



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

April 18, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 08

THIS SUNDAY

April 22, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

A CONVERSATION
WITH OUR
CHILDREN
Annie Heart



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.



**CAPITAL PROJECTS
CAMPAIGN
KICK-OFF**
APRIL 22, 2007
see page 2 for further details



**VOLUNTEER
WEEK** APRIL 28 —
MAY 5, 2007

Saturday, April 28
Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Tuesday, May 1
Outside In

Thursday, May 3
North East Emergency Food Program

Saturday, May 5
Goose Hollow Family Homeless Shelter

Sign-up forms available in church office



YOUTH SUNDAY
APRIL 29, 2007
"TRUST"

celebrating our past—creating our future

capital funds campaign - 2007

During our 50 years in this church building, we have grown in many ways as a dynamic congregation, through worship and outreach. Just as we have studied ways of defining how we want to express our faith as a congregation, so we must also envision how we want to use and develop our wonderful church building.

This capital campaign provides an opportunity for us to become a more hospitable and welcoming community of faith. The campaign provides ways to integrate our worship experience and to respond to pressing physical plant needs that must be addressed.

In summary, the *Celebrating Our Past—Creating Our Future* campaign will ...

- Enhance our sanctuary with a new sound system, a rebuilt organ, new safer risers for the choir, handicapped accessibility to the chancel area, new lighting, focus our worship around the communion table and cross, new pew cushions and flooring repairs, among the upgrades.
- Double the size of our narthex. The new area will provide more space for hospitality and welcoming for members and visitors alike. It will provide technologies to provide better information sharing, and it will be open for formal and informal gatherings around our worship and communal gatherings.
- Expand utilization of Beckham Court. Now largely inaccessible, Beckham Court will become a space for all to use, with doors opening from the narthex. It will have an area for meditation and contemplation, an area to expand gatherings for conversation and the play of children, and a curving stone wall that will provide space for a memorial garden, where we can continue to honor the “saints” of our church.
- Replace the aging and leaking roof over Collins Hall and the Fireside Room. Finally, retire a debt obligation incurred primarily because of the necessary replacement of the heating and air-conditioning system some years ago.
- The campaign’s goal of \$2,100,000 is an ambitious one, but that is the goal to achieve the items mentioned above. Once accomplished, our church building can serve our mission for generations to come.
- Please join us in helping accomplish these important projects.



*the
edge*
thoughts
for the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Between the events of Holy Week and the aftermath of Easter, there is too much to take in. It is simply difficult to absorb the full meaning of Jesus’ message of love and his understanding of the Kingdom of God. This is when the theological implications of Mae West’s comment “too much of a good thing is wonderful” ring true. Even so, it is a lot to understand. So, I turn to the wisdom of Brother Roger of Taize, who was such an able spiritual guide. Brother Roger put it this way: “Remain attentive to those who see things differently from you. They are often honest and they perceive in Christ something of the invisible that he has been manifesting to people across the centuries. Do not close yourself. Live the little bit of gospel you have grasped.” Maybe this is all we are called to do in life: to live the little bits of the gospel that we have grasped.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
How do you introduce Christians to Islam? 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. Join us in our study of this insightful book.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

The Changing Christianity class will combine with the Global Warming course in Room 202.

GLOBAL WARMING: CHANGING CO2URSE

Global Warming: Changing CO2urse, is a course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute. This four-week course will begin Sunday, April 15 and go through May 6, 2007. It will meet at 9:00 AM in Room 202. Participants may purchase the materials for \$15.00. This course will be a great chance for you to learn more and participate in the dialogue about how to address the issue of global

warming and our environment. If you have questions or would like to sign up for this class, contact: Annie Heart at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 or aheart@fumcpdx.org.

OUR ENDANGERED VALUES

BY JIMMY CARTER:

APRIL 15, 22 AND 29

Join us for this three-part series, using Jimmy Carter's recent book *Our Endangered Values*. As Carter writes, "Americans cherish the greatness of our homeland, but many do not realize how extensive and profound are the transformations that are now taking place in our nation's basic moral values and political philosophy." Be a part of this lively discussion as we look at the current changes taking place in America

When: The class will meet on Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15AM.



WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

All women are invited to the following meetings. President: Pat Brockman, 503.292.6270.

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON & QUILT SHOW

The Annual UMW Spring Luncheon and Quilt Show will be Friday, May 4, at noon in Collins Hall. The popular Cover to Cover quilters will be with us again. This year the quilts will feature: *The Whale Rider* by Wili Ihimaera. Tickets will be available in Collins Hall on April 1, 15, 22 for \$15.00. \$10.00 of that amount will go to funding UMW mission projects. For tickets, contact Ruth Green at 503/698-8420 or RuthEGreen@juno.com. Make checks payable to: United Methodist Women.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UWM Unit Gathering will be on Wednesday, May 2 in the Fireside Room only. Meeting and sharing will begin at 10:00 AM with the program at 11:00 AM. The program will be the last in the School of Mission studies. The focus has been on 1) the effects of Globalization, 2) the nature of Peace, and 3) concerns of people in Indian & Pakistan. As an added extra, you'll receive a sneak preview of next year's mission studies. A highlight will be a brief World Thank Offering service. Information: Colleen Foster. Also, a special awareness of world needs will be observed through a lunch-time fast, for those who wish to participate. What if you could save a child's life just by skipping lunch one day? Malaria kills one child in Africa every 30 seconds. A \$10 contribution will buy an insecticide-treated bed net for a child in Africa. Bill & Melinda Gates will match your contribution, so that your gift will have twice the impact.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

May Friendship Day, Friday, May 4, Registration. 9:30 AM. Community of Christ Church, 4837 NE Couch, Portland
Program: Friends under God's Wing, Women Caring for Women Fellowship of the Least Coin Annual Offering. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare

BOARD MEETING

Note the time change for the board meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, April 25, 11:30 AM, room 204. For our special baby shower meeting, bring unwrapped baby shower items, new or gently used, that can be donated to FISH. Following your sack lunch, Grace Renfroe & Marie McVein will lead us in Baby Bingo. We'll conclude with dessert. Guests are always welcome. Chair: Trudy Kayser 503-292-7528.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 2, 9:30 - 10:00 AM. Room 110. Please be prompt. Chair: Pat Brockman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 12-15. School of Christian Mission, Geo. Fox U., Newberg, OR
September 22 Metro District Annual UMW Conference
October 25-27. UMW Oregon-Idaho Conference meeting at First Church, Portland

please take note

items of interest

GORDON AND TECA GREATHOUSE TO SPEAK AT FIRST CHURCH

Gordon and Teca Greathouse, will share their experiences from 25+ years as missionaries in Brazil on Wednesday, April 18, in Collins Hall at 5:30 PM. The presentation will conclude with a Brazilian meal provided by the Global Mission Committee. Gordon, a native Oregonian and member of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, and Teca, a native of Brazil are presently in the United States visiting supporting churches and sharing information about their work. Donations will be accepted. For further information, contact Dee Poujade at deelaw33@hotmail.com or Lowell Greathouse at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER BEN LINDER

On Friday, April 27 at 7:00 PM in Portland's First UMC Collins Hall there will be remembrance on the 20th anniversary of Ben Linder's death in Nicaragua. An Evening to Remember Ben Linder and Learn How His Work Continues is sponsored by the Linder family and several local organizations. Ben Linder, was the Portland engineer murdered by U.S.-backed contras at age 27 in Nicaragua. Come learn how the rural development project he helped launch in northern Nicaragua continues today. The event is free. Donations to continue Ben's work in Nicaragua are welcome. For more information call John Linder, 503/777-6513, or Green Empowerment at 503/284-5774.

UMC HIKERS

The April hike will be on Saturday, April 28, 2007 and will be led by Marge Terdal. We will meet in the First United Methodist Church parking lot at 9:00 AM, to form car pools. The hike will be a 4.25 mile section of the Maple Trail in Forest Park. Please call Marge Terdal at 503/244-5714 or email her at terdalm@pdx.edu if you plan to hike or for more information.



LAST CHANCE BOOK SALE

On Sunday, April 29, after church, the hardworking Library Committee will offer all the books left over from the Papapalooza extravaganza Book Sale. Transactions are by donation; take what you want, and leave what you can. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the Library.

PRIMETIMERS AT UMCOR SAGER BROWN IN BALDWIN, LOUISIANA

Come to Louisiana to experience firsthand the material resources ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. From October 21-27, 2007, you will have the opportunity to take a tour of and work in the UMCOR Depot where material resources are processed for worldwide relief and national disaster response. This event also provides an opportunity to learn about the various cultures in the area. Participants will also participate in field trips to a variety of local attractions, one of which may be a swamp tour to experience the life in and on the swamps, including shrimp boats and alligators.



SEE
THE
HIT
MUSICAL
SPAMALOT
AUGUST 29
RESERVE
YOUR TICKET
NOW

We have 32 tickets available for Spamalot, winner of the Best Musical 2005 Tony Award, for Wednesday, August 29 at 7:30 PM Cost is \$67.00 per ticket. Spamalot is the retelling of the family classic, "Monty Python and The Holy Grail." Reserve your tickets by contacting Agnes Zach at azach@fumcpdx.org or 503-228-3195 ext 227.

highlights

from the council

These were the items at the Leadership Council Meeting held March 21:

- A Look at what's ahead at First Church for April and May.
- Highlighted Item: Capital Campaign "Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future"
- Proposed Budget for 2007 recommended by Finance Committee and approved by the Council.
- Committee Sharing:
 - * Church & Society
 - * Outreach
 - * Music
 - * Adult Ministries
 - * Children's Ministries
 - * United Methodist Women
 - * Stewardship

The Highlighted Item for May:
STEWARDSHIP

Next Leadership Council Meeting: May 16, 2007, 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.

Leadership Council Minutes are in the office for your review.

goose hollow

shelter needs

Goose Hollow Family Shelter will be open until April 30th and your help is needed. We still have 8 families staying at the Shelter. Please visit the website or visit our table in Collins Hall after church to volunteer one more time!

www.fumcpdx.org/goosehollowfamilyshelter.

We also need donations of shampoo and cream rinse, razors, diapers (sizes 4 and 5), baby wipes, fresh fruit, cold cereal, bread, fruit juice. Contact Annie Heart, Shelter Director, for more information 503-228-3195 x 215

church & society

internship opportunity

First United Methodist Church & Society for Social Justice is seeking a student (preferably older than 16 years of age), or other young adult, (from First United Methodist Church) interested in participating in an Internship Program with a nonprofit organization. Preferably the organization is affiliated with First United Methodist Church, whose mission or ministry reflects the spirit of Jesus' words: "I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to see me."

This is an opportunity for a student/young adult, with or without, training in a profession to gain practical experience under the direction of someone experienced in a profession/community service setting. The prospective agency or organization, chosen by the intern, should be one that is already affiliated in some way with First UMC, or would like to form a connectional relationship with First UMC in service to others.

This is a temporary position with emphasis on a learning and serving experience rather than employment. The scope of the position can be designed to fit the needs of both the intern and the organization served, based on the goals and desired learning experience of the internship. This is a paid internship funded by a private grant made to First United Methodist Church.

We will be funding two interns this summer. Applications need to be received by May 15th. If interested please contact Annie Heart at 503-228-3195 x 215 or email: Aheart@fumcpdx.org for a complete description of the Internship Guidelines.

earth day festival

being environmentally friendly

First Congregational United Church of Christ is seeking to increase awareness of sustainable and environmentally friendly practices by sponsoring an "Earth Day Festival" on Sunday April 22nd, starting at noon in the Park Blocks near the church. There will be information, and demonstrations to share concerns about the well-being of creation. There will be Tri-Met tickets, energy saving light bulbs and much more.

As part of the event the congregation will present Tri-Met with their first Annual Stewardship Award for efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Everyone is welcome.

bread for the world

letter writing campaign



Save the Sundays April 22 and 29, 2007 to participate in the Bread for the World 2007 Offering of Letters Campaign. In Collins Hall after worship on Sundays, April 22 and 29 join Bread for the World members across the country by writing a letter to our Senators and Congressional Representatives on the need to improve our nation's Farm Policy to better serve:

- Hungry people in the US
- US farmers and rural communities
- Farmers in developing countries struggling to sell their crops and feed families.

The Hunger Task Force will be there with sample letters, supplies, and specific ideas to include in your letters. Help us meet our 2007 goal of 100 letters from our congregation.

electives

for enrichment

Bill Moyers



& FAITH REASON

When religion and secularism meet the result is often a labyrinth of misunderstanding. In a five-session class, based on Bill Moyers' PBS series: *Faith and Reason*, we will explore the jagged, mysterious region between rationality and belief guided by the provocative insights of eight significant novelists and writers. Their views range from Islam through traditional Christianity all the way to agnosticism. Dr. Luchs will facilitate discussion of some of the most challenging issues for believers in this 'post-modern' world. The class will meet in the Fireside Room on Monday mornings from 10:00 AM to noon from April 23 through May 21, 2007.

our prayers and thanksgiving

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY ...

The family of Brian Smith, he died recently following a long battle with cancer. He was the son of Rev. Jim & June Smith; George & Paula Van Hart, their grandson died in WA State.

PRAYER CONCERN FOR ...

Bill Guyer, who is in Good Samaritan Hospital recovering from a stroke. Jim Jozwiak, who has cancer of his esophagus.

NOTES FROM THE CONGREGATION

Dear First Church friends,
I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your calls, cards, prayers, care and concern during my recent illness and hospitalization. A very special thank you to Rev. Tom Foster for his calls and concern. I am feeling much better and am anxious to get back to my normal active routine. I am really blessed to have such wonderful caring friends. Thank you!

Paula Justice



Thank you to my church family for your notes and prayers during my recent surgery. I am recovering rapidly.

Marliss Shelton

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Sadame Tsunenaga and Dick Clark

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Daniel Bomberger, in the USAF in Kyrgyzstan;

Jared Bomberger, in the USAF in Turkey;

They are sons of Judy Bomberger and grandsons of Betty Hager;

Michael Panck, in the US Army in Baghdad;

He is the son of Ken & Ruthann Panck;

John Lemmon, in the US Army in Baghdad;

He is the grandson of Betty Lemmon;

Steven Johnson, in the US Army in Afghanistan;

He is the son of Doug Johnson;

Karl Alger, in the US Army in Iraq;

They are nephews of Naomi Charbonneau; and grandsons of the late Edie Alger;

Vanessa Walton, working for US Army in Iraq;

She is the daughter of Richard & Elizabeth Walton;

Craig Kubala, with US Army Special Forces in

Afghanistan;

Craig is the husband of Venessa.

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 **May 2, 2007**.

Bulletin insert information is due no later than 4:45 pm 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.

a pastoral letter

April 17, 2007

Friends,

I'm sure most of you, like me, were stunned last Monday as horror unfolded on the campus of Virginia Tech University. Throughout the day I found myself pausing to pray for those who died and all the suffering students, faculty and staff, as well as the families and friends whose hopes and dreams were shattered by the mindless violence that erupted on that once-serene campus.

I found myself pondering what agony gripped the heart of Cho Seung-hui, the 23-year-old gunman, and turned him so cold and cruel that he could kill with no seeming regret? I prayed for him, for his family—and for those nameless, unknown others who struggle as he must have. May God bring help and ease for the turmoil in their soul.

And I agonized once more over why we so quickly turn to weapons, somehow convinced that armed force, death, and destruction will solve problems and bring peace?

In the wake of such a bewildering tragedy it is understandable that many of us look for meaning and seek guidance and comfort. I believe we can find it in the Easter message of an empty cross—and a risen Lord.

We who have stood in the shadow of a cross declare that rage and violence are not an answer. Christ demonstrated that the deep and vexing issues of our souls, the alienation and loneliness of broken relationships, the chasms of dispute and difference, are solved by listening to each other, respecting our differences, and reaching out to one another with compassion: by love and justice—not violence and brutality.

We whose hearts have been warmed by an Easter's dawn proclaim that death is not the end—our hope and confidence is in an eternal power that is stronger—even stronger than death. We have discovered that sown into the soil of grief and despair are seeds of new life, redemption and hope. We must not minimize the pain and the loss. But, in confidence and trust, we can sensitively tend fields of hearts—wherever they are stripped bare—watering them with tender grace until God's miracle blossoms with the flowers of new hope.

Please join with me in these difficult days, lifting our prayers, expressing our deepest sympathy—but never losing confidence in the eventual, victorious love of God.

In Christ,

Arvin

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