



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 6, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 01

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

10:30 AM
EACH
SUNDAY
MORNING

Sunday,
January 17, 2010
*Human Relations
Day Offering*



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

TEN GREAT WAYS TO GROW IN

2010

01

**JOIN AN
ADULT
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
CLASS**

See the new study
topics inside!

02

**ATTEND A SUNDAY FORUM
AFTER WORSHIP**

Topics range from homelessness to global
missions

04

DISCOVER PORTLAND

Tour the White Stag Blocks
in February

03

**SERVE IN THE
COMMUNITY**

The next Oregon Food
Bank Service Day will
be in March 2010.

05

**DIG DEEPER INTO
BIBLE STUDY**

Join a group for Bible
Study each Wednesday
night

06

**JOIN THE
CHANCEL
CHOIR**

All singers
are welcome!

07

JOIN THE CHURCH

A First Church
Orientation for new
members will be held
in January

10

08

**DISCOVER
A NEW BOOK**

Visit the First
Church Library
and peruse the
stacks for a
new read!

09

**MAKE NEW
FRIENDS**

Come to the
Commons in
Collins Hall
after worship

**FIND
A QUIET
PLACE**

Pray daily for
world peace!



If a well-heeled foundation offered you \$100,000 and promised to grant one wish that would change the world, what would your wish be? That's what theologian, historian, author Karen Armstrong had to decide two years ago when she was honored by the prestigious TED Foundation. Her wish took their breath away:

"I wish that you would help with the creation, launch and propagation of a Charter for Compassion, crafted by a group of leading inspirational thinkers from the three Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and based on the fundamental principles of universal justice and respect." (Feb. 28, 2008)

In the months that followed she gathered religious luminaries such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, South African Methodist Bishop Peter Storey (who spoke at First UMC a few years ago), Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan, the Dalai Lama, Queen Ramia of Jordan and others to hammer out the document. On November 12, 2009 the Charter was unveiled during simultaneous launch events in major cities around the world. It read:

Charter for Compassion
A call to bring the world together ...

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and emphatically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion — to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures — to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

Since its launch hundreds of thousands of people from diverse nations and traditions have endorsed it. A copy and their names have been sent to leaders of nations engaged in armed conflicts. That is only the beginning. I encourage you to find out more—perhaps sign on for yourself—at the effort's web site: charterforcompassion.org.

Maybe wishes can come true!

See you in Church,
Arvin



Here is the standard and ongoing First Church Youth schedule for those in grades six through twelve:

SUNDAYS

9:30 AM in Room 209
Middle School Youth

9:30 AM in Youth Room
High School Youth

9:30 AM in Room 160
Confirmation Class
(January 10 - April 18, 2010)

12:00 PM in Youth Room
Middle School Youth Squad

THURSDAYS

6:00 PM in Youth Room
High School Youth

7:00 PM in Collins Hall
Youth Meal

7:30 PM in 202
juBELLation



There will be a Youth Lock-In on Sunday, January 17, 2010. Meet at the church at 8:00 PM. The cost is \$10.00.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010

Faith and Public Life Adult Sunday School Series

This class meets each week from 9:15 to 10:15AM in the Fireside Room

Session 1: When Cultures Collide: Missionaries and Indigenous People in Alaska and British Columbia. Presented by Leif Terdal

Leif Terdal has traveled through SE Alaska a number of times with his 26' diesel powered boat. During his trips he has covered the exact missionary route taken by Rev. S Hall Young and the naturalist John Muir in 1879. They travelled by canoe. Leif has attended the first American Protestant Church founded in Alaska, and has interviewed ministers as well as the granddaughter of the last Chief of the Tlingit tribe in Wrangell. The granddaughter spoke of the impact of the missionary effort on her people.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010

Confirmation Classes Begin

Confirmation Classes will begin Sunday, January 10, 2010 and conclude with Confirmation Sunday on April 18, 2010. This is for students 7th Grade and older.

Please let Lowell Greathouse know if you are interested in being a part of this program.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010

Forum: Perspectives on Homelessness

This forum will be held at 12:00 PM in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care will be provided.

The Church & Society Committee will host this forum on homelessness and will feature speakers offering three distinct perspectives on the issue: a representative from the City of Portland will talk about the history of The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and their progress so far, an individual who has experienced homelessness will share their story, and a person working with Portland's homeless community will talk about volunteer and advocacy opportunities. Following the speakers there will be a short discussion on First Church's role and an opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

Kinnamon Lecture

Join us for a conversation with Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, on "Ecumenical Happenings, Interfaith Relations & the Future of the Church" at First Church from 3:00 to 5:30 PM in the chapel.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

Wednesday Night Bible Study

This Bible Study will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Library

Rev. Lowell Greathouse will lead this weekly Bible Study series in which we will examine the lives and stories of different interesting characters from the Bible and discuss what each of them teach us about living a life of faith. We will begin with Paul's letter to Philemon, then jump back to look at Esther's life, and then spend some time with Jonah. Later in the study we will open it to selections made by members of the class. Come and be a part of this exploration of our faith ancestors.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

JANUARY

January 17

Martin Luther King Day
Sunday

Human Relations Offering

Let's Make Change:
The Oregon Food Bank

FEBRUARY

February 7

Reconciling Sunday

FISH Sunday

Communion Sunday

February 14

Scouting Ministries Sunday

February 21

Library Used Book Sale

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010

Metro District "Nuts and Bolts" Training at First Church

This District-wide session is designed to help church leaders learn about a variety of functions that are a part of life in the local church. Worship begins at 9:30 AM with workshops from 10:30 to noon. Contact the Metro District or the church office if you would like to attend.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Faith and Public Life: The Parliament of the World's Religions

In this three-part series, January 17, 24, and 31, Rev. Lowell Greathouse will share images, insights, and experiences from his participation in The Parliament of the World's Religions event in Melbourne, Australia held in December 2009. We will explore what is taking place in the inter-faith dialogues, potential points of connection among faiths, and things we can learn from the elders of other traditions, especially indigenous leaders.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Forum: An Update on Guatemala

In this forum, Juan Toj, representing Salud y Paz Clinic, will describe its mission projects from an indigenous Mayan perspective. He will update us on the new Susanna Wesley preschool and other facets of Salud y Paz. Juan serves as the administrator for the program and has an incredible life story to share. He comes from the Guatemalan city of Chichicastenango, where he lives with his family. The Global Missions Committee will serve soup and bread for lunch.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010

Friends and Fun Karaoke Gathering

Join the fun from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for Karaoke at the Voicebox. Child care will be provided at the church. RSVP to Megan Humphreys-Loving by January 17, 2010.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

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. 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.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

Faith and Public Life Series

This class meets each week from 9:15 to 10:15AM in the Fireside Room. Doug Force continues the dialogue on indigenous cultures and peoples.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

White Stag Block Tour

The tour is free of charge; individuals will be responsible for MAX fare and the cost of lunch. Register early with the church office; the deadline is January 31, 2010 with a limit of 15 participants. (See page 3 of the Circuit Rider for full details.)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

There will be a Lenten Supper at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall followed by worship in the Chapel at 7:00 PM. Lenten Suppers run from February 17 through March 24, 2010. More details to come!

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202

This class is beginning a new book: *Eternal Life A New Vision* by John Spong

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134

This class is open to all who seek 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 class is beginning a new book: *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson.

FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

This class meets each week from 9:15 to 10:15AM in the Fireside Room

See the 2010 Winter Program Guide for details.

umw

All women are invited to attend the following activities. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we participate in mission with women, children, and youth at home and abroad. President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

UMW BOOK GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 20, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Greg Mortenson's new book, *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books Not bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, picks up where *Three Cups of Tea* leaves off and focuses on efforts in Afghanistan and the earthquake area of Azad Kashmir. Chair, Sue Fisher.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, January 20, at noon in Room 204. The theme will be "Sharing Moments." Come, share the story of a special event in your life. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

METRO DISTRICT EVENT

On Saturday, February 6, 2010 the Metro District Every Member Enrichment Event will be at First UMC, Portland.

this and that

WHITE STAG BLOCK TOUR

Discover the beauty and charm of Portland's historic Old Town with a professional tour of the White Stag Block renovated with 'green building' innovation to now house the Portland campus of the University of Oregon. The tour will be conducted by John Woelfle of the U of O staff, followed by lunch at the famous Dan and Louis Oyster Bar Seafood Restaurant. Meet at First United Methodist Church at 9:45 AM to ride the MAX to the tour site. The tour begins at 10:30 AM. The tour is free of charge. Individuals will be responsible for MAX fare and the cost of lunch. Registration deadline is January 31, 2010 with a limit of 15 participants. Call the church office at 503/228-3195 to register.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Church Library's second ("Clearance") Book Sale is set for February 21, 2010 in Collins Hall after church. If you are in "clearance mode" yourself after the holidays, we welcome donations of used books, which can be dropped off at the library. We cannot accept textbooks, Readers' Digest Condensed Books, or "leftovers" from other large sales. 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, so feel free to use the "Suggested Titles" sheets in the library and in The Commons to let us know of books you'd like to see in our collection.

the edge

thoughts for the journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

As the New Year begins, I'm interested in exploring new ways for First Church to be known for our collective practices. Currently, I'm finishing Diana Butler Bass' book *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*. In it she shares a number of examples of main-line churches throughout the United States that are alive, growing, and intentional in their practices, these include: Church of the Epiphany in Washington, DC, Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara, California, and Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Of this last church, Bass writes that what she learned there was that "... church was about being a community of practice, a place where people learned the art of a way of life through discernment, prayer, and the Christian story as it unfolded through the grace of the church year ... At Holy Family I began to sense the contours of a faithful life—one not defined by strict doctrines and moral certainty but one lived in true friendship and daily practice." (*The Practicing Congregation*, p. 76-77) This isn't a bad way to think about our year ahead as the community of faith known as First Church. May we all experience the blessings of our journey together in 2010.

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 January 20, 2010.

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 ...

Doug Force, in the death of his father, Gerald Force who died on December 26, 2009 ...

The family and friends of Rev. Stanley Andrews, who died on December 26, 2009. Rev. Andrews served as an Associate Pastor at Portland First UMC from 1963 to 1965 ...

The family and friends of Marian Elder; Marian died on December 30, 2009 ...

Janice Gratton, upon the recent death of her brother-in-law, Jim Childress ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Olive Pomeroy, who is now in assisted living at Terwilliger Plaza ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Judi Carpenter, Johnson Doe, Bill Hill, Rene Pino, Marilyn Rinquist, Jay Stewart, and Chet Thomas ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, Steven Johnson, and Michael Panck

thank you

it takes a village ...

FIRST SUNDAY FISH SUNDAY

It takes a "village" to give that box of food to the family who is struggling to put food on the table ...

YOU ...

bring food donations to the church on the first Sunday of every month ...

THE YOUTH ...

load those donations into cars following the worship service ...

DRIVERS ...

deliver those donations to FISH the next day ...

VOLUNTEERS AT FISH ...

unload the cars upon arrival, weigh and shelve the donations.

It takes many hands! Thanks for your part in the success of our FISH Sunday food drives.