



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 14, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 19

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 18**
Sunday Worship at
10:30 AM

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25**
Consecration Sunday
Worship at
10:30 AM
Safe-Space
Halloween Party
for children by
First Church Youth
at 5:00 PM in
Room 202.



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 2010 GIVING CAMPAIGN

*in times like these,
people like you ...*

LOVE

HOPE

SERVE

BUILD

LIVE

DARE

DREAM

GIVE

in times like these

DON RIGGS

I must confess, I goofed! Two weeks ago when I announced the beginning of our fall “stewardship campaign” for 2010, I used a phrase, common in my growing-up, that is really not right. Our fall campaign supports our programs and values for the coming year. A “Stewardship campaign” suggests that the word stewardship itself is just about money. However, on better reflection, I want to say: yes, this effort is about stewardship, but it is about stewardship of place, this special place for which we bear responsibility.

I would like to refer you to articles written on stewardship for our Conference by our own Anne Kayser. (You can find the articles under stewardship on the Conference web site.) She has the proper emphasis when she writes about stewardship of health, stewardship of mind, stewardship of Christmas, etc. And, leave it to Arvin to inform me that the very word “steward,” back in Middle English days, referred to those who were responsible for the “pig sties!” Stewards are those who bear responsibilities.

This fall campaign is about our stewardship for this special place. That certainly includes responsibility for our buildings where we worship and study and share community, and also where we share our space with hundreds of groups and organizations that use our facilities. It also includes a responsibility for all of the programs and outreach of our communal and shared Christian values that we commit to as members of First Church, for current members and friends as well as for future generations of young seekers.

Because we have committed our time and talents and hearts to First Church, whether for solace, for worship, for engagement with other members and our larger metropolitan community, we do bear a special responsibility to provide financial support to help assure that our stewardship for First Church continues and thrives. I think each of us would agree that we want to continue to proclaim: “come as you are and wherever you are ... all are welcomed here; let’s build a life of faith together!”

I’d like to suggest that we are engaged in a stewardship campaign, but it is really a campaign acknowledging our stewardship of place, our responsibility for First United Methodist Church that we are committing to this October.

Do “generosity” and “responsibility” come together easily? Maybe not. However, I hope our stewardship of place here can evoke our generous spirit to support people and physical space to build an even more vibrant community of faith for all.

Thanks for your generous support of our 2010 financial campaign!

Don Riggs
Chair, Financial Campaign Committee

SERVE

Throughout the financial campaign you have heard the stories of church members and what their journey as members of First Church has meant to them.

But in interest of time and variety, we have invited one our employees to share his journey at First Church ...

Hello, I’m Dave Jenkins, the Administrative Assistant at First Church. If you’ve been in the church office during the week you’ve seen me at the front desk, typing, sorting, filing and answering the phone ... there is a lot of answering the phone. In fact, when I retire, I am going to write a book called, *The Strangest Questions I Have Been Asked In a Church Office*.

I have been working in the First Church office for over seven years and have heard a lot and seen a lot ... I’ve seen pastors who put in countless late hours seeking ways to keep the congregations involved and vital. I’ve worked along side a dedicated support staff that is energetic and creative. I’ve heard hundreds of calls to the Goose Hollow Family Shelter seeking a warm place for the night or wanting a place to serve. I’ve talked to gay teenagers seeking a place to worship because the church they grew up in no longer wanted them there. I’ve seen parishioners who dedicate themselves, behind the scenes, to make things happen. I’ve talked with almost every major community organization in Portland about using our facility for a meeting or event. Then there is the Korean women who comes to pray in our chapel ...

You belong to a great church. It is only through your financial support that I am able to say to countless people day in and day out, “First Church, how can I help you?”

Dave Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

adult sunday classes

umw united
methodist women

Changing Christianity

How to Win a Cosmic War, God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror by Reza Aslan

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202. This class focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change. The class will begin by looking at Reza Aslan's book *How to Win a Cosmic War, God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror*.

Fellowship of Seekers

The Book of Job

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134. This class seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. Following a time of fellowship, lively discussions are led by different class members each week. This fall the class will study the *Book of Job* with guidance by David Hester's, *Job*, published in the Interpretation Bible Series.

C.S. Lewis' The Four Loves

Sundays, October 18, and 25 (remaining sessions)

In his book, *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis describes the four basic kinds of human love—affection, friendship, erotic, and charity, or the love of God. He explores the possibilities and challenges of the love between parents and children; the love of men for other men and women for women; the love of men and women for each other; and the love of God that enriches all love. He also explores questions about sex, possessiveness, jealousy, pride, false sentimentality, good and bad manners in loving, and the need for more laughter between lovers. Lewis discusses risks associated with love, but recommends taking them since “hell is the only place outside heaven where we can be safe from the dangers of love.” During our first meeting, we will review Aristotle's argument about ethics and the practice of the virtues as well as summarize the arguments made by Lewis. In subsequent classes we will explore your questions, impressions, and conclusions about *The Four Loves*. This class will be taught by Gene Gregory. The book will be available for purchase in the class.

Living the Questions

Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, and 22

In these sessions, we will be using DVD materials that feature leading religious scholars, including Marcus Borg, John Cobb, Minerva Carcano, Matthew Fox, Meagan McKenna, Helen Prejean, John Dominic Crossan, John Spong, and others. We will discuss various questions and concerns related to progressive Christianity and “what's next for Christianity.” The themes of these sessions will be: An Invitation to Journey, Taking the Bible Seriously, Challenges Facing Progressive Christians, and Restoring Relationships. This class will be facilitated by Martha Powell and Rev. Lowell Greathouse.

All women are invited to participate in the following activities. 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

HIGH NOON TEA

The UMW annual High Noon Tea will be held Saturday, November 21, at noon in Collins Hall. Remember our sharing at the Apron Tea and the Hat Tea. This year the theme will be *Jewelry With a Story*. Maybe it's the brooch that your grandmother gave you. Or it could be that fancy necklace you found at a garage sale. Men, you may have a special tie clasp or those cuff links from your wedding day. Does your jewelry have a story? Women, men, youth, all are invited. This Saturday event is just for fun. Tickets are \$15, elementary age children, \$5. All proceeds go to Mission Giving. Tickets will soon be available in the Commons. Contact: Kay Ward, 971/255-1430.

THE UMW BOOK GROUP

THE UMW Book Group will meet Wednesday, October 21, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Paula Douholuk will discuss the life, poetry, and blessings of John O'Donohue, author of *Anam Cara: Book of Celtic Wisdom*. Contact: Marion Hollenberg, 503/640-3270. Chair: Sue Fisher

THE RUTH CIRCLE

On Wednesday, October 21, the Ruth Circle will meet at noon in Room 204. Our program, *Lives of Wives*, will feature Kitty Riddle and Pat Rieke. Each will share her life's journey. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

THE UMW PLANNING TEAM

The UMW Planning Team will meet Wednesday, October 28, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 28, at 11:30 AM in room 204. Bring a sandwich for lunch discuss the issues of educating girls and empowering women in the developing world. Members who attended the recent talk by Nicholas Kristof about his newly published book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, will share. Chair: Alyson Inouye, 503/224-9103 or AAInouye@aol.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

This fall, Rev. Lowell Greathouse will offer two mid-week Bible studies on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM in the Church Library. For more information you can contact him at 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

LIVING THE LORD'S PRAYER September 23 - October 21, 2009

In these sessions, we will explore the fifty plus words attributed to Jesus in "The Lord's Prayer" according to the Gospel of Matthew (6:9-13). What does Jesus teach us about God and life through this prayer? How can we use them to deepen our own relationship with God and with each other? What do these simple petitions tell us about the nature of the spiritual life?

PRAYING THE PSALMS October 28, 2009 - January 27, 2010

Over the years, the Psalms have been used for devotional reading, as an expression of a range of human emotions and yearnings, and as a window into God's nature. In these sessions, we will explore the Psalms and utilize them as a way to deepen our own spiritual formation process and open ourselves to the various meanings of prayer. Join us on this journey into the soul of the beloved community.

this and that at first church

CHINOOK BOOKS IN THE COMMONS IN COLLINS HALL

Join us In Collins Hall after church each Sunday for coffee and treats, and pick up a 2009-2010 *Chinook Book* while you're at it. The new book features coupons from Amtrak and Tri-Met, Pastini's and Elephants, REI, Miller Paint, and scores of additional eco-friendly businesses. Interspersed among the coupons are tips on how to live a more earth friendly life. Books are \$20 and proceeds go to support the environmental work of Planet Church.

THE FLU CLINIC AT FIRST UMC BEEN CANCELED

Our flu vaccination clinic providers, Get A Flu Shot.com, informed us that they will be unable to provide our clinic as scheduled due to lack of available vaccine. They cited several reasons for this unusual event, including an unprecedented early demand for seasonal flu vaccines and the challenge for manufacturers to keep up with demand for both seasonal flu and H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine. We apologize for any inconvenience and encourage individuals to obtain their flu vaccine from another source. If you have questions, contact: Debby Fisher 503/645-4802 or mfisher2@msn.com

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

350.org is the name of a movement organizing an International Day of Climate Action on Saturday, October 24, 2009. So far at least 1,564 events in 122 countries are planned to raise awareness of this looming crisis and to build support for decisive action by global leaders as they prepare for the UN International Climate Conference at Copenhagen in December. Portland event is being sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power and Light along with the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability in cooperation with many other concerned groups. Our Planet Church Committee urges your participation on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Pioneer Courthouse Square where we will be raising awareness through music, dance, art and speakers.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Tom Foster. For more details contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE NOVEMBER 8, 2009

You are invited to the Library Used Book Sale on Sunday, November 8, 2009, in Collins Hall following worship. It's not too late to donate books to the sale. If you have any questions, please check with the Sunday Librarian or call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761. The proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library.

COMING
SOON



SAFE SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY: OCTOBER 25, 2009

Parents and kids are invited to attend the Safe Space Halloween Party on Sunday, October 25, 2009! We will have games, crafts, and activities for kids of all ages. This will not be a scary or spooky time, rather a wonderful opportunity to show off costumes and eat candy! Join us in room 202 at 5:00 PM for a fun and exciting evening. Youth should arrive at 4:00 PM for set up.

the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

This past week I had the privilege of hearing Bishop Robert Schnase speak at Bishop Hoshibata's Symposium in LaGrande. Bishop Schnase has written a very helpful book related to church renewal and being a vibrant congregation. The book is entitled *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. In it he says: "Once our mission becomes practical and personal, it becomes memorable and achievable ... Followers of Christ aspire to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. They do so by repeating, learning, and deepening their personal practice of gracious hospitality, by placing themselves regularly under the influence of God's Spirit in worship, by intentionally seeking to grow in Christ-likeness through learning in community, and by practicing compassion and generosity in concrete ways." (*Five Principles of Fruitful Congregations*, page 8) Bishop Schnase reminded us at our gathering in LaGrande that these qualities have both individual and collective dimensions ... and that we all have a role to play in being fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ.

festival of faith



FESTIVAL OF FAITH

The Fourth Annual Festival of Faith will be held Sunday, November 8, 2009 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave, Portland. Come HEAR the stories as told by teachers from many religions. TASTE the food of faith traditions from around the world. ENJOY the music. We will start with a Buddhist prayer of blessing and end with a rousing Gospel choir. This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland. Contact them at 503/238-1155 or visit their website at: www.ifcgp.org.

welcome
to new
staff



A NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that Jeri Shumate will be the new Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services at First Church, beginning October 15, 2009. Jeri brings with her a rich background and knowledge of the Portland metro area. She was the Executive Director of 211 Info from its inception in April 2003 until June of this year. 211 is the call center system that handles all information and referral calls for the Portland metro area and responds to over 100,000 calls for assistance annually. It is the primary resource of information for those seeking assistance of any kind. In addition, Jeri has been the Program Manager for information and referral at Human Services Council in Vancouver, Washington, the Outreach Coordinator for Senior Services for the YWCA of Greater Portland, and the Group Services Coordinator for Youth Services at the YWCA in Clark County. She has a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Missouri.

Jeri is married to Brad Shumate and together they have two grown daughters, Lauren and Bree. The family moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1988 and never wants to leave. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Jeri and welcome her to our church community. She'll be available in The Commons on Sunday, October 18, 2009.

third grade Bible presentations

Sunday, October 11, 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 October 28, 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 Charles Thomas, who died on October 2, 2009. Charles was the brother of Nancy Nordwall ...

Julie & Brent McMorris, in the death of their sister-in-law, Sharon, in Bend, Oregon ...

Ferol McClure, in the death of her cousin, Arlene Kohlruss, in California ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Rick Walton, who is home after a recent hospitalization ...

Eleanor Stubbs, who is recovering from a fall ...

Albert Laney Jr., who is having surgery this week ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Bill Connor, Christopher Stanley, and Jay Stewart ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

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

notes of gratitude

thank you

THANK YOU FROM PEG COOK

I was feeling a little apprehensive as I was being prepared for surgery so I was mighty glad to see The Rev. Foster come walking in. He has been so faithful to keep in touch with Bernie and me. I really appreciated his prayers as well as all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, and a special visit from Trudy Kayser with a beautiful prayer shawl from my UMW sisters.

My heartfelt thank you to all.

Peg Cook.

THANK YOU FROM THE NORDWALLS

Thank you to the many people that sent us cards, the staff that went above and beyond, and to UMW and their committee who arranged the reception. It brought so much comfort to our whole family. Our most sincere gratitude.

Jonas and Nancy Nordwall

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Cake and coffee will be served in Commons in Collins after worship on Sunday, October 18, 2009 in honor of National Church Business Administration Day. Come help us celebrate and enjoy a piece of cake with your coffee or punch.