



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 9, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 12

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 13, 2010

10:30 AM
Laity Sunday

June 20, 2010

10:30 AM



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



Cheryl Bittle,
Lewis Hughes
Award

Jean Holznagel,
Wesley Spirit
Award

Larry Sawyer,
Guy Wheaton
Award

The lifeblood of First Church is an energetic and capable cadre of volunteers. Nearly 500 unique individuals volunteer in some phase of First UMC's ministries and mission. We celebrate and give God thanks for our Volunteers of the Year who exemplify for us the amazing efforts of so many.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

CHERYL BITTLE has offered both her time and her professional skills to health and nutrition matters, especially among Native American peoples. She helped organize a Native American Fellowship housed at Wilshire UMC and has help guide our Church and Society for Justice Committee. She has been active in our District and our Conference and is currently in Salem as one of our elected Annual Conference members. The Lewis Hughes Award celebrates those who have contributed to ministries beyond our congregation, in the community and our denomination.

JEAN HOLZNAGEL has energetically and effectively served in diverse ministries of our church. She is familiar to new members as the coordinator of our efforts to welcome and include them in our congregation. She has been dedicated to our efforts to fight hunger and for the last several years facilitated FISH Sundays. Jean is also a Stephen Minister befriending those in special need. She is a worthy recipient of the Wesley Spirit Award recognizing those who demonstrate the balance of spiritual life and service.

LARRY SAWYER has been active in First Church since he was a child. For years he has quietly and competently contributed to "behind the scenes" work such as helping operate and maintain the sound systems, photographing significant events, helping manage the Creative Spirit Art Gallery. Each Thursday he can be found caring for our landscaping and building along with the Shovel and Rake Gang. The Guy Wheaton Award, recognizes service within our congregation.



“Nothing endures but change.” - Heraclitis, fourth century Greek philosopher

It promises to be a gathering unlike those that came before. This weekend the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is meeting for the 42nd time in Salem Oregon. The theme foreshadows the hope and desire of the Bishop and Conference leaders, “...Embracing Change!”

For one thing we are meeting in a new venue. We’ve become very comfortable in the familiar halls, auditoriums and field house of Willamette University. This year we’re gathering a few blocks away, at the new Salem Conference Center and its accompanying Grand Hotel.

That is different—but far from the most significant change we will be called to embrace.

For several years the members of the Conference (all of the UM clergy in our region plus an equal number of lay members with each parish represented) have been faced with increasingly foreboding realities: substantial decline in membership; severe shortfalls in contributions to our Shared Ministries Funds that are apportioned to each congregation; a growing awareness that the shortfalls are less from unwillingness to fully participate than from ever smaller congregations struggling to pay local bills, pastors salaries and connectional assessments; and, clergy morale and appointment issues as fewer congregations can afford full-time ministry. Last June’s report of our Conference Leadership Team put it bluntly: “Major storm clouds (are) building over our Annual Conference!” They were thinking primarily of budget and funding our mission.

Bishop Hoshibata acted decisively. He gathered both elected leaders as well as visionary clergy and laypersons into a series of consultations and a “think-tank.” Their conclusions were well-phrased by denominational analyst J. Russell Crabtree: “What is required is a deep, systemic change in the bodies that are called to support congregations for their mission in the world: transformational regional associations (e.g., an Annual Conference).” *

Reflecting on that moment, Rev Scott Harkness, Assistant to the Bishop for Transition, wrote:

What started out as primarily a budget conversation has been hijacked by the Holy Spirit and led into something much more significant! ... Conference leaders have taken a big step back to look at both reality and possibility, and to once again ask the question: “What is the central purpose of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and how can it best use the resources at its disposal to accomplish its mission?” **

Their first answer is significant—and encompasses the bulk of the agenda of this annual meeting:

“The United Methodist Church intends nothing less than to be an agent of transformation in the world by increasing the quantity and quality of disciples of Jesus Christ, and the role the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference plays in the mission of the Church is primarily twofold: 1) improving the general health and vitality of its congregations and 2) planting new faith communities that are healthy and vital.” ***

During our sessions those of us from First Church have been both exploring and reflecting what that might mean both for our congregation and its mission. About a dozen of our members have participated in a *Leadership Institute* guided by an effective pastor from Kansas, Adam Hamilton.

We are looking forward to returning to you and discerning how this will play out as First Church moves forward to “Embrace Change!”

See you in Church!



* J. Russell Crabtree: *The Fly in the Ointment*, Church Publishing Inc., New York, 2008
** in an article, “Refocusing the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference” accessed at <http://umoi.net/who-we-are/oregonidaho-conference/refocus>
*** *IBID.*

At the end of the month our wonderful Minister of Discipleship will be leaving us to accept appointment at the Assistant to the Bishop assigned to the Metropolitan District. (His new position is successor to what we have known as District Superintendent.) As we celebrate this important new stage of his ministry, we also recognize we will sorely miss his spirit and leadership as well the participation of Lowell's spouse Susan and their children, Kelly and Lindsey.

Sunday, June 27, 2010 has been designated as the day in which we will celebrate his ministry and say, "Farewell." Dr Greathouse will be preaching that morning -- and following worship, your Staff Parish Relations Committee will host a reception in honor of Lowell and Susan. Everyone is invited, so, please mark the date on your calendar!

We will be presenting two "official" gifts to Lowell and Susan and we want to encourage as many members and friends to help.

First, a "Friendship Quilt" is being created containing the signatures of as many "First Churchers" as possible. Fabric squares and special pens will be in the narthex and Collins Hall for the next two Sundays. Please stop by and sign the quilt!

Secondly, we've identified a special way to commemorate Lowell's profound concern for service to the needy our community. In collaboration with the Board of Trustees we've created the "Lowell Greathouse Community Internship" as part of our long-standing Community Intern Program.

We invite your financial gifts to honor Lowell in this way. It will ensure a modest stipend so that each year we can select an intern to spend the summer working in a vital community service organization in the Portland area.

Gifts will accrue along with the principle of the Loder Fund so that the earnings can endow this position. The Loder Fund was created to honor the late Bess Mary Loder by underwriting efforts by First UMC to serve our community. Dr. Ted Loder, on behalf of his family, has expressed delight that their memorial ... enhanced by your gifts ... will support this position in perpetuity!

Gifts may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship. They should be clearly marked, "Lowell's Gift."

We invite your participation in signing the Friendship Quilt and your generous contributions toward the "Lowell Greathouse Community Internship" -- and, in advance, your presence on Sunday, June 27, 2010!

In Christ,
Richard Allan Arvin R. Luchs
Chair, SPRC Senior Pastor

**MAKE A
GIFT TO
HONOR
DR. LOWELL
GREATHOUSE
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
IN THE
WORLD**

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

The Changing Christianity Class offers the opportunity for wide-ranging conversations about religion and Christianity past, present, and future. Current conversations center on *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

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

In this class explores 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 is the 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.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet on June 16, 2010 at noon in Room 204. Please bring ideas for the programming for the upcoming 2010-2011 year and a sandwich. See you then! For more information please contact Betty Lou Hare 503.292.1773.

SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

FAITH ~ HOPE ~ LOVE IN ACTION is the theme of the 2010 Oregon Schools of Christian Mission. The nearest school at George Fox University in Newberg will be offering three studies on July 8-11. Courses include:

- 1) *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan*
It discusses the history and struggles of Sudan, and the hope they eventually will realize their dream of peace.
- 2) *The Letters of John*
The spiritual growth study offers an in-depth study of John's letters. Who wrote them? To whom were they written? What do these letters mean to us today?
- 3) *The Theology of Mission & Evangelism*
The third study will explore the theology of mission and evangelism in the 21st century.

These studies are for all church members, men and women, young and old. Registration deadline is June 23, 2010. Contact: Colleen Foster



SUMMER MINISTRIES children, youth & families

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - JUNE 20 thru SEPTEMBER 5

Summer Sunday School begins for Youth and Children on June 20, 2010. At 9:30 AM, the class will combine both middle and high school youth.

Children's Sunday School will meet in Room 202 following the children's moment of the worship service. Children of all ages are invited to join in our "One Big Room" Sunday school experience. Kids will be engaged in stories of the Bible, focusing on three Big Truths: 1. God is a great BIG God. 2. God loves us with a great BIG love. 3. We are part of God's great BIG world. We will spend Sundays this summer learning about Heroes for God, Jesus' Stories, and Spreading the Good News.

We need volunteers to help make Sunday School happen this Summer. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at Mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext.227

YOUTH: ART MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

On Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM the youth will take an Art Museum field trip. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM with a packed lunch. We will walk over to the Park Blocks and have a picnic lunch. Then we will be heading to the Art Museum to check out the R.Crumb Genesis exhibit. Ages 17 and under are free, \$10 for adults.



HONORING GRADUATES

In addition to the high school seniors we recently recognized we would like to recognize the following graduates: *Sam Walton*, with a BS in Anthropology and Egyptology at the American University Cairo; *Joshua Fricke* with an MBA at the University of Denver; and *Colin Jennings* with a BA in Economics and Music, from the University of Redlands. If you know of other graduates to recognize, please contact the church office at office@fumcpdx.org.

the edge

thoughts for the journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

Twenty of us are currently in the Amazon region of Brazil involved in a First Church Volunteers in Mission project there. It is a time of service, learning, and adventure in which we are meeting new people, learning their stories, and experiencing life in another part of God's creation.

One of the books I've been reading recently is a collection of poems and writings that has been a part of the "men's movement" over the past years. One of the writings by Henry David Thoreau struck me as I prepared to head to Brazil. It speaks about being open to the sense of adventure that is life: "In literature it is only the wild that attracts us. Dullness is but another name for tameness. It is the uncivilized free and wild thinking in Hamlet and the Iliad, in all the scriptures and mythologies, not learned in the schools, that delights us. As the wild duck is more swift and beautiful than the tame, so is the wild—the mallard—thought, which 'mid falling dews wings its way above the fens." (*Rage and Bone Shop of the Heart*, by Robert Bly, James Hillman, and Michael Meade, p. 18) What "mallard thought" might wing its way into your life this summer and take you on a new adventure?

WE FILLED THE GAP

\$50,000 ... WE MADE IT!

We have achieved our \$50,000 goal. Through the generosity of many members and friends, we now have gifts and additional pledges for our 2010 budget year that dramatically increases our ability to meet needed expenditures. The Finance Committee, staff, and trustees will still be seeking ways to curtail expenses and keep planned revenues coming in to make sure our fiscal year ends in balance. However, as we announced in mid April, by meeting our additional income and pledges from members in this special appeal, we are the important step closer to assuring that personnel are protected from cuts and that bills will be paid. Thanks to everyone who helped to make our important financial goal a reality.

please take note

items of interest



ROSE FESTIVAL ORGAN CONCERT

You are invited to a Rose Festival Organ Concert at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at First Baptist Church, SW 12th and Taylor, Portland. The concert will feature organist Christopher Nordwall. A donation will be received at the door and a reception will follow.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

The newly formed Young Adult group is meeting at the Goose Hollow Inn every Second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. Here is the Summer schedule:

June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13

This month we are talking about personal improvement through community involvement. Come join in the conversation!

Questions? Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at:

Mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext.227



PRIDE PARADE 2010

Reconciling Ministries invites any and all First Church members to come join us for the Annual 2010 Portland Pride Parade and activities at Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Sunday, June 20, 2010. Here's what you need to know about joining us: A Reconciling Ministry coordinator will issue marchers different colored umbrellas which reflect the colors of the rainbow. A new addition this year is T-shirts with the statement: "In God's House, All Are Welcome." So, rain or shine, we got you covered! Please meet in Room 202 at 10:15 AM. We will proceed to the sanctuary for a brief blessing before heading to the parade by MAX. Or you may go directly to the parade registration booth at Burnside and NW 13th. The actual parade "Step Off" is scheduled at: 11:30 AM. Last year, nearly 30 First UMC members marched. Let's try to match or beat that number this year!



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 June 23, 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



IN TRANSITION ...

Ariel & Patricia Gutierrez, have recently moved to Albuquerque, NM and send their greetings ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Hilary Purtle, who is recuperating at home, following a fall ...

The twenty members of our VIM team, who are serving in Brazil,

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Nancy Beth Davis, Bruce Gaffield, Jay Stewart, Hazel Wells, Jerrine Hilliard (mother of Jean Barnes), Neita McGhee (grandmother of Janice Hauser), Anne Shay (sister of Caroline Crumpacker)

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, AJ Jennings

please note

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Edie Jensen and a host of First UMC family members who through their kindness and generosity and often hard labor have made my life more comfortable over these past few months. In addition, the many phone calls and well wishes I have received have lifted my spirits immensely. I am truly blessed to associated with this wonderful church.

Many blessings, Sally Yates

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception announce the third "Blessing of the Bikes," on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 2:00 PM in the courtyard of the Cathedral, located at the corner of NW 18th and Couch Street in the heart of Northwest Portland, and is bordered by bike lanes on NW 18th and Everett Street. The parish values and raises up the contribution that cyclists make to the community and the environment.