



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 10, 2009  
Volume 13, Issue 12

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 10-14**  
Oregon-Idaho Annual  
Conference of the United  
Methodist Church  
in Salem, OR

**Sunday, June 14**  
Laity Sunday

Pride Parade

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**

### 2009 volunteers of the year



**LEWIS HUGHES  
AWARD**  
Marilyn Outslay

Marilyn is internationally known for her witness for justice and compassion. A delegate to several Jurisdictional and General Conferences, she has served on the General Board of Church and Society, The Woman's Division and the General Board of Pensions. She is active in the Methodist Federation for Social Action—served them as co-president for several years. She has been active in United Methodist Women—both locally and regionally—chaired our Committee on Church and Society for Social Justice and currently convenes the Peace Church Task Force.

**GUY WHEATON  
AWARD**  
Terry Connell

A former head usher (he still takes his turn in usher teams) Terry now devotes much of his energy to helping repair and maintain the church and our grounds. He currently convenes the Shovel and Rake Gang, is a member of the Board of Trustees, Chair of their Landscape Committee and an active participant in the Peace Church Task Force. Terry is also a linch pin in the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, where he volunteers regularly—and is a 'go-to guy' when they are short of help.

**WESLEY SPIRIT  
AWARD**  
Judie Carpenter

While Judie has been a member for only a few years, she has expressed in her witness and her volunteer activities extraordinary dedication. She has faithfully taught in our Church School, supported other teachers as a superintendent of Vacation Church School. Each Sunday she organizes and staffs our Common AM—a time and place to share great food and fellowship. Judie has served as a member of our Children's and Family Ministries Council.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Their mission is mission. Make no mistake, they're good at it!

Don't underestimate them. Their reach in service and advocacy (mostly in response to the needs of women and children) spans the globe.

Don't overlook them. They are one of the most respected — and effective — arms of our denomination's efforts to serve the world in the name of Christ.

What makes the United Methodist Women so vital in their witness and their work? Lots of things—but three stand out to me:

- They have a strong vision of a world transformed by God's grace and their hearts are aflame with a spirit of sacrificial service.
- They are well organized and guided by effective, trained, leaders (volunteer and professional) who articulate clear goals and significant emphases shared by a robust network of regional, sub-regional and local units.
- Their minds are focused and clear because they take the time to read, to study and learn about the issues that matter in our church and the world.

Consider for example the "Schools of Christian Mission" held each summer in every regional conference of our denomination.

Harriet Jane Olson, who heads the Women's Division, noted in a recent issue of the UMW's publication, *Response*,\* that the School can be traced back to an 1869 gathering of the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Tremont Street in Boston, Massachusetts who rallied to the plight of women in the Philippines after learning about them from classes led by Clementine Butler—the spouse of a missionary home on furlough. In 1900 an ecumenical women's gathering in London organized a standing committee to "provide reliable information about mission." Their successors today still do.

In our region two identical schools will convene this July with one in Nampa, Idaho and the other in Newberg, Oregon. Three 'cutting-edge' issues are on the docket: *Food and Faith*, *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan*, and *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival* (to be taught, in both locations, by First UMC member, Cheryl Bittle!) They promise to be depth studies—focusing on action. As Ms. Olson reports,

"...the information that we receive in Schools of Christian Mission sometimes doesn't match what we learned in our own secondary or undergraduate study. Our view is not always the version of history told by the victors. Our interest is not quite so much in what leader emerged victorious from what battle, whether this is a battle of bullets or of words. We have much more interest in what was and is experienced by the real people for whom Jesus both lived and died."\*

Perhaps the best thing about the Schools (at least from my perspective) is that they are *not* "just for women." As a gift to the whole church, the UMW opens the doors to men as well so that we all might learn and grow together.

Let me add my endorsement of the effort. My wife, Sue, and I have both taught at previous Schools of Christian Mission. The intensity of interest and active interaction between students and teachers is incredible and the energy to translate learning to mission is engaging.

Dates and information, as well a registration forms, can be found online at:

[www.umi.net/our-ministries/united-methodist-womenmen/united-methodist-women](http://www.umi.net/our-ministries/united-methodist-womenmen/united-methodist-women)

Discover what it really means to be in mission. Learn how how to change the world for Christ. You'll be the better for it!

See you in church!

Arvin

\* Olson, Harriet Jane, "Responsively Yours: Schools of Mission a Legacy of Women" *Response Magazine*, The General Board of Global Ministries, New York, April, 2009.

## 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.

#### STREAMS OF LIVING WATER: WHAT DOES ECUMENISM LOOK LIKE IN 2009?

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

June 21

#### Welcome to an Interfaith World: Informing Our Own Faith Journey

June 28

#### Ecumenism & Interfaith Realities: Developing a Faith In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### PASTORS, PREACHING, PULPITS, AND THE PEOPLE: SERMONS FROM START TO FINISH

All classes will take place from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room.

What's the art of preaching all about? How are sermons prepared? How do preachers choose their scripture readings, select which illustrations and stories to use, determine what topics to preach on at a given time and place? What are some of their favorite Bible passages ... favorite sermons ... and most difficult moments in the pulpit? What are the joys and challenges of sharing one's faith and teaching the messages of the Bible to others in a public setting?

First Church is blessed to have a number of ministers, who have years of experience as preachers. Come to this series of classes and learn more about the joys and challenges of preaching and communicating matters of faith with a congregation.

July 12	Rev. Ray Balcomb
July 19	Rev. Lowell Greathouse
July 26	Rev. Arvin Luchs
August 2	Rev. Al Rieke
August 9	Rev. Ross Miller
August 16	Rev. Tom Foster

## 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, June 24, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. There will be no July meeting. Chair: Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

#### THE SCHOOL CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

Both men and women are invited to the nearest School of Christian Mission Studies at George Fox University, Newberg on July 15-19, 2009. You can enroll for either two or four days, as an overnight attendee or a commuter. The three themes, all very relevant today, are: 1.) *The Sudan*, 2.) *Native American Survival*, and 3.) *Food and Faith*. Choose the study that is best for you. Registrations are now being accepted until July 1st. Call Melba Rizzo or Trudy Kayser for a registration form. Scholarships are available.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, September 19, 2009.

Metro Distric Annual UMW Meeting at Wilshire UMC.

Saturday, October 24, 2009.

OR-ID Conference Annual UMW Meeting at Corvallis UMC.

*Find a Place at the Table* with Women's Division facilitator, Glory Dharmaraj.

April 29 – May 2, 2010.

Assembly 2010, UMW National Assembly in America's Center, St. Louis, Missouri. What an awesome experience to be with 10,000 women, all a part of United Methodist Women. Together we have the power to make our world a better place.

## children's ministries

### summer sunday school



#### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School for children is right around the corner! Starting June 21, kindergarten - fifth grade will be meeting together in room 205 and preschoolers & three-year-olds will be in room 207. If you want to volunteer to teach Summer Sunday School, please contact Megan at 503/228-3195 ext.227

**Lowell Greathouse,  
Minister of Discipleship**

On Sunday mornings, Rev. Luchs often uses Eugene Peterson's *The Message* as the translation for the Scripture reading. The words often have a fresh, crisp, contemporary feel to them.

Recently, while teaching the parables of Jesus series on Wednesday nights, I utilized some material from another book by Peterson entitled, *Tell It Slant: A Conversation on the Language of Jesus in his Stories and Prayers*. In his commentary on the parable of The Great Banquet in Luke 14:1-24, Peterson says:

"In the simple, everyday act of sitting down with others at meals, Jesus aroused enormous hostility. There were rigid rules in the world Jesus lived in that were inviolable. Jesus violated them. There were strong prohibitions against eating with unsavory people—outsiders such as tax collectors, prostitutes, and people who didn't keep up the appearances of religious propriety ("sinners"). Jesus ate with them. As things developed, eating with 'sinners' became one of the most characteristic and attention-getting facets of Jesus' regular activity. The Pharisees in particular were fierce in their observance of these rules and fierce in their criticism of Jesus. At a meal with some of these Pharisees Jesus tells a hospitality story that turns the tables on his critics. His story is a stinging rebuke of the inhospitality of those on the frontlines of enforcing the hospitality codes of their culture."

Take a look at the Luke passage for yourself to get a better sense of what Jesus' kingdom looked like then...and now. (*Tell It Slant*, p. 77-78)

church library  
learn and grow**CHECK IT OUT**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our recent used book sales a big success by donating and/or buying books. The proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the library in the coming weeks. If there is a particular book that you think would be a good addition to our collection, you can leave the author and title information at the library desk on Sundays before or after worship.

**JUNE 14****PRIDE PARADE**

Be a part of the First Church contingent that will be marching in this year's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 14, 2009. We'll meet at church at 10:15 AM and take the MAX to the parade route.

**JUNE 21****RECEPTION FOR ADAM ORTMAN**

Sunday, June 21, will be Adam Ortman's final Sunday with us as Director of Community Outreach before heading East to attend Harvard Divinity School. Please join us following the worship service, so you can greet and thank Adam for his tremendous work at First Church.

**FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION**

Following the reception, 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! Meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church as well. 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. Come to room 110 at 12:15 PM.

**JUNE 28****ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

Our All Church Conference will be June 28, 2009 in the Fireside Room, following worship. At that Church Conference we will act on the Leadership Restructuring task group's report, considering a new design for our congregation's leadership elect leadership for the new year.

**PROFILES IN SERVICE FORUM SERIES**

On Sunday, June 28, 2009, come learn about the astounding, inspiring efforts of the people that make up our church at the next Profiles in Service Forum. The forum will take place in the Fireside Room, following the All-Church Conference.

**Bill Birge** has shown great power and great responsibility at Good Samaritan Hospital and the Cancer Center, while also working with First Church's Reconciling Ministries. **Janice Gratton** has made wondrous strides toward ensuring adequate care for children's behavioral health throughout Oregon. **Ben Owre** has sped tirelessly through a life of service. He currently counsels seniors who have been victims of abuse through "Elders in Action," a program of the Portland Police Department.

**JULY 19****FORUM ON ENDING TORTURE**

On Sunday, July 19, the Church and Society Committee is sponsoring this one-hour forum, in which Sarah Goff and Kevin Finney from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will share an 18-minute video from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, lead a discussion about the ethics of torture, and give updates on the anti-torture advocacy that's happening across the United States. This forum will be held in the Fireside Room beginning at noon. A light lunch will be provided and child care available.

## sharing resources

two oportunitis



*Pictured are Julia Lo and Nicole Lo, of our Farmer's Table and Todd Engle of Planet Church*

### THE FARMER'S TABLE

Beautiful bouquets of flowers, fresh vegetables and more await those who venture to Collins Hall after worship each Sunday. Come greet the Lo family, Julia Lo and Nicole Lo, younger sisters of our farmer, Yua Lo, who will bring locally grown produce and flowers to our Farmers Table every Sunday this summer. All of the Lo sisters are Hmong refugees, who made the harrowing journey from their homeland to a new life in America.

Thanks to the generosity of our farmer, Yua Lo, and members of First UMC, we will be donating some of the Farmer's Table produce to the Northwest Portland Ministries Food Box and sending flowers to local residence for seniors. Our Farmers' Table is sponsored by our Planet Church committee with the help of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

### SHARE YOUR GARDEN PRODUCE

The Northwest Portland Ministries Food Box Program begins Sunday, June 14, 2009. If your garden is growing more than you can eat, please bring your "extra" vegetables and fruits to church on Sunday mornings this summer to give to those who are in need. Just put them in a box or bag and drop them off at the table on the porch outside the narthex on your way into the worship service. After church they will be picked up and taken to the Northwest Portland Ministries (NWPM) and given to hungry people, primarily elderly and disabled persons. To learn more about NWPM, go to [www.nwpm.org](http://www.nwpm.org).



### OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Forrest Alexander  
Jacques Allan  
Allison Anderson  
Samuel Baker  
Daniel Barrack  
Kylee Cobb  
Samuel Connell  
Anna Deffebach  
Chelsea Evans  
Austin Fassiotto  
Kelsey Hall  
Margaret Jennings  
Thomas Kayser  
Alicia Kroell  
Dominique Moore  
Stephanie Myers  
Caroline Nicholson  
Joseph Owen  
Claire Schechtman  
Grant Smith  
Blake Thompson

## our graduates

2009



## CONGRATULATIONS

Pictured above are three of First Church's high school graduating seniors, to the left is a complete list of seniors graduating.

In addition, there are a number of First Church families who are celebrating the achievements of college graduates this year. Congratulations to:

Jessica Hale (Portland State University)  
Christopher Howard (MBA, Denver University)  
Claire Wilson (Smith College)  
Joshua Fricke (University of Denver)

Please let the church office know of other college graduates whose achievements we should be celebrating. You can e-mail: [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org).

## stephen ministry

opportunities for caring



### STEPHEN MINISTRIES

An information meeting regarding Stephen Ministry training will be held in Room 110 on June 14 at 11:45 AM. Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay members to provide distinctly Christian care to those experiencing all kinds of difficulties in life. Grounded in Jesus' command to love one another, it is based on the belief that caring for each other is an intended way of life for followers of Jesus Christ. A new training class for Stephen Ministers will begin on Sept. 22, 2009.

### **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 June 24, 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 & thanksgiving** prayers and concerns

### **PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...**

*Scott Clendenning and Eun-Jung Cha* on the birth of their son,  
*Euan Clendenning*, born on May 28, 2009 ....  
*Carol Howard*, who has been declared "in remission" after two  
and a half years of cancer treatment...

### **PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...**

*Terry Connell*, whose sister, Helen Bolema, died in Muskegon,  
Michigan on May 15, 2009 ...

### **PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...**

*Allen Dobbins*, who is recovering at home following a knee  
surgery on June 5, 2009 ...  
*Rev. Joe Dan Adams*, who is recovering from surgery in Texas.  
He is the father of Paul Adams, our Director of Youth ...  
*Virginia Anderson*, who was in the hospital for tests on June 6 ...

### **CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...**

*Elwyn Kinney, Lyle Iverson ...*

### **PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...**

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

### **FROM THE COOKS**

We want to thank all for the many kindnesses shared during Bernie's recent heart attach and surgery. We thank you for your cards, phone calls, visits and prayers. We are very fortunate to have so many kind and considerate friends at First Church. - *Bernie and Peg Cook*

### **FROM EARL RIDDLE**

The visits from our pastors, the prayers, cards and phone calls from so many of the congregation have reminded me what a caring community is First Church. Thank you so much. - *Earl Riddle*

### **KAYSER ANNIVERSARY**

Celebrate 25 years of marriage with Anne and Jeff Kayser on Friday, June 26, 2009. You are invited to either or both parts of a two-part silver anniversary celebration. There will be a renewal of vows at 7:00 PM in the chapel. Dr. Raymond Balcomb, who officiated at Jeff and Anne's wedding in 1984, will invite any couples who wish to renew their own wedding vows to stand and join Anne and Jeff in this ceremony. There will also be a reception with light refreshments and dancing to an eclectic mix of love songs in Collin's Hall from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Please call Anne Kayser if you plan to attend, 503/297-7150.