



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

February 25, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 4

THIS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 29, 2004

10:30am

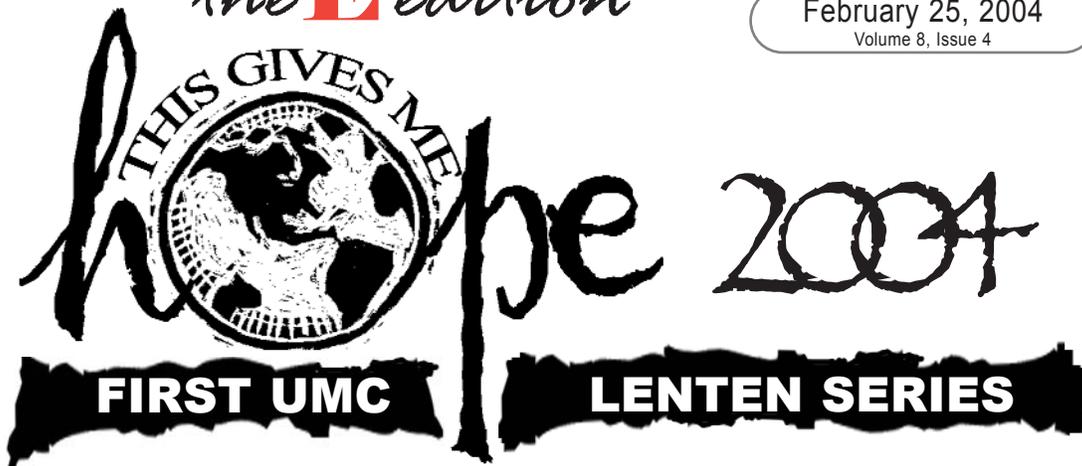
Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Children's Time
Rev. Brenda Sene



Sermon

Bishop C. Joseph Sprague



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

- 5:30 pm **Soup & Salad Supper**
- 6:15 pm **This Gives Me Hope:**
CHARLIE HINKLE
- 7:00 pm **Lenten Classes**
Lenten Card Making
Getting Closer
Assets and Your Children

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

- 5:30 pm **Soup & Salad Supper**
- 6:15 pm **This Gives Me Hope:**
CHARLES LEWIS
- 7:00 pm **Lenten Classes**
Lenten Card Making
Getting Closer
Safe Homes / Safe Children

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

- 5:30 pm **Soup & Salad Supper**
- 6:15 pm **This Gives Me Hope:**
SERENA CRUZ
- 7:00 pm **Lenten Classes**
Lenten Card Making
Getting Closer
The Church's Role In
Protecting Children

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

- 5:30 pm **Soup & Salad Supper**
- 6:15 pm **This Gives Me Hope:**
KATHY OLIVER
- 7:00 pm **Lenten Classes**
Getting Closer
Building Positive Environments

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

- 5:30 pm **Soup & Salad Supper**
- 6:15 pm **This Gives Me Hope:**
RABBI STAMPFER
- 7:00 pm **Lenten Classes**
Getting Closer
School Transitions

SOUP'S ON!

At 5:30 pm each Wednesday night during the Lenten Series, come to Collins Hall for a Soup Supper Buffet. Michael Copeland will prepare a delicious meal for us to share. The fellowship around tables is always "warming" too! There is a suggested \$5.00 donation for the meal.

A SERIES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

STAFF CHANGES ANNOUNCED

FUMC's Staff-Parish Relations Committee, (SPRC) responding to both changing work needs as well as reduced payroll budgets, have carefully considered congregational staffing and approved changes in a number of staff positions. Kayla Carruth, Chair of the Committee, said, "We have tried to identify ways to best organize our wonderful staff to support the diverse activities of our church, while being good stewards of the financial gifts of our members."

The following changes have been announced:

Graphics Arts and Communications

Responsibility for layout and design of church publications, including *The Circuit Rider*, Sunday bulletins, brochures and mailers, and basic design and maintenance of the Web Site (www.fumcpdx.org) will be assigned to **David Jenkins**, FUMC's Administrative Assistant, as of March 1, 2004.

After that date all materials submitted for publications should either be sent to David at office@fumcpdx.org, or left in the CR box in the office!

We are grateful to **Donna Parker MacNeur** who has been the congregation's Communications Assistant for the last five years. While initially a full time office position, Donna offered more recently to reduce those hours and continue to provide communications services on a contractual basis. We are grateful to Donna for her creative and faithful service in communication and are glad that she will continue to participate at FUMC as Assistant Organist (playing and accompanying at many weddings, funerals and special events) and in volunteer roles. Thank you, Donna!

Music Department

The growth in participation and the complexity of our music program has called for increasing administrative duties. The SPRC, in consultation with the Music Committee, has divided the role of "Director of Music" into two functions.

Jonas Nordwall, in addition to his marvelous leadership at the church organ, will be FUMC's "Artistic Director of Music." In that capacity he will guide the musical directions of our vocal choirs, bell choirs and other musical ministries.

Kelly Qualls, will be the "Executive Director of Music" and manage the organizational and business dimensions of our music program. This part-time position will work with budgets, personnel, facilities and communications.

Both Kelly and Jonas will report to the Senior Pastor, participate in staff meetings, and support the Music Committee. Welcome Kelly!

Goose Hollow Shelter

A couple of weeks ago we bid farewell to Shelter Manager, **Andrew Stelzer** who has moved to Florida to take a position in broadcasting. **Veronica Martzahl** has indicated that family obligations require her to step down at the end of the Shelter season. We welcome new Shelter Managers, **Jennifer Cies** and **Jim Lawlor**. Shelter Managers report to **Ron Williams**, our Director of Community Outreach.

Administrative staffing

Shirley Blalock, has requested a reduction in her schedule as Church Bookkeeper. She will be working an average of 15 hours per week during most of the year. **Debbie Morse**, Church Administrator is able to answer financial questions in her absence.

Our building continues to serve dozens of groups each week—from both our programs and the community. To help keep up with it, **Josh Yaklin**, our Evening Custodian's hours have been increased to 30 per week.

The 2004 Collins Lecture: "Peace, Patriotism & the Prophetic Voice of the Church"

The Annual Collins Lecture brings a speaker of national note to address clergy and laity for learning, understanding and dialogue. This year Dr. Tony Campolo will be the lecturer on Tuesday, March 2, at 7:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Campolo is an ordained minister serving congregations in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, professor emeritus of sociology from Eastern College in St. David's, PA., author of numerous books, tapes and video series, and a popular lecturer. His powerful, humorous and direct style is both stirring and thoughtful. He has been dubbed, "the Don Rickles of the Christian lecture circuit!"

His blend of scholarly Biblical reflection and vibrant social witness has impacted many lives. He will speak on Tuesday evening and lead a seminar on Wednesday morning. For registration cost and other information call Ecumenical Ministries of



Oregon (503) 221-1954 or visit their website, www.emoregon.org.

Prominent Scholar Speaks About Biblical Archaeology

Dr. Robert J. Bull, Emeritus Professor of Church History, Drew University, will present a free public lecture titled *Tell Er Ras on Mt. Gerazim: Excavations of an Hadriatic Temple and the Altar of the Samaritans*. On Sunday afternoon, March 7, at 3:00pm in the Paulus Lecture Hall (Room 201) of the Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center of Willamette University (245 State Street, SE) in Salem Oregon. The lecture is sponsored by the Northwest House of Theological Studies. Everyone is welcome.

Changing Christianity Class

The Changing Christianity class is discussing the history and modern activities of Islam, and the relationship to Christianity and to western nations.

There will be discussions of the book *United Methodism@Risk--A Wake Up Call*, which deals with the expected activities of the most fundamentalist groups within our national church at general conference this year. On February 29, Bishop Sprague of Chicago will speak. He is the Methodist Bishop who was accused of heresy by these groups. He was later cleared of the charge. On March 7, our District Superintendent, Rev. Minerva Carcano, will continue the discussion.

Everybody is invited to these sessions Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Fireside Room. There will be opportunity to ask questions and for discussion.

Relevant Christianity: Empowering Our Churches for Social Mission

This is the topic of the Annual Spring Event of The Oregon-Idaho Chapter of Methodists Federation for Social Action. The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 28, 9:00am-4:00pm at FUMC. Everyone is welcome.

Featured is Bishop C. Joseph Sprague the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church and author of the recently published and much talked about book, *Affirmations of a Dissenter*. Bishop Sprague will also preach in our worship service on February 29.

Registration for the workshop is \$30. Questions? Call Marilyn Outslay at 503/649-9801.

Not In My Backyard?

by: Ron Williams

Last year I attended a grant-writing seminar conducted by the Johnson Institute Foundation entitled Advancing Help and Hope. The conference was designed to provide faith-based and community based groups with hands on training and expertise in how to apply and win government grants that help people maintain alcohol and drug recovery, good mental health, and reduce recidivism among ex-offenders. I was shocked to discover that every other faith-based group at the conference were all providing services to people making the transition from prison back into the community. Many of the groups were very small churches in small towns where these activities consumed a great deal of their resources. Other churches dedicated space and property to house job training programs, church operated recovery programs, transitional housing, basic education classes and transportation assistance. Up to this point, I had been aware of "in jail" programs but had very little knowledge of the programs that help people once they get out. Additionally, it is well known that several years ago, penal systems in Oregon and around the country changed from rehabilitation to punishment. This change was reflected in the transitional services as well. Parole and probation became less about helping people make it on the outside and more about law enforcement and sanctions.

Lately, the chickens of Ballot Measure 11 are beginning to come home to roost. Ex-felons who have had no "in jail" counseling, therapy, anger management, job training, education or treatment for long term addiction are being released directly to the streets of our communities. Churches are being looked to as a resource for this growing crisis.

On March 7, the Church, Society and Social Justice Committee will present a forum on the *Prison to Community Re-Entry Crisis* featuring Jo Ann Bowman, Director of Western Prisons Project and Tim Cayton, Oregon Department of Corrections, Director of Faith Based Transition Programs. Please join us.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Suppers begin February 25th!



Memo . . .

AR&E

Paul believed there were three abiding virtues in life: faith, hope and love. And love was the greatest. Several centuries later Augustine disagreed. He believed that hope was the best of the three virtues. Faith only tells us that God is, he said. Love only tells us that God is good. But hope tells us that God will work God's will.

It is not easy to be hopeful these days. Each day the headlines remind us that our world is plagued with war and inhumanity and threatened by ecological disaster. Each day violence and suffering wrack our community. The well-being of our children is fragile-as our city experiences one of the highest rates of teen homelessness in the country. No, it's not easy to be hopeful.

Yet, each day throughout our community people of vision and compassion sally forth to fight against the tide with compassion, vision and determination. What gives them hope?

This is the time of Lent-a time to reflect on our faith and to strengthen our discipleship. As in seasons past, we will gather each Wednesday evening to share a simple supper, to sing some of the familiar hymns, to reflect, and to learn.

This year there will be a new feature.

At each of the Lenten Suppers in March we will welcome a different leader from diverse occupations to speak to the statement: "This Gives Me Hope."

Charles Hinkle will lead off the series. Mr. Hinkle is an attorney--a partner at Stoel-Rives, and a nationally recognized expert on civil rights law. He is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Congregational.

Charles Lewis is a graduate of University of Portland and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He returned to Portland to found ETHOS-a service organization that helps to provide low cost musical instruments to at-risk school children.

Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz is a dynamic and visionary community leader. She represents a new generation in public service.

Kathy Oliver has guided and built a widely heralded organization, Outside/In whose mission is to be a place of healing and new opportunity for troubled youth.

Rabbi Joshua Stamfer is one of the most beloved spiritual leaders in Portland. He has stood for peace, reconciliation and understanding during his years in active ministry as the leader of Congregation Neveh Shalom and continues, in retirement, to bring people of all traditions together in love and peace.

The soup buffet starts at 5:30 p.m.. We'll begin the program at 6:15 p.m. After an opportunity to dialogue with the speaker, we'll adjourn for a variety of classes organized by our education department.

Come and hear what gives hope to sustain these community leaders. You may find new insight and renewed reason for hope in your life.

See you in Church!

Arvin

Shared Giving Conversations

Bishop Paup is inviting clergy and laity to a "Shared Giving Conversation" on Tuesday, March 16, according to District Superintendent Minerva Carcaño. That morning the Bishop, Conference Treasurer, Bob Meyers will meet with clergy. Kent McNish, Director of Marketing for the Division of Program and Benevolence Interpretation for United Methodist Communications, will be a resource leader.

At 7:00 pm that evening, laity are invited to continue the conversation. McNish will guide the group to help local church interpret our Shared Ministry giving. Everyone is welcome, but a special invitation is extended to members of the Leadership Council, Finance and Stewardship Committees, Lay Leaders and members of Annual Conference. The session will conclude by 9:30pm.



Learning Opportunities



Sunday, February 29

- 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*, Room 110
- 6:30pm *Choices for Sustainable Living*, Rm 210

Sunday, March 7

- 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*, Room 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).



Group News

First Church Seniors

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

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.

A Night at the Beach & Theater Party

Outstanding rates have been secured at The Elizabeth Street Inn on the beach in Newport for April 16 & 17—a lovely, comfortable place to stay. Each room faces the ocean, with a balcony and fireplace. The Porthole Players will be doing *Damn Yankees* at the Performing Arts Center, and excellent seats are reserved. Transportation details are being confirmed. Watch for details soon! Time: Friday morning until Saturday afternoon. Cost: TBD.

Looking way ahead, plans are being finalized for June 2005! Our "Big Trip" in 2005 will be a River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest on Vantage Tours custom-built river cruise ship. Call Cheryl to have your name added to the "interested" list to receive information.

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, March 3, in the Fireside Room. Please note the 10:00am program time is a change from our usual schedule. Program: *Our Children--The Treasures in Our Midst*. This special program will feature information about the Children's Ministry here at FUMC with Janice Gratton, Agnes Zach and Judie Carpenter. The regular meeting will begin at 11:00am.

Church Women United World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 5, here at FUMC in the Chapel. 10:00am registration and 10:30am program: *In Faith Women Shape the Future*.

First Church Hikers

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

A small group of us, including one first-time snowshoer, had a wonderful hike in January. Our February outing will be another snowshoe hike on Saturday, February 28. The group will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00am to form car pools. We will do about a 3-mile hike at Trillium Lake on Mt. Hood and return to the church between 4:00-5:00pm. Besides

the snowshoes, poles and boots, bring plenty of warm clothing (layers), water, a snack and lunch. The cost will be \$5-6 for the car pool and Sno-park Permit. Please call or e-mail Paula if you would like to participate or have any questions.

Just Friends

A fellowship for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered persons who are members or friends of FUMC.

Information: John Johnson at 503/281-3468.

Just Friends will go bowling on Saturday, February 28, at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 NE Halsey (next to the 42nd Street MAX stop), at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Call Paul Nickell at 503/257-9109.

Parker Group

Meetings: Saturdays at 12:30pm in Room 202. Potluck dinner and program following. Information: Allen Snyder at 503/439-1120 or Iola Halligan at 503/288-3571.

We will meet on Saturday, March 6. Our program is a video by Wid Bleything, "First UMC Seniors Explore England, Wales and Ireland." Wid's video shows the seniors group enjoying their 2003 adventure, starting with a visit to one of the original Wesley Chapels. It is accompanied by music to further accentuate the enjoyment of the trip. Visitors are welcome. Please RSVP to Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

Called Church Conference

Metropolitan District Superintendent, Minerva Carcaño has set a Church Conference for Tuesday evening, March 9 at 7:00pm in the Chapel for the purposes of adjusting pastoral salaries. Everyone is welcome, all members can vote.

Setting pastoral compensation is normally part of the agenda at the Annual Church Conference. Since that gathering was in early November, our fall finance campaign had not been completed, budgets were not yet drafted and no consideration of adjustments to pastoral compensation was possible.

2004 budgets were adopted at the last Leadership Council which propose a modest cost of living adjustment for each pastor. The Discipline requires any change to be approved at a Church Conference. Only this item can be considered at a called Church Conference.



Sound Seekers Choir Schedule

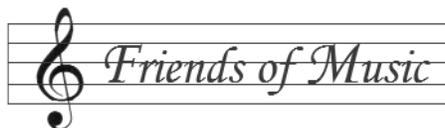
February 22 Rehearsal
February 29 Rehearsal
March 7 Rehearsal
March 14 SING the 10:30am Service
March 21 Spring Break, No Rehearsal
March 28 Rehearsal
(please try to be here since we will
be singing in two weeks)
April 4 Rehearsal
April 11 SING for Easter

The Golden Age of the Movie Palace

Interested in architecture and history? FUMC member Dennis Hedberg will present a slide show and mini-lecture about West Coast movie palaces of the last century at Sherman Clay/Moe's Pianos on Sunday, March 14, at 2:00pm. The event is sponsored by the Columbia River Organ Club.

His collection of color slides is more extensive than most historical collections. Personally taken by Dennis during the 1960s, these slides feature architectural details of such unique theatres as Portland's

long gone Oriental Theatre, Portland Paramount (Schnitzer Concert Hall) and the San Francisco Fox Theatre, which was regarded as the world's most opulent movie palace. The event is complimentary and open to the public, and theatre organ music will be performed by Jonas Nordwall.

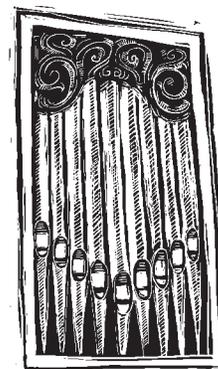


There are still openings at some of the Friends of Music Dinners and you are invited to make reservations for them. There will be one or two of the dinners each month until the end of August that will be hosted by members of the church in their homes.

The Music Committee has added another Friends of Music dinner that will be of particular interest to those of you that would like to attend with your entire family or would like to get a group together. It will be on June 13 in Collins Hall after

church and will feature dinner and musical entertainment for \$25 per family or \$10 for a single reservation.

Stop by the kiosk in Collins Hall to reserve your places for any of the dinners mentioned above. We'd love to have you join us at one or more of them!



Music at First Church

by:
Jonas Nordwall

New Winds at FUMC

Two weeks ago the Mary Collins Pipe Organ was retrofitted with a new blower. The cubic feet per minute output of the new blower is more than tripled, with the wind pressure almost doubled. The blower motor is still 5 horsepower, just like its predecessor. However, as this motor is a reconditioned motor built in the 1920s, it has the capability of almost 7 horsepower as measured by present standards. The results are a more stable and greatly increased wind supply without increasing the cost of electricity. Will the organ become louder? Not really, but wait until Easter to pass final judgment.

Another change in the wind for FUMC is the modification of the Director of Music position. About six months ago I requested more free time to pursue my out of town concert career, which has been very limited since reassuming all of the meeting and administration responsibilities of this position a few years ago.

Working together with Arvin, the Chairpersons of the Music Committee and the SPRC, the Director of Music position was divided into two categories; Artistic Director of Music and Executive Director of Music. All of us are very pleased that Kelly Qualls consented to become the new Administrative Director of Music, even after reading the job description. By limiting my responsibilities to the Artistic Director of Music and Organist, I now will have the time to live out of a suitcase.

We have been discussing the oldest bell in Portland, which is displayed in our Narthex. After it fell from the tower and was broken, it was not immediately repaired. For on thing, no one was sure that it *could* be satisfactorily repaired. It is only in fairly recent times that metallurgical technology has mastered the technique of welding cast metals, and the bell, of course, was a casting. And welding cast bronze is not a job for your ordinary corner trailer-hitch welding shop. But, after a time, Ed Pittaway, a Trustee, located a firm willing and able to take on the project. When completed, the bell was not re-hung in the Tower because even the experts who had repaired it were not sure that it would withstand ringing. And besides, money was scarce and it got removed from the budget a time or two. So it was put on display once again in Beckham Court. Remembering its earlier disappearance from that location, however, it was decided that it should be fastened down more permanently, so the Archives and History Committee planned a sort of miniature oil-derrick tower for it. Then someone had the idea of putting it *inside* the building. And that went through the hoops of approval by the Board of Trustees and the then equivalent of the Leadership Council, and the Committee on Fine Arts was consulted. Out of the bureaucratic red tape, including deciding exactly *where* was the best place, and the perennial shortage of funds, the Narthex was chosen and a donor willing to make it a memorial was found. Gale Morris, a member and an industrial designer by profession, was enlisted. He promptly abandoned the "oil derrick" suggestion, and not only designed but personally fabricated what we have today. He even invented a couple of inconspicuous "locks" for it so persons, especially children, wouldn't be able to ring it thoughtlessly. And he overcame the obstacle in fastening it down of the radiant heating hot water pipes buried in the concrete slab. Accidentally piercing one of them would have caused a real problem! It still had never been rung since its repair, and it was with a lot of trepidation that it was finally used on a special occasion. All that bureaucratic delay had served a purpose, apparently, because the internal stresses caused by the welding had dissipated, and it rang clear and true! God moves in mysterious ways His (or Hers, as the case may be) wonders to perform!

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 . . .

Wid Bleything. His brother passed away.

The family of Francena Gestring, who died at age 101.

Margaret Walton and her unit as they serve in Iraq.

Steve Bleeker's brother, diagnosed with cancer.

Youth who are struggling with decisions.

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

A Note of Thanks . . .

The Circle of Friends would like to thank the 6th grade Sunday School Class for assisting in coffee hour by making cookies.

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.

Quilt Exhibit in Collins Hall

Quiltworms is a small quilt group in which we read books and make a quilt in response. Jane Kirkpatrick's book, *All Together in One Place*, about a group of hardy, feisty pioneer women who came west on the Oregon Trail, inspired the collection of quilts that will hang in Collins Hall February 22 through April 11.

Turn Your Trash to Treasure!

Please save the labels from the following food products: Campbell's, Swanson's, Pepperidge Farm, Santiam, Flav-R-Pac. Turn them into the church office, attention Dorothy. Hazel Wells manages the project of collecting aluminum can tabs (actually any aluminum!) for the Oregon Kidney Foundation. This makes such a difference in the lives of many folks. You may bring these into the church office as well.

New Approach to VBS

Do you have a special talent? Is it cooking, drama, writing, storytelling, crafts? This year's Vacation Bible School wants you and your special talent! Our VBS will be focusing on the stories of Daniel and Esther --exploring each story through cooking, writing, drama/costumes and more. Everyone's special talents are needed and your commitment can be for 2 days or 5 days!

This exciting approach to VBS will be happening June 21 to June 25 ending in a Purim party for all VBS kids. Come celebrate with us and share your talents with 100+ kids! Contact Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195, X229 or azach@fumcpdx.org.

Vacation Bible School

June 21-25

9:00am to 12:00pm

at First United Methodist Church

Ages 4 through 6th grade

Scholarships Available

After care available for separate charge

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 March 10.

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: office@fumcpdx.org or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.