



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 14, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 10

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY 18
Peace With
Justice Sunday

JUNE 1
Volunteer
Recognition
Sunday

JUNE 18-22
Oregon-Idaho
Annual Conference
Salem, OR

JUNE 21
Jars of Clay
Concert,
Salem
Fairgrounds
Pavilion

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

Thanks VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY



On Sunday, June 1, 2008 in our 10:30 AM worship service we will honor three volunteers who personify the First UMC spirit of giving as Volunteers of the Year. It is among the hardest choices we make, there are so many who give so much! Each year we give the following awards:

The Guy Wheaton Award
for service within the life of our congregation.

The Lewis Hughes Award
for service to the community and the world.

The Wesley Spirit Award
is given to a member who exemplifies both a deep personal faith and a spirit of joy and service.

There will be a special reception in the Commons following worship.



On Sunday, May 25, 2008 we will honor our graduating high school seniors in the 10:30 AM worship service:

Cassandra Anderson
Rebecca Anderson
Paul Balmer
Hayden English
Nicole Evans
Andrew Fagin
Javen Kyle Foster-O'Neal
Michael Fricke
Adam Gardner

John Henry Hingson, IV
Bondiana Honjas
Leif Iverson
Lena Knofler
Bethany Lassetter
Samantha McClure
David Smith
Alex Wade

If we have missed anyone graduating from high school, please notify the church office. Also, please let us know of any students graduating from college this year.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Sara Minski, age 57. Pinya Mitzis, age 22, Yossi Michnik, age 6, Boris Mirkin, age 2, Sofya Mirkin, age 71—just five of the dozens of names that Dr. Greathouse and I prayerfully remembered during *Yom HaShoah* ceremonies at Pioneer Square on May 2, 2008. All those named died as martyrs in 1941 or '42 in such notorious places as Auschwitz, Babi Yar, Lodz Lod, and Stalingrad, during some of humankind's darkest days. None of them should be forgotten.

I'm sure I echo my colleague's feelings to say we have been honored for several years to be invited among about 30 religious and community leaders to participate in the readings. Another First UMC member, County Commissioner, Lisa Naito, also took a shift during the day-long ceremony. Similar readings happen simultaneously in hundreds of Jewish communities around the world, the names supplied by *Yad Vashem*, Israel's Holocaust Research Center. It is hoped that eventually the name of every one of the more than 6 million victims will be individually spoken, their life remembered and their death mourned.

Though each of us only reads for ten minutes—I've found each experience to be emotionally powerful. To be honest, many of the names are difficult for my English-nurtured tongue to pronounce and I feel so guilty to realize that I had not even come close. But, then, maybe it's not so much the accuracy of my accent—as the sincerity of my concern that is most important.

We remember because every one of the names we read—those named elsewhere--and the millions yet to be read--are precious men, women, children. Persons who loved and were loved. Each possessed gifts and talents that will forever be unrealized. Every one were souls beloved in God's eyes. Their spirits have been denied to humanity by the most godless injustice imaginable. I am sure God grieves at their loss—and at the realization of the world's barbarity. And so should we.

We remember for another reason as well. To forget the loss, to ignore the agony, to minimize the evil allows the world to be vulnerable to such horror again. Tragically, perhaps it already been repeated, but on a smaller scale in Eastern Europe, central Africa, in Iraq, and many say a genocide is occurring in the Sudan even now. Certainly the flames can be fanned in any number of international flashpoints around our world.

Let me invite you to consider joining the growing movement of ordinary citizens who are increasing in strength and power to say to the leaders of the world, "Never Again!"

It starts with people of faith and conscience becoming informed about current events, their meaning and potential. And, then, together, speaking out boldly to decision-makers, to opinion-shapers, to people everywhere. The many forums and classes our Global Missions Committee and our Committee on Church and Society for Social Justice offer are a good start.

It grows as we support organizations that are working to expose and oppose forces of violence and hatred. Groups like Amnesty International, the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, the Oregon Chapter of the United Nations, Physicians for Social Responsibility (to name a few!)

It expands as we nurture our youth and children into a generation unwilling to tolerate bigotry, inhumanity and injustice. You may not be aware that each year we open our church doors to host school groups from around the region for day-long field trips that start with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park and come to our chapel to hear from a survivor of Nazi death camps. Every child could benefit from such an experience.

Let us join hands—people of good will of all faiths—to pray and remember, to learn and understand, and to declare—unambiguously: "Not on our watch!"

See you in Church!

Arvin



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 are currently studying: *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 18

Terry Connell and Karl Luckert: A Discussion on Islam

May 25

Al Rieke: What is a United Methodist?

FOOD AND FAITH

May 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

Rene Pino will lead a weekly class in conversational Spanish, each Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Fireside Room. 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

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped make the 6th annual Quilt Luncheon a success. We appreciate those who purchased tickets as net proceeds will improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world through UMW Mission Giving. Also, thanks to those who helped with ticket sales, quilt hanging, tables set-up, food preparation, luncheon serving, and clean-up. A special thank you to Tom Foster who provided honey and bee expertise, and to the preschool who loaned colorful centerpieces. Finally, thank you to the quilters and chairperson, Trudy Kayser, who made the event possible. It was a time of fun, food, and fellowship.

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. *A Hundred Years of Solitude* by Nobel prize winning author, Gabriel García Márquez is considered the author's masterpiece, metaphorically encompassing the history of Colombia. The novel chronicles a family's struggle and the history of their fictional town for 100 years. Vesma will lead the discussion.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, May 21, at noon in Room 204. Sue Fisher will review the book, *The Master*, Colm Tolbin's fictional account of five years in the life of Henry James, when he moved from being a failure to a renowned fictional writer. Bring a sandwich. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, May 28 at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will have lunch at Albertina Kerr's on Wednesday, May 28. We will car pool from the church at about 11:30 AM. Many volunteers operate the Albertina Kerr restaurant and the three gift shops housed in the Historic Old Kerr Nursery Building at 424 NE 22nd, Portland. All proceeds go to aid hundreds of needy families. Contact: Leah Vislisel. 503/648-6808.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Now is the time to register for this important summer event at George Fox University on July 31 – August 03. It is open to both men and women. Choose from the following studies.

Spiritual Growth Study, text by Bishop Minerva G. Carcano.
Native American Mission Study, text by Thom White Wolf Fassett
Israel/Palestine Geographic Study, text by Rev. Stephen Goldstein

For more information and registration forms, contact Lila Palmiter, 503/675-9218



spirit break

every third
sunday

SPIRIT BREAK

The next Spirit Break will happen on Sunday, May 18, at 5:00 PM in the chapel. Our theme, coming a week after Mother's Day, is *Family Ties*. Our music will focus on family and relationships and feature Aaron Weller singing, Sam Talluto's flute, Richard Allan's guitar, Ravi Vedanayagam and Ursi Luckert at the piano. Tell your friends and their children about Spirit Break.

creative spirit exhibitions

DO YOU ENJOY THE ART IN THE COMMONS?

Each month, The Creative Spirits Art Committee brings beauty into our church. Three hours of your time three times a year can make a big difference for us and for you. Art pieces from our own congregation and from our talented neighbors are displayed for the enjoyment of our congregation in Collins Hall. We appreciate the kudos we've received, but to continue we need your help in hanging art. No experience is necessary! We need folks that can climb a ladder, drive a nail and tell whether something looks crooked to join our committee. To find out how you can help keep these walls from being bare, please contact Lowell Greathouse at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or Joe Delaney at josephdelaney@mac.com or 503/ 241-0597.

learn and grow silence and compassion

SILENCE AND COMPASSION

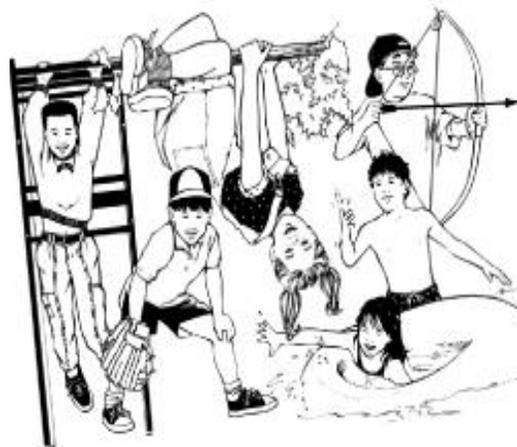
On Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, actor Jonny Stallings will present the workshop: *Silence and Compassion*, in the Fireside Room. In the morning, Johnny will perform *Silence*, his theater piece about meditation and spiritual search. This will be followed by a dialogue exploring how we 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," examining 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. What can we 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, call the church office at 503/228-3195. The cost is \$5.00 for lunch.

hiking Beacon Rock State Park

UMC HIKERS - MAY 2008 HIKE

Join the UMC Hikers on Saturday, May 31, 2008 for two hikes at Beacon Rock State Park. Meet in the First UMC parking lot at 8:30 AM. Bring a lunch, snacks and water. Wear comfortable hiking boots. There is a suggested \$7.00 per person donation to the driver for carpooling. Also bring \$3-5 for an optional snack stop. We should be back at the church between 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Please sign up to insure that transportation. E-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/314-0125 if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Dreamy summer days spent under the beautiful western skies are right around the corner! Why not spend some of those days at camp? Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn more about themselves, their planet and their God. The United Methodist Church hosts a wealth of summer opportunities for campers.

If you and your child are interested in learning more about summer camp, please visit the Camp and Retreat Ministry of Oregon and Idaho's website: gocamping.org

If your family is interested in knowing more about the First United Methodist Church scholarships for camps, please contact Megan Humphreys-Loving. 503/228-3195 ext.227 or mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

caring here & around the world

upcoming events

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Peace With Justice Sunday is a time that all United Methodists can respond to God's call to be peacemakers. It is a time that we renew our commitment by advocating and witnessing for peace and justice for all of God's creation. By observing Peace with Justice Sunday, you give hope and voice to the wounded and vulnerable who are in crisis situations such, the war on Iraq, genocide in Darfur, torture, poverty in the local and global community, global warming, and much more. Please continue to observe this "Special Sunday" and give generously to the Peace with Justice Special Offering, May 18, 2008.

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. 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.

OREGON MISSION TEAM HEADED FOR KENYA

A group of Oregon United Methodists, including Paul and Kathleen Cosgrove from First Church and members of Woodburn UMC and Salem First UMC, are headed to Kenya on June 26, 2008 to help construct homes and assist in providing health care to Kenyans living in Meru and Maua in northern Kenya. As part of the effort to raise approximately \$31,000 for medical and school supplies – and construction materials – the mission team is selling beautiful note cards, designed by Kathleen and based on African textiles. A packet of ten cards, each with a different colorful image, is \$25. Every dollar of the proceeds from the sale of these cards will go to help the families served by the Maua Methodist Hospital and the bio-intensive agricultural training center in Meru. The note cards to support this mission will be sold after church on May 18 and June 1 (in the Commons) and on June 8 (in the narthex). Please consider buying these beautiful note cards and supporting the work of our Oregon Kenya mission team!

HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY: WHAT'S ON OUR PLATE?

Please join our church Hunger Ministry Team for an evening of discussion about the issues of hunger and what First Church can do to help alleviate hunger in our community. Bishop Hoshibata has called upon United Methodist churches throughout the Annual Conference to make a difference in the fight against hunger through his *Recipe for Enough* campaign. First Church has responded in a number of significant ways ... from our regular FISH Sunday food collections each month to our annual offering of letters through the Bread for the World campaign. At this special event, we will be step back as well as look ahead to see how we can carry our work forward into 2008-09. If you are concerned about the problem of hunger, please join us: Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 7:00 PM in Room 110. Dessert will be provided. Hope to see you there. Questions: contact Nancy Miller, Liz Jacob, or Jean Holznagel from the Hunger Ministry Team or call Lowell Greathouse at the church 503/228-3195 ext. 224.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY SUMMER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Church and Society for Social Justice Committee announces two internships: one at a social agency of choice in the Portland area in the areas of hunger, homelessness, peace or health care and one in member/volunteer outreach expansion at First Church, including an opportunity to develop activities in service to benefit the community of faith. Application forms are available from church office or on the church website at www.fumcpdx.org. The application deadline is June 1, 2008.

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE AND SAGER-BROWN VIM TEAM FORUM

On Sunday, June 8 at noon in the Fireside Room there will be a brief All-Church Conference. The agenda will be electing church officers and cost of living adjustments to pastoral compensation that was delayed from last December. Following that conference there will be a potluck meal and forum in which the Sager-Brown VIM team will share their experiences at the UMCOR depot in Louisiana.

the thoughts
edge for the
journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Sometimes short and sweet is indeed clear and to the point. For example, Meister Eckhart, the 13th century German mystic, once said: "If the only prayer you ever say in your life is 'thank you,' it's enough."

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 June 4, 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 ...

Bridget Backus McBride, on the death of her father,

Jerry Neil McBride, who passed away in North Carolina ...

Frances Adams, on the death of her brother, Virgil Adams. Virgil passed away May 1, 2008 in Corvallis.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Lynn (Kinney) Whitehead, who is in ICU at Good Samaritan, being treated for a very serious infection. She is the daughter of Elywn and June McKinney ...

Muriel Gragg, the mother of Ruth Smith, who is being treated for an infection at Vermont Hills Care Center ...

Joan Lawrence, the sister-in-law of Angela Kemling, recently had open heart surgery ...

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

Cal Brockman, Sr., who is at home recovering from heart surgery ...

Diane Hall, who is home following leg surgery ...

Hayden Hollenberg, who is at home following leg surgery ...

Marilyn Weber, who is at home following hip surgery ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Robert Anderson
Dick Clark
Charlotte Cridland
Douglas Eberwein
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

PLEASE NOTE ...

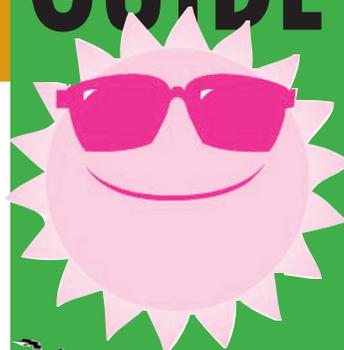
Due to the Memorial Day holiday, we will not publish an issue of *The Circuit Rider* until June 4, 2008. All submission should be sent to office@fumcpdx.org by May 29, 2008.

Portland's First United Methodist Church

SUMMER PROGRAM

GUIDE

JUNE



summer SCHEDULE

Worship
Each Sunday at 10:30 AM

Children
Summer Sunday School begins on Sunday, June 15.

Nursery care begins at 9:30 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Ages 3-5 - Room 205
Grades 1-2 Room 136

Youth
Youth Summer Schedule begins on Sunday, June 15

Combined Middle & High School at 9:30 AM in room 201.

Evening Youth Groups meet bi-weekly
Middle School at 5:30 PM
UMY Dinner at 6:30 PM
High School at 7:30 PM

Adults
Fellowship of Seekers at 9:15 AM in Room 134
Changing Christianity at 9:00 AM in Room 202
Summer Choir at 9:30 AM in Sanctuary

June 1 **Sunday Worship Communion - 10:30 AM**
FISH Sunday
Children's Church
Volunteer Recognition Sunday
Hand Bell Concert (7:00 PM - Sanctuary)

June 1-15 **"Love Makes a Family" Special Exhibit** in Collins Hall
Sponsored by Reconciling Ministries

June 7 **Silence and Compassion (9:30 AM - Fireside Room)**
A workshop with actor Johnny Stallings - Cost: \$5 for lunch.
To register, contact the church office at 503/228-3195

June 8 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Faith and Public Life Series: Who is My Neighbor?
Facilitated by John Coppett - 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room (continues through June 29)
All-Church Conference (after worship in the Fireside Room)
Forum: Volunteers in Mission at UMCOR Sager Brown (after All-Church Conference - a pot luck meal will be shared)
Last Commons in Collins Hall for the summer
Note: Coffee hour to continue Collins Hall throughout the summer

June 11-12 **55 Alive Senior Adult Driving Course (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Fireside)**

June 15 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Summer Sunday School schedule begins
Summer Choir Begins
Summer Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to come and sing as they prepare and sing an anthem for worship each week.
Let's Make Change for Salud y Paz in Guatemala
Portland's Pride Parade - Meet in the Fireside Room at 10:15 AM

June 18-22 **Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference** in Salem

June 21 **Jars of Clay Concert** - 7:30 PM at the Oregon State Fairgrounds

June 22 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Laity Sunday at First Church

June 27-28 **Local Travel Adventure to Astoria**
Cost: \$195. Deadline for reservations: June 5th (details in church office)

June 29 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
First Church Orientation (from 12:00 to 2:00 PM in Room 110) contact the church office at 503/228-3195
Light lunch and child care provided
First Church Family Day at PGE Park
Portland Beavers/Colorado Sky Socks Baseball Game at 2:00 PM

July 6 **Sunday Worship - Communion 10:30 AM**
FISH Sunday

July 11 **Local Travel Adventure** Oregon School of Art and Craft
Cost: Free. Registration deadline: July 6.
(details in church office)

July 13 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Read Aloud Together: Our Town by Thornton Wilder
9:15 AM in the Fireside Room (Through July 27)



JULY

July 16-19 **United Methodist Church Western Jurisdictional Events**
at First Church - details to come

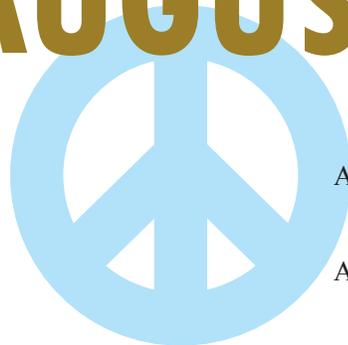
July 20 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Let's Make Change offering for Farm Worker Ministry

July 26 **Season of Service Volunteer Opportunity** - details to come)
Local Travel Adventure: Washington County Ag Tour
(now known as Eco Tour)
Cost: \$50. Registration deadline: July 1 (details in church office)



July 27 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
First Church Picnic - at Oaks Park following the worship service

AUGUST



August 3 **Sunday Worship - Communion 10:30 AM**
FISH Sunday

Read Aloud Together: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
9:15AM in the Fireside Room (Through August 17)

Faith and Public Life: Peace, Propaganda, & the Promised Land
Facilitated by Betty Cobb and Dee Poujade - 9:15 AM in Room 160
(Through August 24)

August 10 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
First Church Orientation - from 12:00 to 2:00 PM in Room 110

August 17 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Let's Make Change Offering for the Cambodia Garbage Dump Ministry
Parent/Teacher Sunday School Orientation
from 12:00 to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room

August 22-23 **Portland CityFest and Homeless Connect**

August 24 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**
Read Aloud Together: Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters
9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

August 28-30 **Local Travel Adventure: Shakespeare in Ashland.**
Cost: \$395/double, \$555/single. Registration deadline: June 23

August 31 **Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

Note: During August, we will be participating in the
Metro District's Habitat for Humanity Project



WELCOME HOME SUNDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 7, 2008