



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 15, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 08

SUNDAY,
APRIL 19,
2009

EARTH DAY

WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM



FORUM AT 12:00 PM

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 15th Season of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter has thrown us a series of significant challenges. Economic indicators in the news seemed a little belated, as our families bring their own news of job loss and frustrated searches for housing. One mother reports sending out one unsuccessful job application after another for several months, as her children ask when they will get to go home. Early in March, our beloved night manager and lynch pin, Jim Lawlor, was hospitalized after a cardiac arrest. Jim is now steadily improving in the Rehab Unit at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Throughout the season, we have been reminded just how this Shelter was able to work in the first place – through the uncanny generosity and kindness of our many volunteers. Assisting with everything from errands to shelter maintenance, administrative work to donating household goods, sleeping overnight to driving volunteers and staff through the Christmas snowstorms, our volunteers are the providential hand that calms the storms.

Since November, your support has enabled us to help move 28 families out of homelessness and into their own housing. With the closing of yet another shelter season fast approaching on April 30, we are working hard to find a place for the eight families currently with us.

Once the shelter season is over, there remains some business to attend to: Shelter Clean-Up Day is on May 2, 2009 from 9:00 AM – noon, and our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place in Collins Hall on May 12, 2009 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. You can RSVP for either of these events to Brandi Tuck at brandi@goosehollowfamilyshelter.org.

ANOTHER
SEASON AT
GOOSE
HOLLOW
FAMILY
SHELTER



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS APRIL 26, 2009



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

All Church Conferences are usually pretty predictable events at which our District Superintendent facilitates a review of our ministries, receives key reports about membership and finance, and oversees the setting of salaries and election of officers. We normally have one annually in late fall—and a special one to elect officers in June.

Our next one (scheduled for June 28, 2009 following worship in the Fireside Room) may be different. In addition to the election of officers, we'll act on a report—many months in the making—from a task group considering a new design for our congregation's leadership.

It's a visionary approach that is intended to find a way to nurture the strength and vitality of our many individual ministries—from Outreach, Global Missions, Music, Planet Church, Christian Education and so on--and, at the same time, provide for an ongoing way of tracking the 'big' picture: how are we doing as a congregation, what is our overall vision and direction, and how are we deploying our resources to meet our mission?

The plan envisions the development of two leadership teams called "Conferences."

One, "The Parish Conference" is a smaller group involving key officers and a group of members-at-large. They are to be charged with developing our mission and vision and monitoring our journey together.

The other, "The Ministry Conference" will focus on specific areas of our mission and build synergies between our ministry groups. Knitting them together will be our elected "Lay Leaders" who will convene and chair the Conferences.

Please take some time over the next few weeks to explore the recommendations. Printed copies are available in the church office and an electronic version is on our website, www.fumcpdx.org. On May 3, 2009 the task group will conduct a forum to flesh out the plan more fully and answer any questions.

See you in Church!

Arvin

CONGRATULATIONS



REV. DR. LOWELL GREATHOUSE New Board President of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

In April, Rev. Greathouse became EMO's new Board President for a year. EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations (including Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox bodies), congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners that works through community ministry, public policy advocacy, theological education & dialogue, and environmental ministry to build a just and compassionate world for all people.

There will a reception to honor Lowell on Sunday, May 17, 2009 in Collins Hall following the worship service that Sunday.

adults at first

sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS:

God Has a Dream:

A Vision of Hope for Our Time

by Desmond Tutu

The class meets each Sunday at 9:15 AM in Room 134.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY:

Christianity and American Democracy

by Hugh Hecklo

The class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202.

SHORT TERM CLASS BEGINS ...

April 19 - May 3

OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS



April 19

Economic Analysis: Problems & Opportunities

John Coppett will discuss the current economic crisis. The severe globalized economic downturn is traceable to a condition commonly called a "bubble." This session will identify the series of financial bubbles occurring in our economy. What conditions foster bubble formation? Are bubbles inevitable? Does globalization affect bubble formation and magnify the Big Picture? What's happening right now?

April 26

The Economy and You: Issues in Housing, Investments, and Employment

A panel will be sharing their insights into these areas and what it means to you today. Pamela Moyers will address issues related to housing, Tomie Schmidt will address issues related to investments, and Chuck Klang will speak about employment.

May 3

What's Happening in Washington?

In this session, Cyreena Boston, from Senator Merkley's office, will share the latest on what is happening at the federal level and share perspectives on current national legislation. Cyreena is a Field Representative for the Senator and is official staff liaison to communities in the Portland area.

umw

united methodist women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are invited to participate in the activities listed below. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we promote concern for women, children, and youth at home and abroad. President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, April 29, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, April 29, at 11:30 AM in Room 204. We will have a baby shower for FISH. Bring any clothing for young children. After a sack lunch, Grace Refro will lead us in Baby Bingo. Chair: Ruth Green, 503/698-8420

ATTENTION QUILTERS

On Wednesday, May 06, all who are interested in quilting are invited to Room 202 at 1:00 p.m. Jan Fornan, an expert quilter and teacher, will help our group get started and will carefully guide us through four beginning sessions. The first project will be a wall hanging using your own choice of fabric and block design. For further information, contact Marion Hollenberg, 503/640-3270.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will hold its annual meeting and celebrate May Friendship Day, on Friday, May 1, 2009 at Montavilla UMC, 232 SE 80th Avenue. The theme is: *Building on Our Stories*. Registration begins at 9:30 AM followed by the annual meeting and program. A Potluck Salad Lunch will be at 11:30 AM. Bring food for FISH or baby items for Insights Teen Parent Program. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

earth day

at first church

EARTH DAY FORUM

Join us for a special worship service on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 10:30 AM, focused on Earth Day. Then, come to the Earth Day Forum in the Fireside Room following the worship service.

The Earth Day Forum will focus on:

The Energy Challenge: Choices and Consequences

The importance of energy to our society cannot be over estimated, but it has become such an integral part of daily life that often goes unnoticed. With President Obama's focus on green energy, watch choices do we face? What can we do at the local level to reduce our carbon footprint? What role does a church have in all of this? Chuck Klang will explore this important topic in this special Earth Day forum.

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 April 29, 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 THANKSGIVING FOR ...

The birth of Luisa Grace Martin to Josh & Jennifer Martin.

Luisa was born April 3, 2009.

The birth of Holly Suzanne Bartow to Brett & Nancy Bartow.

Holly was born April 9, 2009.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Bernie Cook, who recently had heart by-pass surgery at St. Vincent Hospital ...

Kate Lore, who is in the hospital. She is a former Outreach Director at First UMC and is now serving First Unitarian of Portland ...

Jackie Bullock, who recently had surgery. Jackie is the daughter of Pamela Moyers ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Carol Howard, Jim Lawlor

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Karl Alger, Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, Ian Kalgren, Steven Johnson, and Michael Panck

this and that

please take note ...

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A six-part Bible study exploring the parables of Jesus, taught by Rev. Lowell Greathouse will begin April 22, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Church Library

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

Considering becoming a member of First United Methodist Church? Want to learn more about our congregation? Then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. The next orientation will be offered after the worship service on **Sunday, April 26, 2009**. 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.

GROCERY REBATE UPDATE

We now have 77 supporters signed with Safeway cards and 20 Albertson's shoppers. Won't you help us to raise money for the church? See Pam Moyers in Commons after worship or call Christine in the office at 503/228-3195 to register. It is painless, all you have to do is give us your card number to get started! If you shop at Safeway or Albertsons this is a great way to support the church at no additional cost.