



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

www.fumcpdx.org

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

JUNE 20, 2012
Volume 17, Issue 11

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

**SUNDAYS
AT 10:30 AM
IN THE
SANCTUARY**

JUNE 24
“Sleeping Peacefully”
JULY 1
“We Have This Treasure”
JULY 8
“Channels of Grace”
JULY 15
“Dancing with Grace”



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

Volunteers of the Year



Paul Adams
Guy Wheaton Award



Martha Powell
Wesley Spirit Award

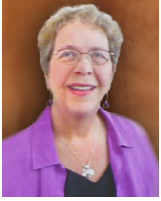


Phyllis Leonard
Lewis Hughes Award

The book of James puts it succinctly... *Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.* Beginning with John Wesley in the 18th Century, we United Methodists have always understood the importance of combining our personal devotion to God with a concern for the world around us. And we have made it a point to join our hands and feet with our hearts when it comes to faithful living.

Here at First Church, this Methodist way of being is seen in the nearly 500 people who regularly volunteer in some form of ministry with or through our church. Indeed, our volunteers are our lifeblood, and we appreciate each and every one of them!

Each year three are chosen as “Volunteers of the Year”, persons who exemplify the spirit of leadership and service which is characteristic of this church and is vital for our mission today. For 2012, we honor: **Paul Adams, Martha Powell, and Phyllis Leonard.** Please read more about these outstanding individuals inside on page 3.



a message from our pastor

**Rev. Donna
Pritchard**

“a thousand thank yous”

I had the privilege recently of attending the commencement exercises for the Oregon Health and Sciences University, and to celebrate with folks receiving a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral degree in various fields and specialties.

Like all graduation ceremonies, there was much excitement, joy and even a few happy tears as the graduates processed in and took their seats in the front of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Because of the size of the crowd and “in the interest of time”, the audience was asked to “please remain seated” during the Processional.

But that was clearly too hard to do! I watched as parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and countless friends stood up to take pictures, to wave and shout encouragement, and to cheer on their particular graduate. And I was reminded once again of the importance of community.

In this issue of *The Circuit Rider* you can read about our three **Volunteers of the Year (Paul Adams, Phyllis Leonard and Martha Powell)**. And you can read about the recently dedicated **June and Elwyn Kinney Garden**. You will see in those stories the importance of community as we seek to continue raising up First United Methodist Church to its richest and fullest maturity.

The importance of community... I’ve been thinking about that a lot in these last days of spring, as we prepare to welcome a new Minister of Discipleship (July 1st) and a new Minister of Pastoral Care (July 15th). Because I’ve been thinking about the community that has stepped up to help these past few months as we’ve been living through a time of transition. And I want to say Thank You... *at least a thousand Thank You’s!*

First, to the **Rev. Tom Foster** – thank you for the past eight years of compassionate caring for the members of this congregation. Thank you for walking alongside countless folks who have suffered from illness, or the loss of loved ones, or the everyday confusions of life that have become overwhelming.

And then – thank you to all those who have taken on extra responsibilities while we have been without our associate pastor, and without our front office receptionist and graphic design/production manager:

- ▲ To the **Rev. Dr. Tom Rannells**, who joined the staff January through April to keep our adult education and forums on track, and helped to make program connections for us all.
- ▲ To **Mark Ohlson**, our Coordinator of Volunteers, Hospitality & Outreach, who added about five hours per week to his work with us, and provided staff support for Planet Church, Global Missions, and Church & Society.
- ▲ To the Lay Leaders – **Sonja Connor, Cheryl Bittle and Dan Woodward** – who continually asked “what can we do to help?” and then did it cheerfully, efficiently and effectively!
- ▲ To **Megan Tekchandani, Christine Meyer, Kelly Qualls, Dwight Dragoo, Shirley Blalock, Dave Jenkins** (before his accident), all of whom adopted a collaborative attitude and pulled together as a team to get things done.
- ▲ To **Edie Jensen**, office volunteer extraordinaire, who sometimes wondered recently if she should just bring in a sleeping bag and save a little on commuting!
- ▲ And to all the others who have manned the phones, helped copy and compile bulletins and newsletters – **Sharon Graver, Erin Riley, Bridget Backus McBride, Cheryl Bittle, Janice Gratton...**

And this list does not even begin to thank the 984 others (at least) who week in and week out volunteer to be a part of the community which raises up this church! Thank you. Thank you, all. It is your generous gifts of time and talents which make ministry here at FUMC such a joyful and hopeful endeavor.

Thank you! Thank you! A thousand Thank You’s!

REV. DONNA



FUMC Volunteers of the Year

Paul Adams is the recipient of the **Guy Wheaton Award** for exemplary service within this congregation. Paul went to the top of the list for his consistency of service, his willingness to go the extra mile, and for literally hundreds of hours of work on behalf of this congregation.

Last October Paul shared a vision with Rev. Donna of a newly designed church website, and then rose to the challenge when she suggested a launch of the new site in time for Advent, just four weeks away!

Since then Paul has kept daily watch on the website, has trained all of the committee chairpersons to keep news current, and has very capably served as our official web manager. We give thanks to God for Paul's creativity, inspiration, technical expertise, and extraordinary communication skills.

Martha Powell is the winner of this year's **Wesley Spirit Award** for her rich blending of deep faith and an attitude of service. Martha joined FUMC in 2008 and has since modeled for many a deep spirituality coupled with a quiet yet always reliable willingness to serve.

A fabric artist and a retired reading specialist with the Portland Public Schools, Martha has worked with our children's ministry, our youth ministry, has taught two sessions of "Living the Questions" adult study, facilitated one of last fall's Shared Life Groups, serves on the Adult Ministries Council, and even leads a Bible study in her home. We give thanks to God for Martha's deep connection to Spirit and her ability to invite others into a similar connection through her gracious service.

Phyllis Leonard receives our **Lewis Hughes Award** for extraordinary service in Portland and the world beyond. Phyllis is a relatively recent member of First Church, having joined in 2009, following her retirement as a Mathematics professor at Chemeketa Community College.

Phyllis has an obvious enthusiasm for life, and a way of making every person she meets feel important. In her short time here in Portland, she has come to know and value both the "movers and shakers" of our city, and the marginalized and vulnerable.

Chairing our Church & Society for Social Justice Committee, serving on the Board of Directors for the Portland Homeless Family Solutions, volunteering at the McDonald Center, the Oregon Food Bank, and always looking for the next place to share her love ... we give thanks to God for Phyllis' lifestyle of service and her ethics of compassion.

Congratulations to each of our 2012 Volunteers of the Year!

Celebrate 2012 Graduates

Congratulations to each of the following members and friends of First Church on their successful completion of high school or college programs.

High school graduates and their plans include:

Peter Deffebach	Lincoln High School	Princeton University
Weston Fassiotto	Lincoln High School	Oregon State University, Corvallis
Brian Hauenstein	Riverdale High School	Western Oregon University
Tom Kayser	Beaverton High School	A fulfilling life
Zach Little	McCoy Academy	Currently working at Fred Meyer
Mackenzie Roberts	St. Mary's Academy	Gonzaga University
Julia Tawney	St. Mary's Academy	Santa Clara University
Andrew Wright	Oregon Episcopal School	Pitzer College (Claremont Colleges)

College graduates and their plans include:

Brandon Fassiotto: Oregon State University with a degree in Construction Engineering Management. He has accepted a position as Project Engineer with Walsh Construction.

Javen O'Neal: California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, CA, with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He is employed by Space Systems Loral in Palo Alto.

Karin McDonough: Portland State University with a Bachelor of Music degree. She is enrolled in the Master's degree program in Teacher Education at PSU.

Spencer Roberts: Portland State University with a double major in Political Science and English. He will enroll at PSU in the Master in Educational Leadership program. Spencer was a Greathouse Intern in 2010 working with youth at George Middle School in Portland.

Christopher Wright: Pomona College, one of the Claremont Colleges, with a major in Economics and minor in Mathematics. He is employed by a software education company.

Dan Woodward: Portland State University and Oregon Health and Sciences University's dual degree program with an MBA in Health Care Management.

sunday school volunteers needed

Over 30 volunteers help make Sunday School happen for our children each school year.

Would you be one of them?

Beginning in September, we need volunteers for our Pre-Kindergarten teaching team, as well as the 4/5th grade teaching team. Men and women serve during a three month rotation, with one month on and two off. Volunteers work in a team of two to provide a story, a lesson, a snack, and an educational time for our kids each week. Contact Megan Tekchandani at mtekchandani@fumcpdx.org to sign up.

☞ SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

<i>June 24</i>	First day of Summer Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. in room 134; after church meet in Collins Hall for Last Sunday Youth Adventure.
<i>July 1</i>	Summer Sunday School
<i>July 8</i>	Summer Sunday School; Community Warehouse Linens Drive starts
<i>July 15</i>	Summer Sunday School; Linens drive continues
<i>July 22</i>	Summer Sunday School; Linens drive continues
<i>July 29</i>	Summer Sunday School; Last Sunday of Linens drive; Last Sunday Youth Adventure: lunch at Violetta in Directors Park.
<i>Aug. 5</i>	Summer Sunday School
<i>Aug. 12</i>	Summer Sunday School
<i>Aug. 17-19</i>	MISSION PDX (see article, page 7)
<i>Aug. 26</i>	Summer Sunday school

Staff Changes Are Here

New Minister of Discipleship

Welcome Jeremy Smith! Our new Minister of Discipleship joins us July 1st.

Rev. Smith grew up in Oklahoma. He earned a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology. Commissioned in 2006 and ordained in 2010, Jeremy has pastored churches for the past six years in Boston and in Oklahoma.

Jeremy was the Social Media Manager for the Reconciling Ministries Network at General Conference 2012.

Jeremy and Chelsea Paxton, his partner, met at Boston University, where she earned a Master of Theological Studies; they married in 2006. Their family currently includes a cat, Tegan, and they are expecting a baby girl in early October.

New Minister of Pastoral Care

The Rev. Dick Storment will be our new Minister of Pastoral Care. We will welcome him at our July 15th worship service.

Dick will be assuming the role from which Tom Foster is retiring — giving special attention to those in our congregation who are hospitalized, home bound, in nursing homes, or who have special need as well as staffing our Stephen Ministry. This position is a ½ time role assisting our other pastors serve the congregation.

Rev. Storment comes with special training in Clinical Pastoral Education in hospital settings.

Dick and his wife, Sally, are both members of the Yellowstone Annual Conference where they served as pastors for many years. They are retiring to Scappoose in order to be close to their daughter.

“first fruits” - strategic planning for 2012 and beyond

You may be aware that the Parish Conference and the Ministry Conference of First Church, under the direction of the Rev. Dana Brown (an organizational consultant for non-profits in the Portland area), has begun a process to identify 3 to 5 priority goals for our use in the next 5 to 8 years.

Change is happening around us and to us. For instance, in the last ten years, FUMC has lost 16% of its members. Currently our membership stands at 806. If this trend continues, ten years from now, our membership would be 677, and in 20 years we would have only 57% of the membership we had in 2005.

Our worship attendance has declined 20% in ten years. Currently we average 342 in worship each week. If this trend continues, we'll see only 266 in worship in 2022. In the last four years we have lost 14% of our pledging units.

Currently we need an average pledge of \$2,929 from 292 pledgers in order to meet our \$855,331 budget. If this trend continues, we'll need an average pledge of \$4,255 from 201 pledgers in 2022 in order to meet today's budget.

But don't panic! God's Holy Spirit is alive and well here at First Church, and there is much for us to celebrate in our varied ministries of music and worship, Sunday School, missions, outreach, etc. And, we can seize this moment to strategize together about a future filled with hope, to imagine some bold changes which will lead to growth.

A leadership retreat is planned for Saturday, July 28 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Anyone is welcome to attend, while Ministry and Parish Conference members are particularly expected to participate. At the retreat we will identify our priorities for 1st Church ministry in the next few years. Following the August Parish Conference meeting you can discuss the stated priorities at one of these times: Sunday, August 19th from 9:00 to 10:15 am; or Sunday, August 26 from 11:45-1:00 pm. We will approve the goals at an All Church Conference after worship on Sunday, Sept. 9.

Adult Sunday School Classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join in the discussion of *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus* by Robin Myers. The class meets at 9:00 AM in room 202.

FAITHLINKS

Come study with us *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living* by Reuben Job. We meet at 9:15 AM in room 110.

Garden Dedicated to the Kinneys



On June 3rd, in honor of sixty years of devoted service to First United Methodist Church, and upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees, we dedicated the garden behind the Chapel as the **June and Elwyn Kinney Garden**. This beautiful garden contains within it a fountain Elwyn designed and built – just one of many things he has created for the church. It is not an overstatement to suggest that every single room in our facility has known Elwyn’s loving touch in some way! June has also served the congregation well – singing second alto in the choir for 56 years, playing many years in the original bell choir formed 20 years ago, and volunteering with United Methodist Women.

Behind their many tangible contributions are remarkable spirits. The Kinneys’ rock-solid faith in God and unwavering commitment to Christ’s way has strengthened us all. Over and over they have supported others in need and rallied to bolster the work of this congregation.

The newly-named “Kinney Garden” provides not only a lush background for worship in the Chapel, but is also a wonderful setting for personal meditation and prayer. It is a fitting place to give thanks to God for these faithful disciples of Christ. The area is generally open on Sunday mornings and other times by request.

Let's go camping!

Looking for a Summer Camp for your kids? Check out these two options. Both will be led by Megan Tekchandani. Talk with her if you want more information or check out www.gocamping.org
Camp Genesis for First and Second Graders (August 23-26)
Here’s a special camp for First and Second graders at Camp Magruder. It will be a great time for kids who have never been to sleep-away camp to give it a try. There is also a Moms, Pops and Tots camp at the same time if you want to make it a family weekend (and keep an eye on your first time camper).

Mid-Summer Challenge (July 15-20)

This camp is for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who love to have fun in the sun! We swim, hike, sing, craft, play sports, you name it. It’s a great time to make new friends and hang out in the beauty of creation at Camp Magruder.

mission pdx: august 17-19

The FUMC Youth are taking on Local Mission this summer!

We will be working on a service project for the church, volunteering in a community garden with the **Oregon Food Bank**, volunteering at the **Goose Hollow Family Shelter**, and working with the **Portland Public Schools**. We will also be participating in worship on Sunday, August 19.

As with any mission trip, we will ask for the help of the congregation and parents. We will need meal providers, transportation, and overnight adult chaperones.

To sign up to help, please contact Megan Tekchandani at mtekchandani@fumcpdx.org.



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1838 SW Jefferson St. ■ Portland ■ OR 97201-2496

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
Permit No. 1719

THE CIRCUIT RIDER is a publication of First United Methodist Church,
1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, OR 97201-2496
Nonprofit Org US Postage Paid Portland, OR
Permit No. 1719

Publication Deadlines

The Circuit Rider is published monthly on the following schedule.

Articles are due no later than 10:00 AM as follows:

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
July 18	July 10
August 15	August 7

Address Service Requested

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you.
E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org
to request it by e-mail.



Celebrating the 160th Anniversary of the Chancel Choir and Jonas Nordwall's 40th Anniversary as Organist.

We were extremely pleased to have so many past singers, section leaders, and directors
of our Chancel Choir with us on Sunday, June 10th, 2012.
It was a wonderful time of fellowship and music making together!