



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the Edition

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

October 17, 2007

Volume 11, Issue 20

**THIS
SUNDAY**

October 28, 2007

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

SERMON
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

**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.

WELCOME



*First Church's
Annual Stewardship
Campaign has begun ...
May we count on you to
pray as we breathe life
into our visions?*



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Please make a note: October 24th is United Nations Day.

Why?

There's a long connection between Methodism and the UN, as David Poindexter reminded me recently. David, along with his wife, Marian, have made our congregation their home since his retirement from a distinguished career first as a pastor, then as head of the Population Media Center—an impressive effort to assist the nations of the world with effective population control strategies (but that's another column!). His work included leadership in UN-related Conferences and initiatives.

Dr. Poindexter's detailed the history well.

"In the midst of World War II, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam seeking to head off an isolationist US response...launched in American Methodism the "Crusade for a New World Order." He stimulated others such as John Foster Dulles for the Presbyterians and together the church created such a climate in our country that US leadership in establishing the United Nations was assured.

There is more. The first session of the new United Nations' General Assembly was held in Methodism's Central Hall in London, adjacent to the House of Parliament.

From the outset of the UN's Headquarters...Methodism has maintained a significant presence there. In the 1960's thanks to collaboration between the Women's Division and what is now called the General Board of Church and society, the Church Center for the United Nation was erected at the corner...of 44th Street and United Nations Plaza. The building was dedicated by...Bishop A. Raymond Grant of Portland. Assisting him was UN Secretary General, U Thant.*

Over the last 40 years, the Church Center has become the venue of choice for most of the world's non-governmental humanitarian organizations to work with UN staff and delegations on such issues as environment, status of women, population, law of the sea, global warming, desertification, human rights and so on.

The United Nations has taken some hits lately. The taint of internal scandals, international polarization, the thinly-veiled scorn of the Bush administration, which included withholding dues, have taken their toll. (Ironically, one of the President's daughters has worked for a UNESCO literacy effort!)

But the UN is still the *only* game on the international playing field. Their mission may be more clearly effective in humanitarian than in governmental action—though they have played a vital role in international diplomacy. It is, I am convinced, a serious mistake to count them out on the basis of human foibles of some past leaders or US public opinion.

Well, find out the facts and reach your own conclusions. A good opportunity is upcoming. The Oregon Division/Portland Chapter of the UN Association of the USA meets regularly in our building. They will recognize UN Day with a special meeting **Sunday, October 21**, at 3:00 pm in Fireside Room.

The speaker will be Ramu Damodaran, who hails from India and holds a key office in public information in the UN organization. Earlier assignments have been in Peacekeeping, Special Political Questions and in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

It should be well worth your time.

See you in Church

Arvin

*from a personal letter from Dr. David O. Poindexter, October 5, 2007.

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.

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**

This 4 part series will examine the immigration issue, that is part of current public policy debate, through the eyes of the Christian faith. We will be utilizing a study guide published by Sojourners as well as have guests from the emerging New Sanctuary Movement, who will share how other faith communities are looking at this issue. The series is designed to stimulate discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God's call for justice with all our neighbors

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**

NEW MEMBER 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 about FUMC, 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 one-time orientation will be offered after the worship service on November 18th, 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.

NEW GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE STARTING

For four weeks on Tuesdays, starting November 6th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Sign up in the narthex or contact Peg Cook at 503/452-7298 for details.

youth at first

spooky times in october

SCARY MOVIE NIGHT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Saturday October 27, All Middle School Youth are invited to bring their friends to an evening of classic monster movies. *Frankenstein, The Wolf Man, The Invisible Man* and *King Kong* are among the classic 1930's movies that we have to show. The party starts at 6:00 pm and lasts until 9:00 pm in the youth room.



FUMY PRESENTS SAFE-SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Sunday October 28, Middle and High School Youth will present a Safe Space Halloween Carnival for the children.

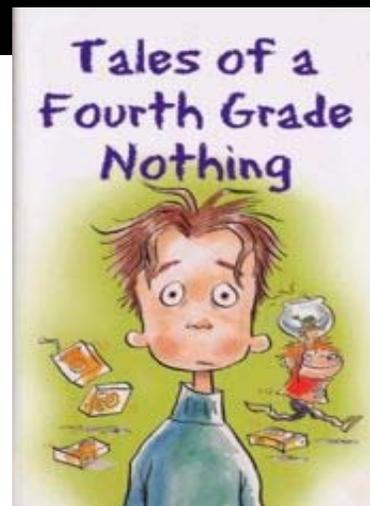


Families are invited to bring their children in costumes. The Carnival begins at 5:00 pm and runs until 7:00 pm and is hosted in Room 202.

children at first

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The children and family ministry is going to Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing November 3rd. Tickets are currently available \$12 for youth and \$14 for adults. A group of about 20 will be going and we would love for you to join us. Please contact Arden Bryce 503-228-3195 x 227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org for information and registration.



this and that

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, November 3, at 12:30 pm for a potluck and program in the Fireside Room. Bring a dish to share. Wid Bleything, long time member of First Church will present the "Russian Water Ways" from his recent trips.

the edge
thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

The Sufi are among the great teachers of the spiritual life. Their stories often get right to the heart of the matter. Consider this story as described by Joan Chittister in her book, *Called to Question*: "The Sufi tell of disciples who, when the death of their master was clearly imminent, became totally bereft. 'If you leave us Master,' they pleaded, 'how will we know what to do?' And the master replied, 'I am nothing but a finger pointing at the moon. Perhaps when I am gone you will see the moon.' The meaning is clear: It is God that religion must be about, not itself. When religion makes itself God, it ceases to be religion." (Joan Chittister, *Called to Question*, page 14)

OUR PLEDGED GIVING

As of October 10, 2007

Anticipated: \$634,158.74

Received: \$567,628.12

Please remember to keep your pledges current!

Thank you,
The Finance Committee

COMMONS-EAST HAS MOVED

The Commons-East is now "The Commons AM" and has moved to Collins Hall. Each Sunday from 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM. It's so popular that we've outgrown Room 210 and instead will be open in Collins Hall for coffee, juice, snacks and conversation. The Commons AM is open for anyone attending an adult class, youth choir or class, children's choir or coming early for study. We ask for donations to help make it possible for us to provide breakfast rolls, fruit, juices and coffee. Judy Carpenter serves as host and is available to answer questions and assist with the food.



VOLUNTEER AT GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter will open on November 1 to homeless families with children. In order to have a successful opening, we need your help! Please sign up to volunteer on the GHFS Calendar in Collins after worship or on the website at www.fumcpdx.org/goosehollowfamilyshelter. Our Volunteer Orientations will be on October 16th and October 24th from 6-7:30pm in Room 202. Refreshments will be provided. Come meet the new and returning Shelter staff and learn about the shelter operation! The Shelter Work Day will be Saturday Oct. 27th from 9:00am-Noon. Join us to help get the shelter organized, cleaned, and ready to go for our Nov. 1st opening! If you have questions or want to sign up to volunteer, please call Brandi at 503-228-3195 x215.

methodist women
coming up for the umw

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

UMW OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The UMW Oregon-Idaho Conference Annual Meeting will be held at First Church on Oct 27, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

This is our opportunity to attend a UMW Oregon/Idaho conference. The special guest speakers will be Paul Jeffrey, photographer & journalist, and Edith Elion from the Atlantic Street Center in Seattle. Jeffrey has just returned from Kenya and the Darfur area of Sudan. We'll learn how UM women are helping the women in Africa with micro loans. Don't miss this special event taking place in our home church. Registration: \$12.50 to Peggy Cook. Contact Mary Covert or Ruth Green for more information.

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 31, 9:30 am in Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends meets Wednesday, October 31, 11:30 am in Room 204. The program will feature Virginia Bender, who will focus on facilitating support for those bereaved by the suicide death of loved ones. She will also draw attention to the need for the prevention of suicide in all areas of society, particularly noting the high rate of suicide among veterans. Chair: Hazelee Stevenson, 503-283-0041. Bring a sandwich. Dessert & beverage provided.

HIGH NOON TEA

UMW High Noon Tea, Saturday, November 17, 12:00 noon, "Apron Tales, Celebrating Aprons", Collins Hall. All invited, both men and women.. Three sandwiches, fruit tray, scones, and more. Tickets" \$15. All proceeds go to Mission Giving. Contact: Trudy Kayser.

DONATE USED EYEGLASSES FOR THE ELDERLY IN LIBERIA

We are collecting 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 last until 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).



THE JUBILEE TASK FORCE

The Jubilee Task Force would like to thank the over 50 First Church members who took the time to sign a plate to their representatives in Washington D.C. in support of the Jubilee Act. The plates have been sent off and will be hand delivered in the hallways of Congress. We'll keep you updated on the progress of the bill as we learn more. Again, thank you for your efforts.

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. Sager Brown has a rich history of serving the needs of others in times of distress and is in a region that was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. **Cost: \$900** Interested? Contact Lowell Greathouse 503/228-3195.

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.

book signing

WHO WAS CLARENCE TRUE WILSON?

The Bell Tower and Carillion was named in his memory. His daughter is Maribeth Collins. He was a dynamic pastor of this church and one of Methodism's stellar social justice advocates. He traveled around the country debating the renowned lawyer, Clarence Darrow (who became a close friend.) Want to know more?

The Rev. Robert McNeil—who makes his church home with us—has published a biography of Dr. Wilson titled *Clarence Darrow's Unlikely Friend*. The Library will be selling the volume, and Rev. McNeil will be holding a book signing following worship on Sunday, October 28th in the Commons. It's time to get acquainted with this great man!

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 31, 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 THANKFULNESS FOR ...

Beth Iverson, who is now home following post-surgery rehab
Ann Williams, who is home following a hip replacement

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Hawa Doe, daughter of Moima Doe, in OHSU Hospital
Callie Templin, who is beginning chemotherapy
Julie Martell, who is at Saint Vincent Hospital
Howard Foster and his family, brother of Tom Foster, as he journeys toward the end of his earthly life
Robin White's mother Joy, for harmony in her life
Mary Bywater Cross, who will have surgery this week

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The Beckett family, in the death of *Priscilla Beckett*, a past bookkeeper of FUMC

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

David Jenkins
Douglas Eberwein
Judy Rogers
Jim Jozwiak
Carol Howard
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



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