



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 28, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1**
Sunday Worship at
10:30 AM
Holy Communion
All-Saints Day

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 8**
Sunday Worship at
10:30 AM

Shelter Open House



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



FAMILY SHELTER

a new season to begin

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter opens on November 1, 2009. The season promises to be more exciting, longer, and more helpful to homeless families with children than ever before!

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Second Annual Auction. It was a smashing success. We had hoped to raise \$22,000, instead we raised \$41,000! This is all thanks to you and your generous donations and support.

Another exciting piece of news ... our Director, Brandi Tuck, won the Willamette Week's Skidmore Prize, a prize for individuals under the age of 35 who are making a difference in the nonprofit world. The prize includes: Goose Hollow Family Shelter being featured in *Willamette Week's Give Guide*, an article about Brandi and the shelter, and a personal grant of \$4,000 to Brandi. Congratulations! Well done.

When we open on November 1, 2009, we'll be staying open until May 31, 2010, an extra month longer. This is made possible by a generous donation by the National Council for Jewish Women. We'll need volunteers to fill these extra spots, so we look forward to seeing you for even longer this year.

On November 2, 2009 we will be opening a brand new day shelter for homeless families at the First Unitarian Church of Portland. It is called the 13 Salmon Family Center. It is a partnership between Portland Homeless Family Solutions (the new nonprofit created to manage Goose Hollow), Goose Hollow Family Shelter, Human Solutions, Multnomah County, and the First Unitarian Church of Portland. We have volunteer opportunities available at the day shelter and we encourage you to check it out this season!

We have hired many new staff people: Allie, Amber, Mary, Mike, and Steph and we're welcoming back Davin, who was a shelter manager last year. With all this wonderful news and excitement, we encourage you to check out the Goose Hollow Family Shelter this season and help us out by volunteering. You can sign up to volunteer at www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org or by contacting Allie at 503/915-8307 or allie@goosehollowfamilyshelter.org. You can always get in touch with Brandi for any reason at the new shelter phone number: 503/915-8306 or brandi@goosehollowfamilyshelter.org. Thanks for your continued support of the shelter, and we look forward to sharing this exciting year with you!

We invite you all to join us on November 8, 2009 after worship for a Goose Hollow Family Shelter Open House. It will give you a chance to meet staff, hear about all this exciting news in person, and find out about volunteering at the shelter!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Medical research is only beginning to uncover the secrets of our DNA—the bio-chemical threads that hold the key to so much of our physical nature and future. Congregations have a “DNA” as well—only it’s not biological but spiritual. That’s what captivates Robert Norton and Richard Southern. A few years ago they wrote:

“In your congregation’s DNA is encoded your genetic blueprint: your spiritual heritage, how you grow, how you handle challenges, and how you can fulfill your higher potential to be what God has called you to be.”

(Norton, Robert, Southern, Richard, *Cracking your Congregation’s Code: Mapping your Spiritual DNA to create your future*, JosseyBass, San Francisco, 2001 p.3)

Our new leadership structure asks the Parish Conference to lead us to plan and prepare for First UMC’s future. There are two steps: discovering who we are—what is the code of our ‘spiritual DNA’; and, then, discerning what God is calling us to be and do. Eventually all of us will be involved in the process.

Though the Parish Conference has only met three times, they have already engaged the task. Our Lay Leader, Debby Fisher, is gathering data from a dozen or more sources, sifting through the facts, and looking for patterns that can provide accurate data for mapping our unique spiritual code. She is only in the first days of that task, but already discovering some intriguing things.

I’ve asked her to share some of them with you. Here is what she wrote:

“The newly established Parish Conference is looking at trends and data from recent years as we enter into a discussion of the following questions,

Who are we? Who is First Church in the year 2009? What is our congregational signature . . . as a faith community . . . to others in the wider community . . . and to our visitors and guests?

We are just beginning this process and as one of your lay leaders, I wanted to share a few initial impressions with you. Did you know that:

- *41 new members joined the church this past year ...*
- *On any given Sunday, we have anywhere from 4 to 13 children in the nursery ...*
- *Our average Sunday attendance is about 350 ...*
- *We have had 40 baptisms in the past 3 years ...*
- *In 2008, UMW had 94 members, as compared to 83 in 2007 ...*
- *Our members live in 68 different zip code areas ...*
- *103 members of First Church volunteered at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter last year ...*

We hope that our discussion of these current trends and data lead us to ask helpful questions and to have spirited dialogue about the church and our desired direction as we continue our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

(2008 *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, TN.)

Thanks for your good work, Debby, I’m looking forward to learning more!

See you in Church!

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.

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. The class is studying the *Book of Job* with guidance by David Hester's, *Job*, published in the Interpretation Bible Series.

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

NOVEMBER UNIT GATHERING

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 10:00 AM the Unit Gathering will meet in the Fireside Room. After the monthly business meeting, a panel discussion led by Marilyn Outsley will share information on the *Beauty and Courage of Sudan*, ideas gleaned from last summer's School of Christian Mission. Come prepared for our annual pledge service led by treasurer, Peggy Cook. Contact: Marilyn Outsley, 503/649-9801.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will celebrate World Community Day on Friday, November 6, 2009, at Hughes Memorial UMC, 111 NE Failing Street, Portland, OR. The theme *Piecing Earth Together* will be an intense look at how we can pray, study, and act together to express care for all of God's creation. Registration is at 9:30 AM. Donations of baby items and clothing for teen parents are gladly accepted. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare: 503/292-1773.

consider becoming a youth volunteer

The youth program at First Church is at an important turning point. We have so much to offer to our talented, curious, delightful youth and they need you more than ever. If you have ever considered volunteering, but don't know how or what to do consider these volunteer opportunities:

Sunday School Teacher: Facilitate the use and study of youth specific curriculum

Bible Study Leader: Facilitate the study of particular texts and biblical themes

Youth Group Leader: Plan and attend Thursday night youth programs

Event Coordinator: Help plan fund raisers, day trips, fun programming

Chaperone (day events): Provide a ride and helping hands for events like bowling, lunch, movies, go karts, skating, etc.

Chaperone (for Lock-Ins): Stay the night in the church, watching movies, playing games and baking brownies.

Snack Provider: Plan and bring snacks to youth events and/or youth group.

Meal Provider: Prepare and serve a meal to the youth on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM.

Please consider this an opportunity to be in ministry with the future of the church. Think about it, pray about it, talk about it. Search your hearts for understanding of a new generation. You will not regret it! For more information or to volunteer call Megan Humphreys-Loving at 502/228-3195 ext 227.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Lowell Greathouse is leading a Bible study 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.

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

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

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. Learn about First UMC, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be offered after the worship service on Sunday, November 1, 2009. For information or to register contact the church office at 503/228-3195. A light luncheon is served and child care is available.

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.

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE

As a connectional church, "conferencing" has a special place in the life of United Methodism. Each year at First Church we have one or more "annual" all church conferences in order to review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by our church leadership to further our work. Please plan to come to our annual Fall Church Conference meeting with District Superintendent Bonnie Parr Philipson on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at noon in the Chapel.

Thank you to all who made Consecration Sunday such a special time. As of Consecration Sunday we have received \$542,632 in commitments from 214 membership units (individuals and families). We have reached 62% of our goal of \$880,000--a goal that, when reached, will allow the Church to continue its current programming and staffing.

Of course it is not too late to get in your estimates by turning in the estimate of giving card or letting the Church office know of your intentions. Members of our financial campaign committee will be calling members who have not yet indicated whether or not they will be supporting the 2010 campaign. So, to save us a call to you, and you receiving a call from us, please do let us know of your intentions.

Again, thanks so much for your support.

Don Riggs
For the Financial Campaign Committee

in times
like these,
people like you ...

SHINE!

the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

It's wonderful to be in the presence of a thoughtful writer such as Anne Lamott. Her books *Traveling Mercies* and *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* are two wonderful resources to help us navigate the struggles that are a part of our world. Susan and I often share quotes from things we are reading with each other. Recently, she shared these words from Anne Lamott, and I've been pondering them ever since:

"...The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns. Faith also means reaching deeply within, for the sense one was born with, the sense, for example, to go for a walk."

(*Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, pages 256-57)



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.

HARVEST OF HOPE BREAKFAST

You are invited to the Seventh Annual Harvest of Hope Breakfast on Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM at First Church in Collins Hall. The following will receive 2009 Harvest of Hope Awards for their work in combating hunger: Pastor Patty Campbell-Schmitt, SW Hope-Feed the Hungry ... Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Oregon State Senator ... Rev. John Pitney, That's My Farmer ... Heather Thompson, Tualatin Valley Gleaners. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Director of the Oregonian Department of Human Resources. Breakfast tickets are \$12.00, registration deadline is November 2. To register call 503/295-6761 or email: info@oajconline.org.

a forums @ first



FORUM AT FIRST: CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

On Sunday, November 8, 2009, Lynn Magnuson, Church World Service Regional Director, will present an informative forum on Church World Service, after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch will be provided. She will share how our church is working through Church World Service in some of the most poverty stricken areas of our world. CWS is 35 denominations working together in the areas of refugee work, disaster relief, and international long-term development and is the vehicle through which much of our UMCOR work is accomplished. Lynn also serves the UM Pacific Northwest Annual Conference as Coordinator for Immigration/Refugee Concerns.

PROFILES IN SERVICE

On Sunday, November 22, 2009 for Profiles in Service, after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch will be provided. Come hear the stories of First Church people living out their faith in the community and world. This forum will feature: Bob Wilson and Yvonne Williams.

travel @ first

THE GROTTO

On Monday, December 7, 2009 First United Methodist Church will carpool at 2:00 PM to the Grotto for a guided 90 minute tour of the Plaza level and Upper Level of these magnificent grounds. At 4:00 PM we go off grounds and have a light supper to return at 5:00 PM for the special Christmas *Festival of Lights*. Cost is \$12.00 per person to include elevator fee and admission to the Festival. Supper is at your own expense. Registration deadline is November 15, 2009. To register contact the church office at 503/228-3195 or office@fumcpdx.org.

The Grotto offers a spectacular natural gallery in the woods with beautifully sculpted statues and shrines nestled among towering firs and flower-lined pathways and is a Christmas time favorite.

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 November 11, 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 Bill Connor, who died on October 25, 2009. Bill's service will be Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary ...

Roland & Amanda Clarke, on the recent death of Amanda's sister, Shahas, in North Carolina ...

The Rev. Al & Pat Rieke, in the recent death of Pat's father, Donald Paul ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Bill Hill, who is recovering at Evergreen Rehab from a fall and broken hip ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Albert Laney, 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

farmers' table

a report

FARMERS TABLE

The rainy weather has brought our Farmers Table to a close for this year. We'll miss it but we are thankful for what we have been able to accomplish ...

We have helped support our farmer Yua Lo, a Hmong refugee, and her extended family, as we enjoyed locally grown vegetables and beautiful flower bouquets.

Thanks to the generosity of Yua Lo, and our financial donations, we have given 719 pounds of produce from the Farmers Table to the NW Portland Ministries Emergency Food Box program! And we've also donated 81 bouquets of flowers!

Well done, First Church!



On Saturday, October 31, 2009 ... before you go to bed ... be sure and set your clocks back one hour for the end of Day Light Savings!