



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

PORTLAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1838 SW JEFFERSON, PORTLAND, OR 97201

## the **E**dition

*Beginning the New Year provides a unique opportunity for each of us. It is like having a blank piece of paper and a new sharpened pencil. Already in the life of First Church that piece of paper has begun to fill with both great sorrows and great joys. What things will begin to fill the blank slate of your new year?*

**January 11, 2006**  
Volume 10, Issue 01

## THIS SUNDAY

**JANUARY 15, 2006**

**WORSHIP**  
**10:30 AM**

*Sermon*  
Rev. Dr. Lowell  
Greathouse

*Children's Time,*  
Annie Heart

### LOOKING BACK ...

The past year for us as a church has been one of major transitions. In 2005 we had significant staff changes in almost all areas of our congregational life. I am thankful for those who have served in the past and for the new team that is now in place. They are generating new ideas, new energy and new ways of doing things.

### LOOKING AROUND ...

It is often a temptation to live either in the past or the future. A Hollywood film a few years back featured a rogue teacher who encouraged his students to stand on their desks and shout, "Carpe Diem!" Look around and seize the day. In the enclosed *Winter Program Guide* you will find information on our Breaking Bread groups. I encourage you to consider joining one of these small groups. What better way to fill the blank slate of your new year than meeting new people ...and establishing new bonds of friendship?

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

What are your goals, hopes and aspirations for the New Year? It should not shock us that social change is a slow and sometimes tedious process. Important issues like war, poverty, and the environment require us to examine them and reexamine them. As Christians how can we bring change in our world? How can we change ourselves? You'll discover in the enclosed *Program Guide* several classes and forums that will challenge us as we look ahead and look within.

I'm told it is a curse in some cultures to say, "May you have an interesting life." So I will fall short of that and wish you a New Year that brings spiritual growth and new connections to one another and to Christ.

See You In Church,  
Arvin Luchs

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATIONS

#### Martin Luther King Jr.: A March and Rally

On Monday, January 16, Sisters of the Road will host the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration - MLK Everyday: Traveling the Road of Change Through Nonviolence. The march will gather at Sisters at 2:00 pm, the march begins at 3:00 PM and ends at St. Mary's Academy for a rally and celebration at 4:00 PM.

#### The Second Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Downtown Celebration

Monday, January 16, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the First Baptist Church, 12th & Taylor, Portland

Featured speakers will include:

**Rev. Jeffrey Jackson**, preaching  
founding pastor of the Friendship Christian Fellowship  
**Derek Foxworth**, Chief of Police for Portland,  
**Rev. Matt Hennessee**,  
Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church



As a Reconciling Congregation, members of First United Methodist Church have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation.

# please take note

mark your calendar

# umw

united methodist women

## PLANNING RETREAT FOR OUTREACH COMMITTEES

On Saturday, January 28, 2006 there will be a Planning Retreat for all persons serving on Outreach Committees at First Church. This will include Church and Society, Global Missions, Planet Church, MACG, Goose Hollow, and The Hunger Task Force. The session will be held in the Fireside Room from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to your Committee or Task Force Chair. We want to identify goals and plan strategically for the future as a complete Outreach Team rather than individual committees. Our goal is to be more effective in our future work both locally and globally. If you have questions or concerns please contact Marilyn Outslay or Annie Heart.

## METHODIST HIKERS

The first outing of the year will be a snowshoe hike on Saturday, January 28. Beginners are always welcome! Meet in the Tigard UMC, 9845 SW Walnut Place, at 8:15 AM to form carpools. We will do a 3-mile hike in the Enid Lake area. Besides the snowshoes, poles and boots, participants should wear appropriate warm clothing and bring water, snacks and lunch. The cost will be about \$6-8 for the carpool, Sno-Park Permit and an optional snack stop on the way home. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please e-mail Paula Justice at [jpaula354@aol.com](mailto:jpaula354@aol.com) or call her at 503/524-3737.

## AN INTERFAITH SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN IRAQ

On Sunday, January 22, 2006 at 4:00 PM there will be an Interfaith Service of Prayer for Peace in Iraq at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 NE 14th Street, Portland. It will be an opportunity to gather together with people of all faiths to pray for peace in Iraq. The service will include songs, prayers, and reflections on the war. Speakers include: Rev. Mark Knutson, Rabbi Daniel Isaak, Shahriar Ahmed, Rev. Gabrielle Chavez, and Rev. Wes Taylor. The Encore Choir and Marilyn Keller will sing. A time will be set aside after the service for sharing and community building for all of those in attendance. Contact: For more information, contact the Rev. Mark Knutson, Augustana Lutheran Church, 503/288-6174 or Jan Elfers, EMO, 503/221-1054.

## THE CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Library Book Sale is fast approaching and we are in need of your used books. If you have books to donate, bring them to the library. Space is limited and we cannot accept big donations of "leftovers" from large sales. We've found there is no market for textbooks or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Otherwise, come on down! For questions, contact the Sunday Librarian or call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761. Remember, proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library, so feel free to use the "Suggested Titles" sheets in the library and in The Commons to let us know of books you'd like to see in our collection.



## SIGN UP TO SERVE AS A COFFEE HOST OR/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

On January 22 and 29 in Collins Hall after worship service we will be signing-up Continental Breakfast and Coffee Hour hosts from January through April. What's involved? Continental Breakfast hosts provide juice and 48 small servings of something suitable for breakfast. Continental Breakfast hosts arrive by 8:45 AM. Coffee Hour hosts arrive in Collins Hall by 9:45 AM to help make the coffee, punch and tea served during Coffee Hour. The hosts make the beverages, lay the tablecloths, and put out sugar and creamer before worship service. After the service the hosts head to Collins Hall to begin pouring beverages. Both these simple service opportunities so enrich the fellowship of the church. Please sign-up to be a Continental Breakfast host and/or Coffee Hour host in the coming months.

The UMW Unit Gatherings are held the first Wednesdays of each month. All women are invited. Co-presidents: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528, Mary Covert, 503/652-6480.

## FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, January 18 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Program: Elephants of Botswana by Rev. Vern Groves, Devotions: Marilyn Weber, Hostess: Jo Woodley, Chair: Hazel Wells

## RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, January 18 at 12:00 PM in Room 204. Program: *Come With Me to Ghana* by Melba Rizzo. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverage provided. Chair: Florence Snyder

## READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, January 19 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in Room 160.

## UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

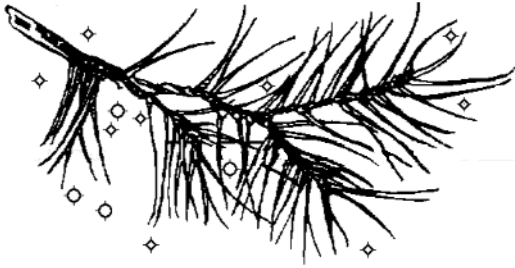
## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 25 at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Program: India/Pakistan Study by Trudy Kayser, Chair: Leah Vislisel

## 17th NATIONAL UMW ASSEMBLY

The National UMW Assembly will be May 04-07, 2006 in Anaheim, California. Program: Rise! Shine! Glorify God!





# FORUMS @ FIRST

*and other special events*



A Forum at First:

**Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Hope for Peace-**  
Sunday, January 29, 2006 in the Fireside Room from noon to 1:30 PM.  
Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

In response to the persistent tensions and ongoing violence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has created a new educational program, that uses multimedia. This presentation explores the history of the persistent tensions and ongoing violence of this conflict, as well as to examine how peace could be achieved in the region. Later in the Spring, a second presentation will be offered utilizing resources from the Muslim community.

**Breaking Bread Group Orientation-**  
Sunday, February 5, 2006 (See the insert for details.)

A Forum at First:

**Health Care**  
Sunday, February 12, 2006 in the Fireside Room from noon to 1:30 PM.  
Light snacks and refreshments will be available.



What can be done about the health care crisis in our state? Oregon State Representative Mitch Greenlick will be our guest speaker. He is currently on the Health and Human Services Committee of the State Legislature. Rep. Greenlick was the director of Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research for 31 years and is a professor emeritus and past chairman of public health and preventive medicine at Oregon Health & Science University's School of Medicine.



Chautauqua Lecture:

**The None Zone: Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest**  
Sunday, February 26, 2006 from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

First Church is pleased to sponsor this special Oregon Chautauqua program with Mark Shibley. The Pacific Northwest, and particularly Oregon, is the least-churched region of the country. Recent public opinion polls suggest that relatively few people here identify with a historic religious tradition-leading scholars to refer to this region as the "None Zone." Yet spirituality abounds in this secular province. Southern Oregon University professor Mark Shibley highlights these religious patterns and raises questions about the past and future role of secular spirituality and church-based religion in the public life of the Pacific Northwest. Mark Shibley is Associate Professor of Sociology at Southern Oregon University

This program is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH). OCH is an independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and is dedicated to providing opportunities for lifelong learning for Oregonians through programs like Oregon Chautauqua.

## Special Events

### **Elizabeth Caswell Piano Concert**

Saturday, February 25, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. This concert is sponsored by Friends of Music.

**The Winter Carnival: Shrove Tuesday on Sunday-**  
After Church on Sunday, February 26, 2006

# around the parish

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ...

*Keith & Jackie Bullock*, on the birth of daughter, Sarah,  
born January 6, 2006. Jackie is the daughter of Pamela Moyers;

*Staci Martin*, who has enlisted in the Mercy Corp for work in  
Mississippi. Staci is the sister of Josh Martin;

*Rev. Benjamin Owre*, home from the hospital;

*Erik Iverson*, at *St. Vincent's*;

*Monica*, daughter of Frank & Louise Hodapp, in *Washington*;

*Family of John Zuidema*, who died January 6, 2006.

The service is Friday, January 13 at 1:30 PM;

*Family of Gloria Misar*, who died January 6, 2006.

Services will be scheduled for February;

*Family of Jane Rhodes*, who died January 7, 2006.

The service will be Sunday, January 29 at 2:00 PM.

*Kal Koth*, whose sister died recently in Canada.

## CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Jim Whitcomb, Al Leonard, Agnes & Dick Clark, Tom Iverson and Bob  
and Virginia Anderson.*

# thanks

## words of appreciation

### BETTY LEMMON

A very special thank you to all my friends who helped me celebrate my birthday. It was a wonderful day and I love and appreciate you all. Thank you so very much.

### JOAN HILL

Thank you for the many remembrances I received while in the hospital and rehab. I am now enjoying the comforts of my own home!

### CONGRATUALATIONS

Congratulations to Charlotte Cridland upon her marriage to Jon Edmund Wipfli on December 29, 2005 in Lahina, Hawaii.



January / February

### Publication Deadlines

Articles for *The Circuit Rider* are due no later than 4:45pm on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next *Circuit Rider* will be published on **January 25, 2006.**

**Bulletin insert** information is due no later than 4:45pm on **Wednesday.**

**Sunday service participant** information for the Sunday bulletin is due no later than noon on **Wednesday.**

E-mail: [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.

CONTINUED ON  
THE NEXT PAGE

# PORTLAND'S FIRST CHURCH

**Established 1848**

**Address**

1838 SW Jefferson  
Portland, OR 97201

**Phone**

503/228-3195

**Fax**

503/273-8711

**E-Mail**

office@fumcpdx.org

**Website**

www.fumcpdx.org

**Sunday Worship**

10:30 AM



As a Reconciling Congregation, members of First United Methodist Church have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation.



## GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH A Guide to Our Church Community

# WINTER 2006

**January / February**

*"...grow in grace and knowledge ..."*

2 Peter 3:18

Growing in faith, grace, and knowledge is a life-long adventure. At First Church, we want to create a learning community in which we can each grow spiritually, while building a deeper sense of community among us and engaging actively in the larger world in which we live.

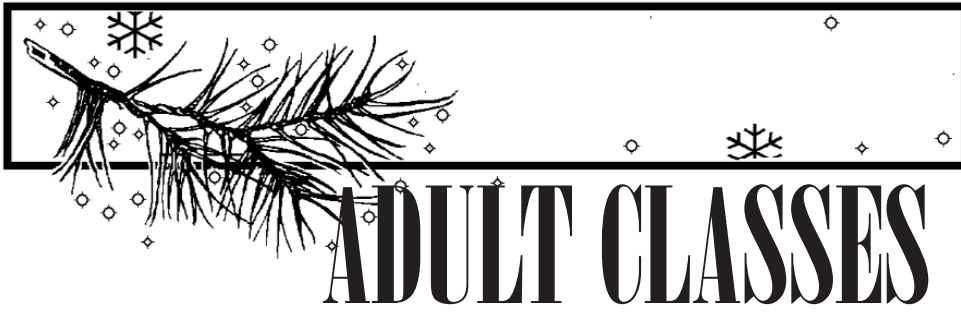
As 2006 begins, First Church will offer a number of new classes, fellowship groups, and forums. We hope that you will participate in as many of the activities as you can. If you are interested in participating in one of the offerings listed in this guide, simply go to that program at the time, date, and location listed, unless the description indicates that you must register in advance. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about a specific program, simply call the church office at 503/228-3195.

We offer loving childcare Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you are interested in attending one of the special weekday classes, please call the church office to see if child care is available. When child care is used, a \$5 donation per family is requested for non-Sunday events.

**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT  
WWW.  
fumcpdx.  
org**

## THE COMMONS IN COLLINS

*Each Sunday after worship, the Commons in Collins is a great place to see what is happening at First Church. Come sign up for an activity, get information on a current issue, check out a book...or to just have coffee with a friend. Following Sunday morning worship, follow the signs and join us in the Commons.*



### **ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS**

If you are new to First Church, we hope you will make this your church home... a place to experience meaningful worship, wonderful music, growth in faith, and a feeling of community. The offerings listed below may be of special interest to you. In addition see the insert regarding the Breaking Bread Groups and sign up, and feel free to participate in any of the other opportunities listed in this guide.

Also ... If you are new to our church and have questions, you can come to the front of the sanctuary any Sunday following the postlude. A lay leader will be there to respond to your questions.

### **AN ORIENTATION TO FIRST CHURCH**

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Learn about First Church, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in joining. These introductory sessions will be offered: January 22, March 12, May 7, and June 25, 2006. For more information or to register to be a part of one of the sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Childcare can be arranged when you register.

### **CONTINUING THE JOURNEY: THE POWER OF HOLY HABITS (3 SESSIONS)**

Meet in a small-study group with others interested in discussing the habits that are central to faithful discipleship.

When: Tuesdays, February 28, March 7 and 14 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Where: The Parlor (room 110) - Call the church office to register.

---

## **ON-GOING SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES**

### **CHANGING CHRISTIANITY**

This group studies a variety of books throughout the year and uses these materials as the basis for class discussion. In January, the class will be studying the Gospel of Thomas, using *The Gospel of Thomas, Annotated and Explained* by Stevan Davies as the basic text. Contact the church office, if you'd like to purchase a book.

**When:** Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 AM

**Where:** Room 202

### **FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS**

This is an on-going adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. On January 8, the class will initiate the study of the book *How to Be an Open-minded Christian without Losing Your Faith*, by Jan Linn. Lively discussions are led by different class members each week, which follows a time of fellowship. Everyone is invited to attend at any time; newcomers quickly fit into the conversation!

**When:** Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15AM

**Where:** Room 134

# **First Church STAFF**

### **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs  
503/228-3195 ext. 226  
aluchs@fumcpdx.org

### **Minister of Discipleship**

Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse  
503/228-3195 ext. 224  
lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org

### **Minister of Pastoral Care**

Rev. Tom Foster  
503/228-3195 ext. 233  
tfoster@fumcpdx.org

### **Director of Outreach**

Annie Heart  
503/228-3195 ext. 215  
aheart@fumcpdx.org

### **Director of Children's Ministries**

Agnes Zach  
503/228-3195 ext. 227  
azach@fumcpdx.org

### **Director of Youth Ministries**

Paul Adams  
503/228-3195 ext. 229  
padams@fumcpdx.org

### **Artistic Director of Music and Organist**

Jonas Nordwall  
503/228-3195 ext. 218  
jnordwall@fumcpdx.org

### **Executive Director of Music**

Kelly Qualls  
503/228-3195 ext. 235  
kqualls@fumcpdx.org

### **Church Administrator**

Debbie Morse  
503/228-3195 ext. 222  
dmorse@fumcpdx.org

### **Administrative Assistant**

David Jenkins  
503/228-3195 ext. 221  
djenkins@fumcpdx.org





### **Tour of the Pittock Mansion**

February 8, 2006

Join us for lunch at Albertina's, followed by a tour of the Pittock Mansion. We will meet at the church at 11:00 AM. There will be some time to browse at Albertina's, with lunch being served at noon. We will return from the tour of the Pittock Mansion around 3:00 PM. A \$10 deposit needs to be made by January 29, 2006. Cost is \$20.00 and includes admission to the Pittock Mansion and lunch at Albertina's.

### **Electives for Elders**

This learning opportunity for senior adults will meet for five sessions beginning Tuesday, February 14 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Fireside Room.

Two classes will be offered:

Elective A): *Writing Your Life Story*

Elective B): *Travel that Energizes*

### **55-Alive Driving Course**

The next 55-Alive Driving Course, sponsored by AARP, will be held March 15 and 16, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

To register, contact Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 or [dmorse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:dmorse@fumcpdx.org)

*To register for any of the above programs contact Debbie Morse at: 503/228-3195 or [dmorse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:dmorse@fumcpdx.org)*

## **ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS AND SHORT-TERM CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

### **Essential Spirituality: Exercises from the World Religions**

Using Roger Walsh's book, *Essential Spirituality*, this 8-part series will examine seven central practices involved in awakening the heart and mind. Integrating the spiritual principles of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism, this material looks at how to integrate the spiritual practices from these traditions into one's daily life. Filled with stories, exercises, meditations, myths, case histories, prayers, and practical advice, we will utilize Walsh's insights to enhance our own spiritual journeys. Cost: \$12.50 for the book. Call the office to register.

**When:** Sessions will be held on Wednesdays, January 11 to March 1 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM.

**Where:** Library

### **Matters of Faith: The Death Penalty and Restorative Justice**

Recently the 1000th person was executed in the United States since the practice was resumed in 1977. As people of faith, what is our position on the use of the death penalty in our country? What role does restorative justice play within our larger community? This three-part series will explore these and other

questions through the use of video and personal presentations.

**When:** Sundays, January 15th, 22nd and 29th from 9:15 to 10:15AM

**Where:** Fireside Room

### **Healthy Children-Healthy Planet**

The purpose of this 8-part series is to understand how the pervasive effects of advertising, media, and our consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world, discover ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments for children, and explore ways to develop a child's connection to nature, and to foster creativity. The sessions will deal with cultural pressures, family rituals and celebrations, advertising, food and health, time and creativity, technology and the media, and ways to explore nature.

**When:** Sundays, beginning January 22 from 9:15 to 10:15AM

**Where:** Room 201

### **Ending Hunger Now**

This four-part series will examine the issue of hunger, utilizing material from the book *Ending Hunger Now*. Sessions will look at the new urgency of an old challenge, ending world hunger as a battle we can win, and making a commitment to ending global hunger by responding locally.

**When:** Sundays, beginning February 5 from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

## **REACHING OUT**

Outreach Ministry at First Church involves our faithful response to local and global issues. It is reflected in a variety of ways: covenant relationships with missionaries around the world; educational and advocacy related to matters of justice based on Jesus' model of compassion; and efforts to create a society in which all of God's children can live in peace. Volunteers play a key role at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, which is housed at First Church. You can explore ways to volunteer by visiting The Goose Hollow webpage at [www.fumcpdx.org](http://www.fumcpdx.org). We are also responding to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. First Church has created a partnership with Handsboro United Methodist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi. A Volunteers in Mission trip from our church is planned in March.



### **Sunday School for Youth**

Sunday School is devoted to learning grounded in scripture and is intended to help youth gain a deeper understanding of faith. We explore the building blocks of discipleship, faith, stewardship, social justice, decision-making, mission, spiritual formation, and caring skills.

### **First Church: Confirmation Classes**

In confirmation we will learn about and discuss our relationship with God; various aspects of worship, including the rituals and traditions that are a part of the Christian life; the meaning of Jesus' life; the importance of spiritual practices and disciplines; what it means to be a United Methodist today; the various expressions of a life of faith. There will be six confirmation class sessions, followed by two sessions in which each student in the program will be matched with a mentor from the congregation. Confirmation Sunday will take place on March 19, 2006.

**When:** Sundays, beginning January 8 from 9:30 to 10:15 AM

**Where:** Room 160

### **Sixth - Eighth Grades**

The Sixth - Eighth grade class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All sixth graders, as well as seventh and eighth graders who are not involved in the First Church Confirmation Program, will meet in Room 130.

### **9th-12th Grades**

Class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in the Youth Room.

### **Sunday Evenings for Youth**

Our United Methodist Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, with dinner included. Middle School (grades 6 to 8) meets from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, and the high school group meets from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner is provided for both groups from 6:30 to 7:00 PM.

### **Youth on the Web**

For more details and special events check out the First Church Youth Page at: [www.fumcpdx.org/youth](http://www.fumcpdx.org/youth)

# CHILDREN

The Children/Family Ministry area is actively looking at ways to enhance the family experience at First Church. Ideas are always welcome as we explore opportunities for faith development, community awareness, and mutual support.

### **NURSERY CARE**

Nursery care is provided from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM each Sunday.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Following the Children's Time in worship on Sunday mornings, Sunday School classes for children ages two through fifth grade are available. Ages two through third grade use the *Exploring the Faith* curriculum and a combined fourth and fifth grade class use a short-term *Live It!* program that builds skills in Christian living.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Beginning in March, each class will participate in service projects focused on the giving of their time. This will include opportunities to serve at the Coffee Table in the Commons as well as write letters to our partner church in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Children and Family Ministries will sponsor a Scholastic Book Sale, February 12-17, in conjunction with the Youngset Preschool. New books for children will be available in the Commons.

# MUSIC

The music program at First Church provides musical excellence in all areas of church music. Our music extends the ministry of this church to the greater Portland community. Music opportunities for adults include: The Chancel Choir and the Sanctuary Bell Choir. Music opportunities for children and youth include: The Cherub Choir (ages 3 through 7), The Sound Seekers Choir (for grades 3-5), The Veritas Choir (for 6th Grade through Senior High School), The Genesis Ringers (for beginning bell players), juBELLation (our premiere youth handbell choir), the First UMC Chamber Orchestra (for youth of all ages).

For more information about participating in the music program at First Church, contact: Kelly Qualls at 503/228-3195 or [kqualls@fumcpdx.org](mailto:kqualls@fumcpdx.org)

Visit [www.fumcpdx.org](http://www.fumcpdx.org) for a detailed description of the music program at First Church.





*a fun and  
interesting  
way to get  
acquainted  
with a variety  
of people  
from First  
Church*

At First Church, we gather to worship, sing, give thanks, and serve in the larger community, but we also gather to share fellowship—to grow together in our faith as friends and companions along the way. First Church Breaking Bread groups are designed to create opportunities for us to share conversation and get to know each other better in small fellowship settings. We hope that you will become a part of one of these groups. It's a great way to meet others!

The Breaking Bread groups are made up of 6-8 individuals from our church family, who express an interest in being a part of small, short-term fellowship group. Those who are interested will be matched together in groups based on interests, location, and experiences. An initial convener-household will set up and host the first gathering. From there it is up to the group to select the date, time, and place for future gatherings. It is our hope that everyone involved in a group will serve as a host on one occasion.

If your Breaking Bread Group wishes to continue meeting beyond your initial round robin gatherings that is entirely up to the group. We will re-create the process in September for those who would like to participate in a Fall Breaking Bread group and meet still others within our church community. Your group may decide that you'd like to continue to meet in your current form, which is also fine.

If you are interested in being part of a Breaking Bread group, please fill out this information sheet and turn it into the church office by Friday, January 20, 2006. The Breaking Bread Leadership Team will set up the Winter/Spring 2006 groups and send out a confirmation letter to you, so that each group can get started in February. We'll also host an Orientation event after church on Sunday, February 5, 2006 in the Fireside Room for those interested in meeting others or getting more information about the process. If you have any questions, please contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 x224.

We hope that you will join a Breaking Bread Group and meet new friends who call First Church their church home.

**To sign up for the Breaking Bread Supper Clubs,  
fill out the form on the back side of this page.**

# SIGN UP NOW

Please fill out the following information,  
so we can create the best group matches for everyone involved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address



CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- I/we want to be a part of a new Breaking Bread group.**
- I/we are currently a part of a Breaking Bread group** that has decided to continue meeting with our current members. Those in my group are:

**I/we would like to be a part of a group that:**

- Meets in each other's homes
- Goes out to dinner together
- Meets around a particular interest. My interest is:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Includes children
- I/we are willing to serve as the convening host for the first gathering
- I/we have been in a Breaking Bread group before
- This is my/our first time to participate

**Best times for me to participate are:**

- Weekends
- Weekday evenings

Please turn this information in to the church office by **Monday, January 23, 2006**.  
We will send out confirmation materials about your group by the middle of February.

First United Methodist Church  
1838 SW Jefferson, Portland, Oregon 97201  
503/228-3195