



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

August 4, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 16

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 8, 2010

10:30 AM

August 15, 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

Youth In Mission



August 1-6, 2010 youth traveled to Eugene, Oregon to participate in the L.A.S.T. (Learning and Service Together) Mission project. Rev. Jeff Lowery, Minister to Youth and Families, of Eugene's Wesley UMC, started this program to help educate youth about issues of hunger and poverty. The program centers around teaching youth how they can help serve and begin to prevent these issues of our community.

In Eugene we worked at a soup kitchen, read to children, worked in a food pantry warehouse and experienced many other avenues of service. If you are interested in learning more about L.A.S.T., check out the website: lastnw.com

Our youth missionaries were: Cheyenne Barber, Maddy Hauenstein, Sarah Williams and Maggie Zach.



Farwell to Gary St. John

A NOTE FROM OUR CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR ...

On my first Sunday, in 2005 at First UMC, the sun was shining through the stained glass window, the organ was modulating from offertory to doxology, and the minister had just given an eloquent sermon talking about how First Church was a place where people coming from broken lives can find wholeness. I said a fervent prayer thanking God for bringing me to this place.

First Church has been a wonderful home for me to grow in faith and as a musician. I have really appreciated the love and support shown by the Chancel Choir and congregation. I have especially appreciated the teamwork and camaraderie provided by Kelly Qualls, Jonas Nordwall, and Arvin Luchs. This is a wonderful place to make music for worship.

As the oldest church choir west of the Mississippi, I know that there are many exciting times ahead. I leave with great gratitude for my experiences with the congregation, Chancel Choir, and staff.

Join us on Sunday, August 15, 2010, after worship, for a Farewell Reception for Gary St. John. Gary has been our Chancel Choir director for over five years. You will want to stop by and express your gratitude for his outstanding service on our staff.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Business consultants Jim Collins and Jerry Porras first coined it. Successful organizations, they say, all have a BHAG, a “Big Hairy Audacious Goal.” Such a goal is “clear and compelling and serves as a unifying focal point of effort, often creating immense team spirit. It has a clear finish line, so the organization can know when it has achieved the goal. ... A BHAG should not be a sure bet ... but the organization must believe ‘we can do it anyway.’” *

It’s BHAG’s that have motivated some of the world’s most successful enterprises:

- Morita-son, who founded Sony Electronics, chose a mission for Sony that was bigger than their company: “...To make Japan known for quality.” **
- Microsoft’s BHAG is, “A computer on every desk and in every home, all running Microsoft software.”
- Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com reports, “Our mission is earth’s most customer-centric company.” **
- And Amazon’s Kindle E-Reader Division’s goal is nothing less than, “Every book ever printed, in any language, all available in less than 60 seconds.” **

United Methodism has a BHAG. It’s found in our *Discipline*:

“The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”***

We take it very seriously! Because of that mission (to name a few):

- We teach that following Jesus is a matter of the mind and heart — always personal, never private — always reaching out in action and never private (to paraphrase *The Sojourner’s*, Jim Wallis.)
- Our people—from nursery through seniors—are involved not only in worshipping and learning—but in serving.
- Each year hundreds of us bring food for the hungry, support and volunteer at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, stock shelves at food banks, build Habitat Houses, support a network of 12 step groups, offer our building for community service groups, visit the lonely and the needy, house a counseling center, become advocates for justice and a more humane, peaceful world.
- We subscribe to shared ministries that deploy missionaries at home and abroad—and we go beyond that by directly supporting three ‘covenant missionaries’ and dozens of other mission efforts.
- We have commissioned and sent mission teams to serve in such places as Brazil and Katrina-ravaged Louisiana. Dozens of members have served with other volunteer mission teams. As I write, a team of our youth is in Eugene helping at a food bank, soup kitchen and teaching at a vacation Bible school.

In addition, this fall we’ll explore mission opportunities in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Palestine. We’ll consider efforts to end the death penalty, and to extend our concern for those experiencing homelessness through a community concert to raise wider awareness.

Your leaders in both the Parish and Ministry Conferences are in the midst of a year-long effort to discern both the shape and direction of our efforts toward our BHAG.

As we move ahead, our district (with the wise counsel of new Assistant to the Bishop, Lowell Greathouse) will be calling us all together to clarify our roles, set specific plans, and establish benchmarks to evaluate our progress. It’s no small effort. It’s nothing less than discovering and responding to Christ’s call and God’s claim on our lives. Could anything be bigger?

See you in Church!

Arvin

* Collins, Jim and Porras, Jerry, *Built to Last*, HarperBusiness, New York, 2004.

** Cited by Bezos, Jeff on The Charlie Rose Show, July 28, 2010. Transcript and video accessed at http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/11138#frame_top

*** 2008 *Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008

adult sunday school class

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.

ART OF FAITH

The film, *Art of Faith: Architecture and Art of the Most Significant Religious Buildings of the World*, will be shown at 9:15 AM, Sunday July 25 through August 8, 2010. This film visits twenty-seven worship sites all over the world featuring Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Chuck Klang will host this class in the Fireside Room.

downtown compassion clinic

DOWNTOWN COMPASSION CLINIC 2010

Members of First United Methodist Church have a rich history of involvement in providing for the needs of the world's poorest people. On Saturday, September 18, 2010 at the Memorial Coliseum, First UMC along with hundreds of volunteers from a wide spectrum of downtown churches will convene to provide basic medical, dental, vision, chiropractic and social service assistance to Portland's uninsured and under-insured.

In 2005, two local ministers began to ask why churches couldn't meet those same needs in their own backyards. They'd seen diverse churches come together in far-flung places—but could they do the same at home? What would happen if churches acted as The Church in a neighborhood? Compassion Connects was born from those early conversations and more than twenty such events have been held since then. The Downtown Compassion Clinic is the first event of this kind in our own "backyard."

First United Methodist Church is a lead partner in this initiative, along with First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, The Pearl Church, My Father's House, Solid Rock, and many other downtown churches. We have an excellent opportunity to build bridges with others who follow a tradition of servanthood. To learn more about what opportunities for service are available and to register, go to: www.downtowncompassion.org.

The founders of Compassion Connect say it best, "Compassion Connect was formed with the belief that the Church is to be a transformational presence in the community, daily reflecting the Kingdom of God by addressing the needs of the whole person. We believe that there is more that unites us as Christians than divides us, and that by working together as church communities our witness and impact is magnified."

united methodist women

UMW

THE ALL-CHURCH BBQ

Thanks to each and every one who made our All-Church Barbeque the event of the summer! You did Rancho First Church proud! It was fun to see so many of you in the spirit of the evening, in hats, boots, neckerchiefs, true Western wear. Didn't see palominos tied up outside, but had there been a stampede all hands could have handled it with ease.

Vittles were totally scrumptious. Thanks to devoted hours upon hours by the kitchen and serving crews and the intensive attention to the grilling by our matchless Shovel & Rake team. The turnout was terrific. It was a good time, with lots of laughter and lively conversation. There were games for the young (and young at heart), coordinated by Megan and friends. The evening was enhanced by our own strolling guitarist, Leif Iverson. All were delighted by the lively dancing, singing and accordion-playing by the Greathouse team. Special kudos to Kay Ward, who headed up the planning and preparation for the barbeque. All in all, it was a great evening of some real family fun.

With your generous support and the priceless combination of Children's Ministries and United Methodist Women, nearly \$900 will go directly to many long-standing mission projects: health kits and schooling for children in poverty, or food and clothing for AIDS orphans, and help for those whose lives are turned upside down by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes. We are a church historically known for our outreach, meeting needs at many levels, throughout the world. United Methodist Women focus especially on women, children, and youth.

For pictures of the event, go to page four of this issue of the Circuit Rider.

A SPECIAL SPEAKER IN SEPTEMBER

On Sunday, September 19, 2010, Dr. Dana Robert will preach in the 10:30 AM worship service. She is the author of this year's Global Mission studies. It will be a great opportunity to get the inside story of mission.





EASY WAYS TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Our photo schedule begins Thursday, August 26 through Saturday, August 28 and continues. Tuesday, September 21 through Saturday, September 25, 2010.

IN THE NARTHEX

You may sign-up in the narthex each Sunday before the worship service as well as in the narthex and Collins Hall after the service. So bring your calendar!

ON LINE AT THE CHURCH WEBSITE

Better yet, you may sign up on-line on the First Church website:

www.fumcpdx.org. Online sign ups are now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week! It is a super easy way to sign up!

creative spirit exhibitions

AN INVITATION TO ARTISTS

The Creative Spirits committee invite the people of First Church to exhibit their art at the Creative Spirits Exhibition in Collins Hall. The first exhibition will be “all church photographers.” We will set up the exhibit on Saturday, August 28, 2010 and run through October 31, 2010. If you have a photograph or more you would like to share with the congregation, please contact Larry Sawyer at 503/771-1616 or larry_sawyer@Comcast.net. We will accept framed photographs of any size.

The January/February exhibit will be “all church artists”. If you have framed artwork other than photographs that you would like to share with the congregation, please also contact Larry Sawyer.

all-church barbeque a great time was had by everyone!



PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

Betty Hager and her good recovery ...

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family of Bob Fujimoto and Erin Riley, in the death of Daniel Fujimoto, on Thursday, July 29, 2010. His memorial service will be held here on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Rev. Peggy Luckman, who recuperating from a recent fall ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Bruce Gaffield, Neita McGhee, Gladys Shaw, Jay Stewart, and Sally Yates ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

AJ Jennings

our prayers

please note

Please note that the church newsletter, *The Circuit Rider*, will be on a “summer schedule” during the month of August. The next issue will be mailed on Wednesday, August 25, 2010. The Fall Program Guide of First Church will be mailed with the September 8 issue of *The Circuit Rider*. To submit materials to the church newsletter, email them to: office@fumcpdx.org at least one week prior to the publication date.

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 August 25, 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.



THE FOOD BOX PROGRAM

Every Sunday Preston and Anita Holt visit our Farmers Table in Collins Hall. They take fresh vegetables to the Food Box Program pantry at 1808 NW Irving St, and then they deliver bouquets of flowers to the residents of low-income apartments. Preston and Anita are members of Trinity Episcopal Church but they are also among the dedicated volunteers who serve the needy at Northwest Portland Ministries (NWPM). NWPM was founded in 1979 by a group of lay people from churches and synagogues in Northwest Portland, including First UMC, as a way of providing assistance to neighborhood residents through coordinated volunteer efforts. First UMC is part of an urban area with a higher-than-average percentage of elderly and disabled persons, many of whom live in subsidized apartment buildings. We are so pleased that, thanks to FUMC donors, the generosity of our Hmong farmers, and the dedication of Preston and Anita, we can provide much needed food and the gift of flowers to our neighbors. For more about the work of Northwest Portland Ministries go to www.nwpm.org

check it out

THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY

Comfortable with Uncertainty:

108 Teachings on Cultivating

Fearlessness and Compassion guides

readers beyond the tunnel vision of the self, expanding outward to include compassion for all of humanity.

Author Pema Chodron offers 108 brief teachings related to Tibetan Buddhism.

Young readers have praised *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord. Shirley Temple Wong, a Chinese girl who speaks no English, moves to America where she discovers baseball and Jackie Robinson. Through these experiences, her new home becomes a true land of opportunity.