



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the 1st edition

September 5, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 17

THIS SUNDAY

September 9, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

SERMON
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

GREETINGS FROM
Dr. Raymond Balcomb
Dr. Ross Miller

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

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

SUNDAY SEPT 9

TWO GREAT EVENTS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
IN OUR 18TH AND JEFFERSON BUILDING

FESTIVAL WORSHIP
Celebration Luncheon
Anniversary Program



Welcome Home

Children, youth, and adult classes resume

ONE SPECTACULAR SUNDAY



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

The Rev. Jim Mowry recently joined the staff of First United Methodist in San Diego as Minister of Visitation. In a recent issue of the *Outlook* (that congregation's newsletter) he reflected on a trip he took to the Rectory at Epworth, England.

That's a very special place for Methodists. It was John and Charles Wesley's childhood home—the one that burned when John was just five years old. The boy was pulled from the flames in the nick of time. A rescue that made such a deep impression on his mind that he regarded himself as providentially set apart, a "brand plucked from the burning." (Wallace, Charles Jr., *Susanna Wesley: the complete writings*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 67.) The old parsonage has been rebuilt twice since the fire and is both a popular stop for tourists and a research lab for scholars..

The well-preserved Rectory, Mowry observed, stood in contrast to nearby St. Andrew's Anglican Church where Wesley's father, Samuel was vicar (and the reason the family lived in Epworth). It too is an important site for Methodists—John preached there and his father's grave is in the church yard. But the old church is lost in the shadows, ill-kempt and decaying, overgrown with foliage.

Mowry reflected, "Something happens when the vitality of ministry is only a devotion to the past." ("Minister's Musings," *Outlook*, First United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA., Vol. XLIX/34, August 22, 2007, p.1)

That's a good thought! One we should keep in mind as we remember our congregation's fifty years of ministry in our current building.

We can, rightly, be proud of the record of faithfulness to God that has characterized not only the last five decades, but the more than century and a half of First Church's witness in Portland. Ministries of rich music and worship, community involvement, cutting-edge social witness, Christian education, service to the needy, youth and scouting programs, as well as national and international mission efforts, have helped to make this a very special place, indeed!

But, devotion to our past—as Mowry reminds us—is not enough!

When we gather next Sunday to remember, I hope we will also be anticipating. And that we will be as concerned with responding to God's call in the next 50 years as we are thankful for God's blessings over the last 50!

We started this anniversary year by adopting a challenging image for ourselves—one that captures both our unique heritage and our commitment to the future:

Portland's First Church: Living a vibrant faith: Believing, Thinking, Acting!

Thank God for what we've been!
Praise God for what we can be!

See you in Church!

Arvin

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.

AGING WELL: ISSUES FOR BOOMERS AND THEIR PARENTS

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15AM in the Fireside Room. This adult class series will explore various issues related to aging and give practical helps.

Sept. 16 ***Aging Well: An Overview*** A panel discussion by First Church members, moderated by Lowell Greathouse.

Sept. 23 ***Financial Facts Women and Their Families Should Know*** Presenter: Tomie Schmidt, CFP, CSA.

Sept. 30 ***Organizing Your Financial Life*** Presenter: Tomie Schmidt. Compiling all relevant information to ensure that you or your family can access it easily.

Oct. 7 ***Seven Ways to Improve Your Doctor Visits*** Presenter: Sonia Huntley, MD.

Oct. 14 ***Caregiving for Aging Parents*** Presenters: Lee Paton and Edie Syle. Lee Paton, Ph.D.

GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE

This class will focus on matters of stewardship based on biblical principles. Utilizing a workbook format, these sessions will look at the contrast between biblical teachings about money and the materialistic pull of our culture, equip people to create a workable spending plan that helps get and keep them out of consumer debt, and help us grow spiritually by creating a Christian model for dealing with how to allocate our resources. This class will be taught by Dave Griffiths, who has taught the Good Sense Budget course in a number of settings. Cost: \$17 for the workbook.

When: Sundays, 9:00AM to 10:15AM,
Beginning September 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and
October 7th and 14th.

Where: Room 110

looking ahead

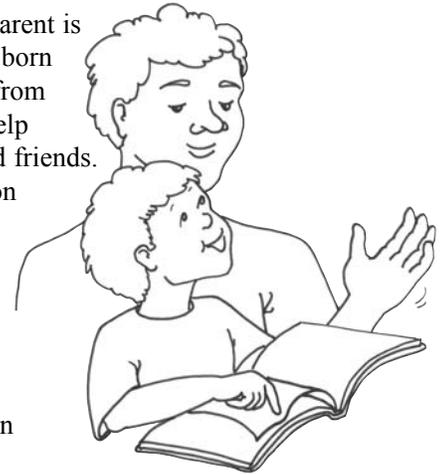
coming up at First

SPECIAL PARENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Orientation Session—Sunday, September 16th at Noon in the Fireside Room

Knowing how to be a "good" parent is not something most people are born with. It is something we learn from our own parents, with a little help from other family members and friends. The S.T.E.P. parenting education program has been widely acclaimed for its effectiveness and sensibility. Using "Evidence Based" techniques, and an interactive approach to learning, it is lively and fun.

Samaritan Counseling Center, in partnership with First United Methodist Church, is proud to offer the S.T.E.P. parenting training program for parents and prospective parents. Classes run for 7 weeks and are offered at First Church, starting the first week of October, at a day and time to be agreed with participants. The cost is \$99 per couple, the orientation is free.



FOOD AS REVELATION:

A CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY OF EATING

Saturday, September 29th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
in the Fireside Room. Cost: \$10

This retreat is an opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of food and the radical promise implicit in Christian table fellowship. We will consider food as a means of intimate communion with God and explore the role of food in building and sustaining community.

Lead by Laura Engle, an MDiv student at Marylhurst University, and Colleen McClain, MS MDiv.

This event is sponsored by Planet Church.

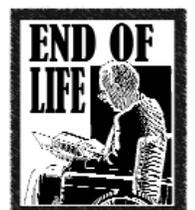
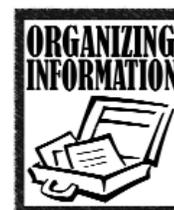
To register, please contact Colleen McClain at 503/286-7549

Electives For Enrichment

POSITIVE AGING

Mondays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
from 10:00 AM - Noon in the Fireside Room.

This five-week workshop will take you through the many options for people and their families to consider as they approach the aging process. A variety of outstanding professionals will lead each session. Watch for more information or call the church office.



united methodist women

women of first church

All women are invited to the following activities. Pat Brockman, president, 503-292-6270.

READING GROUP

The Reading Group meets Thursday, September 13, 10:00 AM, Church Library. The Rev. David King of Coos Bay UMC will discuss *Success to Haines*, a book based on the diaries of David King's grandmother, who made the journey by covered wagon to Haines, Oregon. It's a small world. Sue Fisher's grandmother and David King's grandmother were best friends, and this friendship has continued down through the succeeding generations. Come, hear the fascinating story of how the diaries were found. Mardean King, David's mother, will also be in attendance. NOTE: Beginning in October the Reading Group will change the meeting time to the 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the church library. Contact: Sue Fisher.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, September 19, 12:00 in Room 204.

Program: Looking back, the history of Ruth Circle, led by Hazel Balcomb. Bring a sandwich. Dessert provided.

Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773. Please call Betty-Lou early in the week if you are unable to attend.

METRO DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 22, Montavilla UMC, 232 SE 80th Avenue, Portland. Bonnie Parr Philipson, speaker. The Bishop's Initiative on Hunger.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 26-27, 2007 UMW Oregon-Idaho Conference Annual Meeting, First UMC, Portland. Contact: Mary Covert

November 17, 2007 UMW High Noon Tea, 12:00 noon, Collins Hall.

April 4-6, 2008 UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

the edge
thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

In a recent sermon I quoted Fred Rogers (that is, Mr. Rogers) regarding the issue of disabilities. Mr. Rogers was keenly aware of many of the deeper issues of life and was able to communicate these things to children in simple and clear ways. Consider his words regarding the nature of disabilities in life:

"Part of the problem with the word disabilities is that it immediately suggests an inability to see or hear or walk or do other things that many of us take for granted. But what of people who can't feel? Or talk about their feelings? Or manage their feelings in constructive ways? What of people who aren't able to form close and strong relationships? And people who cannot find fulfillment in their lives, or those who have lost hope, who live in disappointment and bitterness and find in life no joy, no love? These, it seems to me, are the real disabilities."

(*The World According to Mister Rogers*, page 25)

new group

COPING FOR FAMILIES IN WAR

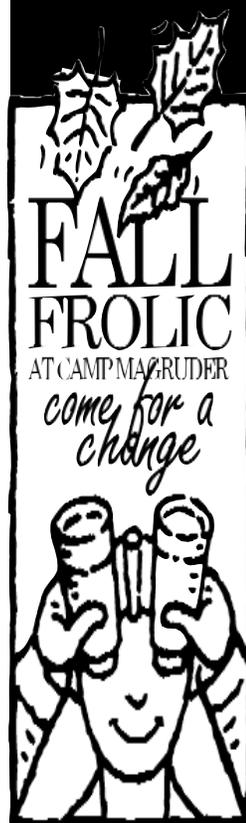
For parents, families and extended families, having a loved one serving in the military overseas can be an anxious and frightening experience. It is not one you have to bear alone. Come and meet with others in an environment of mutual caring and support.

A new group will meet at
**First Church on
Saturday mornings
from 10:00 AM to
11:30 AM,
beginning
September 8th
in the
Library.**

There is no charge - donations are welcome. Please call Dominick Robertson at 503/281-3318 x 41 to register.



last chance!



First Church's Fall Frolic will be held October 12-14, 2007 at Camp Magruder. It is open to everyone!

The costs are:
Adults \$75.00,
Youth (Ages 12-18) \$65.00,
Children (Ages 6-11) \$60.00,
Children (ages 2-5) \$35.00,
Children (under 2) Free.

The cost includes two nights lodging, five meals, activities and crafts.

Register ASAP so we can count you in!

For registration forms available in the church office. For more information, contact: Rev. Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 or lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

Stewardship

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

The call for an effective emphasis in stewardship today can be supported by three practical reasons.

The first reason is need on a world scale. This

need is evidenced by illiteracy and lack of education, poverty which denies



multitudes the necessities of life, hunger so extensive that millions of people have not strength by which to support themselves, and illness which inevitably goes with undernourishment. The second reason for the call to dedicated stewardship springs from the fact that there are those fortunate enough to have more than they really need of the world's resources.

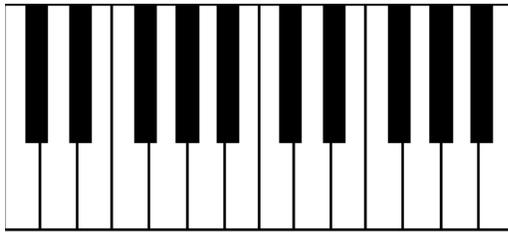
The third reason is the potential for renewal of life which comes to persons who respond to God's call to meet the world's need. The sharing of resources in Christian generosity could go far in meeting the world's needs. This sharing should begin with the full commitment of individuals to offer all resources to the end that the basic needs of persons may be met.

FUMY youth

FUMY KICKOFF AND THIRD ANNUAL TIE DYE PARTY

Sunday September, 9, 2007.
Middle School meets at 5:30 PM. High School meets at 7:00. Everyone eats together at 6:30. Bring a white t-shirt for Tie Dying as we kick off the Sunday evening youth program. The regular weekly program will return every Sunday night in room 202

volunteer accompanist needed



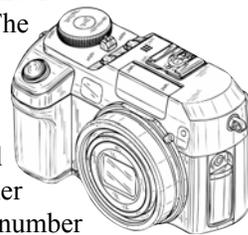
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Both the Veritas and Soundseekers Choirs are looking for a piano accompanist to play for them on Sunday mornings for rehearsals. Veritas meets from 9:00 - 9:30 and Soundseekers meet from 9:30 - 10:15. If you are able to help out in this way please call Kelly Qualls, Executive Director of Music, at 503/228-3195.

exhibit our photography

FIRST CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHERS EXHIBIT THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS IN DECEMBER

The Commons exhibit for all five Sundays in December 2007 will be photographs taken by our own members or church attendees. The photographs must be mounted and framed. The number of photographs exhibited from each photographer will depend upon the number of participants.



Please contact Larry Sawyer if you wish to participate or obtain more details.

Larry can be reached at 503-771-1616 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net.

OUR PLEDGED GIVING

As of August 29, 2007

Anticipated: \$543,564.64
Received: 471,873.72

Please remember to keep your pledges current!

Thank you,
The Finance Committee

local travel

PORTLAND UNDERGROUND TOUR—SHANGHAI TUNNELS HERITAGE TOUR

Saturday, September 29th
This educational tour will explore the infamous "Portland Underground," which will focus on the shanghai trade that existed in Portland from 1850-1941. Meet and park at the church at 5:30 PM....Tour begins at 6:30 PM at Hobo's Restaurant in Old Town and lasts an hour and a half. We'll return to the church by 8:30 PM. We have 15 slots reserved. Deadline for reservations: September 7th. Cost: \$12 for adults, \$7 for children under 12 years of age.

help wanted

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

The First Church Children's and Family Ministry urgently needs Fourth and Fifth Grade teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. This is an opportunity to make a difference. Contact Arden Bryce at 503/228-3195 ext 227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org to sign-up!



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 **September 19, 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.

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Clare Humphrey, who is recovering from surgery

Judy Rogers, who is recovering from surgery

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Rosalie Humphrey, in the death of her oldest sister, last month

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Jim Jozwiak,
Carol Howard,
Margaret Allen,
Sadame Tsunenaga,
Patrick O'Brien,
Dick Clark

and others we name in our hearts but not by name for reasons of privacy.



THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger, in the USAF in Turkey.

The sons of Judy Bomberger and grandson of Betty Hager.

Michael Panck, in the US Army in Baghdad.

The son of Ken & Ruthann Panck.

Karl Alger, in the US Army in Iraq.

The nephew of Naomi Charboneau and grandson of the late Eddie Alger.

Vanessa Walton, working for the US Army in Iraq.

The daughter of Richard & Elizabeth Walton.

Craig Kubala, with US Army Special Forces in Afghanistan.

The husband of Vanessa.

Steven Johnson, in the US Army in Afghanistan.

The son of Doug Johnson.

John Lemmon, in the US Army in Baghdad.

The grandson of Betty Lemmon.

Michael LeClair, in US Airforce at Balad AFB, North of Baghdad.

He is the grandson of Dee Poujade.

Ryan Martin, who is in the USAF at Balad AFB, North of Baghdad.

He is the son of Marty & Holly.