

**January 23, 2008**  
Volume 12, Issue 02

## COMING EVENTS

**February 3**  
Reconciling Sunday  
Holy Communion

**February 6**  
Ash Wednesday

**February 10**  
Winter Carnival  
and Book Sale

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

### PORTLAND'S FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## RECONCILING SUNDAY ■ FEBRUARY 3, 2008

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  
Holy Communion***

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

12:15 PM  
***Reconciling Luncheon in the  
Fireside Room***

## alternative Christmas a report

You did it! Together we truly expressed the spirit of the Christ-child, through our Alternative Christmas giving. Your generosity spread hope, life, health, warmth, comfort . . . and most of all, a future, to children and families around the globe. Because of your giving . . .

- A child in Cambodia, living on the edge of Phnom Phen's garbage dumps, will have a brighter future.
- During the cold, wet nights of winter, families in our Goose Hollow Shelter will find comfort, food, warmth and respect.
- Heifer International will provide animals to bring food to a family, enabling them to survive--and share the animal's offspring with others.
- Health and peace will come to the poor in Guatemala, through the clinic that provides medical and dental care, Salud y Paz.
- Palestinian Christians will find a way to peace, through "Friends of Sabeel" -- friends from around the world.
- People in Portland with inadequate health insurance can receive care through the Wallace Medical Free Clinic.
- Birds of the air will have care, through Audubon's watchful eyes.
- Oregon skies will be clearer, and we'll all breathe easier, as Oregon Environmental Council encourages healthful awareness of our beautiful state.
- Sustainable farming is both taught and practiced through Zenger Farm project in SE Portland-- you're invited to visit and participate.
- And our children, and our children's children will see the breath-taking beauty of the Columbia Gorge.

In addition, your money went even further, helping others in many places, through purchasing handmade Guatemalan goods benefiting Los Amigos de Los Romeritos, a child care center in the poorest section of Guatemala City or selecting items from many places, channeled through Ten Thousand Villages, or buying lovingly carved olive wood from Friends of Sabeel or fair-trade chocolate or Chinook Books or stopping by for your free CFL light bulbs, provided by Planet Church.

All the above were delighted with our support of these projects.



In our Alternative Christmas giving, we equaled last year's total, spreading nearly \$7000 over ten agencies:

**Goose Hollow Family Shelter,**  
\$2,565

**Heifer International,**  
\$1,205

**Salud y Paz,**  
\$790

**Friends of Sabeel,**  
\$735

**Cambodia Garbage Dump Ministry,**  
\$735

**Wallace Medical Clinic,**  
\$425

**Audobon Society,**  
\$225

**Oregon Environmental Council,**  
\$185

**Zenger Farms,**  
\$105

**Friends of the Columbia Gorge,**  
\$80

Undoubtedly, the joyful experience of generosity warmed the hearts of the recipients you chose to honor with your gifts. A big thank you to all of you, from your Global Missions, Church & Society, and Planet Church committees at First UMC.



### BREAD FOR THE WORLD 2008 OFFERING OF LETTERS

Sponsored by FUMC  
Hunger Ministry and Global  
Missions Committee

On Sundays, February 17 and 24, members of First UMC will sit down together in Collins Hall to write letters to our members of Congress asking them to do all they can to increase poverty-focused development assistance by at least \$5 billion in the fiscal year 2009. We will ask our Senators specifically to co-sponsor S.2433, the Global Poverty Act. More information on this bill will be available soon.

*Why we need to do this:*

In September 2000, every nation of the world, including the United States, pledged themselves to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Keeping our promises will help achieve the goals of cutting poverty and hunger, improving health care and education, and protecting the environment by 2015.

Nearly a billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day. We can support their efforts to better their lives with effective poverty-focused development assistance. We can succeed in reducing extreme poverty if U.S. development policy and programs are working together effectively.

## 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

This study focuses on both the growing scientific understandings of climate change and the implied religious and moral imperatives for action in caring for our planet. We are 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.

## 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.*

## umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

### UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, January 30, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 30, 11:30 AM in Room 204. Bring your curiosity, choose a few of your favorite hymns, and be prepared for some singing as we explore the connection between Music & Missions. Colleen Foster, a School of Christian Mission leader, will introduce mission hymns and their composers. Hopefully, this song fest will whet your interest in the UMW Spiritual Retreat, *God's Mission, God's Song*, coming up in April. Bring a friend. Share a sandwich. Chair: Hazelee Stevenson, 503/283-0041.

### METRO DISTRICT EVERY MEMBER ENRICHMENT EVENT

The Metro District Every Member Enrichment event is Saturday, February 2, 2008 at the Parkrose UMC, 11111 NE Knott St., Portland, 503/264-7567. Registration is at 8:45 AM.

The guest speaker will be Dennis Hochstatter of Tacoma Community House, a 100 year old UMW mission project.

### UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, February 6, in the Fireside Room. Our monthly meeting and sharing IS at 10:00 AM, and the program at 11:00 AM All are welcome, both men and women. *The Challenge of a Global Community, United Methodist Primetimers in New York City*, will be led by Cal & Pat Brockman, Art & Trudy Kayser, Leah Vislisel, and Linda Anderson. The above event provided the opportunity to further explore the meaning of globalization, where brothers and sisters around the world are being left behind in the process. The above Primetimers met with religious leaders and UN representatives and will share with us what they learned regarding aspects of globalization, including aging, sweatshops, climate change, and media. Also, you will learn about future Primetimers programs in 2008, both in this country and overseas. Brown bag lunch will follow at noon in Room 202.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Winter Forum will be Thursday, February 7, 2008. For more information contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773 .

### NEEDLEWORKERS NEEDED

First UMC United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) team is going to Sager Brown in April. Team members will be carrying suitcases filled with items for "kits" that are compiled at Sager Brown (health kits, school kits, sewing kits and layette kits). More information about exactly will be collected will be forthcoming. However, one item that requires more preparation time is baby sweaters for the layette kits. Simple patterns to knit and/or crochet are available at the church office, in Will Call. Patterns are also available for sewing the bags that are used for the school kits. For information about these projects, or who needs help with the patterns, can contact Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

### Publication Deadlines

Articles for The Circuit Rider are due no later than 10:00 AM on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next Circuit Rider will be published on February 6, 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](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) to request it by e-mail.

## our prayers prayers and concerns

### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

*The family and friends of Mildred Simpson.* Mildred, a former member of First Church, died December 28, 2007.

*The family and friends of Beverly Kurtz.* Beverly died on January 19, 2008. She was a friend of Dee Poujade.

*Judy Tosterud,* whose father, Russell Payne died in Minnesota on January 21, 2008.

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Bernice Mastrangelo,* she is a friend of Naomi Charboneau, *Bridget Charboneau,* she is the daughter of Naomi Charboneau,

*Eric Garoutte,* who is suffering with cancer. He is the brother of Frank Garoutte,

*Judy Rogers,* who will begin a new chemo treatment this week,

*Bishop Bob Hoshibata,* who mother, Violet Hoshibata, is suffering with cancer in Hawaii.

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

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

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

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

## finances an update

Even though we had a deficit at 2007 year-end, the \$20,000 carry over from 2006 kept us solvent.

Your support with prayers, talents, and giving has made it possible for us to pay 100% of our apportionment, keep our commitment to our covenant relationships, pay salaries, provide education, support local and global outreach initiatives, and meet the expenses necessary to keep our building operational. Thanks be to God!

Remember. It is never too late to send in an estimate of giving. Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Thanks to all for your contributions in 2007.

**TOTAL  
INCOME**  
1,160,827.00

**TOTAL  
EXPENSE**  
1,162,134.39

**BALANCE**  
(1,307.39)

