



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

February 4, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 03

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

The First Church Library *where words and faith meet*



Did you know that every Monday, a half dozen volunteers gather to check books in and out, process new titles, keep order on the shelves and perform many other tasks to keep a large church library up and running? Over the last year they have processed nearly 200 new titles. The Monday crew is ably supported by Sunday volunteers, who keep books circulating through the congregation. This work isn't glamorous, but one of the many unsung duties that keep First Church alive and well ... for this group, it's a labor of love!

Thanks for helping our church library to thrive.

Pictured above are:
seated:

Marva Guenther
standing:
Joanne Weiss
Edith Jensen
Alyson Inouye
Rosemary Dodds
Ruth Warner
Bob Wilson

Not pictured:
Mary Vance
Gwyneth Rochlin

The First Church Library

The First Church Library is open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each Sunday. Our library not only contains books, but an array of multi-media resources. You can also check out books at The Commons each Sunday.

Coming Soon ...

The Library Used Book Sale

Sunday, February 15, 2009 after the worship service
All the proceeds go toward acquiring new titles for the First Church Library. The sale would not be possible without the generous donation of used books by the entire congregation.

First Church Reads

"First Church Reads" has begun and our next selection will be *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* by John O'Donohue.

This book will help frame this year's Lenten Supper Series and will be available for sale in The Commons for \$12.00.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

President Obama stepped into a daunting matrix of world crises when he assumed office on January 20. None have proven to be as intractable as peace in the Middle East. Experts—including former President Carter—believe a window of hope may be open now. It will not be easy. Yehezkel Landau, cofounder of the Open House Center in Ramale, Israel, who now teaches Judaism and interfaith relations at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut offered these insights in an appeal to Jews, Arabs and concerned people everywhere.

An Appeal

- If only our empathy and compassion were as strong as our capacity for self-justification;
- If only we could protect ourselves in ways that do not inflict harm on others;
- If only we could see ourselves as interdependent, rather than isolated and threatened;
- If only we could see the Image of God in one another,
rather than projecting mythic images of Arab Nazis or Jewish Crusaders;
- If only our leaders were committed to transforming conflict nonviolently
rather than, too often, using military means to achieve political aims;
- If only peace education were a part of school curricula throughout Palestine and Israel;
- If only political agreements outlawed incitement and demonization in public speeches;
- If only the Israeli and Arab media conveyed multiple perspectives,
along with humanizing stories and images, rather than reinforcing prejudices;
- If only we could address the core issues and grievances,
rather than reacting to the latest round of violence or the fear of further violence;
- If only the Arab perception of the state of Israel (in its pre-1967 borders, with mutually accepted adjustments) was of
a people coming home and exercising the right of self-determination, rather than of a colonial conquest by outsiders;
- If only Arab and Muslim leaders could acknowledge the existential fears of the Jewish people following the Holocaust
and reinforced by subsequent wars, bellicose rhetoric,
and the prospect of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Israel’s adversaries;
- If only the Jewish people, in Israel and elsewhere, could acknowledge the deep, unhealed wound of the Palestinian people,
displaced and dispossessed in large numbers in the war of 1948 and under prolonged occupation following the
1967 war;
- If only Israel would join the Palestinian people in developing democratic institutions rather than
destroying their civic infrastructure in the name of self-defense;
- If only we could see the problem as a regional crisis, with multiple, inter-related challenges, rather than
a bilateral conflict between Israelis and Palestinians;
- If only the new U.S. administration would engage wholeheartedly in Middle East peacemaking, deploying a full-time
envoy to the region with negotiating skills comparable to those exhibited by George Mitchell in Northern Ireland;
- If only a spiritual dimension to peace building — drawing on the practical resources in Judaism, Islam and Christianity —
were included in Middle East diplomacy, so that religious extremists would be countered in their own terms
and political arrangements would be grounded in mutual repentance, the healing of trauma, and sustained hope
for the future;
- If only we could envision a future of cooperation and shared blessing, rather than a no-win war lasting generations;
- If only the children on “the other side” were as precious to us as our neighbors’ children;
- If only our young people were exposed to their peers on “the other side” early on,
so that they could build friendships that transcend the “us-vs.-them” dichotomy;
- If only we could build Shalom/Salaam together, with a Jewish-Arab peace corps constructing homes, schools and hospitals
in a state of Palestine alongside Israel, and with expanded cross-border initiatives in the areas of health, education,
culture, the environment and sports;



... then perhaps, with God’s help and courageous leadership on all sides, both Israelis and Palestinians could experience genuine peace and security, with fear transformed to trust, anger to forgiveness, grief to compassion, and narrow self-interest to mutual solidarity.”

See you in Church!

Arvin

* Quoted by Jim Winkler, “Faith in Action” e-newsletter, The General Board of Church and Society. 1/16/2009

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

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.

movie nights



MOVIE NIGHTS AT FIRST CHURCH

On Wednesdays, February 11 & 18 join us for the first Movie Night at First Church at 7:00 PM.

February 11: *Renewal*: Part 1 (Room 202)

February 18: *Renewal*: Part 2 (Fireside Room)

For the first time, the combined energy of diverse environmental activists is the driving force behind a feature-length documentary, entitled RENEWAL. Veteran film producers Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller have crisscrossed the country to capture these exciting stories of people whose passion and deep moral commitment are making a difference in a time of grave ecological threats.

The RENEWAL Project has been designed to make the documentary and its inspiring stories available to people and organizations who want to be a part of this growing movement to protect life on our planet and reverse the damage that humans have done to the environment.

umw

united methodist women

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, February 18, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Ruth Green will present the book, *The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices*, by Xinran. This intimate story tells of women sharing their deepest secrets for the first time. It's an unflinching portrayal of what it means to be a woman in modern China. Xinran's book was listed in the 2006 UMW reading program. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, February 18, at noon in Room 204. Native American Studies report will be led by Frances Adams, Ruth Green, and Melba Rizzo. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

EDUCATIONAL FORUM

The UMW 2009 Educational Forum & Legislative Event will be held Thursday, March 12, at Salem First UMC, 600 State Street, Salem. This all-day event (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM) will focus on affordable, accessible health care for All. Speakers will discuss the existing system, current legislative efforts, and how we can impact these efforts. You will have an opportunity to meet your legislator. Participants are asked to wear a red article of clothing so that our presence at the capitol can be recognized. Registrations fee of \$20 (includes lunch) is due by February 27, 2009. Call Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528 or Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716 for a registration form.

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 and Michael Hall, Jeff Hall co-directs the JHS Drama Program, and Carol Young is Musical Director. For further details and ticket information, visit their website at: www.jesuitportland.org/drama or call the box office at 503/291-5468.

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

I've just started reading a book on mountain climbing by Geof Childs entitled *Stone Palaces*. It explores the routes and passages, the journeys and tales, and people and profiles involved in being on the mountain.

The metaphor of climbing aligns well with the reality of living. For example, consider these words from the introduction to the book: "A friend of mine used to say that a good adventure has the same components as a good life: high endeavor, questionable outcome, and good companionship. I think he might be right. Life, at its richest, should be an adventure. An experience. A corner turned. Moments of doubt in the company of good friends en route to someplace, something, or someone that matters." (*Stone Palaces*, page 11)

GLOBAL MISSION FORUM: THE McCURDY SCHOOL

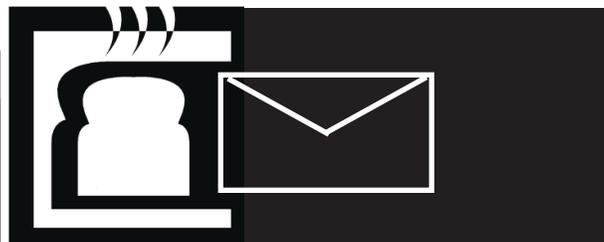
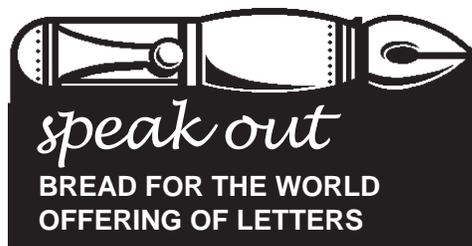
There will be a Global Mission Forum on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from noon to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Dee Poujade will share of her experiences with Primetimers "New Mexico's Cultural Richness." Come learn of the United Methodist Church's work in cross-cultural ministry, particularly at McCurdy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

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.



After worship on February 15 and 22, 2009 you are invited to gather in Collins Hall to write letters to our members of Congress asking them to: 1) include a boost in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefit levels and additional funding for WIC and food banks in the economic stimulus package, and 2) to rework U.S. foreign assistance, which was first enacted in 1961 and has changed relatively little since then, to make it more effective in reducing poverty.

These changes will:

- Strengthen the ability of the U.S. to promote global development;
- Promote economic growth in low-income countries; and,
- Support the efforts of poor people to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

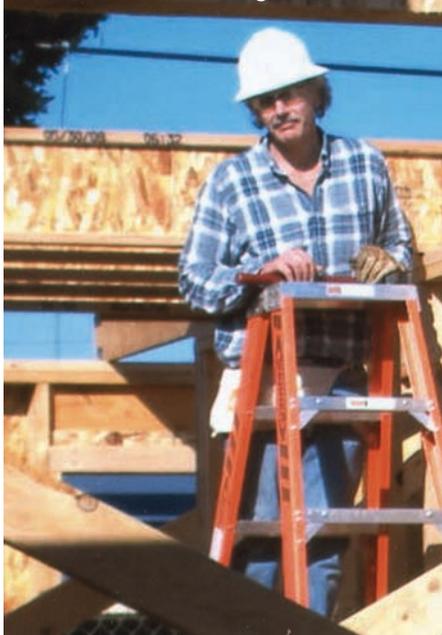
Recent soaring prices for food and fuel have created a global hunger crisis. Millions more people now face the threat of hunger. Changing U.S. foreign assistance will help create long-term solutions to this global hunger crisis: nutrition for pregnant women and infants; schools for young children; health clinics to fight AIDS and malaria; tools to boost agricultural productivity. By focusing U.S. foreign assistance on global development, our country will support international efforts to foster lasting peace. And by making foreign aid more efficient, we exercise good stewardship of our nation's resources.

More information about U.S. foreign assistance and proposed changes can be found at the Hunger Table in the Commons in Collins Hall.

Join us on February 15th or 22nd as we speak out as the people of God to end hunger and poverty. Writing paper, envelopes and sample letters will be available.

First UMC Hunger Ministry Team

Our own Alan Kemling
working on the October
2008 Habitat Project



doing something

get involved

COMMUNITY GARDENS AT FIRST CHURCH?

The benefits of a community garden are many. In addition to bringing a community together and beautifying a neighborhood, it can help us reduce our environmental footprint while providing fresh and delicious produce. We are currently exploring whether First Church may be able to get involved in founding a new community garden. What land would we use and who would have access to it? Where would the food go, and when could we begin? If you are interested in exploring the questions and solutions around a possible community garden at First Church, e-mail Adam at aortman@fumcpdx.org. A task force is being assembled in February to see how we could move forward on this exciting project.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Join us for a glorious and purposeful Saturday with Habitat for Humanity. On March 21, 2009, a group from First Church will be helping to build the Jubilee Commons, a 22-condo project in the Rockwood area of Gresham. We will be carpooling from the church in the morning. For more information contact Adam at aortman@fumcpdx.org.

health highlight

store to door

STORE TO DOOR

As the recent winter weather pointed out to all of us, it is very difficult when you can't get out and about to do your weekly errands. The non-profit agency, Store to Door provides weekly grocery shopping and delivery service to people 65 and older, people with disabilities, and those who are recovering from an illness or injury and need temporary assistance. If you live in Multnomah or some parts of Washington county, this service is most likely available for you. Store to Door shops at the Fred Meyer on Burnside and can provide prescriptions, toiletries, stamps, and some housewares as well as groceries. The cost is 10% of the grocery total - example: a \$50.00 bill would have a \$5.00 delivery fee. If you would like more information, call: 503/200-3333 or visit the website: www.storetodooroforegon.org. If you would like to volunteer to take orders, shop for clients, or make deliveries, call 503/200-3333.

looking toward lent

ash wednesday & lenten suppers

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.

Lent is a time of self-reflection and renewal. At First Church, we gather in community each Wednesday night during Lent to probe and explore the meaning of our faith. This year, February 25 - April 1, 2009, we will combine the theme "Celtic Wisdom and the Journey of the Passionate Heart" for our Lenten Supper Series with the "First Church Reads" selection of *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue. Books are available for sale in The Commons each Sunday morning for \$12.00.

In addition, we will add two new elements to this year's Lenten program:

- (1) There will be a simultaneous program after dinner for children ages 5 through 5th grade and the youth program will continue to meet during this time as well.
- (2) Following the program each week, there will be the opportunity to participate in a book group in order to discuss the various chapters of O'Donohue's book that represent the theme for the evening.



SCHEDULE

dinner

5:30 to 6:30 PM
once again Chef Michael Copeland will coordinate the meals

presentation

6:30 to 7:30 PM
there will be a different speaker each week.

book discussion

7:30 to 8:30 PM

Child care
will be available.

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 18, 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

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Evelyn Beach,
Evelyn died on January 26, 2009 and her service was February 4, 2009.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

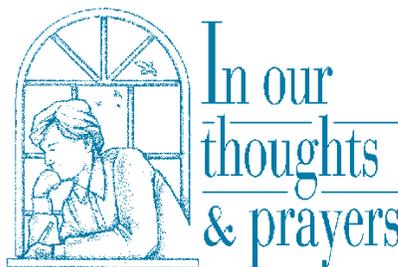
Nell McManus, was able to go home from the hospital following a small stroke.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Virginia Anderson, Carol Howard, Mary Pennicook, and Heather Peterson

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Karl Alger, Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, Ian Kalgren, and Steve Johnson



2009 CHURCH DIRECTORIES

New Church Directories for 2009 are now available in the church office. There is suggested donation of one dollar to defray printing costs.

change

converting to digital

NEED HELP?

Do you need help with converting your TV to be able to receive the new digital signals? In just two weeks—regardless of decisions in Washington, Portland-area broadcasters will convert their broadcast, and you may need a “converter box” and antenna to adapt your set. Chuck Klang and a team of knowledgeable helpers can give you a hand. You’ll need to purchase the converter, antenna and hook-up cables. They’ll show you how it works. Call the church office at 503/228-3195 to indicate your interest.