



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

February 20, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 04

COMING EVENTS

March 2
**One Great
Hour of
Sharing**

March 9
**Confirmation
Sunday**

March 20
**Maundy
Thursday
7:00 PM**

March 21
**Good Friday
7:00 PM**

March 23
**Easter Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 AM**

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

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 2, 2008
after worship



*The 2007-2008 shelter season has been a really exciting
time at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter:*

- We've helped about 15 families move into permanent housing so far, and we still have two and a half months left!
- Our staff has been working tirelessly to make the shelter a warm, inviting space for our guests. Some changes that we've made include purchasing brand new washers and dryers, additional storage space for shelter families, a computer with internet access in the lounge, and increased financial support to our families who move out into their own apartments.
- We've received grants in excess of \$15,000 to purchase the new laundry machines and retain our Communications Coordinator position for the 2008 shelter season.
- Thank you to all of our volunteers who help make daily life easier and filled with love and compassion for our shelter guests. They really couldn't do it without you!
- Remember: the Goose Hollow Family Shelter closes on April 30, 2008, so make sure to sign up to volunteer so you can experience these exciting changes for yourself. Visit us on March 2nd for the Open House!



memo
Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs



*Are we building a future
worthy of our past?*



Join us for First Church's 2008 Lenten Suppers/Programs. This year's theme has been: *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

Come each week during Lent for a simple, light supper prepared by Michael Copeland, beginning at 5:30 PM. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation for the meal. 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 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

United Methodism's General Conference meets every four years to consider the organization and ministries of our global denomination. They will convene again in late April in Fort Worth, Texas. For the last few decades the gathering has been a strident clash of interests that has seemed to say more about the frayed edges of our common life than about the durable fabric which keeps us together.

Organizers of the upcoming event are determined to set a different tone. They want to transform the gathering into a reflective and discerning discussion seeking to find ways to bring the fire of diversity to forge constructive and durable solutions. An admirable—but daunting ideal! I hope they succeed.

At the center of it, will be an extensive report on the "State of the Church." Its findings are the results of a carefully done, multi-dimensional research effort including statistical analysis, opinion polling, input from layers of leadership, external opinions, and thoughts and ideas contributed randomly. (If you'd like to see the results, sample some of the reactions—or even contribute your comments--go to www.umc.org.)

Helping guide the effort is a dynamic scholar, former seminary president, and pastor, Dr. Lovett Weems. Last November he reported some disquieting findings to the Council of Bishops and concluded that those findings, "...lead us to wonder if we can have a future worthy of our past?"

What an intriguing question! It's one that would be significant to ask of our lives as well as our church.

Lent can be a time of self-reflection—a moment to ponder the state of our soul? What if we looked carefully at our lives, our values, our faith and our commitments and in prayerful discernment asked,

"Am I building a future worthy of my past?"

See you in Church!

Arvin

COUNT ON ME

RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



We have received Estimates of Giving for the 2008 fiscal year totaling \$821,535 in response to our annual stewardship campaign. 125 increased their estimates from last year, including 38 who had not previously made a commitment. At the same time, overall, there were five fewer giving units, individuals and families (324 versus 329) from last year. People have moved and there have been some deaths that account for the slightly smaller number of pledges.

The unfortunate news is that we increased estimated giving amounts by only a little over \$6,000 from the totals last year, we anticipate the cost of supporting our congregation's mission will be substantially more. Various committees are working on the current year budget as the newsletter goes to press.

Thanks to all of you who made a commitment by estimating their giving to the important ministries our church provides.

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. 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.

this and that PLEASE TAKE NOTE

A TRAVEL PREVIEW

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 experience the beauty of the Canadian Rockies, including the award-winning *Rocky Mountaineer Train*, and overnight in the incomparable Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. This trip will be escorted by Cheryl Luce, contact her for details: 503-380-8604 or cheryl.luce@gmail.com.

ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT

The 2008 Spring Electives for Enrichment will be: *Christians and Empire*. This five-session course will be offered Mondays, April 21 - May 19, 2008. Jesus and Paul confronted the empire of Rome with a new realm ... the reign of God. These sessions explore that Biblical tradition and ask, "How should Christians live in the face of empires today?" It will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs, First Church Senior Pastor. Sessions will be held in the Fireside Room from 10:00 AM to noon beginning Monday, April 21, 2008. (Cost: \$15 for series, \$4 per session) **Deadline: April 11, 2008.**

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Are you an First UMC adult interested in gathering socially with new and old church friends? Join us at TAG (The Adult Group)! The next TAG event will be a New Orleans/Mardi Gras theme dinner at the home of Greg and Kaylene Kirchem on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 5:30 PM. Call or e-mail Greg or Kaylene Kirchem at 503/762-2258, gkirchem@comcast.net to RSVP or for more information. If you would like to receive information about future TAG events, contact Jeanne Teisher at jeanne.teisher@gmail.com to add your name to the TAG e-mail list.

music at first church

update on the Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ project



Zollman Pipe Organ Services were here again on February 18, 2008, to complete the wiring. We anticipate that will take three weeks.

There are fewer boxes of organ pipes in the hallway. That means that the pipes are getting planted into the three chambers. Rose City Organ Builders have been working diligently to get each of the 6,700 pipes into the proper place.

The thermostats and heaters are yet to be installed. They are needed to maintain a constant temperature in the chambers. As soon as that is done, the pipes will start to be tuned. Then, we will begin hearing the organ.

We are planning the dedication and inaugural concert of the rebuilt organ for April 20, 2008. The dedication will take place during the 10:30 AM worship service and the concert will be at 3:00 PM in the afternoon. The concert, with Jonas Nordwall at the console, will include classic organ pieces, the Chancel Choir singing, *Come Let Us Sing for Joy*, by James Day, and congregational singing. You will want to mark the date and be in attendance.

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 9, 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.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a pot-luck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Leif Terdal will tell us about an escape from Nazi Occupied Norway in a wooden boat. For more information contact: Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

the edge

thoughts for the journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Often we struggle with knowing what to do to make a difference in the world. This is not a new struggle. Consider this story from *The Sayings of Desert Fathers*:

“A brother asked a hermit, ‘Tell me something good that I may do it and live by it.’ The hermit said, ‘God alone knows what is good. But I have heard that one of the hermits asked the great Nesteros, who was a friend of Antony, ‘What good work shall I do?’ and he replied, ‘Surely all works please God equally?’

Scripture says, Abraham was hospitable and God was with him; Elijah loved quiet and God was with him; David was humble and God was with him.” So whatever you find you are drawn to in following God’s will, do it and let your heart be at peace.”

(The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks)



GOD & COUNTRY SCOUTING AWARDS

The “God and Country” Awards include four spiritual growth badges for Boy or Girl Scouts. Each award involves several months of study and the completion of projects. During services on February 10, 2008, seven scouts received their medallions. Later that evening, the Boy Scout Protestant Committee on Scouting held their award banquet at First UMC, where the Cub Scouts received additional recognition for their completion in the program.

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 March 5, 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 Frances Woodin.

Frances died on January 3, 2008, in Maine.
She was 97 and our oldest member.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Jane Rockwood, whose health continues to decline.

She is the step-mother of Peggy Rockwood ...

Elizabeth Walton, who recently broke her leg. She had surgery and is recuperating in Providence Hospital ...

Eloise Matlack, who is at Crestview Rehab Center, recuperating from a mild heart attack ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger, Michael Panck, Vanessa Walton
Craig Kubala, and Steven Johnson



CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Robert Anderson
Douglas Eberwein
Patrick O'Brien
Dick Clark
Diane Hall
Jim Jozwiak
Judy Rogers
Sadame Tsunenaga

in memory Frances J. Woodin

Dear Friends,

It is with sadness that I write to let you know of the death of my mother, Frances J. Woodin. Frances was a member of First Methodist of Portland for many years.

Most recently Frances has been living near us in Maine, on the outskirts of "the other Portland," Portland, ME. Her heart condition had been worsening and it finally claimed her on February 3, 2008. She would have been 98 years old in June.

Mom always considered herself a "Portlander" and talked often of her friends at First Methodist. We plan on holding a Memorial in Portland (OR) later this spring. In lieu of flowers we would appreciate that donations be made in her name to the American Heart Association.

Thank you,
Richard Woodin