

May 12, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 10

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 16, 2010

10:30 AM
New Members
Joining

May 23, 2010

10:30 AM
Youth Sunday &
Recognition of
Our Graduates



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

YOUTH SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2010

Come join us in worship on Sunday, May 23, 2010, as your future church presents worship in a traditional style. The youth group is excited to present another youth-led Sunday service. They will be attending to all aspects: greeting, reading, music, and preaching.

We will have two "mini-sermons" provided by two seniors from the class of 2010: Cassara Aaby and Emily Wright.

The youth hand bell choir, juBELLation, will be providing music along with the Cherub Choir, Sound Seekers and Veritas. Come and worship with the youth!



Congratulations to the
graduating high school
seniors of First Church:

Cassara Aaby
Grayson Alexander
Taryn Evans
Matthew Fricke
Nicholas Nathanielsz
Danzel Ramos
Kristin Sellers
Amy Sutton
Caroline Twaney
Emily Wright

If we have overlooked a graduating high school senior or if you have a member of your family graduating from college, a masters program, or doctoral program please let the church office know at office@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195.
Allow us to join in celebrating your accomplishments!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

We've become somewhat jaded by bad news from Wall Street. Like that old country song, "I've been down so long, it looks like up to me!"¹ Like you, I've listened to the explanations and assurances of professors, pundits—even Nobel Laureates. Honestly, most of the economist's complicated explanations leave this ol' preacher scratching his head in confusion.

Last Thursday's mini-crises seemed to shock even the most blasé among us. The venerable Dow Jones Industrial average plummeted (at one point) by more than a thousand points—the largest single day slide in financial history. Thankfully, it rebounded a bit—and by the end of trading was off a serious, but less dramatic, 347.8 points. Even then it was enough that one network newscaster noted everyone's savings would be affected by the events of that day.²

As the dust settled, there seemed to be two explanations for the devastating turn. The first was reaction among traders to the debt crisis and economic chaos in Greece. The second: apparently a trader typed in some incorrect values, triggering a chain of events that compounded to imperil the entire market.

A couple of months ago The Right Reverend Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury wrote a brief reflection on economics and faith that was published as an op-ed in *Newsweek*.³ "It is quite striking," he wrote, "that, in the Gospel parables, Jesus uses economics as a framework for his stories ... Like our coexistence with the earth, like familial bonds, like the tensions of public political life, economic relationships help us see our humanity in the context of God's actions. Money is a metaphor; our monetary dealings shed light on aspects of our human condition that, rightly understood, tell us something about how we might relate to God."

I wonder if Jesus might not have found at least two lessons in that calamitous Thursday:

Lesson one: we are inextricably interdependent. Though we declare our autonomy and our independence—our fate is bound up in the fate of our brothers and sisters everywhere. As John Donne said so memorably, "All (human)kind is of one author, and is one volume ... No (one) is an island, entire of itself ..."⁴ We remember Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourselves and emphasized that with a parable about an outcast Samaritan who offers whatever it costs to rescue a mugging victim who cannot pay for his own care.⁵ The economic health of Greece affects not only the European Economic Union—but markets everywhere. It should cause us to reflect on the plight of lesser developed countries struggling under the load of overwhelming international debt and look again at the Jubilee movement!

Lesson two: we are fallible. I do not know if this 'error' was accidental—or a scheme motivated by greed (an SEC investigation is underway.) At the present it is characterized as a 'fat finger' mistake. I'm glad to hear there are efforts to prevent such mistakes in the future. Nevertheless, we realize that no matter how good our intentions, no matter how careful we try to be, no matter how sophisticated our technology—we are not a perfect people and we do not live in a perfect world. Remember the embarrassment on NASA's collective face in 1999 when a 120-million-dollar space probe designed to unlock the secrets of Martian climate crashed into the red planet because one of the scientists did not convert English numbers to metric?

Fortunately few of us are in a position to destabilize the economy or thwart a space mission—but all of us make mistakes—and while we need to be accountable, to learn from them, we need to know the grace of forgiveness and redemption. Wasn't it Alexander Pope who noted, "...to err is human, to forgive is Divine"?⁶

Good lessons from difficult economic times!

See you in Church!

Arvin

1. (Lee Hazelwood recorded by the composer and Nancy Sinatra, from album, *Lee & Nancy*, Boots Ent., 1968)

2. (Brian Williams, NBC Evening News, May 6, 2010)

3. (*Newsweek*, Feb. 8, 2010, p. 11.)

4. (*Meditation XVII*)

5. (see Luke 10:25ff)

6. (*Essay on Criticism*, Part II, Lines 322-325.)

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 completing 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

This series is utilizing 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 Conessione.

Doug Force is teaching this class, which offers a brief introduction to these concepts, utilizing exercises that illustrate each type of thinking, and discussing the application of these modalities in our everyday lives. Books may be purchased 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.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped make the seventh annual Quilt Luncheon a success. We appreciate those who purchased tickets as net proceeds will improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. Also, thanks to those who helped with ticket sales, quilt hanging, tables set-up, food preparation, luncheon serving, and clean-up. A special thank you to Elwyn Kinney for our walnut/maple table markers and to Earl Riddle who provided the numbering at the top of each marker. Finally, a thank you to all the quilters and to Trudy Kayser, who chaired this yearly event. It was a time of fun, food, and fellowship.

THE UMW BOOK GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet Wednesday, May 19, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. The book *Oprah* by Kitty Kelley will be presented by Sue Staley, our newest member. We will not meet during the summer months. Chair, Sue Fisher

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle's May 19, 2010 meeting will be held at noon at the home of Marion Hollenberg. Following a salad luncheon, Marion will delight us with piano selections from Bach, Hayden, Debussy, Poulenc, and Copeland. Geneva Wright will be joining Marion for several piano duets. Devotions by Ruth Green will focus on the mothers who have lost children in Haiti. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare. Bring your favorite salad.

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, May 26, at 9:30 AM. in Room 110. Chair, Melba Rizzo.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will visit Lan Su Chinese Garden (\$7.50 entry fee for seniors) and have lunch in Chinatown on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. We'll meet in the narthex at 11:30 AM and take MAX to Chinatown. Chair: Alyson Inouye

the edge

thoughts for the journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

Anyone who knows me, knows that I like to mark up my books when I read them. Well, I just got a book that's already marked up with orange marker. Is it used? Did I get it from Powell's? No, actually this is the way it came. You see, it is called, *The Poverty and Justice Bible*, and it has almost 3,000 verses marked in orange whenever the theme of poverty or justice is addressed.

There is a lot of debate these days about poverty and justice and the role of faith in discussing such matters. *The Poverty and Justice Bible* makes it abundantly clear that these themes are at the very heart of the biblical story and are associated with what is on God's heart. On the cover of this edition, Tony Campolo says, "Here's proof that faith without a commitment to justice for the poor is a sham, because it ignores the most explicit of all the social concerns of Scripture."

In the book, the editors from the Bible Society, who published this edition say: "The evidence is there on almost every page of the book you're holding. A concern for the poor and an emphasis on just and faithful behavior flows through the Bible like a river. It underpins the laws of the Old Testament and resounds through the words of the prophets; it forms a core part of all that Jesus said and did and shapes the activities of those who followed him. Everywhere you go in this book, God's love for the poor and desire for justice leap out at you. So we're not creating something new here, we're just helping people to see more clearly what is already there." (*The Poverty and Justice Bible*, p. 4)

As you read your Bible, see if you notice the constant presence of the themes of poverty and justice.

please take note

items of interest

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.

forum @ first

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.



FARMERS' TABLE NOW OPEN

Beautiful flower bouquets and freshly picked produce are now available in Collins Hall. This will be our fourth year welcoming our Hmong farmers and enjoying their freshly harvested, locally grown produce and flowers. Purchases may be made with cash or checks payable to Yua Lo. This year we will be donating a portion of the produce to the Northwest Portland Ministries Food Box program. Our Farmers' Table is sponsored by the Planet Church committee with the help of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

bridging the gap

an update

We've had a wonderful response to our effort to raise \$50,000 to support our budget needs this year. As of the Circuit Rider deadline this Monday, we need only **\$4,404 to reach our goal!** Help us to reach it! Mark your contribution: Rise to the Challenge" and return it to the church office. If you've already helped out, thanks very, very much!

**WE
ARE
ALMOST
THERE!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE, MAY 16

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.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Come, celebrate the stars of the shelter at an Old Hollywood red carpet event! At the end of each shelter season, the shelter celebrates the accomplishments of the many volunteers, who make the Goose Hollow Family Shelter a special place. If you have volunteered at the shelter this year and would like to be a part of this special event, please RSVP to Allie at 503/915-8307 or allie@pdxhfs.org

BRAZIL MISSION TRIP SHARES ON SALE NOW

Thanks to your Global Missions Committee, you have an opportunity to take part in building a church in Brazil! At \$10 per "share," you can participate in this upcoming project, without leaving the comforts of home. Our Volunteer in Mission team, led by Dr. Lowell Greathouse, will soon be traveling up the Amazon to the city of Manaus. There, guided by our covenant missionaries, Gordon and Teca Greathouse, the 20 member team will spend an intensive ten days, working with Brazilian Methodists (in 100+ degree heat, we're told) as they construct a new house of worship. All shares purchased will go toward building materials. What an easy way to be with our team, in spirit and in tangible support of their work! As a special bonus, you will receive a beautiful postcard, sent from Brazil-- and will be invited to hear all about the adventure after their return. Over the next three Sundays, after worship, purchase one or more shares in the Commons in Collins Hall.

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010 IS PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

This special, annual United Methodist offering supports peace with justice work in the United States and around the world. Established by the 1988 General Conference, Peace with Justice Sunday supports programs in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as well as other efforts of the General Board of Church and Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public-policy education, and advocacy. Help support this important work!

SPECIAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For the past 12 years, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection's annual Leadership Institute has been equipping, inspiring and encouraging clergy and other local church leaders with practical ideas and leadership insights. Now the Leadership Institute is coming to Oregon-Idaho. The Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor at Church of the Resurrection, will travel to Salem to present a one-day Leadership Institute specially tailored to address the changes occurring in Oregon-Idaho. The event will take place during the annual conference session at the Salem Conference Center, on Friday, June 11, 2010. Thanks to a grant from Abingdon Press, the Institute is free to members of the Annual Conference. Other church leaders are encouraged to attend at a cost of only \$25 for the day. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office.



Gordon and Teca Greathouse shared news from the Brazilian Methodist Church during their May 5th visit to First Church. First Church has had a Covenant Relationship with Gordon and Teca for over 25 years.



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 26, 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

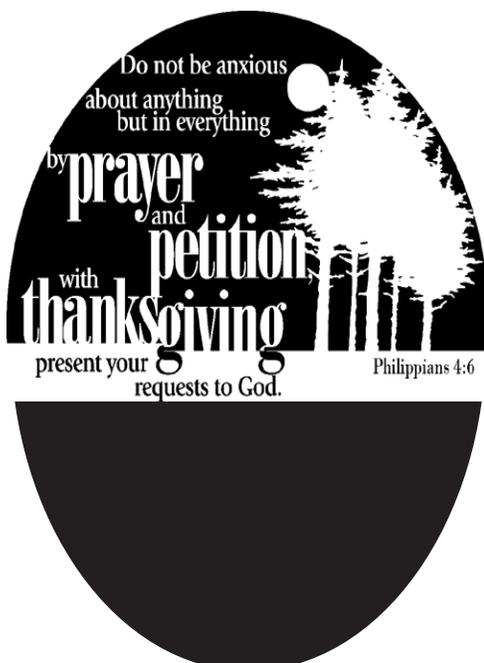
The Circuit Rider Online or by E-Mail

See the latest and past issues of **The Circuit Rider** in color at www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter

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

take note



PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Sheri Anderson, on the death of her sister,
Linda Holman.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Betty Cobb, who will be having a heart procedure ...
Nancy Beth Davis, who is at Vermont Hills Rehab, following a stay in the hospital for heart problems ...
Jerrine Hilliard, the mother of *Jean Barnes*, who is recovering from surgery in Texas ...
Rev. Jim Parr Philipson, the husband of *Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson*, who is recovering from recent heart surgery ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Bruce Gaffield, *Jay Stewart*, *The Rev. Elywn Williams*, and *Hazel Wells* ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, *Daniel Bomberger*, *AJ Jennings*

IOLA HALLIGAN

On Sunday, May 23, Iola Halligan will be visiting Portland and will be available in the Commons following worship. Iola was a long-time church secretary at First Church and would love to catch up the congregation that day.

