



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

June 28, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 13

THIS SUNDAY

July 16, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs
**A CONVERSATION
WITH OUR
CHILDREN**
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse



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.

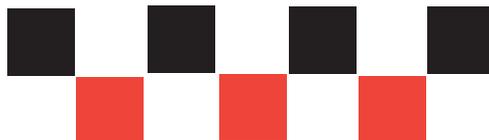
Portland's First United Methodist Church

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC July 16



**OAKS
PARK**
fun for
everyone

On Sunday, July 16 there will be an All-Church Picnic. It will be bigger, better, greener and cooler than last year's! We return to Oaks Park with a bigger location on the grass. 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. Bring your outdoor games and enjoy the afternoon.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It's a drop-dead gorgeous day-about as fine as Oregon ever has. Little wonder that my mind is musing on making the most of the fleeting summertime. Let me share just a few of those thoughts:

Don't let summer get by without:

Taking a Sabbath. "Sabbath-time" can be more than rest and renewal. It is intentionally changing the pace and pattern of daily life to appreciate its sacredness. Turn off the TV (it's mostly re-runs anyway) and read a book, garden, have a date with your spouse or children, take a walk-or just linger in the lawn chair. Even God, we're told, took a break on the seventh day.

Getting into nature. The Westminster Catechism suggests: "The chief end of man (woman, too!) is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." What better place to do that than by a raging mountain stream, beach combing near roaring breakers, or watching the sun filter through evergreens and ferns in a dense woodland. We are so fortunate to have parks, an arboretum, mountainsides and ocean at our doorstep. Don't miss experiencing God's handiwork.

Connecting with family. As I plan a funeral and talk with grieving families, I'm struck by how many precious memories have come from summertime reunions and adventures. Life passes quickly. Don't miss the chance to connect!

Tending to spiritual disciplines. Refresh your spirit-strengthen your soul-by taking time regularly for quiet meditation, prayer, Bible study and worship. You might consider a camp or retreat (there are brochures in the narthex) or just adding a book that expands your mind and heart to your summer reading list. (Our church library has some wonderful options.) If you are traveling over a Sunday, be sure to attend a church nearby. Share the bulletin with me when you return-I love to see what other congregations are doing!

Doing something for others. News magazines report the trend this year is traveling to serve those in need. Our church offers short term voluntary mission opportunities in places near and far, our youth need adults for their mission trip, and there are community service organizations here in town looking for help. Volunteers come back saying they receive so much more than they give. (Annie, Lowell, Paul or I would be happy to suggest some ways to get involved.)

The point is: don't let summer get by without doing something good for yourself and for God! Now, if I could just get this "Type-A" preacher to practice what he preaches!

See you in church!

Arvin

P.S. Will you allow me a moment of "personal privilege?" This week we say farewell to our Church Administrator, Debbie Morse. She has felt the irresistible lure of children and grandchildren in Texas and is moving "home." I will miss her. She has been heading the administrative "team" nearly as long as I've been here. She has served with dedication and been faithful to the needs and mission of this church. We've come to depend on her in so many ways-some of which we will only discover in the days ahead.

But let me bid her God's blessings as she transitions to new jobs and a new home: May you travel safely and prosper. You'll always be in our hearts. As Garrison Keillor says, "Be well, do good work, stay in touch!" * ARL

* (The phrase is copywrited Garrison Keillor, *The Writer's Almanac*, Prairie Home Productions, American Public Radio)

youth in mission

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SHARES AVAILABLE

First Church youth are once again selling shares to help raise funds for this summer's mission trip. As you may already know, we are planing to take the youth to Idaho Falls, Idaho from August 5 through August 12, 2006. Money is needed to help with transportation costs and food, along with other fees associated with mission work and travel.

Shares are available in denominations of \$20 each. Everyone who purchases a share will receive a postcard from the trip, and will be invited to a "shareholder's dinner" in the Fall, where a side show of the trip and the work done will be shown. To purchase a share, please contact one of our youth or Paul Adams, or write "Youth Mission Share" in the check memo and put it in the collection plate.

A FAREWELL

GIFT

Debbie Morse, our Church Administrator has resigned and is moving to Texas. You will want to say goodbye with cards and gifts. They may be addressed to the church office in care of Shirley Blalock. Gifts may be directed to First United Methodist Church clearly marked for Debbie Morse's Farewell.

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
Using Ron Miller's book, *The Gospel of Thomas: A Guidebook to Spiritual Practice*, this class is discussing an alternative Christian theology with an emphasis on translating its principles into daily practice. Anyone is welcome at any time during the course of the class.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202.
We are beginning a study of *Misquoting Jesus* by Bart Ehrman.

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.

youth & children

summer schedule

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN

Welcome to Summer! The nursery is open each Sunday by 9:30 AM. It is open during worship for children 3 years old and younger. A summer Sunday School class for children ages 4 through First Grade is available in Room 206. Class begins after the Conversation with Children in Worship. All other children are invited to participate in worship with their families.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH

For the summer the Middle and High School Sunday School classes will be combined and meet at 9:30 AM in room 201. Evening youth groups are 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.

hiking

a fellowship opportunity

UMC HIKERS - JUNE 2006 HIKE

Hello, hikers! Our next hike will be on Saturday, July 22nd. We'll hike around beautiful Lost Lake in the Mt. Hood National Forest. This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with a fun group of people and also to enjoy postcard perfect views of Mt. Hood. The trail is 3.4 miles long with only a 100-foot elevation change. We will meet in the Tigard UMC parking lot (9845 SW Walnut Place) at 8:15 AM to form carpools. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks and water, wear comfortable hiking boots and dress appropriately for the weather. There is a suggested \$6.00 per person donation to the driver for carpooling and parking pass. Hikers should also bring \$3-5 for an optional snack stop in the afternoon. We should be back at the church between 4-5 PM. Anyone is welcome to join us, but you must sign up to insure that we have enough transportation available. Please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737 if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.

umw

united methodist women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next UMW Unit Gathering will be held the first Wednesday in September. All women are invited. President: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270.

YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

Facets of our Spirit, Incorporating God in Our Daily Lives will be August 4-6, 2006 at Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, OR. Young women ages 18 and up are welcome. Cost: \$100. Scholarships are available, plus subsidy for home childcare. Childcare is also available on site for children age two and younger. Contact Gloria Marple at 503/281-9020 or at g.g.marple@att.net for information. The registration deadline is July 20, 2006.

BASEBALL



PORTLAND BEAVERS BASEBALL / FAITH NIGHT AT PGE PARK

On Wednesday, August 23, 2006 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 5:00 PM, talks by some of the players and then the game, beginning at 7:00 PM. 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. Deadline for registering: July 15, 2006

internships

a report

Since the summer of 1968, Portland First United Methodist Church has sponsored interns in a ministry of service to community agencies that respond to human needs in the Portland core area. The program's primary objective is to help to initiate, strengthen and support ministries that alleviate human suffering, by partnering with community service organizations whose operations reflect the more "shoe-string," struggling operations ministering to human needs that society, at least in part, has neglected.

The Internship Program helps to create and maintain a connectional relationship between First UMC and Portland non-profit, non-political community organizations whose primary mission is to work to alleviate human suffering caused by economic hardship. The program also provides a community service opportunity for a young adult or student interested in community service work, as a learning experience, for the purpose of gaining knowledge about a particular type of service and how it benefits people served and the community.

Thanks to generous program sponsors, the Church and Society Committee for Social Justice has chosen two exceptional college students to participate in this Summer's Intern Program with organizations whose mission clearly coincides with 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 clothe me."

Interns and the organizations they serve create a working, learning, and serving agreement designed to support the ministry of the organization and the clients they serve. It also allows the interns to have the opportunity to explore his or her potential for community service, and future educational goals.

This years interns are

· **Alison Smith**, who will be a sophomore at the University of Montana in the fall. Alison used to be in the youth group at First UMC and participated in preparing meals for the shelter. Alison has a passion for journalism and working to alleviate the serious problems that many people in Portland face every day. She is hoping to do her internship with an organization that responds to the issue of hunger. Olive Pomeroy will mentor Alison.

· **Lindsey Greathouse**, who will be a junior at the University of Oregon this fall. Lindsey worked at Migrant Head Start one summer, has been on a mission trip to Brazil, and done short-term volunteer jobs with soup kitchens. Lindsey has studied art most of her life and is skilled in painting and drawing, and fluent in Spanish. She will be doing her internship with the Community Partners for Affordable Housing, working with their youth program and learning about the ways their housing development program provides ongoing services for its clients. Dr. Bill Connor will mentor Lindsey.

As interns participate in the life and community of a service organization, they receive direct supervision and learn valuable leadership skills. Each intern is mentored by a member of First UMC's Church and Society for Social Justice, documents their experience, and is expected to share their experience at the end of the two-month program with the church. Please remember our interns and the agencies they serve in your prayers. Watch for updates about their summer exploration into the connection between charity and social justice ministry.

Shalom,
Annie Heart, Director of Outreach



a note from Lowell

"Count where man's glory both begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends." - W.B. Yeats

I have been at First Church for one year now, and as this second year begins, I want to take this opportunity to say how much I enjoy being a part of this wonderful faith community.

Our family has felt very welcomed by all of you, and personally I continue to enjoy the opportunity of serving as your Minister of Discipleship. We've done a number of wonderful things together as a church in the past twelve months, I am beginning to know more of you on a personal basis, and look forward to seeing how we can grow both spiritually and in our public witness as a congregation in the months ahead. It is a privilege to be a part of such a dedicated and talented church staff.

Thanks to all of you for your openness to new directions...and for the kindness you have shared with Susan, Lindsey, Kelly and me.

Warmly,
Lowell Greathouse
Pastor of Discipleship

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The next Leadership Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 7:00 PM in Room 202. This will be an important meeting and an opportunity to welcome newly elected officers.

local travel

mercy corps

MERCY CORPS

On Tuesday, July 25, 2006 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 seven million people in more than 35 countries. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided over \$1 billion in assistance to people in 81 nations. Mercy Corps is a nonprofit organization with headquarters in Portland, Seattle, Cambridge, Washington, D.C. and Edinburgh, Scotland. A donation of \$5 for Mercy Corps is recommended. Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00 AM. To register, contact the church office at: 503/228-3195 or e-mail Dave Jenkins at djenkins@fumcpdx.org.



DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBIT IN SEATTLE

On Saturday, November 18, 2006 we will travel to The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit in Seattle. It is an exhibit that will take you on an expedition that is beyond words, beyond time, and beyond your imagination. Experience the most remarkable archeological discovery of the 20th Century, and explore both the spiritual context of these scrolls with the science and scholarship associated with their discovery. See fragments never before displayed in public and follow their history to present day. We will be traveling to Seattle via RAZ Transportation, leaving First Church at 8:00 AM and returning in the evening. Cost is \$76 per person, which includes admission to the Pacific Science Center Museum and exhibit "Discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls," admission to the IMAX theater presentation "Mysteries of Egypt," and round-trip luxury motor coach to Seattle. There will be time on your own for lunch and shopping at Pike Place Public Market as well. Deadline for registering: October 6th.

volunteer

northwest ministries

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Northwest Portland Ministries is looking for volunteers in a variety of areas. They are in need of volunteer drivers and for volunteers to work with senior adults. The new Health and Wellness Center is looking for people to:

- Offer Art Therapy
- Lead a cooking and/or nutrition class for people on a budget
- Offer massage, chiropractic and other health services
- Lead chair exercises (tapes provided)
- Offer another service or skill ... the possibilities are many!

We work with individual schedules and interests to create the best experience! Can you help with a connection today? Contact: Iris Potter, at 503/413-5530 / iris@nwpm.org

an orientation

joining first church



Want to know more about becoming a member of First Church?

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.

sweet hour of prayer

THE PRAYER CHAIN

Have you considered being a part of the First UMC Prayer Chain? Prayer is an important part of the way we support each other in the church family. If you would like more information on becoming a part of the Prayer Chain, call Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

around the parish

prayers and concerns

remember

Hiroshima & Nagasaki

WE PRAY FOR ...

Bernie Cook, who recently had a surgical procedure;
Esther Greene, who is scheduled for surgery;
Caitlin McMorris, who is recovering from pneumonia;
Shirley Blalocks' daughter, scheduled for surgery in late July;
LaVonne Hawes, at home recovering from surgery;
Richard Hanks, nephew of Betty Hager, is in very serious condition in Spokane, WA following a motorcycle accident.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING ...

The family of John Cobb, John died July 4, 2006 and his service will be August 19, 2006 at 2:00 PM;
The family of Richard "Dick" Raines, Dick died on July 5, 2006 and his service was Sunday, July 8th;
Shawn Churgin and his mother Robin White, upon the death of Shawn's father who died in Phoenix, AZ recently;
The family of Newton Beardwood, Newton died on July 5 and his service was July 7, 2006;
Michelle Butler, upon the recent death of her birth mother;
The family of Lois Enklis, who died July 11, 2006.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Janet Bennett, LaVonne Hawes, Al Leonard, Jim Whitcomb, Tom Iverson, and Dick & Agnes Clark

THE JAPANESE HISTORICAL PLAZA

August 6 and 9, 2006 mark the 61st anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hiroshima Day Commemoration will take place, for the victims of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, on Sunday, August 6th at 6:00 PM at the Japanese American Historical Plaza at NW Naito Pkwy and Couch St. in downtown Portland.

We cannot let the memory of Hiroshima fade. Nuclear weapons are a source of horror and bring unimaginable destruction to life that should never again be inflicted. If you have questions please contact either Lowell Greathouse or Annie at First UMC. Join us as we gather with others to remember and lament the lessons learned from war with the forgiving peace of Christ in our hearts

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 **July 26, 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.