



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 8, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 14

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
JULY 12**

Pastors on Preaching
Adult Class Begins

**SUNDAY,
JULY 19**

Rev. Vern Groves, preaching
Forum: Ending Torture
Let's Make Change Sunday

**SUNDAY,
JULY 26**

Rev. Ross Miller, preaching

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

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



Check out these new Adult Classes
on Sunday mornings!

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

Dr. Raymond E. 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



oregon-idaho annual conference

News from Salem

Dear Members and Friends of First Church:

It was a privilege to represent our church at the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in Salem in June. The theme of the 41st session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference was “*Transforming the World;*” continuing a series of themes based on the conference mission and vision statement of “*Boldly Making Disciples of Jesus Christ: Vitalizing the Church – Transforming the World.*”

Transformation --Time to Grow—Strategic Directions... These themes created a swirl of comments and thoughts as we continued in the path of John Wesley in “holy conferencing.” Among other things, this year’s annual conference dealt with business from General Conference in the voting on over 30 amendments to our church’s Discipline. The amendment that created the wearing of buttons and the strongest support from Oregon Idaho members was one that called for a change in language in the Discipline to say “all” (as the inclusive term), instead of having a laundry list of all those we include.

In addition, Bishop Hoshibata shared his vision for the next four years by using the image of a series of lenses with which we look at ourselves and others. One must visualize the Bishop wearing various pairs of glasses to emphasize his comments.

- **The Lens of Holiness:** We all need to be making ourselves better and be open to bringing others to Jesus Christ. This lens emphasizes how we look at and see ourselves and our actions and strive to move toward the state that Jesus sought for us.
- **The Lens of Excellence:** This lens forces us to ask the question: Is our work mediocre or are we striving as individuals to produce positive endeavors that move us toward excellence?
- **The Lens of Young People:** The United Methodist Church is not currently designed to attract young people. So what are we doing to let the young be a part of our experience? The Bishop shared various activities happening throughout the conference that have been successful, and he encouraged us all to make movement in this direction.
- **The Lens of Stewardship:** This lens is about all we do and offer to God. Are we giving back with love and generosity in the use of all our talents?
- **The Lens of New Faith Communities:** What are the signs on the walls within our buildings? And what messages do they reveal about who we are? Are we helping the community to be vital and exciting or are we putting up “signs” that send them away? The Bishop challenged us to “rethink” church and become new faith communities that are open in new ways that welcome “all.” This made us think about the signs at First Church: What do they say about us? Do they encourage participation rather than setting up barriers?

This year’s annual conference made us all think about our church and challenged us to consider the lenses that Bishop Hoshibata confronted us with during our time in Salem. We look forward to exploring what we learned with our congregation in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bittle, Bill Birge, Corrine Frohlick (First Church Members of Annual Conference)

PS— Bishop Hoshibata has reappointed Revs. Arvin Luchs and Lowell Greathouse to First Church for another year.

special events

happening at first church

A PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN CRY FOR RECONCILIATION - THURSDAY, JULY 16TH

Most of the world has responded with renewed hope to President Obama's call for reconciliation between Judeo-Christian and Muslim societies, particularly in Palestine/Israel. In doing so, the President closely echoed the language and message of Naim Ateek's latest book: *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*. The message is not new. As a prominent leader of the small but faithful Christian community in Palestine, the Rev. Ateek (Palestinian Episcopal Canon and founder of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem) has preached and practiced reconciliation with his Jewish and Muslim neighbors for sixty years.

Join Friends of Sabeel for a timely free lecture and conversation about the current state of Palestinian-Israel relations, the role of the Christian community, and the cry for reconciliation. This event will be Thursday, July 16 at First Church, beginning with a concert by members of Al-Andalus Ensemble at 7:00 PM. Rev. Ateek's presentation will be at 7:30 PM.

Prior to the free public lecture, there will be a Middle Eastern dinner/fund raiser at 5:30 PM. The cost is \$50.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling: 503/653-6625.

YOU ARE INVITED TO "MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE" SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

Join the Portland/Vancouver Area's Pre-Parliament event, prior to the December 2009 World Parliament in Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday, July 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at First Church, 18th and SW Jefferson St., Portland. Drawing on the hospitality and compassion of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, we will gather in small groups at round tables to share stories of what we care deeply about, what we are doing in our communities and in the world, and what gives us hope. We seek to understand and respect each other, uncover shared convictions and concerns and forge relationships. For more information and to register for this *FREE* event, visit www.tinyurl.com/portland-vancouver. Food and refreshments will be provided.

a forum at first

ending torture

FORUM ON ENDING TORTURE - JULY 19

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.

We are pleased that Sarah Goff, a 2008 church intern, is now working with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon on the campaign to end torture. For more info on the campaign to end torture go to www.nrnat.org.



helping first church

the easy way

GROCERY REBATE UPDATE

We now have 100 people signed up for the Grocery Rebate Program. We are steadily increasing the contribution to the church every

month. Won't you help us? If you or members of your family or friends shop at Safeway and/or Albertsons we can certainly use more registrations on behalf of First Church. Please call Christine in the office 503-228-3195 with your card numbers and she will be happy to register you. This is a "no-hassle" way for you to help your church, just grocery shop and a percentage of your shopping trip comes back to First Church to support its programs.



the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Recently, I added the book *Haiku Mind* by Patricia Donegan as one of my spiritual companions during my morning meditation time. It is a wonderful book, filled with both historic and contemporary haiku poems. As you may know, haiku is a Japanese form of poetry that is made up of three simple lines and seventeen syllables. The purpose of these poems is to awaken and open the heart to the present moment...and to focus the mind. In this way, these poems bring about a sense of clarity, compassion, and peace.

During these difficult times, in which unemployment is high and people are struggling with all kinds of day-to-day issues, haiku can help us center ourselves to the moment at hand...and help direct us to the spiritual path that lies before us.

Shokyu-Ni (1713-1781) is one of the well-known Japanese women haiku poets of the Edo period. One March day upon her return from another city, she found that her home had been destroyed by a fire. Looking at the ruins, she composed this verse:

Violets here and there

In the ruins

Of my burnt house

As Donegan says of this poem: "This haiku addresses the age-old question we all face: how to work with adversity, in our own lives and in this chaotic, imperfect world around us. We cannot ultimately control what happens, but we can control our response to what happens." (*Haiku Mind*, page 13)

caring at first

helping those
who are in need

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are hospitalized, seriously ill or disabled, facing loss of any kind, bereaved, in a life transition, in a job crisis, experiencing a broken relationship, homebound, or in a spiritual crisis, looking for a caring, Christian friend. All inquiries and referrals are strictly confidential. A new class to train Stephen Ministers will begin on September 22, 2009. For more information regarding class times and a job description, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

Joan Jozwiak – 503-848-6598, Mary Jane Hendrickson – 503-639-7775, or Marge Terdal – 503-244-5714.



church library

learn and grow

CHECK IT OUT

In his lush new memoir, *Tales of Wonder: Adventures Chasing the Divine*, religious scholar Houston Smith offers a list of fond remembrances; for example, dancing among the whirling dervishes in Iran. An exuberant traveler, he explained, "If a place was on the map. And especially if it wasn't, I wanted to go and learn what could be learned only there."

Although classified as a book for young readers, Ben Mikaelson's *Touching Spirit Bear* can impact adult readers as well. Here is an adventure story with strong moral underpinnings depicting a violent teenage delinquent's metamorphosis into a caring, thinking individual.

Both books are available in the church library.

youth at first

raising funds for
the mission trip

Mission Trip to Wapato, Washington

YouthSquad is now selling shares in this year's Mission Trip to The Campbell Farm in Wapato, Washington. In 2005 when we went to The Campbell Farm, our youth experienced mission work in the form of house repair and painting, working with younger children in a reading program, sorting food for the Yakima Valley Food Bank, and even serving meals at the Union Gospel Mission.

Please take a moment to encourage our youth on this trip by purchasing a share (or two!). This year's share price is \$10. Buying a share will get you a postcard from the youth during the trip, and if we raise enough to cover it, we will host a meal with a slideshow and possible video of the trip sometime in the fall. Most of all, you get peace of mind, knowing that you helped our youth with this wonderful opportunity.

Contact any member of the YouthSquad, or Paul Adams to purchase shares.

music at first

welcoming new
soloist/section leader

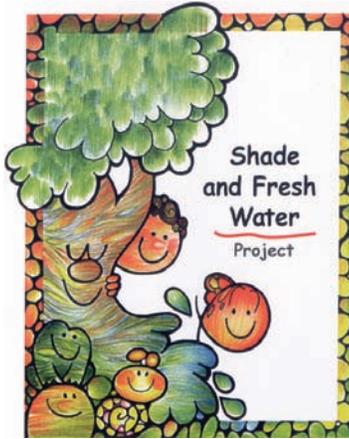
NEW SOLOIST

We are pleased to welcome Benjamin Bell as the new bass soloist/section leader for the Chancel Choir. Mr. Bell replaces Sojourn Breneiser who has moved on to further his business career both privately and with St. Maly salon products.

Mr. Bell and his wife have recently moved to Portland. He holds a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music both from the University of Texas in Austin, where he graduated with high honors. He is singing with the Portland Opera and will tour with the group that goes to schools around the state. He is currently pursuing another degree, in business, at Portland State University. We are looking forward to having Ben singing with the choir and becoming a member of our community. Please find an opportunity to welcome him to First Church.



Benjamin Bell



getting to know our covenant missionaries

gordon and teca greathouse

**by colleen foster,
global missions committee**

“Greathouse” -- now that’s a name with a familiar ring. Yes, we are blessed with not only the inspirational leadership of Dr. Lowell Greathouse, here at First Church, but we are also connected through our Covenant Missionary Program with Lowell’s brother, Gordon, and wife, Teca. Another brother, Mark, is also a member of our congregation and serves on our Global Missions Committee. Mark and his wife, Helena, are known by many of the community for their musical talents, which they generously share.

Today’s focus, however, is on the Greathouses in Brazil. First Church has had a covenant relationship with Gordon and Teca for many years. They are now in their 31st year as missionaries. During this time they have served Brazilians in many ways, especially in creating projects that have become nationwide in scope. They’ve also raised three remarkable sons, Robert, Mark and Jose, who have benefited from the this dedicated family’s outreach and active involvement in mission work. They are also headed toward lives of service.

Coming from two different countries, Gordon and Teca’s backgrounds were quite diverse. Gordon grew up in Beaverton, Oregon. He graduated from Willamette University and New York’s Union Theological Seminary and served as a seminar designer for United Methodist national and international seminars. Teca, born and educated in Brazil, was deeply involved in rural education in the Amazon, where she helped build hundreds of schools in isolated regions, and also trained local teachers.

Teca’s teaching skills, along with Gordon’s organizational abilities, have been useful in developing the Sao Gabriel Community Center. The center is located in one of the largest and poorest neighborhoods of Belo Horizonte, which is Brazil’s third largest city. The goal of this program is to promote self-esteem through self-help programs. Here, people from the slums gain skills to become more economically independent. Through programs such as woodworking, weaving, a community laundry, and courses in computer skills, teens and adults are better prepared for the job market. The center has also worked with Habitat for Humanity, building low-cost, two-bedroom homes.

Teca has been instrumental in developing the “Shade and Fresh Water” project. This project provides “after-school” programs and care for children and teens, ages 6-14, as well as providing food, clean water, and activities which help young people become healthy citizens, as they gain Christian values.

Gordon continues work in urban ministry, helping to develop and implement strategies of evangelism and social action in cities which have issues as immense as their growing populations

In June 2010, Lowell and Susan will be taking a Volunteer in Mission group of 20 people to the Amazon to continue the connection with the Greathouses in Brazil.

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 July 22, 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 CONCERN FOR ...

David Jenkins, who is suffering from severe leg pain...

Donn Cook, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

he is the brother of Richard Cook...

Norwood Glendinning, who is declining in a foster care facility...

Eloise Matlack, who has been placed on Hospice Care...

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...

Lindsay & Neil Brown, on the birth of

Tessa Ireen Brown, born on July 2, 2009.

The proud grandparents are

Randy & Marsha Freed, and proud

great grandparents *Norman & Dorothy Freed*...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Moima Doe, *Dick Palmiter*, *Marilyn Ringquist*, and *Nan*

Anderson's step-mother, *Helen Haberberger*. ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

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



In our
thoughts
& prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR...

The Iverson Family; Lyle died on July 1st at his home.

Services will be here at First Church on Saturday, July 11th, at 2:00 PM.