



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 4, 2011  
Volume 15, Issue 09

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 8  
10:30 AM  
Native American  
Ministries Sunday

May 15  
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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS COME IN ALL SHAPES & SIZES!



## What kind of teacher could you be?

Teaching Sunday School can be a delightful challenge for your spirit. Some might find it a daunting task to take on a room of kids on a Sunday morning, but those who have tried it will tell you, it's worth the effort! Children's Ministry volunteers are an incredibly important part of the ministry that happens here at Portland's First UMC. Our volunteer teaching teams teach three months out of the school year. From September to May, approximately 50 volunteers will teach Sunday school. That is a lot of people focusing energy on our kids!

This spring, Children and Family Ministries is looking for some fresh faces to augment our talented team and give teaching Sunday School a try. Currently we are looking for volunteers to teach Summer Sunday school and/or teach a class starting in the fall.

Sunday School is fun and easy to teach. Volunteers work together to determine their schedule. Teaching teams will teach three months out of the year. Curriculum is provided quarterly, and training is provided at the beginning of the school year.

If Sunday School is not your thing, there are always other opportunities to volunteer with Children's Ministry. You can help plan an event, keep track of attendance, plan crafts or art projects.

Spend some time thinking about the way you can participate in Children's Ministry in the future. Perhaps God is leading you to a new experience! If you are feeling called to ministry with children, please contact Megan Humphreys-Loving: 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or [mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org)



## memo

Rev. Dr.  
Arvin R.  
Luchs

A cardinal principle in a workplace is sharing information. Don't let your colleagues be caught off guard—blindsided. So I keep saying, "I don't like surprises!" It is almost a mantra for me.

Last Sunday during worship, though, I was caught off guard--surprised.

But, rather than being annoyed, I was humbled and honored.

It was delightful to discover Sonja Connor had joined Rev. Luckman to remember the late Dr. William Connor, and tell our children about a "Peace Pole" that will be placed in Beckham Courtyard next week. They talked about "peace": wholeness, harmony and well-being and its importance to Jesus and to our faith. Sonja described the ten-foot-tall pentagon-shaped post with words of peace in many languages engraved upon its copper sheath. It will be a good way to symbolize this congregation's long-time efforts to be peace-makers in our homes, on our streets, across our nation and around the world.

Sonja remembered her late husband and his life-long dedication to peace, health and justice for all. The pole, Peggy said, would be dedicated in his memory.

Nothing could be more fitting. Many of us still cherish awesome memories. His gracious, smiling demeanor and carefully chosen words belayed a steel-strong determination to do anything he could to help others and build a harmonious world. Sonja remembered, for example, how he stood on a downtown corner demonstrating against the war in Vietnam one day a week—not just for a few months—but for nine years. He mediated concerns in a southwest Portland neighborhood that were blocking building a community center. Bill long opposed the death penalty, and, right up to the day of his death, he tirelessly advocated and organized for its abolition. I am still amazed how he could confront those who disagreed without being disagreeable.

I asked Sonja if she could share some of the background of the project that honors his astounding spirit:

"The idea for getting a peace pole for our church started with the Church and Society for Social Justice Committee when Annie Heart was First UMC's Director of Outreach.

I remember Bill coming home from a meeting all excited about the prospect of getting a peace pole. He had me search them out on the internet.

For a number of months the committee championed the cause and the notion grew. Finally the idea was formally presented to the (then) Leadership Council, which affirmed the proposal and referred it to a Church Conference. In late 2008 it was approved.

Then financial recession hit, and budgets were limited. There was no money available with which to purchase the pole, and so implementation was put on hold.

Recently members of the Church and Society for Social Justice Committee wondered if the church could now afford to resurrect the project. I realized we could dedicate Bill's memorial funds to commission the pole's creation. So, in February, First UMC's Peace Pole was ordered, and next Thursday the Shovel and Rake Gang plans to install it."

No surprises here! Of course, I knew of the project. I'd been told when the Pole was delivered (though I haven't yet seen it). I even encouraged a discussion about where it will be placed.

The surprise?

They indicated that, in addition to the memory of Dr. Connor, the Peace Pole would also honor my ministry with you. I'm overwhelmed! To be named in such a way is deeply touching. To be mentioned alongside such a great soul as Dr. Connor is undeserved and humbling. I am sincerely grateful.

There can be no higher honor than to be remembered for the cause of peace.

See you in church!

Arvin

## adult sunday school classes

### CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in Room 202.

### 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*.

### PURSUIT OF THE SOUL

*Pursuit of the Soul* is a series of classes will focus on art and spirituality and will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15-10:15 AM from May 1 to June 12, 2011.

The first two sessions, May 1 & 8 will be: *Art as Meditation*, led by Martha Powell. This two-week class will feature *Blessing the Space Between Us*, a book of poems, prayers and blessings by Rev. John O'Donnahue. We will also explore *Creativity: Where the Divine and the Human Meet* by Mathew Fox. Come prepared to create through watercolor and collage, to discuss the mystery of prayers and to seek the presence of God. The May 15 session will be *Soul Collages*, led by Cindy Force. Watch for further details on subsequent classes.

## our prayers & concerns

### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

*Frank Hodapp*, on the death of his brother, *Phillip*, who died April 22, 2011 in Bend, Oregon ...

*Christine Bostick*, on the death of her brother, *David Manske*, who died May 2, 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin ...

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

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

*Joan Hill*, who is home following heart surgery ...

*Betty-Lou Hare*, who is recuperating from an infection and fall ...

*Al Laney*, who is recuperating from surgery ...

### OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

*Doris Lavelly, Karen Smith, Eleanor Stubbs, Nancy Beth Davis* ...

### PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD ...

*Jared Bomberger*, who serves in the Air Force, returned to Iraq ...

### PLEASE NOTE A NEW ADDRESS

Rev. Tom & Colleen Foster  
2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd. #813, Portland, OR 97201  
Phone: 503/808-7389

## this & that

### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Family Game Night will be Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Do you love playing games? Does someone in your family have a game that they could teach to others? Join in the family fun with your favorite board game and a snack to share. We will meet in Room 202. Nursery care is provided for the little ones! Hope to see you there!

### NYNOS IN MAY

The NYNOS will meet Saturday, May 21, 2011 in the Fireside Room at 11:30 AM and share a potluck meal at noon. A very special program will follow. Kilong Ung, a Cambodian-American author and civic leader, will present a talk with pictures about his inspiring experiences as a survivor of the horrendous Khmer Rouge genocide and as an immigrant to the United States. RSVP to Clare & Rosalie Humphrey at 503/230-8336 or cemh28@yahoo.com. Let them know of your attendance, yea or nay, and if you coming what dish you plan to bring to the event.

### BENEFIT CONCERT FOR JAPAN RELIEF

Yamato Dawn: Peter Zisa and Friends will present a concert on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 3:00 PM at the First Christian Church, SW Park at Columbia Street, Portland. The concert will benefit disaster relief in Japan.

### FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The First Church Library's follow-up used book sale will be held on Sunday, May 22, before and after worship in Collins Hall. We have plenty of great books of all types: fiction, non-fiction, children, crafts, and more. All proceeds benefit the First Church Library.

### A REMINDER ABOUT PARKING AT FIRST CHURCH

Under City of Portland zoning, our parking lots are "accessory" to the primary use of our property as a church. Thus, use of our parking lots is limited to those attending worship, meetings and events at First Church. Unfortunately, that means we cannot allow even our faithful members and friends to park for events elsewhere in the area, including athletic events at Jeld-Wen Field. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

*Bill Haden, Chair, Board of Trustees*

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

**THE RUTH CIRCLE**

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Paula Dovholuk will give an overview of the life and writings author John O'Donohue. 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, May 18, 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.

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 11:30 AM in the narthex of First UMC to carpool to Bob's Red Mill for a tour and then lunch at the site. For questions, please contact Hazelee Stevenson at 503/283-0041.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

The Church Women United are celebrating their organization's 70th anniversary at their Oregon State Assembly "Joining of the Waters" on May 14, 2011 with registration beginning at 9:00 AM. The meeting is at Trinity Lutheran Church located at 507 West Powell Blvd., Gresham, Oregon. Registration form and \$15.00 for the lunch is due by May 7, 2011 to Donna Ward, 5730 SW Seymour Ct., Portland, OR 97221. Any questions, call Nadine Gilmore, (H) 503/981-6558, (C) 503/951-7931, email: nadineg2@q.com. First UMC contact: Betty-Lou Hare 503/292-1773

**PLANNING TEAM**

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.



*Winning Hearts & Minds*

We are collecting gifts for Afghani children and military personnel at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, through the month of May. Bring your items to the donation boxes in Collins Hall. If you have questions about this project contact: Mark Ohlson at 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or mohlson@fumcpdx.org. Here are the items needed:

For the Local Population

- Baby Crocs and Children's sturdy Crocs or Sandals
- Children's Sunglasses
- Beannie Babies or small Stuffed Animals
- Crayons and Coloring Books

For the Marines and Sailors:

- Beef Jerky
- M & M Candies
- Baby Wipes and Hand Sanitizer
- Hygiene and Toiletries



**FIRST CHURCH  
young  
adults**

The First Church Young Adult group will gather Sunday evening, May 8, 2011 at 5:00 PM at Megan Humphreys-Loving's house for dinner and conversation. Bring a veggie for stir-fry and your calendar for the summer. If you plan to come, please RSVP via call or text to Megan at 262/853-2461 or email mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

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**SO CLOSE** **5%**

We are only 5% away (\$45,500) from reaching our goal of \$910,000 for the resources needed for the mission of First Church. Please "step up" today and return your Estimate of Giving card into the church office.



**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 May 18, 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.

Portland's First United Methodist Church Friends of Music in conjunction with the Rose Festival present a ...



## CARNIVAL OF SOUND

*Organist Jonas Nordwall & the Big Horn Brass*

in an afternoon of music from popular movies & well-known composers

**Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 3:00 PM**

Portland's First UMC, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland  
Tickets: \$15.00 / Students HS and under \$10.00

