



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 23, 2010  
Volume 14, Issue 13

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 27, 2010

10:30 AM  
Farewell to  
Rev. Dr. Lowell  
Greathouse

July 4, 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



## REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

SAYING FAREWELL TO A PASTOR & A FRIEND

Sunday, June 27, 2010



On Sunday, June 27, 2010  
Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse will preach  
a "farewell" sermon in the 10:30 AM  
Sunday morning worship service.  
Following the service there will be a  
reception for Rev. Greathouse in  
Collins Hall.

It is not too late to contribute toward  
his farewell gift, The Rev. Lowell  
Greathouse Community Internship.  
Mark your contribution:  
Greathouse Gift.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

June is “moving month” for United Methodist ministers and their families—something this preacher-kid-(now) pastor experienced nine times in his life. Each year about a 25% of the clergy who are ‘under-appointment’ change their assignment. For both the parsonage family and the congregations the early summer days of change are filled with exhaustion and stress as well as bitter-sweet feelings of loss and grief mixed with the excitement of new places and new opportunities. So it is with us as we bid a fond farewell to Dr. Greathouse and open our hearts to welcome Rev. Luckman.

Shifting pastoral assignments—changing churches—is a practice that is deeply embedded in our denomination’s history. It goes back to the days after John Wesley sent Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke from England to organize the scattered lay pastors in the American colonies. Shortly after arriving here, they were consecrated “Bishops”—an act that broke ranks with Anglicanism, but planted Wesley’s movement as an independent church body.

It was Bishop Asbury’s pattern to change his preacher’s assignments each year at regional gatherings called “conferences.” I don’t know its accuracy, but Methodist folklore says he believed preachers had only a limited number of effective sermons—so they had to shift regularly lest they grow stale! He was once asked why he chose to move them annually and replied, “Because we don’t have Conferences twice a year.” Observers recount that Asbury tethered a horse outside the back door of the meeting house. As the conference drew to a close, the Bishop would rise, read the new assignments—and before the clergy or congregational leaders could complain —would slip out and ride away!

Things were a bit more congenial in my childhood memories. Still pastor’s families attended Annual Conference with no assurance they would return to their same homes. Scanty consultation with the Bishop or District Superintendent took place in whispered conversation in the hallways—and no decision was final until the Bishop announced the appointments on the last evening of Conference (just prior to adjournment.) I remember occasional gasps as a pastor or church representative were surprised by what name was read with which church.

Things are much more collaborative these days. Substantial consultation between the Bishop, congregation and pastor is required by church law. Announcements of intended appointments trickle out as early as January. Though still not ‘final’ till the Bishop reads them, I can’t remember the last time I knew of an Conference-session shocker.

One of the great strengths of our system is that there is continuous pastoral leadership in each congregation. Some of our neighboring downtown churches are just now receiving new pastors after a year or more of ‘interim’ leadership. Not true with us. Under ordinary circumstances, our pulpits are never vacant, or temporarily served. When a pastor is appointed and moves elsewhere—another preacher is appointed to follow with no lapse.

We’ll be celebrating and giving thanks for Lowell’s ministry with us next Sunday. He’ll be preaching that day, and a farewell reception will follow worship. During the next week he’ll move his books and office mementos to the new Metro District office to be located in Sunnyside United Methodist’s building at SE 35<sup>th</sup> and Yamhill Streets. Meanwhile his predecessor, our former District Superintendent, the Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, will be moving to her new appointment at Corvallis UMC.

Meanwhile, Rev Luckman will move her personal office gear and books into the Minister of Discipleship’s office. Come July 1<sup>st</sup> she will be assuming all of the pastoral and ministerial functions of her new position. Peggy will participate in our July 4<sup>th</sup> Communion Service—and she’ll be preaching on Sunday, July 11, 2010. We’ll welcome Peggy and her husband, Ed, to First Church in a Commons-time reception on that day.

I hope you’ll be there, to both say ‘farewell’ and ‘hello’ and to experience how our ‘connectional’ church works. It’s deeply ingrained in who we have been and who we are!

See you in Church!

Arvin

## ADULT Sunday school classes

### 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.

### CAN YOU SERVE?

## become an acolyte

### ACOLYTES NEEDED

Have you ever dreamed of being an acolyte? This summer we are on the search for an Acolyte Co-coordinator. In the meantime, we are inviting anyone from the congregation who is able and interested to acolyte. Did you see Jim Teisher and Megan Humphreys-Loving acolyte last week? It was the first time for the both of them. Why not acolyte with your child or partner or a friend? Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving to sign up: [mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org)



### SOMETHING NEW FOR young adults

### 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:  
July 12, August 9 September 13

Come join in the conversation!  
Questions? Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at:  
[Mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org](mailto:Mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org) or  
503/228-3195 ext.227

## THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS



sign  
up  
now

### SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS: FAITH, HOPE & LOVE IN ACTION

Register now for the School of Christian Mission, July 8-11, 2010 held at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon.

These inspiring, exciting studies are open to all; young or old, men and women. You may commute, or sign up for housing and meals on campus. Scholarship assistance is available.

The impact of this year's studies is certain to stay with you throughout the year. Embraced within the theme of "Faith-Hope-Love in Action," course selections are: *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan*, *The Theology of Mission & Evangelism*, and *The Letters of John*. These courses will put you on the cutting edge, giving you insights and awareness of world concerns. The Bible study is guaranteed to help you grow in spiritual depth and understanding.

Schools of Christian Mission were begun in the mid 1930s by the Women's Home Missionary Society. Today, more than 20,000 people participate in the annual Schools of Christian Mission around the world. These schools are held each summer in every United Methodist Conference and offer an opportunity to study the mission of the church in the current world context.

Forms are available in the narthex or at the United Methodist Women table in the Commons in Collins Hall, following Sunday worship. Stop by, and check this out!

## mark the date

### all-church barbeque



#### ALL-CHURCH FAMILY BARBEQUE

Yesiree, it's an all-out Western style Barbeque, for you and your friends ... for everyone! Families, singles, couples, young & old can kick up their heels at this delightful mid-summer event. So, mark calendar for Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall and the Collins Hall Courtyard. There will be ...

Barbeques set up in the Collins courtyard, being overseen by Shovel & Rake ...

Fun, food, and fellowship as we share summer experiences around the tables ...

The evening's program will be highlighted by the dancing and singing team of Mark and Helena Greathouse. They will entertain us with selections from all-time western favorite, including Oklahoma! You'll have a chance to dance to Mark's lively accordion music as well ...

Menu includes: naturally, hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers, with all the fixins', along with potato salad, lemonade, iced tea, watermelon. The cost is \$20 for any size family and \$10 for individuals. Any money beyond basic costs will go for mission work among children and youth. Your hosts are the United Methodist Women, and Children & Youth Ministries.

Food will be served from 5:30 - 7:00 PM, with entertainment for both youngsters and the young-at-heart interspersed throughout the evening. Just for fun, dig out those cowboy boots, straw hats, red neckerchiefs-- get in the spirit of a great church family event!

## organ concerts

#### JONAS NORDWALL AND DONNA PARKER

Jonas Nordwall will be playing a special concert on Thursday, July 1, 2010 at 4:30 PM in the First Church sanctuary. It is one of the events for the National Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society. The convention is based in Seattle and is bussing over 400 attendees to events in Spokane, Bellingham and Portland in addition to the Seattle area events. Since the Mary L. Collins pipe organ is so unique, it is one of the featured special events. Violinist, Becky Anderson, will be a guest performer.

Another Portland concert features Donna Parker, a First Church member and former Associate Organist. She will be playing at Cleveland High School at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 1, as well. Both events are open to the public. Tickets are available at the door. Ticket prices are \$20 for individual concerts and a reduced ticket price of \$30 for both concerts.

This year's convention celebrates the centennial of the first pipe organ used for motion picture accompaniment, which was at Seattle's Dream Theater in 1910.

## a note from lowell



Dear Members and Friends of First Church:

As the time comes for me to leave First Church, I not only want to say how much I've appreciated being one of your pastors, but I also want to commend Rev. Peggy Luckman to you as your new Minister of Discipleship. Peggy and I went to seminary together years ago, so we've known each other for some time. Rev. Luckman is a very gifted pastoral leader, who I know you will enjoy and learn from in the days ahead.

Please be aware that all pastoral concerns that have come my way in the past (including weddings, funerals, pastoral counseling, etc.) need to be directed to Rev. Luckman in the future, as a part of the pastoral team along with Rev. Luchs and Rev. Foster. First Church has a very gifted pastoral staff, and Peggy will be a very positive addition to the First Church community. I will keep you and First Church in my thoughts and prayers as I transition to a new setting.

Susan, Lindsey, Kelly and I would like to thank each of you for the warmth and fellowship that we've experienced these past five years. It has been great to be a part of the First Church family.

Rev. Lowell Greathouse

# the edge

thoughts for the journey

## REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

I've enjoyed sharing material in The Edge with you these past five years. These brief entries have been filled with lots of words from a variety of sources. Hopefully, the reflections have been helpful in your own faith journey. But sometimes we use a lot of words, when only a very few are really needed. So it's time to simply say: "Thank you. It's been a great five years together. I hope you will take the time you need to notice the blessings that await you in the days ahead."

# brazil mission trip

2010



## WELCOME HOME!

We're back! The First Church Brazil VIM team returned home safely from our journey to Manaus, Brazil and the team is ready to share stories and pictures with the congregation. We'll share a brief word during the worship service on Sunday, June 27, 2010. We will also make a short presentation in the Fireside Room after the worship service on Sunday, July 18, 2010. The group plans to share a more in-depth presentation on Sunday, October 17, 2010. We have much to share about our amazing experiences in the Amazon. Hope you will be able to join us and share in this life-transforming journey.

# the farmers' table 2010



## A GREAT SUMMER TRADITION

Say hello to the Hmongs at FUMC Farmers Table! Kevin Herr invites you to visit the Farmers Table after church in Collins Hall and enjoy the fresh vegetables and lovely flowers grown by his family. Kevin is the son of Yua Lo and Chow Herr, who both fled their Hmong homeland in northern Laos in the aftermath of the Viet Nam war. Yua and Chow still vividly recall their harrowing march to safety, crossing the dangerous currents of the Mekong river into Thailand, and surviving in a crowded Thai refugee camp before finally coming to the US. Yua and Chow proudly uphold the traditional farming expertise of their Hmong culture by growing the delicious produce and exquisite flowers available at our Farmers Table every Sunday. Typically, the entire extended Hmong family works together, so Kevin will be at our Farmers Table this summer when he can take time from his studies - he's in his last year of pre-med at OSU. We are proud to welcome this fine family and look forward to seeing them at the Farmers Table all summer!



each  
sunday  
after  
worship

### 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 July 7, 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 Jerrine Hilliard, mother of Jean Barnes, who passed away on June 8, 2010 in Dallas, Texas ...*

*The family and friends of Geneva Pollock, Geneva died June 15, 2010.*

Her memorial service was Saturday, June 19, 2010. Geneva was a home bound member who joined the church in 1942 and was one of our longest standing members ...

*The family and friends of Hazel Wells, Hazel died on Monday, June 21, 2010.*

Her memorial service will be Friday, June 25, 2010 at 11:00 AM ...

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Sally Yates, who is hospitalized ...*

*Robert Meyers, who will be having surgery in North Carolina ...*

### WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

*Nancy Beth Davis, Bruce Gaffield, Jay Stewart, Neita McGhee (grandmother of Janice Hauser) ...*

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

*AJ Jennings*



### HONORING GRADUATES

Throughout the summer as we learn of new graduates we will continue to make you aware of them. **Sarah Baker**, graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University in May with dual concentrations in Urban Studies and Archaeology.

If you know of other graduates that have not yet been recognized, please contact the church office at [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org).

