



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

**September 24, 2008**  
Volume 12, Issue 20

**September 28**

Listen Up!  
The 2009 Giving  
Campaign

**October 5**

World Communion  
Sunday and  
Volunteers in Mission  
Recognition

First Sunday is  
FISH Sunday

**October 17-19**

Fall Frolic at  
Camp Magruder

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

# LISTEN



## 2009 GIVING CAMPAIGN



Using a boat as a  
pulpit, Jesus addressed the crowd, telling stories ...

*"What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams. Are you listening to this? Really listening?"*

(Matthew 13:1-9, *The Message*, Peterson)

On Sunday, September 28, 2008 we will be asked to "listen up," as we kick off our 2009 Giving Campaign. First Church is full of fascinating people and their stories ... stories that are like seeds scattered with the wild abandon of grace throughout our community, nation and world. Listen to those stories and listen to God as you prayerfully consider an estimate of giving for the coming year. Sometimes the results seem small and almost unnoticeable. Sometimes the results will go "beyond our wildest dreams!"

It is your consistent and dedicated giving that allows us to pursue dreams for First Church that exceed what we can even imagine or dare to dream! Give prayerfully and generously.



Tyler Honn (age 9) ...

### WHAT I LIKE ABOUT FIRST CHURCH ...

What I like most about First United Methodist Church is how friendly the people are. I also really enjoy Sunday school, where we do fun things like arts and crafts and learn about the Bible. I like the service, especially the music. Arvin's sermons are good because I can understand them and they are sometimes humorous. I also enjoy First Church because the members are always so happy to see each other.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin  
R. Luchs

Last May, United Methodism's General Conference (our highest decision-making body) did a curious thing. They expanded our mission!

Over several decades we had declared our mission to be "Making disciples of Jesus Christ." By action of the Conference, at the initiative of our Bishops, it was amended to read: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ *for the transformation of the world.*" (italics mine)

That's a big mission that encompasses a global vision! Bigger, perhaps, than many of us realize.

Each year as First Church prepares to launch the annual church financial campaign I hear questions and comments about proposed budgets and whether they are sufficiently missional. Too often, I sense, those concerns spring from a narrow understanding of what mission is and a well-meaning—but restricted—sense of what we should do to accomplish it.

Mission drives and guides all we do—the bigger the vision, the wider our efforts. Around First Church mission includes...

- ... doing our fair share to support a world wide network of missionaries who share Christ's love in deeds of love mercy and God's good news.
- ... providing a fun and supportive community for youth seeking to find meaning, faith and acceptance.
- ... providing a warm, safe and welcome place for several dozen families without homes.
- ... sending volunteer mission teams—youth and adults—to study, engage and work in ministries of compassion and service in this country and around the world.
- ... offering meeting spaces for leaders from churches and community service agencies to coordinate efforts at fighting hunger, homelessness, and other community issues.
- ... direct support for three missionary families.
- ... organizing teams to build houses for Habitat for Humanity, stock shelves in the Oregon Food Bank, or repair damage to another congregation's damaged building.
- ... providing rehearsal space and performance venues for community choirs and orchestras to enrich the cultural life of our city.
- ... providing pastoral visitation to the sick and homebound, Stephen Ministers for those in crisis, and an office for professional, affordable, Samaritan Center counselors.
- ... deploying 'Community Interns' for two months of service in helping agencies.
- ... joining forces with other churches through Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and other networks to advocate for justice, environmental care, and building a better world.
- ... providing top-flight teachers and good materials so that our children, our youth and adults can grow faith and fellowship.
- ... bell and vocal choirs for musicians of all ages led by world-class directors.

Just to name a few.

We have a big mission that demands a big response. Let's be sure each of us "Steps Up" to the challenge in the weeks ahead.

See you in Church!

**Arvin**

## adults at first

sunday morning classes

### CHANGING CHRISTIANITY:

#### **The Bible: A Biography** by Karen Armstrong

This group studies a variety of books throughout the year as the basis for class discussion. Beginning this fall, the class will be studying Karen Armstrong's book, *The Bible: A Biography*. The class focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change. The class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202.

### FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS:

#### **The Haunt of Grace: Responses to the Mystery of God's Presence** by Theodore Loder

The Fellowship of Seekers is an on-going adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. We will be reading, *The Haunt of Grace: Responses to the Mystery of God's Presence*, by Ted Loder next Sunday. Books are available in the classroom. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week. Sundays at 9:15 AM in Room 134.

### FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

This adult class series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

September 14, 21 & 28

#### **Read Aloud—To Kill a Mockingbird**

Join Marge Terdal, as she facilitates this informal reading of the classic work *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

October 5

#### **Introduction of the "First Church Reads" Book**

Join us as we introduce this fall's "First Church Reads" book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan which we are inviting the entire congregation to read.

### FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

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. An orientation will be offered after the worship service on Sunday, September 28, following worship. For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. A light luncheon is served and child care is available.

## umw

united methodist women

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

### THE UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will meet Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Our theme will be: *Visionary Voting*. Let us remember that our foremothers struggled long for the right to vote, a right that has only been available to women for the past 88 years. Be an informed voter. Guiding the 11:00 AM discussion will be Kevin Finney, an outstanding EMO speaker on human rights, health care, and tax reform. Remember, your vote makes a difference. Bring a sandwich for the noon luncheon in Room 202. Dessert and beverage will be provided. All are welcome.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Fall Forum will be Friday, October 3, 2008 at Vermont Hills UMC, 6053 SW 55th Drive, Portland. Registration is at 9:30 AM. Margaret Dole from the League of Women Voters will speak on all the Oregon ballot measures. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

### THE OR-ID UMW ANNUAL MEETING

THE OR-ID UMW Annual Meeting will be October 25, beginning at 8:00 AM at Boise First UMC, 171 N. Eleventh Street, Boise, Idaho. Strangers in a Strange Land, a study on immigration facilitated by Elmira Nazombe of the Women's Division. Registrations requested before October 11, 2008. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528.

### AUTUMN HIGH NOON TEA

The Autumn High Noon Tea, Hats Off to UMW, will be held Saturday, November 22, in Collins Hall.



*first church's creative spirit exhibitions presents ...*

### **The Watercolor Paintings of Richard Durden**

October 4-26, 2008 in Collins Hall ■ Viewings on Sunday Morning or by Appointment



## FALL FROLIC - OCTOBER 17-19 AT CAMP MAGRUDER

The Fall Frolic First Church Family Retreat is an annual First Church event, celebrating the outdoors, friendships, God's beautiful creation. This Family Retreat is for the entire First Church Family. It is a great time to be with family and friends! We have 52 spaces available for this family adventure!

Registration forms are available in the Commons in Collins Hall or the church office.

The registration deadline is September 28, 2008!



## THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share.

Our speaker will be The Rev. Elwyn Williams. For more information contact Eveyln Casey at 503/775-9356.

# learning opportunities at first church

for adults

## RELATIONSHIP ENRICHMENT

If your car deserves regular maintenance, shouldn't your relationship? The Relationship Enrichment Seminar is a fun and interactive five-part series on healthy marriages, sponsored by Samaritan Counseling Centers. This is an opportunity for you and your partner to make each other a priority again. The course will be offered five Wednesday evenings in October from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Fireside Room. Here is a look at the sessions offered:

- October 1 - Let's Talk: Communication I for Couples
- October 8 - Setting the Stage: Communication II for Couples
- October 15 - Everyone Fights: Conflict Regulation I for Couples
- October 22 - Getting Out of Gridlock: Conflict Regulation II for Couples
- October 29 - The Nuts and Bolts of Love: Friendship, Intimacy & Commitment

Facilitators: Samaritan Counseling Center Therapists: Mike Boyd, LCSW and Hanna Jordan, MSW - Cost: Couples \$75 Individuals \$50

Register: There are three ways to sign up: Call Samaritan Counseling Centers at 503/281-3318 x0, enroll online at [www.sccpdx.org](http://www.sccpdx.org), or email to: [register@sccpdx.org](mailto:register@sccpdx.org)

## ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT: WORLD WAR II AND THE LIVES IT TOUCHED

World War II changed the course of history and profoundly touched the lives of those who lived through that era. Come to these special Monday morning sessions to hear members of the First Church community, a Holocaust survivor, and others share their stories of how the events of World War II shaped their lives, changed who they are, and affected their faith.

When: Monday mornings, October 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2008 from 10:00 AM to noon

Where: The Fireside Room - Cost: \$15 for the four week course, individual sessions \$5 per week. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

## OREGON BALLOT MEASURES FORUM AT FIRST CHURCH

A First Church Fall Forum will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2008 after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care are provided. The Fall Forum will examine the upcoming Oregon Ballot Measures with Kevin Finney. Kevin is the Public Policy Director at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The EMO 2008 Voters' Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures is available in the Commons in Collins Hall.

## 55-ALIVE

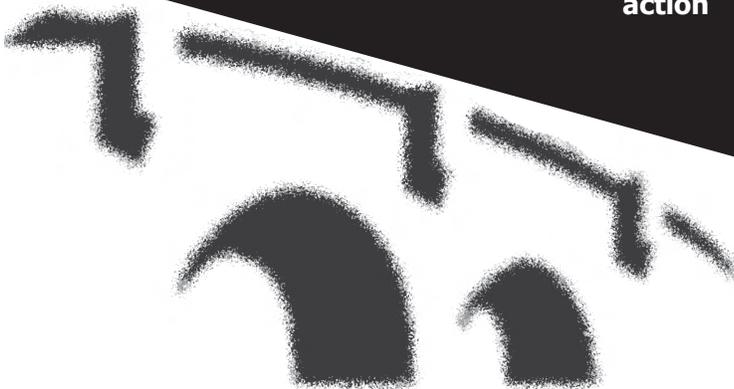
55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Preregistration is required. The cost is \$10.00. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register, call the church office at 503/228-3195. This course will be offered Wednesday and Thursday, October 15 and 16, 2008 in the Fireside Room.

## YES! WE ARE GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA!

Our exciting 13-day tour sponsored by First Church Travelers will depart on September 17, 2009, with a new itinerary, with a new, lower cost. You are invited to a preview of the trip on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at noon, in the Fireside Room. Darin & Linda Honn will also share photos and experiences from their recent tour to South Africa. In addition to Cape Town, Kruger National Park with an open-air game drive, the Garden Route, and Johannesburg, there is an optional extension to Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park. We are also exploring an optional extension to work on a UM Volunteers in Mission project. Refreshments provided at the October 19th preview. For information or brochures, contact Cheryl Luce at 503/380-8604 or email [cheryl.luck@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.luck@gmail.com)

**Lowell Greathouse,  
Minister of Discipleship**

As the November elections approach, I want to be in the company of thoughtful, reflective souls. So like many, I watch Bill Moyer's Journal on Friday nights. I've also been reading his latest book, *Moyers on Democracy*. It is a collection of many of his speeches over the years. In one of them, he focuses on the Peace Corps and quotes from Michael Ventura's *Letters at 3 A.M.*: "The dream we must now seek to realize, the new human project, is not 'security,' which is impossible to achieve on the planet Earth in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is not 'happiness,' by which we generally mean nothing but giddy forgetfulness about the danger of all our lives together. It is not 'self-realization,' by which people usually mean a separate peace. There is no separate peace. The real project is to realize that technology has married us all to each other, has made us one people on one planet, and that until we are more courageous about this new marriage—ourselves all intertwined—there will be no peace and the destination of any of us will be unknown ... How far can we go together ... men and women, black, brown, yellow, white, young and old? We will go as far as we can because we must go wherever it is we are going together. There is no such thing as going alone. Given the dreams and doings of our psyches, given the nature of our world, there is no such thing as being alone. If you are the only one in the room it is still a crowded room. But we are all together of this planet, you, me, us; inner, outer, together, and we're called to affirm our marriage vows. Our project, the new human task, is to learn how to consummate, how to sustain, how to enjoy this most human marriage—all parts, all of us." (*Moyers on Democracy*, page 32-33)



**MISSION FORUMS**

**Sunday, October 12**

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 11:45 AM in the Fireside Room, Leif Terdal will share highlights of his spring VIM Trip to Guatemala.

**Sunday, October 26**

Paul and Kathleen Cosgrove will share experiences from their summer VIM trip to Kenya.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**Saturday, October 11, 2008**

Volunteer Work Day with Habitat for Humanity

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**

Volunteer Team at the Oregon Food Bank

**May 17-23, 2009**

UMCOR Sager Brown

Registration forms for all of these opportunities are available in the church office and in the Common in Collins Hall.

goose hollow family shelter upcoming events

- October 5** Launch of new GHFS website [www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org](http://www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org)  
The Volunteer Calendar will be available for volunteer sign-ups
- October 14** Goose Hollow Family Shelter Volunteer Orientation from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in Room 204
- October 22** Goose Hollow Family Shelter Volunteer Orientation from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in Room 204
- October 18** Shelter Opening Work Day from 8:00 AM to noon
- October 25** GHFS Auction at the Multnomah Athletic Club - Tickets \$25; contact Brandi Tuck at 503/228-3195 x215
- November 1** Opening Day of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter
- November 23** Goose Hollow Family Shelter Open House immediately following worship

### **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 October 8, 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 ...**

*The family of Paula Justice*, Paula died on September 16, 2008 and her memorial service was September 19, 2008 at Tigard UMC ...

### **PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...**

*Eleanor Stubbs*, who was able to be at worship recently, after many weeks of being confined at home ...

### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...**

*Joan Hill*, who is moving from the hospital to rehab this week ...  
*Mary Pennicooke*, who is now home from the hospital ...  
*Rev. Larry Monk*, who has moved from the hospital to rehab ...  
*Todd Jacobs*, who has gone home from the hospital and is making good recovery.  
Todd is a young man from Pennsylvania and a friend of Dr. Ted Loder ...

### **CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...**

*Douglas Eberwein, Nell McManus, Sadame Tsunenaga, Michael Whipple, and Sandra Wood*

### **PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...**

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, Margaret Walton, Craig Kubala, Mike LeClair (grandson of Dee Poujade)

## our thanks

to the church family

### **FROM LAURA LANEY**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you, so much, for your thoughts and prayers. It is so important to have such a wonderful support group during this difficult time. We are so blessed with a church family that take care of each other!

Love,  
*Laura Laney*



In our  
thoughts  
& prayers