



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 26, 2010  
Volume 15, Issue 02

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 30  
10:30 AM

February 6  
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

# RECONCILING SUNDAY

February 6, 2011

## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH UNDERSTANDING



You may have seen the letters LGBT in reference to the Reconciling Community and just thought of it as an "alphabet soup." Each letter stands for groups within that community: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and some identify themselves as "queer." It is important that we get beyond labels and compartmentalization and move to understanding and connection. Join us on Sunday morning, February 6, 2010 in the 10:30 AM worship service for Reconciling Sunday and following worship for a forum on transgender issues.



## FORUM: TRANSGENDER ISSUES

*For more detail see page five.*

*Living a vibrant faith—Thinking...Acting...Believing!*  
Portland's First United Methodist Church's 'Framing' Statement



## memo

Rev. Dr.  
Arvin R.  
Luchs

It was scheduled for 15 minutes of an already crowded agenda. It took 45. One by one our congregation's ministry teams updated last Sunday's Ministry Conference activities. The energy was palpable as group after group reported: efforts to stop human trafficking; volunteers in mission to Israel; children helping in the Goose Hollow Family Shelter; organizing to oppose the death penalty; 40 youth at a weekend lock-in reach out to help the Humane Society; a reconciling forum on transgendered issues; participation in a summit and sponsoring a workshop on living "green;" hosting a conference on immigration matters; visits to churches of other faiths; a Lenten series on "Compassion;" a concert with a nationally known composer—even a United Methodist version of a Mardi Gras. I don't have enough space to report them all!

When it was finally over, the meeting's co-chair Sonja Connor exclaimed: "Wow! You are an awesome bunch!"

I wonder if we really appreciate how right she is? It reminded me of something I came across the other day (its source not cited):

Some churches have parking problems,  
some other churches don't.

Some churches have kids running around making a lot of noise,  
some other churches tend to be very quiet.

Some churches usually have more expenses than money,  
some other churches don't need to spend much money  
because not much is going on.

Some churches are growing so fast you don't always know everybody's name,  
some other churches everybody has known everybody's name for years.

Some churches enthusiastically and generously support missions,  
some other churches keep it all at home.

Some churches are filled with tithers,  
some other churches are filled with tippers.

Some churches energize,  
some other churches fossilize.

Some churches are always planning for the future,  
some other churches live in the past.

Some churches seek new ministries and new methods,  
some other churches don't want to.

If you are active in a church,  
why don't you take a moment and pray for it today?

Some people pray for their church,  
and some others never quite get around to it.

You *are* awesome! I thank God for you all!

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 202

The Changing Christianity Class offers the opportunity for wide-ranging conversations about religion and Christianity past, present, and future. Next Sunday, this class will begin studying the book, *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, by Adam Hamilton.

### 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 the final session of this class will be Sunday, January 30, 2010 from 9:30 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room,  
The class is facilitated by Martha Powell.

### EXAMINING THE DEATH PENALTY

Sundays February 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2010  
from 9:30 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room,  
The first session, Sunday, February 6, 2011 will feature *Reflections* by Justice John Paul Stevens on legal decisions about the death penalty. Led by Gene Gregory.



## THE CRYING TREE

### FIRST CHURCH READS— THE CRYING TREE BY NASEEM RAKHA

The Adult Ministries and Church and Society committees invite you to participate in our next First Church Reads. We have chosen *The Crying Tree* by Oregon author Naseem Rakha. In the words of one reviewer, *The Crying Tree* is “the gripping story of parents losing a son to murder and their desperate hope that an execution will provide closure, while allowing readers to consider the idea of forgiveness as a means of healing.” The book will be on sale in the Commons for \$11.50, beginning today.

You are invited to join discussions of this book in on February 20 & 27, 2011 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room in a series focusing on the Death Penalty. Also, the author will speak at a forum on Sunday, February 27, 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 GATHERING: COOKING WITH SONJA

The February UMW Unit Gathering will be a special Saturday event, February 12, 2011 at 10:30 AM in Collins Hall. Our program will be 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* and 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.

### THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at noon in Room 204. The program will be “Sharing Collectibles.” Do you have a keepsake with a special story? Maybe you have a hobby of collecting items with a special theme. This is the opportunity to share it! Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

### THE UMW READING GROUP

The UMW Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the library. Sue Fisher will review the book, *Home* by Marilynne Robinson, a winner of the Orange Prize. It is an imagined retelling of the prodigal son parable, set at the same moment and in the same town as *Gilead*, Ms. Robinson's previous best seller. The Reverend Boughton's hell-raising son, Jack, has come home after twenty years away. *Home* is a healing book about families, family secrets and faith. Chair: Sue Fisher. 503/203-1445.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Winter Forum will be held Friday, February 4, 2011 at First AME Zion Methodist Church, 4303 N. Vancouver Street, 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. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare 503/292-1773

### 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 the Minister of Discipleship I have the privilege of working with the committees of the church as they develop programs, classes and forums to challenge, inform and empower us as the people of God and followers of Christ. As you will see in this *Circuit Rider*, three committees are sharing that responsibility in February.

The first Sunday Reconciling Ministries will sponsor a forum to help us understand more about gender and sexual orientation. I had the privilege of hearing the physician who will be speaking, and am very pleased we are able to offer this opportunity to you. We will also have the privilege of hearing a member of our congregation speak.

Starting February 6, 2011, Church and Society and Adult Ministries Committees will offer a series of four Sunday morning classes discussing the issues surrounding the death penalty, concluding with a forum on February 27, 2011 with award winning author Naseem Rahka, former NPR correspondent and award winning author of *The Crying Tree*. When the death penalty was reinstated in Oregon, Naseem was sent by National Public Radio to cover the first execution under the reinstated law. That experience was the inspiration for her book. She is a dynamic, passionate speaker who will deepen your understanding of the many aspects of human experience related to carrying out the death penalty.

Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." The month of February we will examine how we limit life, and how we can participate more fully in the abundant life he offers.

In ministry with you,

Peggy

## 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!

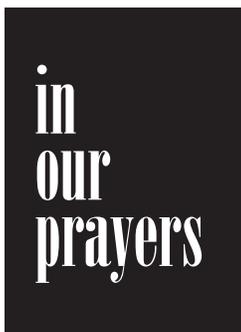
Join others from First UMC on Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 PM, in the Keller Auditorium to attend *Billy Elliot*. It is the joyous musical celebration of one young boy's journey against the odds to make his dreams come true. It was the winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards, with music by Elton John. Group tickets 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](mailto:cbostick@fumcpdx.org).

## 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](mailto: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.



## PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

*Scott Warden*, whose father died on January 10, 2011 in Victoria, BC.

## PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Jay Stewart*, who is now under hospice care, he is the son-in-law of *Betty Cobb* ...

*Frances LeFever*, who is at home recovering from surgery ...

## OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

*Michelle Green, Marty Martin, Marilyn Schuberg, Karen Smith, Kieran Leatherwood* ...

## take note

something for you!

## children, youth & families

get involved!

### THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, February 5, 2011 in Room 202 for a potluck lunch and program. Bring a dish to share. Our guest will be Mary Babcock, speaking about the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. For more information contact Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716 or Lorraine Johnson at 503/236-9620.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Interested in learning more about this church? The next new member orientation will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 in Room 110 following worship. Mark your calendar for this two hour introduction. A light meal is provided. For more information, contact Rev. Peggy Luckman at 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or [pluckman@fumcpdx.org](mailto:pluckman@fumcpdx.org).

### YOUTH SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 13, 2011

Join the youth of the First United Methodist Church for a dynamic and engaging worship service on February 13, 2011. You will hear the sounds of young voices who are interested in engaging our congregation with the energy of the next generation. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. This is not a Sunday worship service to miss! Then join the youth group in Collins Hall following worship to celebrate their ministry!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ACTION AT THE GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

If you and your child participate in Sunday school programs here at First UMC, here is a great opportunity for you to meet other families interested in service! The Sunday school classes are signed up to volunteer at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter as Meal Providers and Kids Time hosts. We are hoping that three families from our Sunday school classes volunteer each night in the shelter. Stay tuned for upcoming dates. See the sign up in Collins Hall after worship, or contact Megan Humphreys-Loving for more information.

## a forum: transgender issues

### A FORUM: FOCUS ON "T": AN INTRODUCTION IN TRANSGENDER ISSUES

Sunday, February 6, 2010 – 12:00 PM in the Fireside Room

Transgendered persons have undoubtedly been with us since the very beginning of human civilization yet the modern transgender-awareness movement dates only to the 1970s. Still, a decade into the 21st century, for many people, understanding transgender issues can be difficult. It's no wonder. Most of us have been raised in traditional societal structures where gender, gender identity and sexual preference were, and predominantly still are, defined by normative gender roles. During our forum, we'll attempt to answer the following questions and more:

- What is gender? Hint: you might be surprised by the answer!
- How does gender differ from "gender identity?"
- How does "sexual preference" interplay with "gender and gender identity?"
- What are the major issues faced by transgender persons in our society today?
- How can First Church support the spiritual needs of the transgender community?

Join us on Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 12:00 PM as we illuminate the "T" in LGBT. This interactive panel discussion will feature two experts on transgender issues, Dr. Carol Waymack, a Board Certified Pediatrician who treats children with gender issues, and Tami Lazzaro, a member of our own congregation who will share her personal experiences as a trans-woman.



### What is gender?

You might be surprised by the answer!



Carol  
Waymack, MD  
Family Practice  
Physician  
The Polyclinic  
(Seattle)



Tami  
Lazzaro, LN  
FUMC Stephen  
Minister &  
Transgender  
Educator

**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 February 9, 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](http://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 20, 2011

**Commitments to the 2011 Mission of Our Church**

HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	RESOURCES COMMITTED TO MISSION	RESOURCES NEEDED FOR MISSION	% OF RESOURCES COMMITTED
<b>292</b>	<b>\$817,126</b>	<b>\$910,000</b>	<b>89.79%</b>

Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the church pews and can be placed in the offering plates or taken to the church office.



**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

If you have a background in one of the health professions, would you be willing to help with the free monthly blood pressure clinics held in the Commons? If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Debby Fisher, Health and Wellness Coordinator at 503/645-4802 or [mfisher2@msn.com](mailto:mfisher2@msn.com).

**Save Friday night, March 4, 2011**  
**We are unmasking a dazzling evening of fun!**

