



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

Metro District
Leadership Training Event 2004

Renewal for Service in the Wesleyan Spirit

**Portland
First United Methodist Church**

January 17

8:30am to 4:00pm

There is something for everyone at this leadership enrichment event! Choose from an exciting roster of workshop choices. Register at the door--all are welcome!

8:30 to 9:00am
Registration and Coffee

9:00 to 9:45am
Gathering in Song

10:00 to 11:15am
Interest Tables

11:20am to 12:30pm
Workshops

12:30 to 1:30pm
Lunch, Displays, Cokesbury

1:35 to 2:45pm
Workshops

3:00 to 4:00pm
Closing Worship

January 14, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 1

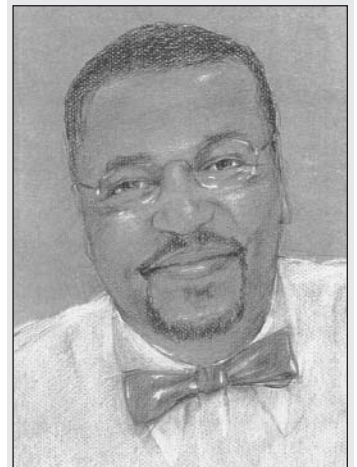
RESCHEDULED

A Forum at First

Church, Society & Social
Justice Committee

present

Race, Diversity & Society



BARUTI L. ARTHAREE

NEW DATE
February 1, 2004

9:00 am • Collins Hall

THIS SUNDAY

JANUARY 18, 2004

4th Sunday
after Christmas

10:30am
Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Sermon

Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene

THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE. LUNCH IS AVAILABLE FOR \$5.
CHILD CARE AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WILL BE PROVIDED.

Guatemala VIM Trip

by: Dee Poujade Part 1

It's a long way from Portland to Guatemala. It isn't just the physical distance--about 3,000 miles or 7+ hours in the air--it's the distance between people and cultures--the distance between those of us who "have it all" (or wish we did) and those who measure happiness in ways that don't require a calculator or computer.

I was privileged to make my third trip to Guatemala as a member of a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team this past November-December. The trip included a healthy dose of physical work and on-site visits to various mission projects similar to those that I had experienced on two previous journeys to the "land of eternal spring." I also took advantage of opportunities to learn Spanish in an intensive program, and to tour the famous Mayan ruins at Tikal. Joining me in all of these adventures was fellow FUMC member and Global Missions chair Pat Williams, as well as 11 other UMVIMers from various parts of Oregon and Idaho. We were led by veteran Guatemala "guru," Larry Monk.

The seven of us who opted to start our Guatemala sojourn with a week of language school left Portland early in the morning of November 15, arriving in Guatemala City (after a layover in Dallas) that same night. After an overnight stay at a seminary close to the airport, we departed for Quetzaltenango (Xela), a 4-hour drive west. Upon arrival in Xela, we were each assigned to the local families who would host us for our week of school. My family consisted of Hector and Carmen and their daughters, Ceci (12) and Maria (4). Each family is instructed to speak to "their" student only in Spanish,



Dee and Pat at Hogar

which was a real struggle for a beginner like me. At the school, we had 5 hours of formal instruction every day, one-on-one with a teacher who also would not speak to us in English! I won't say that I got proficient in

español in the space of a week, but I did gain a better understanding of what people around me were saying--and I was also more comfortable using my limited vocabulary for basic communication!

In addition to the intensive instruction, the school offered speakers on various aspects of Guatemalan culture and political life, as well as "field trips" to places of local interest, including a wonderful painted church in a nearby mountain village and a natural hot springs, where we spent a pleasant afternoon bathing. These destinations were reached by a combination of local "chicken" busses and "Guatemalan taxis"--pickup trucks that would take paying passengers to ride standing up in the back!

At the end of the week of school, we returned to Guatemala City to meet the remaining members of our UMVIM team, and begin the working part of the trip. After a brief visit to the old colonial capital of Antigua, and a stop at the Mayan ruins of Iximche (which we were told compared to the ruins we would later see at Tikal as Oregon City compares to Paris!) we headed for the Highlands and the Methodist camp at Lemoa.

Unlike previous UMVIM trips, where we had spent the working part of the trip in a motel in Chichicastenango ("Chichi"), commuting to the worksite at Lemoa, on this trip we spent the first two nights at the camp, sleeping in the bunk beds that were built and painted by previous UMVIM teams, and eating our meals in the camp dining room. We enjoyed the fellowship and camp-like atmosphere of this experience, but we were also happy to transfer to the slightly more comfortable beds in the Chichi motel and the "big city" life of this popular market town for the remainder of our stay in the area.

Our work project at the camp was to continue work on an ongoing project to provide water to the camp by laying about 1,000 feet of PVC pipe in a trench (which, we were glad to see, had already been dug!), gluing the joints, and then recovering the trench. Working at an elevation of almost 8,000 feet, this task was more difficult than we'd thought, and, when later given a choice of continuing to move dirt or painting inside the dormitory building, I opted for the latter, while Pat persevered with her shovel!

In the afternoons, we visited various projects including Salud y Paz, the medical clinic



Dee and Pat at Tikal

that many at FUMC learned more about from JoAnn Dwyer in November, and subsequently supported through Alternative Christmas donations. We also visited the Ruth and Nohemi weaving cooperative at Chontola, as well as the Ruth and Nohemi shop in Chichi. We took the children from Hogar de Ninos, the Methodist-sponsored orphanage, on an outing to the Mayan ruins at Utatlan. We also made a special trip to a medical clinic in Padalup, a mountainous area that, although located only about 10 miles from Chichi, took us almost an hour (on a dry, clear day!) to reach. This clinic exists because of the inspired work of Juan Ixtan, a local farmer whose dream is to provide accessible medical care for everyone in the area he serves. One of the many unpaid preachers in Guatemala, Juan cares for his congregation in every sense of the word, and has even donated the land on which is rising a church/clinic building.

Breaking Bread Supper Clubs

Get to know other church members in your neighborhood on a deeper level by dining together through Breaking Bread Supper Clubs. The supper clubs will meet the following weekends: January 30-February 1, 2004; February 27-29; March 19-21; and April 16-18. You will be able to sign up for either Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, or Sunday lunch. Sign up by filling out the registration forms in the Sunday bulletin, or by contacting Brenda Sene at the church office.

Community Internship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the Summer 2004 Community Internship Program, providing service in the community for agencies that FUMC helps fund. It is open to anyone 16 and older. Please pick up an application at the church office. Applications are due by January 31.

Congratulations, Cheryl!

Staff-Parish Chairperson, Kayla Carruth, recently received a letter from Christopher Jackson, President of the UM Christian Educators Fellowship, expressing appreciation for the leadership Cheryl Luce has given to the 2004 National CEF Conference in New Orleans.

"Chairing a CEF design team," Jackson writes, "is a high honor in the field of Christian Education in the United Methodist church." The two-year effort will culminate with a professional enrichment event for more than 900 educators from around the nation.

Electives for Elders Almost Here

The Winter Term of Electives for Elders will be held six Tuesdays, February 3 through March 9, from 10:00am to 12:15pm, beginning in the Fireside Room. You may choose from one of three electives:

The System Belongs to God The Apostle Paul reflected on the “principalities and powers” that challenge God’s spirit. What can we learn from the Bible about confronting the economic and political systems that dominate our lives and our world? A 6 video-based Bible Study and discussion featuring noted scholar Walter Wink. The study will be led by Dr. Arvin Luchs.

Watercolor Painting Bring your own favorite photograph from which you can create an original watercolor. Your theme will focus on what the viewer will see, based on composition, value, and color. Your leader will be Dr. Rudy Stevens, MD, president of the Oregon Society of Artists. *Note: This class runs for 8 weeks with an additional charge. See brochure in Narthex for details.*

Lewis and Clark It is now 200 years ago when a small group of young Americans, called the Corps of Discovery showed “Dauntless Courage” in a voyage across the Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific Ocean and back. This incredible story, along with its parallels with our lives today, will be told by Dr. Larry McClure, a retired educator who is presently involved with national planning for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

Registration should be made with Cheryl Luce by Sunday, February 1. Join in the fun and fellowship!

Ross Miller Collection Added to First Church Library

Dr. Ross Miller, who served as Senior Pastor at FUMC from 1994 until his retirement in 2001, has graciously donated much of his personal library to the First Church Library. The collection consists of over 200 volumes with subjects ranging from Bible commentary to popular theology, providing a wonderful resource for anyone looking to deepen their faith. The library committee’s dedicated volunteers have finished processing the books and we thank Dr. Miller for this amazing gift. We would also like to invite you to “check out” the collection. Look on the shelves to your right as you enter for the collection.



Memo . . .

AR&E

F.A.Q.

We are now “Connected in Mission” (CM) with the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church. A covenanting ritual on January 5th sealed the relationship. Our Lay Leader, Paul Nickell, represented FUMC at their three worship services. Eric and Diane Carlson, Administrative Board Chair at LOUMC, participated at First. The union was symbolized by sharing bread for communion.

But what is it all about? Let me respond to some frequently asked questions:

Q: What is “Connecting Missions?”

A: It is a strategy adopted by the Annual Conference. Its goal is to strengthen local congregations by encouraging them to work in partnerships. The Central District was the first to be “connected.” All United Methodist churches in Oregon and southern Idaho are to be “connected” by 2005.

Q: Why are we linked with another larger, multi-staff church?

A: CM seeks to encourage mutually affirming relationships that can enable effective ministry in new ways. Congregations have been linked because they are similar in size or dynamics, share common opportunities for mission, or face common challenges. For example, the three Korean-language UM ministries in our area are “connected,” congregations in southeast Portland are partnered to address needs in their overlapping neighborhoods. We hope that LOUMC and FUMC can partner to more effectively serve our region.

Q: Who made the decision about our “connection?”

A: Our District Superintendent invited dialogue about the concept of “Connecting Missions” over a year and a half ago. It was discussed at several Leadership Council meetings and at the 2002 Fall Church Conference. A district-wide Congregational Development Team--including clergy and laity--helped identify and facilitate linkages. Your pastors and the Lake Oswego UMC pastors were invited to a meeting with the Team, hosted by our DS, at which existing “connections” were discussed. All agreed that linking our congregations was the most reasonable option.

Q: Does this mean we are restricted only to work with Lake Oswego UMC?

A: No! We are still free to work with other UM congregations, in ecumenical organizations as well as community service networks. We will continue to respond to opportunities for service and outreach wherever God calls us--but we would want to explore whether our covenant partnership could increase our effectiveness in those activities.

Q: Isn’t “Connecting Mission” really a way to expand our community outreach and global missions?

A: Yes--but it is more than that. CM is about partnering to strengthen all the ministries of our church. For example, we already have plans for joint leadership training. We might share in educational experiences, youth activities, combined music ministries or discover more efficient administrative procedures. CM is a covenant involving our total congregational life--not just social witness or global outreach.

Q: “Connecting Mission” seems vague. What are we committed to do?

A: CM is not a program with specific activities and defined expectations. It is about relationships between congregations and a process for developing mutual ministries. What it will mean for us will emerge as we share ideas and as our leaders--lay and clergy--meet to vision and plan. The pastors have discussed our linkage several times already. We will continue to advocate and encourage the partnership, but how it develops (and how effective it is) will be up to your elected leaders and, ultimately each of us.

See you in Church!

Arvin



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday, January 18

- 9:00am *Changing Christianity*, Fireside Rm
- 9:15am *The Fellowship of Seekers*, Room 134
- Interactive Study of the Gospel of Mark*, Dr. Al Rieke, Room 160
- 12:00pm *Labyrinth Class*, Fireside Room
- 6:30pm *Choices for Sustainable Living*, Rm 210

Sunday, January 25

- 9:00am *Changing Christianity*, Fireside Rm
- 9:15am *The Fellowship of Seekers*, Room 134
- Interactive Study of the Gospel of Mark*, Dr. Al Rieke, Room 160
- 12:00pm *Labyrinth Class*, Fireside Room
- 6:30pm *Choices for Sustainable Living*, Rm 210

For class descriptions and details, see the Adult Education brochure available in the Narthex, see our web site: www.fumcpdx.org, or contact Cheryl Luce (503/228-3195 or cluce3133@aol.com).



Group News First Church Seniors

Senior Adult Ministries. All are welcome!
Information: Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3195.

A Mid-Winter Excursion

Wednesday, February 11. Guide Dogs for the Blind accepts visually impaired students from throughout the U.S. and Canada for training with a Guide Dog, and we will tour their Oregon campus. A.L. Collins Retreat Center, set in an amazing forest setting near Sandy, will provide a lovely Valentine lunch in their unique location. Dennis Crow, a frequent Elderhostel presenter, will share an entertaining and informative program on Old Time Radio—sure to be fun! Cost: \$24, including motorcoach, tour, lunch, program and gratuities (based on 25 passengers). Reservations due by February 1, with \$10 deposit. Time: Meet at church at 9:00am, and return about 3:00pm.

Lunch at the Columbia Gorge Hotel

On March 10, we will lunch at the Columbia Gorge Hotel. It's a nice time to see the spring flowers in the gardens of this amazing hotel. Details to come.

United Methodist Women

The UMW Unit Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. Information: Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528 or Mary Covert at 503/246-5603.

Faith Guild: Wednesday, January 21, in the Parlor at 10:00am. Nan and Marion will present the program, *Exploring the Relationship between Marian Andersen and her nephew, James DePriest*. This is an opportunity to explore the talents of these two remarkable people.

Ruth Guild: Wednesday, January 21, in Room 204 at noon. Joyce will present the program, *How Simple Exercises Can Have Important Results*.

Reading Group: Thursday, January 22, in The Library at 10:00am. Sue Fisher, leader.

Metro District United Methodist Women: Membership Enrichment Leadership Training for ALL United Methodist Women--Who are my Sisters? Program: *Sisters on PURPOSE* presented by the Metro District Executive Team, Saturday February 7, 8:45am (registration) to noon, Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 N.E. Fremont Street.

First Church Hikers

A fellowship of people who love the outdoors. Information: Paula Justice at 503/524-3737 or jpaula354@aol.com

The first outing of 2004 will be a snowshoe hike on Saturday, January 24. There has been a lot of snow on Mt. Hood this season, so the conditions should be great. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:00am to form car pools. We will do a 3-mile hike in the Enid Lake area near Ski Bowl and return to the church between 4:00-5:00pm. Besides snowshoes, poles and boots, bring plenty of warm clothing, water, a snack and lunch. The cost will be about \$6-8 for the car pool, Sno-park Permit and an optional snack stop. Snowshoeing is a great way to get exercise and enjoy the beautiful Mt. Hood area. Beginners are always welcome!

"Experience the Labyrinth" Classes

The Fireside Room has been reserved on Sundays, January 18 and 25, at 12:00pm. A sandwich snack will be available for participants (donation requested to cover

cost). This time will offer an opportunity to walk a replica of the 12th century labyrinth from Chartres Cathedral, France, learn about its history and experience this meditation, a way to discern answers to important questions. Our leader, Barbara Schultz, is an Ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church in the area of Spiritual Direction.

Reserve Your Booth Now!

The annual Heart-to-Heart Winter Carnival is Sunday, February 8. All church groups, committees and individuals are invited to sponsor a booth or activity for the whole church family. Proceeds from this event will support scholarships the Fall Frolic All-Church Retreat at Suttle Lake, next September 24-26. Booth reservations may be made with Cheryl Luce, and activity ideas will be on a first-come basis.

Library Solicits Used Books

If sitting around the house during January's storms made you look ahead to spring cleaning...or just made you realize that you have way more books than you will ever need or want to read, we have a solution. As part of Winter Carnival, the Library Committee will hold our annual used book sale and we are now soliciting used books. Gather your superfluous volumes and drop your "offerings" by the Church Library. Help us to make this year's sale a success.

Children's Sunday Morning Programming:

Something for Everyone!

9:30am:

Cherub Choir Room 206 Janice Hauser, director 4 years-2nd Grade

Soundseekers Room 136 Nancy Nordwall, director 2nd through 6th Grade

9:15am:

Craft Time for Kids Room 204 Judie Carpenter and Andrea Miller 5-12 years

9:00am:

Nursery Joan Ford and Albanidia Mendoza Under age 5

We encourage parents to come and share in the great enrichment activities available for adults at 9:15am while their kids find something for them.

FUMC Offering Update
2003 end-of-year figures
will be available in the next Circuit Rider.

Membership Classes to Begin!

Are you new to First Church, or have you been attending for awhile but have recently decided you want to get more involved, or do you want to know more about the church? If so, Discovery Classes are for you. We will meet in room 110 for five Sunday mornings, from 9:15-10:15 am beginning February 1. You are not required to attend class to join the church, but it is a good way to get acquainted with other people. Childcare is provided for every session. Membership Sunday will be March 7. Please contact Brenda Sene at the church office--503/228-3195--if you are considering membership.

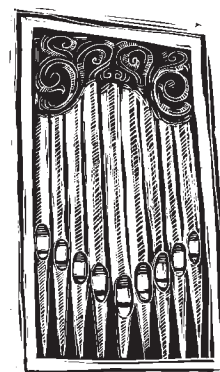
Library Looking For Volunteers

Enjoy books? Enjoy people? Looking for a way to contribute at First Church? Look no further! Our church library is one of the most amazing facilities of its kind any of us have ever seen, and a wonderful resource for the church. To help maintain it, as well as to carry it forward, we are looking for

some people, both for the committee and to assist in the day to day operations. If this is something you would like to consider, please contact Bob Wilson, 503/282-8761 or bdcw@intergate.com.

Campership Benefit

On Saturday, February 28, at 7:00 pm, Tigard United Methodist Church will host a concert to benefit camp scholarships for this next summer. John Nilsen and his trio will perform, and Scott Allen will bring his guitar to lead singing of some of our old favorite camp songs. We want to notify camp alumni so they might attend, support camperships, and visit friends at the social time to follow. Many lives are enriched in love and faith through our conference camping ministry, and we seek to make it affordable to all who wish to attend. Besides many camperships awarded by local churches, about \$20,000 is awarded each year from the Camp and Retreat budget, beyond what is available from endowed funds. The Annual Conference has not been able to support camperships for several years, and through this concert we are seeking to ensure adequate funding for 2004 campers.



**Music at
First
Church**

by:
Jonas Nordwall

Winter Wonderland

I want to extend a special thanks to everyone who participated in our Advent and Christmas services. The Chancel Choir and First Church Quartet, Veritas, Sound Seekers, Cherub Choir, Genesis ringers, JubELLation, Sanctuary Bells and their directors made each service a very special event for all of us. Also thanks to Colleen Foster for providing organ music for the last service of 2003. It was a family affair since her husband, the Rev. Tom Foster, was our guest pastor that Sunday.

Following this past week's display of nature's winter surprises, it's time to put FUMC's winter schedule into full swing. While our children's and youth choirs managed to meet for the past two weeks, this Sunday they should be functioning back at 100%. Veritas begins at 9:15am followed by the Sound Seekers and Cherub Choir beginning at 9:30am.

The Chancel Choir will resume 7:30pm Thursday rehearsals and refresher get-togethers at 9:40am on Sunday mornings. They will begin to rehearse our collaboration work with the Columbia Symphony Orchestra for the March 20 concert in addition to our regular Sunday service demands.

The Genesis Ringers and JuBELLation begin their rehearsal this Wednesday and the Sanctuary Bell Choir has its first rehearsal on Thursday at 6:00pm.

We welcome Nancy Nordwall returning to our music staff as the Sound Seekers director.

Please remember that all of our musical groups are open to everyone and we encourage you to give us a try.

Beckham Court is the building-enclosed courtyard one looks into from the Narthex or from the western window of the Sanctuary. It has the outdoor cross and the thirty-ton boulder/cornerstone in it on a concrete platform. It is named for Horace F. Beckham (and his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Beckham, who had been pioneer Methodist leaders in the south west). Horace was the Vice-Chair of the Building Committee when it was established in 1954, and soon became the Chair. He was, perhaps, the most influential single person in the construction in 1956-57 of the original units (the Sanctuary and the 100 and 200 buildings). For example, the architect wanted wooden shakes for the roof of the building; Horace wanted slate. And slate was what was put on. Horace insisted that the buildings be all on one floor, to avoid steps or elevators. And so on. Horace enlisted the assistance of the politically astute and influential attorney Herbert Hardy, to persuade the State Highway Commission to change its design for the freeway built to replace Canyon Road. That freeway (Highway 26), as you know, incorporates a tunnel, and the original design for the tunnel called for it to be perfectly straight. That would have brought the eastern (downtown) side of the freeway directly through the property only recently acquired for the new Church. The Church had spent 6 long years finding a close-to-downtown suitable site, and Horace was not one to give up easily. The tunnel was redesigned with the curve in it which it has now--a curve which experience proved to be notoriously unsafe, requiring the drastic speed reductions and no-lane change regulations it now has. Every time I drive through it, I think of Horace! To help you remember him too, there is a plaque in the Court, but it is mounted barely above the ground and is largely hidden now by the seat benches in the Narthex. This is what it says: "Beckham Court. In memory of Horace Beckham chairman of the building committee when the cornerstone was laid. Wise counselor, indefatigable worker in the construction of the building around you." Horace's daughter, Mrs. Norman "Becky" Zeller is still a member and regular attendant.

Who Are We?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb
Archives and History Committee

Around the Parish ...

If you have a joy or prayer concern for inclusion in *The Circuit Rider*, please contact the church office at 503/228-3195.

Remember in Prayer . . .

Paul Bender, who continues to be in very serious condition at Kaiser Sunnyside. Notes to Virginia would be greatly appreciated.

Tristan Kelleher, four years old, who is at Emmanuel with an infection.

Kristi Voth, who fell and broke her ankle and had surgery.

Nell and Jim McManus. Nell's sister-in-law died in Florida.

Continued prayers for Jan Marshall, Tom Iverson, Harry Baker, and Kitty Riddle.

Anny Van Natta. Her Mom, Mickey Stubbs, facing heart surgery this month.

Krissy Van Natta. Her paternal grandmother passed away.

Greta Kofoed. Her mother died in Denmark.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Jane Rhodes, whose cancer has responded to treatments!

With Special Thanks . . .

"Thanks to people in my First Church family for your calls, cards, visits, and prayers following the surgery to repair my broken kneecap. Your show of care and concern certainly contributed to my recovery, I know.

--Al Leonard

Thank You for the Giving Tree . . .

"I want to thank our church for helping us out so much during Christmas. I can't believe the generosity of people. We feel so blessed to have everyone help us out in the ways that they have since we've been members at First Church. It has been over a year now since we've been attending, and we have continued to enjoy the services, the people and community of friends we have established. Many, many thanks to the congregation for all of their help and generosity to us this past year."

--An Anonymous First Church Family

"How can we ever adequately thank you for the beautiful gifts we received as a result of The Giving Tree? Our family had more "oohs" and "ahhs" and tears of joy and gratitude than we can count. Our FUMC family made our Christmas--as our youngest son said--"the VERY BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!!" We thank you not only for the Christmas gifts, but for the many gifts you've shared with us for many, many years. The fellowship, friendship, love and support from our First Church family are gifts we receive and are grateful for all the time. Once again, thank you for the wonderful gifts--both for this Christmas and all year 'round. Know we are grateful beyond words...you are a blessing!"

--An Anonymous First Church Family

Office Closed January 19

The church office and building will be closed on Monday, January 19, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Publication Deadlines

Articles for *The Circuit Rider* are due no later than 4:45pm on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next *Circuit Rider* will be published on January 28.

Bulletin insert information is due no later than 4:45pm on Wednesday.

Sunday service participant information for the Sunday bulletin is due no later than noon on Wednesday.

E-mail: donna@fumcpdx.org or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.