



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

October 31, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 21

SUNDAYS AT FIRST

8:45 AM

Collins AM

Coffee and Fellowship

9:00 AM

Nursery Available

9:00 AM

Music Ministries

9:00 AM

Adult Classes*

9:30 AM

Youth Sunday School

Middle & High School

10:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:45 AM

Children's Sunday School

(after Children's Message)

11:45 AM

Commons in Collins

Coffee, displays, sign-ups

12:00 PM

Forums at First*

* See inside for details



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.

Consecration Sunday

November 4

WE

May We Count On You?

As we approach Consecration Sunday, it is helpful to look at our budget and see how it impacts the life of the spirit here at First Church. While the detailed budget is many pages long, it can be simplified by viewing it as an affirmation of who we are as a church. When we apply our own framing statement of "believing, thinking, and acting," our budget readily exposes our values in our work through the ministries of worship, education, and outreach to others.

We are fortunate to have dedicated ministers and staff to guide us in fulfilling our Christian mission in all of its ramifications. We are blessed to have a church building large enough to have spaces for worship, for education, and, importantly, for serving those not a part of our community of faith: Goose Hollow Family Shelter, 12 step programs, scouting... in fact, as we look at the daily use throughout the year more than half of our building's use is by groups outside of our own congregation. As David Leslie of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) said recently, First Church is a special place for all of Portland, both because of our physical space but also in the community programs we support and make available to others.

The Body of Christ embodied in First Church has room for all persons. We welcome musicians, artists, people who are homeless, individuals, families, small and large groups. We are a caring and open church.

As we contemplate a budget for 2008 that fits our vision and mission, we hope that we can increase our pledges by just 10% from this year's \$815,000. If we can, we will beat the rising fixed costs of utilities, we can support our staff so they may guide us in new ways, we can provide more educational and service opportunities for members and non-members alike, and we can build a more vibrant worshipping community of faith.

We affirm and celebrate our Christian life together, but we have much work to do. The race is only beginning, and we have many miles to go. May we count on you to help us finish the race?

**WE
COUNT
ON
YOU**



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

When I was a child, I was fascinated with a Russian matryoshka—an ornately painted nesting doll. I’m sure you’ve seen them—the hour-glass-shaped outside doll has four or five smaller dolls hidden inside—down to a kidney-bean-size baby doll.

United Methodism is organized like that. First Church, for example, is closely related with more than 30 neighboring churches which forms a District (the Metro District) which is one of five in our Conference (Oregon and southern Idaho), which is part of the Western Jurisdiction (stretching from Colorado to Singapore) which is part of the global church.

We call it “the Connection” and it has been very visible around our building recently.

Our Hunger Task Force works hand-in-glove with our Bishop who has declared fighting hunger to be a conference emphasis and called together a work group to coordinate the effort.

At the end of September, several dozen families enjoyed our congregation’s annual “Fall Frolic” at Camp Magruder—a beachfront camp and retreat site owned by our Annual Conference and available for church use. Among their activities, they help maintain the camp for other churches to use.

A number our members missed worship a few weeks ago because they were in New York City participating in a national mission tour called “Prime-Timers.”

Two weeks ago, the elected representatives of our Conference—both lay and clergy—met in our building for the Fall Leadership Convocation—a day of planning and coordination.

Last weekend our Unit of United Methodist Women hosted nearly 250 leaders from congregations across our region for a training and inspiration. It was one of the largest such conference in some years—and our hostesses (with a few hosts helping) did us proud.

Several of us met with a group of other UM’s to continue planning for the Western Jurisdictional Conference to be held next July. We will welcome the Conference for two worship services and at least one meeting—and some of our members are heading host teams.

This week the Conference Board of Ministries is meeting in our Fireside Room. They have responsibility for the ministerial leadership—Elders, Deacons and Local Pastors—across our two-state area. They are just one of dozens of Conference, District and Jurisdictional groups who find meeting space at First Church. Next to our own activities, our “connection” utilizes our building more than anyone else.

Last Tuesday night we welcomed Clara Biswas to a potluck dinner and presentation. Ms. Biswas, a native of Bangladesh, is a UM missionary who has served in Japan before her current assignment in one of the poorest slums of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We support her work directly through a “Covenant Relationship.”

Methodism’s founder reminded his followers that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Our faith can only be effective in relationship. So too, our congregations are not isolated—but draw strength and support from working together. It extends our mission—not only to our community—but, literally around the world.

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

FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

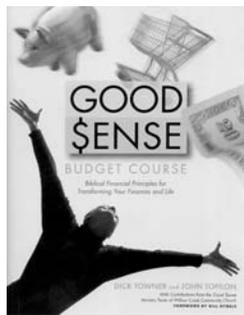
Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the Fireside Room. This adult class series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life.

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 GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE STARTING

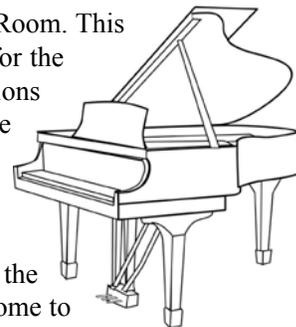
This class will focus on matters of stewardship based on biblical principles. Utilizing a workbook format, these sessions will look at the contrast between biblical teachings about money and the materialistic pull of our culture, equip people to create a workable spending plan that helps get and keep 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 this the Good Sense Budget course in a number of settings. Cost: \$17 for the workbook. 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.



this & that

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

There is a grand piano in the Fireside Room. This room is considered the "living room" for the church, and it is used for special functions where a good piano is desired. We have purchased a used 1926 Knabe grand to be placed in the room to meet these needs.



Have you been enjoying the sounds of the Wilson Carillon each Sunday as you come to worship? They can also be heard each day at noon playing hymns after the Westminster chimes toll the hour.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, November 3, at 12:30 pm for a potluck and program starting in Room 202. Bring a dish to share. Wid Bleything, long time member of First Church will present the "Russian Water Ways" from his recent trips.

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.

THANKSGIVING

The First Church Reconciling Ministry invites you to a special Thanksgiving Sing-a-long, which in addition to singing traditional



Thanksgiving hymns will be a time to share food and fellowship with others from our church and beyond.

Come Sunday, November 18th from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in Collins Hall.

Begin Thanksgiving Week in song....and joined together with friends.

HEALING FROM LOSS

"Healing from Loss: Taking Care of Yourself," a grief support group offered by First United Methodist and Samaritan Counseling Center begins on November 18th. Meetings will continue for 8 weeks, from 1:00 - 2:30 pm on Sundays in the First Church library. The group will be facilitated by Dominick Robertson. This is a safe place to be with others experiencing grief and to receive the support that is necessary in order to move forward after the loss of someone - or something - significant, particularly through the holiday period. The cost is \$10 per session, or \$50 for all 8 sessions. Some scholarships are available. Please call Dominick Robertson at 503/281-3318 x 41 to register, or just to find out more.

the edge

thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

In his book, *Faith is a Verb*, Kenneth Stokes writes: “ ‘Faith’ is a noun. It is a thing. It is that understanding of life’s ultimate meaning that is central to every person’s sense of identity and purpose for his or her life. But ‘faith’ is also a verb in the sense that it is never static and is always in process. When it ceases to be—when faith becomes the unquestioned acceptance of creed and dogma—that faith no longer has meaning for the living adult. My wife Anne wrote a term paper for a religion course in college entitled, ‘What I Believe Today But Won’t Guarantee I’ll Believe Tomorrow.’ The title, and the paper itself, illustrate the concept of ‘faithing’—a process that is never ending.” (Kenneth Stokes, *Faith is a Verb*, page 7)

OUR PLEDGED GIVING

As of October 29, 2007

Anticipated: \$679,455.80

Received: \$615,376.82

Please remember to keep your pledges current!

Thank you,
The Finance Committee

photo directories

PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE IN

Just what we’ve been waiting for!
One copy per family is available:
Pick up your complimentary copy in
the church office during office hours.

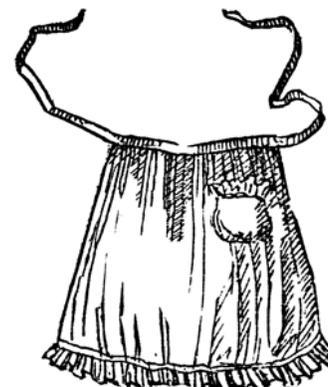
methodist women

coming up for the umw

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

HIGH NOON TEA

The United Methodist Women High Noon Tea is Saturday, November 17, at noon in Collins Hall. Apron strings are ties to the past. Don a vintage apron and rustle yourself to the High Noon Tea. You may think aprons are female attire, but for domestic workers in the early 1900s, the apron was an all-purpose tool used to carry wood and kindling, to gather eggs and vegetables, and to wipe the brow in the noon-day sun. The first aprons were anything but girl stuff. Before 1900 aprons were guy wear for blacksmiths, furniture makers, leather



smiths, cobblers, tailors, jewelers, metal forgers, and clock makers. Fancy embroidered aprons started coming into fashion for women during the Victorian age, although pioneer matrons in America wore them to keep their clothes clean. Don’t miss Apron Tales, Celebrating Aprons. All are invited, both men and women, young and old. Three sandwiches, fruit tray, scones, and more. Tickets: \$15. Children 10 & under \$5. All proceeds go to Mission Giving for women, children & youth around the world. Tickets on sale in Collins Hall. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. Come, bring an apron to share. Contact: Trudy Kayser, Lila Palmiter

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

World Community Day is Friday, November 2nd at 9:30 am.

Allen Temple, CME Church, 4232 NE 8th Street, corner of Skidmore, Portland
For information, contact: Betty-Lou Hare

UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering is Wednesday, November 7th in the Fireside Room at 10:00 am. The pledge service this day, led by Peggy Cook, is an opportunity to make a real difference in this world. Our gifts can help women, children, and youth find a better life. To educate a girl is to educate a family. Don’t miss this chance to have a positive influence in the life of a woman in Asia, Africa, South America, as well as here in America. At 11:00 Sarah Baker and Dee Poujade will present “From the Bayou to You with Love.” They are fresh from exploring UMCOR’s Sager Brown Depot down Louisiana way. Come, learn more about the the place where we send our health kits and school kits. Contact: Colleen Foster. At noon, bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert provided.



READING GROUP

The Reading Group meets Wednesday, November 14, (Note 2nd Wednesday) at 10:00 am in the Church Library. Discussion of the book, *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen will be led by William Douglas.
Chair: Sue Fisher

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, November 14, (Note 2nd Wednesday) at 12:00 noon, Room 204. Mary Jane Hendrickson will lead us in Spiritual Growth Opportunities. Bring a sandwich. Dessert provided.
Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

service opportunities and first church in mission

BENEVOLENT FUND FOR CALLIE TEMPLIN

A benevolent fund has been established to help defray the mounting expenses for Callie Templin. Callie is an FUMC member and single mother of three young children who is being treated for pancreatic cancer. Donations may be made at any Washington Mutual Bank designated to "Callie Templin."

The church staff can convey your gifts to the bank if that is helpful. They can be transmitted to the office or placed in the offering plate. Please do NOT make the checks payable to the church. The payee must be "Callie Templin." Gifts to the Fund are not tax deductible.

If you have questions call the church office.

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.



OREGON FOOD BANK

Here's a great community service opportunity! Sock the Shelves at the Oregon Food Bank on Saturday November 17th at 9:00 am. We will be helping unpack boxes of food and stocking the shelves for the upcoming seasons. Please wear clothes that can be dirtied and

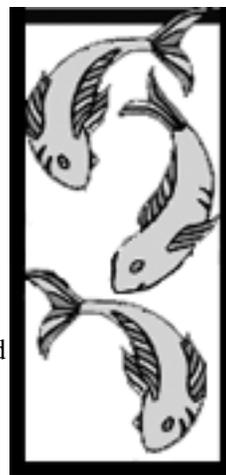
close-toed shoes. Children under the age of 18 need signed permission forms in order to participate. Children under 6 are unable to participate due to safety regulations. For more information, contact Arden Bryce at abryce@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 x 227. Please notify Arden if your family would like to participate in this activity and to obtain permission slips and directions. Sign-up also available in the Commons on Sundays.

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.

REMEMBER— FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

Consider adding some holiday items to your November and December donations (canned pumpkin, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, olives). But, remember NO glass containers! You will receive a grocery bag after worship today. Return it next Sunday filled with suggested food items. Our October donations totaled 520 pounds. Let's see if we can top that!



NEED A RIDE?

Northwest Portland Ministries offers free transportation to seniors and people with disabilities so they can come to events, or even to get to appointments. Call the "Ride Line" at 503/221-1224. If you can get around fine, and would like to volunteer, call 503/413-5530.



goose hollow

TRIMET TICKETS FOR GOOSE HOLLOW

If you bought a Chinook Book this year, consider donating the four Trimet Bus Passes in the back of the book to the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. These tickets are given to our homeless guests so that they can get to their case management appointments, job interviews, work, and school. Please call Brandi at 503/228-3195 x215 if you will donate your tickets!

FAMILY SHELTER

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER NEEDS

The Shelter successfully opened on Thursday, November 1st. Thanks to all of you who came to the Volunteer Orientation, helped out at the Shelter Work Day, and have volunteered so far! Our volunteers are the heartbeat of all that we do!

We are in need of volunteers to help continue making this season great - especially Overnight Hosts! Sign up online at www.fumcpdx.org/goosehollowfamilyshelter or contact Brandi at 503-228-3195 x215 if you are interested in helping.

Also, we are in short supply of blankets for this year's winter season. If you have new or gently used blankets to donate, our guests would greatly appreciate them! Drop them in the donation box or call Brandi to schedule a delivery.

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 **November 14, 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

The Circuit Rider Online

See the latest and past issues of *The Circuit Rider* in color at <http://www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter>

The Circuit Rider via e-mail

Have the link to the latest issue of *The Circuit Rider* e-mailed to you and be up-to-date fast and first! Sign-up at the church office, or call 503/228-3195 or e-mail at office@fumcpdx.org

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Callie Templin, and her children, as she is going through chemotherapy.

Todd & Leslie Strobel, as Leslie is in the last stages of cancer. They are former members here and now active at Rose City Park UMC.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The Howard Foster family, in the death of *Tom's Brother* who died after 93 years of life.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

David Jenkins
Douglas Eberwein
Judy Rogers
Jim Jozwiak
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

**Remember: Time Change Saturday November 3
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!**

The Watercolor Paintings of Kris Preslan

November 4-25,
2007



creative spirits
exhibitions

Available Sunday Mornings
other times by appointment

503/228-3195

www.fumcpdx.org