



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 12, 2010
Volume 15, Issue 01

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 16
10:30 AM

January 23
10:30 AM
Presentation of
Bibles to Our
Third Graders



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

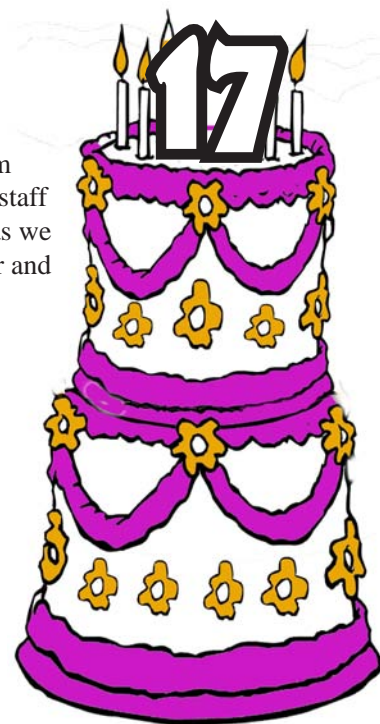
HAPPY BIRTHDAY! GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter is turning 17
and we're throwing a party!

Join in on Sunday, January 23, 2011 in the Fireside Room
right after church. There will be cake! The entire shelter staff
will be there to talk with you and answer any questions as we
rejoice in the legacy of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter and
First Church.

Everyone loves to get presents on their birthday!
Here are suggestions for birthday gifts you might bring:

- All Zone Tri-met tickets
- Fred Meyer gift cards
- Laundry soap (hypoallergenic)
- Tissues
- Hair combs
- Deodorant
- Breakfast food (granola bars, juice boxes,
cereal, oatmeal, fresh fruit, coffee, tea), juice
- Disposable plates, disposable cups,
disposable silverware, napkins
- Bath towels
- Cash donations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

In January, 1994 this congregation opened the doors of The
Goose Hollow Winter Family Shelter to respond to the urgent
need for housing, especially for families with children. Over
the years the shelter has expanded and matured and now it
operates year-round under the management of a new 'not-
for-profit' agency, Portland Homeless Family Solutions. But
it is still First Churches' shelter and we want to be sure our
support remains as strong as ever.

When you make a contribution or volunteer, you make sure
that First Church continues to reach out in support, compassion,
and shelter to homeless families with children. Members of our
Church & Society ministry team will be available each Sunday
in January to help make the process of volunteering at Goose Hollow easy. If you have
questions about volunteering, donations or any other information about the shelter, contact
the shelter's volunteer coordinator, Allie at: allie@pdxhfs.org or 503/915-8307.



memo

Rev. Dr.
Arvin R.
Luchs

It may have been my most difficult decision—to seek retirement following our region’s Annual Conference in June. There was no pressure to do so—not even from my wife. I love this vocation and find sheer pleasure serving this congregation with its rich faith, deep commitment to inclusiveness, amazing music program, dynamic members and vibrant energy for outreach and mission. I work with an amazing and capable staff and a superb group of elected leaders.

Those leaders have been working for some months to discern God’s call for the future of this congregation and, I believe, are “spot on” in their focus on “connections.” While it would be great to help make that happen—this seemed to be a good time to open the door to another pastor, with new energy, different skills and insights who can help guide that effort from the start.

And, then, I’ve been employed at (or near) full-time since the summer following my freshman year in high school. Fully ordained United Methodist clergy are eligible for full retirement after 40 years of service. I’ve accumulated nearly 43--not counting several years as a youth director. Sue, my wife, had already decided to retire in June. It seemed wise to join her and build life’s “third chapter” together while we still have vigor and vision.

So for the last two or three months I have been taking time to ponder, assess, discern and pray—and a few weeks ago shared my decision that God’s call was to a new phase of life: retirement.

As he announced this during worship, Richard Allan spoke briefly of what will happen in the weeks to come. Let me fill in a bit more.

Our personnel committee (United Methodists call them the SPRC—Staff-Parish Relations Committee) is already refining our congregation’s self-profile and discussing what gifts and graces they feel the next Senior Minister should possess. He has invited your input!

In a week or so they will offer those insights to the Bishop and his Cabinet through Metro’s Assistant to the Bishop, Dr. Lowell Greathouse. Their insights and advice could not be handed into more careful or knowledgeable hands.

Following that is a time of collaboration that may take several rounds. Because it involves sensitive matters, this phase is conducted confidentially. What’s happening (behind the scenes) is the Cabinet—through Dr. Greathouse—will ponder the profile and record of clergy to identify leaders who match both the needs and the spirit of First UMC. They will settle on the best candidate—and seek his/her willingness to move. Normally those considered are currently serving in Oregon or southern Idaho.

Assuming the candidate (and their family) agrees to the move, their profile will be introduced to our SPRC to secure their support. With everyone’s agreement, a private meeting between the candidate and the SPRC—led by the Assistant to the Bishop—tests to be sure everyone is comfortable.

An announcement to our congregation—then to the Conference would come soon after.

Most of the time, it all works compatibly. But sometimes the congregation, the candidate—even, (occasionally) the Cabinet—will have reservations, concerns or second thoughts that compel backtracking and rethinking. Then the consultative cycle begins again—until a mutually agreeable candidate is appointed.

It’s an amazing process—but with the candor and collegiality of both the SPRC, Cabinet and candidate—it works remarkably well. I have every confidence it will for us!

In the meantime, we still have nearly six months to be together in ministry, to listen to God’s call—and to change lives and the world. As I said during Sunday’s worship, we’ll have plenty of time to share our farewell’s closer to June! Now we have ministry to do together!

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. This class is currently studying the book, *The Authentic Letters of Paul*.

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

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.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

This class meets each Sunday from 9:30 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room, through January 30, 2011

In these sessions we will be using DVD materials that feature leading religious scholars including Marcus Borg, John Cobb, Minerva Carcano, Meagan McKenna, Helen Prejean, John Dominic Crossan, John Spong and others. We will discuss various questions and concerns related to progressive Christianity and "what's next for Christianity." The class will be facilitated by Martha Powell and Peggy Luckman.

growing vital congregations

LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT

Metro District United Methodist Church OR-ID will present Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations on Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Portland First United Methodist Church.

Five workshops are planned:

Radical Hospitality

Passionate Worship

Intentional Faith Development

Risk-Taking Mission & Service

Extravagant Generosity

Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration deadline is: January 24, 2011.

united methodist women

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: COOKING WITH SONJA

The UMW Unit meeting for February is scheduled for Saturday, February 12 at 10:30 AM in Collins Hall. This will give those people unable to attend on the regularly scheduled Wednesday meeting day the opportunity to attend this special gathering. Our program will feature a cooking demonstration by Sonja Connor with food sampling, recipes and nutritional information. Sonja is the author (with her late husband Bill) of the *New American Diet System* and *New American Diet Cookbook*. She is praised for her easy to follow, low fat/high flavor recipes. Mark your calendar so you won't miss this special gathering and watch for more detailed information.

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle (formerly called the "Sewing Group") will meet Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 1:30 PM in Room 202. Kay Ward will demonstrate the technique of appliqué. The group will also continue with their on-going project of comfort quilts for hospice.

Anyone interested in expanding their creativity in needle arts is invited to join Shirley Blalock, Kay Ward and members of the newly formed Tabitha Circle for an inspiring overnight trip to the world's largest Sewing Expo. The Expo is in Puyallup, Washington, March 4 and 5, 2011. You may check it out on www.sewexpo.com. Plans need to be firm by January 25, 2011. Please call Shirley Blalock at 503/786-3437 or Kay Ward at 971/255-1430 for further information.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at noon in Room 204 for lunch and a presentation by Elizabeth Jacobs on her work with Heifer International. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Mary Covert 503/652-6480.

PLANNING TEAM

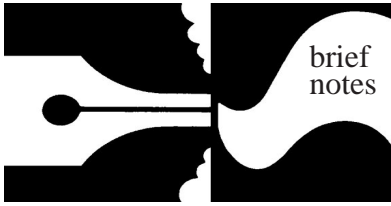
The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Winter Forum will be held Friday, February 4 at First AME Zion Methodist Church 4303 N. Vancouver St., Portland. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the meeting is at 10:00 AM. The speaker is John Canda from the Gang Task Force.

UMW MISSION FAIR

This year's Every Member Enrichment Event will be held Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Gresham United Methodist Church, 620 NW Eighth Street, Gresham, Oregon. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The fair is designed for all members of UMW whether a mission coordinator, officer or for the member who wishes to learn more about the mission positions. Everyone is welcome!



check out what's going on ...

this and that

REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

As part of the ministry team here at First UMC, I have asked for a column in which to highlight various events in the ministry programs being planned for you in the coming months. First I want to thank you for your donations to the Alternative Christmas Advance Offerings which totaled \$6,885! Your gifts will bless people in Africa, India, Mexico, Brazil, Pakistan and Palestine/Israel. To everyone who helped plan and present our Alternative Christmas, and to all who donated, thank you!

Join us in Collins Hall after church on January 30, 2011 to celebrate the leadership that Jeri Shumate, our Director of Outreach, has offered this church. Jeri is moving on to another job, but we are happy to know she will remain with us as part of our church family.

In February, the Adult Ministries and Peace and Justice Committees will be sponsoring several learning opportunities about the Death Penalty. They will offer a book read, a forum, discussions, guidance from our Social Principles, and worship to help us discern a faithful response to this issue. Watch upcoming Circuit Riders for more information.

In ministry with you,

Peggy

YOUTH LOCK IN AND SERVICE PROJECT

On Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM, youth are invited to attend an overnight lock-in at the church. We will combine with the youth from St. Paul's UMC for a night of games and fun. We will be baking dog treats for dogs at the Oregon Humane Society. Monday, January 17, at 9:00 AM, we will travel to the Oregon Humane Society for a tour and give the dogs our gifts of treats and love. RSVP to Megan to attend.

OHSU SEMINAR ON HEART DISEASE, STROKE AND DEMENTIA

Learn of the risks of heart disease, stroke, and dementia in a special seminar presented by professional staff at Oregon Health and Science University on January 24, 2011. We will meet at First Church at 10:00 AM, take TriMet to the lower campus, and ride the tram to the upper campus to enjoy a tour and lunch. The seminar will follow with a return to First Church by 4:30 PM. A registration fee of \$4.00 will cover the tram ride; TriMet fares and lunch are at your own expense. Register soon through the Church Office at 503/228-3195. We are limited to 25 participants

THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

The First Church Library's annual Winter Book Sale is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, 2011. If your new year's resolution is to thin out your book collection, we would love your discards. You can drop off book donations at the library on Sundays. We cannot accept big donations of "leftovers" from other large sales, textbooks, or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. If you have any questions, please check with the Sunday Librarian or call Alyson Inouye at 503/224-9103. Proceeds from the sale are used to acquire new books for the library. Let us know of books you'd like to see in our collection

THEATER PARTY: BILLY ELLIOT!

Join others from First UMC on Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 PM, in the Keller Auditorium to attend *Billy Elliot*. It is the joyous musical celebration of one young boy's journey against the odds to make his dreams come true. It was the winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, with music by Elton John. Group tickets are available in Center Orchestra (\$71.70), and 1st Balcony (\$65.40). *Please note that this show contains adult language.* A limited number of tickets are available; reserve your seats with full payment through Christine in the church office, 503/228-3195 or cbostick@fumcpdx.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower reservations are available for spring/summer, 2011. The flower team will be in Collins Hall on Sunday, January 30, 2011 for signing up. If you are unable to visit the table, please send an email to aazach@hotmail.com to request a date and provide the dedication.

in our prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Frank Ragsdale, who died January 6, 2011.

A private graveside service is planned ...

The family and friends of Robert Weber, who died January 6, 2011.

A service will be held Friday, February 4, 2011 at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Michelle Green, Marty Martin, Marilyn Schuberg, Karen Smith, Jay Stewart ...



SUMMIT MONDAY, JANUARY 31 NEVA SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

EARTH CARE SUMMIT

You are invited to sharpen your earth stewardship skills by attending this January 31, 2011 event at Congregation Neveh Shalom's newest green building, 2900 Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR. This Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon event is cosponsored by our Planet Church Committee along with numerous other groups. It will bring together the best resource people and organizations all in one place providing information, technical assistance and inspiration for us to do the right things and deepen our faith connection to creation.

*"The future of
our fragile, beautiful
planet home
is in our hands.*

*As God's family
we are stewards of
God's creation."*

- Desmond TuTu

There will be displays and a green building tour starting at 5:00 PM. A delicious dinner of seasonal, local produce will start at 6:00 PM. This will be followed by a vision-lifting speaker, a congregational case study and round table discussions, with a focus on the environmental relevance of the food we eat. Preceding all this from 2:30 to 5:00 PM will be an optional interfaith advocacy training workshop at the same location. It will explore environmental priorities in the 2011 Oregon legislature and how to be an effective faith-based advocate.

Pre-registration is required. Brochures and registration forms are available in the church office and when filled out should be submitted to our church office by January 21, 2010. The registration fee including supper will be \$20 for the first ten persons registering from our congregation, and then \$40 thereafter.

volunteers in mission

the holy land

COME TO BETHLEHEM: A HOLY LAND TOUR

For some, the words "Holy Land" evoke an image of Biblical times – Jesus preaching in Galilee, shepherds tending flocks, fishermen fishing for food – and for men. For others, the words bring up a vivid image of modern times – complete with conflict and "separation walls." The Global Mission committee would like to offer the opportunity for those interested to visit Palestine/Israel and to see for themselves the beauty and heartache of this troubled, yet magical place. A United Methodist Volunteer in Mission team is being formed to visit the Holy Land October 22 – November 5, 2011. The trip will be led by Dee Poujade, co-chair of the Global Mission committee and veteran of six UVMIM trips, and will be hosted by Janet Lahr Lewis, First UMC covenant missionary in the Holy Land.

The trip will include visits to such locales as the Old City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and the Mt. of Beatitudes, as well as opportunities to meet with Palestinian Christians and members of Jewish and Muslim groups who are working together toward peace in the Middle East. There will also be a work project commensurate with the abilities and interests of group participants (possibly helping with the olive harvest.)

On January 16, 2011, following the church service, an informational meeting will be held in the Fireside Room. Attendance at this meeting does not obligate anyone to participate in the trip; however, those attending will have the first opportunity to sign up for what promises to be a life-changing experience. Estimated cost of the trip is \$3,000, which will include round-trip airfare from Portland to Tel Aviv, as well as accommodations and meals while in Palestine/Israel. Anyone who would like additional information can call Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337 or e-mail deelaw33@hotmail.com.

also note

these items of interest

YOUNG ADULT PARENTS

Parents of young and school age children are invited to a night of fun and fellowship at the church on Sunday, January 30, 2011 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Bring a favorite easy snack to share and a favorite game. Child care will be provided. We need to know if you are coming to arrange childcare, so please contact Peggy at pluckman@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195.

PING PONG

The Intergenerational Ping Pong Fellowship meets regularly on Thursday nights in the church gym from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. There is a small core of mostly adult players. We encourage more youth players to participate and more adults are certainly welcome. We will help you with your playing skills and have all the necessary equipment. There are three tables available for play. Make it a new year's resolution to join us.

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 January 26, 2011.

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.

Supporting the Blessed Community
as of January 6, 2011

Commitments to the 2011 Mission of Our Church

HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	RESOURCES COMMITTED TO MISSION	RESOURCES NEEDED FOR MISSION	% OF RESOURCES COMMITTED
282	\$792,177	\$910,000	87.05%

now is the time to step up and make a difference!



THANK YOU FROM MICHELLE GREEN

I want to thank my church family for their prayers, cards, calls, and monetary support, as I fight colon cancer. I have finished radiation and chemo, and am resting and healing before I have surgery in January. The warmth of your care has really sustained me. Thank you so much.
- Michelle Green

