



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 30, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 09

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY 4

Remember:
First Sunday
is FISH Sunday.
Help someone
who is hungry.

MAY 11

Soundseekers
present
The Music
Machine

MAY 18

Peace With
Justice Sunday

JUNE 1

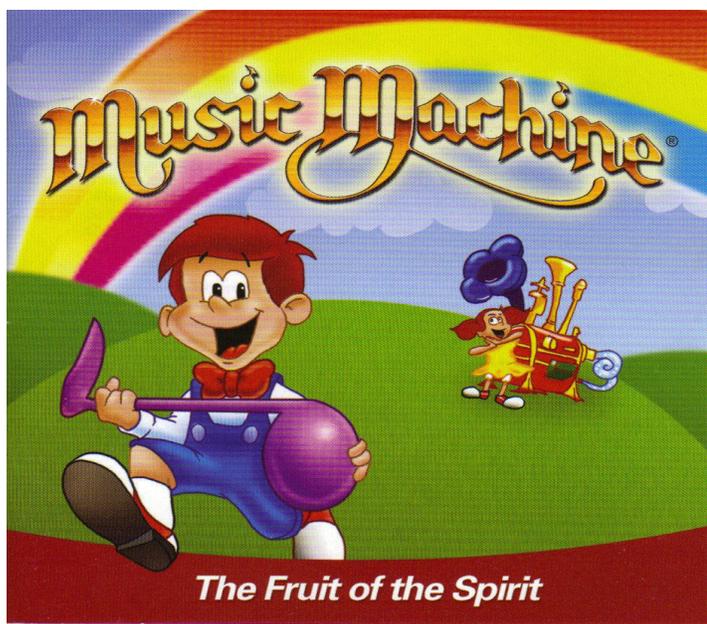
Volunteer
Recognition
Sunday

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

SOUNDSEEKERS Sunday May 11, 2008



On Sunday,
May 11, 2008 in the
10:30 AM worship
service, join the
Soundseekers
as they meet the
Music Machine,
a magical contraption
that can turn anything
into a song, and we mean
ANYTHING! With the
help of the Conductor,
the children learn about
the fruits of the Spirit
through song. This
production will feature
some original music and
choreography created by
the kids. So come join us
on our magical musical
journey. You may just
end up finding the
music in you!

ANNOUNCING: THE NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are pleased and excited to announce that Megan Humphreys-Loving will be the new Director of Children's and Family Ministries at First Church. Megan brings a rich background with her to this important position. She served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church in South Boston, Massachusetts and also directed and taught classes for the After School Art and Music Program, which served not only the church community, but also the urban population surrounding the church. She is a graduate of Pacific University in Forest Grove. Megan is also a shift supervisor at Starbucks here in Portland. In her spare time, Megan enjoys hiking in Forest Park, experimental vegetarian cooking, and her volunteer work at the Multnomah County Library. Her first Sunday at First Church will be May 4, 2008. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Megan and welcome her to our church family.



**Megan
Humphreys-
Loving, new
Director of
Children's &
Family Ministries**



memo

**Rev. Dr. Arvin
R. Luchs**

To Members and Friends of First UMC,

As many of you already know from recent emerging news stories, we were saddened to discover that our congregation was named as one of three defendants in a civil lawsuit. Because of the public nature of the legal action, I feel it is important for you to be informed.

We are all, I am sure, deeply concerned that actions of a former pastor may have caused harm and we keep anyone who has been hurt in our hearts and in our prayers.

Dr. Greathouse and I were in contact immediately with our church attorney in order to respond in an appropriate and timely way to the allegations. We have named a team of church leaders who will be working with us as this matter progresses.

What follows is a statement we released to the press in response to the allegations sent to them this morning. We wanted you to see it.

We will do everything we appropriately can to keep you informed as this matter moves forward.

In Christ,
Arvin R. Luchs
Senior Pastor

**PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM
THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND,
APRIL 23, 2008**

The First United Methodist Church is aware that a civil lawsuit has been filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court alleging that Chester Earls, a former Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon had abused a young man from the church during the 1960s. Mr. Earls was appointed to serve the church from 1965 to 1978. First United Methodist Church has not yet seen a copy of the complaint.

“We are deeply saddened by these allegations. All victims of abuse deserve our attention, prayers and respect,” said The Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs, Current Senior Pastor, of the church. “We hope that any person who has suffered from abuse can heal and be restored to wholeness.”

adults at first sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday at 9:15AM in room 134. This is an on-going adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. We have begun reading *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story* by James O. Chatham. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Changing Christianity Class meets from 9:00-10:15 AM in Room 202. This class is currently addressing a group of interesting questions and topics:

May 4

Don Riggs: What is Faith Community?

May 11

Bill Guyer: To Be Announced

May 18

Terry Connell and Karl Luckert:
A Discussion on Islam

May 25

Al Rieke: What is a United Methodist?

FOOD AND FAITH

May 4, 11, 18, and 25, and June 1, 2008 in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

What is the relationship between food and our faith? This class will use the book *Food and Faith* by Michael Schut. Join us as we seek to make connections between faith and food choices, celebrate the provision of "our daily bread," build a sense of community and support within the group, encourage more healthful eating habits, and explore the connections between industrial agriculture and ecological degradation. Leader: Laura Engle, an MDiv student at Marylhurst.

GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE

Coming in June! Watch for details.

learn spanish

PLAYFUL SPANISH

Beginning Tuesday, May 6, 2008, on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Library. Rene Pino will lead a weekly class on learning conversational Spanish. It is done in a fun and playful setting that uses Total Physical Response. There is no fee or registration.

umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

MAY UNIT GATHERING

Come join us Wednesday, May 7, 2008 for our May Unit Meeting. We will begin at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. During our meeting and sharing time Mary Covert will lead us in our annual Prayer and Self Denial service. During the next hour, Pastor Lowell Greathouse will share some of the experiences of the recent Volunteer in Mission team. Come, learn more about the Sager-Brown UMCOR Distribution Depot in Louisiana. Pat Brockman will also give us a glimpse of what happened at the Western Jurisdictional UMW gathering in Honolulu. Following the program, we will have a brown bag lunch in Room 202.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Save the dates of July 31 to August 3, 2008 for the School of Christian Mission in Newberg. The study, *Living the Sacred*, will seek to deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony, so that we can learn to walk together in ways that lead to peace and reconciliation.

special workshop silence and compassion

On Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 9:00 AM, actor Jonny Stallings will present the workshop: *Silence and Compassion*, in the Fireside Room. In the morning, Johnny will perform *Silence*, his theater piece about meditation and spiritual search. This will be followed by a dialogue which explores the question of how we can find and nurture "the peace which passeth understanding." In the afternoon, Johnny will introduce participants to the dialogue form that he uses in prison to explore meaning-of-life questions. The topic will be "compassion," and we will examine our relationship to those who are left out, or in exile. Is transformation possible? Forgiveness? Redemption? Re-imagining criminals in the light of our common humanity, we will ask what we can do to heal the wounds of violence in our society.



Johnny Stallings is an actor, writer and director who works with prison inmates. He is Executive Director of Open Hearts Open Minds, a nonprofit organization dedicated to opening hearts and minds. To register, contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 or e-mail him at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

the edge

thoughts
for the
journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Sometimes it is easy to get stuck and lose track of the essentials of our faith. Ronald Rolheiser addresses this clearly in his book, *The Holy Longing*, when he speaks about the things he calls the “antifaith forces” of life:

“They are not the product of some conscious conspiracy by godlessness. They are, instead, all those things, good and bad, within us and around us that tempt us away from prayer, from self-sacrifice, from being more communal, from being willing to sweat blood in a garden in order to keep our integrity and commitments, and from mustering up the time and courage to enter deeply into our own souls. Hence they are not abstract, foreign forces. They live in the house with us and are as comfortable to us as a well-worn shoe. What blocks faith is that myriad of innocent things within our ordinary, normal lives which precisely make our lives comfortable: our laziness, our self-indulgence, our ambition, our restlessness, our envy, our refusal to live in tension, our consumerism, our greed for things and experience, our need to have a certain lifestyle, our busyness and overextension, our perpetual tiredness, our obsession with celebrities, and our perpetual distraction with sports, sit-coms, and talk shows. These are the antimystical forces of our time.”

(*The Holy Longing*, page 217)

global missions

upcoming events

THE PLIGHT OF THE LIVING STONES

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). 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 at 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.

SAGER-BROWN VIM TEAM

Four very large suitcases of supplies were delivered to the Sager-Brown UMCOR Distribution Depot in Louisiana recently by your VIM team. All gifts found grateful recipients. Packaged at Sager-Brown into hygiene kits, health kits, school kits, and layettes, your gifts will make all the difference to disaster survivors in far-flung places. Your team will share their experiences at a special potluck on June 8, 2008, after church. Mark the date now. A big “thank you” to each and everyone for your gifts, your prayers and your support of this First Church outreach.

staff transitions

sprc

UPCOMING CHANGE IN THE OUTREACH DIRECTOR POSITION

Congratulations to Matt Webber, the First Church Outreach Director, who was recently hired full-time as the Outreach Director for the Archimedes Movement. As many of you know, Matt worked for Archimedes part-time prior to taking his position at First Church. He has done outstanding work with our many outreach programs, especially highlighting our church’s work through The Commons on Sunday mornings. However, due to this new job opportunity, Matt will be leaving his position at First Church on June 8, 2008 in order to focus his full efforts on health care reform. The good news is that Matt will continue to make First Church his church home. Please take the time in the coming weeks to thank Matt for his wonderful work as Director of Outreach.

the death penalty

a film

At the Death House Door, is an important documentary about the death penalty in Texas. There will be a special preview screening May 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM, at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson. This event is free and open to the public. *At the Death House Door*, is a personal and intimate portrait of the death penalty in the state of Texas through the eyes of Pastor Carroll Pickett, who served 15 years as the death house chaplain in Huntsville’s infamous “Walls” prison unit. The film also focuses on the story of executed inmate Carlos De Luna, whom Pickett firmly believed was innocent. For more information on this film visit the website: www.ifc.com/atthedeathhousedoor



dedication & concert

The Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ

On Sunday, April 20, we dedicated to the glory of God the newly rebuilt and expanded Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ. This organ was originally dedicated as a loving tribute to honor Mary L. Collins in 1963 by her children – Alton L. Collins, Grace Collins Goudy and Truman W. Collins. Now it is re-dedicated by her daughter-in-law, Maribeth Collins, and her grandchildren Terry, Cherida, Truman and Diane.

The organ is expanded to 107 ranks (sets of pipes) with approximately 6700 pipes placed in three chambers at the front of the Sanctuary and the antiphonal at the rear of the Sanctuary. It is something that we will enjoy hearing every Sunday and also as a concert instrument. In the afternoon we were treated to a wonderful organ concert with Jonas Nordwall obviously in command at the console. We heard everything from Wagner to Buxtehude, from Bach to Franck. The nine hundred plus people that filled our Sanctuary jumped to their feet after the last note of the concert and were rewarded with a Nordwall *Star Wars* medley. What an afternoon! Our thanks to The Friends of Music and all the volunteers and staff that helped to make it memorable.

youth sunday great job!

Sunday, April 13, 2008 was Youth Sunday at First Church. It was an unforgettable day as First Church youth led us in worship ... a visit from the ninjas during the children's moment, the music, and an inspiring sermon from Leif Iverson. A big thanks to Paul Adams and the First Church youth.



concert Caswell / Benke

On Sunday afternoon, May 18, 2008 at 2:00 PM Elizabeth Caswell and Deborah Benke will present a recital with songs for piano solo as well as piano and voice. They will be doing songs by Bach, Haydn, Faure and Gounod as well as four early 20th century American songs. Both ladies are well known by not only our own congregation, but the greater metro area as well. Mark your calendars to attend this event sponsored by The Friends of Music.

spirit break everyday spirituality

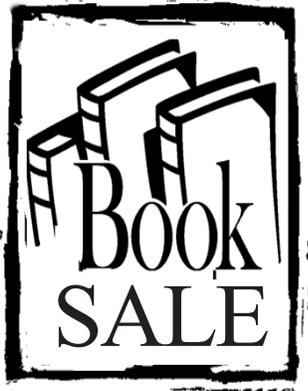
Tell Your Friends About Spirit Break 54 adults and kids made it to the chapel for our third Spirit Break after Jonas' organ concert on April 20, 2008. During the transition time the attendees sang, *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head*. Then they were treated to *Spring Is Here* sung by Nancy Pruden and other fun music performed by Todd Engle, Jen Graver, Richard Allan, and John Goff. Jim Ruyle led a discussion about spiritual thoughts like: finding God in the woods. All enjoyed watching Jen Graver lead the kids through the audience with *Weave Me the Sunshine*. Tell your friends their next opportunity to find their spiritual selves in such everyday culture will be 5:00 PM, Sunday May 18, 2008 in the chapel.

church library items of interest

BOOK SALE AND MORE!

On Sunday, May 4, 2008 after church, the Library Committee will offer all the books left over from the Winter Carnival Book Sale by donation ... take what you want, and leave what you can. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the library.

Also, there are lots of items in the Supply Room that are ready to find new homes. These are surplus items purchased over time that were never used. Stop by the table in Collins Hall on May 4 and find a special something from First Church to take home.



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 May 14, 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 ...

Julie McMorris, her mother Sally Helmstead passed away unexpectedly April 21, 2008 ...

The family of Charles Wilson, Charles died in Salem on April 22, 2008 from a stroke. He was the husband of Grace Wilson and brother-in-law of the Rev. Tom Foster ...

The family of the Rev. Asa Mundell, he died in Salem on April 19, 2008. He was a retired United Methodist Pastor who was active here at First Church for a number of years ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Marilyn Weber, who is recovering from a hip replacement ...

Hayden Hollenberg, who is having surgery on April 30, 2008 at Doernbecher. He is the grandson of Marion Hollenberg ...

Diane Hall, who will be having leg surgery on May 2, 2008 ...

Benjamin Owre, who is at home recovering from surgery ...

Charlotte Cridland, who is out of critical care, but remains hospitalized ...

Kristi Ostroff, daughter of Dick & Marilyn Ringquist, who broke her wrist ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Karl Alger
Robert Anderson
Dick Clark
Douglas Eberwein
Julie Hansen
Jim Jozwiak
Nell McManus
Mary Penniecooke
Marilyn Ringquist
Annabel Thomas
Chuck Thomas
Sadame Tsunenaga

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD:

Jared Bomberger
Daniel Bomberger
Margaret Walton
Craig Kubala

P•R•A•Y
WITHOUT
CEASING