



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

June 27, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 13

THIS SUNDAY

July 1, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

**COMMUNION
REFLECTION**
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

**CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE**
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.

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

RELIEVING THINKING ACTING



FIRST CHURCH YOUTH: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD



Twelve of our youth will be representing First Church at this summer's Youth 2007 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Youth 2007 is a giant convention of United Methodist Youth that happens every four years. This year's theme is: Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, Teach: SPLAT.

Youth 2007 will feature awesome music concerts, challenging Bible studies, informative and innovative SPLATshops, service and learning options, and lots of additional recreational activities.

Find out more about Youth 2007 at www.youth2007.org.

For a complete list of First Church youth and adults attending Youth 2007, go to page 3.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

A collegial but determined spirit filled the fieldhouse at Willamette University as more than 600 United Methodists from around Oregon and southern Idaho gathered to hear Bishop Robert Hoshibata call us to "Boldly Make Disciples" and challenge us to "Transform the World." First Church was well represented. Among the members, in addition to our clergy and three elected members, we boasted a youth member, General Agency director, Conference staff and a number of retired clergy.

Over the meeting's five days members gathered in small groups to reflect on our spiritual ties, consider proposed action, and to "Reach out in Love" by spending an afternoon in community service projects. We met in large groups to worship, set annual goals and budgets, adopt new action and proclaim our witness on justice and faith issues.

When the final gavel fell on Saturday afternoon we had:

Affirmed a new "Strategic Direction" for our region.

Endorsed dozens of matters related to social action and witness - five of them sponsored by this congregation's Church & Society Committee for Social Justice (all five of those were approved). Others measures ranged from gun safety, protection of the sojourner and the immigrant, peace in the Holy Land, qualifications for clergy, the membership rights of gay and lesbian persons in the United Methodist Church, and universal healthcare.

Agreed to explore a capital funds campaign to improve the seven campsites we own and help reconstruct an Assembly site damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Reaffirmed our determination to end hunger and poverty by receiving a "Change Hunger Fast Offering" totaling over \$25,000 from congregations and rallying on the steps of the Oregon Capitol, where we called upon Oregon leaders to fully address the needs of the hungry and those lacking basic healthcare. (A representative of the governor's office, and two senators - both United Methodists - responded to the crowd.)

Approved annual "Shared Ministry" budget of \$7.1 million for world service, benevolences, campus and camping ministries, conference programs and ministerial support of pensions and healthcare, and much more.

Elected four lay and four clergy delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Gave thanks for the faithful service of seven retiring clergy and greeted four new clergy (three Elders and a Deacon.) We welcomed the Bishop's assignment of clergy to our parishes. (Lowell and I are delighted to be returning!)

Celebrated a number of special awards including a "Peace Covenant Recognition" for our congregation and a "Bishop's Award" to our own Maribeth Collins.

As is our tradition, at every Conference, we rise to sing Charles Wesley's beloved hymn:

"And are we yet alive, and see each others' face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give, for his almighty grace!"

And are we yet alive? I'm happy to report that the answer to that question is "yes." Thanks be to God!

See you in Church!

Arvin (with appreciation to Paul Nickell who contributed substantially to this column)



Congratulations to Maribeth Collins who received the **Bishop's Award** at the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in Salem. The award recognizes lay persons for their dedication and service through the United Methodist Church. Accompanying her at the presentation were her son, Truman and niece, Lee Diane Collins Vest.

adults at first

sunday classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers is an on-going adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. The class has just started, *Inscribing the Text: Sermons and Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*. Books are available in the classroom. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week. Sundays at 9:15AM in room 134.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join as the Changing Christianity Class studies *Bridging Science and Religion*, edited by Ted Peters and Gaymon Bennett, in room 202 from 9:00 - 10:15 AM.

first church youth

YOUTH 2007

continued from the front page ...

The youth are now selling shares to support their summer trip to North Carolina for \$20 apiece. Anyone who buys a share will receive a postcard from Greensboro, and will be invited to a special dinner and trip recap in the fall. The Travel Committee has agreed to match the next \$2000 raised, so your money can go further. Please support our youth as they go to represent our First Church family. The youth and adults listed at the left will be attending this significant gathering of United Methodist Youth from all over the globe. Contact Paul Adams for more information. Our youth will be leaving for North Carolina on July 9 and return on July 15. Please pray for our youth as they participate in this great opportunity.

YOUTH:

Casara Aaby
John Allan
Daniel Barrack
Michelle Fisher
Michael Fricke
Sarah Goff
Leif Iverson
Maggie Jennings
Julia Kayser
Zach Little
Kristin Sellers
Alex Wade

ADULTS:

Paul Adams
Ronda Little
Tyler Joki
Naomi Charboneau

umw

united methodist women

All women are invited to the following meetings.
President: Pat Brockman, 503-292-6270

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The School of Christian Mission will be held at George Fox University, in Newberg, OR. July 12-15. Full time attendees July 12-13 or July 14-15. Mini School attendees Areas of study:

- 1) Music and Mission taught by Colleen Foster,
- 2) Globalization
- 3) Israel/Palestine

Men are welcome. Call Peg Cook, 503/452-7298, for registration information.

YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

A Young Women's Event for women, ages 18 and up will be held July 13-15, 2007 at George Fox University, in Newberg, OR. The theme is: *Sister to Sister – Nurturing Each Other*. Registration, \$100. Fee includes four meals, two nights lodging (Friday & Saturday). Childcare is available on site for children under age two.. Call Peg Cook at 503/452-7298, for scholarship and registration information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

September 22.

UMW Metro District Annual Meeting, Montavilla UMC, 232 SE 80th Av., Portland. Bonnie Parr Philipson, speaker, The Bishop's Initiative on Hunger.

October 26-27.

UMW Oregon-Idaho Conference Annual Meeting, First UMC, Portland. Contact: Mary Covert.

April 04-06, 2008

UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii



2007 FIRST CHURCH COLLEGE GRADUATES

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to those from First Church who have recently graduated from college:

- Toshio Sagara graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences
- Midori Sagara graduated from Seattle University with a law degree.
- Ciera Shelton graduated from the University of Nebraska (Lincoln)
- David Stearns graduated from Whitman College with a Bachelor of Arts degree

If someone in your family has recently graduated from college, please let the church office know so we can share the news with the congregation...and join in your celebration! Again, let us know names, the college, the degree, and the major.

DURING THE SUMMER THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM for lunch, Monday - Friday, beginning June 27, 2007

being Christ in the world

feeding the hungry

CHANGING THE FACE OF HUNGER

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Bishop Hoshibata's "loose change" hunger relief challenge. Our church contributed nearly \$400 to this effort. Over \$24,000 was collected from churches throughout the annual conference. These funds will go to support the work of the Oregon Food Bank. In addition, hunger relief was a theme throughout this year's Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as we gathered at the steps of the capitol to encourage legislators to address hunger elimination, one of the worship service offerings went to support the work of the Oregon and Idaho Hunger Relief Task Forces, and many members of Annual Conference participated in volunteer teams one afternoon that worked in community gardens, food pantries, and other programs in the Salem area. Thanks for being a part of our annual conference's effort to make a difference in the world!

THE FARMER'S TABLE

The Farmer's Table is at the Courtyard near Collins Hall after Sunday worship service. On alternate Sundays, Hmong refugee farmer, Yua Lo, will bring fresh flowers and Oregon grown strawberries! Our Hmong refugee farmer, Yua Lo, walked out of Laos as a young child with her family in 1975 when the American CIA left the region. She began school in the US never having even held a pencil much less a book. But she persevered and now she and her husband have two sons, the eldest at OSU with hopes of becoming a family practice physician. Yua loves farming, fulfilling her family's long tradition. She lights up with a smile recalling the sacred experience of planting a seed, tending the soil, and watching a plant grow into a lovely flower. To learn more about Hmong refugees like Yua, go to www.HmongNet.Org.

Beginning Sunday, July 8, Meskhetian Turkish refugee farmers will be bringing a wide array of vegetables, all organically grown!

FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

There is no Summer Vacation for hunger! Canned and packaged foods are needed by FISH Emergency Services, a Portland volunteer organization providing emergency food to our neighbors in need. On Sunday, August 5th, the food barrels will be in the narthex and our challenge is to fill them to over-flowing. FISH gladly accepts financial gifts and volunteers as well. How long has FISH been helping others? The answer is on their website: "FISH began in Portland in 1967, when a small group of people, meeting under the auspices of the Portland Greater Council of Churches (now known as Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon), began offering emergency food and transportation to those in need. The first modern FISH ministry began in 1961. A group of untrained lay people at St. Andrew's Church in Oxford, England, decided to put the 'love thy neighbor' ethic into practice. And made themselves available to anyone in crisis."

Visit their website at: www.fishemergencyservice.org



OUR PLEDGED GIVING

As of June 15, 2007

Anticipated:	\$373,700.69
Received:	343,209.49

Please remember to keep your pledges current during the summer months!

Thank you,
The Finance Committee

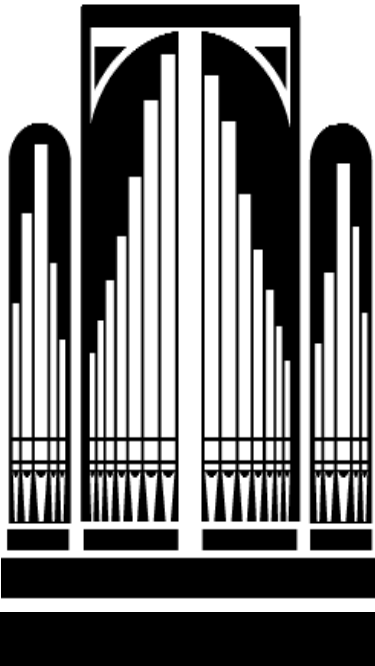


ARE YOU A CARE GIVER?

At a recent meeting of our Stephen Ministers we learned about a number of resources that are available to persons who provide ongoing care for a family member or friend. We feel it would enhance our ability to provide caring ministry if we knew who, in our congregation, are providing regular, ongoing care for a loved one or friend. A caregiver is one who provides daily or frequent care for an aging, ill or disabled person. If you, or someone you know, provides such care please provide that information to Tom Foster, Minister of Pastoral Care: 503/228-3195 ext. 233 or email him at tfoster@fumcpdx.org.

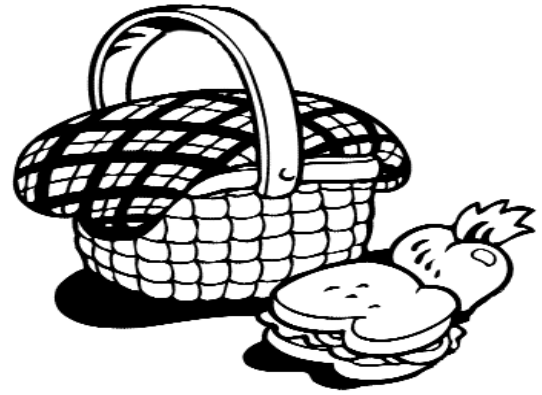
organ concert

trio con brio



The American Guild of Organist's Regional Convention is in Portland this week. The opening concert features the unique musical ensemble, Trio Con Brio -Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker and Martin Ellis. Donna has been our associate organist for several years and Martin is the organist for North Avenue United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. This trio has performed throughout the US for many years. Their concert repertoire offers everything from Bach to John Williams. This is a novel musical experience for all ages.

The concert is at First Unitarian Church on Sunday, July 1, 2007 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door.



church picnic

oaks park

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

First Church's All-Church Picnic will be Sunday, July 22, 2007 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM at Oaks Park. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Also, bring lawn games and plan to come and enjoy a great afternoon together!

the edge

thoughts for the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

In his book *Essential Spirituality*, Roger Walsh writes about the love that radiated from Mother Teresa. He relates that she often said that "God loves the world through us" and that she regarded herself as "a pencil in the hand of God writing a love letter to the world." Walsh then relates a story about how whenever Mother Teresa "...boarded a plane she carried a sack containing some of the thousands of letters she regularly received from around the world. Seating herself, she reached into the sack, took out a letter, and began writing, treating each person with equal love and respect." At the end of her writing sprees, she'd hand the letters to one of her sisters, leaving her to mail them, while Mother Teresa raced off to her next task.

Walsh closes his story by quoting the following words that Mother Teresa delivered at the United Nations' fortieth-anniversary celebration:

"You and I must come forward
and share the joy of loving.
But we cannot give what we don't have.
That's why we need to pray.
And prayer will give us a clean heart,
And a clean heart can see God in each other.
And if we see God in each other
We will be able to live in peace."



FIRST CHURCH MARCHES IN PRIDE PARADE

Once again, members of First Church marched in Portland's Pride Parade. Our banners, which read: "In God's Family All are Welcome," "First Church: A Reconciling Congregation," and "Focus on Every Family" drew a lot of attention and applause. Thanks to Vern and Betty Groves, who drove their Toyota Prius as a part of our group, we were ecologically-appropriate as well! Thanks to all who marched!



pride

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Jean Barnes, as she deals with a back problem
Carol Howard, undergoing chemotherapy
Jim Jozwiak, undergoing chemotherapy
Judy Rogers, undergoing chemotherapy
Michelle Everett, who had surgery recently
Patrick O'Brien, facing serious health problems
Michele Everett, undergoing chemotherapy
Marty & Holly Martin, as Ryan awaits deployment to Iraq

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Sadame Tsunenaga, *Dick Clark* and "*Mike*" *Rogers*, and
Margaret Allen

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Those serving in the armed forces and posted overseas include:
Daniel Bomberger, *Jared Bomberger*, *Michael Panck*, *John Lemmon*,
Steven Johnson, *Karl Alger*, *Vanessa Walton*, *Craig Kubala*, and
Michael LeClair.

notes

from the congregation

NORWOOD GLENDENNING

Dear Church Friends,
There will be an Open House at the care facility residence of Norwood Glendenning, to celebrate his 95th birthday. He will 95 on July 24, 2007. The Open House will be on Sunday, July 22, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at 9347 SW 35th Ave, Portland, OR (just off Barbur Blvd., to the NW, between Alice and Baird Streets.) Cards to him at that address might be sent by those who wish to do so.

The Family of Norwood Glendenning

A WORD OF THANKS

Thank you to Elwyn Kinney for building the beautiful rack on which the Children's Activity Bags now hang. It will get many, many years of use. Over the past months, several of the Activity Bags have disappeared. Please check church school classrooms, homes and cars in case someone forgot to return them after church. Thanks.

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 **July 11, 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.