth! Purchase baked goods, art work, gift sets, as well as other goods and services. All of your Christmas shopping can be done with us! We appreciate your support.



"Opening Night" is a rehearsal-free family production to celebrate the Christmas Story and is being performed on Sunday, December 13.

The timeline-

- 4:00-5:00 pm All family production workshops
- 5:30 pm "Once Upon a Christmas"
- 6:30 pm Birthday Party for Baby Jesus

Sign up in the Narthex by this Sunday, December 6.

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Bites of Bread from Bob

Our 2009 Advent Theme is based on Charles Dickens's, "A Christmas Carol". So what does a 19th century British novelist have to do with Christmas in the 21st century America? More than you may think. London in 1843 was a city of 3 million people. In fact, it was the largest city in Europe, and industrial megalopolis in which wealth and fashion sprang up amid sweatshop factories and rampant poverty. That was the year Dickens published "A Christmas Carol", perhaps the most recognizable Christmas story of all time. Even though this timeless tale pictures both the charming and uncharitable parts of London, it has helped to define what most Americans think of as the ideal Christmas. Horse-drawn carriages, dressy holiday balls, ornamented trees inside, fresh-fallen snow outside, wreathed merchant's doors, and festive family meals. Although "A Christmas Carol" is neither a song to be sung nor an overtly Christian work of literature, its haunting words are consistent with the truth found in "Joy to the World". This classic story eloquently portrays both the sinful state of selfish humanity and the wonder of conversion made possible by the birth of Christ. In Ebenezer Scrooge, we see a new birth of sorts. In Tiny Tim, we are reminded why Jesus esteemed childlike faith

"A Christmas Carol'. . . has helped define what most Americans think of as the ideal Christmas."

as a prerequisite for entering the kingdom of God.

Charles Dickens was not necessarily a religious man, but it is obvious he had an understanding of biblical values. Redemption permeates his work. In a letter Dickens wrote to Rev. D. Macrae, we hear the heartbeat of a man familiar with Christmas truth:

With a deep sense of my great responsibility always upon me when I exercise art, one of my most constant and most earnest endeavors has been to exhibit in all my good people some faint reflections of our great Master, and unostentatiously to lead the reader up to those teachings as the great source of all moral goodness. All my strongest illustrations are drawn from the New Testament; all my social abuses are shown as departures from its spirit; all my good people are humble, charitable, faithful and forgiving.

This year let Christ, the Spirit within "A Christmas Carol", transform you, as well as Scrooge.

"And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed; God Bless us, every one!"

God Bless,
Pastor Bob

Sunday Sermons

8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 am

December 6– Pastor Bob Hanna

Luke 1:39-55 The birth of Christ was accompanied by Joy. How can we rekindle the joy of this season?

December 13– Pastor Bob Hanna

Matthew 1:18-25 The unsung hero in the birth narratives of Jesus is Joseph. Joseph, as well as Elizabeth, represent the family links that hold our lives together. This week, the focus will be on how relationships often make the difference in whether our Christmas will be a "humbug" or a "hallelujah".

From the Resource/Stewardship Committee:

At First Christian Church, we use a faith-based budgeting approach. We trust that if our church is seeking to do God's will, then God will provide the money for us to follow through. We do not ask you to tell us how much you pledge to give. As you are aware, we are approaching the end of this budget year, having spent more than we have contributed to the General Fund.

We are asking everyone to consider making an extra charitable contribution to the church this month. We are also asking everyone to pray during this month, that the resources will come in to allow our income to exceed our expenses, and that we will continue to seek God's will for this church, with all our hearts, in the coming year.

Celebrating our Church Family



Birthdays

December

Maria Bryant	6	Jonna Neff	15
Barbie Dalke	6	Keith Allen	16
Miranda Gordon	6	Catherine Hazelwood	16
Zo Hallett	6	Jim Smith	16
Sharon Weir	8	Marnie Watson	16
Ron McKenzie	10	Bob Jordan	18
Marianne Dammel	12	Gladys Sebern	18
Betty Rhoads	12	Ed Vawter	18
Kaleb Pavon	13		

December

Items Needed for Treasures Sale

Treasures such as knitted and crocheted items, artwork, craft and Christmas items, collectibles, candles, baked goods, jams, candy, etc., will be gratefully appreciated.

Please mark items with a suggested price and bring to the church by Friday, December 4. Thank you. Contact: Linda Jordan, 503-393-2647 or Bev Ikeda, 505-463-8902

Welcome New Members

Bruce & Judy Gilbertson came forward on Thanksgiving Sunday to place a dual membership with Salem First Christian Church. They have been long time members of Clear Lake Methodist Church. Judy began singing with our choir and they have both been regulars at our Pinochle games.

Their address is: 507 Lakefair PL N, Keizer, OR 97303 and their number is (503) 290-1292.

John Sinibaldi also came forward on Thanksgiving Sunday to place his membership with Salem First Christian Church. John is the husband of our Handbell Choir Director, Christine. Their son, Dominic, is an active part of our youth group. John owns a chauffeur business.

Prayers For

Lucille Battin, is at Avamere in Keizer.

Ruth Dunn, health concerns.

Chuck Seely, husband of Dutch, is on hospice care.

Condolences

Mary Ann Smith's brother, Kent Meek, passed away on November 27. Our sympathies and prayers go out to Mary Ann and her family at this time.

Offering Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2010 offering envelopes for you. If you have envelopes for 2009, you will receive the same type you are currently using— unless you ask us to change.

New folks and those who have not used envelopes in the past but would like envelopes for 2010, please call the church office (503-363-9273) and leave your request as soon as possible. Thank you.

You are invited to participate in FCC'S contribution to the ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN Or PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!

As our gift to you, we would like to watch your children from ages birth to grade 5 at the church from 5:00 to 10:00 pm, on Friday, December 11. We will have games, crafts, a movie and snacks for your children while you shop, go to a movie, have a dinner out together, and stimulate the economy.

Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. You must register by Wednesday, December 9. Children will not be allowed in before 5:00 pm and must be picked up promptly by 10:00 pm.

Call the office to reserve a spot for your children, or for more Information.

Mark Your Calendars

CWF Christmas Tea and Treasures

Saturday, December 5
11:30 am, Fellowship Hall

YMCA Family Night

Sunday, December 6
6:00 pm

Christmas at Noon

Wednesday, December 9
12:05 pm, Sanctuary
Just of Fun Singers,
directed by Judy Dyer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, December 9
1:00 pm, Parlor

Parent's Night Out

Friday, December 11
5:00-10:00 pm, Chapel & Parlor
Space is limited. You need to register your children by Wednesday, December 9.
More details on page 3.

KFC Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12
1:00 pm, Neufeldt's Restaurant in Stayton

Ambassador Class Christmas Dinner & Gift Exchange

Saturday, December 12
6:00 pm, Eola Inn Restaurant
Choice of three menu items. Call Doris Jackson, 503-393-5542, or sign-up in class.
Gift Exchange- \$10

Youth Holiday Auction

Sunday, December 13
Fellowship Hall
Silent Auction 9:00 am-12:30 pm
Oral Auction with Finger Food
Lunch 12:30-2:00 pm

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13
5:30 pm, Sanctuary
More details on page 5.

Bring a Can to Feed My Sheep

Sunday, December 13
Barrels are in the Chalice entry and Narthex.

Christmas at Noon

Wednesday, December 16
12:05 pm, Sanctuary
Steel pan drummer Brad Hirsch

Rebuilders Potluck Lunch

Tuesday, December 22
12:00 pm Chapel
This is a support group for any and all who are rebuilding from any life experiences.

Christmas at Noon

Wednesday, December 23
12:05 pm, Sanctuary
Organist Christopher Wicks
Harpist Bethany Evans

Family Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24
6:30 pm, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Thursday, December 24
11:00 pm, Sanctuary

Church Building Closed

Merry Christmas
Friday, December 25

Free Blood Pressure Check

Sunday, December 27
12:00 pm, Library
Lorna Johnson, Healthcare
volunteer

Church Office Closed

Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 28

Church Building Closed

Happy New Year
Friday, January 1, 2010

CWF Book Sale

February 6, 2010
Never too soon to start thinking about which books, DVDs, CDs, videos, games you want to donate.

For Our Children & Youth

A Little Light from Laurie

Judy and I were discussing ideas for this year's childrens Christmas pageant when we came across this idea for a rehearsal-free production. Can't you just see it...Saturdays spent curled up with your family by the fire preparing for the birth of our Savior in a stress-free way *without* having to drag the kids out of bed to the church for rehearsals, every Saturday morning before the play? Family is top priority in my book and anything we can do that involves family, I love. This is a church family event, so everyone is welcome. We're calling the evening "Opening Night," which includes three separate rooms for each group to learn songs, stage directions and share a craft. Then we will present our simple story, "Once Upon A Christmas" to the audience and finish the evening with a birthday party for Jesus sponsored by the youth.

I would like to ask a favor: I would like you to step away from tradition this year and open your minds to this simple, new idea that promotes quality family time while concentrating on the true meaning of Christmas.

We need volunteers and participants and audience members. If you would like to participate, please sign up by December 6 after church so we know how many crafts and costumes to prepare. Or if you would like to help with one of the workshops or as a greeter, please let us know.

**"Opening Night" is Sunday, December 13.
Production workshops are from 4:00-5:00 pm;
"Once Upon A Christmas" begins at 5:30 pm;
Happy Birthday Jesus party will begin
approximately at 6:30 pm.**

I hope you will come and enjoy this time together with your church family.

Happy Advent!
Laurie

Youth Updates:

- All mission participants- your Auction items are due to Jacki no later than Sunday, December 6.
- All mission participants- the Auction is on Sunday, December 13. Please be at the church at 8:00 am ready to help. Plan on staying until 2:00 pm for clean up.
- All youth are going Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 16. We will leave at 6:45 pm and return to church at 8:00 pm. All friends and family are welcome to come and sing with us.
- Youth- there is NO youth group on Wednesday, December 23. Merry Christmas!
- CYF Youth- mark your calendars. Snow Rally in Hood River is January 15-17. Paperwork and details will soon be published.

Children's Calendar

December 6 – Our "rewards" store will be open during Sunday School time, 10-10:45 am for grades 1-5 to spend the tickets you've earned. Great time to think of others on your Christmas lists!!!

December 13 – Rehearsal-Free Family Christmas production: "Once Upon A Christmas" 5:30 pm, followed by Birthday party for Jesus. There will be production stations from 4:00-5:00 pm for scenery and costumes.

December 20 – Advent Faire—All children up through 5th grade are invited to bring their families to share this special Christmas craft and mission time together 9:45-10:45 am in Fellowship Hall.

December 27 – JYF Cocoa and Christmas Lights outing hosted by Sandra Gross.

Close to Home and Around Salem

SAVE THESE DATES!!

January 19 through January 23 we will be photographing you for a new church directory.

Sign up for your time slot, beginning Sunday, December 6, in the Chalice entry or Narthex.

Everyone photographed will receive a free 8"x10" photo and a copy of the directory. There will be no high pressure to buy photos.

Please try to make yourself available during these times as it won't be complete without you!!!

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias

Thursday, December 10
2:00–4:00 pm

Center 50+ Classroom A
2615 Portland Road NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-588-6303

Communication and Difficult Behaviors: What tools can I learn for successful communication and managing difficult behavior challenges?

Seminar is Free.

Christmas at HOME

As part of our efforts to be hospitable neighbors and share the love of Christ this season, we will be providing a Christmas celebration at the HOME Youth Center.

HOME is a program of Community Action Resources designed to be a drop-in support center for homeless at-risk teens. If you are interested in helping to serve dinner, donate towards Christmas presents or simply come and share with us, please contact Matt.

The Christmas at Home party will be on Wednesday, December 23, at 4:30 pm. Turkey and all the trimmings are being prepared.

Christmas Offering Supports Region

The Oregon Region receives your gifts throughout the year through your contributions to the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF). Over 60% of the funds received in Oregon to DMF are returned to Oregon for ministries here.

Once a year, the Christian Church in Oregon receives an offering that goes exclusively to its ministries in Oregon. We hope you will participate in this offering to extend the witness of your regional church.

Some of the programs and services the Christmas offering supports:

- Summer camps • Women's Ministries • Mission partnerships • New Church ministries • Training new ministers • Services to congregations • Regional Assemblies

Come to The WOW

(The Way on Wednesday)

Donations are gratefully accepted to cover the cost of the meal.

December 9 Schedule

- 5:00-6:00 pm Walking Group– Chalice entry
- 5:30-6:30 pm Dinner, Beef & Chicken Tacos, Cheese Enchiladas and Salad Bar-Rm.106
- 6:00-6:30 pm Homework Club & Table Games
All ages– Rm. 106
- 6:30-6:45 pm Opening Worship– Sanctuary
- 6:45-7:45 pm
Children's Activities to age 5- Rm. 213
AMPT Practice– Rm. 207
"NOOMA" Study Series– Rm. 206
Youth Gathering Time– Rm. 310
Children's Programming grades 1-5 Rm. 113

December 16 Schedule

- 5:30-6:30 pm Dinner, Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Cheesy Ziti and Salad Bar-Rm.106
- Same scheduled programs at December 9.

Housekeeping

Serving Sunday, December 6

ELDERS

8:30 & 9:30 am– Alan Brown
11:00 am– Rick Ikeda, Lela Jackson, Dave Holler,
Wayne Smith, Doug Johnson

DECEMBER DEACONS

8:30 am Service– Anita Wagner
9:30 am Service– Rick Morris, Colleen Revello
11:00 am Service– Arty Day, Sandra Gross, Avis &
Jim Kinkaid, Arleen & Keith Olson, Linda & Bob
Olson, Dave Rehbehn, Roy Yung
Choir: Joan Behen, Mary Ann Smith

SATURDAY FILL

Betty Patterson

COMMUNION CLEAN UP

Judy Brown, Beth Manzo,
Ferol Weyand, Annette Young

COFFEE HOUR

Chuck & Lois Kinkaid,
Gary & Sharon Mudge

HOLY GROUNDS

Beth Manzo, Ferol Weyand

Serving Sunday, December 13

ELDERS

8:30 & 9:30 am– Scott Towery
11:00 am– Becky Johnson, Craig Johnson, Bambi
Rux, Diane Watson, Neva Clausen

DECEMBER DEACONS

8:30 am Service– Anita Wagner
9:30 am Service– Rick Morris, Colleen Revello
11:00 am Service– Arty Day, Sandra Gross, Avis &
Jim Kinkaid, Arleen & Keith Olson, Linda & Bob
Olson, Dave Rehbehn, Roy Yung
Choir: Joan Behen, Mary Ann Smith

SATURDAY FILL

Mary Weathers

COMMUNION CLEAN UP

Donna Mitchell,
Duane & Audrey Setness

COFFEE HOUR

Rick & Bev Ikeda,
Rick & Nancy Burke

HOLY GROUNDS

Colleen Revello, Rebecca Revello

Scroll Submissions

All articles and items submitted **need to be 100 words or less** and are due no later than Monday, December 14, at 10:00 am.

Please email to melissah@salemfcc.org or drop in Melissa's box.

The articles need to be written and complete when submitted.

Thank you

SUNDAY NUMB3RS

November 22, 2009

GIVING

General– \$5350.53

Building– \$0

Thanksgiving Offering–
\$660

ATTENDANCE

10:30– 348

November 29, 2009

GIVING

General– \$3937.19

Building– \$0

Thanksgiving Offering–
\$130

ATTENDANCE

8:30– 34 / 9:30– 63

11:00– 261

Sunday School– 98

Christmas Tea and Treasures

Saturday, December 5

11:30 am

Fellowship Hall



Christmas Treasures Sale

Sunday, December 6

8:00 am-1:00 pm

Parlor