



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

**THIS
SUNDAY**

FEBRUARY 1, 2004

Communion

10:30am

Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Meditation

Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene

Forum@First

Sponsored by First UMC Youth

Discerning Stereotypes and Avoiding Anti-Semitism

GUEST SPEAKERS

Emily Georges Gottfried

Executive Director

Oregon's American Jewish Committee

Dr. Kempton Hewitt

Executive Director

Northwest House of Theological Studies at Willamette University

FEATURING:

- Excerpts from Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of Christ*
- Literature and media coverage regarding *The Passion* controversy
- Open floor discussion following Gottfried & Hewitt's address

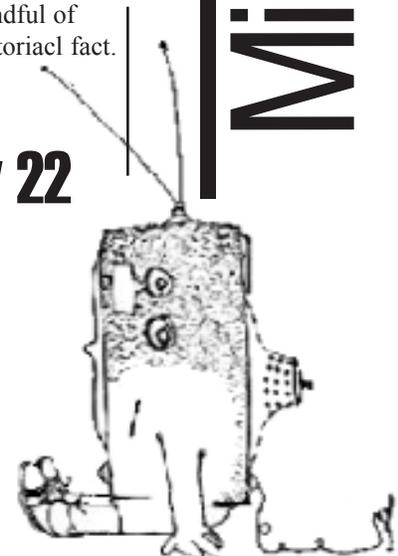
PURPOSE:

- To open a dialogue between the local Christian and Jewish communities regarding the effect of biblical interpretation on Jewish/Christian relationships.
- To encourage youth, parents and individuals to be mindful of what they are presented by the media and other as historical fact.



**Sunday, February 22
1:30 pm
Collins Hall**

Please contact MyraJean Marshall,
Director of Youth Ministries
at 503.228.3195 x 233 or mmarshall@fumcpdx.org
with questions regarding this event.



Mind Your Media

Guatemala VIM Trip

by: Dee Poujade Part 2

Because we were in Guatemala over Thanksgiving, we'd not expected to celebrate this quintessential U.S. holiday. However, when we arrived at the Posada resort in Santiago Atitlan (on the shore of Lake Atitlan, an extinct volcano), for a day of R&R toward the end of the trip, we were pleasantly surprised that the Posada's owner, David (an expatriate Oregonian) had prepared a Thanksgiving feast--complete with smoked turkey, mashed potatoes, cornbread stuffing and cranberry sauce. He'd even prepared "pumpkin" pies, made with a local squash that was reported to be more tasty than pumpkin!



Dee and Pat working.

Of the 13 members of the UMVIM team, 11 of us stayed on for the three-day extension to Tikal. This amazing site is located in the jungles of Northern Guatemala, near the Mexican and Belize borders. It is in a national park that is, we were told, as large as the countries of El Salvador or Israel! Although only a relatively small number of the structures have been excavated in the 120 years since Tikal was first "discovered," there is still far more to be explored than we had time for even in the two nights and three days we spent there. Some of us also enjoyed optional activities like an early morning bird walk, and a cable-and-pulley ride through the forest canopy.

Pat and I and most of the rest of the UM VIM team returned to the "civilization" of a U.S. holiday season on December 5. It was a major transition--not only because we were coming from a "tropical" climate to winter's cold, but because the contrasts from "haves" and "have nots" seem to be so much more pronounced during the holiday season. We appreciated the prayers and good wishes that sustained us through our journey--and ask that those prayers and wishes continue to go out to our brothers and sisters in Guatemala (as well as all the other "troubled" spots in the world) throughout

the coming year. We also appreciate the donations made by FUMC members and friends to the various mission projects--and the recipients were grateful as well!!

The Global Missions Committee is planning a "Mission Faire" in the spring, which will spotlight not only Guatemala but other locations where the United Methodist Church has missionaries and/or volunteers. Look for more information about this--and feel free to talk to Pat and me about our experiences in Guatemala - we're happy to share with individuals and groups alike!

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 volumes and drop your "offerings" by the Church Library. Help make this year's sale a success!

Cakes Sought for Global Cake Walk

Donations of cakes and cupcakes are being sought for the *Where in the World is ??? Cake Walk*, which will be held as part of the Heart to Heart Winter Carnival after services on Sunday, February 8. This popular event, sponsored by the Global Missions Committee, is a traditional cake walk with a "twist." Participants will proceed on a path marked with the names of the countries in which FUMC has mission involvement, either through sponsorship of full-time missionaries and/or mission projects, or in places where FUMC members have participated as UM Volunteers in Mission and/or Primetimes teams. International music will accompany the walk; when the music stops, a country name will be called out. Whoever is standing on that country will win that round's cake--after going to a map of the world and locating the country! Of course, cakes are needed to make this event a success. Please bring cakes to Collins Hall prior to worship on February 8. And plan now to come and play! Questions? Contact Global Missions Chair Pat Williams at 503/295-7879.

55-Alive Mature Driving Program

Have you always intended to take this course? Or is it time to take it again? This popular program is offered 3 times a year at FUMC, with the next openings for February 19-20, from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Outstanding AARP leader, Norman Friedman, teaches this refresher course for drivers 50 years of age and over. Preregistration required, with Cheryl Luce. Cost is \$10, checks to "AARP".

Join in the Fun! Electives for Elders

Electives for Elders Winter Term is 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.*

Exploring with 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 this Sunday, February 1. Join in the fun and fellowship!

We Need Your Loving Hearts and Willing Hands!

Your Hospitality Committee is giving you an opportunity to help with coffee hour and/or continental breakfast.

The sign-up table will be in Collins Hall this Sunday, February 1, where you may join the "Serving Crew." We hope to see your smiling face willing to pick your date for doing just that!



FUMC Leadership Council Endorses Ballot Measure 30

The FUMC Church & Society for Social Justice Committee presented an action request this week to the FUMC Leadership Council for an endorsement of Ballot Measure 30. The Leadership Council unanimously voted in favor of this proposal. Ballot Measure 30 is a temporary tax increase to save needed services, ensure quality education for our children and maintain public safety.

The issues involved in Ballot Measure 30 are issues we have all been over before. This is the third ballot measure for a tax increase to come before the voters in this county in a little over a year. The discussion still revolves around the fact that Oregon's current personal income tax based revenue structure is only adequate and sustainable when the economy is good and personal income taxes fill the state coffers. We know that corporate taxes are too low and limitations on property taxes contribute greatly to the unstable tax system.

Yes, Ballot Measure 30 will assist seniors and the disabled to stay independent and healthy. **Yes**, Ballot Measure 30 will help keep up 85,000 low income and seniors stay on the Oregon Health Plan. **Yes**, Ballot Measure 30 will save prescription drugs coverage for thousands of seniors. **Yes**, Ballot Measure 30 will secure funding for assisted living and residential care facilities. **Yes**, Ballot Measure 30 will ensure that Oregon school children will get a full school year. **Yes**, Ballot Measure 30 will guarantee students the opportunity to finish classes in reading, math, science and social studies in manageable class sizes.

Measure 30 is worth the investment in Oregon's future. It will provide necessary temporary funding to keep vital services afloat until the economy recovers.



Memo . . .

ARJ

If the gospel portraits are credible, Jesus was fearless in his defense of the poor and ardent in his call for compassion. Matthew, for example, remembered a parable he told of a celestial court in which humankind is called to defend their compassion to a divine king/judge.

The indictment is stern: "When I was hungry did you give me food?" "When I was thirsty did you give me drink?" "When I was a stranger did you welcome me?" "When I was naked did you clothe me?" "When I was sick did you care for me?" "When I was in prison did you visit me?"

The defendants quibble, wondering when had they seen the king hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick or in prison?

The judge quickly responds, "I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Are we equally bold in our compassion?

Oregon is once again at a financial precipice. Our legislative leaders have repeatedly addressed the revenue shortfall and the costs of providing basic services to the citizens of the state. After making drastic cuts, the legislature deemed a relatively modest increase in taxes. But now the ball has been thrown back to the voters--we must make a choice.

The moral and ethical implications of our choice is stark. Without the revenue anticipated from these taxes, the education of our children and youth, health care for the neediest among us, and protection for victims of crime and violence will suffer. The Governor has made it clear he will not call a special session to grapple with the issue yet another time--the axe is already poised to make the cuts. Without the tax dollars, some of our neighbors will not get care, some will be left thirsty, naked, sick and overlooked.

There are people who argue that a "no" vote will send a message to Salem about government size and spending. In my opinion, they need to look at the address on the envelope. Their 'message' is not going to the statehouse, but to those least able to do anything to answer--the young, the poor and the defenseless.

Late last fall your Church and Society for Social Justice Committee studied the issues and petitioned your Leadership Council to endorse Measure 30. A forum was held in which various viewpoints on the measure were represented. Last Wednesday, the Leadership Council voted unanimously to encourage a "Yes" vote next Tuesday. I add my support to theirs.

Jesus did not hesitate to show compassion for the poor and the marginalized--will we?

See you in Church!

Arvin

A Letter About Measure 30

Measure 30 has important implications for healthcare. Its failure to pass would take away healthcare for 50,000--80,000 Oregonians now covered. Oregon would lose federal dollars as well. For every dollar Oregon spends for the Oregon Health Plan, the federal government puts in \$1.87. Following is a letter from a member of our church indicating her plight if Measure 30 does not pass.

Church and Society for Social Justice Committee,

As a member of this church and a recipient of the Oregon Health Plan, I am voicing my opinion that the church support the Leadership Council to endorse the Ballot Measure. In September 2002 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Without the Oregon Health Plan's coverage I would not be able to pay for the 4 MRIs at \$1,000+ or my weekly injection that is over \$1,000 per month. the Oregon Health Plan covers that monthly payment. I pay the co-pays for office visits and prescriptions that are \$2.00 to \$3.00.

I don't know what I would do without the Oregon Health Plan; therefore it is imperative that this measure passes.

*Thank you,
Julie M. Martell*



Sunday, February 1

- 9:00am *Changing Christianity*, Fireside Room
- 9:15am *The Fellowship of Seekers*, Room 134
- Interactive Study of the Gospel of Mark*,
Dr. Al Rieke, Room 160
- Discovery Class*, Rm 110
- 6:30pm *Choices for Sustainable Living*, Rm 210

Sunday, February 8

- 9:00am *Changing Christianity*, Fireside Room
- 9:15am *The Fellowship of Seekers*, Room 134
- Interactive Study of the Gospel of Mark*,
Dr. Al Rieke, Room 160
- Discovery Class*, Rm 110
- 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).



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. The stately site of this

wonderful hotel was originally developed in 1904 by a Hood River pioneer. Simon Benson built the hotel, hiring Italian stonemasons that had built his Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway. Famous for their meals, this is sure to be a special dining experience. "As you can imagine, a meal at the Columbia Gorge Hotel is much more than food; it is a treat for the senses."

Following lunch we will have a short tour of the hotel, and then visit the Carousel Museum. The collection at this specialty museum includes more than 150 carved animals, operational Wurlitzer band organ, carousel steam engine and other exhibits from the golden age of carousels. Cost: \$38, including motorcoach, luncheon with dessert, admission, gratuities and 2 smiling escorts (based on minimum of 25 passengers). Reservation due by March 1, with \$15 deposit. Time: Depart from church at 10:00am, return about 4:30pm.

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.

Unit Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. Ruth Green will present the program, *What in the World is WICS? Success Stories of Helping Hands*.

Church Women United Forum: Friday, February 6, at 9:30am in the Chapel. Minerva Carcano will present the program at 10:00am, *Women Grounded in the Spirit*. Call Betty Lou Hare if you have questions.

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.

Womens Open Agenda: Wednesday, February 11, at 6:00pm in Room 202. Program: Sonja Connor will discuss and answer questions about diets and nutrition.

Parker Group

Meetings: Saturdays at 12:30pm in Room 202. Potluck dinner and program following. Information: John Soltman at 360/573-5655 or Iola Halligan at 503/288-3571.

We will meet on February 7. Our speaker, Gordy Hutchins, is a Methodist minister who has made several trips to Palestine and

Israel. During a trip last year he had the unique opportunity to see the Israeli "Security Fence" up close and ended up in an Israeli prison. He has a special gift for relating his experiences in a way that is educational, inspirational, and entertaining. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

The Friends & Food Group

Information: Donna Clark at 503/289-3829 or dclarkio@cs.com.

The Friends and Food Group (formerly NPPers) will be meeting at the Daily Cafe, in the Pearl, 902 NW 13th, on Friday, February 13, at 6:30pm. We will begin another great year of food and fellowship, (despite being snowed out in January!). The church nursery is available at 6:00pm, if needed. Please contact Donna Clark if you are interested in joining or would like to attend (reservations need to be confirmed).

First Friday Frolickers

A fellowship for the young at heart who meet the first Friday of the month. Information: Rev. Brenda Sene at 503/228-3195.

We will meet in room 202 on February 6, from 6:30-8:30pm for lasagna dinner, games, and fellowship. All are invited who are young at heart, single, married, with children, without children. Childcare is provided. Please contact Brenda for more details.



Benefit Concert on February 28

On Saturday, February 28, at 7:00pm, Tigard UMC 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. 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. Through this concert we are seeking to ensure adequate funding for 2004 campers. Please attend and help this very worthwhile cause.

Columbia Symphony to Perform

FUMC is home to the Columbia Symphony. Their next performance is coming up on Friday, February 20, and you are invited! Juilliard and Oberlin graduate, Jennifer Choi, revisits her native Northwest to play the lyrical and sunny Violin Concerto of Brahms. Marking the bicentenary of Glinka's birth, CSO performs the overture to his opera *Ruslan and Ludmila*--considered to be one of the pillars of Russian music. Portland composer and CSO violinist Jason Fromme will be in the spotlight with the premiere performance of his work commissioned by the CSO. Wonderful music in a beautiful setting! For ticket information, contact CSO at 503/234-4077.

Friends of Music

The Music Committee invites members and friends who are interested in carrying the legacy of our deeply valued musical heritage into the future by participating in the Friends of Music dinner series. These dinners will be hosted by members of the church in their homes from January through

August at a cost of \$50 a plate and will include musical entertainment by talented artists we enjoy at FUMC and elsewhere in Portland. If you are interested in attending, please call either Kelly Qualls at 503/661-3114 or Loren Smith at 503/698-4850.

Host	Date	# seats
Art & Trudy Kayser	Feb 21	8
Dave & Kelly Qualls	Mar 6	Full
Norman White & Gwyneth Rochlin	Apr 24	14
Larry & Janet Richards	May 8	4
Loren & Karen Smith	May 23	Full
Duane & Corinne Paulson	June 25	8
John & Mary Coppett	July 11	Full
Greg & Nan Anderson	Aug 8	22

Couple's Enrichment Retreat

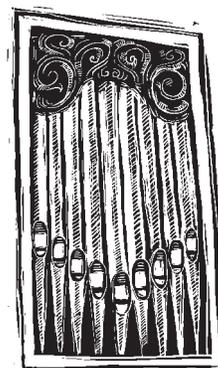
Narayan Lincoln, a Samaritan Counselor, will be leading a Couple's Enrichment Retreat for First Church couples at Alton Collins Retreat Center March 26-28. The cost will be \$350/couple, with scholarship help available. The cost includes housing, six meals, and the services of a trained marriage counselor. The retreat is limited to ten couples, so please RSVP to Rev. Brenda Sene.

The oldest bell in the City of Portland is displayed in the Narthex of our Church. It was originally a bell for a private school. Stephen Coffin, who literally owned half the town of Portland, gave (or sold?) it to Father Wilbur for use in our first building. Since it identifies itself as cast in 1850, and was shipped around the horn, it couldn't have been used in the school very long, and what happened to the school, I don't know. Although there is some reason to think Coffin sold it to us for \$125, I incline to believe he gave it to us, because he was a good friend of Fr. Wilbur (who officiated at his marriage) and it is certain that Coffin later gave two blocks of land to the Church for the location of the Portland Academy (a college "prep" school, virtually a high school) which this Church sponsored. At any rate, the plaque below it now reads "twice lost, once broken." What is that all about? It was used in our first and second buildings. When we moved to the third building, the previous building was not immediately demolished. When it was, the bell was retained by the church and put in the belfry of the third building. But it was never mounted there for regular use, and apparently it was forgotten. The church for a while even displayed another (smaller) bell as the one in the original building! When the third building was torn down, after our move to the present building, this bell was found, covered with dust and bird droppings. It was left on the site as the rest of the building came down, and one night it disappeared.

Meanwhile, the late Paul Extrom, Business Manager of this Church at the time, had done some research at the Oregon Historical Society and determined that this was the original bell from the building of 1850. A public plea, explaining its significance, was made for its return and one night it reappeared at our present address! The persons involved doubtless had thought it was just going to be thrown away. This building had no tower at the time, so it was just stored, more or less out of sight. There is more to tell, but I've run out of space. More next time.

Who Are We?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb
Archives and History Committee



Music at First Church

by:
Jonas Nordwall

Looking Back to Move Forward

All of us have the ability to look back at our personal histories. How many of us can use that information to positively mold our future? It's a challenge facing most Christian clergy and musicians today.

Resources developed over more than 2000 years influence our liturgical expression of Christian faith. Musically, though our resources have largely emerged in the last 600 years--1400 AD to the present, church leaders disagree about whether to embrace historical doctrine or revise it to reflect the current social environment. So, also church musicians disagree about maintaining traditional musical modes--or adopting contemporary styles.

Imagine that you are pastor or music director, trying to incorporate and balance many factions of historical traditions with today's contemporary concepts. Add to that dilemma accommodating the unique musical desires of a local congregation whose membership and tastes are continually changing. It is an ongoing challenge.

At FUMC, your worship leaders make a concerted effort to balance between traditional, historically-treasured music--Bach, Brahms and Vaughan-Williams (even Rutter), and more contemporary, popular styles--Duke Ellington, James Taylor, the quasi-pop folk hymn, "Mary, Did You Know?" Our goal is to provide quality music, well performed, with lyrics that have theological integrity, to touch the variety of ages and tastes represented in our sanctuary. Hopefully over a month or so, everyone will find something that fills their heart and lifts their spirit.

Are we successful? Does our variety of styles enhance your personal worship experience? We are always open to your feedback and ideas. But, considering the dilemma, I would hope that most people attending Portland FUMC would agree that we do a good job of walking the tightrope between the present and the past.

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 . . .

Virginia Bender and her family. Her husband, Paul, passed away on January 16; his memorial was January 24.

Becky Zeller, recovering from pneumonia at St. Vincents.

Theresa Geisler, who is at Marquis Care at Mt. Tabor.

Jan Marshall, recovering at home from surgery.

We continue prayers for Kitty Riddle, Maxine Brown, Harry Baker, Tom Iverson, and Kristi Voth.

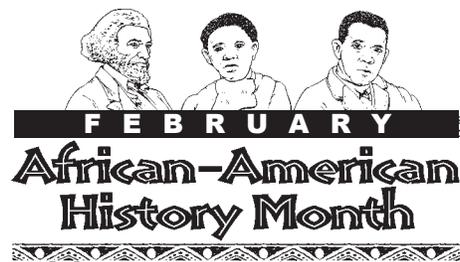
Eagle Scout Award to Greg Howard

Greg Howard, a member of Boy Scout Troop 1 and son of Carol and Hal Howard, received his Eagle Scout award at an Eagle Court of Honor held in the Fireside Room on January 4.

His Eagle Service Project included landscaping and path building at FUMC on May 10, 2003. Twenty-six Scouts and adult volunteers spent 80 hours assisting Greg in this service project. Congratulations, Greg!

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. The Church and Society for Social Justice Committee will sponsor three interns. Anyone 16 and older may apply. If this rewarding work is of interest to you, please pick up an application at the church office. Applications are due by January 31.



Calling All Sound Seekers!

On Sunday, February 8, we sing for the 10:30am worship service. Please wear white shirts or blouses and dark pants or skirts. *Please no jeans or t-shirts.* We will go roller skating at Oaks Park after the Winter Carnival, so bring money and a change of clothes if necessary.

If you haven't joined Sound Seekers there is a spot waiting for you on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room 136. We would love to have you.

Membership Classes!

New to First Church? Been attending for awhile but recently decided to get more involved? Want to know more about the church? If so, Discovery Class is for you! Meet in Room 110 for five Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, beginning February 1. You are not required to attend class to join the church, but it is a good way to get to know others. Childcare provided every class. Membership Sunday will be March 7. Please contact Brenda Sene at 503/228-3195 if you are considering membership.

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 February 11.

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.