



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

August 25, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 17

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 29, 2010

10:30 AM

Sept. 5, 2010

10:30 AM

Communion

First Sunday is
FISH Sunday!



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

MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING GOOD!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSICIANS

Ethan Sperry,
Chancel Choir conductor



We welcome **Ethan Sperry** as the conductor of our Chancel Choir. He will begin his ministry at First Church with the Annual Chancel Choir Retreat on September 10 -11, 2010.

Born in New York City, Ethan began studying conducting at the age of eight, cello at the age of twelve, and singing at the age of eighteen. He has earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Harvard College and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern California. Ensembles under his direction have toured extensively around the world and have performed at major venues in the United States. He serves as a consultant for the KM Music Conservatory in Chennai, the first classical music school in India, which opened in 2009.

Currently Ethan is Director of Choral Activities at Portland State University where he conducts choruses and teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting. An enthusiastic cook, Sperry has won awards for his baking and his recipes have been printed in *Bon Appetit* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.



Mark Woodward,
Veritas director

We welcome **Mark Woodward** as the director of our First UMC youth Veritas Choir. Their rehearsals begin on September 12, 2010 at 12:00 PM after morning worship.

Mark holds a Master of Music from the University of Missouri. He has performed with the Missouri Symphony Society, the Ninth Street Philharmonic, Central Missouri Symphony, Bach Collegium Musicum Choir, and the Columbia Camerata.

He currently sings with the Portland Symphonic Chorus, leads the tenor section at First United Methodist Church and is the Youth Choir Director at the Portland Community Music Center.

For more information about the music program at First Church see page five.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Kristen Sellers and Spencer Roberts have been this summer’s “Greathouse Community Interns” (renamed last June in honor of Dr. Lowell Greathouse). Their reports are inspiring.

Sellers who has been working with Northwest Portland Ministries reports:

John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, set a high standard for those who follow:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can to all the people you can, as long as you can!”

That rule has inspired First Churches’ ministries.

Let me share just one example. For forty years we have deployed summer interns to work in not-for profit community service organizations in the metro area. This year is no exception.

“Working at Northwest Portland Ministries has been a great learning experience for me. About 60% of my time is direct service and 40% is office work. I have had a lot of different administrative experiences from which I’ve learned a lot. These have included: writing a mini-grant for a 9/11 service project (which looks like it will be funded); researching different companies that have matching grant programs; helping to get items for the auction that is occurring on October 23rd; updating the online database by entering organizations and clients; answering phones which usually entails scheduling rides for people or signing them up for field trips. I have enjoyed the many challenges I’ve had at Northwest Portland Ministries.”

Roberts was assigned to Neighborhood House. He writes:

“I was directly involved with their Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Program this summer. At Portsmouth K-8 and George Middle School, the program works much like a summer school or a camp would run. In the morning the children have rigorous class studies in reading, math or writing. The idea behind this is to help the children who have fallen behind or need extra help retain what they learned during the school year so when school starts again in September they’ve got somewhat of a head start. In the afternoons the program offers a wide variety of activities such as sports, dancing, guitar, rock and jazz band. Often times this is the only opportunity the children will get all year to be involved with the arts. On Fridays I would accompany a group of incoming 9th graders at Robert Grey Middle School, chaperoning them to different schools and work-sites around the Portland metro area. The purpose of these trips was to show the students that if they work hard in high school, their achievements could lead them to interesting career or college choices. My involvement with the kids was usually one-on-one. Too often I saw great potential at their young age being squandered by either inattentive parents or inadequate funding. For a student who is passionate about playing a musical instrument, but cannot afford the instrument itself or the lessons, three weeks in the summer is all they are given to explore their passions. The SUN Program offers education, fun and even feeds the students if they so wish. These kinds of programs are essential, especially to schools whose students struggle with the added socio-economic pressures that are often found in their neighborhoods. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with these young adults and selfless teachers.”

Thank you, Kristen and Spencer.

We’re proud of your dedication and the way you have helped us reach out to ‘do good’ around Portland.

The Greathouse Internships are supported by earnings from the Loder Endowment Fund. Your financial support is welcome to increase the corpus of the fund and ensure that Greathouse Interns will continue in perpetuity

See you in church!

Arvin

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 conversation 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."



GRIEF RECOVERY WEEKEND

Are you, or someone you love, grieving the end of a marriage from a death or a divorce? A grief recovery retreat for the widowed, separated and divorced will be held the weekend of October 1-3, 2010 at The Griffin Center in Milwaukie, near Clackamas Town Center. (Registration by September 27, 2010 is recommended)

The retreat consists of presentations by Beginning Experience team members, periods for private personal reflection and sharing in small groups. The weekend begins on Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. The cost of \$195 includes lodging for two nights in a double room, meals and resource materials. Special arrangement may be made for payment, and partial scholarships are available.

Please call Margi Harp at 503/390-7971 for more information or email at margi8280@comcast.net. Additional information may be found on the website of International Beginning Experience: www.beginningexperience.org.

our prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family of Neita McGhee, Neita died on August 9, 2010. She was the grandmother of Janice Hauser.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Rita Rojas, who is now at home in hospice care. Rita is the wife of *Lorenzo Montoya*, our lead custodian ...
Bruce Gaffield, who is now on hospice care ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Jay Stewart and Sally Yates ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

AJ Jennings

please note

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Would you be willing to be a substitute Sunday School teacher ... or an assistant that makes copies or gathers supplies? The First Church Children and Family Ministries needs you! For more information contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 or mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org.

PLANET CHURCH

We will be meeting off site on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 5:30 PM for a potluck. If you are interested in learning more about environmental or sustainability issues and Planet Church, please join us! Contact: Allison Anderson 503/670-7649 or at ama1031@hotmail.com for more information.

GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Global Missions will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 30, 2010 in Room 110.

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.

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS TO RESUME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134. The 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.

FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

This adult class series will explore various public issues and themes through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

Prayer: The Sacred Connection

September 12, 19, & 26 Room 160 at 9:15 AM
and taught by Rev. Peggy Luckman

In this brief series of classes you will have an opportunity to experience many different ways in which we pray and reflect on your personal prayer journey and to share if you are comfortable doing so. You may also ask questions you may have about prayer. We will offer information about resources that can be used to deepen your own experience of sacred connection.

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH



Bring a friend, your sleeping bag, and a good sense of fun to the church for an overnight stay. For only \$5 each, we will have tons of snacks, movies, games, and a late night Bible study. We will meet at 8pm on Friday, September 3 and party all night long. Pick up is at 8am on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

united methodist women

umw

All women are invited to participate in the following activities. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we promote concern for women, children and youth at home and abroad. President, Marion Hollenberg. 503/640-3270.

UMW UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday Sept. 8 at 10:00 AM. in the Fireside Room. The featured speaker will be Rev. Peggy Luckman. Lunch will be provided. President Marion Hollenberg. 503/640-3270.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, Sept. 15 at noon in Room 204. Rev. Peggy Luckman will be the guest speaker. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

THE UMW BOOK GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet on Wednesday, September 15 at 10:00 AM. in the Church Library. The book, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, by Lisa Lee will be led by Katt Strickland. Chair: Sue Fisher. 503/203-1445.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, September 29 at 11:30 AM. in Room 204. Our planning meeting program includes a Christmas HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves, socks) collection for the Goose Hollow Shelter guests, a spring baby shower for families who receive FISH services, a discussion of our favorite books, and an outing or two to visit places or programs of interest. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Contact: Alyson Inouye. 503/224-9103

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, September 29 at 9:30 AM. in Room 110.

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.

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 Sept. 8, 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.

music at first church

We are pleased to welcome **Ronnee Edwards** back to our Sound Seekers Choir. Ronnee holds a B.A. in vocal performance and theater from Linfield College. Previous to coming to direct our Children's Sound Seekers Choir she held the position of Children's Choir Director for Calvary Baptist Church in Salem, Oregon. The Sound Seekers will begin September 12, 2010. We are looking for a pianist that would be willing to accompany this group of singers.

The Cherubs, superbly led again by **Jen Graver, Nancy Erfle** and **Todd Engle**, are an enthusiastic group of two to six year-old children. All young children (and parents) are welcome to join them in room 206 on Sunday mornings at 9:15 beginning September 12, 2010.

Our handbell program includes beginning bells, advanced bells and adult bell programs. The director for Genesis and juBELLation is **Karin McDonough** who is currently pursuing another degree, this time in music education from PSU. The director for our Sanctuary Bells is **Nancy Hascall** who hold a B.A. from the College of Idaho in music education and voice. She taught for Yamaha Music for 22 years, and is a composer of handbell literature.



YOU
CAN STILL
SIGN UP
FOR PICTURES

EASY WAYS TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

There are still opportunities to sign up to be a part of the First Church photo directory. Appointments are available for Tuesday, September 21 through Saturday, September 25, 2010. Sign up today!

IN THE NARTHEX

Sign up in the narthex on a Sunday before the worship service as well as in the narthex and Collins Hall after the service.

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!