



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *dition*

September 19, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 18

THIS SUNDAY

September 23, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

SERMON
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

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

First Church Forum **GLOBAL WARMING**



**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2007
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Fireside Room**

On Sunday, September 23, the forum: *The Threat of and Solutions to Global Warming/ Climate Change* with Oregon Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury will be presented. Using a computer-based slide show, Bradbury will discuss various aspects of climate change and will include depictions of glacier melt on Mount Hood and rising sea levels along the coast of Oregon.

This forum is from Noon to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. A light lunch will be served. Child care will be provided.

For more on global warming and climate change ... see related article on page 6



FEATURING
**SECRETARY
OF STATE
Bill Bradbury**

As Secretary of State, Bradbury is Oregon's second-highest-ranking constitutional officer. He has served in the Oregon legislature for 14 years, holding positions of Senate Majority Leader and Senate President.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs



justice

items of interest

What-for heaven's sake--are we doing to our children?

Last week the Oregon State Department of Education reported over 15,000 children from families who are homeless are in our school classrooms--an increase of nearly 10% over the previous year. At the same time Federal contribution to funding their education has dropped by 10%. (see release posted at http://chuckcurrie.blogs.com/chuck_currie/2007/09/over-15000-home.html)

In November we'll be asked to approve a controversial tax measure to fund health care for our state's 119,000 uninsured children.

Over 101,000 children each month are hungry and receive emergency food from Oregon Food Banks. (cf.http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/) Paradoxically, childhood obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and type-2 diabetes are on the rise.

Last Sunday, Mary Sagara reported more than 14 million children -a good share of whom live in our state -are seeking an adult mentor and role model.

In 2006 our state reported 15,076 verified incidents of child neglect and abuse--a 6 % increase over the previous reporting year. (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/publications/children/abusestats2006.pdf>)

Shortly before his death, former Vice President Hubert Humphrey offered a trenchant observation. He said, "...the moral test of Government is how that Government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped." (accessed at <http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/29565.html>)

It wasn't the first test of morality and compassion.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus told a parable about a king who gave his subjects a test to see who would inherit the kingdom. To pass required those tested to provide food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothes for the naked, care for the sick and visits to prisoners. The people objected, "We have done all these things for you." The ruler countered by saying that wasn't enough. The real test was not about pampering the privileged, but caring for the needy. "Truly, I tell you," he said, "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)

Using either testing system, the report card with our children is dismal. Can we, who seek the kin-dom of God, be satisfied with these grades?

What-for Christ's sake--will we do for our children--and for God?

See you in church!

Arvin

FAMILY OF FRIENDS

Family of Friends provides a support for children ages six through nine by matching them with caring and concerned families, couples, and individuals. The program brings children in need of additional caring relationships together with mentors. Here's how it works. After providing a simple but thorough background check and training, mentors commit to spending one year with a child, a few times a month, including them in regular activities. Family of Friends provides ongoing training, fun appreciation events, and referral services for the care-giving families.

Please contact Trillium's Family of Friends program at 503/813-7724. If you want to be a mentoring family, applications must be completed, references checked, training completed and a home visit conducted. Visit: <http://www.trilliumfamily.org>

HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE? CANCEL WORLD DEBT FAST!

"Must we starve our children to pay our debts?"
- Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania

Today, millions of men, women, and children around the world are literally starving for debt cancellation.

Africa's over \$200 billion debt burden is the single biggest obstacle to the continent's development. Most of this debt is illegitimate, having been incurred by despotic and unrepresentative regimes. The US and other rich countries have restricted calls to cancel this debt, instead proposing partial solutions that are inadequate and impose harsh economic policies on indebted countries.

The 2007 Jubilee Act (HR 2634) would provide expanded debt cancellation for many countries that were not included in the 2005 G8 agreement and that need debt cancellation to address extreme poverty. Moving the Jubilee Act through Congress is the central goal of a rolling 40-day fast for debt reduction currently taking place.

To find out more and what you can do to help -- visit: www.jubileeusa.org

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 *The Language of God* by Franc in room 202 from 9:00-10:15 AM.

AGING WELL:

ISSUES FOR BOOMERS & THEIR PARENTS

This class meets at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room.

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

The Good Sense Budget Course meets Sundays at 9:00 AM in Room 110. This short-term course will end on October 14, 2007. This class is taught by Dave Griffiths. Cost: \$17 for the workbook. This class is currently full, but will be offered on an ongoing basis. Watch the *Circuit Rider* for more details.



SLIDESHOW
AVAILABLE
ON DVD
TO SUPPORT
OUR YOUTH

Copies of the DVD slideshow highlighting 50 years in our current building are being sold by FUMY, the youth program at First Church. Buy your very own copy for only \$15, or buy two for \$25. This is the same slideshow that was shown in Collins Hall during the celebration on September 9. Contact the office or Paul Adams to order yours today!

looking ahead

coming up at First

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

learning

electives for enrichment



ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT:

POSITIVE AGING

FIVE MONDAY MORNINGS IN OCTOBER

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

Tuition: \$4.00 per class, or \$15.00 for entire five-week course. Scholarships are available.

Pre-registration Deadline: September 24, 2007, registration forms are available in the church office.

Class Schedule:

Every Monday in October, 10:00 AM until noon, in the Fireside Room



Monday, October 1

Aging in Place Considerations that allow folks to stay in their home longer.

Monday, October 8

Transitions Information about living options and kinds of help available to ease the down-sizing process.



Monday, October 15

Positive Aging Ways to slow down and enhance the aging process and preserving one's legacy of life experiences for children and grandchildren.



Monday, October 22

Organizing All That Information What are the important legal, financial and personal documents and how to organize them for easy access.



Monday, October 29

End of Life Decisions Information on the necessary end of life decisions and how to ease the stress through thoughtful consideration ahead of time.

united methodist women

women of first church

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

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, September 26, at 9:30 AM in Room 110.
Chair: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, September 26 at 11:30 AM in Room 204.
September is our annual planning meeting. Come, join us, and let us hear your ideas. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage provided. Chair: Hazelee Steverson, 503/283-0041

UNIT GATHERING

The October UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, October 3, in the Fireside Room.
at 10:00 AM there will be Meeting and Sharing, at 11:00 AM hear about peace-seeking Palestinians. *Friends of Sabeel* will be presented by The Rev. Canon Richard Toll, President/Director. Israel -- Palestine was a recent UMW School of Missions study.
Information: Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270 or Colleen Foster, 503-641-3479. Lunch will be at noon in Room 202. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert provided.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Autumn Forum will be Thursday, October 4, 2007. For time and location contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

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: *Apron Frolic*, will be at noon in 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

Some years ago now, I used E. Stanley Jones' classic work *Growing Spiritually*, as a part of my morning meditation time. Jones was an able, thoughtful guide who lived from 1884 to 1973 and had much to offer ordinary people in their search to grow in Christian maturity. Here's one example of Jones' insights: "Everybody surrenders to something—each group did (in Jesus' day). The Zealots to resistance, the Essenes to retreat, the Pharisees to incasement, the Sadducees to materialism, the Herodians to power. The Christians surrendered to Christ. But having surrendered to Christ, they surrendered to nothing else ... They faced everything and they used everything—sorrow, loss, opposition, life—everything—and made something else out of it. The cross became their one dear symbol, and it stood for the worst becoming the best, the darkest becoming the lightest, and the cruelest becoming the most contributive ... Life was not dodged; it was developed." (*Growing Spiritually*, page 328)

"A room hung with pictures is a room hung with thoughts."

The Creative Spirits committee whole-heartedly agrees with the above quote by one of the founders of The Royal Academy of Arts. The Creative Spirits committee of First Church meets once a month to set up new visual arts works in Collins Hall and take down the old works. We really could use your help! For further information contact Joe Delaney by email at josephdelaney@mac.com or by phone, 503/241-0597.



a place to serve

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Love children? Willing to give nine Sundays of the school year? The Sunday School Department needs YOU! Teachers are urgently needed for the 3 & 4-year-olds and the Fourth and Fifth Grade classes. If you are interested, please contact Arden Bryce at: 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or email her at abryce@fumcpdx.org

climate change

planet church

Planet Church takes seriously the biblical call to stewardship. We are stewards of our homes, our state, and our nation. Now the planet needs our stewardship to address global climate change.

The average global surface temperature in the year 2100 will likely be 2.5 to 10.8 degrees Fahrenheit higher than 1990. The average arctic winter temperature has already increased by 11 degrees Fahrenheit. The northern polar ice cap has decreased in thickness by 40% and in extent by 6% over the past 40 years. It is expected to completely melt within 50 years. Ocean sea levels are rising. A study published in Nature concluded that climate change could put 25% of all land animals and plants on a path towards extinction over the next 50 years. There are more very hot summers and more forest fires.

The main cause of global climate change is the amount of carbon dioxide building up in our atmosphere. This buildup comes from more people on the planet consuming and transporting more people and things and needing cheap energy to do so.

Planet Church launched a task force more than six months ago to investigate how our building was receiving and using energy. The task force found that a major operating expense of the church is consumption of electricity and natural gas. Efforts are underway to change out light bulbs, look for energy savings with our appliances, change to "on demand" water heating systems, examine our windows and insulation, and see that energy considerations figure in decisions about our buildings.

An additional solution is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide by installing other technologies than burning oil and natural gas. The Federal Government and Oregon recently have provided very significant incentives to enable businesses and homeowners to consider solar photovoltaic systems. The task force is considering a recommendation to place solar panels on our south facing roofs that would result in significant electrical energy savings. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has designed a program to allow churches to receive the solar energy and business to take advantage of the tax credits and other benefits in order to make solar energy feasible at this time. The committee is looking closely at this program.

Because everybody uses energy, stewardship requires each of us to look at our "carbon footprint" to see if it can be reduced. As a faith community First UMC is stepping up to this requirement.

you are invited

a first church orientation

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Learn what it means to become a member of this congregation and meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be September 30, 2007. For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

fall harvest

emo



FALL HARVEST CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the end-of-season harvest with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership! We welcome you to join us in a potluck dinner with our farmers and the congregations that support their farm stands in celebration of our partnership this season. Bring your favorite dish made from locally-grown ingredients. Kids are welcome! The Celebration will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2007 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM at Northminster Presbyterian Church at 2823 N. Portland Blvd. Please RSVP to Cristina at 503/221-1054 or cestella@emoregon.org.

fellowship

food and friends

FOOD AND FRIENDS

Food and Friends resumes with dinner out on September 28, 2007. This will be our dinner for September and October. We will dine at Mark Lindsay's Rock and Roll Cafe, 4160 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Parking available behind restaurant and also at the Rite-Aid and US Bank parking lots. Dinner will be at 6:30 PM. The First Church nursery will open at 6:00 PM. All kids are welcome. We encourage a donation of \$5.00 per child for childcare.

RSVP to Agnes Zach at aazach@hotmail.com. We have a reservation for 12, so please RSVP promptly so adjustments can be made accordingly.



Publication Deadlines

Articles for *The Circuit Rider* are due no later than 4:45 pm on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next *Circuit Rider* will be published on **October 3, 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 bring to the church office

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Beth Iverson, recovering from a broken leg
Diane Hall, dealing with painful diagnostic procedures
Byron & Clare Humphrey, both recovering from surgery
Ted Barber, whose mother is back in the hospital in Southern California

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Diane Sawyer, whose father, Bill Millison died in Albany, Oregon on September 11, 2007.

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...

Dee Poujade, upon the birth of a granddaughter:
Cora Mae LeClaire.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

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



THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger
Michael Panck
Karl Alger
Vanessa Walton
Craig Kubala,
Steven Johnson
John Lemmon
Ryan Martin

If we have
no peace,
it is because
we have
forgotten
that we
belong to
each other.

St. Mother Teresa