



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *dition*

October 18, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 19

THIS SUNDAY

October 22, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

**A CONVERSATION
WITH OUR
CHILDREN**
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs



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.



FALL FROLIC

2006



50 First Church members and friends enjoyed a beautiful weekend at the United Methodist Camp at Suttle Lake. Children, youth and adults talked, played, ate and enjoyed each other's company in this family-friendly setting. With the theme of *All God's Critters*, the youth created a fun-filled Saturday night campfire and Rev. Lowell Greathouse led a meaningful Sunday morning worship service.

Planning has already begun for Fall Frolic-2007 which will be at Camp Magruder. This change in location will make it even easier for First Church members to attend this special weekend for making friends with young and old.

Agnes Zach, Children/Family Ministry Coordinator

FIRST CHURCH PEACE LAMP VESPERS SERVICE

Sunday, October 22, 2006 ■ 5:30 PM in the First Church Chapel

Join us for this special vespers worship service when we will light the inter-faith peace lamp, which has already been a part of worship services at Augustana Lutheran Church, P'Nai Or (a Jewish Renewal congregation), Bilal Mosque, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, St. Michael and All Angels Church. From September 11 to Martin Luther King Day January 15, 2007, this lamp will travel from congregation to congregation throughout the Portland area, serving as a symbol of our common focus on peace. Our worship service on the 22nd will be a time of prayer and reflection, focusing on the work of peacemaking in our time. This project is sponsored by The People of Faith for Peace group in Portland.





our mission & goals

Peg Cook, Leadership Council

Dear Friends of First Church:

Greetings! Last spring, the First Church Mission and Goals Task Group drafted a “framing statement” that was shared with many at First Church through a small group discussion process. Based on the many helpful comments that were made by people who attended these sessions, this task group created an additional description that we hope gives further meaning and definition to this “framing statement.”

When finished, we plan to use the material as a tool in our congregational publicity, in our planning processes, and as a way to help us see both who we are and who we’d like to be as a church community.

However, before this happens, we are asking you to contribute your insights and opinions again to the process. In order to create the final draft material for our All Church Conference on Sunday, December 3, 2006 we’d like you to give us your reactions to the working draft document that is enclosed in this issue of the *Circuit Rider* and either come to the church feedback session on November 8th, or fill out the enclosed feedback form and return it to the church office.

Please let us know if you are able to join us for the session planned for Wednesday, November 8, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Fireside Room or simply return feedback form, which is on the reverse side of the enclosed framing statement sheet, to the church office no later than November 8, 2006. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks again for your interest in First Church.

Sincerely,

Peg Cook

Chair, Leadership Council

CONFERENCE TO BE HONORED - HARVEST OF HOPE

The Oregon/Idaho Conference United Methodist Church is to receive a 2006 “Harvest of Hope Award” for efforts to combat hunger. It will be presented during the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger’s breakfast on Thursday, November 2 at Congregation Beth Israel in Northwest Portland.

The award recognizes the *Bishop’s Initiative to Eliminate Hunger*, an effort to mobilize congregations across Oregon and Southern Idaho to make fighting hunger a priority, stock food pantries and contribute to efforts to eliminate the root causes of hunger. While food production is a major part of Oregon’s economy—we consistently rank among the highest in percentage of population who lack adequate food.

First UMC has responded to the Bishop’s call. Our efforts are being coordinated by a task force of our Committee on Church and Society. It has involved an ongoing collection of food on *Fish Sunday*, forums and articles raising awareness of hunger issues, involvement in local and state advocacy efforts, as well as participating in Bread for the World national advocacy campaigns.

The Rev. Dr. Wesley Taylor and The Rev. Jonathan Enz will accept the award on behalf of Bishop Hoshibata (who will be out of the country attending the Council of Bishops gathering in Mozambique.) Members of First UMC are invited to attend the Harvest of Hope Breakfast. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches, is the keynote speaker. For tickets and information contact Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 503/221-1054.



FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATIONS

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, 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 becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be offered after the worship service on Sunday, October 29, 2006. For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

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: FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

This adult class series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Upcoming topics include:

- October 22 *November Ballot Measures* (Guests from EMO)
- October 29 *Evolution, Intelligent Design, and Public Education* (Dr. Myles Jackson)
- November 5 *Social Justice at First Unitarian Church* (Kate Lore)
- November 12 *The Emerging Immigration Debate* (Panel)

youth & children

coming events

SCARY MOVIE NIGHT

Scary Movie Night is October 28, for Middle School youth. They are invited to bring their friends to an evening of classic monster movies. *Frankenstein, The Wolf Man, The Invisible Man* and *King Kong* are among the classic 1930's movies. The party is from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Youth Room.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

First Church youth will present a Safe Space Halloween Party on October 29, 2006 for our children. Families are invited to bring their children in costumes. The carnival is from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in room 202.

For info contact: Paul Adams, Youth Director, at 503/228-3195 ext 229.



BOO!



FAREWELL TO THE FARMERS' TABLE

We celebrate the success of our Sunday Farmers' Table! We thank all who have offered their support, through their purchases and well wishes! We thank the refugee Meskhetian Turkish farmers, Savadil and Bakhadir! We will miss them, and we will miss the shared delight as our community enjoyed those succulent cucumbers, crisp carrots, and juicy tomatoes. And a special thanks to all who contributed towards the purchase of produce for the Northeast Emergency Food Program. We donated over \$250, and the farmers donated many pounds of produce, so that over 350 pounds of fresh, organically grown produce have been given to those in need of a good meal.

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

BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 25, at 10:00 AM in Room 110.
Chair: Pat Brockman

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, October 25, at 11:30 AM in Room 204.
Program: Book sharing – an opportunity to tell about books you have read, and a good time to learn about new books others have read. New Members are always welcome. Hostess: Mary Covert. Devotions: Hilary Purtle. For additional information contact Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, November 01, at Fireside Room The business meeting will be at 10:00 AM and will be a Pledge Service led by Peg Cook. The program will begin at 11:00 AM. Program: *Shade and Fresh Water - Safe Places for Brazil's Street Children*, led by Colleen Foster, Dee Poujade, and Pat Brockman. Visit Brazil's street children through pictures and narration. Gain Insight into the mission and work of Gordon and Teca Great house at our November 1 meeting. Information: Colleen Foster, 503/641-3479 Lunch will be at noon. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages provided.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United's World Communion Day service will be Friday, November 03, 2006.
Information: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

There will be a Special Saturday Brunch on Saturday, November 11 at 10:30 AM. All women invited. Program: Liz Caswell with piano inspirations and the video: *Journey of Our Mission Dollars*.





CHAUTAUQUA TALK: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Chautauqua Talk will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2006 from noon to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. First Church is pleased to sponsor an Oregon Chautauqua program by Diana Coogle entitled *Food for Thought*. Food, our most basic biological need, is also a source of infinite pleasure. It sustains cultural longings, defines rules of etiquette, is central to religious ceremonies, divides the haves from the have nots, and reminds us of our connection to the earth. If we are lucky, it brings us to the table each day. Citing examples from cinema, literature, and history, essayist and radio commentator Diana Coogle offers a delicious look at the many roles food plays in our lives. Ms. Coogle is an author, teacher, radio commentator, theater director, and community volunteer, who lives on a remote mountainside in Southern Oregon. This event is sponsored and funded by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. A light lunch and child care will be made available.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER
A Volunteer Orientations for new and returning volunteers to the Goose Hollow Family Shelter will be Wednesday, October 19 from 7:00-8:30 PM in Room 202 or Sunday, October 22, 2006 from 12:30 - 2:00 PM Room 202. For more information and to sign up to volunteer visit www.fumcpdx.org/goosehollowfamilyshelter or contact Annie Heart, Director at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 / aheart@fumcpdx.org



Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists (OIRUMs) will meet Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Wesley UMC, Eugene OR. The event will begin at 10:00 AM and include a potluck. The program will include: *What is the Parents' Reconciling Network?* and a report on the Transgender Conference. All with open hearts and open minds are welcome at this open-door meeting Invite your UM friends and colleagues.

You can visit their website at: www.OIRUMs.org and join our email group at "contact us" on the website.



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

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, as well as child care.



Portland First UMC will sponsor a featured film, *Refugee All Stars*, as a part of the NW Film Festival's Human Rights Watch Film Series. The film will play Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 PM at the Portland Art Museum, Whitsell Auditorium, 219 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR, 97205.



OUR UMC COVENANT RELATIONSHIP IN RUSSIA
Evelyn Erbele, missionary to Russia, Lithuania and Latvia, will speak at a potluck lunch, hosted by the Global Missions committee, on Sunday, November 19, 2006. The potluck will be held in Room 202, following the church service.

Evelyn and her husband, Teri, one of the missionaries who are in Covenant Relationship with First UMC, have been serving in Russia since 1996. Teri is an elder in the Oregon-Idaho conference, and Evelyn lived and worked in Oregon prior to her mission service. The Erbeles are presently in the United States visiting supporting churches and sharing information about their work.

Those attending the potluck are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to share; beverages will be provided. For further information, contact Dee Poujade

TIME CHANGE
Don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, October 28, 2006.



helping kids

family of friends



A large number of children in this country are living in situations that are destroying their chances of growing into healthy, productive human beings. Mentoring in America, research sponsored by the AOL Time Warner Foundation, found there are 17.6 million young people who need or want mentors.

Family of Friends has begun an effort to design and demonstrate a structure within which volunteer families can be united with children in need. Families like yours can make a difference in the life of a child who is growing up in poverty and community violence. Family of Friends is a program that matches volunteer families with six- to nine-year-old children in need. The families serve as "mentors," or "guides" encouraging the child's positive growth and development. This involves including the child in the activities of your family or doing something special with your mentee. As a mentor, you are a source of support while encouraging a child's positive growth and development. This is a wonderful opportunity at First UMC for you to welcome a child into your life a few times a month for a year or longer. The definition of family is all-inclusive - single, single parent with children, married without children, married with young or grown children and any other combination that has been left out.

If interested, please contact Kersti Pettit-Kekel at 503/629-0100 or Dick and Mary Sagara at 503/663-9440. You can also get additional information at our table in the Commons.

missions

reaching around the world

First United Methodist Church is in covenant relationships with the following missionaries:

Clara Biswas, a native of Bangladesh, has been serving in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, primarily in its largest public dumpsite. Among Clara's service projects are English and computer classes, other forms of educational support for youth, and various community-related healthcare programs.



Teri & Evelyn Erbele have been serving in Lithuania, Latvia, and Russia since 1996. Teri serves as the District Superintendent to the Lithuania UMC, and Evelyn is pastor of Eiguliai Church in Lithuania. Those traveling from First Church to Russia next year hope to make connection with the Erbeles.

Gordon & Teca Greathouse serving in Brazil since 1978. Gordon is the president of the Methodist Foundation that supports the Shade and Fresh Water Project, (involving local churches committed to the development of at-risk children.) Teca is its national coordinator. Gordon is the brother of Lowell Greathouse, associate pastor of First Church. Last year, a group of First Church members traveled to Brazil to observe the program and work with the Greathouses.



the edge
thoughts for the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Consider these words from Henri Nouwen:

"...It is clear that we are usually surrounded by so much outer noise that it is hard to truly hear our God when he is speaking to us.

We have often become deaf, unable to know when God calls us....Thus our lives have become absurd. In the word *absurd* we find the Latin word *surdus*, which means 'deaf.' A spiritual life requires discipline because we need to learn to listen to God, who constantly speaks but whom we seldom hear ... When we listen, our lives become obedient lives. The word *obedient* comes from the Latin word *audire*, which means 'listening.' A spiritual discipline is necessary in order to move slowly from an absurd to an obedient life.

A spiritual discipline, therefore, is the concentrated effort to create some inner and outer space in our lives, where this obedience can be practiced. Through a spiritual discipline we prevent the world from filling our lives to such an extent that there is no place left to listen."

When and how do you make time in your life to listen on a regular basis?

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN ...

The family of Ruth Geiss, Ruth died October 6, 2006. Her service was Monday, October 16, 2006;

Agnes Clark, home recovering from surgery;

Janet Bennett, home recovering from surgery;

Dwight Gilley, who is in hospice for serious heart problems.

He is the father of Tammy Gilley;

Jackie Bullock, under treatment for inflammation around the heart. Jackie is the daughter of Pamela Moyers;

Bryan Smith, who recently had surgery for pancreatic cancer.

He is the son of Jim and June Smith;

Marion Poindexter, recovering in Boston from a fall.

She broke her hip and arm.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Dick & Agnes Clark and Tom Iverson

thanks

expressing gratitude

FROM RICHARD & MAVIS NEWMAN

I'd like to express my gratitude for all the prayers and cards sent my way during my recent leukemia-related episode. The war may never be won, but this particular battle is, and I'll be certain to call on all of you again should I need more help. It works!



HERE I AM, LORD
Commitment Sunday
NOVEMBER 5, 2006

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 **November 1, 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.

Portland's First United Methodist Church
Who We Are as a People of Faith

Working Draft

For background information on this document, read Peg Cook's article on page two.

FRAMING STATEMENT FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Living a vibrant faith
Believing ... Thinking ... Acting*

FOR US THIS MEANS ...

Portland's First United Methodist Church— "open hearts, open minds, open doors." Being church in this way has led us to become a Reconciling Congregation "pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation." First Church is composed of an energetic, diverse group of believers, who frame life together by...

*Living a vibrant faith
Believing ... Thinking ... Acting*

God is a vital presence in our lives. Living a vibrant faith means not only being open and diverse, but also being active, growing, and responsive to new ideas, new ministries, and new ways of being faithful.

We are vibrant in our believing:

dedicated to affirming God's claim upon our lives and actively investing our hearts, minds and resources to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. While embracing our Methodist heritage, we respect diversity of belief. In this spirit, we encourage each person to expand their own spiritual journey within this community of seekers. Being a person of faith involves more than attending worship. It involves discerning and living out God's spirit in daily life.

We are vibrant in our thinking:

Encouraging those who call First Church home to participate in
study and fellowship as individuals
Creating a sense of inquiry to grow in faith
Respecting and listening to the views of others
Nurturing a sense of spirituality in each other
Connecting our faith to public life
Confronting the issues of our time in thoughtful, effective ways

We are vibrant in our actions:

Striving to be a compassionate, caring, justice-oriented people
Coming together in fellowship
Working to eradicate poverty of mind, body, and spirit
Committing ourselves to be a significant voice in the world—both locally and globally
Nurturing each person's potential as whole and loved gifts of God
Through the teachings of Christ Jesus, we are convinced that we have a special responsibility for anyone vulnerable, including the children of the world.

And so we affirm our congregation's mission: "God calls us to be a caring and reconciling community. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we respond by sharing the good news of the Gospel through worship, music, study and prayer, nurturing and loving one another, and reaching out to our community and world. We seek, welcome and accept all persons, and we commit ourselves to one another and to God."

**Please complete the feedback form on the reverse side of this sheet
and return it to the church office by November 8, 2006.**

First United Methodist Church ■ 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201

First Church Framing Statement and Description
FEEDBACK FORM

After reading the draft of the “framing statement” and the description of it (on the reverse side of this page), please respond to the following questions. Try these words on like you might try on new clothes, seeing if and how they fit First Church and you.

If First Church adopted the following words: “Living a vibrant faith: Believing ... Thinking ... Acting,” as its “framing statement,” do you think it would describe who we are and/or wish to become?

Based on the small group input we received this spring regarding this “framing statement,” we developed additional language to give this statement life. Do these words accomplish this adequately ... or are there changes you would suggest?

In what ways does First Church already embody these words within our common life?

What could First Church do to more fully live out these words as a congregation?

** Please turn this feedback form into the church office by **Wednesday, November 8, 2006** so that it can be reviewed and included in the final draft materials considered by the Leadership Council at their November meeting. A final recommendation of a framing statement and description will be made at First Church's All Church Conference on Sunday, December 3, 2006. Thank you for taking the time to communicate your insights and opinions.*