



# Electronic First News

February 15, 2008

First Christian Church/ 541-344-1425

## Week of Compassion ~ February 17 - 24,

A not infrequent question that Amy and I receive as we visit with Disciples on behalf of Week of Compassion is something to this effect: "do our gifts to WOC really make a difference out there in the world?" Or to use the language of this year's theme, "does sharing our resources with WOC really change people's lives?"

It is a fair question. It's one I regularly ask myself. When I place that question in the context of what's happening in the world, it's certainly a perplexing query that can keep me awake deep into the night. A recent study reported that the number of weather-related disasters in the world quadrupled in the 20 years between 1985 and 2004. Another study reported that there were more disasters in the world in 2007 (950) than anytime since these kind of records were kept. You read the news about the worsening humanitarian crises in Darfur and Congo. What about the tornadoes that ripped across the South last week - taking lives, devastating communities. In a typical year, WOC might have around \$2.5 million to respond to disasters, emergencies, poverty, hunger and other humanitarian needs in the world. \$2.5 million - to any one of us, perhaps a great deal of money. But, I read recently that a famous baseball player just signed a contract for \$275 million. Yes, \$275 million. So, it is a fair question - "does sharing our resources with WOC really change people's lives?" "Can WOC dollars change lives?"

But if it is a perplexing question, it is also one that can get you out of bed in the morning with a clear and certain hope. The answer is a resounding yes, and indeed, stories abound of how Week of Compassion dollars change lives. Amy is replete with stories from Bosnia, India, Nicaragua and elsewhere of women who - because of war, disaster, poverty - are now heads of households and who - because of WOC dollars and partnerships with organizations like CWS, CASA, and CEPAD (and hosts of others) - are providing for their families, sending their kids to schools, generating income for themselves. When colleagues and I walked through tense and teeming refugee camps in Darfur last fall, I met person after person who thanked us for resources that literally meant for them the difference between life and death. We regularly receive letters from people along the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast, or from the tornado-torn Midwest, that Disciples and WOC dollars repaired/rebuilt their homes, restored their hopes, changed their lives.

Blessings, Johnny Wray



### Care & Share

We have several church families facing financial crises. Please consider 'over-and-above' giving to the 'Care and Share Fund'. This way, assistance can be offered to these families by their church family. Offerings can be mailed/taken directly to the office or placed in the offering tray with a designation to the Care and Share Fund.



*The chalice symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple Andrew is a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism.*

**Disciples/Connection Class to start**

Disciples Class starts February 24 at 9:30 AM in the Parlor. All interested are welcome to attend this 4 week class to learn about the history and beliefs of the Disciples of Christ and Eugene First Christian Church. Facilitators are Dick Busic and Bill Pifer.

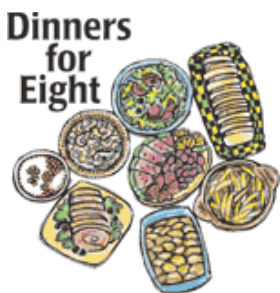
**\$Dining For Dollars \$**

**Sign up THIS Sunday to Host a dinner**



**We need volunteers for our latest FUNdraiser,** Dining for Dollars, which is a series of "themed" dinners and/or parties, generally (but not exclusively) held in members' homes. These dinners are auctioned off to attendees as a fundraiser for our church. If you are willing to host an event, you first need to think of an interesting, fun, and/or delicious theme for your dinner. Decide how many people you are willing to host, fill out the host sign-up form (available in the church bulletin or in the office), and turn it in to the office or put it in the offering plate

at a service. Your event then will be included with the others in a silent auction in March. What kinds of themes do hosts choose? Ethnic meals (Indian, Italian, Mexican, French, etc.) are always popular. Or how 'bout sailing trips, pancake breakfasts, bridge parties, pool parties, Shakespeare nights, and murder mystery parties? You are only limited by your imagination.



Our goal is to raise \$5,000 and host 50 events during 2008. It is our hope that each event will earn at least \$100 for the church. Don't miss out on the fun and sign up to host; the deadline is February 17 after the second service. The silent auction will be held March 10 and 16.



**Three Cups of Tea: a pray & play day for women**

The Regional Women's Circle of the Christian Church in Oregon invites you to a 3 hour pray & play experience together.

Each participant will receive a copy of the New Day magazine and other gift items. These play &

pray days are for people who belong to women's ministries groups and women who do not. Look around you and find someone to bring with you.

Junction City - March 1

Registration Material in the church office.

Cost \$20.00

## Oregon Disciple News - February 8, 2008

Dear Friends;

God's blessing to each of you as we prepare to be in worship this Sunday for the first Sunday of the Lenten season.

As we enter the weekend, I have a few items to share with you...

- . The Oregon Women's Circle has a nice write up on Disciples World web site. Go take a look. <http://www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=12911>
- . Do not forget to start gathering registrations for the Oregon Regional Assembly April 18-19 in Eugene. Materials about regional assembly are found at <http://www.oregondisciples.org/assembly08/assembly08.zip>

- . Aloha Christian Church is hosting our first Play and Pray day for Women Saturday morning.
- . Silverton First Christian Church is hosting the annual Regional Prom for high school students Saturday evening through Sunday morning -- the prom offers a wonderful dinner, a dance, a movie, evening worship with keynoter (this year Jarid McCool from Springfield First), and worship with the Silverton congregation the next morning.



Thanks to these two congregations for making space for the women and youth of our region to meet this weekend.

It is a joy to share ministry with you,

*Doug and Cathy Wirt*

## ***From Empire to Partnership:***

### **New Paradigms in Foreign Policy: Peace in Israel & Palestine**

First date: Wednesday, February 20 at 7 pm at Harris Hall, 8th & Oak Streets in Eugene. Thereafter there will be monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

February 20 the series begins with a focus on the complexities of religious, political and human rights issues for Palestinians and Israelis based on the video *Children of Abraham*. Discussion facilitated by Vip Short

The framework for this series is based on some assumptions of our role as Americans in a post-empire America.

\* "Ordinary people" in Israel & Palestine have done some extraordinary work toward peace, both within each community and across the two communities about which Americans are poorly informed.

\* While America's Middle East policies have immeasurably contributed to the Israeli-Palestine conflict, we are not in a position to tell them how to resolve their problems.

\* We do have the responsibility to be knowledgeable and to press for a new paradigm in US foreign policy which reflects the realities of an interconnected and interdependent world. In the mean time, it is also our responsibility to press our government not to engage in behaviors which make things worse or get in the way of progress toward peace.

\* We do not have to choose one side over the other: we can choose to be both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli. We can support peace and life for both sides by moving beyond blame while acknowledging actions that are counter productive to peace and resolution, and focusing on the governmental actions and work on the ground that do promote peace and justice.

For more info: call CALC at 485-1755

To celebrate  
Black History  
Month 2008,  
First  
Congregational  
Church is  
hosting a  
community-wide  
Gospel Music  
Workshop



## Celebrate Black History Month

Workshop and a Saturday evening  
Gospel Music Program the  
weekend of February 22 – 24.

**All interested community members are invited** to participate in the workshop rehearsals and musical programs which will be held in the church sanctuary, and led by John Gainer, former faculty member at the University of Oregon, School of Music, and former Director of the Eugene Inspirational Sounds Gospel Choir.

This is a unique opportunity for the Eugene/Springfield community

to join together in learning about and experiencing the tradition of Black Gospel music. The suggested donation for the workshop is \$5 for each participant. Registration is Friday, February 22, at 6:30 PM followed by a workshop rehearsal from 7:00 to 9:30. The second rehearsal will be Saturday morning from 10:00 until noon, and followed by a potluck. A Saturday evening concert from 7:00 to 9:00 PM will be held in the sanctuary, and is free and open to the public.

## First Christian Church

1166 Oak Street  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Phone:**  
541-344-1425

**Fax:**  
541-338-8616

**E-Mail:**  
patty@heartofeugene.org

*"A light to the  
world in the heart  
of Eugene"*

---

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

**www.**

***HeartofEugene.org***

## Notable Notes:

### Stone-Campbell Symposium: The Church as Storyteller

February 25-26. Featuring Dr. Jerry Rushford. Save these dates to learn more about our history in the Stone-Campbell Movement. For more information or to register call (541) 686-7241 or go to [www.nwcc.edu](http://www.nwcc.edu).

### Wanted: Prayer Partners

If you're interested in becoming a Mission to Mexico Prayer Partner, please give Elaine a call here at the church office or leave a message on your attendance slip. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and bond with our participants, and to support the mission.

**Change for Mexico** Bring your loose change and bills each Sunday and place them in the container at the back of the church. We have 26 youth and adults going to Mexico this year to build homes for the homeless. Let's help them raise the money necessary for the building supplies.

### The Friends of the Library 2008 Annual Banquet

6:30 pm, Friday, March 7 at Northwest Christian College campus. Dr. H. Keith Watkins will speak about the Yakama Mission, highlighting the 90 year history of the mission, from the creation by the Christian Church and leaders of the Yakima People and its implications for today. Reservations deadline: February 22, 2008. For more information call 541-684-7235 or email [Vickib@nwcc.edu](mailto:Vickib@nwcc.edu).