



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

November 14, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 22

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

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,
DECEMBER 2, 2007

Everyone is invited to our Annual Advent Faire and Chili Feed. Come enjoy a meal prepared by our youth of meat or vegetarian chili and corn bread. The cost is \$4.00 per person, \$10.00 per family.

After the lunch families can enjoy a variety of craft projects together. There will be ...

- Three-dimensional gingerbread churches
- Christmas Trees
- God's Eye's
- Cookies to decorate

There will be a small fee for craft supplies. For more information about the Advent Faire, contact: Arden Bryce at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or e-mail her at: abryce@fumcpdx.org.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

An update to you is long overdue!

I am thankful that our Capital Fund Campaign, *Celebrating Our Past—Creating Our Future*, has currently received in gifts or pledges \$1,625,000. While that is a bit short of our original goal, it is the most received in any campaign at First Church—and several donors are still considering gifts.



Thanks to you...

- We will be able to pay off the mortgage from previous construction and renovation projects.
- A new sound system has been installed and is making a big difference in the sanctuary. Contracts have been signed for a new roof over Collins Hall and the Fireside Room.
- The roofers have scheduled installation for February.
- The Mary L. Collins Organ is in the final stages of a complete rebuild. The console is now on the chancel and expected to be operative in December. Wind chests, pipes and computerized control systems are being installed and tested. We should be able to enjoy the full organ in early spring.
- Designs for rebuilding the narthex are in the hands of an architect. They should be finalized in the next few months—but construction will not begin until after the Western Jurisdictional Conference which we are hosting in July of 2008.
- So also the redevelopment of Beckham Courtyard is being refined and recast in phases as funds are available. High priority is being given to provide a usable garden area accessible to all of us. Relandscaping needs to be coordinated with the narthex project to facilitate construction access.
- As resources are available, the replacement of the choir risers is a high priority.

You may remember that the Church Conference asked the trustees to implement projects without incurring a new mortgage. So, several projects still await funding. These include the redesign of the chancel and sanctuary lighting upgrades.

This is an exciting time as we see these important projects come to reality.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Trustees, the Capital Campaign Committee, and especially to Chair, Ralph Bolliger and to Campaign manager, Don Riggs. They have offered boundless energy and hundreds of hours of work to the effort. Because of the work of our own volunteers, the campaign's expenses were only \$1500.00—amazingly small for such an effort.

Let us continue to keep the on-going Campaign in our prayers as we build our future together.

See you in Church!

Arvin



DON'T FORGET OUR CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our All-Church Conference will be Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 PM in the Chapel. Please plan to be a part of this meeting as we review the year and have an opportunity for worship and fellowship with our District Superintendent, Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson.

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 9:15 AM in room 134.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join as the Changing Christianity Class studies *The Language of God* by Francis S. Collins 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. (Through November 25)

Welcoming the Stranger: Christians and Immigration

This 4 part series is examining the immigration issue, that is part of current public policy debate, through the eyes of the Christian faith. The series is designed to stimulate discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God's call for justice with all our neighbors.

CHRISTMAS IN MUSIC

On Sunday December 9 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room, Chuck Klang will again play selections from his collection of Christmas CDs. This includes music from the Renaissance up to contemporary composers. Christmas has been a source of enormous musical creativity. Lesser known, yet beautiful, music will be played. Special Christmas treats will be provided.

learning & growing

for adults

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.

POINSETTIAS



It is time to order plants to prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. This year poinsettias or azaleas are \$14.00 each. Use this form to indicate if the plant is in memory or honor of someone and return the form to the church office with your check for \$15.00, **by Sunday, December 2, 2007**. Indicate: POINSETTIA in the memo portion of the check.

Also indicate if you are picking your plant up after the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Please note that the earliest that plants can be picked up is after the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.

- POINSETTIA
- AZALEA
- I will pick up plant.

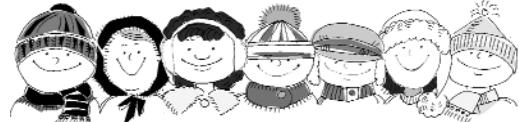
Your Name _____

Name _____

In Memory In Honor

children

at first church



SCHOOLHOUSE SUPPLY DRIVE

Results are in from the Schoolhouse Supply drive, well done First Church! Your generosity brought in \$93.42 worth of supplies. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

UNICEF BOXES

If you were a part of Trick or Treating with UNICEF please return the boxes, with the donations, to the church office or Arden Bryce.

ZOO LIGHTS

The First Church trip to the Zoolights at the Oregon Zoo is Saturday, December 15, 2007. At 5:00 PM meet at the church so we can take MAX together to Washington Park. Come see the zoo transformed into a winter wonderland, aglow with nearly a million lights. Cost is \$7 per person, unless you have a free pass as a Zoo Plus Member. For more information or to sign up let Arden Bryce know at 503/228-3195 x227 or by email at abryce@fumcpdx.org

PARENTS DAY OUT

Parents Day Out is a program to help make the holidays a little less hectic for families. Each Saturday, on December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2007 from 10:00 A to 1:00 PM you can bring your children to the church nursery for care while you shop or just relax. Sign-ups are available at the church nursery. The cost is \$5 per child with a \$15 maximum per family.

the edge

thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Biography is my favorite material to read. Looking into someone else's life often helps me dig more deeply within and find my own way forward.

Recently I went to a bookstore and saw on the sale table the book *Mandela*:

The Authorized Portrait. It is filled with pictures, history, personal reflections, and tributes to Nelson Mandela, from his years in prison on Robben Island to his release and days as the elected President on South Africa. The opening quotation in the book is from former-President Bill Clinton: "Every time Nelson Mandela walks into a room we all feel a little bigger, we all want to stand up, we all want to cheer, because we'd like to be him on our best day."

As a follower of Jesus Christ, these words express how I feel and why I try so hard to be conscious of Jesus' presence in the world as I go about my own daily round ... I want to feel a little bigger, stand up a little taller, and cheer a bit more ... and act as Jesus did toward himself, God, and others ... on my best days. It seems like that's the least I can do as someone who calls himself a disciple of Jesus Christ.

methodist women

coming up for the umw

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

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 28, 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM. We'll carpool to the east side to the home of Mary Covert, Willamette View, 12705 SE River Road, #407E, Portland. Trudy Kayser will lead a discussion on the many facets of globalization and the impact upon exploited workers. Bring a sandwich. Dessert provided. For information, call Mary at 503/652-6480



PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Just what we've been waiting for! The First Church Photo Directories are in. One copy per family is available. Pick up your complimentary copy in the church office during office hours.



THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, December 1 at 12:30 PM for a potluck lunch and program in Room 202. Bring a dish to share. Colleen Foster will give us an introduction to various hymns and gospel songs and how they have influenced the lives of people.



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 First UMC, 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 18, 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.



Poinsettia Form

To order a poinsettia for the sanctuary, please fill out the Poinsettia Form on the reverse side of this page.



mail
where is
my Circuit
Rider?

You may have noticed a change in the "punctuality" of the delivery of the church newsletter, *The Circuit Rider*. It is not your postal carrier's fault.

The recent change in postal rates and regulations resulted in a major increase in the cost and process of mailing a not-for-profit periodical. In light of this it was decided to mail *The Circuit Rider* at a more reasonable "non-profit bulk rate." The downside, however, is that delivery can be VERY SLOW. Mail in this category may take up to two weeks for delivery.

In response, the Church staff is trying to refocus the content on activities happening two or three weeks into the future. Of course that means groups wanting to publicize events need to get them to the church office three to four weeks in advance of the event.

You may choose to subscribe to *The Circuit Rider* by e-mail. Just send your e-mail address to the church office at office@fumcpdx.org. Or you can visit the First Church website and read the current issue of *The Circuit Rider*. You can even browse past issues on the website.

We apologize for any confusion resulting from the postal delays. The goal of church communications is to be timely and accurate. Please keep us posted on how we are doing.

please take note

ITEMS OF INTEREST

COUNT ON ME: A FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN SCOREBOARD

As of November 12, 2007 we have received 275 estimates of giving totaling \$690,127. That represents about two-thirds of the number of pledges we received last year. Budgets will not be developed until the campaign has concluded. Estimates are that about \$900,000 is needed in order to sustain our ministries and missions. Your prayers and continued support are needed.

MARK THE DATE FOR A CONCERT

The Friends of Music will present our own Rebecca Anderson in recital the afternoon of December 16, 2007 at 1:30 PM. Becky will be playing Mozart and Prokofiev Concertos and a Bach Sonata. She will be accompanied by Janet Coleman at the piano. The recital will be a joy for all to hear!

PRE-UNION CLASS ANNOUNCED

Samaritan Counseling Center is sponsoring a "PRE-UNION CLASS" on Saturday, December 1, 2007, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the Hotel Deluxe. Same-sex couples will have the opportunity to focus on sex and intimacy, religion and faith, goal setting, or the exploration of any other unique aspect of their relationship. Registration also includes three hours of private preunion education with one of the licensed counselors. The pre-union program is run by Linda Simpson and Mike Binks, Master's level GBLTQ counselors with many years of experience working with couples. For further information and fees call 503/281-3318 or email: register@sccpdx.org

GREETERS NEEDED

Four persons are needed to join the greeting team for the second Sunday of each month. This only requires a warm smile, friendly greeting and one-half hour of your time one Sunday each month. The "somebody elses" are already busy. Let us not be a church of "nobodys" on this Sunday. Please call the church office and let them know you will participate in this most important ministry of our church. Thank you. Pat Rieke, greeting coordinator

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Church Leadership Council will met Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2007

World AIDS Day will be Sunday, December 2, 2007. AIDS is still a major health concern around the world. There are many ways in which you can support World AIDS Day. For example:

- Raise awareness of HIV and AIDS in your area
- Wear a red ribbon and ask others to do the same
- Sign up as a supporter of the Stop AIDS in Children campaign
- Protect yourself and your partners - this is the first and best way to stop the spread of HIV
- If you are in a high-risk group ... get tested
- Visit the website: www.worldaidsday.org

Living with 25 Years of HIV/AIDS

World AIDS Day

Sunday, December 2, 2007

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 28, 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 ...

The family of Leslie Strobel, upon Leslie's recent death. . .

Mary Cross, as she undergoes radiation therapy . . .

Matt Kayser, as he recuperates from a second surgery . . .

Mystal Graver, Mystal, Bev Gravers' mother, is in critical condition following surgery in Wichita, KS . . .

Rosemary Dodds, whose sister-in-law is in critical condition in a Florida hospital . . .

Patrick O'Brien, whose son was killed in the line of duty as a Canadian Mountie . . .

David Edson, recuperating at St. Vincent from a brain hemorrhage . . .

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ... THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Callie Templin

Douglas Eberwein

Judy Rogers

Jim Jozwiak

Sadame Tsunenaga

Patrick O'Brien

Dick Clark

Jared Bomberger

Michael Panck

Karl Alger

Vanessa Walton

Craig Kubala

Steven Johnson

John Lemmon

Ryan Martin



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

This year the Alternative Christmas giving program will be expanded. There will be more options and opportunities. Detailed information and forms will be made available on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Watch for details in future publications.

fish sunday a response to hunger

FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

Remember to bring your non-perishable food items for the FISH food bank barrels that are in our narthex the first Sunday of each month.