



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 9, 2008
Volume 11, Issue 24

COMING EVENTS

January 27
First Church
Orientation

February 3
Reconciling Sunday

February 6
Ash Wednesday

February 10
Winter Carnival

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

WINTER CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008



Join us on Sunday, February 10, 2008, in Collins Hall, following worship. You won't want to miss this fun First Church event. The Winter Carnival has a great variety of activities for all ages and the Annual Library Book Sale.

The First Church Youth will host a Pancake Feed for the whole family. Proceeds from the event will go toward the summer youth trip and to camp scholarships.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

That word, “church,” is it a noun or a verb?

Does “church” refer to the institution with its procedures, process and traditions?

Or, is it what happens when the Spirit of God is revealed as followers of Christ continue his ministry in loving service?

It’s a question that has been debated for centuries.

Of course, it’s both. Service to others—no matter how sincere and loving—does not make a real difference without organization.

But as we know, organized religion is just another bureaucracy unless it is vitalized by the active spirit of Christ.

But, when the noun *and* the verb work together there is “church” and the risen Christ is there. That’s what I glimpsed in our congregation over the last few months. Consider:

In November the Goose Hollow Family Shelter opened and has operated at capacity nearly every day since. A capable staff working with director, Brandi Tuck, manage the organization, but dozens of volunteers have already participated to provide hospitality, safety and care for families without homes.

Many of us decided to forego more traditional Christmas gifts to contribute to “Alternative Christmas” projects. Thanks to effective missional organization—in our community and, through The Advance for Christ—your generosity is transformed into loving ministry.

But nowhere was “Church” more visible than your response to Callie Templin. A single mother with three small children, Callie’s did not know where to turn when her doctors diagnosed pancreatic cancer. Our Stephen Ministry—a cadre of trained caregivers—quickly surrounded her with compassion. Groups and individuals quickly sprang into action to organize practical support. For many weeks a group of close friends surrounded her with love and round-the-clock care. Our prayer-chain uplifted her constantly. When we gathered to commend her spirit into God’s eternal care, the Friends of Music supported musicians, our benevolent funds helped provide custodial and sound staff, and our UMW coordinated a gracious reception.

The kind words of a message from Alan and Angela Kemling family (close friends of Callie’s for more than a decade) tell the story well. (See the letter in column at the right.)

“Church” happens! I thank God for the ways you share in making Christ’s care and compassion real among us each day.

See you in Church--

Arvin

An open letter to the members of First Church ...

We want to thank each of you who helped our dear friend, Callie Templin, as she journeyed through her sudden terminal illness. Throughout this difficult time a flood of offers of help came from this generous congregation.

Your gifts of prayer, time and dollars made a big difference in the lives of Callie and her children. You have done so much: brought groceries, lent listening ears, delivered hot meals, helped with childcare, offered spiritual reassurance and support, accompanied Callie to doctor appointments, made home and hospital visits, helped arrange finances and created a wonderful memorial service and reception.

The loss of Callie will be deeply felt, most keenly by her children, Alexandria, Zachary & Isabella. They have moved in with their father and stepmother in West Linn, and things seem to be going well. Continued prayers are needed for these children as they adjust to life without their mother.

Thank you again for your kindnesses. We’re proud to belong to such a caring church family.

Angela & Alan Kemling

adults at first sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday at 9:15AM in room 134.

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. Next Sunday we will begin reading *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story* by James O. Chatham. Books will be available in the classroom. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join us as the Changing Christianity Class as we study: *The Powers That Be* by Walter Wink, in room 202 from 9:00-10:15 AM.

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 6 - 27 - THE CRY OF CREATION: A CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

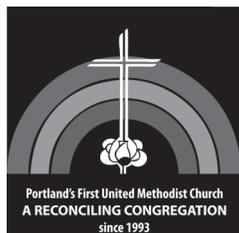
Join us for this four week study, Sunday, January 6 -27, at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. It will a focus on both the growing scientific understandings of climate change and the implied religious and moral imperatives for action in caring for our planet. We will be using an Interfaith Study Guide on Global warming published by the National Council of Churches entitled: *The Cry of Creation: A Call for Climate Justice*. Co-leaders of this class will be Jim Clarke and Chuck Klang.

reconciling Sunday, February 3

Portland's First UMC is celebrating: "15 Years of Diversity Through Inclusiveness" with Reconciling Sunday, February 3, 2008.

As we reflect on the past 15 years we look forward to a brighter 2008. We hope landmark legislation protecting the rights and welfare of all Oregonians will finally be enacted. We celebrate the leadership role that First Church took many years ago on issues facing the LGBT community.

Please join us on February 3, 2008 to celebrate our diversity and to renew our commitment to ensuring that "in God's house - all are welcome."



Reconciling Sunday Schedule of Events

10:30 AM
*Reconciling
Sunday Worship*

12:00 PM
Coffee Hour
(sponsored by
Reconciling
Ministries)

12:45 PM
*Reconciling
Luncheon in the
Fireside Room*

umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

January is UMW month. This month the women are providing the Coffee Hour each Sunday in Collins Hall and the altar flowers on January 27, 2008. Everyone is invited to the following meetings:

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, January 16, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson tells how one ordinary person can change the world. Come and hear about this man's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. New members are invited. The discussion will be led by Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, January 16, at noon, in Room 204. Clare Humphrey will read some of the more familiar lines of humorist and poet, Eugene Field, and then chat about the colorful life and times of this early American literary figure. Fields' charming *Poems of Childhood* are well known to many of us, although the author's name is mostly forgotten. Guests are welcome. Bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2, 2008

Metro District Every Member Enrichment & Leadership Training, Parkrose UMC

April 4-6, 2008

UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

April 12, 2008

Western District Mission Event, Woodburn UMC

April 18 or 19, 2008

Metro District Spiritual Retreat, *God's Mission, God's Song*, Collins Retreat Center. Facilitator, Barbara Bate.

July 31 - Aug 2, 2008

School of Christian Mission, George Fox University, Newberg

church membership an orientation

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

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. This orientation will be held in room 110 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. For information or to register, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.



children & family ministries

CREATED BY GOD:

A SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Created by God, a sex education curriculum for 5th and 6th graders was offered on Saturday, January 12, 2008. A class for 3rd and 4th graders, using the same curriculum, will be offered on Saturday, January 19 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

To sign up, please contact Arden Bryce at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org.

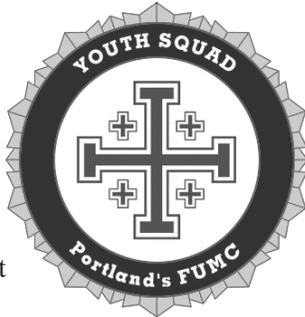
FAMILY DATE NIGHT

On Friday, January 18, 2008 meet us at CeramiCafe in Beaverton on Murray Rd. in the Murray Hills Shopping center. Come enjoy a time of creative expression with your family. A wide variety of ceramic items are available to paint. To sign up please contact Arden Bryce at 503/228-3195 ext 227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org.

youth ministries

MLK HOLIDAY YOUTH LOCK-IN

Our annual MLK Youth Lock-In is on Sunday night, January 20, 2008. Middle school and High School youth are invited to see who can stay up the latest, win at the silliest games, eat the chocolate-iest brownies, etc. We'll meet at the church at 7:00 PM and sleep in the youth room, assuming anyone actually sleeps. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow and \$10 to pay for dinner (pizza), midnight snacks, and breakfast (bagels and milk). Parents should plan on picking up their kids at 8:30 AM in room 202.



leadership council meeting

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the First Church Leadership Council on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 7:00 PM in Room 202.

the church library winter carnival book sale

THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

As we prepare for Christmas and the turning of the year, the First Church Library is starting to think about the Winter Carnival and our annual book sale, coming up on February 10, 2008! If you have resolved to thin out your book collection, now is the time! If you have books to donate, we would like to invite you to bring them in to the library. We're sorry but space limitations make it impossible for us to accept big donations of "leftovers" from other large sales, and we've found that there's no market for textbooks or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Otherwise, come on down! If you have any questions, please check with the Sunday Librarian or call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761. Thanks for your support and we'll look forward to seeing you at the Winter Carnival!



And remember, proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library, so feel free to use the "Suggested Titles" sheets in the library and in The Commons to let us know of books you'd like to see in our collection.

martin luther king, jr. celebration

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

The congregations in downtown and NE Portland will gather to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 7:00 PM on January 21, 2008 at the First Baptist Church, 909 SW 11th Avenue.

A choir of members from participating churches will be led by Travis Hatton of First Baptist Church. A distinguished array of speakers, singers and choirs have been invited.



CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED

The church office and building will be closed on Monday, January 21, in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

the edge

thoughts
for the
journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Over the years, I've used a variety of spiritual devotionals that have been compiled by different editors to be read from January 1st through December 31st. I spent a year in this way with Thomas Merton, Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, E. Stanley Jones, among others. It's a wonderful tool to use for times of prayer and reflection...and in the process to learn about the insights of a thoughtful spiritual guide. Here is a thought to consider as 2008 begins. It is from *A Year with Thomas Merton*, which I read throughout the year a couple of years ago:

"It is necessary for me to see the first point of light that begins to be dawn. It is necessary to be present alone at the resurrection of Day in solemn silence at which the sun appears, for at this moment all the affairs of cities, of governments, of war departments, are seen to be the bickering of mice. I receive from the Eastern woods, the tall oaks, the one word DAY. It is never the same. It is always in a totally new language." (*A Year with Thomas Merton*, page vii)



the eyeglasses project a thank you

A WORD OF THANKS FROM FROM LIBERIA

Roland Clarke, from First Church, has just returned to Portland after traveling to Liberia and personally delivering the nearly 200 pair of glasses that were donated to seniors there. Recently, I received this email from Rev. Anna Kpaan in Liberia:

Dear Lowell,

Happy New Year to you and your Family.

Lowell, I write to extend our thanks and appreciation to you and your members for the concern you have for the people of Liberia, especially the senior citizens. We appreciate all the effort that you have made in helping us. God will reward you for helping the needy.

We enjoyed having Roland with us. He took part in some of our activities, he even helped to serve the old people on the day we had Christmas dinner for our seniors. It was like a fun time for them, where they sang, danced, shared jokes, etc. It was good because some of them could not afford to have Christmas dinner, and some do not have any relative to take care of them. The church is their family. We shared gifts with all those who went to the dinner.

Please extend our thanks and appreciation to your family and members of your church.

Rev. Anna Kpaan



"A penny for your thoughts?" There's not much that a penny will buy these days ... but your loose change can make a difference. The third Sunday of each month has been designated: "Let's Make Change Sunday." There will be a basket at the back of the sanctuary for you to deposit loose change. Each month a chosen cause will be highlighted. This will begin Sunday, January 20, 2008.

ash wednesday February 6, 2008

In 2008, the Season of Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 6th. There will be a soup supper at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall and a service of the imposition of ashes at 7:00 PM in Collins Hall. Then, on following Wednesdays there will be the Lenten Suppers and program.



the oregon food bank volunteer day

FIRST UMC VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE OREGON FOOD BANK

After having a successful day last December at the Oregon Food Bank – First UMC will be having another Volunteer Day on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 9:00 AM – Noon. Come on out to help a great program and help to feed Oregon's hungry. This event is family friendly and just plain ol' fun. If you would like to know more or like to RSVP (as space is limited) then please call Matt Webber at 503/228-3195. All children must be six years of age or older.

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 January 23, 2008.

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

The Circuit Rider Online or by E-Mail

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

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you. E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org to request it by e-mail.

our prayers prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...

Phillip & Susannah Greenberg, on the birth of a daughter,
Chava Anais Greenberg.

Richard Allan & Kristin Lachenmeier, who were united in
marriage on January 1, 2008.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The children and friends of Callie Templin. Callie died on
December 24, 2007.

Bruce Gaffield, whose mother, Pauline Allen. Pauline
died January 3, 2008.

The family and friends of Dr. Stanley Butler. Stanley died
January 4, 2008.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Robin White and her mother, Joy Bannister. Joy is now in a
care facility after being hospitalized for a fall.

The following people are now making good recovery
following hospitalization: *Nell McManus, Douglas Stearns,*
Elaine Moshofsky, Duane Paulson, and Eloise Matlack.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Dick Clark
Mary Bywater Cross
Douglas Eberwein
Jim Jozwiak
Diane Hall
Patrick O'Brien
Judy Rogers
Sadame Tsunenaga

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

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

flowers for worship



SIGN UP NOW

Providing flowers for worship is an excellent way to remember a loved one who has passed or honor someone who is still with us. Each Sunday, in the Common in Collins Hall there will be a sign-up table for flowers for worship. There are many Sundays still available in 2008. The cost is \$45.00 per arrangement.