



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 13, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 15

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 17
10:30 AM

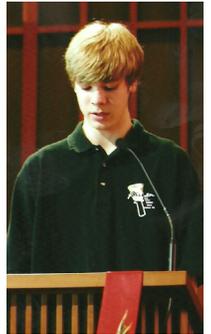
July 24
10:30 AM



Portland First United Methodist Church declares that we will be an advocate for peace in our local communities and world. 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



On July 26, 2011 young people from youth groups across the nation will be gathering in Sacramento for YOUTH 2011, a national youth gathering for the United Methodist Church. It is an event that only happens every four years and is the largest single gathering of UMC youth in existence. This will be a great opportunity for four youth from First UMC to be in service, worship, and fellowship with youth from other United Methodist Churches from all across the country.

Maddy, Sarah, Makenzie, and Zach, are four of our high school youth headed to Youth 2011. It will be an experience of a lifetime. Attending YOUTH 2011 will help these youth build confidence, gain focus and create connection within our youth program. They will experience worship that has been planned with youth in mind. They will participate in leadership training. They will hear music that will connect them to their God.

These young people are so grateful for the support of the congregation. You have nurtured them all for years. You have held them in your hearts at their baptism and confirmation. They thank you for your prayers and generous gifts. We have currently raised \$2,870 and still need \$1,134. Mark any contributions: YOUTH 2011.

Our group will be chaperoned by Erik Little and Megan Humphreys-Loving and will return on July 31, 2011. (Perhaps in time to greet you at coffee hour after worship!) Look for us, for we will have stories to share.



a message from our pastor

**Rev. Donna
Pritchard**

I recently came across this quotation which got me to thinking ...
“Some of the world’s greatest feats were accomplished by people not smart enough to know they were impossible.”

It reminds me of a Biblical passage in which (purportedly) the apostle Paul writes:

“For consider your call, brothers (and sisters); not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are ...”

It’s a great image of the possibilities of the impossible. And it offers encouragement to those who would attempt transformation in any form. But I’m not sure I totally agree with the first quote. I’m not sure it is a sign of intelligence to recognize what is impossible. In fact, just the opposite may be true!

Perhaps it is a sign of true intelligence to recognize that all things are possible. Certainly there are worlds beyond our own and worlds within each of us which are rarely explored, and even less frequently tapped. So while it may seem “impossible” for me to assimilate all that I am learning every day in this new ministry with new partners and new communities, I trust that it is “possible” for me to do exactly that! Just for today, I am going to try to see everything as a possibility, whether it be wise or foolish, weak or strong, exalted or despised. Just for today I celebrate impossible possibilities. And I invite you to do the same.

Grace and Peace,

Donna

PS ...

Thank you for the lovely, warm welcome you have extended to me as your new Senior Pastor! I have been so richly blessed and am so thrilled to be with you! At the reception following worship yesterday, someone asked for a little more information about me and my journey to this point. At the risk of boring you, here are a few “facts and figures” ...

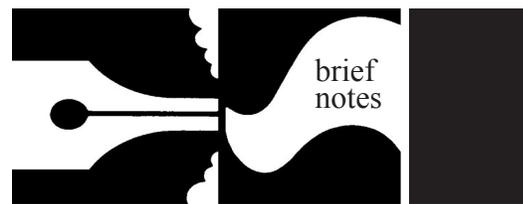
... I was born in El Paso, Texas, the third of three daughters born to Art and Dottie Lowman.

... My early years were spent on various Army bases (Texas, Chicago, Japan) until dad retired from Ft. Lewis, Washington when I was six-years-old.

... I graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Recreation and Parks Management and had some great fun managing community festivals and running summer playground programs for about four years prior to attending Iliff School of Theology, where I earned my Master of Divinity degree in 1983.

... When I play the “Who Are You?” game, I tend to think in terms of these descriptors: Child of God, woman of faith, daughter/sister/mother, artist, athlete (that is probably mostly wishful thinking at this point!), enthusiast, joyful one, friend. I am anxious to share your descriptors as we get to know each other well.

THIS & THAT



MINISTRY CONFERENCE REMINDER

The First Church Ministry Conference will meet August 7, 2011 at noon in Room 202. If you have questions or concerns, contact Dan Woodward.

SHOVEL & RAKE SUMMER PICNIC

Shovel & Rake will hold their annual Summer Picnic at 11:30 AM on Saturday, July 16, 2011 at the home of Jim McManus.

WELCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to offer a welcoming handshake and smile to people as they enter First Church on Sunday morning? This year there will be opportunities to do this occasionally without having to be on a regular team of greeters. A brief session will be held on Sunday, July 31, 2011 from noon to 12:30 PM in the narthex. This invitation is for youth, young adults, families, and anyone who has wanted to be a part of this welcoming ministry. Contact Jean Holznagel if you are interested. If you are curious but unsure about committing to this, you are welcome to come to the orientation to learn more.

SEWING WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, August 10, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Room 202 we will be making lined totes to give as Christmas gifts to some of our family shelter friends. Teens who sew a little are welcome, as well as any other sewers. We'll work in assembly line style so it you don't sew you can pin and press. Fabric and other materials will be provided. We also have three sewing machines which we can share. Bring hand sewing supplies and scissors and a sandwich for lunch. This is a project of the Tabitha Sewing Circle. Hope you can participate.

LOOKING AHEAD AT TRAVEL

Join us for a fascinating trip to the Vancouver School for the Blind and their Low Vision Clinic. We will meet at First Church on September 20, 2011 at 9:00 AM and carpool to Vancouver, WA. We will first tour the School for the Blind and then in-house Low Vision Clinic. Lunch is planned for Beaches, a restaurant overlooking the Columbia River. We will conclude with a tour of the Piano School in the afternoon. We expect to return to the church by 4:00 PM. Registration is \$10.00 and lunch is at your own expense. Tour is limited to 20 people with a sign up deadline of September 5, 2011. These tours fill quickly so get your reservation in now! Call 503/228-3195 or email: cbostick@fumcpdx.org.

JEAN HOLZNAGEL HONORED

In terms of Radical Hospitality, the Western District of the United Methodist Church honored Jean Holznagel's ministry at Portland First Church. She dedicated her time and energy to welcoming new members to the congregation and connecting regularly with them throughout their first year in the church. Jean met each new member individually, conducted a telephone or email interview with them one month later, touched base with them again three months later, and then hosted the New Members Luncheon that is held annually. This consistent, regular interaction with Jean is the kind of hospitality that helps people find their unique place within the life of the First Church faith community. Thank you Jean, for your many years of service.

REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

No longer strangers ...
from Ephesians 2:19

As we welcome our new Senior Pastor, I am reminded of how, only a year ago, I was new to the staff of First Church. I remember the challenges, and the energy that it took to get through the day as I tried to understand what my new job involved. I remember many days of going home exhausted, yet internally joyful.

Now, as I look back, I am so very grateful for the welcome you have given me. The staff, the leadership and all of you at First Church have been encouraging and helpful. In these past weeks of transition, many of you have shared affirming and caring words with me, and my heart has been deeply touched. I would be remiss in not thanking all of you.

So thank you! Thank you for your ongoing welcome! Thank you for your patience as I learned my way around here, both physically and mentally. Thank you for your shared leadership that has been gracious and strong. Thank you for forgiving me when I have forgotten your name. Thank you for your encouragement. Thank you for trusting me enough to share some of the sacred stories of your lives. Thank you for the ongoing privilege of being here with you. This has been a truly wonderful year.

Peggy



FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

Would you like to learn more about First Church? There will be an orientation on Sunday, August 14, 2011 from noon to 2:00 PM in Room 110. Following orientation, you will have an opportunity to discuss membership in the church if interested. A light lunch will be provided. Contact Rev. Peggy Luckman if you are interested in attending. 503/228-3195 x 224, or pluckman@fumcpdx.org.

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in Room 202.
They are currently discussing *Religious Revolutionaries* by Robert C. Fuller.

READERS' THEATER



READERS' THEATER

Our popular Readers' Theater is available each Sunday morning from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. You will participate in reading aloud a part in the play, or you may sit back and enjoy listening to others read. There will also be time to discuss the play. Clare Humphrey will lead each class session.

July 17, 24, 31: JB

J.B. by Archibald MacLeish. This play is based on the Biblical story of Job. J.B., a wealthy banker, loses everything but struggles to maintain his faith. MacLeish examines how people can retain hope and keep on living, despite all the suffering in the world.

FAMILY POTLUCK IN THE COLLINS COURTYARD & FIRESIDE ROOM

There will be a Family Potluck on Sunday, August 14, 2011 in the Collins Courtyard and Fireside Room. Bring a dish to pass, something to throw on the grill, and the kids!
Gathering after church for some outdoor fun, food, and fellowship. More details to follow.



DOWNTOWN COMPASSION CLINIC 2011

Portland area churches, volunteers, social service organizations and community organizations joined forces for the Third Downtown Compassion Clinic. The Portland Memorial Coliseum was the site for the 2011 Downtown Compassion Clinic on July 9, 2011. The clinic boasted over 500 volunteers (including many from Portland First UMC!) and offered all kinds of services ... over a thousand meals were served ... over a ton of clothes distributed ... hundreds of immunization shots given ... hundreds of people received medical and dental attention. Downtown Compassion Clinic continues to reach out to the community in hopes of building strategic partnerships to help meet the growing needs of people with little or no access to goods or services.

The work of the Downtown Compassion Clinic addresses the needs of the whole person and works to build lasting relationships with guests attending the clinic by genuinely reflecting the love of God to those whom we serve. The Downtown Compassion clinic has been made possible by the generosity of the local churches, volunteers, social service organizations, and community organizations, all of which donate their time, resources, and professional skills and talents.

See page six for pictures of First Church serving at the 2011 Downtown Compassion Clinic.

To learn more about the Downtown Compassion Clinic visit one of the following sites:

www.downtowncompassion.org
www.facebook.com/DowntownCompassion
www.twitter.com/PDXCompassion

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING ...

Doris Lavelly, who has moved back to her apartment in Willamette View after several weeks of care and rehab ...

Judi Carpenter, is hoping to be back to church soon. She has been homebound for more than two months, following hospitalization ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Ferol McClure, who is now home following surgery ...

Priscilla Oesterle, who is recovering after a fall and hip surgery. She is the mother of *Carla Oesterle* ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Betty Hager, *Karen Smith*, and *Virginia Townend*, *Kyong Vaandering*, *Lesley & Paul Tepper* ...

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, who is serving in Iraq ...

CAMBODIA



CLARA BISWAS

Our Covenant Missionary, Clara Biswas, from Cambodia to be here Sunday, July 24, 2011, at noon in the Fireside Room.

Please note this exciting opportunity to hear our Covenant Missionary, Clara Biswas. She will describe her challenges and heart-warming successes in the “Garbage Dump Ministry,” near Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Education, children and family ministries, job training, and church experiences are all part of how this ministry is changing the lives of people who are literally living on the edge. From make-shift shacks along the boundaries of garbage dumps, families who have survived by selling salvaged items have been able to move into society, living happier, healthier lives.

Ms. Biswas is one of three Covenant Missionaries supported in part by First Church ... financially, in prayer, and through communication. We are most fortunate to have Clara here to share with us in a meaningful dialogue, following a light lunch in the Fireside Room.

UMCOR WEST

A team of workers from Oregon-Idaho will be traveling to Salt Lake City with Dr. Lowell Greathouse near the end of August. Sarah Baker, co-chair of Global Missions at First Church, along with Rev. Peggy and Ed Luckman, will be a part of the team. Sarah will be driving her van. She will have plenty of room for your donations toward sewing supplies and layette kits, which are much needed in areas to which UMCOR sends supplies.

The following items can be left in a box marked UMCOR West:

Fabric--three yard lengths of cotton/ cotton blend (no flannel or wool, no holiday or “Americana” themes)

New spools of thread

Needles, scissors and buttons (5-8 on paper package or strung, none smaller than a dime)

Items for the infant layettes: (receiving blankets, cloth diapers, diaper pins, sweaters)



SUMMER INTERNS FORUM

SUNDAY, JULY 17 AT NOON

Sunday, July 17, 2011– Noon to 1:00 PM in Fireside Room

Julia Tawney and Emily Wright, our two Greathouse Summer Interns for 2011, will each be making a presentation on their experiences interning this summer. Julia’s internship is with MacDonald House, the inner-city Northwest Portland center whose mission enhances the lives of the forgotten poor through relationships, service, and housing. Emily is assisting Carolyn Haycraft, the GirlStrength Program Coordinator for the Portland Police Bureau’s Family Services Division. GirlStrength is a self-defense program for girls 10-14 years of age and offers free self-defense classes and personal safety workshops in the Portland area.

You won’t want to miss hearing these young women! You will have an opportunity to ask questions and will be provided a light snack.



FIRST CHURCH SUMMER FESTIVAL

Celebrate the sun at the First Church Summer Festival! Come for arts and crafts, delicious food, kid’s games and amazing entertainment! Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM in both Collins Hall and the lovely church courtyard. It’s a fantastic fund raiser for the Church youth!

Do you have arts and crafts, food items, anything you’d like to offer for sale? Booths are just \$20 and can be purchased by contacting Josh Hauser at: viaheadwig@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Maggie Zach, Chairperson. mazach@hotmail.com.

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 July 27, 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.

DOWNTOWN COMPASSION CLINIC 2011

