



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 16, 2008

Volume 12, Issue 14

SUMMER

SERMON SERIES:

It's About Change

July 27

How My Heart Has Changed:

Arvin R. Luchs

August 3

How My Heart Has Changed:

God

August 10

How My Heart Has Changed:

Bill Haden

August 17

How My Heart Has Changed:

Colleen McClain

August 24

How My Heart Has Changed:

Rene Pino

August 31

How My Heart Has Changed:

Lowell Greathouse

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

ALL-CHURCH

PICNIC



JULY 27 2008

oaks park

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 12:30 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!

DIRECTIONS TO OAK PARK

Oaks Park is located at: 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, OR 97202. Take Macadam Way south to the Sellwood Bridge. Watch for signs once you have crossed the bridge. We will be in picnic area No. 9.

memo
from the
financial
stewardship
committee

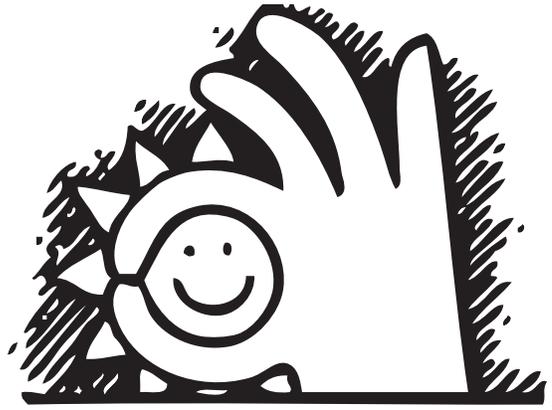
A MEMO FROM YOUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It is amazing that we have reached the half-way point in the calendar year! It is a time when we want to stop and say a special “thank you” once more to the many members who helped us succeed with the “5% solution” second push on our last annual campaign. The extra \$32,000 in increased gifts and pledges allowed us to support the budget proposed by church leadership. That extra support, along with gifts already pledged and received, helped to avoid many hurtful cuts to an already tight budget. You have helped keep First Church a vibrant place with strong ministries and a place where each member and friend can continue to explore the varied paths on our individual spiritual journeys. Because of your commitments of time and money, we continue to have a presence among those who are poor, the sick and infirm, distraught neighbors and friends among us and among those far away.

These are not just idle words! We are able to house the Goose Hollow Family Shelter and provide the volunteers necessary to welcome such family guests into our church home. We are able to sustain a vital program for ministerial staff and member visitations for those who find themselves housebound or in hospital. We’re able to support on-going mission activities both in country and out of country, serving others without regard for “success” in any ordinary meaning of the term.

Yes, First Church does have to talk about money at times even in the summertime holiday months. In order to move forward with our programs that help transform the lives of members and non-members alike, we all must keep our financial commitments up to date during the summer. So if you are making a list of what to take and what to do on your vacation – don’t forget to add your support of First Church to that list.

Thank you for keeping a strong Church home for each of our spiritual journeys.



Thanks
for
remembering
your
giving
pledge
during the
summer



Here is a “snapshot” of our year-to-date giving:

Received:	\$392,895
Expected:	\$456,978
Shortfall:	(\$64,083)

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.

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.

stephen ministries

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Training provides church members the opportunity to develop practical skills for a one-on-one caring ministry. Using Christian Resources, skills are developed in listening objectively, understanding feelings, honest communication, crisis theory and intervention, as well as, how to encourage steps of growth and change. The class format includes lecture, followed by discussion and application in small group settings. Our church will begin a training program for new Stephen Ministers 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 –	503/639-7775
Marge Terdal –	503/244-5714.

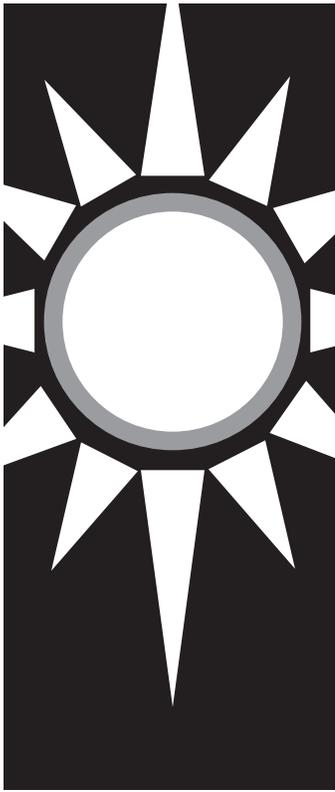
this and that please note

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Come join the TAG group for an evening of music and fellowship on Saturday, August 2, 2008 at Cathedral Park in St. Johns for the Portland Festival Symphony Series with guest musician Michael Allen Harrison. The concert begins at 6:00 PM. Your hosts for the evening, Ann Hayes and Judy Link, will be at the park by 4:30 PM to stake out a good spot to enjoy the music. Bring your blanket, chairs and picnic baskets. Dessert of fresh fruit and sweets of some sort will be provided. If you have any questions or want to join in please call Judy at 503/274-6491 or email Judy at judyalink@yahoo.com or Ann at ann.A1.hays@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY TRIP SCHEDULED

You are invited to a join the Quebec Holiday tour, a lovely holiday get-away December 11-17, 2008, featuring accommodations in three Fairmont hotels in Montreal, Charlevoix, and the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City. Holiday seasons present a wonderful time for a special trip: the opportunity to stay in the finest hotels at an off-season rate, cities in their holiday splendor, a memorable time with First Church friends, and finding unique gifts for loved ones. Reservations due by August. For information, contact Cheryl Luce at cheryl.luce@gmail.com or phone her 503/380-8604.



Season of service

Sign up for the events listed below on Sundays during coffee hour in Collins Hall, or through Sarah Goff or Lowell Greathouse.

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.

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

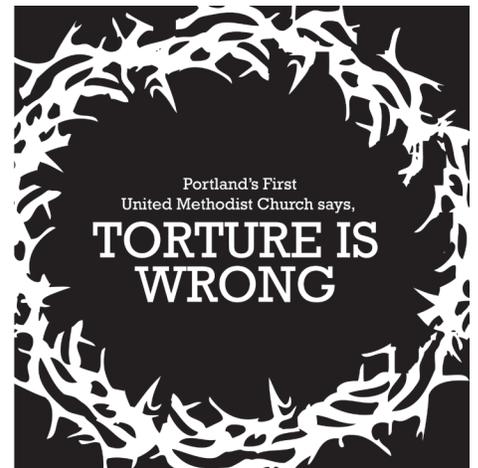
We'll be taking part in the Metro District's Habitat for Humanity project with a day of service. The district is sponsoring the building and funding of one unit of a tri-plex this year.

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.

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.



*take
note*

**Sunday,
August 10,
2008**

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATIONS: AUGUST 10, 2008

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Learn about First UMC, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. This one-time orientation will be offered after the worship service on August 10 and again September 28, 2008.

For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

CHURCH INTERN PRESENTATION BY SARAH GOFF: AUGUST 10

Sarah Goff has spent the summer as an intern at First United Methodist Church. Come and hear about the various activities that she has been involved in both at First Church and at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Sarah will be speaking in the Fireside Room at noon, after the worship service.

a sea of sound

our handbell choirs in yakima, WA

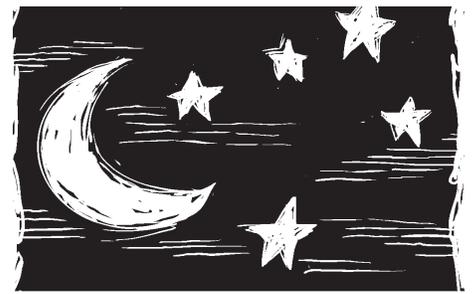


What's the sound of 431 handbell ringers ringing over 2000 handbells simultaneously? If you were in Yakima over the weekend of July 12, 2008, you would have heard that "Sea of Sound" during the Regional Convention of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

Our Sanctuary Bell Choir and juBELLation were among handbell ringers from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. There were group sessions, classes for players of varying skill levels, lots of fellowship, concerts and most of all, renewed inspiration for everyone. The two principal guest directors were David Davidson from Dallas, TX and Jason Wells from Orlando, FL. Jason previously taught at Laurelwood SDA Academy (near Forest Grove) where he founded the famous "Ring of Fire" handbell choir. Nancy Haskell was also a clinician for the convention.

In addition to participating in the mass bell choir events, our Sanctuary Bells and juBELLation were featured during Saturday evening's concert. juBELLation also performed a piece with two other teenage bell choirs during Sunday's grand finale concert. The 400 plus general public audience was amazed at what they saw and heard.

The front page of the *Yakima Herald Republic's Home Front* section on Saturday morning, carried the above photo, featuring our own Emily Wright. The photo, taken by *Yakima Herald Republic's* Gordon King, is reprinted with the permission of the newspaper.



a dinner friends of music

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

The Friends of Music present their fund raiser a "Summer Stars Garden Party." It will feature: hors d' oeuvres, dinner, fellowship, and entertainment at the home of Trudy and Art Kayser, on August 17, 2008, at 5:00 PM. The cost is \$50.00 (\$30.00 of which is tax deductible)

For reservations call: Sally Bolliger at 503/644-9311.

farmers' table experiencing God's bounty

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.

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we all continue our various vacations and travels this summer, it is good to remember that in matters spiritual it is not so much about traveling around as it is about being aware and connected. Meister Eckhart gets to the point, when he writes: "God is always at home. It is we who have gone out for a walk."
(*The Monastic Way*, page 118)

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 30, 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



Add to
your
prayer
list

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...

Kent & Kim Mallory, on the birth of their son,
Luke Emanuel Mallory, born July 2, 2008 ...

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Erik Little and family, Erik's sister died last week ...
Sarah Williams and Art and Judy Carpenter (Sarah's grandparents),
on the recent death of Sarah's father ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Ann Lindgren, as she recovers from a stroke ...
Clare Humphrey, as he recovers from surgery ...
Karen Smith, as she recovers from a fractured her hip ...
Mavis Newman, as she continues treatment for leukemia ...
Douglas Eberwein, as he awaits results of recent tests on the success
of his bone marrow transplant ...

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

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

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD:

Jared Bomberger
Daniel Bomberger
Margaret Walton
Craig Kubala

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Jim Jozwiak
Nell McManus,
Mary (Schuberg)
Pennicooke
Lynn (Kinney)
Whitehead