



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 8, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 21

October 17-19
Fall Frolic at
Camp Magruder

November 2
First Church
Orientation

November 9
All-Church
Conference

November 9-16
Food Stamp
Challenge

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



first church READS



MICHAEL POLLAN

BE PART OF "FIRST CHURCH READS" ...

This fall's book selection for "First Church Reads" is Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, which has been the winner of numerous book awards.

The subject of food occurs throughout the Judeo-Christian tradition from the Jewish dietary laws to the feeding of the five thousand and the Last Supper. But what about the production of food and our national eating habits today? As *The New Yorker* magazine notes: "Michael Pollan's outstanding *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is a wide-ranging invitation to think through the moral ramifications of our current eating habits. Pollan undertakes a pilgrim's progress along modern food chains, setting standards for ethical eating."

Come to the Commons to pick up your copy of Pollan's book. We also have a limited number of tickets available for Michael Pollan's "Arts and Lectures" presentation in Portland on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. Look for other opportunities at church to share your thoughts on this book with other First Church readers.



Our 2009 Giving Campaign is well under way. To date we have received:

52	Estimates of Giving
360	Goal of
	Estimates of Giving
\$118,578	Toward our Goal of
\$893,000	

Have you turned in your Estimate of Giving? Now is the time!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin
R. Luchs



David Poindexter
recipient of the fourth
“Everett M. Rogers
Award for Achievement
in Entertainment -
Education,” awarded by
the Annenberg School
for Communications
at the University of
Southern California

The title alone of Thomas L. Friedman’s latest book defines the dilemma: *Hot, Flat and Crowded*. * The prolific syndicated columnist’s premise is that the world faces a perfect storm as three powerful realities interact with potentially devastating effect. “Hot,” of course, refers to the havoc of unchecked climate change—global warming, “Flat,” the impact of globalization and “Crowded” the world’s burgeoning population.

Issues of over-population are not new to Dr. David Poindexter—who along with spouse, Marian, make their church home here. He’s been both talking and doing something about it for four decades. Last week he was speaking about it in southern California to a very appreciative audience.

They had selected Poindexter to receive the fourth “Everett M. Rogers Award for Achievement in Entertainment-Education” bestowed by the prestigious Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Southern California. A luncheon-lecture at the school was followed by an evening award ceremony at the Writers’ Guild of America.

That’s “tall cotton” in which to find a preacher’s kid from Oregon. But, then, he’s had quite a career! A graduate of Willamette University and Boston School of Theology, David’s first pastorate was the (then) recently formed Parkrose Methodist Church where he sparked substantial growth and gained public visibility.

Even in those days, the rookie preacher was drawn to media and communications and soon became a leader in television work on behalf of Methodism and the area’s Council of Churches. For several years he moderated a weekly public service show, *Talk Back*, on the NBC affiliate KGW-TV.

The potential of the media to educate and shape a better world intrigued the young preacher—and the possibilities lured him out of the parish and into broadcast-related ministry. He served stints at several national UM agencies until eventually founding “Population Communications International” based in New York and working closely with the United Nations throughout the world.

David has pioneered the development of scientifically researched communication techniques that utilize popular entertainment—soap operas, situation comedies and such—to deliver social messages that influence human behavior. “This is not, first of all, drama but values reinforcement.” Poindexter once told the *New York Times*: “We are letting the audience follow the characters in their pilgrimage of searching and finding.” **

The folks at the Annenberg School describe it this way:

“During the decade of the 1970’s, David Poindexter was successful in mobilizing the producers and creators of numerous prime-time U.S. television shows, such as *Maude*, *All in the Family*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and others, to incorporate discussions of family size and sexual stereotyping into the context of these shows. He also began working internationally, sharing with broadcasters in developing countries the experience gained in working with U.S. broadcasters.” ***

Initial success training and mobilizing broadcasters in Mexico was replicated with projects in far-flung countries such as India, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru, Guatemala, and China (to name just a few.) Now retired, the organization he founded continues to develop innovative projects—focusing currently in Central America and the Caribbean. Over the years their work has been credited with not only significantly reducing birth rates but strengthening the dignity of women, and even lowering HIV/AIDS rates.

The Poindexters are back home now—but only briefly. In a few days David will be packing to travel to Boston. He’s slated to receive another award as a Distinguished Alumni of his seminary.

Congratulations, David, on the well-deserved honors. You have made us proud!

See you in Church,

Arvin

* Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux Publishers, NY, 2008.

** “To Cut Births, Keyna Turns to TV Show” *The New York Times*, June 14, 1987.

*** “David Poindexter wins 2008 Rogers Award,” Annenberg School of Communications release, September 8, 2008.

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.

October 12

Book Discussion: Omnivore's Dilemma

Gather to discuss Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma*.

October 19 & 26

What's on the November Ballot in Oregon?

Gather to discuss the various measures that will be on the Oregon ballot in November, as a follow-up to the recent forum.

methodist hikers

The Paula Justice Memorial Hike

First Church and Tigard UMC and all others are invited to join together for a walk down memory lane in honor of Paula and her dedication to this activity. We will meet at the Visitor Center of Tryon Creek Park at 9:30 AM on Saturday, November 1, 2008 for a couple hours ramble through the park. Breakfast/lunch will be at place(s) we decide on after the hiking. No RSVP necessary, just show up and enjoy this hike in memory of a very special lady.

umw

united methodist women

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, October 15, 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Sue Fisher will lead a discussion on *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. A struggle between good and evil erupts turning the church against the state and brother against brother. This book has been listed as #1 in the United Kingdom and Italy and was on the German best seller list for six years. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, October 15, at noon in Room 204. Dr. Ray Balcomb will lead us in the study of *The Will of God* by Leslie Weatherhead. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be available. Chair: 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, will be facilitated by Elmira Nazombe of the Women's Division. Registrations requested before October 11. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503-292-7528.

HIGH NOON TEA

The High Noon UMW Tea: Hats Off to You, will be held Saturday, November 22, in Collins Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available in the Commons beginning October 26. All proceeds go to Mission Giving for women, children, and youth at home and around the world. Check your closet for your favorite bonnet, hat, cap, tam-o-shanter, chapeau, or sombrero. Call Lila Palmiter, 503-675-9218, if you wish to reserve a table.



a benefit
concert for the
community of
reconciling congregations

Songs of Faith & Freedom II is a fund raiser for the Community of Welcoming Congregations. It will be held Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 PM at the Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Performers include: Linda Shivers, David York, Mark Siegers, Bob Mensel. A freewill offering will be taken.

GOOSE
HOLLOW
FAMILY
SHELTER



Before the shelter reopens on November 1, 2008, we are offering Volunteer Trainings on October 14 and 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Volunteers new and old, as well as anyone who wants to learn more about the shelter is welcome to join us for one of the two evenings.

We also invite you to participate in the Shelter Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 18 from 8:00 AM to noon. Come help get the shelter ready for the arrival of our guests, and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast. You can RSVP for any of the above by emailing Brandi at btuck@fumcpdx.org or calling 503/228-3195 x215. And don't forget:

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, after worship in room 204

learning opportunities at first church for adults

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.luce@gmail.com

youth and children's ministries take note

CONFIRMATION 2008

We are having a general information and planning meeting regarding the confirmation program for 2008 on Sunday, October 12, right after worship in the Youth Room. We are considering expanding Confirmation from it's current six week schedule to a longer program in the spring.

If you are interested in helping to work with the youth going through confirmation, if you are a parent or a youth who will likely be involved, or if you just have an opinion you'd like to share about how First Church runs confirmation, please plan to join us. The meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes. Contact Paul Adams at 503/329-8642 or padams@fumcpdx.org for more info.

SAFE SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY

A Safe Space Halloween Party is an event for First Church Children sponsored by the First Church Youth Squad. On Sunday evening, October 26, 2008, our children are invited to get dressed up in a costume and come to the church for games, crafts, candy and a family friendly celebration. The party begins at 5:00 PM and goes until 7:00 PM in Room 202.



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

at 11:45 AM in the Fireside Room Paul and Kathleen Cosgrove will share experiences from their summer VIM trip to Kenya.

A light meal and child care will be provided at both forums.

mission
forums

the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Recently, I found myself browsing one of the bargain tables at a bookstore. I ended up going home with P. M. Forni's book *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct*. In it, Forni, who is the Co-founder of the Johns Hopkins Civility Project and professor of Italian Literature, writes about the importance of having restraint in one's life. He writes: "Restraint is an infusion of thinking—and thoughtfulness—into everything we do. We choose the behavior that, although it may not seem the most gratifying now, will make us feel good five minutes from now, tomorrow, or next year. Restraint is the art of feeling good later. In fact, most of life's wisdom is about choosing what will make us feel good later."

(page 23)

In our fast-paced, get-all-you-can-now society, restraint is a precious commodity ... and an essential spiritual discipline.

**FALL 2008 CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
ARE AVAILABLE
in the church office
for a \$1.00
suggested donation**



CHANGE IS MORE THAN A MOTTO

Sonja Connor

Sonja and her husband Bill came to First Church in 1977, from a congregation where everyone thought alike. They wanted a church where there was a diversity of opinion. At First Church, Sonja thrives as she knows others in this special community.

Sonja's faith and life were strengthened during the times of suffering encountered in the death of a beloved pastor. That opened dialogue with others about the tragedies we all face. At First Church, she finds a place where she can question all assumptions and yet be supported in her own growth.

"Working for God" is how Sonja expresses her life at First Church. She wants First Church to be a model of change for the entire metropolitan community. "Model the change we want to happen; BE the model for the change we want. If we speak about the social changes we want often enough, people will start believing us and things will change."

Her passion for First Church has carried through in all of the committees and special projects she has served. Being involved has led to her commitment in sharing her time and talents, making this place a stronger community and our place in the larger community a more significant one.

our music ministry

welcoming new staff

After auditions and interviews with several tenors, we offered the position of our tenor soloist/section leader to Mark Woodward. We are pleased that he accepted the offer. Mark completed his Bachelor of Music degree in 2005 at the University of Central Missouri, and his Master of Music in Composition and Theory Pedagogy in 2008 at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. He was the recipient of the Sinquefeld Composition Award in 2007, and acted as the Section Leader in the choir at the Missouri United Methodist Church in Columbia. We are excited to have Mark join our Chancel Choir and hope that you will take the time to welcome him to First Church.



Mark Woodward
new tenor soloist/
section leader at
First Church



spirit break

October 19, 2008

Spirit Break continues on Sunday, October 19 at 5 pm in the chapel with singer Denise Miles accompanied by Mary Kadderly. Denise, with a background in both opera and jazz, sang from *Porgy and Bess* for us in June. She will sing pop numbers this time. Mary is an acclaimed jazz musician who plays frequently at the Heathman and teaches at Portland State. Come hear their stories and music with commentary led by Jim Ruyle that will help you find your spiritual self in this secular material. It's casual and kid-friendly. Child care is available. Please bring friends. Questions: call Jim Ruyle, 503/223-8838.

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 22, 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 CONCERN FOR ...

Ann Lindgren, who is in CICU at Providence Portland Hospital following a stroke on Friday, October 3, 2008 ...

Carol Howard, who is in undergoing tests ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Charlotte Cridland, Joan Hill, Nell McManus, Sadame Tsunenaga, Mary Pennicook, and Michael Whipple

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

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

JOB OPENING

NW Portland Ministries has an opening for Office Manager. This position is 30 hours per week. Benefits include vacation and sick leave Pay range depends on experience. Please Submit hourly / Salary Requirements. This is a position of office manager for Northwest Portland Ministries. We are a small non profit located in NW Portland. Our mission is to help our neighbors maintain their independence. We operate several programs such as: transportation, friendly visiting, chore services, emergency food box. A more detailed description of our activities is located at: www.nwpm.org.

our thanks

to the church family

FROM JACK JUSTICE

Dear First Church,

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for your kind words and cards and attendance at Paula's Memorial Service. All to the honor and respect of a truly wonderful person, Paula Justice.

Jack Justice



In our
thoughts
& prayers