

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

**October 22, 2008**  
Volume 12, Issue 22

**October 26**  
Consecration Sunday

**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



GOOSE  
HOLLOW  
FAMILY  
SHELTER

OUR  
FIFTEENTH  
YEAR  
BEGINS

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter is opening for its 15th season this year! Thanks to all the hard work over the years from members of First Church, Goose Hollow is widely recognized in the community as one of the most welcoming family homeless shelters in Portland and has a reputation for helping place an extremely high percentage of its guests into permanent housing. Thanks to each of you who have helped out over the years. Now, it's time to do it again. We need your help to make our 15th season a success!

Please visit our NEW website, [www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org](http://www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org) and sign up to volunteer! Please consider being an Overnight Host or bringing dinner for our guests! It takes over 150 volunteers a month to operate the shelter, so please consider signing up.

We'll also be having a First Church Shelter Open House on November 23, 2008 immediately after worship. Stop by and meet the shelter staff, take a tour, find out about the shelter, and learn how to volunteer.

We're also in need of travel size shampoo, conditioner, shave gel, razors, and deodorant. We could use some new toys for younger children as well (ages 2-7), so if your kids have outgrown their old toys, please consider donating them to the shelter.

Thank you for all of your support, and we look forward to another great year of helping homeless families with children in our community!

Contact Brandi at 503/228-3195 x215 or [brandi@goosehollowfamilyshelter.org](mailto:brandi@goosehollowfamilyshelter.org) to donate or volunteer!

OCTOBER 26, 2008

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

WE CURRENTLY HAVE  
156 Estimates of Giving for a total of \$307,147

things  
are

LOOKING



2009  
giving campaign

Our “Listen Up and Step Up” campaign to support the 2009 programs of First Church is a particularly critical one.

While each annual campaign is important, the challenges we face now and in the coming year are especially difficult ones. Spending power of savings and investments have taken a dramatic hit for each of us. And that is especially true for First Church as well. Utility costs continue to rise dramatically, costs for goods and services continue to rise, earnings from Trustee investments signal that fewer dollars will be available for maintaining our physical plant. With a tight budget, staff salaries are well below cost of living increases; Social Security recipients will more than double what we hope to offer dedicated staff. The list goes on and on. Program and church leaders have planned for a rather stringent budget for next year, but it is one that keeps our momentum as a vibrant faith community moving forward.

These challenges come at a time when First Church is *thriving!* We are a growing and dynamic mainline Protestant, United Methodist congregation. We now have 39 new members this year alone. More young families continue to bring children for baptism and church school. Members and visitors alike come to First Church to nurture their spiritual longings and needs.

This fall we have emphasized the *stories* of First Church members. Why? Because each individual and family that calls First Church home comes with their own background, their own contributions, and together make up this special Christian community. We want to share more of our individual paths that lead us to this special place.

I have had a special interest in how our budget is presented. Our formal budget looks like one that passes the muster of “generally accepted accounting rules.” In particular, I’m not fond of the fact that there is a special category reserved for “personnel compensation,” where ministerial and lay staff are put together as a separate budget unit. That’s simply inappropriate! For me, it is important to realize that each of our “employees” are actually part of specific programs of our church, whether those be worship and music, education, mission—local and beyond our immediate community, or administration. They are each facilitators for all members to be engaged in changing the lives of others. Their time is devoted to helping *us* be “the church.” They are not an expense item; they are a witness for **our** own witness.

Our church building is used by nearly 90,000 individuals annually! More than 30,000 of those are from groups outside of our congregation and our conference. From a pro bono committee of the Oregon State Bar, to music groups, to community hunger task forces, to governmental agencies focusing on children, families, and human services (yes, most pay their share of costs for the privilege of using our space!). Jewish friends continue to speak about twice co-sponsoring the Anne Frank exhibit and other cooperative projects. Nearly thirty other congregations and groups pitch in to help with the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. We are a beacon of compassion and hospitality to the faith and secular community around us.

We want to be more of a light, witnessing in our unique way to our common humanity and concern for our neighbor’s needs. First Church is special because we are a welcoming community, welcoming those of other faiths and welcoming those who share a wide spectrum of community concerns.

That is why this stewardship campaign is so vital now. Your financial support is crucial in helping us continue to be the light that those in our own church community and those around us need. Yes, this takes money! No doubt about it. And, that is why it is important for each of us to “Step Up” and make the commitment necessary to allow First Church to achieve its mission. Our budget serves our mission; it’s not the other way around. To say that again, we are a mission-driven Christian community, and our financial budget is designed to reflect that goal. We ask you to take a bold step forward to help First Church continue to be a vital resource to member and friend alike.

**Don Riggs,**  
Chair, Stewardship Campaign Chair

## 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 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.

November 2, 9, 16, 23

#### **Questioning the Death Penalty**

This four-part series will include a presentation from Oregonians Against the Death Penalty as well as DVD sessions featuring Sr. Helen Prejean, a leading authority and outspoken critic of state-sponsored execution. Known for her two books *Dead Man Walking* and *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, Sr. Helen's presentations will serve as a stimulus for the discussions in this four-part series.

## 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

### HIGH NOON TEA

The UMW High Noon Tea, Hats Off to You, will be held Saturday, November 22, at noon in Collins Hall. Remember our great sharing at the Apron Tea last year? Bedeck yourself in a bonnet, or it could be a baseball cap, a gardening hat, a helmet, or even a bridal veil. Does your hat have a story to tell? Women, men, youth, all are invited. This Saturday event is just for fun. Tickets are \$15, elementary age children, \$5. All proceeds go to mission giving. Colleen Foster will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Don't miss this fun event. Come to the Commons on Sunday for tickets.

### THE UMW PLANNING TEAM

The UMW Planning Team will meet on Wednesday, October 29, at 9:30 AM in Room 110  
Chair: Melba Rizzo, 503.635.6716

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, October 29, at 11:30 AM in Room 204 for carpooling to Gumbo Gallery at 3636 N. Mississippi Avenue. For our theme, *Loving Mother Earth*, we will visit May Johnson, a native of Nicaragua, who creates hats and purses out of discarded plastic bags. Following the gallery visit we will have lunch together. Chair: Ruth Green, 503/698-8420

### NOVEMBER UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will meet Wednesday, November 05, at 10:00 in the Fireside Room for a business meeting and pledge service. The theme, *It's all About Missions*, will begin at 11:00 AM with speaker Cathy Whitlatch, newly appointed mission interpreter in residence for the Western Jurisdiction of the GBGM. Whitlatch is an ordained elder in the Iowa Annual Conference, who has served more than 15 years as a missionary to Argentina. Recently she has been a pastor in an Iowa town with a high immigrant population. Whitlatch will explore the avenues in which our mission dollars are at work at home and abroad. Bring a sandwich for the noon luncheon in Room 202. Dessert and beverage will be provided. All invited, both men and women. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will hold World Community Day, *God's Wisdom Sets Us Free*, on Friday, November 7, at 9:30 AM at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 5935 N. Minnesota, Portland. Donations such as food for FISH or baby items for Insight Teen Parent Program will be gladly accepted. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

the edge

thoughts  
for the journey

**Lowell Greathouse,  
Minister of Discipleship**

As Fall unfolds in all its glory, I'm reminded of these words by Frances Teresa:

"Without doubt, holiness is our greatest ecological contribution. Without it, we shall never balance the needs and rights of our diversified world ... The reason why St. Francis is such an appropriate patron for ecological movements is not so much because he preached to the birds and rescued worms from the dangers of the road, but because he approached all that is made with a respect bordering on reverence."  
*(The Monastic Way, p. 167)*

all-church  
conferene

Sunday,  
November 9, 2008

Our All-Church Conference on Sunday November 9, 2008, following worship. Join is in the Fireside Room with our District Supt., Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson for this significant meeting in the life of the church.

BOO!



*A Safe Space*  
**HALLOWEEN  
PARTY**

**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.

mission  
forums

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**

Kathleen and Paul Cosgrove, along with members of Woodburn UMC and Salem First UMC, spent 18 days in remote Maua and Meru, Kenya building a house for AIDS orphans, helping on hospital rounds, providing care to 426 people at a remote village bush clinic, distributing school supplies and helping to build a demonstration green house.

**THE PARKER GROUP**

The November meeting of the Parker Group has been cancelled.

**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. Our next First Church Orientation is November 2, 2008, 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.

this  
and  
that

wellness at first church

a community health fair

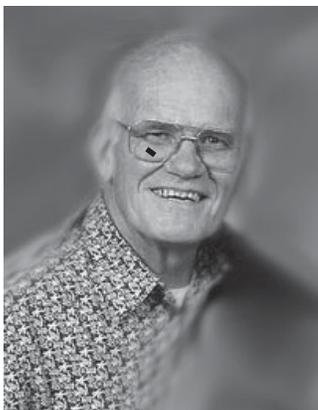
**WELLNESS AT FIRST CHURCH: A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

On Sunday, November 16, 2008 from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM there will be a Community Health Fair. Be sure to put this date on your calendar. With over 30 planned activities, you'll want to spend at least a couple of hours. There will be short seminars on topics such as hearing loss, dental health, immunizations, the aging eye and much more. Vision and hearing screenings by professionals will be available and information on a wide range of topics, including first aid, medicare options, local sources of healthy food, and fire safety for adults and children.

Child care will be available, as well as a children's activity center and a TV/movie room for older children. Food and beverages will be available for purchase until 2:00 PM. Questions? Contact Debby Fisher at [mfisher2@msn.com](mailto:mfisher2@msn.com).

## church staff

bruce  
hendrickson



### HENDRICKSON TO RETIRE

Bruce Hendrickson, who for more than eight years has been First Church Maintenance Manager, has indicated he will retire at the end of this calendar year.

We've set Sunday, November 9, 2008 as a time to express our gratitude. During worship we'll recognize Bruce's leadership and offer prayers of thanks. Then following worship (just before our All-Church Conference) we'll share in a reception in his honor in Collins Hall.

Cards and other expressions of appreciation may be sent to the church office clearly marked "For Bruce." We will present them at the reception.

Kayla Carruth  
Chair, Staff Parish  
Relations Committee

## food stamp challenge

outreach at first church

### FIRST CHURCH TAKES THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

When it comes to eating, most of us have no problem getting enough. But for many families and individuals in our community, an adequately stocked fridge is hardly the norm. While often hidden or glossed over, food insecurity and hunger are real and prevalent issues in our area.

### FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE FORUM

As a way to more fully understand the struggles of families and individuals who are food insecure, we are offering a pair of opportunities in early November. First up is a "Food Stamp Forum" after church on Sunday, November 2. Hosted by Nancy Weed from the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, the forum will address the realities, challenges, and successes of the Food Stamp program in Oregon.

### TAKE THE CHALLENGE

The forum will be followed by a congregation-wide call to take the "Food Stamp Challenge" from November 9 to 16 by spending the week adhering to a "Food Stamp Budget" of \$1 a meal, or \$21 a week, per person. Visit the "Called to Serve" table in the Commons for more information or contact Adam Ortman at [Aortman@fumcpdx.org](mailto:Aortman@fumcpdx.org).



## first church reads

the omnivore's dilemma



Whether you've read the book or are interested in hearing from those who have, you are invited to an informal discussion of the First Church Reads book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 10:00 AM in Collins Hall. Stop by, grab a muffin and a cup of coffee, and share your thoughts on the politics, perils, and pleasures of eating.

Then, on November 9, 2008 you are invited to a second table discussion in Collins considering *The Omnivore's Dilemma* on a budget. How does someone incorporate local, sustainable, or organic foods into their diet when they live on Food Stamps (or is about to take the Food Stamp Challenge)? Is an ethical, healthy dinner plate only an option for the well-off?

We hope you can join us for one or both of these discussions in the Commons AM.

### 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 November 5, 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 at Providence Portland Hospital following a stroke ...

*Linda Talluto*, who is at home following a hip replacement ...

*Joanne Weiss* in rehab following a knee replacement ...

### 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)

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### FROM ARVIN ...

Yes, you are right—*mea culpa*—there were a total of only five “Fs” in the ‘nonsense’ sentence I shared during the scripture introduction. Your text differed from mine. Apparently our printing equipment cut off the last phrase of the sentence which included the sixth one. My apologies. ARL

## our thanks

to the church family

### FROM BETTY-LOU THOMPSON HARE

Dear First Church,

I send two thoughts of my church family. One of happiness and one of sorrow. Firstly, I sincerely thank all those who sent all good wishes and prayers during my fall and recovery of my wrist injury. Secondly, I ask prayers for my son Stephen Hare. My daughter-in-law, Stephen’s wife, Rusty passed away last weekend after four years struggle with ALS. Rusty is with God and at peace. My son needs your prayers.

God Bless,

*Betty-Lou Thompson Hare*