



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

November 1, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 20

THIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 5, 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.

HERE I AM, LORD

**COMMITMENT
SUNDAY**

NOVEMBER 5, 2006



At First Church, over the past several weeks, you have heard and seen the phrase, "Here, I am, Lord!" It has been our desire that this be more than just a catch phrase or campaign slogan. It is our desire that, "Here I am, Lord," be a prayer ... and that as you have prayed that prayer it lead you into new and deeper ways of serving ... worshipping ... learning ... and giving. On Sunday, November 5, 2006 you are asked to bring your 2007 Estimate of Giving Card as a part of Commitment Sunday. Pray the prayer, "Here I am, Lord" and see where it takes you!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

This week my wife, Sue, and I will wrestle with our values, examine our hearts and make two decisions with long-term implications. Hopefully most of you will too.

We will mark our election ballots for candidates and issues that most closely reflect our hopes and dreams for this community and our country. My father used to quote the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower who urged Americans to “just weigh the issues carefully and vote accordingly.” We intend to do just that!

That done, we will take time to consider how God has blessed our lives and how we can say “thanks:” through an estimate of giving to First Church. Many years ago we decided to make a tithe (10%) our goal. Thankfully, so far, we’ve been able to do at least that, (we realize that not everyone can do so.) We don’t do it because we feel obligated-in fact quite the opposite. Giving to others, especially through the church,-brings joy and fulfillment.

Apparently others have discovered that, too.* I was delighted to read that more than 73% of Americans give regularly to charities - the greatest number to churches. Many of those are far from wealthy. In fact (according to a study conducted by Johns Hopkins) Americans with more modest incomes give at a higher percentage than those with more substantial resources.

Why do people give?

Time magazine polled researchers and found six core reasons:

- A desire to help worthwhile causes. (79%)
- A belief that those who have been financially successful have a responsibility to share their good fortune. (69%)
- A desire to help meet critical needs in their communities. (63%)
- A desire to help organizations that have benefited them. (50%)
- A desire to set an example for their children. (46%)
- A desire to fill the gaps left by government cutbacks. (29%)

They found religious people particularly generous. I think for deeper reasons.

My friend and former colleague, Herb Mather, spent much of his career leading our denomination in stewardship efforts. He devoted several years to traveling the country interviewing generous Christians and concluded:

“For many generous people, giving helps them to be what they are-what God intended them to be...Generous people do not see giving as a burden but rather as a matter of values and priorities. Giving reflects and witnesses to what is important in their lives...They place greater value on long-term issues than on the thrill of the moment. Generous Christians remember who they are. They are related to the God who is love. Their identity is connected to the One who gave his life that all might live abundantly. Through the living of their lives, each one affirms that his or her own life is also more abundant.” **

This is a week of decisions. What is God calling you to do?

See you in Church!

Arvin

* 1999 statistics quoted in Esperti, Robert A., Peterson, Renno L., Zeeb, Rodney C., *Giving: Philanthropy for Everyone*, Quantum Press, Denver, CO, 2003, pps 6-7.

** Mather, Herb, *That's What My Mother Taught Me and Other Ways Generous Givers Develop*, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN., 2001, p. 115.



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.

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:

November 5 ***Social Justice at First Unitarian Church***
(Kate Lore, Outreach Director, First Unitarian Church)

November 12 ***The Emerging Immigration Debate***
(Panel: including Sarah Harkness, a missionary with the United Methodist Church, working with the Hispanic/Latino Ministry Training Institute)

November 19 ***The American Experiment-American Roots, American Soul, and American Creed***
(Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse)

November 26 ***The American Experiment: The Social Gospel and Neo-Orthodoxy in the 20th Century***
(Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse)

grief support

healing from loss

HEALING FROM LOSS

Healing from Loss: Taking Care of Yourself, a grief support group offered by First United Methodist and Samaritan Counseling begins on November 19, 2006. Meetings will continue for eight weeks, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on Sundays in the First Church Library. The group will be facilitated by Dominick Robertson. This is a safe place to be with others experiencing grief and to receive the support that is necessary in order to move forward after the loss of someone - or something - significant. The cost is \$10 per session, or \$50 for all eight sessions. Some scholarships are available. Please leave a message for Dominick at 503/281-3318 ext 41 to register, or if you have questions. Please join us for this journey in healing.

organ concert

Jonas Nordwall

Jonas Nordwall will be giving a "Holiday Pops" concert at Portland's historic Hollywood Theater on Sunday, November 19, at 2:00 PM. He will be playing a special four manual Allen Renaissance Digital Theater Organ temporarily loaned to the theater. This is the only public installation of this style of digital organ on the West Coast.

The Columbia River Organ Club is sponsoring this event as a fund raiser for the Hollywood Theater's Pipe Organ Project. General Admission is \$12, seniors are \$8, and children and students with ID cards will be admitted free. Tickets will be available at the door. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear Jonas perform popular music in the Portland area.

fellowship

opportunities of note

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, November 4, at 12:30 PM for a potluck and program in Room 202. Bring a dish to share, table service will be provided. Our program will feature René Pino, a church member, who will talk to us about growing up in Cuba. He will share his life story and the influence Methodist missionaries had there. For more information contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

FOOD AND FRIENDS

Enjoy good food and fine people? Join Food and Friends on November 10, at 6:30 PM at Al-Amir Restaurant. This group of parents meets monthly at a local restaurant to dine and chat. Nursery care at the church is available starting at 6:00 PM for a \$5.00 donation per child. Carpooling is available from the church. Al-Amir is a Lebanese restaurant located at: 233 SW Stark Street, Portland. Their web site is: www.alamirportland.com. Reservations are required. Contact Agnes Zach with your reservation at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or azach@fumcpdx.org.

creative spirit

exhibitions

CREATIVE SPIRIT

The First UMC Creative Spirit Exhibition for November will be the charcoal and graphite drawings of Eileen Kane. Her exhibit, *Forms of Protest Revisited*, will feature large charcoal and graphite drawings originally done in the late 1980s and early 1990s to address the issues of apartheid in South Africa, racism in America and the first Gulf War. The exhibit will run from November 5-30 in Collins Hall. You may view the exhibit during Coffee Hour or through appointment during the week by calling the church office at 503/228-3195.



food for thought

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.

take note
special events

RECONCILING UNITED METHODISTS

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 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" at the website

PROCESS THEOLOGIAN

The Trinity Cathedral Center for Spiritual Development will host: *A Tribute of John B. Cobb, Jr., The Contribution of Process Theology to the Church Today*. There will be a Friday evening lecture on November 17 and a November 18 workshop. For information and to purchase tickets call The Center for Spiritual Development at 503/478-1218. Portland's First UMC will be the site of a reception for Dr. Cobb on Thursday, November 16 at 5:00 PM. This reception is hosted by Claremont School of Theology.

missions
come meet Evelyn Erbele

MISSIONS POTLUCK AND FORUM

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. Child care will be available. For further information, contact Dee Poujade

boo!
our children's halloween carnival

PICTURES FROM THE PARTY ...

A special thanks to Paul Adams and the First Church Youth for the fun Halloween Carnival that was held Sunday, October 29, 2006.



united methodist women

mark your calendars

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

SPECIAL SATURDAY BRUNCH

There will be a special UMW Saturday Brunch on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 10:30 AM. This is your invitation to a delightful musical program presented by Elizabeth Caswell, which will include selections from Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninov, plus some favorite hymns. Coffee and conversation will precede the concert in Room 202 with a delectable brunch to follow the concert. This is a special invitation to employed women, young mothers, and others who cannot attend regular UMW Wednesday events. RSVP to Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479 or tcfooster2@verizon.net before November 06. All women are welcome.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United's World Communion Day service will be, Friday, November 03, 2006 at the First AME Zion, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland. The program is: *Signs of Healing*. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, November 09, at 10:00 AM in the Library. The program will feature the book, *1491*, by Charles Mann and be led by Earl Riddle. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

FAITH CIRCLE

The Faith Circle will meet Wednesday, November 15, at 10:00 AM in Room 110. The program is entitled: *An All Women Mission Trip to Chile* and will be presented by Donna Waltman. Chair: Eleanor Stubbs, 503/659-9024

RUTH CIRCLE & CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Ruth Circle and Circle of Friends will combine for their November meeting. They will meet Wednesday, November 15, at noon in Room 202. The program is entitled: *Methodist Quilts in Oregon* and will be presented by Mary Cross. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Chairs: Betty-Lou Hare: 503/292-1773 and Trudy Kayser: 503/292-7528

NO BOARD MEETING

There will be no UMW Board Meeting in November.



COLUMBIA SYMPHONY CONCERT

The Columbia Symphony Orchestra presents a concert, "Memorable Melodies" on Friday, November 17, 2006, 8:00 PM. at the First United Methodist Church. The concert will include works by Finzi, Mozart, Lehar, and Hanson's Symphony No. 2. Tickets are available at the door at the time of the performance and through the orchestra office by calling 503-234-4077. Ticket prices are \$25 adult/ \$20 senior /\$5 student.



the
edge
thoughts
for the
journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

In his book, *Sabbath Time*, Tilden Edwards reminds us that the Hebrew word for God's resting that is used in the fourth commandment literally means "to catch one's breath."

Are you able to "catch your breath" during the week? How do you do this on a regular basis?

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN ...

Jane Lenon, whose husband, the
Honorable Judge Harlow Lenon, died on October 25, 2006;
Mike Rogers, mother of the Rev. Brenda Sene, who is
suffering with memory issues and balance problems;
Lettie Schulz, the mother of Cindy Force;
who is in hospice care at Hopewell House;
Bryan Smith, the son of the Rev. Jim and June Smith, who is
recovering from pancreatic cancer surgery;
Louise Jorgensen, who will have heart surgery on November 6;
Marion Poindexter, making good recovery from a broken hip
and arm. She is at Crestview Rehab Center;
Michael Panck, who left for Iraq is with the First Cavalry
Division north of Baghdad;
Marilen McGill, who is recovering from a broken ankle.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Dick & Agnes Clark, Janet Bennett,
Dwight Gilley, Jackie Bullock and Tom Iverson.

a chuckle

the lighter side



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 15, 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.