



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 5, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 9

the **E** edition

THIS SUNDAY

MAY 9, 2004

10:30 am

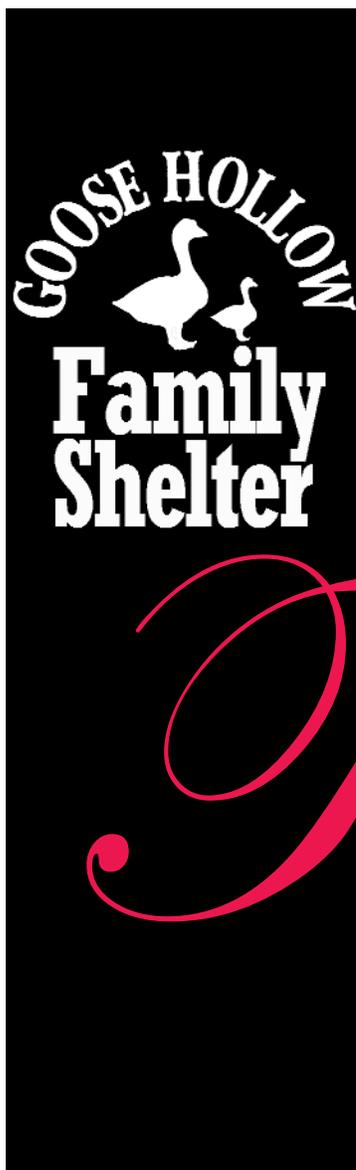
Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene



2004 has been an exciting year for the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. There have been a variety of staff changes and the program year was extended by one full month this year.

As always, volunteers are the heart of the ministry of Goose Hollow Family Shelter.

In recognition of their countless hours and heartfelt ministry to homeless families, there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 20, 2004

5:30 PM in Collins Hall

The guest speaker will be

Maria Rojo De Steffey

Multnomah County

Commissioner.

Thank you

for making the
2003 - 2004
Shelter Year
a huge success !



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.



clean sweep ...

There will be a final Shelter Work Party of the year on Thursday, May 6, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. The Shelter Board will provide goodies and cleaning supplies and plenty of small job opportunities. We plan to leave the shelter lounge areas and gym storage rooms in "tip top" shape. Stop by for 15 minutes or the entire evening, your help is needed.

missions

a special project

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is June 9-12, in Salem, Oregon. This year's Parade of Boxes will have a new twist - it is a parade of bags. The parade leads to Portland's waterfront for donation to the Portland Seafarers Mission. About 25,000 sailors from poor and third-world countries visit Portland every year. Most are young and away from home for months at a time. Because of increased security measures, unless a sailor has a visa (which most do not), he must stay on board. Seafarers Mission provides various items and services for these sailors.

The following items are sought for donation to the Seafarers Mission: Bibles, religious materials, daily devotionals, small toilet articles (soap, shampoo, combs, toothpaste and brushes), paperback novels, magazines (especially National Geographic and sports), t-shirts, belts, pencils, pens, writing paper, envelopes, dominoes, cards and small games. The items collected will be placed in large paper grocery bags, filled 1/3 full with as many different items in each bag as possible. A collection box has been placed in the Narthex. Donations may be made of any and all of the above-listed items - and donations of filled bags are, of course, also welcome.

Seafarers Mission is also accepting donations of funds to use for transportation and telephone calls. Checks for this purpose may be made out to Conference Treasurer, marked as Conference Advance Specials/Portland Seafarers, and mailed to FUMC.



offerings

Rev. Brenda Sené

If you have attended church in the last month, you will have noticed our new "communication cards." Our Evangelism Committee talked about and researched these cards for many months before asking David Jenkins to design the card we are now using. We were not satisfied with the information we were receiving from visitors with the guest book and pew pads. Most of our guests would leave their names, but not their addresses or phone numbers or emails. They did not have the opportunity to leave any messages for us, or prayer concerns. We are aware that many people who visit a church for the first time are in life transitions, and perhaps would welcome an opportunity to ask us to pray with and for them.

I am very pleased that guests and church members are both using the communication cards. Each week people are writing prayer concerns and messages. I read all of these, and respond to as many as I can. People will very often tell me of pastoral care concerns as they shake my hand on Sunday morning, but in the context of greeting a couple of hundred people, I have difficulty remembering all of the concerns and the dates and the names. These cards are helping with pastoral care. People who usually do not seem comfortable speaking with me about their needs now have this opportunity to write their concerns.

The people who keep track of the visitors and attendance in the office, John Johnson, Edie Jensen, and David Jenkins, are finding the cards to be very helpful. First time visitors are leaving more information. We are able to follow-up more effectively with our visitors with emails or phone calls or notes, because we have their information. The pew pads did not leave enough room, and some of our guests may not have felt comfortable having everyone else in their pew reading their information. Even our church members are leaving helpful information for us...email addresses and changes in their information.

Some of our church members are disappointed that we are no longer using the pew pads, and so they cannot see who else is sitting in their pew. They want to greet guests, and they want to be reminded of people's names. Even friendlier than reading someone's name, is reaching out to them with an extended hand in welcome and introducing yourself. Doing away with the pew pads should not stop us from greeting one another.

We have had some comments about the cards being a waste of paper. As long as we are using the information we are receiving, and the used cards are being recycled, and the unused cards are being reused, I think the cards are a good use of paper. The card stock is good quality because it stands out in the bulletin, it is easy to write on, and it is easier for the office to handle when sorting the cards Monday morning.

We have a six month supply of the communication cards. The evangelism committee will review the effectiveness of these cards in another few months. Please, continue writing to us. Your messages are read, and we keep you in our prayers.

On another note, I was very proud to serve this church on April 18. Fred Phelp's group came to protest on that Sunday morning. The confirmation youth spoke with me about how odd it was to see such hatred across the street when they had never felt more love in the church. I agree.

I was also proud of the respect shown at the forum that afternoon on "The Constitution, The Discipline, and Same-Gender Marriage." People spoke who have very different views, and yet there was not animosity-just true dialogue. May the same Spirit guide the dialogue at our General Conference in Pittsburgh this week.

Grace & Peace,
Brenda

children & family ministries

Agnes Zach



We are looking for people who want to work with kids between the ages of 2 and 12 as part of a team. No teaching experience is needed. Our recruits will be interested in kids; interested in sharing God's good word; and interested in deepening their own spirituality through education.

TEACHING CHILDREN AGES 2 THROUGH 9:

These kids need dedicated adults and youth who work as part of a team to bring Christian Education into their lives. No person on the team is asked to spend more than 12 sessions in a 36-week schedule in the classroom. Each teacher receives a book explaining the lesson as well as support materials for the classroom, training and personal support.

TEACHING CHILDREN AGES 10-12:

Something special is happening with our "tweens." It's called Rotation Model Christian Education. These kids will experience four different lessons using: art, cooking, storytelling, science and more. Team leaders are needed in specialty areas to teach the same lesson three to four times, then they take a break. Shepherds are needed to lead the kids from Children's Time in the Sanctuary to their special learning location.

This is your chance to choose where to live your ministry! Kids are the future of the church. What they know, learn, and experience as children impacts where they find hope and God's love as adults. Your skills, talents, and time are needed to make this program a success.

If you can say, "YES!" to kids, contact Agnes Zach, Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries at 503/228-3195 ext. 229 or email her at azach@fumcpdx.org.

NURSERY USAGE REMINDER

The Leadership Council of First Church reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining two Nursery Care Providers in the church nursery for all events. At least one of these providers must be one of First Church's qualified Nursery Care Providers. The other may be an adult, over the age of 18, who has completed the Volunteer Disclosure Form. If two adults are not available, the nursery will NOT be available. This applies to First UMC activities as well as outside groups. The nursery cannot be opened for unattended children during meetings. Any children coming with parents when the nursery is not open will need to stay with parents. Arrangements for the church nursery need to be made directly with Agnes Zach, Children & Family Ministries Coordinator, two weeks in advance of the scheduled event. Groups are encouraged to schedule meetings and activities together to maximize the use of the nursery and decrease the cost. The cost of opening the nursery for an event is \$19.48 per hour. Fellowship groups are encouraged to donate towards this cost. Outside groups reserving the nursery and staff will be charged the full cost of operating the nursery.

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 Ministries Coordinator at 503.228.3195 ext 229 or emailing her at azach@fumcpdx.org.

JOAN FORD RETIRES FROM OUR CHURCH NURSERY

Joan Ford will be retiring on June 6, 2004 after more than 12 years with our church nursery. She has watched our children grow from babies into participants in our youth program. Joan has been a well-known figure in the nursery with a lap for any child and a willingness to read, listen and support our children. A celebration of Joan's time with us will be held, Sunday, May 23 in the church nursery. Stop by for some cake and send your good wishes with Joan. Parents and families are encouraged to bring pictures, notes and memories to the celebration to be added to a Memory Book for Joan. Contributions will be accepted in the church office for a parting gift for Joan.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 21 - 25, 2005

We need YOU in VBS!! Volunteers are needed for: snacks; and 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!

adult christian education

SUNDAYS, MAY 9 & 16

- 9:00 am *Changing Christianity*,
Fireside Room
Remedial Christianity
by Paul Allan Laughlin.
- 9:15 am *The Fellowship of Seekers*,
Room 134
Affirmations of a Dissenter
by Bishop C. Joseph Sprague.

groups fellowship opportunities

FIRST UMC HIKERS

First UMC Hikers' May Hike will be on Saturday, May 22nd. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 am to form carpools and drive to Southwest Washington north of Carson. The hike will be a moderate 6.4 mile round-trip with a 900 foot elevation gain. We will hike through wildflower meadows with views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood. Anyone who enjoys hiking is welcome to join us. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks and plenty of water and wear comfortable hiking boots. The cost will be about \$7-10 for the carpool, Northwest Forest Pass and an optional snack stop on the way home. We should be back at the church around 5:00 PM. Please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737 to participate or if you have any questions

please note spring church conference

First UMC's Spring Church Conference will be convened on Sunday, May 23 at 3:00 pm in the Chapel. The agenda will be limited to the report of the Lay Leadership Committee, election of church officers, and consideration of the proposed policy, "Sexual Offenders and First United Methodist Church." All members have a voice and a vote.

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 ARE DUE NOW, with a \$15 deposit.

HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

Wednesday, June 23, 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.

DOWN THE ROAD

- July 10: Washington County Ag/Forestry Tour 2004
July 23: Salem Sights - All Around the Capitol

RIVER CRUISE FROM AMSTERDAM TO BUDAPEST

Make plans now for the 2005 River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. This 16 day deluxe river cruise will be an unforgettable trip. This tour will be relaxing, enriching and fun. Each day will bring new sights and experiences. Contact Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3195 ext 229 for costs and dates. Space is guaranteed with registrations submitted by June 15, 2004.

shovel & rake gang Jim Mc Manus

With an early spring this year we have enjoyed blooming rhodies, tulips, and pear and cherry trees. All the while we have enjoyed the winter pansies that continued blooming under the other flowers. Soon we will set out annuals (impatiens, petunias, and zinnas) to beautify our front entrance and Beckham Court.

A major step toward completing the Peg Brockman Memorial Garden was taken recently when Kaylene Kirchem brought a detailed plan for landscaping around its walkway and patio. A copy of her blueprint for this area is hanging in the breezeway between Bldgs. 100 and 200, near the library. We encourage you to look at it. Kaylene, a professional landscape designer, has followed through with this master plan even though she now is living in Corvallis. We appreciate very much her expertise and help with this project.

With near completion of this garden we feel under more pressure to clean and beautify Collins Circle, which our memorial garden will overlook. While maintaining the Circle is the city's responsibility, it has become an eyesore due to complete neglect. Shovel & Rake plan to do only the bare minimum maintenance of the Circle--cleaning, caring for plants, pruning, watering and fertilizing. We have neither the manpower nor the funding to do more.

macg

**Metropolitan
Alliance for the
Common Good**

On Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 PM, the Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good will hold their annual community meeting. Thirty-four MACG core teams will meet with local and state officials as well as the financial sector to negotiate on issues such as prescription drug costs, investment in statewide dialogues and focus groups to modify opinion on health care priorities, and stability for Oregon Health Plan recipients. This meeting will take place at the Ambridge Portland Conference center, 300 NE Multnomah, Portland. Contact Ron Williams at 503/228-3195 ext 215 for more information.

music

**Jonas Nordwall
Organ Education
Fund Recipient**



**Elizabeth
Wright**

In 2001, as a part of the 150th anniversary of Portland's First United Methodist Church, an endowment fund was created and named to honor the artistry and years of dedication to the church given by Jonas Nordwall, our organist for over 30 years. He has enhanced the overall worship experience of persons who have attended this church during that time. The interest from that endowment is to be used by a person wishing to enhance their ability to become a church organist by providing personal instruction from Jonas Nordwall.

The committee appointed to administer the fund is pleased to announce that a grant has been offered to and accepted by Elizabeth Wright. Wright is committed to understanding traditional and contemporary functions and applications of the organ for worship services as well as improving playing, accompaniment and musical skills needed for the same. She has already accompanied choirs and soloists on the piano for our worship services, but now will have the opportunity to learn to do the same on the organ. She will have lessons from Nordwall for the next two years. Near the end of, and possibly during that two years, she will be playing during some of our worship services. The fund will also allow Elizabeth to become a member of the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Our congratulations and good wishes go to Elizabeth Wright as she pursues the challenges of the next two years.

who are we? archives and history committee

You may have noticed before Easter that we have some new sanctuary banners. They are a memorial to Jamie Hendrickson, who died in 1986, and were given by her parents Bruce and Mary Jane. Mary Jane, in fact, had a hand, along with Cheryl Younger, in designing them. The blue side of each banner has a Lenten theme, a Latin cross (as distinct, for example, from a Greek Cross, or a Maltese Cross, or Celtic Cross) encircled with a crown of thorns, reminding us of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion (Mark 15:17; John 19:2). Someone may wonder why the color is blue instead of violet or purple. I don't know why Mary Jane chose blue, but I can certify its appropriateness. In the last fifty years or so, many American Methodists (along with many Presbyterians, Congregationalists, etc.) have become enthralled with the "liturgical colors" of white, purple, red, green, and black and their use to designate particular seasons of the church year (or immediate service references, such as black for Good Friday or a funeral) in the pulpit and lectern hangings, the stoles worn by ministers, banners, etc. There is nothing particularly "ancient" or "correct" about such a practice; it has grown up only in the last 900 years (of Christianity's 2000 years), and as a matter of fact, in England a different usage is equally traditional: red, white, and blue (from which, incidentally, came the colors of the British and American flags). Another symbol utilized is a "Portuguese" ("empty") Cross signifying to Protestants that Christ is not dead (or dying again with each Mass) but risen once and for all. The white sides of the banner have Easter themes, such as a "Crown of Life" recalling Biblical themes about the King of Glory (Psalm 24:10), King of Kings (Rev. 17:14), etc. and a butterfly, which in recent times, because it so fitly pictorializes St. Paul's words in First Corinthians 15:35-49 (cf. Hymn #707, stanza 1) has come to symbolize immortality, the resurrected life.

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb
Archives and History Committee



around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

Tom Foster, Tom Iverson, and Doris Lavey, recovering from surgery.

Roy Rogers, who is hospitalized.

Ken Burns, who is recuperating from a hospital stay.

Allan & Florence Snyder, Al's brother died May 1, 2004.

Family and friends of Lillian Crofford, who died on April 27 at age 100!

Marty Martin and family upon the passing of Marty's father.

Midred Nye Thompson's family upon Mildred's recent passing.

We continue our prayers for those suffering illness:

Harry Baker, Lorna Woodmansee Carey, Henry Townsend,
and Jan Marshall.

We celebrate

the wedding of *Paul Levy* and *Jin-Hee Kim* on May 1, 2004.

Bill Shonely's selection as Grand Marshall of the 2004 Rose Festival's Southwest Airlines Grand Floral Parade on June 12, 2004.

more missions

Rose City Park UMC

"Mission Possible; Made Possible" is Saturday, May 29, at Rose City UMC at 5820 NE Alameda, in Portland, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Heather Wilson, Jurisdictional Representative to the General Board of Global Ministries, will be here to lead us in understanding world of opportunities for mission. Tom and Corrine Tate, Conference Secretaries for the Board of Global Ministries and Joe Walker, now retired UM pastor and the first elected director of the Advance for Christ and his church, will also be making presentations. This event is for youth, adults, pastors and all those interested in mission.



ha!

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She walked around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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 May 19, 2004

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.