



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

Sept. 20, 2006  
Volume 10, Issue 18

## THIS SUNDAY

September 24, 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.

# AT **NEW** FIRST CHURCH



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

September 24, 2006 will be the debut of our new Children's Church program. Children's Church will occur on the fourth Sunday of the month for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This special service for children meets in the Chapel. Following the "Conversation with Our Children" time in worship, children go to their regular Sunday School classrooms (4th/5th graders go directly to the Chapel). The kids will meet in the Chapel for a 20-minute service. Parents can meet their children at the Chapel.



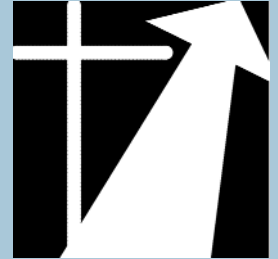
## MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

A new mid-week Bible Study will begin September 20, from 10:30 -11:30 AM each Wednesday in the library. Child care is provided. This beginning Bible Study is open to all. Stay-at-home parents are especially encouraged to take a moment of their week for themselves and the Bible. We will be using: *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. Bring your Bibles.



## FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE

The new Faith & Public Life Series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet each Sunday in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Upcoming topics include:  
September 24, *Modern Usury and Payday Loans*  
October 1, *The Health Care Crisis*  
October 8, *The Ethics of Stem Cell Research*  
October 15, *A Guide to Our Social Principles*



## SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM

The new Spiritual Activism Series will begin Wednesday, October 4 from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in the library. We will explore the Network of Spiritual Progressives and Michael Lerner's book, *The Left Hand of God*. Sessions will include:  
October 4 *Overview: The Network of Spiritual Progressives*  
October 11 *Understanding Spiritual Politics*  
October 25 *The Globalization of Selfishness*  
November 1 *The Spiritual Covenant with America*



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Some say the pipe organ is an anachronism—the instrumental equivalent of a dinosaur or slide rule. I've been told that at least one university dropped its major in organ performance for lack of students. Too often, in small churches, the consoles gather dust, and the pipes are rusting for lack of a skilled organist. Some of the trendy mega-churches refuse to install them—opting instead for electrified praise-band instruments and keyboards.

I think the reports of the death of the pipe organ are premature!

Those who proclaim its demise just haven't heard Jonas Nordwall!

Under his talented touch those magnificent piped marvels come alive with energy, excitement and vigor. A California reviewer, still basking in the glow of a Nordwall concert, enthused, "...if more music in this style and nature were heard, the organ might again become an appealing music resource in the public front." \*

Jonas is a rare talent equally adept at both classical and popular music. In his time at the keyboard he has accompanied worship in Jewish, Christian Science, Roman Catholic and United Methodist services.

But that's only a small slice of his résumé. As a classical musician, he performs regularly with the Oregon Symphony, Portland Chamber, Portland Festival, and Columbia Symphonies as well as both the Vancouver, Washington and B.C. Symphonies. And he has studied with a long list of the world's best organists.

When Jonas is not on our bench, he's probably on a concert tour. His performance schedule as an "Allen Organ Artist" has taken him to nearly every corner of this country as well as China, Japan, Australia. He was guest recitalist and adjudicator for the International Organ Competition in Geneva, Switzerland. He is regularly featured on the PBS radio show, *Pipe Dreams*. Last I heard, Jonas had released 25 LP's, CD's and cassettes on various labels—both solo organ-duet—even trio organs (ask him about the Trio Con Brio sometime!).

He's a commanding presence in the theatre organ world as well. For many years Jonas was "Senior Staff Organist" for a restaurant chain—The Organ Grinder—playing their historic theater organs in both Portland and Denver. He's played in parks, movie houses and, at one time, was assistant staff organist at Oaks Park Skating Rink. Little wonder that in 1987 his peers honored him as "American Theater Organ Society Organist of the Year."

Did I mention that he is also in demand as an organ architect and consultant? He spent 30 years doing that with Rogers Organ in Hillsboro. Jonas' hand can be found in installations in halls, churches and homes around the country including the Crystal Cathedral in Anaheim, Spreckels Center in San Diego and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C..

Jonas' interest in keyboards started early—when he was just four years old? His first instrument? An accordion! By ten, though, he was studying organ with one of the best teachers in Portland. He was playing professionally in his teens and earned a college degree in music and organ performance at the University of Portland.

Best of all, Jonas has shared his amazing talent, dynamic spirit and wonderful music with us for over 35 years. Rightfully, we celebrated that milestone with a tribute last Sunday. A special anthem for choir and organ was commissioned in his honor. At the reception for Jonas we sang and celebrated his service to the church..

Jonas, we thank God for the blessings of your ministry of music. We're delighted that with your skillful touch those amazing pipes come to life and lift our hearts each week. May it be so for many years to come!

See you in Church!

Arvin

\* Unknown reviewer quoted in Pipeline Online, the online magazine of the Puget Sound Organ Society, accessed at <http://www.pstos.org/organists/or/nordwall.html>

# 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.

## NEW THIS FALL: GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE

Good Sense Budget is a six-week course beginning October 1, 2006. It will be led by a facilitation team of Janice Gratton and Richard Allan. This course is for those of all ages and at all points of the financial continuum. Learn to use simple tools that will help you manage your money more successfully. Learn Biblical financial principles for budgeting and spending money wisely. Learn what the Bible says versus what culture says about money. Scripture clearly states that our spiritual lives and our financial lives are interwoven.

When: Sundays from 9:00 AM to 10:15AM in Room 160. (October 1 through November 5, 2006)

# this & that

items of note

## PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group's first potluck luncheon for the fall will be Saturday, October 8, 2006 at 12:30 PM in Room 202. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share. Table service will be provided. Dr. Randy Elaazk, Associate Professor of Sociology at PSU will present the program, *Shining a Light on Hate*. As the director of the Hate Crimes Research Network, he will turn a spotlight on what is going on with hate groups in Oregon. For more information contact: Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.



# BBQ

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

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

# umw

united methodist women

## WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

All women are invited to the following meetings.  
Note that the Unit Gathering is the first Wednesday of each month. President: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270

## METRO DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Metro District Annual Meeting will be Saturday, September 23, at 8:45 AM at Woodlawn UMC, 1425 NE Dekum St., Portland. The speaker will be Kathy Wilson-Fey, Missionary to Honduras. Kathy and her family have recently returned to Oregon after four years of missionary service in Honduras. As Kathy tells of her life with the people of Honduras, you will feel that you are living there with her. Call Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270, for information about the potluck salad lunch and carpooling.

## UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, September 27, at 10:00 AM in Room 134.  
Information: Pat Brockman

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, September 27, at 11:30 AM in Room 204. The program will be a Fall Kick-Off meeting to plan programs and activities for the coming year. Bring ideas and a sandwich. Dessert and beverages are provided. Grace and Marie have a special surprise for each of us. New members are always welcome.  
Information: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528

## UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, October 4, in the Fireside Room. The meeting will begin 10:00 AM followed by the program at 11:00 AM. Trudy Kayser, Melba Rizzo, and Pat Brockman will share their gleanings from the School of Christian Mission. Hear how globalization touches the lives of ordinary people around our planet. As Christians, we are called to respond to issues that affect the well-being of all who experience economic injustices. Come, hear some astonishing facts. Learn how we can help our neighbors near and far. Lunch will be at noon. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverage provided. Information: Colleen Foster, 503/641-3479.

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Fall Forum will be Thursday, October 5, 2006. The program will be a speaker from the League of Women Voters.  
Information: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773



# GLOBAL WARMING

## AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Planet Church, an Outreach Ministry of First UMC, will present a free showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 in the Fireside Room. Child care and popcorn will be provided!

*An Inconvenient Truth* has helped many churches talk about climate change. With the widespread distribution of that movie this fall to congregations, coordinated by The Regeneration Project

<http://www.theregenerationproject.org/inconvenient.htm>, thousands of churches will be discussing the topic of climate change in a religious context.

*An Inconvenient Truth* engages viewers in the science of global warming and moves us towards being part of a solution for this planetary emergency. Over 130 congregations in over 30 Oregon cities will be joining thousands of congregations across the nation during the first week in October in presenting film portrayal of climate change which can help us begin to grasp one of the biggest moral challenges ever faced by our species. If you did not get a chance to see it in the theaters this summer, we urge you to make this showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* a high priority.

*An Inconvenient Truth* a high priority.

## FORUM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Our first fall forum will be Sunday, October 1, 2006. Following worship we will gather in the Fireside Room from 12:00 to 1:30 PM. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.

### *Mercy Corps: A focus on the Middle East*

will be our topic. Minda Hedges, Community Relations Officer at Mercy Corp will be our guest speaker.

First Church offers a series of challenging forums this fall. The forums will cover a wide variety of subjects and stimulate deeper reflection into the issues and needs of our times.

## PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY FORUM

*Beyond Charity: Speaking up for the Common Good*

Public Policy Advocacy Forum

Sunday, October 22, 11:45 AM in the Fireside Room

We will each learn how to find and develop our "public voice" with the help of:

Norene Goplen,

Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Oregon

Phillip Kennedy-Wong,

Director, Public Policy, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Angela Martin, Director,

Economic-Fairness Campaigns, Our Oregon

In his Initiative to Eliminate Hunger, Bishop Hoshibata challenged United Methodists to address the injustices that contribute to the persistence of poverty and hunger. This forum/workshop will teach us how to act on our core values to engage in practical, "Yes, I can do this!" advocacy.

This forum is brought to you by our Hunger Task Force and co-sponsored by Church and Society, Planet Church and our Health Care Task Force. We hope that all will come away convinced of the moral imperative for persons of faith to participate actively in the political process, and feel motivated and empowered to do so.

A light lunch of pizza by Hot Lips, along with fresh veggies, drinks and cookies will be provided.

the edge  
thoughts for  
the journey

## Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

When I was at a conference on spiritual activism in Washington, DC in May, one of the speakers was 2002 MacArthur "genius award" Fellow Liz Lerman. She is an amazing choreographer, who has taken her unique artistic sense to a variety of settings throughout the country to engage others of all ages in dance. During the conference, she invited the 1200 of us to participate in a hand movement exercise at the close of one of the sessions. However, before we began, she said that she wanted to be sensitive and not ask us to do anything that was uncomfortable for us. But then she said that she was taught at a young age to "turn discomfort into inquiry."

Identify one thing in your life that causes you discomfort.

How might you turn this situation into a process of personal inquiry?

## ANTIQUES AND BOUTIQUES OF HILLSBORO

Tuesday, October 17, 2006 we will travel to visit the antiques shops and boutiques of Hillsboro in their historic downtown area. We will meet at the church at 9:30 AM to take the MAX to Hillsboro. Costs are limited to the MAX fare, what you order for lunch, and your 'allowance' for the various shopping opportunities. Deadline for registering: October 1, 2006.

## LEAVENWORTH WINTER TOUR

Travel to Leavenworth, Washington, Tuesday through Thursday, January 9-11, 2007 for our Leavenworth Winter Tour 2007. Enjoy the snow, holiday lights, a sleigh ride, bargain shopping and a round-trip Amtrack ride from Portland to Tacoma as a part of this journey to the pleasant Bavarian style village of Leavenworth, Washington. Cost of the tour is \$400 per person based on double hotel room. Single supplement for exclusive use of a hotel room -- \$150 additional. Deposit of \$50 per person due by **October 1, 2006**. Final Payment due: **December 7, 2006**. Registration forms available in the church office or in the Commons on Sundays.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

Do you take some time each day for devotional reading? Start each day with some quiet time, take a moment for centering over lunch, or spend time in the evening preparing for the next day. It is a discipline which can make a difference in your life. Author, Patricia Wilson, suggests that "in that brief time you give your reports, confirm your direction, receive instruction, and affirm your faith in the concept of God with us." Whether you're just getting started, are looking for new material, or realize it's time to order your devotional guide for 2007, I encourage you to consider *The Upper Room Disciplines*. A copy is available in the church library for your review. Ordering is as simple as calling Mary Jane Hendrickson, 503/639-775. She wants to hear from you by October 15, 2006. The books will arrive before the holidays and can be paid for at that time (\$11.00).

## 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. September 29, 2006 is the earliest date that we will receive items for the sale. 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.

## 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.

## ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT

Two exciting classes will be offered as a part of Electives for Enrichment, each Monday from October 16 - November 13, 2006. Classes are from 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM. The cost is \$15.00 for the five-week course. Pre-register with the church office, 503/228-3195 by October 11, 2006.

### - Jump Start Your Genealogy

Learn the the steps of discovering your genealogy.

### - Music in Our Lives

Led by Jonas Nordwall, Kelly Qualls, and Ross Miller, we will consider the role that music plays in our lives, individually and culturally, and examine how music reflects and shapes our faith.

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CELEBRATING  
35 YEARS  
WITH  
*Jonas Nordwall*  
Sunday, September 22, 2006



# our prayers

prayers and concerns

## PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Jim McManus*, whose sister died recently in Pennsylvania;  
*Mavis Newman*, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia;  
*Bob Weiss*, making a good recovery from cataract surgery;  
*Judy Harris Garbutt*, who has a kidney tumor. Judy is the sister  
of *Becky Bullis*;  
*Al Leonard*, whose health continues to decline.

## CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Dick & Agnes Clark* and *Tom Iverson*

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Our weekend custodian, Steve Jackson will be leaving his position at the end of this month. He was recently named to operate the café at the Washington County Courthouse in Hillsboro. Steve, his wife Kristen and daughter, Makiah, are excited to be moving into their own house which they have been busy preparing for the last two months. We wish the Jacksons well in their new ventures. We have come to know and appreciate SEteve's spirit and dedication. Cards and expressions of appreciation can be sent to the church office marked "Jackson Farewell." Steve's last Sunday with us will be October 1, 2006

*Kayla Carruth, For the Staff Parish Relations Committee.*

# thanks

expressing gratitude

## FROM JONAS NORDWALL

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful celebration of my 35th anniversary as your organist. It is great to know how much honest appreciation First UMC always shows to staff members.

I especially want to thank Arvin and Kelly for all their work securing the commissioned work and for keeping it such a good secret. Also thanks go to my wife, Nancy, and my daughter, Gennie for finding and assembling those photos.

Thank you for your gift. It will be put towards a train trip through the Canadian Rockies that I have always wanted to take. As my traveling has always been by air for business, I finally will have the time to take this relaxing trip next year.

Again thank you for a wonderful day.



## 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 **October 4, 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.