



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

February 6, 2008  
Volume 12, Issue 03

## COMING EVENTS

February 10  
**Scouting  
Sunday**

March 2  
**One Great  
Hour of  
Sharing**

March 9  
**Confirmation  
Sunday**

March 16-23  
**Holy Week**

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



## THE LENTEN SUPPER SERIES the beloved community:

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE ALONG THE WAY

Supper from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in Collins Hall  
Program from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Lent is an important time for self-reflection and renewal. It is also a time to remember that we are all a part of God's "beloved community." Join us for First Church's 2008 Lenten Suppers/Programs. This year's theme is: *The Beloved Community: Reflections of Life Along the Way.*

Come each week during Lent for a simple, light supper prepared by Michael Copeland, beginning at 5:30 PM. Then be a part of this year's exploration of what it means to be a part of a "beloved community." Beginning at 6:30 PM, we will sing hymns, have table time conversations, and hear short presentations from members of First Church. Child care will be provided.

February 13 **The Beloved Community ... What Does It Mean?**  
Presenters: John Goff and Trudy Kayser

February 20 **The Beloved Community ... An Extended Family**  
Presenters: Angela & Alan Kemling  
and Paul Nickell

February 27 **The Beloved Community ... In a Global Context**  
Presenters: Roland Clarke and Mark Greathouse

March 5 **The Beloved Community ... In an Era of Violence**  
Presenters: Mary Sagara and Dominick Robertson

March 12 **First Church .... A Part of the Beloved Community**  
Presenters: Matt Webber and Brandi Tuck

*"The Beloved Community" is a term that was first coined by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized this concept throughout his ministry, giving the expression deeper meaning and capturing the imagination of people throughout the world. The concept also captures the meaning of several foundational aspects of the Christian faith.*

Michael Copeland will prepare a delicious meal for us to share. The fellowship around tables is always "warming" too! There is a suggested \$5.00 donation for the meal.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

I shared incorrect information with you when I cited statistics about hunger in Oregon during worship a couple of weeks ago. I did not intend to mislead you—but apparently I did—and for that I apologize.

I was alarmed by the figure, purportedly from an Oregon Food Bank Hunger Assessment, saying more than half of the households in Oregon receive food stamps. Understandably such a high percentage startled a number of you as well.

I am thankful that a friend took the time to check it out more carefully. She found other information from the Oregon Food Bank—and statistics from the Governor’s office—reporting about 430,000 Oregonians have received food stamps. That is about 11.9% of our neighbors (I do not know how that calculates in ‘households.’)

I try to hold myself to a high standard in such matters. I am careful not to cite others without attribution, to verify sources and the printed versions of my sermons are carefully footnoted. I generally shy away from statistics--they are notoriously slippery. Wasn't it Mark Twain who quoted the British statesman Benjamin Disraeli? “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics.” \*

In this case I had a wealth of data about hunger nationally, but a dearth of information about Oregon specifically —and I wanted to talk more personally about our region. So I was intrigued when a new report came into my hands just a couple days before Hunger Sunday. I felt on solid ground since the statistics came from (what I thought) an unimpeachable source—our Bishop’s Task Force on Hunger. (As it turns out, they too were misled, by a summary that failed to carefully note the percentage was not of the entire state population—but a portion of only 3600 families who had come to them for emergency food boxes.)\*\*

The biggest downside of such a mistake—outside of destroying my credibility—is that listeners will puzzle over confusing numbers and miss the reason I was quoting statistics in the first place. The point, of course, was that far too many people and particularly children, lack sufficient food. That should be important for us. Jesus specifically called upon those who would follow him to feed the hungry.

As I said that Sunday, I am grateful to our Hunger Ministry Team for turning our attention to the need and urging us to respond with FISH Sunday food donations. They are asking for our help in another way, too. They want us to urge Congress to take action addressing the underlying causes people are hungry in a land of abundance.

For the next two Sundays a table will be in the Commons and I want to invite you to share concern by writing a letter that will be presented to Congress by Bread for the World. This “Offering of Letters” is simple, easy—and even more significant—proven effective!

Jesus had an even higher standard that mine about matters like this. He didn’t waste his words citing statistics. He said that when those who follow him feed the hungry—they serve him. So, how many people did Jesus say needed to be hungry before a disciple responds? Apparently, just one!

“...as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”  
(Matthew 25:40b NRSV—emphasis mine)

See you in Church!

Arvin

\* (cited by Twain in his Autobiography, ch. 29, (1924), rev. Charles Neider (1959) found in Columbia World of Quotations accessed at <http://www.bartleby.com/66/99/16799.html>)

\*\* read the full report at [http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research\\_and\\_action/documents/HFA2006Final.pdf](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/documents/HFA2006Final.pdf)

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

### FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES: AMERICAN GENESIS

February 10, 17, 24 and March 2 and 9, 2008  
We will be listening to and discussing *American Genesis: A Musical Narrative*, which is the ancient Epic of Creation and Evolution wrapped in fresh lyrics and tunes by Karl Luckert and arranged for organ by Jonas Nordwall. In each session, Karl and Jonas will take us through the music and provide an opportunity for us to discuss its meaning.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Session 1: February 10 | Love, Word and words,<br>Eternity and the times             |
| Session 2: February 17 | Separation of the Firm and the<br>Soft—animate life between |
| Session 3: February 24 | Creation of Humankind                                       |
| Session 4: March 2     | Paradise and Fall, Work and<br>Rest                         |
| Session 5: March 9     | New Heaven and new Earth—<br>History and Salvation Revised  |

## lenten retreat Vancouver First UMC

A Lenten Day of Prayer will be offered on Saturday, February 16, 2008 It will be co-facilitated by Rev. Roberta Egli of Deep Well Ministry and Rev. Dr. Denise McGuiness of Living Tree Counseling Services. Retreat will be held at Vancouver First UMC from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Register prior to February 9 and receive a discount fee of \$30.00, after that date the fee increases to \$35.00. Bring a brown bag lunch. To register, contact: Denise at livingtrees@comcast.net or call her at 360/750-6868.

## umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

### THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, February 20, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini is a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship. It is about an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love. Visitors welcome. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445.

### RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, February 20, at noon, in Room 204. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Ruth Monk Kidd tells the story of Lily Owens whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of her past. Tiburon, SC is the town that holds many secrets, and it is in Tiburon that Lily is introduced to the mesmerizing world of bees and honey. Come, get acquainted with Lily so that you can better understand the May 2, 2008 Quilt Show. Visitors welcome. Bring a sandwich. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

May 2, 2008 - Spring Quilt Luncheon.

July 31 – Aug 2, 2008

School of Christian Mission, George Fox University, Newberg, OR

## local travel theater and lunch

Join us for the play *Honour* at Old Church on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

Meet us at Old Church, 1422 SW

11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at 10:00 AM. *Honour*, written by Joanna Murray-Smith, is a touching, poignant tale of a mature marriage that is suddenly set on its heels. Following the play, join us for lunch at the BLEU Restaurant. Cost: \$6.00 for the play and \$10.95 for lunch at the BLEU at the Western Culinary Institute (gratuity not included). **Deadline: February 15, 2008.** To register, call: Christine Bostick at 503/228-3195 ext. 222 or e-mail her at [cbostick@fumcpdx.org](mailto:cbostick@fumcpdx.org).





As Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, and fed thousands (Mark 6:41-42), we can turn our faith into action by using our voices to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad.

After worship on February 17 and 24, you are invited to gather in Collins Hall to write letters to our members of Congress asking them to do all they can to increase poverty-focused development assistance to our poorest neighbors around the world. Specifically, we are asking them to pass the Global Poverty Act and to increase development assistance by at least \$5 billion in 2009.

Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters campaign urges our nation's leaders to keep the promise that the United States made in 2000, along with 189 other nations, to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, ending extreme poverty by 2015.

For the past several years Congress has increased funding by about \$1 billion per year, spending approximately \$14 billion on poverty-focused development assistance in 2007. However, this is still only one-half of 1 percent of the U.S. budget, and we're not yet on track to fulfill the promises we've made.

Support by Oregon members of the House and Senate will be critical to the success of our 2008 Offering of Letters. With our voices and their votes, we can make 2008 a year of powerful change for those living in extreme poverty around the world.

Please join us on February 17 or 24 as we speak out as the people of God to end hunger and poverty. Writing paper, envelopes and sample letters will be available.

*First UMC Hunger Ministry Team  
First UMC Global Mission Committee*

## sager brown VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE: DONATIONS FOR UMCOR SAGER BROWN**

First Church will be sending a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team to UMCOR Sager Brown from April 13-19, 2008. The team will include: Sarah Baker, Sue Beardwood, Mary Easley (Tillamook UMC), Colleen Foster, Lowell Greathouse, Mark Greathouse, John Gruher (Christ UMC), Corinne Frohlick, Dee Poujade, Frey Stearns.

Team members will be carrying suitcases filled with donated items to include in the various "kits" that Sager Brown distributes throughout the world. If you would like to contribute items for the Health Kits, Layette Kits, School Kits or Sewing Kits, stop by the Commons in Collins Hall or the church office to pick up a list of needed items. 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 if you need help with the patterns, contact Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

Donations for Sager Brown should be brought to the church office by Friday, April 4, 2008 so that the First Church VIM Team will be able to pack and take them when they travel to Louisiana in April. If you have any questions, contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

## first church travelers A TRAVEL FORUM

First Church Travelers set their next destination: *Canadian Rockies Rail Highlights*, September 27 - October 5, 2008 A special preview slide show presentation will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at noon in the Fireside Room, refreshments provided. This trip will allow you to see the road less traveled and experience the beauty of the Canadian Rockies, including the award-winning *Rocky Mountaineer Train*, and overnight in the incomparable Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. This nine-day tour will remind you why this is one of the most popular destinations in the world. This trip will be escorted by Cheryl Luce, contact her for details: 503-380-8604 or [cheryl.luce@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.luce@gmail.com).



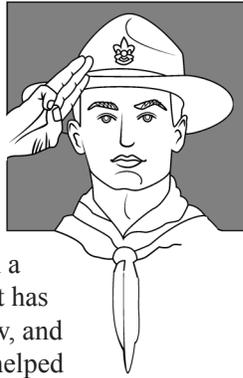
### **GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER NEEDS**

The shelter continues to be full this year. Currently there is a large handful of toddlers and their parents. Earlier in the season, we had several large families with teenagers, and they have all since moved into their very own apartments!

We are looking for a few items to help the shelter run more efficiently. We need a microwave and an electric tea pot (not a coffee pot but one of those electric tea pots that heats water for tea and oatmeal). If you have either of these items and are willing to donate them to the shelter, please contact Brandi at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 or [btuck@fumcpdx.org](mailto:btuck@fumcpdx.org).

# scouting

## Boy Scout Troop No. 1



Dear Friends First United Methodist Church,

My name is Elliott Brooks the Senior Patrol Leader and I am proud to represent Troop 1 in a letter of gratitude. We have been the troop that has thrived on your generosity for many years now, and we can barely tell you in words how this has helped us flourish.

We have been on many adventures this year and in past years. Most start out with a morning meeting at your church parking lot and then after a fun filled trip we return exhausted right back to the same place. We have had many recent adventures that we would love to share with you. Early last summer we went out to Smith Rocks for a few blue-skied days of rock climbing, hiking and mischievous boyhood. In August, our younger scouts hiked 50 miles in the Three Sisters Wilderness. Our older scouts covered nearly 70 miles, most of which was without trails. After a summer of fun we entered the fall, with a canoe trip. It took us to beautiful Willipa Bay were the tides were as unpredictable as our scouts. Our most recent trip was a trek into the Mt. Hood wilderness to camp and play at a cabin owned by one of our scouts.

We are very active and because of this we have many things coming up in our schedules. One of our most looked forward to trips is coming up very soon. We call it snow caving. This involves us skiing or snowshoeing into a very snowy place and digging our own snow shelters for the nights to come. It's not easy, but we get by and we are very thankful to see your church at the end of the trip, because it is a symbol of home.

Sunday, February 10, 2008 is Scout Sunday. We will help you with the service and the Winter Carnival. Also coming soon are a few projects that we hope can benefit your church. For example, one of our scouts is organizing a project to make new lockers for The Goose Hollow Shelter. I hope that you will continue to provide a great meeting place for us in the years to come, but mostly I hope that these small things that we do to help will help keep the church strong as you have kept us strong.

Thank You,  
Troop 1, Pioneer District, Cascade Pacific Council



### BIBLE SUNDAY

Pictured are the Third Graders who received their Bibles on Bible Sunday, January 13, 2008.

# the edge

thoughts  
for the  
journey

## REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Lent is an important, annual time for us to step back from our daily routines to reflect prayerfully on our lives. As we do so, it might be good to consider these words of guidance from Richard Foster:

“The truth of the matter is, we all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives—altruistic and selfish, merciful and hateful, loving and bitter. Frankly, this side of eternity we will never unravel the good from the bad, the pure from the impure. But what I have come to see is that God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture. We do not have to be bright, or pure, or filled with faith, or anything. That is what grace means, and not only are we saved by grace, we live by it as well. And we pray by it.”

(Prayer: *Finding the Heart's True Home*, page 8)



# take note

items of interest

## LITTLE WOMEN

Jesuit High School is producing the musical version of *Little Women*. Our own Kelsey Hall will be playing the role of Beth. The show runs from February 29 to March, 2008. Thursday through Saturday nights at 7:30 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$9.50. Call the box office at 503/291-5468 for tickets.

## 55 ALIVE

55-Alive is a program for older drivers. It will next be offered at First UMC: Wednesday and Thursday, March 12 and 13, 2008. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195.

## WORKSHOP

Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity for the Rest Us*, will speak at Eugene First UMC on March 1-2, 2008. Marcus Borg describes her book as, “the most important book of the decade about emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline congregations.”

For more information about this event, visit the website:  
[www.eugenefumc.org](http://www.eugenefumc.org).

### 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 20, 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 SYMPATHY FOR ...

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

*Karen Smith,* whose mother, Grace Johnston, died in Montana.

*Bishop Robert Hoshibata,* whose mother, Violet Hoshibata, died in Hawaii.

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Molly Nordwall,* the wife of Chris Nordwall and daughter-in-law of Jonas & Nancy Nordwall, is recovering from emergency surgery.

*Bob Ross,* recovering from broken ribs, sustained in a fall.

*Paul Ingram,* recovering from surgery.

*Nell McManus,* recovering from surgery.

*Elaine Moshofsky,* recovering from surgery.

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger, Michael Panck, Vanessa Walton

Craig Kubala, Steven Johnson, Ryan Martin

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Robert Anderson

Douglas Eberwein

Eric Garoutte

Patrick O'Brien

Dick Clark

Diane Hall

Jim Jozwiak

Judy Rogers

Sadame Tsunenaga

Robin White and

her mother,

Joy Bannister

## membership keeping connected

In preparing membership reports for our past Church Conference we became aware of some church members with whom we have lost contact. If you have contact information for any of the following, please contact Rev. Tom Foster at: 503/228-3195 ext 233 or e-mail him at: [tfoster@fumcpdx.org](mailto:tfoster@fumcpdx.org).

Jan Bennet

Marjorie Boney

Julianna Gilbert

Sheryl Hampton

Evelyn Horst

Cheryl Johnson

Nathaniel Jones

Patrick McJunkin

Julie Nye