



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 2, 2008  
Volume 12, Issue 13

## LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

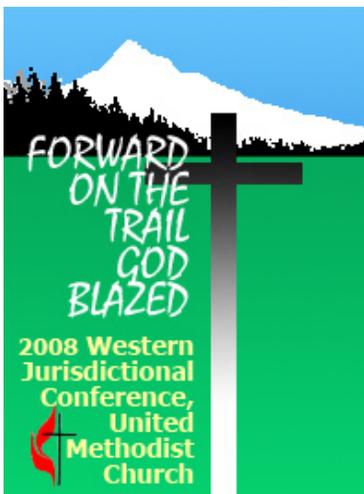
### BELIEVING THINKING ACTING



#### BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON TO PREACH ON SUNDAY JULY 13, 2008

One of the most visionary and dynamic leaders in United Methodism will be our guest preacher on Sunday, July 13, 2008 during our 10:30 AM worship service. Her message that morning will be, *The Time is Now!*, based on Isaiah 55. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson is the Episcopal leader of the California Pacific Annual Conference, which includes Southern California, Hawaii, Guam and Singapore.

Bishop Swenson served local churches in Washington and was a District Superintendent before being elected to the episcopacy in 1992. She and her husband, Jeff, maintain an active lifestyle of leadership, service and environmental awareness. They long distance bike and commute the Los Angeles area by city bus. "John Wesley's 'the world is my parish' takes on new meaning when you ride the bus each day," she has said. One result is that she has emerged as an outspoken leader in the denomination and in her communities, calling for a redefinition of the purpose of the church in a rapidly changing world. Do not miss the opportunity to hear this exciting and dynamic leader.



#### You are invited to attend the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church.

##### Wednesday, July 16

- |         |   |                                |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1:00 pm | <b>Opening worship and session</b>        | Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center |
| 4:00 pm | <b>Episcopal Candidates Introductions</b> | Collins Hall, First UMC        |
| 5:00 pm | <b>Memorial/Communion Service</b>         | Sanctuary, First UMC           |
| 7:00 pm | <b>Buffet and Meet the Candidates</b>     | Multnomah Athletic Club        |
- (tickets required—a few are still available—call the church office)

##### Thursday July 17

- |         |  |                  |
|---------|--|------------------|
| 9:00 am | (to 5:00 pm)                                   |                  |
|         | <b>Plenary Sessions, Candidates Forums</b>     | Doubletree Hotel |
|         | <b>Art Show, Cokesbury Books Store</b>         | Lloyd Center     |
| 6:30 pm | <b>Dinner to honor retiring Bishop Shamana</b> | Doubletree Hotel |
- (Advance reservations needed—call the church)

##### Friday, July 18

- |         |                              |                  |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 9:00 am | (through evening)            |                  |
|         | <b>Plenary and Elections</b> | Doubletree Hotel |

##### Saturday July 19

- |         |  |                        |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| 8:30 am | (through noon)                             |                        |
|         | <b>Organizational meetings and Plenary</b> | Doubletree Hotel       |
| 2:00 pm | <b>Consecration of new Bishops</b>         | Sanctuary-First UMC    |
| 3:00 pm | <b>Reception for new Bishops</b>           | Collins Hall—First UMC |

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.



*memo*

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

Some say it is a miracle it works at all. But by the grace of God and the power of the Spirit the process of electing United Methodist Bishops has consistently blessed the church with leaders of deep spirituality, profound wisdom and bold vision.

In just two weeks delegates from Annual Conferences will simultaneously gather for Jurisdictional Conferences in five centers across the nation. We will be hosting the meeting for the western region starting July 16, 2008 and concluding with the consecration of two new Bishops in our sanctuary on July 19, 2008

When the gavel sounds, there will be twelve announced candidates for the west’s top leadership roles. But it is open voting—and any clergy person, anywhere in our denomination can be elected. Election requires a majority vote—and voting continues until all open positions are filled. Ballots are interspersed by caucusing of conference delegations, probing interviews of candidates, prayer and discernment, and other conference business. It is not unusual for voting to continue for two dozen or more ballots.

The last time Oregon-Idaho hosted a Jurisdictional Conference was in Boise, Idaho in 1984. I had the honor of co-chairing the host committee then as I do now. That meeting is still remembered as the “Rainbow Conference” for the election of three Bishops with racial ethnic heritage: Elias Galvan, Roy Sano and Leontine Kelly. (Bishop Kelly, by the way, had been serving in the southeast when elected.)

It’s really something to see—and you are welcome to see it for yourself. Visitors, while they do not cast ballots, are often very involved in the process—meeting and questioning candidates, interacting with delegates and handicapping the shifting vote trends.

The elections are clearly the highlight—but not the only ‘action’ during the event. A variety of spiritually rich worship experiences are open to all. Small, intimate healing service and a Taize worship precede the opening Memorial-Communion Service. And there is no moment in Methodism to match the Service of Consecration when the newly-elected Episcopal leaders are set apart for service.

Other Conference business includes reports on new church development, enhancing ministries—particularly in racial ethnic communities—and encouraging new clergy. This year much discussion will focus on the redrawing of the boundaries of Episcopal areas to accommodate a reduction of one Bishop mandated for 2012 by the General Conference last May. A much anticipated time—after elections are concluded—is the report of the “Episcopacy Committee” which announces the assignment of Bishops for the next four years.

The Conference meets for general sessions and balloting at the Doubletree Hotel—Lloyd Center. On the opening day they will journey to our building to meet the candidates, celebrate in a Memorial Communion Service and then walk to the Multnomah Athletic Club for a Buffet banquet. On Thursday night we’ll give thanks for the career of Bishop Shamana with a retirement banquet at the Hotel. Saturday, at 2:00 PM, delegates and visitors will once again return to our Sanctuary for the Consecration Service.

If you’d like a more active role, there are still places for volunteers. Teams from our area will be supporting the meetings by helping with greeting, transportation, and hospitality as well as setting up and striking the conference rooms. Call me—or Jaime Hurst at the Metro District Office at 503/249-1851. to indicate your interest. We have particular need for people to staff a First Aid table.

I hope you won’t miss the opportunity to see this facet of our church close-up!

See you in Church (and, I hope, at the Conference)

*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 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 discusses a number of emerging issues in contemporary Christian theology.

### READ ALOUD TOGETHER



In July and August you are invited to participate in reading aloud plays. Often referred to as Readers' Theater, reading aloud together is an opportunity to read directly from a script, without props, costumes, sets, or memorizing. This is an informal reading with no rehearsals. Reading parts are divided among all those who attend that day and choose to take part. Readers are encouraged to use intonation and gestures appropriate to their characters. The focus is on the meaning and language of the story.

There will be time at the close of each session to discuss some of the highlights of the acts just read. At the beginning of the next session the facilitator will briefly summarize what has happened up to that point in the play. This means you can come for one or more sessions and still take part in Reading Aloud Together. The classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Come discover young love in a small town, explore the mystery of Boo Radley or reminisce in the graveyard of Spoon River.

*Read Aloud Together: Our Town* (July 13, 20 and 27)

*Read Aloud Together: To Kill a Mockingbird* (August 3, 10 and 17)

*Read Aloud Together: Spoon River Anthology* (August 24)

### FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE

*Peace, Propaganda, & the Promised Land*, this four session class will be offered August 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 9:15 AM in Room 160.

The birthplace of Christianity has been in the news a lot lately. Is a true peace possible the Holy Land? Is the media accurately reporting events in Israel/Palestine? What is life like for modern-day Christians, the "living stones" descended from the first Christians? Betty Cobb and Dee Poujade, who recently returned from a UMC study trip to Israel/Palestine will facilitate with the aid of films and speakers.

## umw the women of first church

Melba Rizzo, president, 503/635-6716

### SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Now is the time to register for The School of Christian Mission. This important summer event is held at George Fox University on July 31 – August 3, 2008. It is open to both men and women. Choose from the following studies.

#### **Spiritual Growth Study,**

text by Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

#### **Native American Mission Study,**

text by Thom White Wolf Fassett

#### **Israel/Palestine Geographic Study,**

text by Rev. Stephen Goldstein

For info and registration forms, call Trudy Kayser.

### YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

The Sixth Annual UMW Young Women Event will be held August 1-3, 2008 at George Fox University, Newberg. All young women ages 18 and up are welcome. It will be a time of fun and fellowship, storytelling, and Bible study. Tuition scholarships are available. For information, call Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716.

## stephen ministries

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Stephen Minister is a caring Christian lay person, trained to walk with a person during a time of need. A Stephen Minister's goal is to listen and understand with a Christ-grounded, objective, non-judgmental heart, giving the hurting person an open, yet confidential, environment in which to examine and wrestle with the problems. Stephen Ministers are ever mindful that God alone is the source of healing. It is their hope that persons in need might be enabled to search for the presence of God's grace and love in their lives, and through that search to find encouragement, spiritual growth and renewal. A new training class for Stephen Ministers will begin in September 2008. For information regarding joining this class, please contact one of our congregation's Stephen Leaders: Bob Anderson – 503/705-0654, Joan Jozwiak – 503/848-6598, Mary Jane Hendrickson – 503/659-7775, or Marge Terdal – 503/244-5714.



# Season of service

*Sign up for the events listed below on  
Sundays in the Commons in Collins,  
or through Sarah Goff or  
Lowell Greathouse.*

## **Interfaith Forum on the Ethics of Torture & Human Rights, Wednesday July 23**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is sponsoring this investigation of the human rights and religious opposition to torture, at Westminster Presbyterian Church from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Highlights include a keynote address by the founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, George Hunsinger, and a three-perspective interfaith panel discussion on torture and human rights.

## **Oregon Food Bank, Saturday July 26**

Meet at the church at 8:30 AM to join us in repackaging and sorting bulk food at the Oregon Food Bank. The project is in cooperation with the Luis Palau organization's Season of Service, an effort to involve many local churches in service this summer.

## **Hiroshima Commemoration, Wednesday August 6**

To commemorate the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility is sponsoring an evening memorial including poetry, Taiko drumming, speakers, and choral music. The event will be held at 6:00 PM in the Japanese-American Historical Plaza in Waterfront Park.

## **Homeless Connect, Friday August 22**

Sponsored by Luis Palau's Portland CityFest and the City of Portland's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the Waterfront event includes services provided to homeless individuals in the form of meals, legal help, medical care, counseling, housing and employment assistance, connections with help agencies, and more. A number of volunteer opportunities are available, including scheduling appointments, directing participants to appropriate locations, filling out paperwork, and assembling supplies.

## **Habitat for Humanity, August date to be announced**

We'll be taking part in the Metro District's Habitat for Humanity project with a day of service. The district is sponsoring the building and funding of one unit of a tri-plex this year.

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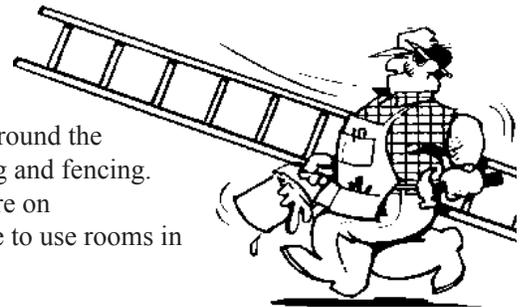
## **ROOFING PROJECT TO BEGIN**

First UMC's Board of Trustees has announced that the re-roofing of Collins Hall and Fireside Room will begin July 21, 2008.

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.

The project was delayed 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.

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



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## **WHERE IN THE WORLD IS FIRST UMC?**

As a "Sending Church," First UMC members can be found doing mission work in all corners of the globe. Where have they been? Check out the new bulletin board in Collins Hall for a map of the world and photos of our traveling "missionaries." Anyone who has taken a mission-related trip (UMVIM, Primetimers, individual mission work, etc.) since the beginning of 2007 is invited to contribute a photo with information about the trip so it can be included on this bulletin board. Check it out!



## farmers' table

experiencing God's bounty

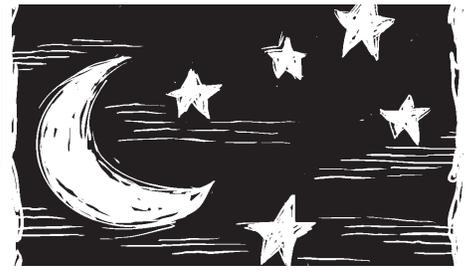


the farmers' table is an excellent way to buy local produce and flowers, as well as help others ...

Our Farmers' Table takes place every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month, through August 31 from 11:30-1:00 PM where coffee hour is held. Hmong farmer, Yua Lo, and her family will offer flower bouquets and vegetables from a local family farm.

The Farmers' Table is sponsored by our Planet Church committee with the help of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

To learn more about Hmong refugees like Yua, go to [www.HmongNet.org](http://www.HmongNet.org).



a dinner  
friends of music

### SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Save the Date! Friends of Music presents a "Summer Stars" Garden Party with dinner, fellowship, and entertainment on August 17, 2008 at 5:00 PM, at the home of Trudy and Art Kayser.

# ALL-CHURCH PICNIC



### ALL-CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 27 AT OAKS PARK

Mark your calendar for the All-Church Picnic at Oak's Park, Sunday, July 27, 2008 -- following worship.

We'll provide the chicken and beverages. You provide a side-dish or dessert and the fun!

The event begins at 1:00 PM and runs to 4:00 PM. Collins Kitchen is available to store your special dish during morning worship. Bring your outdoor games and enjoy the afternoon with your Church family!

### REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

In his book, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, John Ortberg challenges his readers to take to heart Jesus' words to Peter to get out of the boat and join him in walking on the water. As you know, once Peter gets out of the boat, he experiences a strong wind, becomes frightened, and loses faith. Suddenly he moves from walking on water to dog paddling instead.

Ortberg shares two wonderful quotes that are worth remembering on our journey. The first is from Theodore Roosevelt: "It's not the critic who counts; not the (one) who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the (one) who is actually in the arena...who, at best, knows in the end the triumph of great achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly. So that his place will never be with those cold timid souls who know neither victory or defeat." (p. 11)

A bit later in his book, Ortberg shares a related story about what Winston Churchill said when he was asked what prepared him most to risk political suicide in speaking out against Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. Churchill responded by saying that it was the time he had to repeat a grade in elementary school. "You mean you failed a year in grade school?" he was asked. Churchill responded by saying, "I never failed anything in my life. I was given a second opportunity to get it right." (p. 22-23)

the  
edge

thoughts  
for the  
journey

### 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 July 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 SYMPATHY FOR ...

*Laura Laney*, her brother-in-law, Glenn Haeberle, died on June 26, 2008.

David and Susan Kenney, on the unexpected death of David's mother, Dixie Kenney, on June 25, 2008.

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Ann Lindgren*, who is at Good Samaritan Hospital recovering from a mild stroke ...

*Clare Humphrey*, who is anticipating returning home soon following his surgery ...

*Karen Smith*, who recently fractured her hip ...

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

*Charlotte Cridland*, who is now home following many weeks of hospitalization and rehab ...

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Douglas Ederwein, Jim & Joan Jozwiak, Nell McManus, Mary Pennicooke, and Lynn (Kinney) Whitehead*

## thanks caring & sharing

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD:

Jared Bomberger  
Daniel Bomberger  
Margaret Walton  
Craig Kubala

### ROBIN WHITE

Thanks to the Lord, Debby Fisher, Joanne Weiss, and all the other well-wishers during my recent time of trouble. I am doing better now.

Sincerely,  
*Robin White*



Please remember to keep your pledges up during the summer months. Here is a "snapshot" of our year-to-date giving:

Received:	\$421,852
Expected:	\$363,459
<b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$58,366</b>