



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

*the **E**dition*

October 3, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 19

**THIS
SUNDAY**

October 7, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

SERMON
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

**CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE**
Arden Bryce



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

World

COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 7

It is a moving thought that Christians around the world unite on this given Sunday to celebrate communion. The bread and the chalice will vary greatly from country to country, from church to church, yet it is the same Christ gift that is broken and given.

On this Sunday, an offering will be taken to help provide scholarships for U.S. (racial and ethnic-minority) and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Please give generously. It's a way to connect with the world....and make a world of difference.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It was a terrible crime... hate-filled and brutal. On October 7, 1998, in Laramie, Wyoming, twenty-one year old Matthew Shepard, friendly and optimistic, accepted a ride from Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney. Instead of taking him home, they drove him out of town, robbed, pistol-whipped, tied him to a barb-wire fence and left him to die. Eighteen hours later he was discovered, but died a few days later from a massive skull fracture. His offense? Henderson and McKinney initially said they were enraged because he was gay.

The senseless murder has galvanized people of conscience. Popular musicians have composed and recorded more than a dozen songs in his memory—including Peter, Paul and Mary's haunting ballad "Jesus on the Wire," A powerful stage drama, *The Laramie Project*, at least two movies, several documentaries, and a Wyoming-based Foundation have touched hearts and urged us to erase hate from our society. Last week a significant victory might bring a small measure of redemption.

The U.S. Senate—on a vote of 60-39—passed "The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act." The House had already passed a similar measure in May by the overwhelming majority of 237 to 180.

The Act updates and expands the federal hate crimes laws to include bias motivated violence based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, and disability, and provides new resources and tools to assist local law enforcement in prosecuting vicious crimes. The "Human Rights Campaign"—a respected human rights lobby—summed it up: "The US Senate has sent a clear message to every corner of our country that we will no longer turn a blind eye to anti-gay violence in America."

All of us will benefit if this Act is signed into law. Prejudice, hatred, violence and bigotry aimed at any in our society—diminish us all.

Oregon United Methodists were part of shaping this legislation. The Senate version of the Act had bi-partisan support. Both Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy and Oregon's Republican Senator Gordon Smith sponsored the bill. Oregon has helped model the potential effectiveness of the measure—we are one of 23 states with similar anti-hate laws already in force.

A long list of groups joined in the effort to persuade Congress. They included major law enforcement associations, district attorneys, civil rights groups, The Anti-Defamation League, YWCA's in the USA, the Episcopal Church and, I'm proud to say, our own United Methodist Church. Many clergy, including myself, were invited to send letters urging passage.

I'm told they made a difference. In the final minutes of consideration—to save the measure from parliamentary defeat-Senator Kennedy shared our letters and names with his colleagues. He prevailed!

While I rejoice in congressional success, it is too early to organize a celebration. The measure still needs the President's signature. Incomprehensibly, President Bush has already expressed a reluctance to endorse the Act saying it is "unnecessary." His comment is hard to understand in light of FBI statistics that 25 Americans each day are victims of hate crimes—one in six are targeted because of their sexual orientation.

So, rather than partying—I'm planning to pick up a pen to urge President Bush to rethink his position and join the effort make our country safer for everyone. Care to join me?

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 *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.

- 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.

FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This adult class series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life.

- Oct. 21 *Jubilee: Cancel Debt Fast*
- Oct. 28 *Restorative Justice:
Home for Good Program*
- Nov. 4 *Welcoming the Stranger:
Christians and Immigration - Part One*
- Nov. 11 *Welcoming the Stranger:
Christians and Immigration - Part Two*
- Nov. 18 *Welcoming the Stranger:
Christians and Immigration - Part Three*
- Nov. 25 *Welcoming the Stranger:
Christians and Immigration - Part Four*

55-ALIVE DRIVING COURSE

Wednesday and Thursday, October 10 and 11, 2007 in the Fireside Room. The 55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195

55 alive

umw

united methodist women

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UNIT GATHERING (MEN ARE ALSO INVITED TO THIS SESSION)

The United Methodist Women's Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, October 3, 2007 in the Fireside Room. At 10:00 AM there will be Meeting and Sharing. At 11:00 AM our topic will be peace-seeking Palestinians. Both men and women are invited to hear an outstanding speaker give a new slant on the Middle East conflict. Friends of Sabeel will be presented by The Rev. Canon Richard Toll, President/Director. Israel / Palestine was a recent UMW School of Missions study. For more information contact Pat Brockman or Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479. Lunch will be at noon in 202. Bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will meet on Thursday, October 4, at 9:30 AM at University Park United Methodist Church, 4775 N Lombard, Portland. The program will feature the work of The League of Women Voters. For more information contact: Betty-Lou Hare at 503/292-1773

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, October 17, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Sue Fisher will review the book, *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, October 17, at 12:00 noon in Room 204. The program study book is: *The Will of God*, by the Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, led by Ruth Green.. Bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. Chair: 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 & Ruth Green.
- November 17, 2007
UMW High Noon Tea, 12:00 noon, *Apron Frolic*, Collins Hall.
Contact: Trudy Kayser.
- April 04-06, 2008.
UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

fellow- ship

the parker
group

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, October 6, at 12:30 PM for a potluck and program in Room 202. Bring a dish to share. Kathleen and Jeffrey Barkman from Amnesty International, which focuses on human rights, will be our speakers. Amnesty International won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980. For more information contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

the edge
thoughts for
the journey

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

Recently, the media has presented us with a variety of images of war. First there were the testimonies related to our current war in Iraq. Then discussions by our leaders trying to determine how best to end this conflict and bring our troops home...and then this week many of us have followed the stories of people from four American towns as they've shared their memories through Ken Burns' powerful documentary about World War II on PBS. Each night, as ordinary citizens have spoken about the affects of that war on their lives, I've thought about my father's diary entries from his time in the Pacific theater during WWII and what those experiences meant to my him...and to my mom.

In this spirit, I'd like to share some words about war from Rev. William Sloane Coffin: "War is humanity's most chronic and incurable disease. Said Plato, 'Only the dead have seen an end to war.' Historian Will Durant estimated that in all of human history only twenty-nine years can be described as free of war. And of all centuries, the one just past set records for bloodletting...Peace does not come rolling in on the wheels of inevitability. We can't just wish for peace. We have to will it, fight for it, suffer for it, demand it from our governments as if peace were God's most cherished hope for humanity, as indeed it is." (William Sloane Coffin, *Credo*, pages 91 and 93)

stewardship
from Bev Graver

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

Life is never completely safe, no matter where we live — there are dangers, hurricanes on the east coast, floods in the south, tornados in the midwest, fires, earthquakes, trees falling on house in the west. Besides natural disasters, there are dangers even from driving in Portland.

Even in our worship service there is a moment each week, when we face grave danger. WORSHIP??? DANGER????

Arvin and Lowell, it isn't the sermon; Kelly, Gary and Jonas, it isn't the music. The time of danger? It's the offering. That's right, the offering.

In the book of Deuteronomy, the people of God are about to enter the land God has promised to them. It has been a long time coming—some 40 years to be exact. And Moses speaks to them and gives them some instructions for worship. He says, "When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil the land the Lord your God has given you and put them in a basket.

Wait a minute. What am I doing giving God my first fruits? I'll be back later when I have second or third fruits. Or it is at this moment that a person might say, "Wait, I think I'll keep that nice yellow banana. Here is a slightly bruised one instead.

It is here that a person might re-think the offering completely.

The offering is a dangerous time in the worship service, because it is here that one might forget where our hearts need to be. And that, my friends, is the crucial moment. The danger filled moment. It was at that moment that the person worshipping God could come to his or her senses.

We are at a crucial moment in our church: The Stewardship Campaign. Our message will be "COUNT ON ME". Last year your financial commitments totaled \$815,000 for 2007. We thank you for your support. If we were able to increase that support by just 10% in 2008, we would not only be able to sustain what we currently are doing as fixed costs rise maintain this complex and excellent staff, we would also increase our efforts to serve the needs of others, expand our educational programming opportunities for children, youth, and adults and develop new ways to worship as a community. Dr. Arvin Luchs challenged us at our 50th Anniversary Celebration Sunday with this question, "What kind of church will be passed on and grow?" Dr. Ross Miller, stated in the same service, "This church is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace"

We ask you to faithfully make a financial commitment of at least a 10% increase for 2008. We understand situations dictate one's giving. There will be choices you can mark on the card, so please, everyone return the card. We ask each one of you to prayerfully consider what you can give and what amount of your first fruits that is God's to give back to God.

You will be receiving, in the up coming month, information in the mail in more detail. We ask you to read it, digest it and pray about it.

It is here that the danger is you might forget that everything you put in this basket, and everything you keep both come from the generosity of God Himself.

The offering is a dangerous time in the worship service, because it is here, at this moment, that you are being asked what kind of commitment you have to God. Do you see the danger?

You are being given a test—where is your heart? How committed are you to God, what do you really value? Jesus spoke a great deal about money. He talked about it a lot because he understood that money has a driving force in our lives.

Fundamentally, stewardship is about giving 100% of who I am to God. We trust God with our eternity, but will we trust him with our money?

May we count on you?

service opportunities

and first church in mission

COFFEE SERVERS

Friends, we need a few friendly folks to sign up to serve coffee, tea and punch at the after-service Coffee Hour. Please consider volunteering for one Sunday between now and the new year. Coffee Hour is a pleasant time for members to greet one another, and for all of us to welcome and get to know visitors. Look for the sign-up sheets at the coffee table next Sunday or call Erin Riley (503) 646-8599.



NURSERY ATTENDANT

First Church is in need of an additional attendant to join the staff of loving workers for our nursery. Must be qualified in first aid and infant/child CPR, or have the ability to become so. The attendant must be willing to work an occasional Saturday and be available during the week and on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Arden Bryce at 503.228.3195 X227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org

FIRST CHURCH HELPS KEEP FOOD PANTRY DOORS OPEN

Today you will receive a list of foods stapled to an empty grocery bag. Please fill that bag with some of those foods and bring that filled bag to church with you next Sunday, October 7, 2007. You can bring the bag to the church during the week if you know you will not be in church Sunday. When we delivered our donated food for September's FISH Sunday we were told that without the churches' donations over the summer they would have had to close their doors.

(Remember, NO glass containers!)

Sunday, October 7th, is FISH Sunday and food donations will be received in the narthex.

DONATE USED EYEGLASSES FOR THE ELDERLY IN LIBERIA

Beginning World Communion Sunday, we will collect used eyeglasses to assist the elderly in Liberia. Roland Clarke, who worships at First Church, will personally deliver the glasses we collect when he travels to Liberia at the end of November. If you would rather donate funds to help in transporting our eyeglasses donations and support the health care and hygiene of the elderly in Liberia, you can do so by making a contribution to First Church and designating it for Liberia Eye Glasses. This First Church effort will take place between October 7th and November 19th. Drop off your used eyeglasses in the boxes in the church office or on Sundays in The Commons. For more information, contact Rev. Lowell Greathouse at (503) 228-3195 or Roland Clarke at (503) 453-0074.

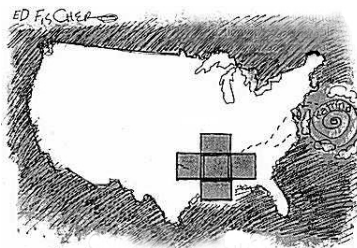


MISSION PRESENTATION

Clara Biswas, missionary to Cambodia, will share her experiences following a 6:00 p.m. meal of Cambodian cuisine on Tuesday, October 30, in Room 202, at First Church. Clara, a native of Bangladesh, has been in a covenant relationship with First Church since 2006. She will be touring the United States, visiting supporting churches and sharing information about her work with the children of Cambodia. All are invited to attend what promises to be a fun and informative evening and to learn more about the exciting work of the Methodist Church in Cambodia. A simple meal will be provided. Donations will be accepted. For further information, contact Dee Poujade (deelaw33@hotmail.com) or Lowell Greathouse (lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Be a part of the First Church VIM Team that will be working in Baldwin, Louisiana at the Sager Brown UMCOR site from April 13-19th, 2008. This team will be working at the disaster relief depot, involved in community-based projects, helping out the local Boys and Girls Clubs in the Baldwin area...and visiting Katrina damaged areas in the New Orleans area. There is room for 10 to be a part of this team from First Church. Sager Brown has a rich history of serving the needs of others in times of distress. It is also located in a region that was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. **Cost: \$900**



JUBILEE WORKSHOP

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

On Sunday, October 21st from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room - First Church will be hosting speaker Nancy Yuill to speak on the Jubilee movement. Come early to service and learn more about Jubilee and what some First Church members are doing about it.

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.

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 17, 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 ...

The Eberwein family, their son, *Douglas* is recovering from a bone marrow transplant last week in Seattle
The Rev. Ben Owre, will have surgery on Monday
Joan Jozwiak, will have surgery on Monday
Dave Jenkins, who had surgery last week

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Jerry Lindgren, whose sister, *Norma Marie Sims* died this weekend

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Judy Rogers,
Jim Jozwiak,
Clare Humphrey,
Rev. Bill Lavelly
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

All-Church Art Exhibit

**THE ARTISTS OF
FIRST CHURCH**

October 1-31,
2007



creative spirits
exhibitions

Showing by Appointment Only

503/228-3195

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