



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

September 22, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 19

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sept. 26, 2010
10:30 AM

October 3, 2010
10:30 AM

Worldwide
Communion
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

SHELTER NOW OPEN YEAR-ROUND!



visit their
new website at
www.pdxhfs.org

Goose Hollow Family Shelter has now begun as a year-round operation. It will take a lot of work and we will continue to rely heavily on our volunteers to make a difference in the lives of our families. Just last season (from November to June) we saw 8,787 volunteer hours served at our shelters. We saw a total of 7,285 of the hours volunteered at Goose Hollow Family Shelter alone. That volunteer time was critical to our day to day operations. Our volunteers provided families with comfort, friends, and warm meals. We could never have gotten through the year without our volunteers! This year our need will be even greater with volunteer positions to fill all year round. If you are interested in volunteering at either Goose Hollow Family Shelter at night or Thirteen Salmon Family Center during the day, you can sign up on our brand new website or by calling Allie at 503/915-8307.

If you would like to learn more about homelessness and our shelters consider coming to one of our Shelter Volunteer Orientations. Orientations for Goose Hollow Family Shelter will be held in the shelter at 5:00 PM on the first Tuesday of every month. Orientations for Thirteen Salmon Family Center will be held at Thirteen Salmon on the First Monday of every month at 6:15 PM beginning on October 4, 2010.



Marriage Equality Forum

MARRIAGE EQUALITY FORUM, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

On Sunday, September 26, Reconciling Ministries will host a forum at noon in the Fireside Room on LGBT Marriage Equality.

Join us for an engaging and informative panel discussion that will explore this multifaceted issue. Hear from both LGBT marriage supporters and those who hold opposing viewpoints. Moderating the panel will be Emily Harris of Oregon Public Broadcasting.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It's among the most mystifying statements attributed to Jesus. Speaking to critics of a woman anointing him with costly oil he reportedly said, "...you always have the poor with you." (Mark 14:7 also Matthew 26:11; NRSV) Lots of printer's ink has spilled trying to explain what he meant—whatever it was, I don't think he was arguing we should be complacent about poverty!

After all, a big part of his mission (he said, quoting Isaiah) was, "to bring good news to the poor." (Luke 4:18 NRSV) and he directed those seeking God's way to help the poor—even if it meant selling everything to provide assistance! (Luke 18:22 NRSV)

If we would be faithful to Christ, we cannot ignore last week's Census Bureau report that the percentage of Americans living below the poverty line in 2009 is the highest it has been in 15 years.* (That's less than \$10,830 for a single person and \$22,050 for a family of four.)

Such figures are beyond startling, they are alarming! It means that 46.3 million in this country—one in every seven—do not have the means to adequately survive. Tracking alongside, the count of Americans without health insurance has risen to more than 56 million.

Some feel the Census Bureau has dramatically undercounted and the real figures should be 10 million higher.** Even census workers say it would be higher if they had counted the impoverished who are sharing homes where the aggregate income nudges over the threshold. Poverty experts and aid groups said the percentage will continue to increase this year as food bank shelves empty and politicians have the temerity to consider limiting unemployment benefits and inflicting further reductions on the budgets of agencies and programs that are lifelines to the most vulnerable among us.

We know that these findings are more than a collection of impersonal statistics. It dispassionately is describing our neighbors and friends—people beside us on the Max, in our school classrooms, and far too many who are reading this newsletter or in the pew beside us on Sunday.

No, I don't think Jesus would tolerate his disciples averting their eyes or shrugging their shoulders. I think he would want those who follow him to offer a hand reaching out in compassion. For example:

■ We can help house those economically displaced. The Goose Hollow Family Shelter opened last week (earlier than ever) to a full house—the first time in memory that's happened. Plans are for it to remain open year-round from now on. As a result more volunteers than ever are needed. Helpers say pitching in is an amazing, rewarding experience for those of all ages—especially for families who volunteer together.

■ We can help feed those who are hungry. FISH Sunday can be every Sunday—and more helping hands are welcome on volunteer days at the Oregon Food Bank.

■ Some have suggested we set up a "Job Bank" and provide counsel and training for those seeking employment. Interested?

■ Compassion means more than being charitable toward those suffering. It also means we advocate and work for change in the causes and systems that perpetuate poverty.

My interest was piqued when Commissioner Deborah Kafoury challenged legislators to embrace a new initiative "The Half in Ten Campaign."*** It's an agenda created and endorsed by a growing number of helping organizations including "Bread for the World" and several religious denominations. "Half in Ten" proposes public and private-sector actions that, they believe, could reduce the number of Americans struggling with poverty in just ten years. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

I suspect Jesus would be delighted if we proved him wrong by reducing—or even eliminating—poverty from among us. Shall we try?

See you in Church!

Arvin

* (Eckholm, Erik, "Recession Raises Poverty Rate to 15 Year High," *New York Times*, Sept. 16, 2010 - accessed at www.nytimes.com)

** (see for example: <http://pubrecord.org/nation/8281/census-bureau-poverty-drastically/>)

*** (<http://halfinten.org>)

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.

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.

PRAYER: THE SACRED CONNECTION

September 26, The Fireside Room at 9:15 AM and taught by Rev. Peggy Luckman

Come and experience the many different ways in which we pray and reflect on your personal prayer journey. 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.

COMICS AND CHRISTIANITY

October 3, 10, 17, 24 in the Fireside Room at 9:15 AM. This class will be taught by Doug Force

How do the subtle materials of our casual reading influence our day-to-day thoughts and actions? Does the "light" printed material we often peruse each morning reflect those things we most esteem in our lives and interactions? Was Christ the inspiration for the early cartoon the "Yellow Kid" by Richard Outcault, or is this seemingly sympathetic character just that? And what about Superman, Batman and Robin, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, or the rest? Why do these characters and the ideals they symbolize stay so long in our lives? Buy a comic book, bring your Bible (and maybe some popcorn), and join us for a four-week exploration of Christianity through the comics!

electives for enrichment

FROM JESUS TO CHRIST THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

Electives for Enrichment are Monday morning classes held in the Fireside Room from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2010

In this series of four videos, the story of the Jesus' life and the first three hundred years of Christianity are explored. This series includes reflections by leading New Testament scholars, many amazing artistic scenes, and information that helps us understand the struggles and conflicts of the earliest Christians. How is it that they interpreted the message of Jesus in the context of their environment and religious upbringing? How did the political scene affect their faith development? How did they come to understand that the man Jesus was the Christ? These and other questions will be addressed in this series.

There is no cost for this series. Refreshments will be served.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our guest speaker will be Sarah Baker. For more information contact: Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716.

BIBLE STUDY

A STUDY OF AMOS

You are invited to read and study the Book of Amos with us this Fall. We will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Church Library. This study will have its final session on Wednesday, October 6, 2010.

Amos is a part of a group of Old Testament texts called the "Minor Prophets." Although Amos was written centuries ago, this short book carries a bold message which is still relevant today. For more information contact Rev. Peggy Luckman. at: 503/228-3195 or pluckman@fumcpdx.org.

LEARN MORE

AN ORIENTATION

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you! Meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be **Sunday, October 17, 2010**. Child care is available. For information or to register, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. 503/228-3195 or pluckman@fumcpdx.org.

concert & benefit

Saturday, October 9, 7:30 PM

First Unitarian Church Sanctuary
1211 SW Main St, Portland, OR



SING US HOME
A CLASSICAL CONCERT
TO RAISE AWARENESS
ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Featuring Henry Mollicone's

Beatitude Mass FOR THE HOMELESS

www.firstunitarianportland.org
503/228-6389

The 50-voice choir and chamber orchestra of the Seattle First Baptist Church Directed by Vicky Thomas, and the choirs of Portland's First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, and the Chamber Choir of First Unitarian Church. There is no admission fee, but a free will offering will be received. Proceeds will benefit homeless ministries in downtown Portland: Goose Hollow Family Shelter at First United Methodist Church, the Drop-In Center at First Baptist Church and the 13 Salmon Family Center at First Unitarian Church.

this & that

FOOD AND FRIENDS

Parents and friends alike are invited to join in the Food and Friends group. We meet at 6:00 PM at our destination and hang out until about 9:00 PM. The church nursery is open from 5:30-9:15 for your convenience!

On Saturday, September 25, 2010 we are meeting at Big Al's in Beaverton: www.ilovebigals.com We will have dinner, and bowl a few games. Please call or email Megan to RSVP. mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext. 227.

LAST SUNDAY LUNCH @ RUSSELL STREET BBQ

Youth of all ages are invited to bring a friend or family member to our Last Sunday Lunch adventures. We will meet in Collins Hall following worship to assign rides. Bring \$10 per person to cover lunch costs. Veritas singers will join us after their rehearsal. Sunday, September 26, 2010 we will be eating at Russell Street BBQ: russellstreetbbq.com

YOUTH COUNCIL

The first Youth Council meeting of the new school year will be a great opportunity to have your voice heard. Youth, parents, and interested youth volunteers will engage in a conversation about planning and direction for both our Middle School and High School youth groups. Youth Council will Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 5:00 PM in Room 110. Following youth council, there will be ping pong for all youth, and then dinner for all at 7:00 PM in Room 202. Please contact Megan Humphreys-Loving with questions: mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext.227.

our prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Bruce Gaffield, Bruce died on September 10, 2010. His memorial service was held Sunday, September 12, 2010.

Lorenzo Montoya, in the death of his wife, *Rita Roja*, who died September 3, 2010. A memorial service was held Thursday, September 23, 2010.

The family and friends of Ruth Robertson, Ruth died on July 19, 2010. Ruth was a former member of Portland's First UMC. A memorial service will be held, Thursday, September 30, 2010 at 1:00 PM at the Tigard United Methodist Church.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Chan Aaby, who is being treated for an infection ...

Jay Stewart, who is currently at OHSU ...

Marilyn Roush, following a recent diagnosis ...

fifty-five alive

55 ALIVE

The next 55-Alive Driving Course will be offered: Wednesday and Thursday, October 13 & 14, 2010

55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$12.00 for AARP members with cards and \$14.00 for non-members. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register, call the church office at 503/228-3195.

global missions upcoming forums

umw united methodist women

Plan now to come to the first in an exciting series of Fall Forums, to be presented by your Global Missions Committee.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17: RECENT MISSION TRIPS

On Sunday, October 17, at 12:00 PM in the Fireside Room, you'll find out how simply reaching out to our neighbors around the globe makes a big difference.

Hear amazing stories from our First Church Volunteer in Mission Team, who laid bricks and mortar in Manaus, Brazil, and worked with children on the Amazon.

Feel the enthusiasm of our youth team who traveled to Eugene to work on a variety of interesting mission projects.

Learn about upcoming mission opportunities, including:

- Primetimers in Jamaica in January
- Costa Rica in March
- UMCOR Depots in Louisiana and Utah

These opportunities plus many more all featuring education, travel, and working side by side with people in other places. The mantra we hear from those who have participated with people in other places is "We received much more than we gave!"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14: PALESTINE/ISRAEL

On Sunday, November 14 there will be a full report on Palestine/Israel by our Covenant Missionary, Janet Lahr-Lewis.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: KENYA

On Sunday, December 12, you won't want to miss an update on projects in Kenya, to be presented by Paul & Kathleen Cosgrove, who are a part of an Oregon-Idaho Mission Team.

Each of these forums will feature a light lunch. Mark these dates on your calendar now!

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.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On Thursday, September 30, 2010 at 11:00 AM in Collins Hall, Rev. Paul Jeffrey will show photos taken in the Sudan and talk about his work there. A lunch will be provided. All are invited to this event.



The Rev. Paul Jeffrey is a Global Ministries missionary who writes about the work of the church around the world as senior correspondent for *Response*, the magazine of United Methodist Women. Paul also provides coverage of emergencies for Action by Churches Together, a Geneva-based global alliance of churches responding to disasters. Paul has filed stories from more than 65 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia, writing about everything from hurricanes to health care, from massacres to indigenous rights, from refugees to ecumenism.

On Sunday, please stop by the UMW table in the Commons in Collins Hall to sign up for the lunch.

a special invitation to the first church congregation september 27, 2010

*And what does the Lord require of you?
act justly, love mercy, to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

You are a steadfast partner in the ministries of Portland's First United Methodist Church. We invite you to join other faithful donors and members to learn more of the future mission and ministries of Portland's First United Methodist Church and how you can take part on Monday, September 27, 2010 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Appetizers and punch will be served. RSVP to Don Riggs at 503/286-7549 or drriggs007@comcast.net.



looking to the future

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 October 6, 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.

last chance for pictures!

SIGN UP ON LINE IS EASY!

Last call to have your pictures taken for the new 2011 All-Church Pictorial Directory.

Photos will be taken at the church as follows:

Tuesday through Saturday, October 5-9, 2010.

Tuesday through Thursday 1:30 to 8:00 PM

Friday and Saturday 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM

You may make your appointment on Sundays in the narthex before the worship service as well as in the narthex and Collins Hall after the service. Better yet, you may make an appointment anytime on-line on the church website: www.fumcpdx.org. Each family/household who comes for photography and portrait viewing at the church will receive a complimentary directory and an 8 x 10 custom color portrait. You will be able to select your portraits electronically from a variety of poses. Additional Life Touch portraits will be available for purchase. Your appointment will normally take about one hour.

Questions? Call Edie Jensen at 503/624-0229

blessing of the animals



**A BLESSING
OF THE ANIMALS
ON SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2010
4:00 PM
BECKHAM
COURTYARD**

Join us for our Second Annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 PM in Beckham Courtyard. In this service we will celebrate the animal companions in our lives and invite them into our church setting to receive a special blessing. Treats for our animal companions will be provided.

