



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 2, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 07

YOUTH SUNDAY

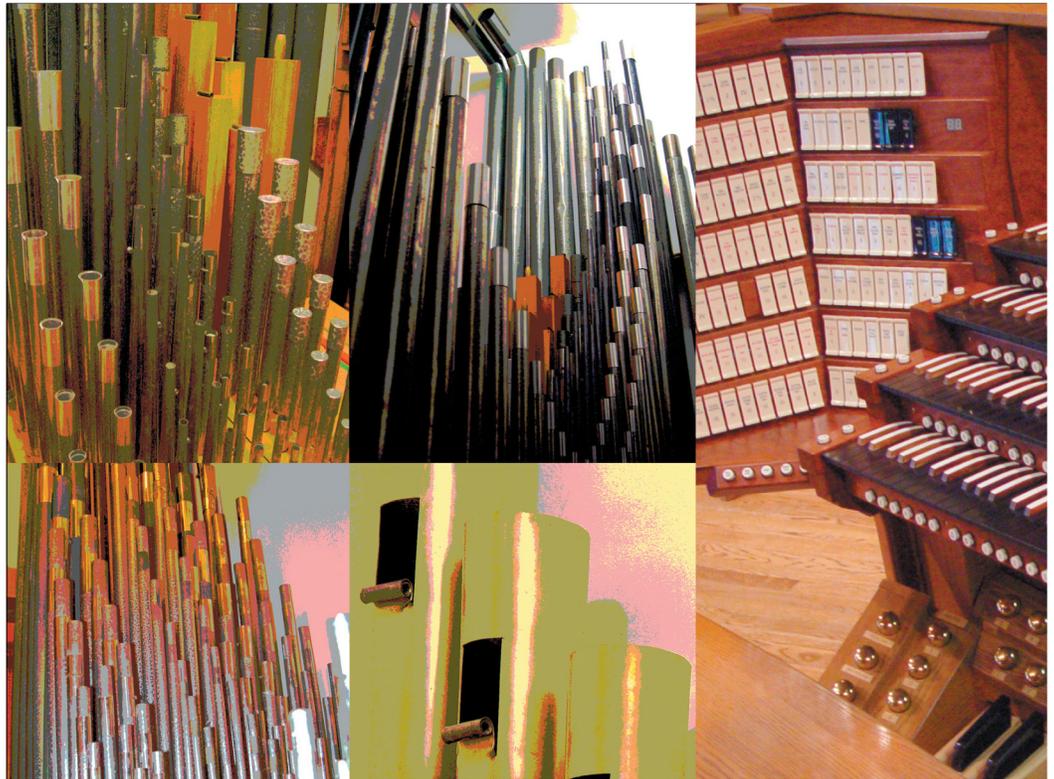
APRIL 13, 2008
10:30 AM

You won't want to miss Youth Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 AM. This year Leif Iverson will deliver a message to challenge and inspire us.

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



A CHORUS OF 6,700 VOICES

You are cordially invited to attend the special events surrounding the
**DEDICATION OF
THE MARY L. COLLINS
PIPE ORGAN**

Sunday, April 20, 2008

The dedication of the re-built organ will be during the 10:30 AM worship service.

A grand fanfare concert and celebration featuring Jonas Nordwall will be at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary.

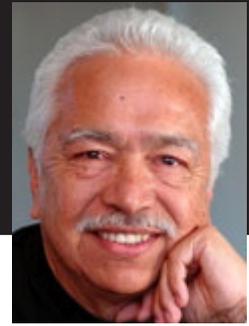
The Chancel Choir will also participate in this concert.

A reception will follow in Collins Hall.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs



**Dr. Ignacio
Castuera**

It was the late President John F. Kennedy, as I remember, who once hosted a gathering for Nobel laureates. As he began his after-dinner comments he glanced around the room at the notables, pondered the astonishing talent there, and commented, “This may be the greatest gathering of minds in the White House since Thomas Jefferson dined alone.” Indeed, the master of Monticello was extraordinarily talented—philosopher, political-theorist, horticulturalist, scientist—even a bit of theologian and Biblical scholar. Few people demonstrate such eclectic accomplishments.

One who approaches that is my former seminary classmate, Dr. Ignacio Castuera. He will be our preacher on Sunday, April 27, 2008.

Dr. Castuera is a successful pastor currently serving Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona, California. He has served other appointments in California, as well as Mexico and Hawaii.

He has long been considered a pioneer and leader in Hispanic ministries in our denomination. In 1980, Castuera became the first Latino District Superintendent of the Los Angeles District of the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He is a scholar holding degrees from Compton College; California State University, Long Beach; and the Claremont School of Theology. He is an associate at the Center for Process Studies in Claremont California.

He is a prolific writer who has authored many articles in professional journals and newspapers. In 1992, he edited *Dreams on Fire, Embers of Hope*, a collection of sermons preached in Los Angeles after that year’s riots. The book was one of the top ten religious books of that year. His most recent publication is a book review which appeared in *YES* magazine reflecting on Marcus Borg’s and Bishop Spong’s books on Jesus.

Dr. Castuera has traveled extensively lecturing and preaching in Latin America, Europe, Japan, and most of the states in the United States. Just prior to his visit with us, he will visit South America for the purpose of having conversations with Process theologians John Cobb, David Griffin, Joseph Bracken SJ, Catherine Keller, George Pixley, Karen Baker-Fletcher, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Gorgias Romero, a Chilean born process philosopher and several Latin American professors of theology, philosophy and religion.

He is a leader in the reconciling efforts within our denomination. As pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Hollywood, he hosted the first meeting of *Affirmation, Los Angeles* and under his guidance; the church became the fiftieth reconciling congregation in the United Methodist Church.

He has published an essay in Walter Wink’s book *Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches* (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1999) and another one in *The Loyal Opposition: Struggling With the Church on Homosexuality* edited by Tex Sample and Amy E. Delong

Though I don’t know where he finds time, Castuera is active in ecumenical and interfaith organizations and serves as the national chaplain for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

In the week prior to his visit to our pulpit, he will be with Christ the Reconciler United Methodist Church where he presents a series on the subject, *Renewed Theological Dialogue with Latin America, the Dynamic Interaction of Process and Liberation Theologies*.

Whew! I’m exhausted just telling about him. Maybe the best thing is not to talk *about* him—but hear *from* him! I’m looking forward to it—I hope you will be too.

See you in Church.

Arvin

adults at first sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers is an ongoing adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. However, we will not meet as a group from through April 20, 2008. We will be combining with the *Myth and Sacred Story in the Modern World* class. Please join us after that.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Changing Christianity Class meets from 9:00-10:15 AM. This class will not meet as a group from March 30 through April 20, 2008. We will be combining with the *Myth and Sacred Story in the Modern World* class. Beginning May 4, 2008 the Changing Christianity class will be studying E.J. Dionne's book, *Souled Out: Regaining Faith and Politics after the Religious Right?*

MYTH AND SACRED STORY IN THE MODERN WORLD

March 30 and April 6, 13, and 20, 2008
in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

We live in a world in which fact and physical reality compete with myth, sacred story and the spiritual world for our attention and allegiance. Is the world simply about facts to be learned and the physical reality we experience with our senses? Or...is it about mysteries to be discovered and a "sacred canopy" that frames our experience of life? In this series, Rev. Lowell Greathouse will help us address this and other related questions, using a variety of resources that includes Joseph Campbell, Peter Berger, Abraham Heschel, biblical references, the ancient mystics, and key framers of our modern world. We will explore how we, as people of faith, might come to terms with the various realities that shape our lives.

forums april 2008

LOOKING TOWARD THE UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

Looking Toward the United Methodist General Conference: A Vision of Hope will be a special forum offered on Sunday, April 13 at noon in the Fireside Room. Marilyn Outslay, National Co-President of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, will lead us in an examination of the issues and possibilities surrounding this year's General Conference. A light lunch and child care will be provided.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

There will be a special presentation on the September 2009 tour to South Africa. Come at noon on Sunday, April 20, 2008. Mr. William Haire of Nashville will share images and information about this tour. Please join us in Room 202 at noon, following worship. Refreshments will be provided. For more details, contact Cheryl Luce, at 503/380-8604, or cheryl.luce@gmail.com.

umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

THE READING GROUP

Pastor Tom Foster will be the guest speaker at the Reading Group on Wednesday, April 16, 2008. As a true bee expert he will tell us about the life of bees and their secrets. Everyone is invited to this special presentation. Meet in the church library at 10:00 AM. The Fosters will also be furnishing the honey for the Quilt Luncheon next month, which has the book theme, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Contact: Trudy Kayser. Chair: Sue Fisher

RUTH CIRCLE

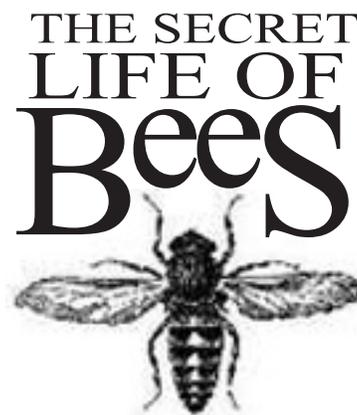
The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 16, at noon in the Fireside Room. The World Day of Prayer service, *God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding*, written by the women of Guyana will be presented by Ruth Green and Marion Hollenberg. Everyone invited. Bring a sandwich and enjoy beverage and dessert. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

METRO DISTRICT SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Metro District Spiritual Retreat is offered April 18 or 19, as a one day session at Collins Retreat Center. It is a time for silence, song, storytelling, all essential for life. "The art of praying, as we grow, is really the art of learning to waste time gracefully – to be simply the clay in the hands of the potter. This may sound easy, but it is really the most difficult thing we ever learn to do." Thomas H. Green. Contact: Peggy Cook.

SPRING QUILT LUNCHEON

The Spring Quilt Luncheon will be May 2, 2008 in Collins Hall. The doors will open at 11:30 AM for quilt viewing. No photos, please. Lunch will be served at noon. Tickets are \$20.00 each, with \$15 reserved for mission giving to help women, children, and youth. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. For tickets contact Ruth Green, 503/598-8420, or Lila Palmiter, 503/675-9218.



the edge

thoughts
for the
journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

I have often felt that when being with people it was possible to sense the various kinds of energy present within a room.

I have also felt these "energies" interact with my own inner spirit to produce connection or distance.

Recently, I read something written by Ruth Fox, that gave voice to my experience in life:

"Energy, new life, relationships extend far beyond their point of origin. It is now believed that space is filled with so-called 'fields' of connections. We have long been familiar with the all-pervasive fields of gravity and magnetism ... In human relationships also, there are comparable fields of energy. One can actually feel different kinds of fields when walking into a home or church or community. Because of attitudes and behaviors of individuals in the community, a person can almost tangibly touch an invisible field of energy: hospitality, openness, peace, friendliness, or tension, suspicion, coldness, rigidity."

(*The Monastic Way*,
page 50)

passover seder

american jewish committee

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE INTERGROUP PASSOVER SEDER

The American Jewish Community Oregon Chapter invites you to their ninth annual Community Intergroup Passover Seder on Sunday, April 13, at 5:30 PM. It will be held at Congregation Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders, Portland, OR. Dinner and ceremonial foods will be served. The seder will be led by Rabbi Michael Cahana and Cantor Judith Schiff. Reservations are required by April 9, 2008. To make a reservation, call: 503/295-6761 or e-mail, portland@ajc.org. Recommended donation is \$10 per person. Child care is NOT provided but older children are welcome.



global missions

upcoming events

THE PLIGHT OF THE LIVING ROCKS IN THE HOLY LAND

First UMC members Betty Cobb and Dee Poujade have recently returned from "Seeking Peace - Pursuing Justice," a two-week study trip to Israel/Palestine/West Bank with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). During this trip, they not only visited the holy places, but also talked with the "living rocks" who are still living there. The trip included stays in Nazareth and Bethlehem, as well as visits with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists.

Palestinian Christians make up an ever-decreasing proportion of the population of Israel and the West Bank (Occupied Territories). In fact, prominent Christian leaders in the Holy Land are concerned that, in years to come, tourists will come to visit the holy places, the "rocks" of Christianity, without ever encountering the "living rocks," those Arab Christians who can trace their ancestry to the disciples who followed Jesus along the banks of the Galilee 2000 years ago.

Betty and Dee will share their impressions of the Holy Land on Sunday, May 18, in Room 202. The event will begin with a potluck lunch noon, followed by the program. This year, 2008, Israel is celebrating 60 years of statehood. At the same time, the Palestinians are commemorating 60 years of the "Nakba" - or disaster. Come and hear what Betty and Dee learned about the impediments to peace in the Middle East. For additional information call Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337 or 503/310-5577.

MISSONS POTLUCK

The Board of Directors of Salud y Paz is holding their semi-annual board meeting at First United Methodist Church on May 2 and 3, 2008. Salud y Paz is a long-term United Methodist project designed to meet the medical and dental needs of the Mayan people in Guatemalan Highlands who have limited or no access to health care. It is funded by contributions from people in the United States. The project is under the Iglesia Metodista Primativa de Guatemala.

On Friday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM there will be a potluck, after which members of the board will give a power point presentation of medical/dental VIM teams who recently went to Salud y Paz clinics. In addition, Margie Groshong RN, a United Methodist from Eugene, OR will present information about Las Amigas, a program providing health education to Mayan women in the Guatemalan Highlands. There will time a question and answer time.

this and that

PLEASE TAKE NOTE



OFFERING OF LETTERS DELIVERED TO DC

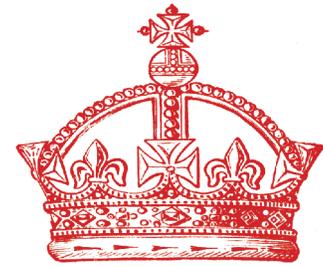
Matt Webber, First Church's Director of Outreach was recently in Washington DC to attend a peace conference. While there he was able to deliver our handwritten letters as a part of the Bread for the World, Offering of Letters. He is pictured here delivering a stack of letters to U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's staff member, Joel Shapiro at their DC Office.

Thank you to all those who were able to participate in this year's Offering of Letters. Because of your great level of participation, we were able to surpass our goal and collect the most letters we've ever sent!



FROM BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA: HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Join First Church for *High School Musical* on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at the Keller Auditorium. Broadway Across America's production of *High School Musical* is coming to Portland. This contemporary musical comedy is about a popular high school basketball star and a shy, academically gifted newcomer who discover they share a secret passion for singing. When they sign up together to audition for the lead roles in the school musical, it threatens East High's rigid social order and sends their peers into an uproar. In a desperate effort to maintain the status quo, the "jocks," the "brainiacs" and even the drama club regulars are soon hatching convoluted plots to separate the pair and keep them offstage. By defying expectations and taking a chance on their dreams, however, the couple inspires other students to go public with some surprising hidden talents of their own. We have 25 group tickets available at \$32 each for this family friendly production. Deadline for registration is Friday, April 18th. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Chris Bostick at 503/228-3195 x 222 or cbostick@fumcpdx.org. For questions, contact: Janice Hauser.



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.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT SPIRIT BREAK

Seventy people came to enjoy our second Spirit Break gathering on March 16. They were regaled with Irish music, dancing, and poetry and some sharing about spiritual moments. Music was provided by Aaron and Amanda Weller, Jen Graver, Todd Engle, Richard Allan, and Bill Savery. Cameron Carlson-Riddle (Shirley Carlson's grandson) danced and Jim and Joanne Ruyle led the dialogue. Several children chimed in with the *Unicorn Song* led by Jen Graver. Spirit Break is our new spiritual experience designed to help people find their spiritual selves in the everyday world. The theme for the next gathering will be "Spring Is Here." Please invite your friends to come to the chapel at 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 20, 2008. It's kid friendly and child care is available.



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 April 16, 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 CONCERN FOR ...

Bruce Rogers and family, on the death of *Judy Rogers*,
Judy's memorial service will be in the sanctuary
on Friday, April 4, 2008 at 2:00 PM.

Mike & Sandy Woodley and family, on the death of
Jo Woodley, a service will be in the sanctuary
on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 2:00 PM.

Patrick O'Brien, who is returning this week to the
mid-west to live with family.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger
Daniel Bomberger
Michael Panck
Vanessa Walton
Craig Kubala
Steven Johnson

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Robert Anderson	Mary (Schuberg)
Judie Carpenter	Penniecooke,
Dick Clark	Marilyn Ringquist
Charlotte Cridland	Elizabeth Walton
Eberwein Family	
Diane Hall	
Jim Jozwiak	
Sadame Tsunenaga	
Eloise Matlack	
Nell McManus	



trustee update roofing project

ROOFING PROJECT DELAYED...

FUMC's Board of Trustees has announced that the re-roofing of Collins Hall and Fireside Room that was to commence later this week has been postponed until July 21 — immediately following the Western Jurisdictional Conference that we are hosting.

The project which will replace the current roof materials with a similar-looking concrete tiles is needed to seal the area that has experienced increasing leakage in the last few years. It is expected to take six to eight weeks to complete during which time the parking area in front of the playground-courtyard and the areas around the perimeter of the building will be inaccessible because of construction scaffolding and fencing. By delaying the project into the summer months when most church programs are on hiatus, we will experience less dislocation and inconvenience. We should be able to use rooms in that wing during construction—though there may be some construction noise on weekdays.

The project is another building improvement made possible through your generous gifts to the recent *Celebrating Our Past, Creating our Future* capital improvement campaign.

First Church in the Community

VOLUNTEER WEEK

COUNT ON ME

2008

Friday, April 25 thru

Saturday, May 3

*“Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.”*

- John Wesley

Join us as we continue the tradition of First UMC's Community Volunteer Week. For one week this spring, we will be sending small work teams to do special community-based projects. Inspired by our church's earlier Max Pew Day efforts, it is our hope to come together and live out that portion of our church framing statement that says we will be vibrant in our faith through our actions. Each volunteer opportunity will last approximately three hours, and there will be a First Church Team Leader for each project. Join us in making a difference!

Space is limited, so sign up either by returning the attached volunteer registration form to the church office or by signing up at the The Commons in Collins Hall by April 20th. If you have any questions, contact:

Matt Webber
503/228-3195 x210
mwebber@fumcpdx.org

Lowell Greathouse
503/228-3195 x224
lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org

1

OPPORTUNITY 1 Volunteer Team to Camp Magruder to help with storm damage clean-up

Date: Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26, 2008
People can work just Friday (return after dinner) ...or stay overnight at the camp and return Saturday after lunch. Meals will be provided at the camp.

Sponsor: First UMC Shovel & Rake Gang
Lead Person: Lowell Greathouse
Meet: At First Church at: Friday, April 25 at 8:30 AM
Task: Assisting with storm damage clean-up

2

OPPORTUNITY 2 Friends of Mt. Tabor: Spruce Up Mt. Tabor Park

Date: Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 AM - Noon

Sponsor: Planet Church
Lead Person: Matt Webber
Meet: At First Church at: Saturday, April 26 at 8:15 AM
Task: Cleaning up the Mt Tabor Park landscape

3

OPPORTUNITY 3 Volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank Learning Garden

Date: Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 AM - Noon

Sponsor: First UMC Hunger Ministries Team
Lead Person: Matt Webber
Meet: Oregon Food Bank Learning Garden
21458 NW Mauzey, Hillsboro, OR 97124
Task: Getting to know your green thumb in the OFB Learning Garden

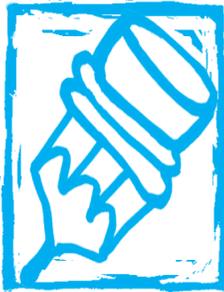
4

OPPORTUNITY 4 Goose Hollow Family Shelter End of Season Clean-Up Day

Date: Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 AM - Noon

Sponsor: The Goose Hollow Family Shelter
Lead Person: Brandi Tuck
Meet: First Church at 9:00 AM
Task: End of Season Shelter Cleaning

See the reverse side for a complete description of each work site and to sign up.



Please fill out this registration form and return it to the church office or mail it to First UMC, 1838 Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201, by April 20, 2008

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**VOLUNTEER
WEEK
REGISTRATION
FORM**

I would like to be a part of the following work team(s):

- Camp Magruder** (Friday/Saturday, April 25 & 26 from 9:00 AM to noon)
- Camp Magruder** (Friday Only)
- Spruce Up Mt. Tabor Park** (Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 AM to noon)
- Oregon Food Bank Learning Garden** (Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 AM to noon)
- Goose Hollow Family Shelter Clean-Up** (Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 AM to noon)

MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER SITES ...

CAMP MAGRUDER

The December 2, 2007 storm wreaked havoc on the area and Camp Magruder was hit especially hard by it. To date, volunteers have contributed more than 1,200 hours of service toward recovery efforts. Their efforts have allowed the camp to resume operations, yet, there is still much more to be done. There are still jobs small and large, light and heavy. Volunteers are needed to do a variety of jobs from splitting wood to hauling and spreading woodchips on trails, raking yards, tending flower beds, tending the garden, and pruning brush back along the many camp trails. Our First Church Volunteer Team will be involved in a variety of tasks when we head to Magruder April 25th and 26th. Plan to come for both days or just Friday.

SPRUCE UP MT. TABOR PARK

Spend the morning outside at Mt Tabor, an extinct volcano in SE Portland, and help maintain this unique park. We'll be removing invasive species, and possibly working on trails. Bring work gloves if you have them. Water, juice, and snacks will be provided. Volunteers must be 10 years of age or over to attend this project without a parent or guardian. Volunteers of all ages are welcome with accompanying parent or guardian.

OREGON FOOD BANK (HILLSBORO)

Oregon Food Bank recovers food from farmers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, individuals and government sources. It then distributes that food to 20 regional food banks across Oregon. Sixteen are independent charitable organizations. OFB directly operates the four regional food banks serving the Portland metro area, Tillamook and southeast Oregon. Those four centers distribute food weekly to 348 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other programs helping low-income individuals in Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook, Malheur and Harney counties.

THE GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter season ends on April 30, 2008. Come prepared to clean out closets, cabinets, and rooms. We will prepare items for storage, and transport some to a donation site. Wear comfortable clothing. There will be lots of opportunities for cleaning and organizing.

**THESE
ARE
FAMILY
FRIENDLY
EVENTS**