

Church Staff

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 Nancy Anderson, Director of Music
 Dr. John Jantzi, Organist and Bell Choir Director
 Danette Lamson-Hall, Administrative Assistant
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 Rochelle Andres, Nursery Supervisor
 DeeDee Wagner, Nursery Assistant
 Jennifer Jost, Wedding Hostess
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Gilbert Kistler, Elder Emeritus
 Frances Hyland, Elder Emerita

We reserve the right to edit or rewrite submitted articles. Newsletter deadline is the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
 1166 OAK STREET
 EUGENE, OR 97401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATE SENSITIVE MATERIAL

First Notes:

FISH  **Sunday**, 1st Sunday of Month

Administrative Ministry -
November 28, 5 PM
Special Dates

November 24 - Thanksgiving 
 Office Closed Thursday & Friday

November 26, - Snatum Kaur Concert

November 27 - Hanging of the Greens
 Advent Workshop

First News November 15, 2005

A publication of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Eugene for its families and friends



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 22, at 7 PM Central Presbyterian Church

"Praying Each Other's Prayers"

Community Choir and a pie social

The community choir will sing *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You."*

(Contact Eliza Drummond for music.)

There will be a love offering. Child Care will be available.

We need 10 - 12 pies from our congregation.

One Service

Combined Worship Service

Sunday, November 27

10:30 AM

Hanging of the Greens

Come One, Come All



ADVENT

Advent Family Workshop

Sunday, November 27

4 PM - 7 PM

Join us for an evening of making holiday crafts for your home.

There is something for all ages.

Minister's Moment

In January of 2012 we will celebrate the centennial of the dedication of our building. By popular demand, here's a summary of the goals I articulated in my Oct 2 sermon for that centennial. (The complete text can be found online at www.heartofeugene.org.)

First, spiritual vitality. A healthy, wholesome spirituality is essential in our world today, not just for our personal well-being but for our relationship with all of creation, with all of the world, indeed even for global survival. One of the ways we will know that we are part of a spiritually vital body of Christ is by three growing, weekly services filled with the spirit of God. My hope is to add a contemplative service as part of our weekly schedule within the year.

Second, small group ministry. Public worship without private practice is a book without any pages. It is in our own prayer life and small group work that we go deeper and we build that sturdy foundation that will last a lifetime and will stand any storm. Therefore, along with our three spirit-filled services, I see by 2011 three times the number of classes, study and prayer groups, engaging others in their spiritual journeys.

Third, that we will actively practice **the art of discernment** on key, difficult issues which face our church and society. Is there not a way in which we can be truly open and inclusive to all perspectives among our fellow Christians without alienating one another? To say in love and honesty 'though we may read the same scriptures differently from time to time and have opposing views, we still have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and we still value and honor and respect one another'. That's the community I long for. And it has a name. It's called the body of Christ.

Fourth, children and youth are among our highest priorities. Here in this church we will double the number of children and youth involved in our ministry by 2011 and that means doubling the number of adults who are teachers and teaching assistants and sponsors in the next two years, in order to build the kind of program we need to attract youth and young families.

Fifth, we will continue to expand **our public witness** through our community services and social action. We have a long tradition of service to our community. But if we are to fulfill the vision of Jesus for the community of God, then community service and charity is not enough. Such a community that lives out that vision will collaborate to work against all forms of discrimination, oppression, and injustice. My goal is to see a Christians for Peace and Justice formed in our congregation with at least a dozen active members by 2011 who will be the prophetic voice of our congregation.

Lastly, financial stability. The financial goals I have for our congregation are:

1. That our building will be financially independent through the permanent building endowment and rents.
2. That we will make a guarantee to all of our youth that graduate from high school and go on to college that we will cover 1/2 of their tuition.
3. That we will have three full-time staff in ministry and two full-time staff in administration in order to better equip our members to do all of the above.
4. That we will be a tithing church and will take our own personal stewardship seriously, supporting the ministries of the congregation generously.

I plan to be here when we will be celebrating not just 100 years of continual worship here in this place, but we will be celebrating a strong, vibrant community of disciples, known to be a light to the world in the heart of Eugene.



Oregon Mozart Players

Concerts at First Christian Church
1166 Oak Street, Eugene

Candlelight Concert
December 12 & 13 at 7:30 PM

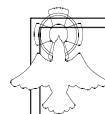


CHOIR
FUNDRAISER

Choir Raises \$\$ for Carnegie Hall Trip

Choir members planning to sing at Carnegie Hall in May are selling Entertainment Books to help offset the travel cost. For only \$30 these are a great value and cheaper when you buy them here! Out of town books also available. Great Christmas gift idea! See Nancy Anderson to buy one or several.

Wanted: Helping Hand Room Donations
Novemberrr leads to Decemberrr! Outgrown or outdated coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc. are needed in our Helping Hand room as well as blankets, sleeping bags for those unfortunate people who are still sleeping outside. Thank you for your generosity.



Prayer Calendar: Angelica Kollmai; Ron MacKenzie; Marie Argentino; Mary McCauley Burrows; Lorraine Naff; Art Watters; Lee Wahlstrom; Bonnie Roth; Ruth Bascue; Vivian Templar; Rowena Morgan; Tony R. Alexander; Beth Berge; Elezabeth Coke; George Weller; families in financial crisis and families dealing with addictions.

BITS & PIECES

Sanctuary
Repairs are
complete.



Those of you that have been in the sanctuary in the past month may have noticed a piece of the arch over the balcony had fallen down. Repairs to the crack could not be put off any longer. The Board approved getting a line of credit to cover the \$8,000 bill to make repairs to the arch. The support beam had been twisting ever so slightly over the past years causing the crack. Part of the repair was to install metal bracing to stop that movement.

An Evening Kirtan Concert for World Peace with Snatam Kaur



Here at First Christian Church
Saturday, November 26 at 7 pm.

Snatam resonates with the words "celebrate peace" because she believes that peace already exists within each of us, and it is a matter of recognizing it and celebrating it. Celebration comes from a place of courage and inner strength. The Celebrate Peace album and tour are dedicated to inspiring people of all walks of life to celebrate the peace that is within themselves, their families, and communities and, from that place of strength, to reach out to others as neighbors and nations in the spirit of peace.

Youth News



CYF COMING EVENTS

Lock In, December 3 - Toy shopping and a movie! 6 p.m. Cost \$5. Bring money to shop for Helping Hands Gift Bags.

Shop 'Til You Drop, December 20, 9 a.m.



CHI RHO COMING EVENTS

Chi Rho meetings, Nov. 20, Dec. 4 & 18 at noon. Bring a sack lunch.

Puppets, Nov. 27 at noon. Bring a sack lunch.



ALL ADULT LEADERS/TEACHERS of YOUTH are invited to meet Sunday, December 11 at noon. Following lunch and worship, Chi Rho and CYF leaders will meet separately for planning. We finish by 2:30 p.m. Child care is provided if requested.

STEWARDSHIP

Celebration

Pledge cards have been counted and we're excited about the results. Although we did not quite reach our goal, giving has been increased. With the loss of one of our substantial givers this past year the increase in pledges has made up the difference. It's not too late to turn in a pledge card if you haven't yet. Estimated giving is based on last years giving and does not count in the possibility of any increase you may be planing to give.

Received Estimates	NEW ESTIMATE CARDS	27		25,905
	INCREASED ESTIMATE	50	\$	147,808
	DECREASED ESTIMATE	8	\$	7,356
	CONTINUED ESTIMATE	18	\$	37,260
		103	\$	218,329
ESTIMATED GIVING	IDENTIFIED GIVING/NO CARD	58	\$	34,692
	UNIDENTIFIED GIVING		\$	7,000
	Total Giving units	161	\$	260,021
	2006 GOAL		\$	268,000
	NEEDED TO MEET GOAL		\$	(7,979)



Who are the "faces of the future of ministry who are studying in seminary in the fall of 2005? At Disciples Seminary Foundation, they "look" like this.

*Of the 30 students in the Master of Divinity degree program designed especially for ordination:
10 are twenty something, 7 are thirty-somethings, 5 or forty-somethings, 6 are fifty-somethings, and 2 are 60-65.*

If each of these 30 begin ministry mid-decade (at 25, 35, etc.) until reaching age 65, we have approximately 1180 years of ministerial leadership potential in seminary right now. Of those years, 800 are in the twenty-somethings- one good reason to encourage our youth to prepare for the vocation of all Christians-ministry-and to listen for particular calling to vital and rewarding full-time ministry.

Our Thanksgiving offering is designated 100% for our colleges and seminaries. At Disciples Seminary Foundation, these 30 Disciples students, 20 more in other degree programs and 20 in certificate programs are being educationally prepared for ministry among us. Help them by contributing generously.

For additional information about Disciples Seminary Foundation, write 300 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711; call 909-624-0712; email info@dsf.edu; or check out www.dsf.edu



Sharing Faith Through Hospitality.

Ever wonder why you should bother to wear a name tag? Think of it as an act of hospitality, a way to reach out and welcome people. Name tags help us learn and remember the growing list of names in our congregation. A name tag tells the visitor and others who is a member or regularly attends our church. If you don't have a name tag, there are blank tags to write your name on until one is made. Also, there is a clipboard to sign up for a name tag at our welcome table by the name tags.



Children's Musical for Christmas

The children of our church have a gift for you! They are preparing a Christmas Play called *A Shepherd's Story*, which will be performed Sunday, December 18 at 6:30pm. We all know the Christmas Story, but it always wonderful to see our children retell it with fresh perspective. We invite you to come and bring friends, neighbors and relatives with you. The program will also include beautiful music from our Bell Choir.

Looking Ahead to December

December 3, Saturday @ 6:00 PM
CYF Lock-In

December 11, Sunday @ 7:00 PM
Interfaith Prayer Service

December 12, Monday @ 7:00 PM
Oregon Mozart Players

December 13, Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Oregon Mozart Players

December 18, Sunday @ 6:30 PM
Children's Program

December 20, Tuesday @ 9:00 AM
CYF Shop till you Drop

**December 24, Saturday @
7:00 PM & 11:00 PM**

Christmas Eve Services

**December 25, Sunday
One Service @ 10:30 AM**

Christmas

December 26, Monday
Office is Closed



News and Notes from the Children's Ministry Team

Advent will be an exciting and busy time for the children during both services.

During the combined Hanging of the Green service on November 27 and every Sunday during Advent our story tellers and children will share "The Way to Bethlehem". In December we will share in both services during the Children's Moment. It's our first opportunity to share with the congregation and the children, the new curriculum we will begin in February 2006. Perhaps you will understand after experiencing the stories why the Team and teachers are so excited about this curriculum.

Mel and Leitha Menegat and the snack crew have been providing nutritious snacks at 10:30 each Sunday to give the children a mid-morning energy boost. We are thankful to them for this thoughtful service. During the Holidays we hope you will help us keep "sugar highs" away by remembering they do already have snacks and enough energy.

Remember - November 27 - Week One of the Advent stories - "The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem."

Signed, The Children's Ministry Team
Betsy Brandenfels, Lois Brandenfels, Paula Cates, Jamie McCormack, Mel Menegat, Laura Powell, Marilyn Reid, Linda Rothage.

Teachers: *Paula Cates, Linda Rothage, Sarah Vaughan, Laura Powell, Scott Powell, Betsy Brandenfels, Patty Osborne, Michelle Cook, Ida Lomprey.* Substitute Teachers and Assistance: *Marilyn Reid, Mel Menegat, Laura Thomas, Tim Powell, Fred Brandenfels, Cassie DiMarco.*



Alternative Christmas Gift Program

Once again this year, we will provide FCC members the opportunity to participate in the Alternative Christmas Gift program. By purchasing items such as a flock of chickens through Heifer Project, blankets through Church World Service, or mittens and hats through our Helping Hand Room individuals can give gifts that truly make a difference in our world. Each gift is given in the name of a loved one and distributed through these organizations to those in need in our community, country and world. In addition to these organizations, we will also be adding the opportunity to purchase story props for the Children's Worship and Wonder program that will begin in February. More information about this program will be distributed separately.

Order sheets will be available at the back of the sanctuary after each of the Sunday morning worship services on Dec 4, 11 and 18th

For more information, please contact Marilyn Reid.



Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading "Merry Xmas!" Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word Xristos, which translated into English is the word Christ.

So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters mas are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, Xmas really means Christ mass or Christ worship.



Partners in Prayer - Advent 2005 -

Christmas comes. God calls us to get ready for the Advent. Traditionally, believers have found special prayer times one of the best ways to prepare both individually and as a family. Partners in Prayer offers you a partner to stimulate your worship and conversation with God during these special days of the Christian year. This year's meditations come from the writings of C. William Nichols, General Minister and President, emeritus, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and senior pastor, emeritus, of Central Christian Church in Decatur, Illinois.

Available in the church office for \$2.00.