



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 21, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 02

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8,
2009



SCOUTING SUNDAY

In our 10:30 AM worship service we will recognize the important work of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls and 4H with children and youth.

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Reconciling Sunday



Come, join us on Sunday, February 1, 2009 to celebrate our Reconciling commitment and rededicate ourselves to the proposition that **All Means All...** The Church isn't fully the Body of Christ when some are left out, silenced, or overlooked. In 2009, as we observe Reconciling Sunday, let us open our hearts and lift our eyes toward a vision in which "all means all" and there is "one family tree."

Thank You for STEPPING UP

Dear Friends,

Now that we are into the New Year, it is time for a report on our financial campaign conducted in the fall. Nearly all, though not all, of the estimates of giving are in, and the Church has a solid basis for moving forward with budget projections for the year.

As I hope you will recall, the campaign theme has been “Listen Up and Step Up!” And this congregation did! First, thanks for your positive comments on the brief stories about some members of our Church. The Stewardship Committee enjoyed talking with folks and learning a bit more about their life stories and why they consider First Church to be so special in their lives—from pre-teens to seniors, ours is a very dynamic community of faith. It is the people of this congregation who make First Church this special place.

Second, we think the campaign results themselves speak loudly about how important First Church is to so many of us. When the few remaining estimates of giving are recorded, we are looking at a figure of \$850,000 that can be used for budgeting purposes. These estimates from 333 pledging units (a number that includes both individuals and families—so the impact is some 650 to 700 members all told) came at one of the most difficult economic downturns we’ve seen in many years. When I made reference to the economic difficulties at the launch of the campaign the last Sunday of September, little did any of us know that the worst was still to come.

In spite of these difficult times, nearly one-half of our estimates were an increase over similar estimates last year. That in itself was a very impressive figure, and all of us are thankful for those capable of increasing their planned giving for 2009. Another nearly 30% were able to hold their estimates steady in comparison with giving in 2008. So the good news financially was that nearly 75% were able to increase or hold the line on their support.

The difficult news is, of course, that we did have a number of persons who lost their jobs, or who moved away, or whose financial losses were so great that they had to lower their giving patterns. We’ve learned that those reduced estimates, or curtailment of any estimate at all, virtually made up some \$30,000—the amount that would have put us at goal for our campaign. We pray that individual financial struggles caused by our recession will be overcome for the sake of those individuals and families so that no permanent hardships need to be endured.

Overall, we want to extend a very big THANK YOU! to each of you who participated in the stewardship campaign—from those who were able to increase your giving, to those who informed us that you could not make an estimate this year due to economic hardships. First Church is a special community of faith that cares for all persons, and we are blessed that we will be able to support our staff and continue our dynamic programming and services for which we are well known.

Yes, we continue to have a deficit hole looming in our financial picture of at least \$30,000 and possibly more, and we know that financial circumstances might still deteriorate further. We will continue to work to fund that significant deficit, and we’ll hope we’re at the bottom of the recession curve and that things improve financially. But, in the meantime, we thank you again for your response to funding the Church budget for 2009. I think we will continue to be a thriving congregational family because of your commitments. Indeed, this congregation did STEP UP!

Don Riggs
Chair, Financial Stewardship Campaign for 2009

adults at first

sunday morning classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY:

The class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202. Join us for spirited discussion on the changing nature of faith today.

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS:

Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace

by Miroslav Volf

Lively discussions are led by a different class member each Sunday at 9:15 AM in Room 134

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

How can we transform judgment and criticism into understanding and connection? How can we resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner and reduce interpersonal stress in our lives? Join Larry Custer, Marti Lucas and Cal Brockman, Jr. for these four sessions in which we will explore ways to address conflict more constructively and learn to communicate in more non-violent ways. Utilizing a variety of resources, these sessions will explore ways to mediate conflict, overcome hostility, and learn techniques that lead to reconciliation and healing. Classes will be offered from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings. The class concludes February 1, 2009.

NEW ADULT CLASS OFFERING:

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES

On Sunday, February 8, 2009 a new short-term adult class will begin. This four-part class will be held in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15AM and run through March 1. It will be taught by Rev. Lowell Greathouse.

fellowship at first

the parker group

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Ray Balcomb. For more information, contact: Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

umw

united methodist women

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

A VALENTINE CELEBRATION

A Valentine Celebration will be held February 14 at noon in Collins Hall.

It will include a hearty lunch with a delicious dessert. The entertainment will feature

The Great House of Music. Enjoy songs from around the world as sung by Helena with Mark on the accordion. Tickets are \$15, children \$5, and will be available in The Commons in Collins Hall after worship. All are welcome. Write checks to United Methodist Women. All proceeds go to mission giving.



UMW SUNDAY

Sunday, January 25, will be UMW Sunday. The women of the church will assist as greeters and ushers. The altar flowers will be given in memory of Susannah Wesley, mother of John Wesley.

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, January 28, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 28, at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Our focus will be on the School of Christian Mission study, *I Believe in Jesus*, led by Ruth Green. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages will be provided. New members and visitors are always welcome. Chair: Ruth Green, 503/698-8420

THE UNIT GATHERING

The Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, February 4, at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Following the business meeting, Jackie Mercer, Exec. Director of the Native American Rehabilitation Association, will speak on Native Americans in the City. Learning about our Native American brothers and sisters may stir us with both regret and respect. Hopefully, the message will guide us toward a more understanding future. All are welcome at the 11:00 AM Native American program. Bring a sandwich for the noon luncheon in Room 202. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will hold its Winter Forum, *Immigration/ New Sanctuary Movement*, on Friday, February 6, at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503. 292. 1773

METRO DISTRICT EVERY MEMBER ENRICHMENT

The Metro District Every Member Enrichment Meeting will be Saturday, February 7, at Montavilla UMC, 232 SE 80th, Portland. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528

the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

In her book entitled *Walk in a Relaxed Manner*, about her 37-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain, Joyce Rupp offers these words, which may be useful to you as a new year begins:

“I believe with all my heart that it is nigh impossible to walk in a relaxed manner externally unless I walk in a relaxed manner internally. I now know that if I change my attitude and approach to life, I will be encouraged to make decisions that help me slow down the rest of my life. The reverse is also true. If I slow down on the outside, internally I will also relax. I long to be able to say what author Thich Nhat Hanh said: ‘I am not running anymore; I have run all my life; now I am determined to stop and really live my life.’”

(*Walk in a Relaxed Manner*, page 58)

happenings at first church ...

please take
note

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

On Sunday, January 25, 2009, there will be a First Church Orientation from noon to 2:00 PM in Room 110. 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. 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.

FIRST CHURCH AT THE SHELTER NIGHT

On Wednesday, January 28 it will be a First Church at the Shelter Night. Support one of Portland's largest family shelters while serving with other First Church members. Whether you're a first-time or a long-time volunteer, these nights are excellent opportunities to do work that is both meaningful and fun together. Volunteer positions range from Kid Time Hosts and Meal Providers to Overnight Hosts. Contact Adam at Aortman@fumcpdx.org to sign up. We will do additional nights on: February 15 and March 15, 2009.

METRO DISTRICT LEADERSHIP EVENT: NUTS AND BOLTS

Metro District Leadership Event: Nuts and Bolts will be Saturday, January 31, 2009.

The training sessions will at Portland First UMC from 9:00 AM until noon for chairs of: Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees and Finance.

missions and ministry

upcoming
events

GLOBAL MISSION FORUM: THE McCURDY SCHOOL

There will be a Global Mission Forum on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from noon to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Dee Poujade will share of her experiences with Primetimers “New Mexico's Cultural Richness.” Come learn of the United Methodist Church's work in cross-cultural ministry, particularly at McCurdy School, a UMC-sponsored school for low income children. A light meal and child care will be provided.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

The Bread for the World: Offering of Letters will be February 15 and 22, 2009. Come to the Commons in Collins Hall and advocate for the hungry of the world.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF OREGON ADVOCACY DAY IN SALEM

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Advocacy Day in Salem will be February 19, 2009. Interested in carpooling? Contact Lowell Greathouse at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

GLOBAL MISSION FORUM: TREASURES OF MACEDONIA

There will be a Global Mission Forum on Sunday, February 22, 2009 from noon to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Linda Anderson will share about her trip with Primetimer's to Macedonia. Come learn about the Apostle Paul's Macedonia and its rich cultures and religious history. A light meal and child care will be provided.



third grade bible sunday

Sunday, January 11, 2008

Each year at this time we award our Third Grade students a Bible. In preparation for this, the students participated in a Bible Sunday Retreat. Thanks to Megan Humphreys-Loving and the Children and Family Ministries team for coordinating this special event in the lives of our children.

adults on wednesdays wednesday nights at first church

THE GOSPEL OF RUTH

A Bible study on the book of Ruth continues at 6:00 PM in the Library, two sessions remain of this four part series. Ruth speaks to the kind of compassion that Jesus modeled in his own life and that transformed the world in the form of “good news.” Rev. Lowell Greathouse will lead us on a journey into the heart of this special Old Testament story. Everyone is welcome!

MOVIE NIGHTS AT FIRST CHURCH

On Wednesday, February 4 join us for the first Movie Night at First Church at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Here are the movies for February:

February 4: *Jerusalem: East Side Story*.

The documentary film *Jerusalem: East Side Story* by acclaimed Palestinian director Mohammad Alatar, focuses on Israel’s annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967, the ongoing dispossession of its Palestinian residents since that time and their daily struggle to survive in the face of intense conflict. Reviews call this film: “outstanding”, “highly recommended” and “a powerful film.”

February 11: *Renewal: Part 1*

February 18: *Renewal: Part 2*

Global warming makes strange but useful bedfellows. *Renewal*, a documentary by Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller, traces the rise in environmental activism among religious communities throughout America. The congregations include evangelical Christians in Kentucky and Muslims in Chicago, Connecticut Jews and Mississippi Baptists. All are striving to preserve what they see as God’s creation, and all are increasingly working together as conscious stewards of the earth.

first church musicians upcoming opportunities

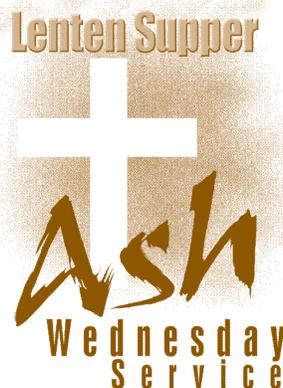
SAVE THE DATE

The Chancel Choir along with the First Unitarian Church Chamber Choir will perform a special celebration concert on March 20 & 22, 2009 with the Columbia Symphony. The concert will feature the Mass in D minor, *Lord Nelson* by Haydn. Becky Anderson of First Church will perform the *Spring Concerto* from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi and First Church organist, Jonas Nordwall will perform Rheinberger’s *Organ Concerto No. 2 in G minor*, Op. 177. Watch for details on performance times and tickets.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Jesuit High School will present *The Sound of Music*, February 26 through March 8, featuring First UMC talent including Kelsey Hall, as Maria, and her brother Michael, as a member of the ensemble. Jeff Hall co-directs the JHS Drama Program, and Carol Young is Musical Director of the production. Performances are February 26 through March 8, 2009. For further details and ticket information, visit their website at: www.jesuitportland.org/drama or call the box office at 503/291-5468.

looking toward lent ash wednesday



LENT IN 2009

Our Lenten Supper series will begin on February 25 with a supper at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall and an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM in the Chapel.

Watch for details on the Lenten Suppers in March and April. We anticipate involving children and families in some new and innovate ways on the Wednesday nights of Lent.

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 February 4, 2009.

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

a new way

to give

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

Olive Luchs, the mother of Dr. Arvin Luchs,
has returned to her care facility after a brief
hospitalization ...

Mike Rogers, the mother of Rev. Brenda Sene,
has returned to her care facility after a brief
hospitalization ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Virginia Anderson, Carol Howard,
Mary Pennicook, Heather Peterson and
Rene Pino.*

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

*Karl Alger, Jared Bomberger,
Daniel Bomberger, Craig Kubala*



In our
thoughts
& prayers

GROCERY SHOPPING

Did you know that grocery shopping can help the church balance its budget? First Church has signed up with e-script Safeway and Albertsons programs that allow the church to receive a small portion of your grocery bill to benefit the programs here at the church. Participation by you is seamless once you register. If you are a Safeway or Albertsons customer please call Christine Bostick at the church office at with your Safeway and/or Albertsons info to register. Or stop by to pick up additional information so you can register at home. Thank you for your help to support the church.