

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Daniel E. H. Bryant, Senior Minister
 Rev. Elaine Andres, Director of Youth
 Patty Weller, Director of Administration
 Nancy Anderson, Director of Music
 Dr. John Jantzi, Organist and Bell Choir Director
 Danette Lamson-Hall, Administrative Assistant
 Roger Evers, Custodial Manager
 Bill Wise, Maintenance Manager
 Erik Free, Youth Intern
 Judith Ivy, S.H.E.E.P. Choir Director
 Rochelle Andres, Nursery Supervisor
 DeeDee Wagner, Nursery Assistant
 Lesley Middleton, Nursery Assistant
 Jennifer Jost, Wedding Hostess
 Lee Ann Gutierrez, Event Attendant

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 each month. Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

The First Christian Church Newsletter is published by the First Christian Church of Eugene for its members and friends. Dan Bryant, Editor. Patty Weller, Desktop Publisher. (541) 344-1425. FAX: (541) 338-8616. E-Mail: postmaster@heartofeugene.org Web Site: www.heartofeugene.org

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 the Month

Executive Meeting - 3rd Monday, 12 PM

Elders - 2nd Monday, 7 PM

Calling Ministry - 2nd Monday, 11:30 PM

Administrative Ministry

3rd Monday, 5:00 PM

December 11, Interfaith Prayer Service

December 12 & 13, Oregon Mozart Players

December 17, Greater Eugene Sacred Choir

December 18, Christmas program

December 24, Christmas Eve Services

December 25, Merry Christmas

Worship Service @ 10:30 AM

December 26, Office Closed



Children's Musical for Christmas

Sunday, December 18

6:30 PM

The children of our church have a gift for you! They are preparing a Christmas Play called *A Shepherd's Story*.

We all know the Christmas Story, but it's 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 and our Sanctuary Choir.



7:00 PM Family Service "Telling of the Christmas Story"

The whole family will enjoy the singing of Christmas carols and listening to the telling of the story of Christmas. The service will close with communion and singing of *Silent Night* as we pass the light from the Christ Candle in a circle around the sanctuary followed by Joy to the World. A special offering will be taken for the Week of Compassion

11:00 PM Service Our Candlelight service highlights the artistry of Jane Allen on the Harp. The Christmas story is told in Scripture and music. The service concludes with communion, *Silent Night* on the harp and the circle of candle light. A special offering will be taken for the Week of Compassion.

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Sunday, Christmas Day
 Join us for worship at 10:30 AM.
 Come and celebrate Christ's birth on His day.



Minister's Moment

I had the privilege of knowing two wonderful women married to one extraordinary man. The ways in which their lives were interwoven over time and geography is quite phenomenal. Naomi Jackson and Nola Lee were both products of Salem First Christian Church and both attended Northwest Christian College. From there their lives went separate but similar directions. Naomi went to Phillips Seminary where she married the son of one of her professors. She brought her new husband back to Eugene to teach at Northwest Christian College and to get a PhD in history at the University of Oregon. Meanwhile Nola went farther east to marry an Oregon boy and fellow NCC student who was stationed in North Carolina as an army paratrooper before being sent to the south Pacific theater during WWII. Following the war they also returned to Eugene where Nola's husband enrolled in the journalism program at Oregon. Thus the friendship between the Neills (Ralph and Nola) and the Osborns (Ronald and Naomi) was born.

Ralph would go on to use his journalism skills to better the church, first at our general office in Indianapolis and then our college in Hiram, Ohio. Ronald would become a prominent scholar and leader in our denomination, teaching at our seminaries in Indianapolis and then Claremont, California. Ralph established the first press office for the International Convention of the Christian Church. Ronald was the last moderator of the Convention when it became the General Assembly. While in Ohio, Ronald's sister had the Neill children in her English classes. Both families returned to the West, the Osborns to California and the Neills to Oregon. When the Neills moved to San Diego so Ralph could receive therapy for advancing cancer, the Osborns were there to provide encouragement and support. When the Osborns moved to Seaside after Naomi's diagnosis of terminal cancer, Nola was there to offer her encouragement and support. Cancer claimed both spouses nearly a decade apart. Friendship and love brought the two survivors together in 1986 for a decade and two years before Nola was widowed for a second time.

Ralph and Ronald received most of the glory due to their careers, but Naomi and Nola were the women behind the scenes who made much of it possible. Naomi was about as tall as Nola was short, both incredibly gracious, generous and gentle. Both were raised in Oregon during the depression when they learned the true value of faith and families. I count them among the true saints of the church. Whether it is a quirk of fate or some divine mystery that these two Oregon gals would marry the same Oklahoma boy I do not know. But this I do know: Nola gave Ronald a family he twice lost, once to a car accident (his only daughter) and once to cancer (his first wife). At the celebration for Nola's life on the Friday after Thanksgiving, I pondered the grace of God in Nola's grandchildren, 12 in all, who remember Ronald, no grandchildren of his own, as the only grandfather they had.

In this Advent season we ponder the grace of God visited upon a young handmaiden of the Lord yet to be married. Her magnificent song celebrates the blessings of God that reverses the fortunes of the lowly, the poor and the hungry (Luke 1:46-55). The marriage of Ronald and Nola was such a reversal of fortune for both. The widow who found new life in a second love. The widower given grandchildren he never had. From now on, may all generations call them blessed. Praise be to God!



Prayer Calendar: Sarah Vaughan, Cleo Tapp; Ron MacKenzie; Lorraine Naff; Art Watters; Lee Wahlstrom; Bonnie Roth; Ruth Bascue; Vivian Templar; Rowena Morgan; Tony R. Alexander; Beth Berge; families in financial crisis and families dealing with addictions.



To be on our e-mail list for prayers e-mail Patty@heartofeugene.org and we will get you plugged in.



Women's Fellowship

CFW Meets December 6 at Ruth Ann Wilson's home and will include study, worship and refreshments.



Recycling Drive

Our youth have joined the eScript Recycling program to earn money for their mission trip. This program is free and we have a drop off in the church office as well as in the back of the sanctuary. They are collecting laser inkjet & toner cartridges as well as used cell phones.

Did you know that every second of every day nine ink cartridges are thrown away? Help us to turn waste into \$\$ for our youth. Thank you for your help in recycling.

December 11 at 7:00 PM Interfaith Prayer Service

"Interfaith Prayer, Remembrance, and Reflection" provides a special occasion to pray for peace, remember our loved ones, reflect upon the interconnectedness of all beings, and to uplift our hearts and minds. Its purpose is to bring together people from different faith communities in the spirit of harmony, peace, and growing appreciation, and to nurture confidence in the universal power of love and unity that transcends all earthly limitations.

BITS & PIECES

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.

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News Flash Cookies
 needed - Any & all cookies are needed to share during our coffee time and for our 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Bring your cookies to the office or put them in the kitchen.

In this season of giving & thankfulness, we reflect on the contributions the staff of First Christian church have given to us.

We are indeed blessed to have such a fine group of folks that work tirelessly to help us spiritually, prayerfully, and emotionally. They challenge us to use our gifts and talents to serve God in various ways in the church and the community. This is the time to say "Thank you" for their efforts. The personnel committee is collecting funds for the FCC staff Christmas gifts. Please donate your non-tax-deductible gifts no later than December 15th.

Personnel Committee



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Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 4
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 11
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18
- First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve, December 31

A Shepherd's Story

Children's Musical

December 18, 6:30 PM

**First Christian Church
Eugene**

ALL ADULT LEADERS/TEACHERS of YOUTH are invited to meet Sunday, Dec. 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.

Oregon Mozart Players

Concerts at First Christian Church



1166 Oak Street, Eugene

Candlelight Concert

December 12 & 13 at

7:30 PM

**Greater Eugene Sacred
Choir**

December 17 at 7:00 PM

Concert at First Christian Church

Come experience the joy and

wonder of Christmas through

Christ-centered choir music,

solos, and inspiration readings

Admission is Free

December Happenings

December 3, Saturday @ 6:00 PM

CYF Lock-In

December 10, Saturday @ 6:00 PM

Chi Rho 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 17, Saturday @ 7:00 PM

Greater Eugene Sacred Choir

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 @ 10:30 AM

Christmas Day Worship Service

December 26, Monday

Office is Closed

December Youth Happenings

CYF COMING EVENTS:

Dec. 3: Lock-In Toy shopping and a movie!

Bring money to shop for

Helping Hands Gift Bags. Cost \$5

Regular Meetings: Every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

Focus: Relationships

December 20 Shop 'Til You Drop,

Meet at 9 a.m. to go to Portland.

CHI RHO COMING EVENTS

Chi Rho Meetings: **Dec. 4** - Game Day at noon.

Bring sack lunch

Dec. 10 - "Giving the Love Away"

Lock -In. 6 p.m. Cost: \$5

Bring money to purchase gifts

for Helping Hands Gift Bags.

Dec. 11 - Bring a sack lunch.



2005 Alternative Christmas Program

ALTERNATIVE: adj. Providing or being a choice between two (or less strictly among more than two) things. n 1. a choice between two or among more than two things. 2. either or any of the things to be chosen. SYN: CHOICE.

FCC's Alternative Christmas Program provides us with a choice between participating in the rampant commercialism that has surrounded this most Holy of times or giving gifts that truly answer the needs of the world. By purchasing gifts through Heifer Project, Church World Service or our local Helping Hand Room, you have an opportunity to support the efforts of groups trying to more authentically honor the name and spirit of the one to whom Christmas really belongs to.

In addition to these 3 programs, the FCC Children's Ministry Team has added the opportunity for individuals or groups to buy individual stories related to the Children Worship and Wonder program that will begin in February. Children Worship & Wonder offers an exciting way to approach faith formation with children. The approach recognizes children as spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God. A special display will be at the back of the sanctuary that will provide a full "shopping list" of stories.

The Alternative Christmas "shop" will be open after both services on December 4, 11 and 18. There you can look at ideas for gifts in honor of your family member or friend. You might buy a sleeping bag for the Helping Hand Room to distribute to a homeless person, a rabbit or share of a goat for Heifer Project International, a school or health kit from Church World Service for a child in a refugee camp, or a CWW story for the FCC Children's Ministry.

Consider this avenue of giving as a way to feel more fulfilled as a Christian servant and to teach by example the message of Jesus' life.



2005 Church Wish List

Phone system, \$5,500
CD duplicator for worship services, \$1500
New shelving for our library, \$500
New Folding Machine, \$1900

Tape backup for our computer network, \$350
Office for Mac, \$350
Dymo Label Printer, \$100

InDesign software for newsletter, \$599
Upgrade office computers to G5s, \$2000
Parenting Now course for 6 couples, \$200
Carpeting installation for under new bell choir tables, \$500-

Paint repair for sanctuary corners, \$2000
Rear projection screen for sanctuary, cost unknown
New energy efficient lights for office hallway, cost unknown



GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Christmas Special Day Offering Supports 2005 the Ministries of your Region. Each region of the Christian Church is part of the vital work of Christ in our world today.

Your Region.....

Assists congregations in claiming their unique mission

Shares resources for worship, education, stewardship, and outreach.

Provides camp & conference opportunities to strengthen spirituality

Calls forth passionate leaders

Revitalizes existing congregations

Plans new congregations

Nurtures candidates for ordained and licensed ministry

Gives counsel in times of a ministerial search process

Provides pastoral care for clergy and congregation

Please give generously to the Christmas Offering for the benefit of your congregation, your sister congregations and the common ministry of your Region.



Children's Worship & Wonder



During Advent the "Way to Bethlehem" stories will continue during the Children's Moment.

December 4 - Mary and Joseph show the Way to Bethlehem

December 11 - The Shepherds show the Way to Bethlehem

December 18 - The Magi show the Way to Bethlehem

December 24 - 7:00 p.m. - Christmas- Meeting the Christ Child

We hope and pray you will find your way to Bethlehem during the Children's stories as they are presented during Advent.



While we have kept our expenses at or below our budget for the year, our current giving is about 97% of what we estimated at the beginning of the year. Three percent doesn't sound like much, but that 3% represents the \$6,000 which makes up our deficit for the year. You can help the church and lower your taxes by making your gift to the church prior to the end of the year. Please note that we must receive your gift by Friday, December 30th, in order for it to count on this year's taxes. Your assistance in helping us end the year in the black will be greatly appreciated!



*May the miracle of Christmas
touch us all and bring peace and
hope to the world.*

Christmas prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Merry Christmas from all of us:

*Dan Bryant, Elaine Andres, Patty Weller,
Nancy Anderson, John Jantzi, Judith Ivy,
Danette Lamson-Hall, Bill Wise, Roger Evers,
Eric Free, Rochelle Andres, Dee Dee Wagner,
Leslie Middleton, Jennifer Jost, Lee Ann Gutierrez*



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Christmas Eve Offering to benefit Week of Compassion About WOC

Through Week of Compassion, North American Disciples reach out in the name of Christ to:

- * provide emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, droughts, civil war and other natural and human catastrophes. In a typical year WOC responds to a disaster about once every two days.
- * respond with help, hope and hospitality to people who have been uprooted and displaced from their homelands by war, environmental catastrophe, famine and natural disaster. Many of the world's 25 million refugees are children.
- * support self-help programs of development and rehabilitation that empower people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, poverty, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy human dignity. WOC supports projects in more than 80 nations on every inhabitable continent of the earth.
- * encourage and support volunteer groups in "hands-on" mission and service opportunities. Annually, WOC partners with more than 50 Disciples work groups in mission projects in North America and abroad.

Through partnerships with Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Food Resource Bank, Heifer Project International, the Disciples' Overseas Ministries, Volunteers in Mission, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Bread for the World, Souper Bowl of Caring, Habitat, the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ELCOF), and hundreds of local church partners around the world, Week of Compassion shares in a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. WOC's administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

Disciples through WOC also participate with Christians in nine other Protestant denominations in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

Of course, the partnership we share with more than 3200 Christian Church congregations across North America is where this remarkable ministry of connecting Disciples to the world and sharing compassion with all God's children truly begins. Disciples annually channel more than 2.5 million dollars through Week of Compassion for humanitarian needs in the world.



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