



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

YOUTH and CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH

May 2, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 09

**THIS
SUNDAY**

May 6, 2007

**COMMUNION
WORSHIP
10:30 AM**

MEDITATION
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.



YOUTH SUNDAY WAS APRIL 29

First United Methodist Youth led the worship service on Sunday, April 29, after working for months to bring it all together. The message of the day was Trust in God, with illustrations that included throwing paper fish from the choir loft during the children's time. Along with three separate perspectives on the message of trust, we had special music from The Andersons, Veritas, juBELLation and a solo presentation. Thank you to all the youth who helped make this year's Youth Sunday such a huge success!

SOUND SEEKERS MUSICAL MAY 13

From the Helmet of Salvation all the way down to the Shoes of Promise, "Kingdom Quest" shows us that the easiest way is not always the best way. Through lively music, and engaging characters the message is strong that God is always with us no matter what. Please join us May 13th as the Soundseekers teach us how to put on the "Full Armor of God."





memo
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Today I worshiped—no, not just attended worship—but experienced and celebrated the presence of God. Judging from comments I heard, many of you did as well.

This morning was "Youth Sunday" some of the teens from our congregation guided our prayers, shared the scriptures, lifted our hearts with music, and inspired us. Their important message—that when we trust God, grace fills our lives—is at the heart of the Gospel. From the amazing string duet prelude-through the benediction, my soul was nourished. Thank you to the kids, their adult advisers and Paul Adams our Director of Youth Ministries!

Our children and youth are our most precious gift. Jesus agreed! I don't know the age of the young people who surrounded the master that day in Galilee, but he wanted them near. "...to such as these the kingdom of God belongs." he announced. (Mk 10:14 NRSV)

I know many of you agree, and show it with attention and care. And that love is already producing amazing results. Imagine what a wonderful world it would be if children and youth everywhere were to experience the love, nurture, education, and care that we try to give to our children and youth.

Sadly, we know that does not happen. That fact came home to me this week. Poverty, war, famine, preventable (and curable) illnesses hit hard the vulnerable in our world—children and the elderly. Many children—even in our community—will go to bed hungry tonight. Paying vicious international debt has leached money away from education and health care in lesser developed countries. Over 20 million of the children in our world have lost a parent to HIV/AIDS and another 12 million are orphaned by the pandemic.

Thankfully, people of compassion are rallying to respond. Our congregation has been supportive of regional efforts: "Outside/In," "Stand for Children," and "Children First." Last week our denomination became a founding member of "Global Action for Children," an international cooperative headed by The Rev. Mpho Tutu (Archbishop Tutu's daughter) that is gearing up to urge our country to fund free public education in developing countries. Very visible in their effort is Angelina Jolie who, alone with her husband, Brad Pitt, has donated \$1 million to the project. Through our "connection" we can participate by direct involvement and with gifts given through the Advance for Christ. (see: www.globalactionforchildren.org)

I was so proud of our youth today, and I pray for that day when parents, pastors and parishioners everywhere will rejoice at the faith and talent of our precious resources.

Oh, and if you missed "Youth Sunday," on May 12th the Sound Seeker Children's Choir will bring our morning message as they present the musical, "Kingdom Quest." It promises to be another unforgettable worship experience. Don't miss it!

See you in Church!

Arvin

the edge
thoughts for the journey

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

Sometimes we don't need to travel very far to discover the most important things in life. This truth is reflected in James Dillet Freeman's poem "In Me The Light":

I went about looking everywhere for the light.
 I pored over books,
 Thinking there I would find it;
 I sat at the feet of teachers,
 Thinking they would show me where it is;
 I followed scientific methods,
 I practiced mystic rites,
 Thinking surely it would shine forth somewhere

And at last it did.
 I quit seeking.
 I became still.
 I turned within.
 And there—in me—
 The light began to shine.

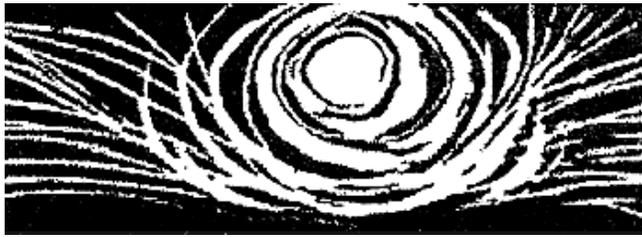
Since then,
 How many light-filled books I have opened
 And how many shining persons I have met.



Our Pledged Giving As of April 30, 2007	
Anticipated:	\$271,782.32
Received:	232,048.81

SOCIAL JUSTICE

*our history
our calling*



The Annual Spring Event of the Oregon-Idaho Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action will again be held here at First Church on Saturday, May 19, from 9am to 3pm. The keynote speaker, Sandra Olewine, is a clergy member of the California-Pacific Conference who spent 9 ½ years as the denomination's liaison in Jerusalem and authored the new study book on Israel/Palestine for the Schools of Christian Mission which are held in every UM Conference every summer.

Worship and singing will be led by John Pitney, who shares pastoral leadership with his wife Debbie at Eugene First UMC. John is a singer/songwriter who teaches and celebrates our connection to the soil and the value of community supported agriculture.

“Social Justice: Our History Our Calling” is the theme chosen to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of MFSA's founding in 1907. More than a learning experience, which it will be, the event is an opportunity to connect with other friends in the faith who share the conviction that to seek first the kingdom of God is to embrace the reality of social justice that Jesus taught and lived.

The registration cost which includes a buffet luncheon and coffee breaks is \$25 for current MFSA members and \$30 for non-members who register before the May 14 deadline. After May 14 and at the door the cost for everyone is \$35. (It pays to be a member of MFSA, and it pays to register before the deadline!) There are registration brochures in the rack in the foyer, or checks may be sent to Registrar Rev. David Bean, 4154 Calaroga Circle, West Linn, OR 97068. (Just write “Spring Event” on the memo line).

For more information see FUMC members: Pat Brockman, MFSA Board Secretary, or Marilyn Outslay, MFSA National President.



WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

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

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, May 10 at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Guests welcome. Author Evelyn Gathman Haines will review and read from her book, *A Woman For All Time*, the story of the Biblical Sarah. Information: Kitty Riddle, 503-652-6573



FAITH CIRCLE

The Faith Circle will meet Wednesday, May 16, at 11:30 AM. We will have lunch together at Ruby Tuesdays, 14550 SW Murray Scholls Drive, Beaverton. Chair: Eleanor Stubbs, 503-659-9024

RUTH CIRCLE

At noon on Wednesday, May 16, The Ruth Circle meets in Room 204. The program: Sharing a Favorite — a piece of china or jewelry, a recipe, a funny story or a poem. Guests are welcome. Bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503-292-1773



SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The Schools of Christian Mission will be held at George Fox University, Newberg, OR. It will be July 12-15 for full time attendee, or July 12-13 or July 14-15 for Mini School attendee.

Areas of study: 1) Music and Mission. 2) Globalization 3) Israel/Palestine. Spring is here. Time to register for this special summer event.

For registration forms, call Lila Palmiter, 503-675-9218

YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

On July 13-15 the Young Women's Event will be held at George Fox University, Newberg, OR. The tentative registration fee is \$100. The fee includes childcare for children age 2 and under.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 22.

UMW Metro District Annual Meeting, Montavilla UMC. Bonnie Parr Philipson, speaker, *The Bishop's Initiative on Hunger*.

October 25-27.

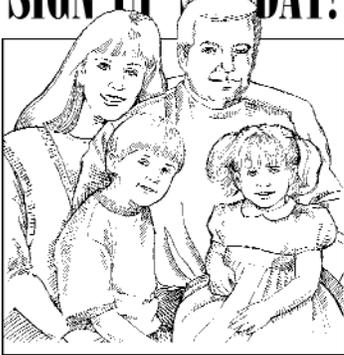
UMW Oregon-Idaho Conference Annual Meeting, First UMC, Portland



please take note

items of interest

SIGN UP SUNDAY!



NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PLANNED

Good news! Our church will publish a new pictorial directory through Olan Mills. Reserve your appointment time by signing up Sunday in the narthex.

Photography dates are: June 4 – 3:00 PM to 8:50; June 5 through June 8 – 2:00 PM to 8:20; and June 9 – 10:00 AM to 4:25 PM

Each family/household who comes for photography and portrait viewing at the church will receive a complimentary directory and 8X10 Custom Color Portrait. You will be able to select your portraits

electronically from a variety of poses. Additional Olan Mills portraits will be available for purchase. Your appointment will normally take less than one hour.

PLAN AHEAD

Mark your calendars with these great summertime events:

June 17

Summer Sunday School Begins
Ages 3-5 and entering 1st/2nd Grade

July 22

Summer Church Picnic
Oaks Park

July 30, 31, and August 1

Vacation Bible School

August 29

Spamalot, Broadway in Portland
See following article



SUMMER Sunday School

Summer Sunday School begins June 17, Father's Day.

We will have a class in Room 206 for children currently ages three through five. A second class in Room 136 will be for children entering 1st and 2nd grade.

Summer Sunday School is completely volunteer supported. We need each family to teach for at least one Sunday during the summer. Two adults are needed to lead each Sunday in each class. All supplies are provided. Return this calendar to sign-up for your Sundays to Agnes Zach, Children/Family Ministry in the office or e-mail available teaching dates to azach@fumcpdx.org.

Adult Name: _____

Contact me by phone at: _____

Contact me by email at: _____

I prefer volunteering with:

- 3 to 5 year olds
- 1st and 2nd Grade

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please circle the Sunday's you are available to teach. A calendar will be created and distributed to all families.

June:	17	24			
July:	1	8	15	22	29
August: 5	12	19	26		
Sept.:	2				

For more information contact Agnes Zach at azach@fumcpdx.org. Return this form to Agnes Zach or to the church office. Thank you!



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.

NYNO'S GIVE DONATION TO CAMPERSHIPS

Special thanks to the NYNO's for their generous contribution to Camperships at First United Methodist Church. Each summer, many of our children, youth, adults and families attend United Methodist Camps. Many of these campers need financial assistance. Through their generous donation, many more children will be able to attend camp this summer.



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? 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 CO2course

Global Warming: Changing CO2course, is a course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute. This four-week course began Sunday, April 15 and goes 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.



The capital projects campaign is off at a good running pace. As Ralph Bolliger indicated, we have surpassed the 60% mark toward our goal. It is a very ambitious goal to complete the priority projects, and it will take the involvement of all of our friends and members to make this a success.

As the campaign literature and discussions have indicated, several standards for safety, accessibility, and repairs are key factors in the sanctuary project. We have not spoken much about the concern to also "think green." In this regard, we've not neglected the need for new lighting. What served the sanctuary well in past decades is now out of date. The old lighting is inefficient and much of it is beyond repair. Working with the goal of making our church building more energy efficient, new sanctuary lighting will actually pay for itself in utility savings in approximately five years. As a special committee looks at options for improving

our environmental footprint throughout the church, sanctuary lighting will be a significant factor in making our buildings greener, saving us money even in the short term.

It is important to know that any of the campaign projects will be undertaken only when funding has been secured. The Trustees will establish a priority list based upon funds committed, and no debt will be incurred in their undertaking. Once we have a good indication about funds available, a building committee will be established to begin work on details for the various projects. We look forward to that. One final note concerning the budget for the campaign: we are fortunate to have many dedicated members and volunteers who have helped develop architectural plans and literature, along with planning for the campaign effort. Campaign costs have been expended only for campaign literature and architectural renderings. Your pledge support will go for our campaign projects themselves; not overhead.

Please support our efforts as generously as possible. The three-year pledge period can help to stretch your valuable gifts, and they will be expended thoughtfully and cautiously. If there are questions, please call the church office, which can direct your concerns to the appropriate persons.

staff changes

at first church

First Church is a special place, and we are fortunate to have many dedicated, caring staff that work here. In this light, it is with regret that we share the news that two of our staff members will be leaving in the coming weeks.

Annie Heart, our Community Outreach/Shelter Director, will be leaving May 15th to take a position with Family Bridge. Family Bridge is a day-resource center for homeless families with children and a part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Hillsboro. Annie's tireless work with the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, her dedication to peace with justice issues, and her knowledge of restorative justice concerns have enriched our community life. However, this is a great opportunity for Annie to continue to use her many gifts. We will miss her skillful, dedicated presence in the life of First Church.

In addition, Agnes Zach, our Director of Children and Family Ministries, will be leaving at the end of the Sunday School year (June 10th). Agnes has enriched our church community with her love of children, her creative ways of making First Church a more family-friendly place, and her great organizational skills working with various projects. Fortunately, Agnes, Monty, Maggie, and Charlie will remain a part of our congregation, but we will miss her being a part of our staff team.

We will honor both individual's work in the coming weeks and be looking to find gifted, new people to fill these two important roles at First Church. Please take the time to thank both Annie and Agnes for their important work among us.

—First Church Staff Parish Relations Committee

our prayers and thanksgiving

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS CONCERN FOR ...

Helen Johnson, at Providence recovering from emergency surgery last Wednesday. She is the great-grandmother of Sojourn Breneiser, the Bass Leader in our choir.

David Jenkins, who is home recuperating from a knee replacement.

Jim Jozwiak, who has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus waiting for more tests.

Judy Rodgers, who is home after a stay at Good Samaritan having been diagnosed with cancer, awaiting further test results.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION FOR...

The *Charles Wilhoite* family in the death of *Tammy's* grandmother, *Marvel Borek* in Eugene, Oregon.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Sadame Tsunenaga, and *Dick Clark*.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING ...

Bill Guyer, who is home and recovering remarkably well after being hospitalized for a stroke.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

We pray for all those serving in the armed forces including *Daniel Bomberger*, *Jared Bomberger*, *Michael Panck*, *John Lemmon*, *Steven Johnson*, *Karl Alger*, *Vanessa Walton*, *Craig Kubala*, and *Michael LeClair*.

electives
for enrichment

BILL MOYER'S 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*, 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 through May 21, 2007.

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 16, 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.