



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

**July 30, 2008**

Volume 12, Issue 16

SUMMER

SERMON SERIES:

**It's About Change**

**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.

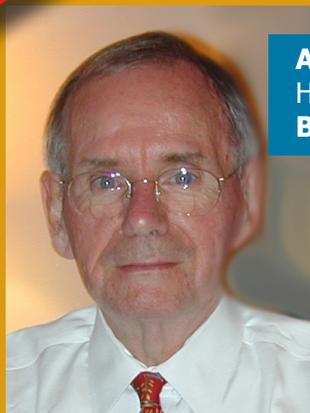
## LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

# HOW MY HEART HAS CHANGED

The church's primary task is change ... changing hearts and lives, changing systems and structures that oppress and injure, awaiting and building God's new creation. In fact, a core notion, expressed well by Paul in First Corinthians 13, is that our faith should constantly be renewing and changing ... until that day when we see the truth of God "face to face."

Over the next few weeks the message in our worship will focus on a God who is found in change—and supporting us through change. Each of the pastors and three articulate members of First Church will lend their insights about how their hearts have changed.



**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**





*memo*

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

How can I ever express thanks? It's not that I don't have the words—my vocabulary is adequate and, if I falter, somewhere in my library is a handbook of thank-you messages.

It's just that no words seem sufficient to express my gratitude to those who joined efforts to provide local hospitality to delegates from the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church when they met in Portland two weeks ago.

The event collected elected representatives, Bishops and church dignitaries from across the western United States for four days of intense deliberations, worship and decisions. It climaxed in the wee hours of Saturday morning with the election of two new Bishops for our region. It concluded, in our sanctuary, with a glorious worship service at which Grant Hagiya and Elaine Stanovsky were consecrated to service. They have been assigned, respectively, to oversee the Seattle and Denver areas. (Oregon/Idaho folks celebrated the return of Bishop Hoshibata to serve our area for four more years!)

Our role—as local hosts—involved a range of things from coordinating meals, housing, registration, and transportation; organizing meeting spaces; arranging for banquets, receptions, child care, worship, music, sound and TV systems, providing office services, a first aid station, and making everyone feel welcome and “at home.”

It was a big undertaking and behind the scenes were dozens of magnificent volunteers whose dedication and hard work made it all happen without a glitch. For some—like my co-chair Art Kayser—it was the end of nearly three years of planning and organizing. His leadership was an amazing gift to us all! Core team leaders included: Jaime Hurst (volunteers), Bill Haden (hospitality), Turella Woods (on-site offices), Jerry Outslay (transportation), Lowell Greathouse (First Church Event Leader), Scott Harkness (conference liaison and spokesperson), Bob Meyers (business manager), Greg Nelson (media services), Laura Jacquith Bartlett (worship) Karen Nelson (pages), Agnes Zach and Brandi Tuck (child care), Patty Meyers (tellers), Steve Sprecher (episcopacy liaison), Paul Nickell (communications), Elaine Jones (first aid), Pat Breen (liaison with Bishop Hoshibata) and Lynda Sprecher (art show).

But that was only the tip of the team. Several hundred people eventually contributed to the week: a youth group from Salem who made the Conference their week-long “Mission Trip” helped in countless ways; airport greeters, Geneva Cook and Joanne Dobrinski who worked so hard with registrations, Trudy Kayser and our United Methodist Women along with the District UMW who provided magnificent receptions; David Raines and a media production team, Kelly Qualls, Jonas Nordwall, Gary St. John, our magnificent Chancel Choir, and First UMC Brass; the First Church staff including: Christine Bostick, Dwight Dragoo, Bruce Hendrickson, our custodial staff and especially David Jenkins (who designed the Conference logo, produced countless signs, posters, banners, and bulletins). Also thanks to Sam Naito who offered gracious welcome gifts, the floor pages who aided the delegates during sessions, tellers who counted votes, First Church greeters and parking attendants, the Power and Praise Dance Company, Scott Gratton and our usher team, Gordon Frost our sound tech, nurses and EMTs who offered first aid, Peg Cook our church hostess, Julia Brown our organist for the Consecration, the Korean UM Youth Dance Group, Tom and Colleen Foster, and a cadre of drivers who chauffeured the Bishops to events—and I could go on and on.

I have been flooded with expressions of appreciation for your graciousness from delegates and leaders who had a wonderful time in Portland. My profound appreciation to each of you. Your efforts have set a high standard for future conferences. You have done us proud!

God bless you for all you have done—thanks so much!

See you in Church!

*Arvin*

## adults at first sunday morning classes

### FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday at 9:15 AM 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. During August we will read brief selections followed by lively discussions led by different class members each week. Material will be available in the classroom.

### 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.



*make a  
difference  
in the  
life of a  
child*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SEARCH

The word is out! We are looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have ever thought about teaching, now is the time! Qualifications are various, experience is not necessary. Teaching Sunday school is a great way to know the children and families of the church. As an added bonus, you get to relearn the stories of the Bible! Sunday School teachers are vital to the function of Christian Education here at First United Methodist Church. If you would like to become a part of the program, please contact Megan Humphreys-Loving, Director of Children's and Family Ministries at 503/228-3195 ext.227 or via email: [mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org).

## stephen ministries

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen and to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

- If life seems like more than you can handle alone right now ...
- If your health, your spirit, or your relationships are suffering ...
- If you are adjusting to a job transition, change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, or a recent move ...

Might you, or a church friend benefit from having someone in your life who will listen objectively and care deeply? Contact Rev. Tom Foster at 503/228-3195 to discuss the possibility of having a Stephen Minister meet with you or a church member you know.

## creative spirit exhibitions

### CREATIVE SPIRIT EXHIBIT

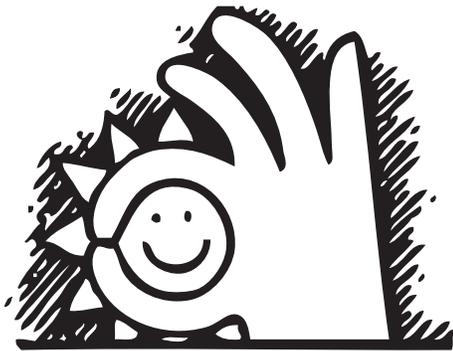
If you are relatively new to First UMC and you are an artist, you are welcome to display at least one of your works in Collins Hall from September 6 through October 4, 2008. To find out more, contact Joe Delaney at home 503/241-0597 or by email [josephdelaney@mac.com](mailto:josephdelaney@mac.com).

## welcome home sunday, September 7, 2008

### SAVE THE DATE!

Welcome Home Sunday at First Church is September 7, 2008. Come for worship at 10:30 AM and then stay for a potluck brunch. This event celebrates coming back together in the fall ... Sunday School will begin in full swing ... new classes and ministry opportunities will begin ... our children's choirs, bell choirs, and our Chancel Choir return. Watch for details in the 2008 Fall Program Guide.

*our giving* a brief report



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

Expected:	\$492,131
Received:	\$419,889
Shortfall:	(\$72,242)

**PORTLAND CITYFEST AND THE HOMELESS CONNECT**

As a part of Luis Palau’s CityFest, which will feature contemporary Christian music and entertainment, there will be the Homeless Connect at Waterfront Park. In cooperation with and the City of Portland’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the The Homeless Connect will include services for homeless individuals in the form of: meals, legal help, medical care, counseling, housing and employment assistance, connections with help agencies, and more. For more information about the event or to sign up for the Homeless Connect, visit their website at: [www.portlandcityfest.com](http://www.portlandcityfest.com)



*take note*

items of interest at first church

**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.

**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**

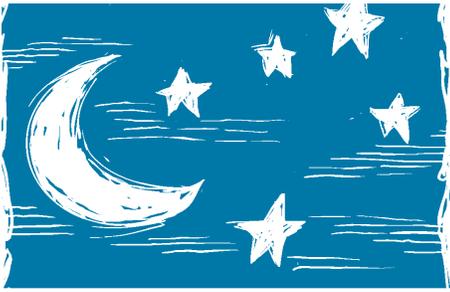
Sarah Goff has spent the summer as an intern at First United Methodist Church. Come and hear about the various activities that she has been involved in both at First Church and at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Sarah will be speaking in the Fireside Room at noon, after the worship service.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS**

In the last few weeks, several of the children’s activity bags have disappeared. Please check your child’s church school room, and your cars and homes to see if they were accidentally left in them. Also, if anyone who sews has some material and time, we could use a few more bags before the fall schedule begins. Please see Pat Rieke or call her at 503/231-0009 if you could help with this.

**LET'S MAKE CHANGE**

The third Sunday of each month is “Let’s Make Change!” Sunday. There is a bucket for loose change. There is information about the selected project on a table at the back of the sanctuary. Upcoming projects include: Cambodian Garbage Dump Ministry (August 17), Sisters of the Road (Sept. 21).



*a dinner*  
friends of music

*farmers' table*  
experiencing God's bounty

*church picnic*  
a great day together!

**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.

Our Farmers' Table takes place every Sunday, 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.

The 2008 All-Church Picnic at Oaks Park was a great day together. Nearly 80 people gathered on Sunday, July 27, 2008 for the picnic. It was a beautiful day to chat, eat or ride the rides! A special thanks to Rev. Lowell Greathouse and the First Church staff for helping make this fun event happen!

The picture above and those below are courtesy of Cynthia Aaby.



**REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP**

A single sentence can communicate a great deal about one's worldview. One of the wonderful books I've been reading recently is entitled, *The World in a Phrase: A Brief History of the Aphorism* by James Geary. In it Geary takes us through the lives and aphorisms of ancient sages, Greek and Roman stoics, French and Spanish moralists, American writers of "one-liners," and countless others. Here are a few examples of what we have to learn from a single sentence:

- "We are what we think." (Buddha, 563-483 BC)
- "The difference between a rut and a grave is the depth." (Gerald Burrill)
- "A man is wealthy in proportion to the things he can do without." (Epicurus, 341-270 BC)
- "When a country is well governed, poverty and a mean condition are things to be ashamed of. When a country is ill governed, riches and honors are things to be ashamed of." (Confucius, 551-479 BC)
- "Maxims are to the intelligence what laws are to action: They do not illuminate, but they guide, they control, they rescue blindly. They are the clue in the labyrinth, the ship's compass in the night." (Joseph Joubert, 1754-1824)

*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 August 13, 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 ...

*Brenda Carpenter*, whose father, *Keith Carpenter*, died last week ...  
*Kristen Brukert and Donavan Burkert-Kerr*, whose mother died last week in Corvallis ...

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Robin White*, as she continues to seek housing ...  
*Cheryl Bittle*, as she recovers from recent surgery ...  
*Betty-Lou Hare*, who is recovering from a fall ...  
*Sandra Wood*, who is at home, having been diagnosed with a disease which has caused inflammation of the spinal cord ...  
*Steve Tillotson*, whose mother, *Lorraine Langue*, was recently released from the hospital ...  
*Conrad Moore*, who recently had bypass surgery ...  
*Mavis Newman*, who is back in the hospital for tests and treatments ...



in our  
thoughts  
and  
prayers

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

Jared Bomberger  
Daniel Bomberger  
Margaret Walton  
Craig Kubala

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

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