



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the Edition

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10, 2006

Sept. 6, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 17

THIS SUNDAY

September 10, 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.



Welcome Home Sunday is always a special time of coming back together ... vacations are over and school has resumed.

Please plan to be in church on Sunday, September 10, for Welcome Home Sunday.

There will be a Continental Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00 AM in Collins Hall

The morning will conclude with an All-Church Lunch in Collins Hall at noon.

Celebrating

35

YEARS OF MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH



On Sunday, September 17, 2006 in the worship service we will celebrate Jonas Nordwall's thirty-five years as organist at First Church. A reception will follow in Collins Hall - (continued on page 2).



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

September! The malls are jam packed with families buying back-to-school supplies and clothes. Teachers are feverishly preparing their classrooms for the onslaught of students. The ball fields are a scramble of late season softball,

pre-season football practice and runners getting in shape for cross-country. Medical clinics are bustling as families schedule school physicals and make sure vaccinations are up-to-date.

Most of the parents I observe are tending diligently to their children's physical needs. They are doing everything possible to encourage social and physical well-being. I see new health clubs opening in our neighborhoods. Yesterday the mail brought a thick book listing community education opportunities for adults. These suggest that empty-nesters and families-without-children are just as serious about health and growth as those raising children.

We care about our bodies and our minds; but I wonder, do we care as much about our spirits and our souls?

Diane Loomans wonders, too! She's been a pioneer for over twenty years in the fields of human potential and innovative learning and has appeared nationally speaking about the care of our soul: self-esteem, creativity, the power of laughter and play and creating a positive future. Among Loomis' many publications is one she co-authored with her teenage daughter, *Julia: Full Esteem Ahead, 100 Ways to Build Self-Esteem in Children & Adults*, (H J Kramer, publisher, Tiburon, CA. 1991) In it she reflects:

If I had my child to raise all over again ...
I'd finger paint more and point the finger less.
I'd do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.
I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I would be firm less often and affirm much more.
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

Are you tending to the things of the soul? We want to help.

A few days ago we sent the ten-page "Program Guide" filled with information about ways for you and your family to grow and learn. Sunday is First UMC's "Welcome Home" Day-the kickoff for a year that promises a rich diversity of classes, groups, service opportunities, travel and celebrations. They are experiences designed to nurture our souls.

I hope I'll see you and your family in Church!

Arvin

anniversary

Jonas Nordwall at the Organ

What do you know and remember about Jonas Nordwall? We all know of the awe inspiring postludes he coaxes from the Collins pipe organ, but do some of you remember when he began playing that mighty organ thirty-five years ago? Jonas was introduced to the congregation via the Circuit Rider in the September 12, 1971 issue as "our organist from the first of the month." The letter hiring him is dated "June 7, 1971" and says that Ruth Peterson, Assistant Organist, would be playing the month of August and would arrange for Jonas to be able to practice.

Some of you remember Jonas playing for a wedding, or a memorial service, or perhaps a Broadway at First production. No matter what the occasion, Jonas either chose or helped us choose appropriate music. Some of you remember him playing concerts with the organ moved out to the middle of the chancel so that we could see everything as he played. Whether we were sad or happy, Jonas' music helped us.

Even those of us who are musicians marvel at Jonas' technical ability when he moves his fingers and feet over the keys! Jonas was asked one Sunday why he played the "Widor" so fast. He replied, "'Cause I can," and gave that smirk that we have all seen. Yes, he is the master of the pipe organ!

Jonas has the ability to take a simple melody and make it into something great. Any time we need music arranged or transcribed, Jonas says something like, "Oh, that won't take me very long to do...maybe an hour or so." He has arranged several pieces to fit the group that is going to sing or play. A good example is when he took the simple melody to *Gesu Bambino* and arranged it for flute, viola, violin and organ for our Christmas Eve Services.

In the morning worship service, on Sunday, September 17, 2006 we will be honoring Jonas' thirty-five years as First Church organist. A reception will follow in Collins Hall during the coffee time.

This is a good time for us to show our appreciation to this gifted musician who has given so much of himself to us. We are arranging a special gift to honor Jonas. Your contributions may be sent to the church or dropped off in the church office. Please make your check payable to First UMC and put Jonas Nordwall in the memo line.

We look forward to many more years with Jonas at the organ. Please join us on September 17, 2006 as we celebrate this milestone in Jonas' music ministry at Portland's First Church.

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
Using Harold Kushner's book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*, this class is discovering what it has to teach about living our day-to-day lives. Everyone 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 studying the book: *Honest to Jesus* by Robert Funk.

this & that

items of note

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Friday night, September 8, FUMY High Schoolers (9th through 12th grade) are invited to attend a fall kick-off Lock-In at the church. Dinner on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday morning will be supplied. The Lock-In begins at 7:00 PM. Friday and ends at 8:00 AM Saturday morning.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES AT FIRST CHURCH

There will be a Fall Kickoff Potluck on Saturday, September 9, 2006 beginning at 5:30 PM in room 202 for all who are interested in the reconciling ministries of First Church.

CAN YOU SERVE AS A COFFEE HOST?

The wonderful fall season is here, with something for everyone at First Church: classes, choirs, fellowship, and service. One terrific opportunity for service is to sign up as a Coffee Hour Host in Collins Hall after worship. You may bring cookies if you like to bake, you may bring flowers if you love to garden, or you can just bring a big smile and pour coffee. Think about it, and then look for the sign-up sheets on the coffee table on Sunday. We need you!

FARMER'S TABLE

Sunday morning after church, please visit our Farmer's Table in Collins Hall and enjoy freshly picked organic produce grown and sold by refugee Meskhetian Turkish farmers. If you would also like to purchase some of the produce to be donated to the Northeast Emergency Food Program (sponsored by the the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon), look for the contributions container near the Farmers Table. Some fresh produce is a special treat for our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Thanks for your generosity!

MEMORIES OF A LONG LIFE

Please note the correction of contact information for John Soltman's memoir, *The View from Inside: Memories from a Long Life*. He wishes to loan it to anyone who may be interested, without any cost or obligation. Contact him by telephone at 360/438-5186 or by e-mail at jsoltman@comcast.net. You can also mail him at 1535 Boulevard Park Lane SE, Lacey, WA 98503.

umw

united methodist women



WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

Chairs: Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270 and Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479.

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, September 20, at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Hazel Wells will review the book, *Mandela, Mobutu, and Me*, by Lynne Duke. Ms. Duke, a foreign correspondent, served four years in Johannesburg, South Africa as bureau chief. Hazel will highlight the UMW reading program. Contact: Eleanor Stubbs

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, September 20, at 12:00 PM in Room 204. Come, help plan our 2006-2007 programs. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare. Bring a sandwich, desserts and beverages are provided.

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, September 21 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Library. Contact: Sue Fisher

METRO DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Metro District Annual Meeting of the UMW will be Saturday, September 23. Contact Pat Brockman for details.



You are invited to attend the
UCC ordination of
Charles Stephen Currie, Jr.
on Sunday, September 17, 2006 at 3:00 PM
at the First Congregational Church,
1126 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR

CAMBODIA MISSION TRIP

Cambodia is a land of contrasts - beautiful landscapes and bustling cities, dry and rainy seasons, war and peace, crying and laughter. It is a land where guerilla warfare has stolen life from the population. Those who would like to experience this place and witness what God is doing there are invited to participate in the second Oregon-Idaho Cambodia Healing Fields, a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) trip, February 13-27, 2007. Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Corinne Tate, and Rose City Park UMC Pastor Tom Tate will lead the trip.

The team is tentatively scheduled to build a fence around a new church property and to conduct a Vacation Bible School for the church. The trip will include stays in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, and Siem Reap, from which the team will visit the famous temple complex of Angkor Wat.

Total cost of the trip is \$3,300, which includes project fees, housing, airfare, meals, accident insurance and sightseeing. Most expenses involved in UMVIM trips are tax deductible. Anyone wishing more information about this trip may contact Corinne or Tom Tate at tomcor4m@comcast.net, or speak to First UMC's Global Mission, Chair Dee Poujade, who participated in a 2005 UMVIM trip to Cambodia. Flyers are also available in the First UMC office.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC BBQ

First Church Friends of Music is sponsoring an evening of food and fun for the entire family on Saturday, September 30, 2006.

First UMC members, families and friends are invited to join us at the home of Jeff and Anne Kayser for a Bar-be-que at around 6:00 PM. There will be lawn games and good food for all. Cost for the Bar-be-que is \$15.00 per person, or a maximum of \$35.00 for a family. There will be a Silent Auction in conjunction with the Bar-be-que so come prepared.

For more information and to make your reservation, please stop by the Friends of Music table in The Commons on Sunday, after church.

55-ALIVE

The popular 55-Alive Driving Course for senior adults will be offered Wednesday, October 11-12, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost is \$10. (Make checks payable to AARP.) To register call the Church Office at 503/228-3195.

A CONCERT AT TIGARD UMC

Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries presents a unique Canadian singer and songwriter, Linnea Good, in concert expressing her contemporary spirituality on Saturday, September 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM at Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard, Oregon (One block east of Hwy. 99W, just south of downtown Tigard.) Concert Tickets: \$8 online, \$12 at the door (under 6 free). The concert will be preceded by a *Singing and Leading It* workshop with Linnea at 2:30 PM and costs \$10.00. Also in connection with the concert will be a Camp Reunion Potluck at Cook Park Shelter No. 2, in Tigard. For more information go to www.gocamping.org.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER GARAGE SALE

We are beginning our preparations for the 2006-2007 season of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. As our opening date of November 1, 2006 approaches, we have a request for all of you: THINK GARAGE SALES, because: 1. They are an excellent source of linens and blankets for our shelter. To start the season, we need at least 30 pillow cases, sheets and blankets. So look for those garage sale signs in your neighborhood. If you mention that you are purchasing things for our family shelter, you may get an additional discount or at no cost. Just drop your donations off in our donation bin, located just to the east of Collins Hall by the stairway to the basement.

2. Our Second Annual Goose Hollow Family Shelter Rummage Sale is scheduled for October 6-7, 2006 at First United Methodist Church and we need your donations. We are accepting clothing and household items, furniture, sporting goods, craft items, baby items, luggage, books, videos, etc. This year we will be located indoors, so no worries about the weather. Drop off dates and times are limited so please check our flyers for drop-off dates and times. Note that we cannot accept large appliances, paints, computer items, tires, or any hazardous materials.

This is a great opportunity to recycle those items you're not really using, and clear some space in your closets and garages. It's also a great shopping opportunity to find some great bargains for yourself.

We also want to thank all of you again for the support you have provided for the guests at our shelter. Your donations of time, supplies, and money helped us host approximately 51 families last year, including 45 children under the age of 10. We look forward to working with all of you again this year.

SHOWER OF STOLES

The Shower of Stoles Project, a collection of liturgical stoles honoring the religious faith of hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, returns to Portland this September. On Friday, September 22 there will be a Blessing of Stoles with a hosted reception at 8:00 PM. Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24: viewing of Stoles from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. The presentation, sponsored by the Portland Metro Chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North America, will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1244 NE 39th Avenue, one block SW of the Hollywood at 42nd Ave. MAX Station. Each stole tells a story. This extraordinary collection celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Free admission to all events. For more information, contact Pastor Joan Beck, 503/234-6569 or 503/804-3384.

fall frolic

October 6-8, 2006

FALL FROLIC

The Sequel: All God's Critters

Join your church family and friends at Suttle Lake October 6-8, 2006 for Fall Frolic. This fun family camp is open to children, youth, adults and seniors. It includes lodging and five meals. We'll have activities, quiet moments, campfires, worship and more. What a way to celebrate!

Registration is \$69.00 per adult for the weekend and pro-rated for youth and children. Look for registration forms in the narthex, The Commons and in the mail or contact Agnes Zach, Children/Family Ministry at azach@fumcpdx.org.

peace

fast and teach-in

FAST FOR PEACE & TEACH-IN

The faith community joins secular peacemakers in the South Park Blocks of Portland on September 10 and 11, 2006

Clergy, lay leaders, and people of faith will join with other peacemakers and activists in a two-day public fast and peace teach-in at the South Park Blocks (between Salmon and Main Streets), from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The united fast is to help bring attention to the urgency for peacemaking and to provide opportunities for personal commitment, reflection, and discussion. Organizers hope to raise public consciousness, demonstrate personal commitment, and build community among interfaith and secular peacemakers. The funds saved by not eating will be donated to NE Emergency Food Bank. Both fasters and supporters are welcome.

take note

the east lawn is changing

THE COMMONS-EAST: STARTING SEPTEMBER 17

Each Sunday from 8:45 to 10:15 AM, Room 210, The Commons-East, will be open for coffee, juice, snack and conversation. It is open for anyone attending an adult class, youth choir or class, children's choir or coming early for study. We ask for a donation to assist in providing the breakfast rolls, fruit, juices and coffee. Computers are also available in this room for children and adults with several Bible games and a complete research Bible. Wireless access may be available at a later time.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH

On Sunday, September 17, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, the Festival of Faith: A Celebration of the Great World Religions, will take place at Portland State University, Smith Center Ballroom, SW Broadway and Montgomery. Admission is free; donations will be accepted. Information tables will be available for local faith related organizations and projects. Please inquire if you would like to purchase a table for your organization by calling 503/221-1054.

The keynote speaker will be David W. McCreery, professor of Religious Studies at Willamette University who is sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland.

In order to promote peace between world religions, this festival will consist of a full day of "101" style workshops, booths representing various faith organizations, food and entertainment. Representatives of the various world religions will present seminars and be available for questions. This personal contact with people of different faiths is an effort to develop on-going relationships for future interaction. This event is sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of 16 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.

the edge

thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship



It's common to say that trees come from seeds. But how could a tiny seed create a huge tree? Seeds do not contain the resources needed to grow a tree. These must come from the medium or environment within which the tree grows. But the seed does provide something that is crucial: a place where the whole of the tree starts to form. As resources such as waste and nutrients are drawn in, the seed organizes the process that generates growth. In a sense, the seed is a gateway through which the future possibility of the living tree emerges.

From the book *Presence*, by Senge, Scharmer, Jaworski, and Flowers



I think about the following questions whenever we baptize a child, whenever we confirm a young person, whenever we welcome someone new into our community of faith: What can we do together as First Church to create a living/learning environment in which our "seeds" of potential are able to grow fully into "trees" of faith? What can each of us do to contribute to making First Church fertile soil for growth to occur?

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

The family of Jim Whitcomb, Jim died August 22, 2006 - his service was Tuesday, August 29, 2006;

The family of Michael Forzley, who died recently; Michael worked with members of our congregation on the "Children at Risk" program;

Marilyn Rinquist, struggling with serious heart problems; *Virginia Anderson*, struggling with several health problems; *Dick Palmiter*, home following an appendectomy.

WE CELEBRATE ...

The baptisms of Erika Renae Dvorak and Kaia Diane Call, the daughters of Brenda Call and Joe Dvorak. The girls were baptized Sunday, August 27, 2006.

The baptism of Jordyn Stefany Davies, daughter of Paige and Michael Davies. Jordyn was baptized Sunday, September 3, 2006.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard and Dick & Agnes Clark

thanks

expressing gratitude

FROM THE COBB FAMILY

We wish to thank the caring folks at First UMC for the many cards, phone calls, hospital visits, words of encouragement, loving guidance and other acts of kindness given to us during the months of hospitalization and the subsequent death of our husband and father, John L. Cobb. We especially acknowledge Arvin Luchs and Tom Foster for their pastoral and spiritual support during this difficult journey. We also give special thanks to Kelly Qualls and Jonas Nordwall who helped us plan the Service of Celebration; to David Jenkins who so ably made the program; to the UMW who served the reception; and to the members of the choir, all whom gave extra rehearsal time for the Durufle. We were often deeply moved by the strong light of fellowship and love coming from the church as it shined so clear and bright, leading us through our time of sorrow and confusion. And it still does. Thank you all for being here for us.

Blessings from Betty Cobb, Laura Stewart, John P. Cobb and Katherine Carter

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 **September 20, 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.