



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 21, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 8

the **E**dition

**THIS
SUNDAY**
APRIL 25, 2004

10:30 am

Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene

Easter morning at First Church was an exciting mixture of sights, sounds, and people. From the first strains of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," to the last giggle over a found egg, it was a day to remember!

Easter SUNDAY AT FIRST



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.



Please Write Your
PRAYER REQUESTS,
& COMMENTS
HERE ...



Ester
hunts are
cool. love is
all we need





GENERAL CONFERENCE 2004
PITTSBURGH, PA

The United Methodist General Conference, convenes in Pittsburgh, PA next Tuesday. Nearly 1000 delegates from regional conferences across our nation and around the world will gather for the every-four-year session. Over the ten day session delegates will consider nearly 1600 petitions seeking a change in our witness, our organization or our practice. In addition, the delegations will set the budgets.

Issues relating to funding, doctrinal standards and the nature of Holy Communion will garner major attention. The debate on ordination of gay/lesbian persons, as well as same-gender marriage are expected to overlay the event. You can brief yourself on issues--and follow the discussion and decisions--through the denomination's home-page, www.umc.org (follow the link to General Conference).

Our prayers are with the Conference delegation: Minerva Carcano, Tom Wogaman, Steve Sprecher, Greg Nelson and reserve delegates Debbie Pitney, Laura Jaquith Bartlett, D. Joan Collison and Karen Bolin.

The Circuit Rider will carry a 'Mid Conference' report in the next issue.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

What a contrast these last two Sunday's have been!

It was a glorious Easter. The weather couldn't have been more splendid as we celebrated the central festival of the Christian calendar. Flowers overflowed the altar and adorned the chancel. The kids, scrubbed for church, hunted eggs in Beckham Courtyard. Both worship services were packed to capacity. The Chancel Choir and Veritas Choir, under Bruce Browne's direction, and the SoundSeekers, guided skillfully by Nancy Nordwall, were magnificent. The Sanctuary Bells directed by Nancy Hascall and the Festival Brass added so much. Jonas Nordwall and the Mary S. Collins Memorial Pipe Organ never sounded better. Brenda Sene's wonderful way with the dozens of children and her Pastoral Prayer were moving. And then to hear again the powerful story of Easter morning and of God's love--so faithful and so strong that nothing--not even death--could stop it. It was a wonderful day to rejoice.

Just seven days later, though, there was a chill in the air and the grey skies were threatening rain as some of us arrived to find a rag-tag array of picketers on the 18th street sidewalk greeting us with odious signs and venomous words.

They were disciples of Fred Phelps from Westboro Baptist Church (near Topeka, Kansas.) Phelps is infamous for proclaiming a very different gospel than we celebrated at Easter. He has written, "We've heard enough nonsense about who God should love (at your command) to last us a lifetime. These are not the days for love and compassion for proud sinners... Christ will return to *take vengeance on the disobedient* and to be *glorified in his saints...*" (emphasis his, accessed at <http://www.godhatesamerica.com/pdf/pubs/2002stateaddress.pdf> on April 18, 2004)

It was impressive to see hundreds of our members and friends, many of whom donned rainbow ribbons, resolutely walking past the hate-mongers to declare a faith where we "all are one in Christ Jesus," hear a word of forgiveness, and worship with hymns of praise and prayers of love and hope.

Later that afternoon, at the invitation of the American Jewish Committee, I participated in reading the names of some of the six million victims of the Holocaust. The annual observance of Yom HaShoah--the day of Remembrance--was held in Pioneer Square. As I waited to speak, a bearded, disheveled man, red with rage, began screaming denunciations and obscenities. We tensed for a moment--wondering what was next. Thankfully he just continued down the sidewalk.

Hatred is not only very real--it is very near. Somewhere in America, every hour someone commits a hate crime. Every day at least eight blacks, three whites, three gays, three Jews and one Latino become hate crime victims. Every week a cross is burned. The greatest growth in hate crimes in recent years is against Asian Americans and gays and lesbians, according to FBI statistics. Most hate crimes occur in the North and West -- not in the South, as many assume. (http://www.tolerance.org/10_ways/index.html accessed April 18, 2004)

We cannot deny--or minimize--the reality of hatred in our world. Nor can we allow ourselves to become spiteful in our response. (A good source for positive ways to deter hate crimes is offered by the Southern Poverty Law Center, www.tolerance.org .)

Neither should we be surprised by evil's hand. Remember the first resurrection dawn blazed forth out of the dark violence of Good Friday. In the weeks that followed the faithful encountered the contrast between the power of a God whose love conquered death--and the lingering reality of hatred and fear. It caused them to rely on the Spirit, support one another in love, and build communities of hope. Maybe the contrasts of this week call us--like them--to not only celebrate Easter, but to live it!

See you in Church!

Arvin

scholarship report

The Memorial Scholarship Committee

Staff members and seminary students training for the ministry, including Chuck Currie, Ryan Danker, Nancy Hascall, and Larry Ward, have benefitted in the past year from scholarships granted by the Memorial Scholarship Committee. The scholarships are used for grants to help United Methodists preparing for Christian service and to educate members and staff to extend the ministry of the church. The fund was established in 1949 by what is now United Methodist Women to memorialize deceased members; gifts are encouraged from all members and friends of First UMC.

Chuck Currie is now in his second year at Eden Seminary in St. Louis. Near the end of his first semester he wrote about the “heavy reading and writing loads” and preparation for a summer trip to India. He says, “Without the support of First UMC and the Memorial Scholarship Committee none of this would be happening.”

Ryan Danker describes his 2003 summer internship at First UMC as “a very good learning and growing experience.” In his final report he describes in detail the activities that he participated in during his internship, including visitations, meetings, conferences, and participation in morning worship.

Nancy Hascall attended a seminar for Handbell Seminars in Connecticut, where she enjoyed “a wealth of opportunities for networking and sharing ideas.” She writes that she “brought home new ideas about conducting techniques, handbell maintenance and voicing, ways of teaching ringers to handle bells more effectively, and composing and arranging for handbells.” Her experience there will be evident in her new composition, which will be played for worship at FUMC this spring.

Larry Ward is completing his preparation for ministry at the Northwest House of Theological Studies in Salem. He writes, “My studies will enable me to be more aware of the ideas and movements that are forever being raised within the church.”

increasing awareness

Opportunities for Learning and Growth

POLICY REVIEW

On Sunday, April 25 at 9:15 am in Room 202 there will be another opportunity to discuss the policy statement on sexual offenders and First United Methodist Church. This is a sensitive but important topic. We urge the congregation and our youth to attend and participate. The task force is comprised of: Dr. Leif Terdal, John Henry Hingson, Janice Gratton, and the Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs.

CREATING SAFE SANCTUARIES

A session entitled *Safe Sanctuaries* will be offered on Sunday, May 2, at 9:15 am in Room 202. Samaritan Counselor, Lyn Jenks will lead us in ways to make our congregation a safe place where children, youth, and vulnerable adults may experience the love of God and fellowship in the community of faith. Everyone is invited to participate. Teachers are especially encouraged to attend and if you are teaching this fall, this class will provide a required training session.

children

Agnes Zach

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School begins June 6th. This modified schedule allows a variety of people to try their hand at teaching! We ask that every family with a child between age 3 and sixth grade, volunteer one Sunday this summer. Classes will be grouped as follows: 3s - K, First - Third Grade and Fourth - Sixth Grade.

Curriculum is provided two weeks ahead of schedule and all supplies are in each class. Volunteer by contacting Agnes Zach, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator at 503.228.3195 ext 229 or emailing her at azach@fumcpdx.org.

Watch for further details on the changes taking place in Sunday School this fall.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Starts June 21. We need YOU in VBS!! Volunteers are needed for snacks, working in the specialty areas of Journalism, Drama, Cooking and Crafts; acting as “shepherds” for the kids and more. Contact Agnes Zach, azach@fumcpdx.org or 503-228-3195 to see where your talents can best be used!!

short term

Sunday Morning Class

On Sundays May 2 and 9, First UMC will present a class: *Christian Art*. The class will meet at 9:15 am in Room 210. Bob Hyslop, a volunteer docent at the Portland Art Museum, will conduct this two-week session. The class will look at Christian art, using works from the Portland Art Museum’s permanent collection, and from recent and current exhibits at the museum. Beginning with the Byzantine icon tradition, the class will explore how this style grew and expanded under the influences of Renaissance humanism, Mannerism, and eventually, some of the art “isms” of the 20th century. Along the way they will look at Christian art inspired by the Northern Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Counter Reformation.

adult

Christian Education

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 am *Changing Christianity*,
Fireside Room

Karl Luckert will present: *The Gospel According to Coyote: Glimpses of the Navajo Indian Holyway Healing Ceremonial*.

9:15 am *The Fellowship of Seekers*,
Room 134

Join us in discussing *Affirmations of a Dissenter* by Bishop C. Joseph Sprague.

groups

Fellowship Opportunities

JUST FRIENDS

"Just Friends" is a GBLT fellowship for persons who are members or friends of First UMC. Their April potluck will be Saturday April 24th at Paul Nickell's home, 1552 NE 73rd Ave., at 6:00 pm. Paul will provide the main entree, others bring a side dish. If you have questions, call Paul at 503/257-9109.

FIRST UMC HIKERS

The April hike is Saturday, April 24 at Tryon Creek State Natural Area in SW Portland. Meet at the church parking lot at 9:30 am to carpool to Tryon Creek. Please bring a lunch, snacks and water and wear comfortable hiking boots. If you have questions contact Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet in Room 202 at 12:30, Saturday, May 1 for a potluck dinner and program: "Will Fish Oil Keep your Heart In Rhythm?" by Drs. Bill and Sonja Connor. For many years the Connors have researched the effects of food elements on the health of people, particularly the age of Parker Group members. They will update us on an element that has been getting a lot of attention lately. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

umw

United Methodist Women

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

APRIL 30

The UMW Quilt Show Luncheon
Quilts based on reading *Bless Me, Ultima*, will be hung April 26, 2004 in Collins Hall for a month. A luncheon will be held Friday, April 30, 2004. We will gather at 11:00 am. The luncheon will be prepared by the UMW. A member of the book/quilt group will discuss the quilts after the lunch.

The cost of the lunch is \$12.00. Funds will be raised for Hispanic projects in New Mexico and other locations. Invite your friends. Tickets will be available during Coffee Hour in Collins Hall. Look for the UMW table with the information: "Where in the World are United Methodist Women."

Bless Me, Ultima is a book written by Rudolfo Anaya, a New Mexican Hispanic author. The story is of a Hispanic family living near a town in New Mexico.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

UMW Executive Meeting at 9:30 am in the Church Parlor.

The Circle of Friends will take a field trip to the Waste Water Plant in Aloha. It is one of the most advanced plants in the US. The reservation is for 11:00 am. There is a lunch room, so bring your sandwich and eat it there if you like. The tour will take about an hour. Watch the weather report to know if you will need a raincoat. Call Grace Renfroe for directions or call Carrie Saito if you would like to carpool or need a ride.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

UMW Unit Meeting at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room. The program is: "Wellness II: Women of All Ages in Motion." The speaker/leader will be Sue Scott. Dress comfortably and come prepared to have fun as you move and learn about fitness. The business meeting will follow the program and include the World Thank Day Offering. Following the meeting will be lunch in 202. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

senior adults

At First Church

DINNER THEATER

Sunday, May 16, First Church Seniors will attend Sylvia's Dinner Theater's production of, *Moon Over Buffalo*. Enjoy a choice of three entrees for dinner, and a live theater production. Cost: \$36.50, group rate, including gratuity. Time: Meet at Sylvia's (5115 NE Sandy Blvd.) for dinner at 5:30. The play follows, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. RESERVATIONS DUE BY APRIL 28th, WITH \$15 deposit.

HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

A trip to the Willamette Valley Equine Hospital in Aurora is being planned. The trip will be followed by lunch at *Remember When* and then browse the wonderful antique shops in this historic town. This is one of the more unique tours we have done. The Willamette Valley Equine Hospital is a full-service surgical and medical center for horses and offers the most comprehensive equine veterinary care available in the Pacific Northwest. The cost of the tour is \$15.00 which includes motorcoach, tour, and gratuities. Lunch will be paid individually with meal costs ranging from \$3.50 to \$7.00. Reservations are due by June 15, with a \$5.00 deposit. We will depart from the church at 9:30 am and return about 3:00 pm.

church & society

**Ron Williams
Director of
Community Outreach**

All indications are that the upcoming Portland Mayors race is basically between two candidates. The top two leading candidates are former police chief Tom Potter and current City Commissioner Jim Francesconi. The field of candidates also includes many others, (sixteen) such as Phil Busse, Editor of the *Portland Mercury* and James Posey, an African-American businessman. Lately, both of the leading candidates have been appearing together in a number of public forums on specific issues such as education, police accountability, and affordable housing. Political campaign forums generally create an opportunity for the candidates to deliver their message over and over again with a kind of fill in the blank statement like, "I look forward to working closely with the people on this issue of ...fill in the blank." Rarely, however, do these create an opportunity for the citizens to be in direct dialogue with the potential office holder.

On Saturday, May 1st 7:00 pm, Ron Williams of Portland First United Methodist and Kate Lore of First Unitarian Church will host and facilitate a conversational forum where regular citizens will get their chance to sit side by side with candidates Potter, Francesconi, Busse and Posey asking meaningful questions and seeking legitimate responses.

The location of the forum will be First Unitarian Church 1011 SW 12th Avenue. Please join us. Contact Ron Williams at 503.228.3195 if you would like more information on the candidates' records, positions and finances.

planet church

Raising Our Awareness of Environmental Issues

As a part of their ongoing focus on energy use, Planet Church has invited First Church member, Steve Schell to speak after worship on **Sunday, April 25 at noon in Room 202**. Steve is President and Board Chair of the Energy Trust of Oregon, "a public organization dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation." With his help, the Energy Trust has helped countless Oregon families to research, plan and fund energy-efficient solutions in their homes and businesses.

In his talk, "*The Wesleyan Quadrilateral, the Book of Discipline, and Energy in the 21st Century*," Steve will use the Quadrilateral (John Wesley's four pillars of faith: scripture, reason, tradition and experience) to explain why energy awareness is an important part of faithful living and how we can all contribute to wiser stewardship of God's earth, our home.

Steve's talk will provide an overview of our current energy predicament with practical suggestions for conserving energy (often saving money at the same time). He will also discuss energy issues that will likely be brought before this year's General Conference.

Everyone is invited to this presentation, commemorating Earth Day. Planet Church will provide "Energy Bars" and cookies.

who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, Archives & History, Chair

We have some documents, an artifact or two, and are the sole repository (I think) of information about a sister Church which has disappeared in the last seventy years virtually without a trace. What I am talking about is the Portland Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Episcopal Church separated in 1844 over the question of slavery into two bodies: The Methodist Episcopal Church (which had begun in 1784) after 1844 existed primarily north of the Mason and Dixon line and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South which existed primarily below that famous boundary. Oregon is, technically, north of that boundary, and Methodism was in fact, initiated and primarily developed here, by the M.E. Church. But there were also immigrants from south of that line. For example, Joseph Lane (for whom Lane County is named) our first appointed Territorial Governor and our first elected Senator, had been born in North Carolina, and was schooled mostly in Kentucky. He was also the Vice Presidential candidate of the southern wing of the Democratic Party in 1860. In fact, the M. E. Church, South had congregations in Oregon as early as 1858. Its church in Portland was not started until 1905, however (in the home of the great grandmother of our late member Jim Setterberg). We have a picture of the fine stone building it built in 1914 at the corner of what is now NE MLK Blvd and Holladay. The congregation seems to have disappeared in the mid-thirties when the building was sold to the City to help implement the plan for the one-way streets grid. We have some oral history from Jim Setterberg, but I have not really been able to discover when or why the church itself went out of existence. If anyone has any information, please let me know.

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, Chair
Archives & History Committee

around the parish

Prayer Concerns and Expressions of Thanks

Jared Bomberger, stationed in Kuwait. Jared is the son of Judy Bomberger and the grandson of Betty Hager.

Margaret Walton and her unit as they continue to serve in Iraq.

The Iverson and Pavan families who are coping with recent events.

We continue our prayers for those suffering illness:

Lorna Carey, Jane Rhodes, Jan Marshall, Tom Iverson, and Harry Baker.

We celebrate the baptism of *Kendall Jane Joy*, daughter of Jenifer and Michael Joy.

giving

Offering Update

Our Giving Through April 15, 2004
Year-to-Date Giving \$210,175
Year-to-Date Pledged
(Prorated Estimate) \$239,167
Shortfall \$28,992

**One Great Hour of Sharing Total
\$1,110.00**



lenten service project

Children Collecting School Supplies a Big Success

Thanks to everyone who contributed school supplies to the Sunday School Lenten Project with Schoolhouse Supplies. Over \$500 in school supplies was donated to the organization on April 9, 2004. Seven students and three adults delivered the supplies and spent two hours volunteering with Schoolhouse Supplies. One of the things the students did was sorting over 800 pencils donated by First UMC! Pictured: Ruth Wright, Emily Wright, Chris Wright, Patrick Caraddock, Elise Hooker, Brian Hauenstein, Madeline Hauenstein, April Hauenstein, Agnes Zach and Volunteer Coordinator: Gayle Kellman.

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 April 21.

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.