



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 31, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 11

THIS SUNDAY

June 4, 2006

**PENTECOST
COMMUNION
WORSHIP
10:30 AM**

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

CHILDREN'S TIME:

Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

**CHURCH
CONFERENCE
12:15 PM (Approx.)
FIRESIDE ROOM**



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.



Sunday, June 4 ■ Collins Hall Following Worship

I was reminded the other day of the profound insight of the late Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

This Sunday, June 4th, offer thanks for those of you whose lives are shaped by giving time, talent and energy through volunteering. Hundreds of members and friends contribute thousands of hours to make "church" happen in our congregation. What would we do without those who volunteer to nurture our children, mentor our youth, care for those in need, sing and play in choirs, provide hospitality for those without homes, manage the business of the church, wash dishes, bake cookies and all of the many tasks that lift our spirits and cement our community? But it doesn't stop at our church walls. First Church volunteers fan out into the community and the world to give hours of service to building a better community, strengthening our state, sharing compassion around the world.

Sadly, there will not be enough time to express gratitude to everyone publically-and so, each year, we name three who personify the First UMC spirit of giving as **Volunteers of the Year**. It is among the hardest choices we make-there are so many who have given so much. One will be named to receive the **Guy Wheaton Award** for service within the life of our congregation. Another will receive the **Lewis Hughes Award** for service to the community and the world. The **Wesley Spirit Award** is given to a member who exemplifies both a deep personal faith and a spirit of joy and service.

We will pay tribute to volunteers during our 10:30 am Worship and name the **Volunteers of the Year** during a special reception in the Commons. I hope you will be there!

See you in Church!

Arvin



SUMMER INSIDE

2006 SUMMER PROGRAM GUIDE

creating the future



SHAPING THE FUTURE UPDATE

by Edith W. Jensen

At its March meeting, the Leadership Council initiated a process to involve the entire church in creating a “framing statement” -- a clear, brief declaration of values designed to point us to the future. The purpose is to use such a statement to shape our future in order to:

- (1) make decisions about programming, staffing, and building priorities
- (2) create church publications for the fall and beyond
- (3) focus stewardship campaigns.

During April and May, 70 people met in nine focus groups to discuss a draft framing statement:

First Church: Living a vibrant faith.
Believing...Thinking...Acting

Each focus group discussed the implications such a statement should have on the current and future life of our church.

The word vibrant clearly resonated with participants. They said that a core of vibrancy exists at First Church now, and expressed a strong desire to put this vibrancy into action throughout our congregation and in the community near and far.

Because there were so many specific ideas for either bringing back former programs and activities or initiating new ones, Leadership Council asked the Mission and Goals Task Group to distill the information from the focus groups and present a final report to it in July. Then Leadership Council recommendations will be brought to the congregation for action.

MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
IN OUR
WORLD BY
BECOMING
AN INTERN

FIRST UMC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

First United Methodist Church and Society for Social Justice are seeking a college, university student or other young adult, from First United Methodist Church, interested in participating in an Internship Program. This internship would be with a nonprofit organization, preferably affiliated with First United Methodist Church, whose mission or ministry reflects the spirit of Jesus' words, "I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to see me."

This is an opportunity to gain practical experience, under the direction of a person experienced in a profession or community service setting that reflects the interest and/or passion of the intern. This is a temporary position with emphasis on education rather than employment, the scope of which can be designed to fit the needs of both the intern and the organization served, based on the goals and desired learning experience of the Internship. This is a paid internship funded by a private grant made to First United Methodist Church.

If you are interested in applying for this internship position or have questions regarding it, please contact Annie Heart at 503/228-3195 x 215 or email: ahheart@fumcpdx.org for a complete description of the Internship Guidelines.

planet church

an inconvenient truth

A PLANETARY EMERGENCY

A few weeks ago after worship, 64 from our congregation attended a forum which gave us a scientific and political update on global warming. The urgency of this growing climate crisis led most of those present to sign up to participate in an "Action Alert Network" of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. As one follow up, your Planet Church Committee is now urging you to invite others to join you in seeing the upcoming motion picture entitled: *An Inconvenient Truth*.

It offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to help stop the growing pollution of our atmosphere with global warming gases (mainly CO2 from burning fossil fuels in transportation and power generation) that could send our entire planet into a climate tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, rising seas, melting ice, killer heat waves, species extinction, droughts, epidemics and famines.

That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on a last-ditch, all-out effort to help save the planet from this climate catastrophe. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore's life and his "traveling global warming show," Gore is seen, as never before in the media, as being funny, engaging, open, and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our "planetary emergency" out to ordinary citizens before it's too late.

With wit, smarts and hope, the film *An Inconvenient Truth* brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue. Rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization. This film opens at the Fox Tower Theatre on Friday, June 9, 2006.

The Planet Church Committee

thank you

an offering of letters

THANKS TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

The Hunger Task Force sent over 60 of our letters to our Congressional Representatives and Senators in Washington, DC. They carried our messages of concern for the hungry who live in the US and developing countries and who can't advocate for their needs by themselves.

The Bread for the World OFFERING OF LETTERS Project culminates with a huge rally against hunger in Washington, DC on June 13. Watch for media stories of this huge event in the next few weeks.

Special thanks go to the High School Youth for posters, 4th/5th Grade class for the colorful banner, and the Global Ministries Committee for its support.

Together, by joining in this national letter-writing effort, we make a difference for Christ in our world.

umw

united methodist women

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.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The final UMW gathering before summer will be Wednesday, June 7 in the Fireside Room and Room 202.

11:00 AM - Short meeting and installation of officers by Donna Ward, UMW district shepherd..

12:00 PM - Picnic Celebration. Bring a salad to share. Table service will be provided.

What a year this has been! Colleen Foster invites us to savor the moments as we review last year's program highlights:

- ... Liz Caswell's dazzling piano playing,
- ... Ravi's Indian insights,
- ... Teen Parent program,
- ... Spirit Arises in Cambodia,
- ... Memories of Gertrude Boyd Crane,
- ... Mission to Chiloquin,
- ... Al Rieke's Bible translations,
- ... meeting our new staff members.

In addition, you'll catch the excitement of those who attended the National Assembly in Anaheim.

SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

"Harvesting Peace" July 13-16, 2006

George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon
Three studies are available.

- 1) **Spiritual Growth Study: Shalom-Peace-Salaam**
Why do religions ferment such violence?
What is the path to peace?
This study will be led by Annie Heart.
Don't miss it.
- 2) **Mission Study: Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives.**
That which occurs in one part of the world affects people in many other parts of the world.
- 3) **Geographic Mission Study: India-Pakistan**
This year, 2006, is the 150th year of Methodist ministry in India and Pakistan.

Registration deadline for Newberg is June 29th.
Contact Trudy Kayser for registrations forms.

around the parish

prayers and concerns

congratz

anniversaries

WE PRAY FOR ...

John Cobb, in critical condition in the ICU at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital with pneumonia and complications;
Shirley Blalock's daughter, Janet, who is facing surgery due to cancer;
Robert Crumpacker, who is at home recovering from back surgery;
Marion Hollenberg's son, who is making a very good recovery from an eye problem;
Richard Kappers and family, as he struggles with a critical illness.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Dick & Agnes Clark, Jim Whitcomb and Tom Iverson

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: REV. ROBERT & SARA MCNEIL

The children of Rev. Robert and Sara McNeil invite you to share in the celebration honoring their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 4, 2006 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Russelville Park Retirement Center, 20 SE 103rd Ave at East Burnside, Portland, OR

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: REV. TOM & COLLEEN FOSTER

The children of Rev. Tom & Colleen Foster invite you to share in the celebration honoring their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 11, 2006 in Collins Hall, following worship. There will be a short program, with some musical performances (of course!), reflections from friends and family, and coffee, tea, punch and cake for all.

ha!

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Bobby sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy blurted out, "The preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."



2006 SUMMER PROGRAM GUIDE

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 **June 14, 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 or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.

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55 ALIVE DRIVER EDUCATION

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 31 & June 1, 55-Alive will be offered. It is a unique program for older drivers. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. Contact Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext 222. The cost is \$10. Make checks payable to: AARP.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

There will be a special Church Conference at 12:15 PM on Sunday, June 4, 2006 in the Fireside Room. It will feature the annual election of officers and an update on our visioning process.

CHANCEL CHOIR PICNIC

On Sunday, June 4, the Chancel Choir and their spouses and significant others are invited to a picnic at the home of Dave and Kelly Qualls at 5:00 PM. Meat and soft drinks will be furnished. Please bring salads, side dishes and desserts to fill out the meal. We will have a sign-up sheet available during choir rehearsals.

OREGON-IDAHO UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NAMP, IDAHO

SOUNDSEEKERS END OF YEAR PARTY

On Sunday, June 11, the Soundseekers Choir and their families will have an end of the year party at Chuck E Cheese's. It will begin as soon after church as possible and finish by 2:00 PM

JOINT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

This Vacation Bible School: Treasure Island will be held at First Presbyterian Church. It is for children Kindergarten-5th Grade. This all-day VBS (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM) is open to family and friends. Cost: \$20.00 for two-days. Before/After Care can be arranged and one-day options are available for schools that finish on June 15.

IDAHO FALLS YOUTH AT FIRST CHURCH IN SERVICE

First Church is hosting the Youth Group from Idaho Falls Trinity UMC. They arrive on Saturday, June 17 and depart on June 24, as a part of their 2006 Youth Mission Trip.

FIRST UMC YOUTH LOCK IN

On Saturday, June 17, First Church Youth will welcome the Trinity UMC youth with an all night lock in at First Church. All youth ages 12 and up are invited to attend.

GAY PRIDE PARADE

On June 18 the 2006 Gay Pride Parade kicks off at 11:30 AM from NW Park Ave & NW Davis. Meet at the church at 10:15 AM to head down to the parade staging area, or join in along the route. We have a car in the parade for anyone who prefers to ride. Contact Rev. Greathouse for more info.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT FIRST CHURCH

The youth from First Church and Idaho Falls will present a Vacation Bible School at First Church on Monday, June 19th through Wednesday, June 21st for kids ages 3 through 2nd grade from 10 AM to Noon. We will be exploring God's Word, using a farm theme. Cost is \$10.

JUNE

summer @ first church

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A SUMMER POTLUCK

On Wednesday, June 21 at 6:00 PM join First Church families as they celebrate the summer ministry of the Idaho Falls Mission youth group! There will be a variety of family games to kick-off summer fun. Bring your potluck dish to share. Join us as we celebrate the official beginning of Summer.

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YOUTH GROUP HEADS TO THE BEACH

First Church Youth and Idaho Falls Youth will have a day at Camp Magruder and the beach. Visit www.fumcpdx.org/youth for details.

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ADULT TRAVEL: OREGON FOOD BANK & MCMENAMIN'S KENNEDY SCHOOL

On Wednesday, June 28, travel to the Oregon Food Bank and see what they are doing to combat hunger in Oregon. Then gather with friends at the Kennedy School for lunch and a discussion about how we can make a difference in our community. A donation of \$5 for the Oregon Food Bank is recommended. Meet at the church at 10:00 AM to carpool. Lunch is not included. Deadline for reservation: June 23, 2006.



JULY

a first summer

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NEW SUMMER ADULT CLASS: READER'S THEATER

Join this six-week summer class at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and read three different plays together as a group. Plays to be read include:

July 9 & 16 *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley.

July 23 & 30 *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee.

August 6 & 13: *Song for a Sanctuary* by Rukhsana Ahmad.

FORUM: WANT TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

Want to host a high school exchange student from Brazil, China, Germany, Japan or Korea? Students from these countries will arrive in Portland to participate in a cultural exchange by living with an American host family and attending an American high school. Learn more about participating in this wonderful opportunity. Will Romaine, from Education, Travel and Culture, will be in the Fireside Room at noon on Sunday, July 9 to discuss the program and answer questions.

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ADULT TRAVEL: TRANSITION PROJECTS, INC.- JEAN'S PLACE

On Tuesday, July 11, travel to Jean's Place, a homeless shelter, transitional shelter, and transitional housing program for women. Since 1969 Transition Projects has helped thousands of people transcend the streets of Portland. TPI offers long-term shelter, plus a unique mix of services that helps people overcome their own barriers to stable housing and employment. These services include: job training, continuing education, alcohol, drug and mental health counseling, and more. Approximately 70 percent of the graduates from TPI's transitional housing program are still in permanent housing one year later. A donation of \$5 for the Transition Projects, Inc. is recommended. Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00 AM. The deadline for reservation: July 1, 2006. Call: 503/228-3195 for reservations.



JULY

summer @ first church

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FRIENDS OF MUSIC TOURNAMENTS AND PICNIC

On Saturday, July 15, Friends of Music is sponsoring a golf tournament at the newly refurbished Rose City Golf Club. The tournament will begin at 1:00 PM with a foursome going off every 7½ minutes. Since 18 holes will take about four hours, finish time will be between 5:00 and 6:30 PM. Cost for 18 holes of golf is \$75.00. Cost for nine holes of golf is \$60.00. The contact person is Sally Bolliger. There is also a round robin tennis tournament. It will begin at 3:00 PM at the West Hills Tennis Club. Cost for the tennis event is \$50.00. Contact person is Bev Graver. Families of the participants are invited to join them at Jeff and Anne Kayser's home for a BBQ after the tournament. Cost for the BBQ is \$15.00 per person with a family maximum of \$35.00. Come join your First UMC golfers, tennis players and families for this fun event to support the music program!

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ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT OAK'S PARK

On Sunday, July 16, we will return to Oaks Park with a bigger location on the grass and in the shade. Over 100 people enjoyed our picnic in the park in 2005, so don't miss out this year! We'll provide the main dish and beverages. You provide a side dish, dessert and the fun! Event begins at 1:00 PM. Collins Kitchen is available to store your special dish during morning worship.

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ADULT TRAVEL: WASHINGTON COUNTY AG TOUR

On Saturday, July 22 enjoy an educational tour of local farms and discover why Washington County is ranked third in the state for agricultural income! The tour bus is air-conditioned and a box lunch is included, as well as a summer picnic buffet on the deck at the new Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center overlooking the Wilson River. Bus departs promptly at NOON from Intel Jones Farm campus and returns at 8:00 PM. Cost is \$50 per person. Deadline for reservations is July 1, 2006. Call Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext 222 for reservations.

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FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

On Sunday, July 23, following worship there will be a First Church Orientation. 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 UMC, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in joining. You are welcome to come if you simply want to learn more about First Church. For more information or to register to be a part of this session, contact the church office at 503/228-3195 or e-mail Lowell Greathouse at: lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

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LOCAL TRAVEL: MERCY CORPS

On Tuesday, July 25, join us for this special visit to Mercy Corps. Based in Portland, Mercy Corps exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. The agency's programs currently reach 7 million people in more than 35 countries. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided over \$1 billion in assistance to people in 81 nations. A donation of \$5 for Mercy Corps is recommended. Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00 AM. The reservation deadline is July 21, call: 503/228-3195.



ALGUST

a first summer

5-12

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

First Church Youth are going to Idaho Falls to do mission work in and around that community. The trip is scheduled for August 5-12, 2006 and will include painting, gardening, and a host of other types of mission work. A day long field trip to Yellowstone National Park is also planned.

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NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

New members will be welcomed into the life and ministry of First Church on Sunday, August 13, 2006. If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church, contact Rev. Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 ext. 224.

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FAITH NIGHT AT PGE PARK:

CONCERT AND PORTLAND BEAVERS BASEBALL

Come cheer on the Portland Beavers against the Las Vegas 51s on a warm summer evening in August. There will be a Pre-game concert, featuring Christian bands, beginning at 5PM, talks by some of the players and then the game, beginning at 7PM. Plan to park and meet at the church, it's a short walk or MAX ride to PGE Park. Bring the family! Cost: \$10.50, includes concert and the game. Registration deadline is July 15 / 503/228-3195.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP

Worship is at 10:30 AM each Sunday in the sanctuary.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN

Summer Sunday School for children will begin on Sunday, June 25, 2006. Nursery care begins at 9:30 AM and will be available for children ages three and under. There will be a Summer Sunday School class for children ages four through First Grade in Room 206. Children in Second Grade and up are invited to participate with their parents in worship.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH

Beginning Sunday, June 18, the Middle and High School Sunday School classes will be combined and meet at 9:30 AM in room 201. Also beginning June 18 evening youth groups will be using a bi-weekly meeting schedule. Middle School at 5:30 PM, UMY Dinner (both groups) at 6:30 PM, and High School UMY at 7:00 PM. Remember to check the website every week. The youth group schedule will be posted on the main page at <http://www.fumcpdx.org> starting every Monday for the following Sunday and on the youth bulletin board at church.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR ADULTS

Fellowship of Seekers at 9:15 AM in Room 134
Changing Christianity at 9:00 AM in Room 202
Reader's Theater at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room (July 9 - August 13)
Chancel Summer Choir rehearses at 9:30 AM in the Chapel

THE COMMONS IN COLLINS

The last Sunday for a full Commons in Collins will be Sunday, June 11, 2006.



**SUMMER
SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2006

There will be a First Church Orientation on Sunday, September 17, 2006