



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

March 23, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 06

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 27
10:30 AM

April 3
10:30 AM

One Great Hour
of Sharing

All-Church
Conference
at noon in 202



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



STAYING CONNECTED

First Church Discernment Update

Con-nect-ed-ness n. the act of being joined, linked, united

In 2010, First Church engaged in a comprehensive congregational discernment process. As part of this process, members of both the Parish and Ministry conferences as well as the church membership on a whole, submitted ideas based on perceived “needs” in our own church community, our city, state, nation and in the world at large. Several major themes emerged from the hundreds of ideas submitted including the themes of peace, social justice and community action; however, one theme was consistently interwoven through the vast majority of these ideas—the idea of “connectedness.”

Like many churches, First Church has grown and evolved over time to support many unique ministries ranging from Planet Church focusing on environmental concerns to the diversity enriching work of Reconciling Ministries. Each of our 20+ committees, programs and ministries all serve a vital role both in our faith community and in the community at large, but how often do we work corroboratively across ministries to achieve our individual missions? Perhaps more importantly, how often do we think in terms of unified mission and shared goals?

Throughout our 2011/2012 ministry planning season, First Church ministries have been asked to explore the topic of connection both in our church and within our Portland community. To jump start these efforts, a communications task force has been assembled to lay the groundwork for a new First Church website set to launch later this year. This new site will be instrumental in helping to support both our internal and external connections. In addition, look for ministry co-sponsorship of events throughout the year and into 2012. Finally, be certain to thank Paul Terdal for his tireless efforts managing the discernment process over the past 12 months.

A report from the Parish Conference prepared by Dan Woodward, Lay Leader Elect.



memo

Rev. Dr.
Arvin R.
Luchs

It's not in our song-book anymore (but that's another story for another time.) The hymn, *Once to Every Man and Nation*, was set to a majestic Welsh tune. While much of its lyrics are theologically outmoded, one phrase continues to stick in my mind: "New occasions teach new duties..."

After more than a year of discernment—with wide input from throughout our congregation—our Parish Conference has settled on "Connectedness" as the new emphasis for our congregation's life in the days ahead. Their report to you headlines this issue—but its implications are far reaching.

After all, the whole notion of being "connected" has exploded in this internet-saturated world. E-mail has long ago surpassed letters as a primary way to keep up-to-date with one another. The miles between us are dissolving as families, friends—even TV networks and businesses are "Skyping" together. Many of us no longer write the editor to express opinions—we post a blog. This new technology is upending traditional magazine, newspaper and book publishing. Even greeting cards are quickly yielding to animated, musical e-cards.

Social networks (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter—and such) have changed the way we connect—not only in our community but world-wide. A single Facebook page called, *We Are All Khaled Said*, (named in memory of a young Egyptian who was beaten to death by the police) played a significant role triggering a revolution in Egypt. Similar social media posts helped organize demonstrations in Tunisia, Yemen and, now, Libya.

Helene Slessarev-Jamir, a professor at Claremont School of Theology, pondered it all in a blog on Sojourner's site:

"Through (social networks), we are not only engaging with the faces of our family and friends; we can now connect to complete strangers whose faces simultaneously evoke empathy and anger at the unnecessary suffering they are experiencing. Social media is effectively humanizing conflicts that in the past would have largely remained hidden from international audiences ... It effectively enables the global community to look into the faces of the other, which according to the Jewish philosopher, Emmanuel Levinas, is the grounding of any authentic commitment to universal human rights. For Levinas, our encounter with the other's face is the point at which God breaks into the worldly situation." *

We have much to learn to engage this new media and bring us into deeper connection! Fortunately, we've already started the process.

Rev. Peggy Luckman has convened a task force to look at ways to more effectively integrate these communication tools into our congregational life. A significant number of us receive this publication through an e-mail link. Statistics say thousands visit it through a link on our website (www.fumcpdx.org). And, speaking of our web-presence, a newly designed—more user-friendly—web site is in the works. Our youth have been using social networking for several years—and the task force is discussing ways to safely and effectively expand the use social networks for us all.

The group is well aware that along with these new tools come new challenges and risks. Without adequate, thoughtful safety measures we could expose people to all kinds of internet mischief. Security and safety of all—particularly children, youth and vulnerable seniors—cannot be ignored—but neither can they give us excuse for ignoring our generation's most significant way to be in deeper connection.

After all, "new occasions teach new duties."

See you in Church!

Arvin

* <http://blog.sojo.net/2011/02/28/is-facebook-changing-the-world/>

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class is combining with the Major Religions of the World class (see below). They will resume on Sunday, April 17, 2011.

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. Currently, we are discussing Robert C. Morris' book, *Wrestling with Grace: A Spirituality for the Rough Edges of Daily Life*.

MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

March 13 - April 10, 2010

Come to the Fireside Room each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM to learn the basics about some of the major religions of the world:

Sunday, March 27:	Judaism
Sunday April 03:	Zen Buddhism
Sunday, April 10:	Baha'i

congratulations



Congratulations to First UMC's United Methodist Women. Once again they have been designated a "Mission Today Unit" by the Metro District UMW. Their commendation notes, "They achieved this award by demonstrating a commitment to mission through a year-long program of prayer, study, projects and financial support of missions. Portland First United Methodist Women have a long history of participation in all programs of UMW and achieving the highest honor, being named a Gold Unit."

our prayers & concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Kevin Downey, on the recent death of his mother. Kevin is also recovering from heart surgery ...

Betty Hager, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization ...

Virginia Townend, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization ...

Grace Renfroe, who is recuperating from a medical procedure ...

The Rev. Donna Pritchard, as she prepares to become our Senior Pastor on July 1, 2011 ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Doris Lavelly, Cadence May, Karen Smith, Eleanor Stubbs, and Jay Stewart ...

this & that

ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 will be the final session of the current Electives for Enrichment series. The topic will be: *Alzheimer's: Symptoms, Treatment, and Research*. Our presenter will be Dr. Deniz Erten-Lyons of the Oregon Health Sciences University. The class will meet at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. There is a \$5.00 charge for the class.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Assistant to the Bishop, Lowell Greathouse, has set a brief Church Conference for Sunday, April 3, 2011 at noon in Room 202. The purpose of this specially called Conference is to approve changes to the compensation for the two appointed pastors to include a "cost of living" adjustment that is included in the congregation's 2011 budget. That budget had not yet been set at the time of the fall Church Conference when salaries were adopted. Agenda is limited to this item and should only take a few minutes at the start of a combined meeting of the Parish and Ministry Conferences.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Mark Ohlson, the new Coordinator of Volunteers, Hospitality & Outreach at Portland's First UMC. For more information contact: Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716.

NATURE WALK

There will be a Nature Walk on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Tyron Creek State Park from 10:00 AM to noon. Meet at the park. Bob Wilson, one of our resident naturalists, will lead this informative and engaging hike in a local setting. Please sign up with Megan Humphreys-Loving or in Collins Hall after worship.

PEACE FORUM

A Church Forum is scheduled for April 17, 2011 following worship to discuss the newly revised statement declaring First United Methodist Church members will do all we can to be peacemakers in our homes, in our community, and in our world. The Church & Society Committee presented the revised statement to the Parish Conference, which voted to refer it now to the congregation and invite responses. Copies of the statement are available in the church office. Please pick one up and read it before coming to the forum on April 17, 2011. For additional information, contact Rev. Peggy Luckman.

*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*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN QUILT SHOW AND LUNCHEON

The United Methodist Women present the ninth annual Quilt Show and Luncheon on Friday, April 29, 2011. This year our quilters have chosen the theme of "A Fine Line." It is a theme of recurring circles as they connect one quilt to the next. The quilt preview begins at 11:30 PM, lunch at 12:00 PM and program at 12:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 with \$15.00 designated for Mission Giving. Ticket sales will begin April 3, 2011 in the Commons in Collins Hall after the church service.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at noon at the home of Hazelee Stevenson for a book sharing. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Contact Hazelee at 503/283-0041 for directions.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Lila Palmiter will share ideas from Lester R. Brown's book, *Plan B*. Each April, planet Earth is remembered. We are in an environmental bubble. We are a species out-of-control, setting into motion processes we do not understand with consequences that we cannot foresee. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

PLANNING TEAM

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

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Spring Forum is Friday, April 1, 2011 at Rose City Park UMC, located at 5830 NE Alameda Street, Portland, Oregon. Registration is at 9:30 AM and the meeting begins at 10:00 AM. The speaker will be Nancy Johnson from Letty Owings Center. "Welcome Kits" for new residents will be assembled. Please provide some of these items, if possible: bath soap, shampoo, lotion, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, hair brush (not travel size), or gift bags to hold these items. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare 503/292-1773

UMW UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, April 6 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The program is "Mission Opportunities In Our Own Backyard." Brenda Carpenter, Deputy Director of Northwest Pilot Project and a member of First UMC will tell us about programs at Northwest Ministries that include low rent housing for seniors, a food bank, and services for children and families. President Marion Hollenberg. 503/640-3270.

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Wednesday, April 6 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Room 202.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN METRO DISTRICT

The United Methodist Women Metro District presents a one-day spiritual growth retreat facilitated by Rev. Carol Davies entitled: "A Patchwork of Spirituality: Finding Peace Among the Pieces" at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center. The retreat may be attended on Friday, April 8, 2011 or on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Registration begins at 9:30 AM. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM. The registration fee is \$25.00 or for the first time participant, the fee is \$20.00. Please remit the form and fee to Judy Caufield, 9145 SW Mountain View Lane, Tigard, Oregon 97224-2939 by April 2, 2011. For more information and to obtain a registration form, please contact Marion Hollenberg at 503/640-3270.

METRO AREA UMW

Check out our UMW bulletin board at First UMC for information on upcoming events for UMW in the metro area. You will find opportunities regarding rummage sales, plays, concerts, fry bread sales, an English tea, plant sale, spring luncheon, bake sale, chili cook-off and many other events.

Tapestry of FAITH

COMPASSION

*The theme for our Lenten Suppers is:
Compassion: A Tapestry of Faith.
Each Wednesday evening of Lent has begun
with a simple meal at 5:30 PM, followed by
a brief time of singing, and a presentation in
the Chapel by a leader of a world religion
speaking on compassion in the context of
their religion.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Compassion in the Buddhist Religion

Kari Kishin Lindahl will be our guest speaker.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

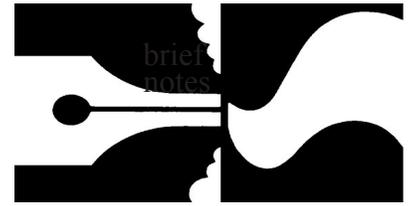
Compassion in the Muslim Faith

Wadji Said, Muslim Education Trust will be our guest speaker.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

**Compassion Through the Eyes of Youth: Christian
and Muslim Faiths**

Youth from the Muslim Education Trust, along with youth
from our own congregation will share what compassion
and faith mean to them.



REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

How many of the young people in this congregation do you know? One of the important roles of the church is to nurture youth and children as they grow in their faith. It is a promise we have made to their families when infants and children are baptized.

I would especially like to invite you to become more active in the life of our youth. Take the time to talk with them in fellowship times. Find out what is important in their lives. I will be looking for mentors for our seventh graders who are beginning confirmation classes. Mentors will share their faith with a youth and hear about the faith of that youth as they learn about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to join the church family.

Do you have a heart for helping out in our youth program? There are always things that can be done (in both one time and/or ongoing commitments of time and energy) to encourage and strengthen our young people as we build healthy relationships with them. Megan Humphreys-Loving would love to help you find that perfect spot in the youth ministry program where your gifts and compassion for our youth will fit.

Peggy

Please note, in compliance with our safe church policies, all volunteers working with children and youth will be subject to background checks.

a planet church forum climate change

A FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Planet Church will sponsor a Climate Science Update Forum, on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at noon in the Fireside room. Dr. Christina Hulbe will share the current status of climate change research. She will also share her own on-site and other research on ice shelf and glacier response related to globally warming temperatures and our ability to make climate projections. Dr. Hulbe is a geophysicist who specializes in glaciology, using computer simulations of glacial systems to study how and why they change over time. She is currently an associate professor of geology at Portland State University. While much of her work is computational, Christina has also spent four field seasons in the remote interior of west Antarctica. A light lunch will be provided with the opportunity to make a donation to cover costs.

a local travel event churches of other cultures

CHURCHES OF OTHER CULTURES

The First Church Travel Committee is pleased to announce the return of a popular event. On Thursday, May 12, 2011 we will visit Churches of Other Cultures. We will experience personalized tours and on site mini-seminars at three locations: the Bilal Masjid Mosque, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Temple Beth Israel Synagogue. We will meet at First Church at 8:45 AM, have a brief overview of the day, and then carpool to each worship center. A lunch stop will also be part of the day. Projected return to First Church is around 4:30 PM. The fee is \$10.00 per person; registration is necessary to be included. Registration is through the church office with a deadline of April 15, 2011. To register, call 503/228-3195 or e-mail office@fumcpdx.org.

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 April 6, 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 March 23, 2011

Commitments to the 2011 Mission of Our Church

HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	RESOURCES COMMITTED TO MISSION	RESOURCES NEEDED FOR MISSION	% OF RESOURCES COMMITTED
346	\$864,543	\$910,000	95.00%

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



BUSINESS ENERGY TAX CREDIT

Because of some lighting upgrades we did in the First Church sanctuary last year, the church has a BETC (Business Energy Tax Credit) of \$2,363 available. The church is looking for a “pass through partner.” If you or someone you know are interested please call Christine Bostick in the church office, 503/228-3195 or e-mail her at cbostick@fumcpdx.org.