



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 20, 2010  
Volume 14, Issue 02

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday,  
January 24, 2010

Worship celebrating  
Prayers for  
Christian  
Unity. We will  
worship in the  
sanctuary.



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**

# ALL ARE WELCOME IN GOD'S FAMILY RECONCILING SUNDAY

February 7, 2010

Our annual Reconciling Sunday celebration gives us the opportunity to reiterate our commitment to inclusiveness. Traditionally, Reconciling Sunday has been a time when we celebrate welcoming LGBT persons into our faith community, but should our commitment end there? At its core, the reconciling movement is not limited to the LGBT community; rather it seeks to embrace all who have been alienated from God's church. Join us on Sunday February 7, 2010 as we affirm our reconciling pledge.

## EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN HAITI

update on page six

**Bishop  
Hoshibata**



January 15, 2010

Dear Members and Friends of  
First United Methodist Church of Portland:

Grace and peace to you from God, and from Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, "God-with-us!" In this season of Epiphany, as we rejoice in the mission of the Church, I give thanks for the faithful ways you are revealing God's love to the world.

I am writing to you today with news about an upcoming change in appointment for your Associate Pastor, the Rev. Lowell Greathouse. As you know, United Methodist clergy are itinerant, which means they are appointed to serve local churches one year at a time. Lowell has served you well for the past five years, and now it is my intention to appoint Lowell as Assistant to the Bishop, assigned to the Metro District of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, effective July 1, 2010. I hope this will be an exciting new opportunity for Lowell, where he will be able to share his considerable gifts for community development, visionary leadership and compassionate administration, as a member of the Cabinet.

I understand that this decision may cause you grief at First Church. Please be assured that your Superintendent, the Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, will consult with your Senior Pastor, and your Staff-Parish Relations Committee as the Cabinet considers who your next associate pastor will be. I trust that you will find ways to express your appreciation to Lowell and Susan for their service to your church and community and that you will hold them, along with your church, in prayer during this time of transition. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact a member of your Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry with many new opportunities for service and growth.

In Christ's shalom,

Robert T. Hoshibata,  
Resident Bishop  
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church



**Rev. Dr.  
Lowell  
Greathouse**

Dear Members and Friends of First Church Portland:

As I said on Sunday after Bishop Hoshibata's letter was read to the congregation regarding my new appointment, I am not only honored and humbled by his invitation to serve the annual conference in this way, but I was also very surprised. The past five years at First Church have been a wonderful experience in ministry. We have done a number of amazing things as a congregation and grown in many ways together. This is something to celebrate! First Church is a great church with a very dedicated and talented ministry team. The church is ready to move forward in significant ways as 2010 begins. I will be sad not to be a part of the good things that are yet to come, but I am eager to see your fruitfulness continue to grow.

However, I am also very excited by the opportunity and challenge to work among the local churches of the Metro District to see how we can make a difference collectively in the various communities in which we are located, during the difficult times in which we live. There is much to do as we seek to heal our communities, impact the cause of justice in a meaningful ways, and encourage a deeper sense of spiritual well-being and compassionate living in our world. As people of faith and congregations in the United Methodist tradition, I am hopeful that we can make a positive contribution as followers of Jesus Christ.

Let us keep one another in prayer as we move forward in the days ahead and prepare First Church to be a place of welcome and community as a new Minister of Discipleship joins the First Church ministry team. We will have many opportunities to say the good-byes that need to be said before July. I look forward to the work we still have to do in the coming months and to our conversations with each other.

Blessings,  
Lowell

# adult sunday school classes

## CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

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

This class is discussing the book: *Eternal Life A New Vision* by John Spang

## 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 studying the 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

### **The Parliament of the World's Religions** (January 17, 24 & 31)

In this three-part series, 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.

### **A Dialogue on Indigenous Cultures** (February 7)

Doug Force will be telling the story of "She Who Watches," the petroglyph just west of Horse Thief Lake on the Washington side of the Columbia River. The short discussion that follows will focus on the universal theme of the earth mother/provider, as well as comparing and contrasting the story in the Native American tradition and the Christian tradition. We'll also look at the role of "Coyote" in the story and ask how this would effect our traditions if it were in the Bible.

# umw mission fair & forum

## BUILDING UPON OUR MISSION FOUNDATION

Saturday, February 6, 2010 in Collins Hall, there will be a Metro District United Methodist Women Mission Fair and Forum. Come, get the latest information about that group of women organized for mission in each congregation. UMW had its beginnings in 1869 and currently has one million members world-wide who raise nearly \$25 million each year in support of mission work, especially the needs of women, children, and youth. Registration begins at 8:30 in Collins Hall with coffee and fellowship. For more information: Trudy Kayser, 503-29-7528



# 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 around the world. President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

## THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, January 27, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, January 27, at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Colleen Foster will lead a discussion on Sudan, one of the School of Christian Mission study topics. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Chair: Alyson Inouye.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The Unit Gathering will meet Wednesday, February 3, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM. After the business meeting, the program theme will be "Together at the Table—Food and Faith." This School of Christian Mission study will be led by Colleen Foster and Melba Rizzo. At noon the aromas of stew simmering and bread baking will lead us to tables where we'll enjoy a hearty lunch. Be thinking of your favorite foods, possibly from your ethnic heritage. You're invited to bring along some cans of food or a donation for the Oregon Food Bank. Also, bring an apron and come hungry!

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, February 5, Church Women United will meet at First AME Zion Church, 4304 N Vancouver Avenue. The speaker for Black History Month will be the Rev. Renee Ward. Registration is at 9:30 AM. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare

# church library book sale

## 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

I've always been interested in sports. In fact, my parents used to say that I was born with a basketball and a baseball mit in my hands....I still read the sports section page-by-page each day. I find that when sports is seen as a form of art that there are always lots of life lessons to be had. One of the great sports teachers is John Wooden, who coached the UCLA basketball team for many years and won 10 NCAA basketball championships in 12 years, including winning 88 straight games at one point. ESPN named him Coach of the Century and the UCLA/Anderson School of Management recently established the John Wooden Global Leadership program. John Wooden is one of the great teachers of life through the art of sports. I'm currently reading his insightful book, *Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court*. Here is an example of his sports/life wisdom: "Early on I came to believe that you should learn as if you were going to live forever, and live as if you were going to die tomorrow. What does this mean? In the simplest way, I would explain it like this. Always be learning, acquiring knowledge, and seeking wisdom with a sense that you are immortal and that you will need much knowledge and wisdom for that long journey ahead. Know that when you are through learning, you are through. But I want to live that life as if I were going to die tomorrow: with relish, immediacy, and the right priorities. I also will not waste even a minute." (*Wooden*, page 30) John Wooden will be 100 years old in October of this year.

# please take note

## FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

On Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 PM in Room 110, there will be a 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.

## THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Rev. Lowell Greathouse. For more information contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775.9356.

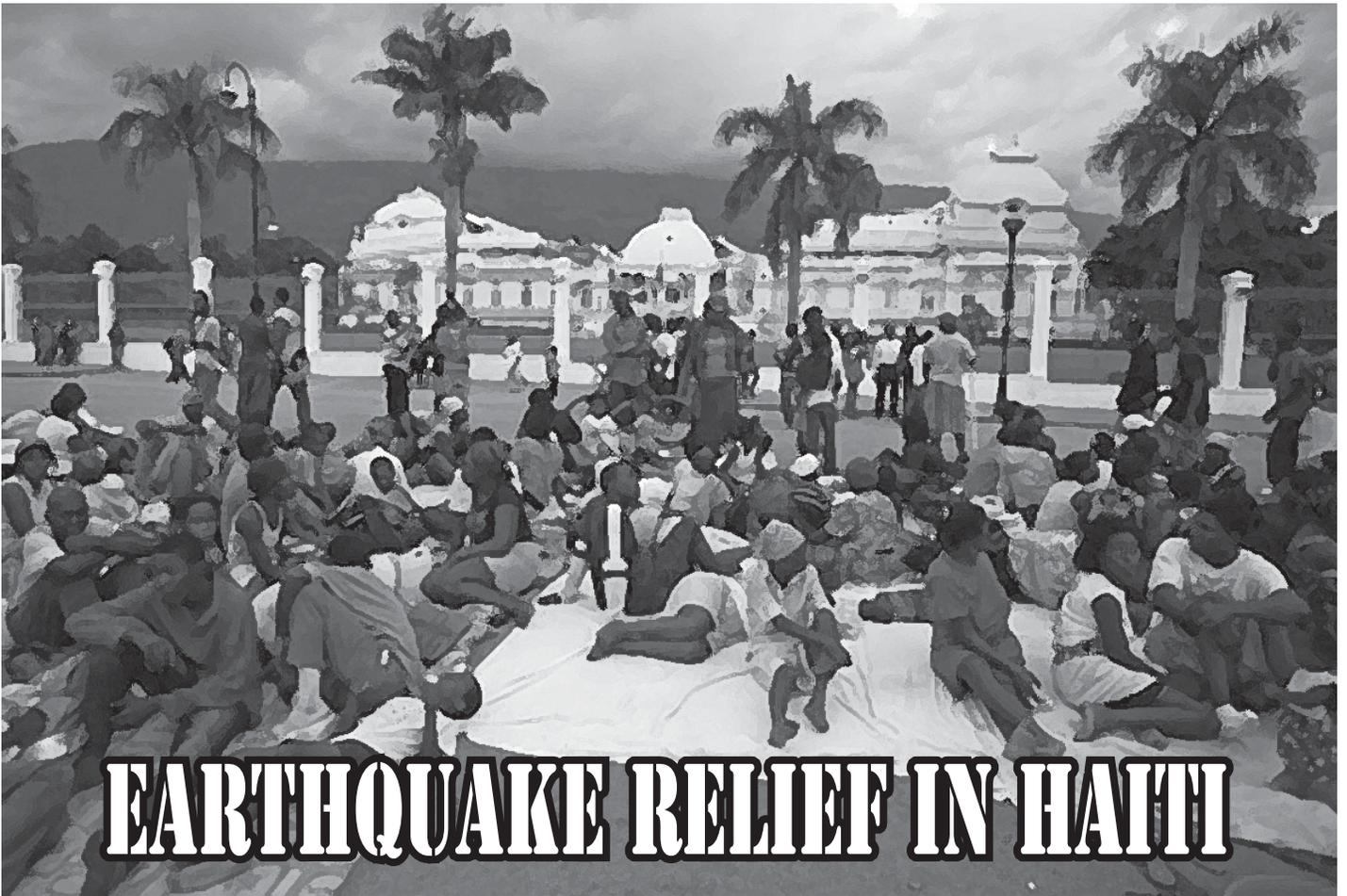
## BOOK GROUPS

First Church has a number of new book groups that meet on a regular basis. There is an All-Comer's Book Group, a Young Women's Book Group (for women in their 20s and 30s), and a Men's Book Group. If you are interested in learning more about any of these groups or would like to participate, contact the Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 x224 or [Lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:Lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org) It's a great way to meet others from First Church.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



This Bible Study meets 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.



# EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN HAITI

## UNITED METHODIST RESPONSE

Tragedy struck the already-beleaguered nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. The magnitude-7 earthquake effectively flattened the capital city of Port-au-Prince, affecting an estimated 3 million people and killing untold tens of thousands. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already responding. "UMCOR has always had a strong presence in Haiti," UMCOR executive Tom Hazelwood said. "With this tragedy, we'll just be redoubling our efforts, and we'll be calling on people across the country to help us."

## GIVE GENEROUSLY

Your contributions are needed. Please make your check to: Portland First UMC and in the memo portion of the check on an envelope mark: HAITI.



*create a*  
**HEALTH  
KIT**

## FIRST CHURCH TO SEND HEALTH KITS TO HAITI

UMCOR has requested that local churches create Health Kits that can be sent as a part of our disaster response to Haiti. Debby Fisher is coordinating the efforts here at First Church. Please note that the items below must be new and meet the requirements listed:

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Please include \$1.00 for each kit you send for toothpaste that will be purchased in bulk by UMCOR. Donation receptacles will be available in the church narthex.

### 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 February 3, 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 ...

*The family and friends of The Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon.* He died of injuries in the earthquake in Haiti. He was the head of UMCOR and was one of a group of church leaders in the Hotel Montana preparing for a meeting when the earthquake struck.

*The family and friends of The Rev. Clinton Rabb.* He died of injuries in the earthquake in Haiti. He was the leader of the Mission Volunteers program of the Mission Volunteers program of the General Board of Global Missions of the UMC.

*The family and friends of Doug Southgate,* who died on January 5, 2010. He was a former member of Portland First UMC.

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Norma Appel, Norman Freed, and Sharon Paget,* all recovering from surgery ...  
*Al Laney, Jr.,* undergoing chemo and radiation treatments ...  
*Rene Pino,* in the hospital recovering from a fall ...

### WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

*Johnson Doe, Bill Hill, Jay Stewart, and Robert Weber ...*

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

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

## check it out the church library

### BOOKS TO CONSIDER READING

The Church Library is a wonderful resource for books of all types. Consider reading one of the following ...

The commanding *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation* by Naim Stifan Ateek explains reasons for the struggle for justice and why it continues to be elusive. While brutally realistic, it is nevertheless a hopeful book, calling for justice for Palestinians, peace for Israelis and reconciliation for both.

In *The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales*, Peter Rollins writes his vision of faith that has little regard for the institutions of Christendom. Although he sets forth an uncompromising critique of religion, which may be unsettling, the book is infused with an abiding love for what it means to genuinely follow Christ.