



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 28, 2010  
Volume 14, Issue 09

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 2, 2010

10:30 AM  
we will celebrate  
Holy Communion

May 9, 2010

10:30 AM  
Festival of the  
Christian Home



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

## CONFIRMANDS 2010



The following youth  
were confirmed as  
members of First Church  
on Sunday, April 18,  
2010:

Adele English  
Josh Hauser  
Gabriel Kemling  
Isabel Klein  
Kendall Kracke  
Paige Kracke



*thanks*  
SHOVEL  
&  
RAKE

Springtime's beauty reminds us not only of the wonder of God's creation but the amazing work of our Shovel and Rake Gang. Every Thursday a dedicated group of men and women gather to prune, trim, weed, mow, and feed our lawns, gardens and courtyards. On rainy days you can find them around the building straightening the Sanctuary, replacing lights and general maintenance. And at 10:00 AM sharp it's coffee and fellowship. New members are always welcome—just show up! Thanks to you, Shovel and Rake!



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

In March I received a letter from Donna Ward who is District UMW President. It was a notification that our women had once again been honored as a “Mission Today Unit” by the Metropolitan District. That’s no small achievement, sort of like winning not just a single race—but a decathlon. You see, “Mission Today Units” demonstrate a commitment to mission through a year-long program of prayer, study, projects and financial support of missions.

In addition, seven First Church members were honored for their participation in the UMW Reading Program, which is designed to enhance self-knowledge about the issues of the day leading to action.

Then, last Friday noon, a sold-out crowd gathered Collins Hall for the “Celebration in Quilts” luncheon. This annual event is held in cooperation with the fabric artists known as “The Quilters.” Each of their creations is inspired by a common theme. This year’s theme was “Portlandia—Portland is My Home.” Previous years have been inspired by current books like *The Red Tent* and *Three Cups of Tea*. An elegant lunch was followed by a fascinating program as each quilter introduced their quilt and described their approach to their art. It’s a UMW project that has become a tradition at First Church—and even better three quarters of the proceeds are directed to national and international mission efforts.

And on Wednesday, this tireless group will be sending a team to participate in the international “Assembly 2010” in St. Louis, Missouri. The event, held every four years since 1942, gathers more than ten thousand leaders from both the global mission field and from local church UMW groups to celebrate, to lift up, to learn, and to return to their communities better equipped to enable our church to serve in Jesus’ name.

During my years at United Methodist Communications I had two opportunities to attend “Assembly.” They were awesome: a gathering of top flight mission experts, internationally known preachers, musicians and teachers. It’s a non-stop cavalcade of workshops, plenary sessions and dynamic worship for four exhausting days. I envy those attending!

Assembly 2010’s theme is “Faith, Hope, Love in Action.” In a recent e message, Trudy Kayser—one of our UMW’s delegates—explains it was “chosen because it encapsulated the 140 year history of United Methodist Women, it says everything about what is happening on the ground today, and is the momentum for decades to come.” Our team will be in St. Louis from April 30 through May 2, 2010. I look forward to hearing their report!

What an amazing group! Thank you, United Methodist Women—you do us proud!

See you in Church!

*Arvin*

# FILLING THE GAP

## \$15,000 NEEDED

One week into our efforts to overcome the Church’s gap between income and expenses, we have received gifts and pledges of \$5,410 toward our \$30,000 goal. When reached, that will match the \$20,000 challenge posed initially by a few members. We want to help assure a financial bottom line that allows us to keep funding our worship, educational, and outreach ministries. That next \$15,000 we need to raise is very important in meeting our obligations, especially in these challenging times. Please join us in stepping up to this challenge, as you are able, to keep our ministries strong! Gift/pledge cards are in the pew racks, if you need one. Please send your response to the church office or use the collection plate next Sunday! Thank you.

Don Riggs  
Chair,  
Financial Campaign  
Committee

# ADULT sunday school classes

umw

UNITED  
METHODIST  
WOMEN

## CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 110. This class is beginning a study of: *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Believe* by Greg Epstein

## 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 currently studying: *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson.

## HOW TO THINK LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI

Sundays, May 2-30, 2010  
9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room

Be a part of this five-part series in which we will utilize Micheal J. Gelb's book, *How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day*. Gelb is a noted Da Vinci scholar and has analyzed the thinking styles and modalities of Leonardo's multifaceted life which demonstrate "genius in abundance." Gelb's conclusion is that, "...the essential elements of Leonardo's d Vinci's approach to learning and the cultivation of intelligence are quite clear and can be studied, emulated and applied." Gelb breaks Da Vinci's thinking into seven distinct principles/themes: Curiosita, Dimostrazione, Sensazione, Sfumato, Arte/Scienza, Corporalita, and Connessione.

Doug Force will be teaching this class, which will offer a brief introduction to these concepts, utilize exercises that illustrate each type of thinking, and discuss the application of these modalities in our everyday lives. Books are available for \$12.00 in the church office.

## DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays, June 6-27, 2010 - 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

"We have been silent witnesses of evil deeds ... Will our inward power of resistance be strong enough for us to find our way back?"  
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In this class, we will explore the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45), who not only was a remarkable German theologian, but was also a central figure in the German Resistance to the Nazis during the time of Adolf Hitler. He was also a founding member of the Confessing Church. He ultimately paid the price for his stand by being executed in 1945 in a German concentration camp. In this class we will see the DVD Bonhoeffer and study his writing about "the cost of discipleship." Gene Gregory will be our teacher.

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

## MAY UNIT MEETING

On Wednesday, May 05, at 10:00 AM the UMW Unit will meet in the Fireside Room. A World Thank offering service will be led by Mary Covert. Later, at 11:00 AM, those who attended the UMW Assembly will share their impressions of this world wide gathering. Bring a sandwich for lunch. The following members attended the April 29 – May 2, 2010 UMW Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri: Megan Humphrey-Loving, Leah Vislisel, Marilyn Outsley, Marion Hollenberg, Ruth Green, Mary Covert, Melba Rizzo, Carrie Saito, Ann Kayser, Trudy and Art Kayser. For more information about the unit meeting contact: Trudy Kayser.

## THE SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will meet Wednesday, May 5 at 1:00 PM in Room 202 as we continue to make receiving blankets for Haiti. The sewing machine donations by Eleanor Stubbs and Wendy Benjamin of The Sewing Room, plus the much needed fabric and yarn given by Caroline Crumpacker are greatly appreciated. Thank you. Chair: Marion Hollenberg.

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, May 7, Church Women United will celebrate May Friendship Day. The theme, *Living the Vision*, will emphasize how women can work together to transform communities. Meet at 9:30 AM. at Ascension Catholic Church, 7507 SE Yamhill, Portland. Attend the celebration and stay for the Salad Potluck lunch. Food for FISH and baby items for Insights Teen Parent Program will be gladly accepted. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare.

## the edge

thoughts for the journey



### REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

In his book entitled *Mentoring*, Edward Sellner reminds us of what Christianity is all about at its core. Here's what he says: "Christianity is not about denying our humanity, but, as the early Church Father Irenaeus said, about humanity 'more fully alive.' Christian spirituality is about being more whole and holy, and as other spiritual traditions affirm, about the discovery, acknowledgement and celebration of the sacred in our midst. It is a lifelong process of increased intimacy not only with God, but with all our brothers and sisters, especially those, the gospel of Jesus reminds us, who are poor, neglected, forgotten, abused. Most especially, Christian spirituality acknowledges how much we have in common with one another." (*Mentoring*, p. 139)

## please take note

items of interest

### DR. LEIF TERDAL TO SPEAK

Dr. Leif Terdal will share the story of his family's escape from Nazi-Occupied Norway at Portland State University's *Friday Night Lecture Series* on May 7, 2010 in Cramer Hall, Room 171 at 7:30 PM. Terdal's mother, Harriet, along with his two brothers were secreted onto a fishing boat just ahead of Nazi authorities and endured a harrowing voyage, first to the Shetland Island and eventually to America. His book, *Our Escape from Nazi-Occupied Norway*, will be available for purchase following the free public lecture.

### EMO COMMUNITY AWARDS AND CELEBRATION DINNER

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will host their Community Awards and Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. The event honors important ministries of churches, organizations, and individuals. It will also feature a farewell address by the current President of EMO, our own Dr. Lowell Greathouse. Portland's First UMC would like to show support of this event by filling more than two tables. Each table seats ten. The tickets are \$60.00 per person. Send your money for tickets to the church office, made out to First UMC and marked: EMO Banquet. Plan on being a part of this enjoyable evening of a Silent Auction and a banquet dinner. If you have questions about this event contact: Cal Brockman, 503/292-6270. Please RSVP by May 18, 2010.

### THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs. For more information contact: Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

### YOUTH BEACH WEEKEND: MAY 14-16, 2010

Our next Youth Beach Weekend will be at Rockaway Beach. The youth will gather at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 14 in the First Church parking lot to depart for the beach. We will make dinner, play games, walk on the beach and talk about our upcoming Youth Sunday. Then on Saturday, we will go to the Tillamook Cheese factory. Beach bonfires and more games and exercise are expected for Saturday! We will have a worship experience on Sunday morning, and depart for home 11:30 AM. We will return to the First Church parking lot by 2:00 PM on Sunday.

If you are a youth interested in joining in the fun, please complete a trip form and medical information form. Both these forms can be found outside Megan's office, hanging on the door. RSVP ASAP- Spots are limited! If you have questions contact: Megan Humphreys-Loving [mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org), 503/228-3195 ext.227.

## beach retreat



## forum @ first

### FORUM RESCHEDULED: CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

On Sunday, May 16, 2010 please join us after church as Church & Society for Social Justice hosts a Forum on "The Charter for Compassion" in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care will be provided. On February 28, 2008 Karen Armstrong won the TED Prize and made a wish: for help creating, launching and propagating a Charter for Compassion. To read the full text of the Charter for Compassion visit the Commons in Collins Hall following worship or visit [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org).



### MISSIONARIES TO SPEAK IN MAY

On Wednesday, May 5, 2010 come for supper in Collins Hall at 5:30 PM. This is your opportunity to talk with our Covenant Missionaries, Gordon & Teca Greathouse. They will be in our area to share the latest developments in their church building programs, and Shade & Fresh Water projects throughout Brazil. The First Church VIM team, led by Lowell Greathouse, is poised to visit this great country in June. We will provide a hearty black bean soup and ask you to bring a salad, side, or dessert.

**BRAZIL  
2010**

*celebrating  
our  
covenant  
relationship*



### SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010

Come one, come all to the Sunday School open house on Sunday, May 16, 2010! Join our volunteer teachers and the Children and Family Ministry Committee on a journey through the halls of First UMC. Pick up a passport, and get stamps for visiting every Sunday School room. If you have never seen inside the rooms of the First Church Sunday school program, this is your opportunity to witness the delight of our Christian education program for children.

The Open House will start immediately following worship. Passports will be available in the hallway, so pick yours up, get your stamps, and then join us in Collins Hall for a reward. Hope to see you Sunday, May 16, 2010.

## the church library



### CHECK IT OUT

*The Church of Facebook: How the Hyperconnected Are Redefining Community* explores online social networks that are connecting people like never before. Yet, says author Jesse Rice, these sites reflect our need for community -- our need for intimacy, connection, and a place to simply belong. Are we seeing the future of the church? Jesse shares what Facebook reveals about us, and what it may mean for the church.

Are you missing the essentials to living a joyful, purpose-filled life? Are you restless in your spirit, with a nagging sense that there must be something more? Author Anne Graham Lutz, as she writes in *The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life*, found her answer in the amazing story of Abraham, a very ordinary man who pursued God in a life of obedient faith, not knowing where that decision would take him.

## hunger matters

### THE CROP HUNGER WALK

The CROP Hunger Walk in the Portland area will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 15, starting from Sellwood Riverfront Park. It will cover 2.5 miles along the Willamette River. You're not a walker? That's quite okay, you can be a sponsor for those who can walk! You can sign up as a walker or a sponsor, at a "CROP Hunger Walk" table in The Commons.

### OREGON FOOD BANK

We will be working at the Oregon Food Bank on May 15, 2010, sign up in the Commons in Collins Hall, following worship, to volunteer.

For more information contact:  
Jeri Shumate at [jshumate@fumcpdx.org](mailto:jshumate@fumcpdx.org).

### 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 May 12, 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:

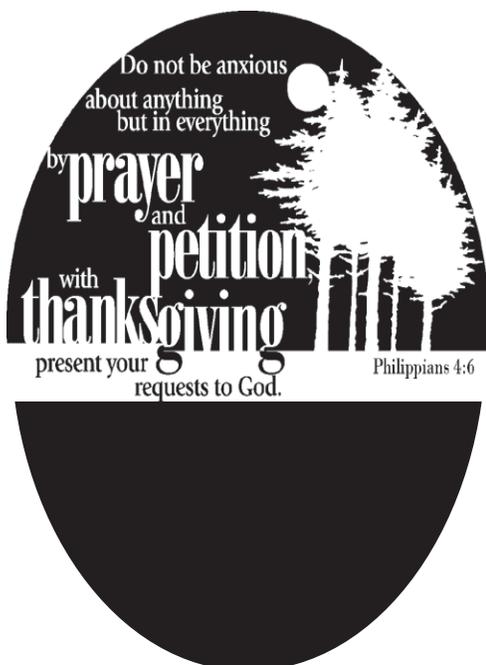
office@fumcpdx.org

### The Circuit Rider Online or by E-Mail

See the latest and past issues of **The Circuit Rider** in color at [www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter](http://www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter)

**The Circuit Rider** can be e-mailed to you. E-mail the church office at [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) to request it by e-mail.

## our prayers    prayers and concerns



### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

*The family and friends of John Andrews, John died April 10, 2010 ...  
The Brende Sene family upon the death of Laurentine "Mike" Rogers,  
who died April 22, 2010 ...*

### PRAYERS OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR ...

*Anny VanNatta, on the birth of a grandson, Micah Joel Harry,  
born on April 19, 2010 to Brian & Krissy Harry of Sherwood ...  
Dee Poujade, on the birth of a granddaughter, Liliana Abigail LeClair,  
born on April 20, 2010 to Trent & Darby LeClair, in Walla Walla, WA ...*

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Mary Panck, who has been diagnosed with MS. She is the  
daughter-in-law of Ken & Ruthann Panck and the wife of Eric Panck ...  
The Rev. Elywn Williams, Hazel Wells, and Bruce Gaffield,  
who are struggling with cancer ...*

### WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

*The Rev. Bob Ross, Jay Stewart, and Sally Yates ...*

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

*Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger*