



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S

SUNDAY

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 2007

The United Methodist Women have prepared a worship service that you won't want to miss. No, we won't have clowns, trapeze artists, or exotic animals, but do expect a "parade" led by banners, to begin this celebration of women in ministry. You'll be greeted and ushered by women, and every woman present will receive a specially made ribbon that will remind her of ways in which her life is a life of ministry.

We'll celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the full ordination of women in the Methodist Church with a litany that leads us through the rich history that led to this significant milestone. A timeline will take you through the years of struggle and into the present. Through words of inspiration, brought to us by Colleen Foster, Retired Diaconal Minister, you'll meet some remarkable pioneers of the past and you'll rejoice as we designate a woman in our midst as one who is "making a difference."

juBELLation, led by Karin McDonough, will ring, and our youth choir Veritas, led by Carol Young, will sing. The lovely Psalm 121, *Lift Thine Eyes*, will be presented by an all-woman choir, and the offertory will feature Anna Viemeister's incomparable voice.

Our altar arrangement is another part of the celebration, as lovingly given by United Methodist Women in honor of all women, and to celebrate this important anniversary of women's ordination.

The celebration continues, with a fascinating conversation--via video in the Commons-- between Oregon-Idaho Bishop Hoshibata and the Rev. Grace Weaver, one of the first women ordained, in the former Idaho Conference, in 1956.

There will be special guests at worship for this colorful and thought provoking service, and a wonderful surprise in store. See you on Sunday!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Global Mission Committee will sponsor a performance by The Watoto Children's Choir on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Providing the perfect remedy to lift the spirits on a dark, cold night, these talented children will share a message of hope and light. Admission is free; however, a donation is requested to support the choir and its work.

Watoto, in the children's native language of Ugandan, means the children. Since 1994 this choir, accompanied by a small team of adults, has regularly toured the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. Watoto's performances are a soulful blend of native African rhythms, contemporary gospel music and ethnic dance. These children, ages 6-16, are among the more than 880,000 children in Uganda who have had the tragic and life-altering experience of losing one or both parents to HIV-AIDS.

Preceding the concert, the families hosting the choir members and their chaperones will hold a potluck supper in Room 202. Any members of the church family wishing to attend are welcome; please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. For further information, call Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337 or e-mail: deelaw33@hotmail.com.

January 24, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 02

THIS SUNDAY

JANUARY 28, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING
Colleen Foster

**A CONVERSATION
WITH OUR
CHILDREN**
Lynn Porta



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.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

The portrait of Jesus painted by the four gospels is bold. It reveals a man of deep compassion, courageously serving others-particularly the poor and marginalized. But look closely and you will find the painters employed two distinct palettes.

Swirling and flowing generously across the painting are the gentle and tender colors of shepherd extending mercy to everyone-particularly the poor and marginalized. Jesus healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, fed the multitudes, comforted the grieving and embraced the children. He treated everyone-including a diminutive tax collector, a Samaritan woman, and a thief on the cross, with dignity, understanding and forgiveness.

But splashed into the image are the stirring and dramatic colors of the prophet demanding for justice for all, standing against laws and powers that ignore human need and sweeping the temple of those who would exploit the poor by making a commodity out of God's place.

The gospels are trying to communicate that compassion has two sides. One side is care and comfort for those who hunger and ache. The other is wholehearted commitment and effort to change the attitudes and systems that oppress and dehumanize. In other words, "compassion" is both mercy and justice. Any painting of Christ that has one and not the other is incomplete. Together there is harmony and balance.

We can be proud of the many colorful brushstrokes this congregation has added to Christ's image. We offer comfort and care to the homeless, hungry, those who anguish and grieve, the lonely and the destitute. We have worked for reconciliation, spoken for justice, called for peace, and worked to improve our community and our world.

But the picture is far from finished. In the next few weeks we will have several opportunities to add to it!

We are invited to strengthen our "serve" by volunteering in the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, bringing food on Communion Sunday, and working on a Habitat for Humanity home.

Alongside are important opportunities to speak out for justice and work for change. February 5th will be the first of several organized efforts to advocate for health care, hunger relief, and care of the earth at the Legislature in Salem. Information forums, training and strategic efforts continue to fight homelessness, alleviate the causes of hunger, provide medical care for all, and fight global warming.

Will you be part of painting the picture of compassion-the portrait of Christ?

See you in Church,

Arvin

FAITH *into* PRACTICE

INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY

On Monday, February 5, 2007 there will be an Interfaith Advocacy Day at the Oregon State Capitol. First Church will meet at 7:15 AM in the First Church parking lot to carpool to Salem and return at 5:00 PM. Registration materials are available in the Commons and church office.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Join a Habitat for Humanity Work Team on Saturday, February 10, 2007. On that day, join pastors Arvin Luchs and Lowell Greathouse from 12:30 to 4:30 PM as a part of a Metro District Habitat Work Team. The site for the project is in the Hillsboro area, and members from Lake Oswego UMC will also be a part of the team that day. There are eight slots open for members from First Church. If you are interested, either sign up at the Church and Society table in the Commons on Sunday or let contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 or lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

RECONCILING SUNDAY

feb. 4

Sunday, February 4, 2007, will be Reconciling Sunday at First Church. In 1993, First Church adopted the following statement of purpose: "All persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are invited to worship and serve God at First United Methodist Church by full and open participation in every aspect of church life." Join us at 10:30 AM on Sunday, February 4, 2007 for this special Sunday, when we once again remember the meaning of this commitment in our collective life. In addition, coffee hour will be hosted by members of the Reconciling Ministry team at First Church.

adults at first

sunday classes



THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
How do you introduce Christians to Islam? The Fellowship of Seekers is going to find out.

Amir Hussain, who loves both religions, speaks of both with the candor that only love can confer in his book, *Oil & Water*. While conveying a core of basic information, this cogent, deeply personal book dodges none of the questions that most sharply divide these two religions.

The Seekers begin their study February 4. They meet every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. with discussions led by class members. Join in! Books are available in the classroom.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM. Changing Christianity will attend the Lane McGaughey class on January 28th.

DR. LANE MCGAUGHEY CLASS

Join Dr. Lane McGaughey from Willamette University for the final installment of a special three-part series: *The Legends of the Apostles*, on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room.

January 28 The Apostolic Faith: The Acts of Andrew, the Acts of Paul, and the Acts of the Apostles

READERS' THEATER CLASS BEGINS

A four-session Sunday morning Readers' Theater Class will begin February 4, 2007. We will read Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*, a true classic of 20th century American theatre. As part of First UMC's honoring of Black History Month, our reading (with discussion) of the play will cover three consecutive Sundays. The final session will be overview of our discussion. We will also read selected poems of Pulitzer Prize Winner Maya Angelou. Join us on these Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

GLOBAL WARMING: CHANGING COURSE

Planet Church will be offering the *Global Warming: Changing Course Program*. The Northwest Earth Institute has created a new four-session program on global warming, which will help participants understand the science and history of global warming, explore personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, and inspire actions to curb global warming. An orientation will be held Sunday, February 18, 2007, from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in Room 160.

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.

UMW SUNDAY

The Sunday morning worship service on January 28. will be: Celebrating 50 years of Women in Ordained Ministry. See the cover article of this issue of this Circuit Rider for more information.

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, January 31, at 10:00 AM in Room 110.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 31, at 11:30 AM. We will continue our study of globalization by visiting Ten Thousand Villages, 914 N.W. Everett, the store with fairly traded handicrafts from around the world. We'll meet at the church, travel together to the store, and then go out to lunch. Visitors are always welcome. For info, call for Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528. Circle of Friends thanks all who have purchased fairly traded chocolates and teas during Coffee Hour in December. The response was so positive that we hope to repeat the project for Valentine's Day.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Winter Forum will be Thursday, February 01, 2007. Program: Alzheimer's led by Mary Ballantyne. For more information contact Betty-Lou Hare at 503/292-1773

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, February 7, 2007 in the Fireside Room. At 10:00 AM there will be a time of meeting and sharing. The program will begin at 11:00 AM. The program will be: *It Takes a Team! Helping Kids Face Forward*, presented by Janet Brockman, MS, CCSP of the OHSU Craniofacial Program. Both men and women are invited. For information contact Pat Brockman. Lunch will be at noon in Room 202. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverage provided.

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, February 8, at 10:00 AM in the Library. The program will feature: *Shanghai Diary* by Ursula Bacon, led by Jane Lemmon Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445.

travel adventures

local and abroad

FEBRUARY 15 ■ ANCIENT EGYPT AT THE ART MUSEUM

Join us on Thursday, February 15, 2007 for the local travel adventure: *Treasures of Ancient Egypt* at the Portland Art Museum. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM for our short ride to a local restaurant and then a tour that afternoon through *The Quest for Immortality* exhibit at the museum. Cost is \$15 for the Egypt exhibit, lunch on your own. To register, contact Shirley Blalock at the church office at 503/228-3195. Questions: contact Lowell Greathouse.

NEW TOURS ANNOUNCED-- PREVIEW SCHEDULED

A holiday cruise on the Danube to the Christmas Markets of Germany, and a tour of Tropical Costa Rica are now open for reservations! Christmas on the Danube, December 11-19, 2007, features a six-night cruise in a new Princess ship. You'll visit the charming Christmas markets and other sights, with the trip ending in Vienna. A slide presentation featuring the Danube Cruise (with some information on Costa Rica), will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 1:30 PM, in the Fireside Room. For the adventuresome, we go to Tropical Costa Rica in March 2008. Costa Rica has become a favorite destination to experience the natural beauty of the tropics. This tour will offer opportunities for soft-adventure: walking through the lush forests, a river boat trip, a choice of a canopy tour of the Cloud Forest—or the exciting zip line traverse! A slide presentation on the Costa Rica tour, with some information on the Danube Cruise, will be held Sunday, March 4, 2007 at noon in the Fireside Room. Each trip is \$2,299 per person, double occupancy, and includes air from Portland. You are invited to attend a slide presentation to learn about these exciting, affordable destinations. For information contact Cheryl Luce at 503/380-8604 or cheryl.luce@gmail.com.

health care

a forum

THE TIME IS NOW: FIXING THE BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM!

A Health Care Forum is scheduled on Sunday, February 4 in the Fireside Room, beginning with lunch at 12:15 PM, kids are welcome to eat lunch with us followed by a staffed "kid care" time. The forum will be over by 2:00 PM.

The forum celebrates the recently passed, Oregon Prescription Plan (OPDP), a very meaningful success. There will also be presentations regarding the next step to be taken, passage of health care legislation during the 6 month Oregon State legislative session that began on January 7 in Salem. The following health care initiatives being introduced in the legislature include the Archimedes Movement, the Oregon Senate Plan, others not yet known, and the Healthy American's Plan, being introduced in the U.S. Congress by Oregon's Senator Wyden. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period with the presenters: Cheryl Bittle, Debbie Fisher, Dick Pomeroy and Mary Beth Healy, from Oregonians for Health Security. Lowell Greathouse will be the moderator.

After the question and answer period there will be a discussion on how one can help make Fixing the broken health care system a reality. This will be led by Mary Beth Healy and Dick Pomeroy.

ELECTIVES

for

ENRICHMENT

In this five-week class speakers from the Muslim Educational Trust will share information about Islam and Muslims to help us better understand issues facing Muslims in America and to ease some of the tensions between Christians and Muslims. In each class we will have the opportunity for discussion of the issues raised in that day's lecture.

Week 1: January 29

Introduction

Wajid Said, Executive Director of Muslim Educational Trust, will introduce the topic.

Week 2: February 5

Muhammad: Prophet for Our Time

Karen Armstrong's book, *Muhammad: Prophet for Our Time*, will be the focus of this session. It will be available for purchase for \$18 on the first day of class. It is strongly recommended that everyone read Armstrong's book.

Week 3: February 12

Islam and Muslims in the Media

Week 4: February 26

Gender Equity in Islam

Week 5: March 5

Current Christian-Muslim Relations in America

Classes will be on Mondays, beginning January 29 from 10:00 AM to noon in the Fireside Room.

Tuition is \$15.00 for the five-week course. Scholarships are available. To register call Shirley Blalock at 503/228-3195 ext 225 or e-mail her sblalock@fumcpdx.org. For questions about the program, call Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 ext 224 or e-mail him at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org. Registration forms are also available in the church office.

THE FIRST CHURCH
PANCAKE
PapA PALOOZA
SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2007

11:45 AM COLLINS HALL

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES



fellowship FUN good food

PANCAKE BRUNCH
 by the youth

**nordwall
 organ
 education
 fund**



The Nordwall Organ Education Fund was created and named to honor the artistry and years of dedication to the church given by Jonas Nordwall, our organist for over 35 years. The interest from the endowment is to be used by a person interested in furthering their interests and enhancing their ability to become a church organist by providing personalized education from Jonas.

It is with pleasure that we announce that a scholarship has been granted to Nathan Avakian. He is committed to working to understand traditional and contemporary functions and applications of using the organ for worship services as well as improving his playing, accompanying and musical skills. He will have lessons from Jonas for the next two years, and will occasionally play for a part of our worship services. The fund will also allow Nathan to become a member of the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organist's.

Nathan expressed his musical interest at an early age. Now 15 years old, Nathan is becoming an accomplished young organist.

In his short career, Nathan has performed in various venues in his hometown of Portland, Oregon; at the Elsinore Theater of Salem, Oregon and at Kenyon Hall in Seattle, Washington. He also attended the 2005 Theatre Oregon Workshop at Colorado State University. This past summer Nathan had the thrill of playing the Mighty Wurlitzer of Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona.

In addition to his work on the organ, Nathan is interested in theater, dance and his school work. His fellow students recently selected him as Outstanding Student of the Month of his high school. He is thankful to Portland's First United Methodist Church for both its scholarship and its confidence in him.

the edge
 thoughts
 for the journey

**Rev. Lowell Greathouse,
 Minister of Discipleship**

In the shadow of Martin Luther King Day, when we remember the depth and power of his witness to our nation, it is good to remember the role that we each play in creating the kind of world we live in: "Ultimately ethics and morality are not about heroes and leaders and shining examples. They are about the day-to-day and moment-to-moment ways in which we conduct our own lives, and what our basic stance is toward those tendencies in our own minds that drive us toward greed, hatred, and delusion when what we most need is to tap the deeper resources of our own hearts for kindness, generosity, compassion, and goodwill." (*Coming to Our Senses: Healing Ourselves and the World through Mindfulness*, by Jon Kabat-Zinn)

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY ...

The family of Tom Iverson, Tom died on January 14, 2007 and his service will be Saturday, February 3, at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.

The family of Jane Baker, Jane died on January 15. Her service will be held in Ohio. Jane is the mother of Sarah Baker.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN ...

Robert & Virginia Anderson, as they both struggle with health problems;

Bill Hill, who is at home after a hospitalization.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Dick Clark, Lettie Schulz, Bryan Smith, Beverly Allan, and Michael Panck who is serving in Baghdad.



Our Members in the Service

First Church is seeking to develop a complete and updated list of those related to this congregation serving in the military overseas so that we may keep them in prayer. If you have a name to add to this list please contact Rev. Tom Foster at 503/228-3195 ext. 233 or e-mail him at tfoster@fumcpdx.org.



First Church's First Sunday is FISH Sunday has greatly benefited the our local food bank. FISH received a total of 252 pounds of food from First UMC in November and 518 pounds of food in December. Thanks for helping make this happen!



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 **February 7, 2007**.

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.