



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 22, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
JULY 26**

Rev. Ross Miller,
preaching

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 2**

Youthsquad Mission
Trip to Campbell
Farms begins

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



Portland's First United Methodist Church

YOUTHSQUAD

MISSION TRIP

August 2-7, 2009



Fourteen youth have signed up to represent First Church doing mission work at The Campbell Farm in Wapato, Washington. Our youth will be involved in a wide variety of activities: repairing houses, harvesting food in gardens, working in the local food bank, preparing meals for the homeless, and working with children from the area. It is a golden opportunity to be in mission. Pray for them and let them know of your support.

Our mission trip youth will participate in a commissioning moment in Sunday worship, August 2, and then immediately depart for their week-long adventure.

There's still time to purchase shares to support Youth Squad on the trip. The cost is \$10 each and you are welcome to buy as many as you like. Our goal is to raise \$1500 to cover the costs of the trip that have not already been met. You can make your checks out to First United Methodist Church, and write "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo of the check.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It's appropriate we call them the "Board of Trustees." After all, we "entrust" so much of our congregational life to them. The nine elected members oversee our facilities' use and maintenance, capital improvements, manage the endowments and other investments, and give attention to legal matters.

We are now in the third year of the "Celebrating our Past—Creating Our Future" capital improvement campaign. So this a good time to let you know about the status of both the receipts and the projects. Newly-elected Trustee Chair, William Haden, will also be sharing a verbal report during worship on August 2, 2009.

As you know, we fell short of our campaign's full goal of \$2,100,000 that would have fully funded all the projects. Currently actual receipts total \$1,445, 317—in addition, a number of three-year pledges are yet to be completed. They total \$106,008. Gifts were received in two ways: undesignated campaign pledges and gifts, and contributions tagged to specific projects.

Some, designated gifts, have gone to projects already completed:

- Our sanctuary sound system has been successfully replaced and each week we enjoy the results.
- The Mary L. Collins Organ has been fully refurbished with state-of-the-art components making it one of the largest and most versatile church organs in the country.
- The "300 Wing" (Fireside Room and Collins Hall) has been completely re-roofed and additional insulating material added. Not only is that wing now sealed from water damage—but more energy efficient.

Other gifts have been invested for use as the balances accumulate. The top priority was the payment of our mortgage obligation. Over the last two years that balance has been substantially reduced. Unfortunately, along with everything else in these recession days, the unspent gifts that were invested short-term to provide for sizeable debt reduction payments have lost some market value delaying the full payment of the building debt.

Out of consideration for safety and handicap access, the trustees have encouraged plans for simpler and less costly modifications to the chancel. Plans are moving forward, and it is hoped that soon our choir, worship leaders and community music groups will enjoy the enhancements.

Two projects are in abeyance until there is sufficient funding:

- The re-design and re-development of Beckham Courtyard to continue to be both a stunning garden and accessible to our congregation for gatherings, weddings, receptions and coffee-hours.
- The expansion of our current narthex—nearly doubling the floor space—to become a center for welcome and hospitality as well as a 'living room' for the First Church community.

Thank you, Trustees, for the update. You serve us well—our trust is not misplaced.

See you in church!

Arvin

CELEBRATING OUR PAST — CREATING OUR FUTURE

adult classes

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.

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| July 26 | Rev. Arvin Luchs |
| August 2 | Rev. Al Rieke |
| August 9 | Rev. Ross Miller |
| August 16 | Rev. Tom Foster |

TWO ADULT CLASSES TO RESUME IN THE FALL

The Fellowship of Seekers and Changing Christianity will resume their scheduled classes in September.

the passion play



PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU

Have you been to the world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany? Have you thought you might like to go? Performed only every ten years, this amazing event was a highlight of our tour there in 2000. Everyone who went on that tour is invited to come on Sunday, July 26 at noon in the Fireside Room to reminisce and share your photo albums. Refreshments will be served. Also hear about what the tour opportunities might be for the 2010 Passion Play.

For information, contact Cheryl Luce at 503/380-8604 or cheryl.luce@gmail.com.

RELIGIONS

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

You are invited to "Make a World of Difference!" Join the Portland/Vancouver Area's Pre-Parliament of the Worlds Religions event, on Sunday, July 26, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, here at First Church. The Council for a Parliament of World Religions holds a spectacular world-wide gathering every five years. In December 2009, Melbourne, Australia is hosting this event, with an estimated 10,000 people attending. At this pre-event, on July 26, 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 up 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.

HIKING

UNITED METHODIST HIKERS

The First UMC/Tigard UMC Hikers will be clearing trails at Collins Retreat Center as part of their outing on Saturday, August 15, 2009. The group will gather to carpool in the First UMC parking lot at 9:00 AM and will drive to Collins Retreat Center. The group will work for several hours, clearing brush from the trails. Group members will then enjoy a gourmet lunch in the Collins dining hall (at a special price of \$7.50) before heading out for a short two to four mile hike in the area. Reservations are needed for lunch. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Dee Poujade at deelaw33@hotmail.com or 503/243-3337. Also, anyone wishing to carpool from Tigard UMC is asked to contact Dee. Anyone who would like their name added to the group e-mail should call Jim Teischer at 503/341-8058.

new member orientation

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION: AUGUST 23, 2009

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. Come meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church as well. The next First Church Orientation will be offered after the worship service on: Sunday, August 23, 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.

the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

One of the books I've been reading off and on for some time is entitled *Creating Your Best Life: The Ultimate Life List Guide* by Caroline Adams Miller and Michael Frisch. It is a book designed to coach you through the development of "life lists" that can help deepen your life and make it more meaningful. One of the exercises I just encountered in the book goes all the way back to Benjamin Franklin, who decided to strengthen his character by taking on one virtue at a time and then marking an X on his calendar each time he successfully addressed the behavior he was working on. It sounds a bit like John Wesley to me!



The authors describe what Franklin did in this way: "Franklin's program worked for reasons that goal specialists of the twenty-first century understand: He focused on only one major self-control change at a time, he monitored his behavior in a journal, and he proceeded to working on the next quality only after perfecting the one before it." (p. 236) Try this exercise out ... and don't move on to another behavior goal until you've mastered the first one for at least two weeks. The authors make a good point in saying that behaviors that are not monitored cannot be changed. I've begun this process recently myself, and it is both challenging ... and helpful in focusing on becoming the kind of person I'd like to become.

staff transitions

Paul Adams



PAUL ADAMS: LEAVING IN AUGUST AS YOUTH DIRECTOR

It is with sadness that we announce that Paul Adams has decided to resign as First Church Youth Director after four years. Paul has served our youth and congregation well since joining our staff in 2005. He has lead several significant youth mission trips, developed a variety of youth programs, taught Sunday School, and nurtured our youth in many ways during these past several years. There have been annual Youth Lock-Ins, Chili Feeds, September Tie Dye Parties, youth-sponsored Halloween Parties, plant sales, and much more, during this time. Please take the time to thank Paul for his years of service with the youth at First Church.

Although Paul will no longer be on staff, Paul and his partner, Tim Unger, will remain at First Church as active members and continue to participate in the life of the church. Please plan to join us for a special time to say "goodbye" and to acknowledge Paul on a Sunday, August 9, 2009

church library

learn and grow

CHECK IT OUT

Shalom/Salaam/Peace by Constance A. Hammond is described on the book jacket, as "...about two peoples and three religions struggling for their very survival. The author examines the realities of life in contemporary Israel/Palestine, with its politics, wars, security wall, settlements and ongoing struggles, and weaves together the complex issues of the area such as the ownership of land, water rights, human rights and religious rights."

Jodi Picoult's novel, *My Sister's Keeper*, is the story of Anna who from her birth has made donations of organs to her sister without knowing it. At the age of thirteen, Anna begins to question her identity as merely a donor for her older sister. Now there is a new expectation that she will donate a kidney to save her sister's life. The action Anna decides to take stuns the family. It is a provocative novel raising important ethical issues, which some consider a modern parable.

Both books are available in the church library.



PERSPECTIVES ON WASHINGTON, DC WITH REPRESENTATIVE DAVID WU: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009

Join us after church on Sunday, August 9, 2009 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, in the Fireside Room to talk with Congressman Wu and learn about what is going on in Washington as Congress addresses the various national and international problems and public policy issues of our time. A light lunch and child care will be provided.

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 August 19, 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 of Norwood Glendinning, Norwood died July 16, 2009. His memorial service will be Friday, July 24 at 1:00 PM in the chapel.

Marty Martin, whose mother died in Woodburn, Oregon on July 4, 2009.

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION FOR ...

Stephanie Hedberg and Nathaniel Ray, who were married on July 10, 2009. Stephanie's parents are Dennis and Judy Hedberg ...

Shannon Jones and Matthew Newberry, who were married on July 18, 2009. Shannon's parents are Grant and Elaine Jones ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Elwyn Williams, who is recovering from gall bladder surgery

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Eloise Matlack and Marilyn Rinquist ...

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

PLEASE NOTE

*There will not be an August 5, 2009
issue of the Circuit Rider.
The next newsletter will be
August, 19, 2009.*