



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 19, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 10

THIS SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2004

8:30 am
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene

3:00 pm

Spring
Church Conferene
in the Chapel.
All members
encouraged to attend.



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.

the **E**dition

We will honor our high school graduates on Sunday morning, May 23 in the 10:30 am worship service. There will be a reception for these students in Collins Hall, following the worship service. There will be a special insert in that Sunday's bulletin featuring each of the high school graduates. A multi-media presentation featuring our graduating youth will be shown during the reception.

NEWS OF OTHER GRADUATES ...

We have received word on the following college and university graduates:

Christopher Howard, son of Hal and Carol Howard, received his B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder, on May 7, 2004.

Teresa Wright, daughter of Byron and Elizabeth Wright will be graduating from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon. Teresa also has completed an internship with the Oregon Symphony.

If you know of other graduates please contact the church office at office@fumcpdx.org.

Congratulations!



GRADUATES

Carl Baird
Eve Bleecker
Joan Bleecker
Katherine Bradley
David Coffee
Jeffrey Cruse
Jennifer Dollins
Mallory Freed
Jessica Hale
Stephanie Hedberg
Katie Hooker
Trevor Jones
Michael Panck
Cheyne Sorensen
Nicholas Whitcomb
Claire Wilson
Matthew Wright

website

www.fumcpdx.org

We are pleased to announce the launching of our newly redesigned website for First Church. For the past six months, David Jenkins, our Administrative Assistant, has been working with the staff to update our church website with the goal of making it more compatible with our yearly program guide. We are still making some adjustments and corrections. Please visit our site at www.fumcpdx.org. We invite your comments and suggestions in making this a useful tool for our church and for those seeking information about our church. Send your comments and suggestions to: office@fumcpdx.org.

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 is a parade of bags. The parade leads to Portland's waterfront for donation to the Portland Seafarers Mission. The following items are sought: 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. A collection box has been placed in the Narthex for your donations. 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 First UMC.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Their letter arrived on the eve of what promised -- and proved -- to be a contentious General Conference. The Council of Bishops does not write often. This time it was calling the delegates, and all United Methodists, to remember our heritage and embrace our values. It's a call that bears repeating as our congregation confronts difficult issues that test our unity.

Disagreement is nothing new among Christians. The Acts of the Apostles and the letters of Paul are rife with vigorous debate and dispute. The early church gathered councils to formulate creeds clarifying core doctrine. Their efforts did not quell the controversies.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, was a man of deep faith and firm beliefs. But he realized that others of integrity and deep faith had different ideas. While he embraced classical Christian ideas, he understood that unity and common mission arises not so much out of doctrinal agreement-but out of a vital encounter with risen Christ. Halford E. Luccock and Paul Hutchinson, in their classic work, *The Story of Methodism*, note that Wesley avoided doctrinal tests for those seeking Methodist membership; rather he asked, "Is thy heart as my heart? Then give me thy hand!" (Abingdon Press, 1963 p. 190)

With Wesley, our Bishops urged us to realize Christ's spirit is in our midst:

"On some issues, including human sexuality, we are not of one opinion. At the same time, we are united in our commitment to Jesus Christ. We are united in our commitment to uphold the *Book of Discipline*. We are united in our conviction that the critical issues will not be ultimately resolved with legislation. We find the answers in Christ-like love, expressed in dialogue, mutual respect and a humble search for the mind of God." (Bishops' Letter to General Conference, issued April 26, 2004 by the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, PA)

Their reminder did not fall on deaf ears. General Conference was marked by sharp differences of opinion and sometimes rancorous sparring on the sidelines. Clearly United Methodists hold differing opinion on some issues of doctrine, Biblical authority and human sexuality. But the delegates, moved by the Spirit, affirmed their desire to join hands in mission and continue to seek God's will. On the last day they resolved:

As United Methodists
We remain in covenant with one another,
Even in the midst of disagreement,
And reaffirm our commitment to work together
For our common mission
Of making disciples of Jesus Christ
Throughout the world

(Resolution on Church Unity, adopted by the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in session May 7, 2004.)

The Bishops were speaking to us, too. We are not all of one mind either on matters of faith or the issues of our day. Unity does not mean we always agree. It means we realize that, in Christ, we have more in common than we have in difference. It means that we commit ourselves to remain together, to care for one another, and to work together in "...Christ-like love, expressed in dialogue, mutual respect and a humble search for the mind of God."

See you in Church

Arvin

[Click here for the full text of the Bishops' Letter](#)

vbs

Agnes Zach

This year's Vacation Bible School is shaping up to be the best ever! Using the stories of Daniel and Esther, children ages 4 through those entering the sixth grade will experience a wide variety of learning activities for the five days of VBS. The program runs from 9:00 am to noon, June 21-25. The cost is \$20.00 per student for the week. There is a \$55.00 maximum for families and some scholarships are available. Please register with Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 ext. 229 by June 7, 2004. Registrations received after June 7 will be accepted as space allows. Registration forms are available at our website: www.fumcpdx.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HERO QUEST

FEATURING THE STORIES OF DANIEL & ESTHER



■ BIBLE STORIES ■ SNACK TIME ■
■ CRAFTS ■ MUSIC ■ WORSHIP
■ RECREATION ■ MISSION PROJECTS

HEROES AGE 4 THROUGH
ENTERING 6TH GRADE WELCOME

JUNE 21-25, 2004
at First UMC

children

at first church

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. A celebration of Joan's time with us will be held, Sunday, May 23 in the church nursery. Stop by for some cake and give your good wishes to 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.

SOUND SEEKERS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Sound Seekers will sing in Sunday morning worship on June 13th. This is a choir for children in grades three through six. If you haven't been at rehearsals, you are really needed! If you aren't currently a member of Sound Seekers it's not too late to join them for their last song of the year. There is always room for one more. Watch for details on an upcoming ice cream party! Nancy Nordwall is director of Sound Seekers.

memorial scholarships

at first church

Recent awards from the Memorial Scholarship Committee will support three First UMC leaders: *Agnes Zach, Jancie Gratton, and Michele Fricke* to attend the National Christian Educators Conference in New Orleans in October. This conference will benefit ministries in the children, youth and adult programs of our church.

Funding was also granted to *Ron Williams* to attend a summer Leadership Fellows Program in Portland. This program is intended to train minority persons for leadership positions and Ron's participation will benefit his work in our church outreach programs.

The Memorial Scholarship Committee considers requests for grants to educate members and/or staff of this congregation to extend the ministry of the church and to help United Methodists preparing for Christian service in higher education and/or continuing education. Deadlines for future grant applications are July 10 and October 10, 2004 for consideration at committee meetings to be held later in those months. Application forms can be obtained from the church office or from Marge Terdal at terdalm@pdx.edu.

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 representatives of government and the financial sector to negotiate issues such as prescription drug costs, investment in statewide dialogues and focus groups to modify opinion on health care priorities, and stability for the Oregon Health Plan. It will take place at the Ambridge Portland Conference center, 300 NE Multnomah, Portland. Contact: Ron Williams at 503/228-3195 ext 215.

THE OREGON-IDAHO UMC CONFERENCE CAMPUS MINISTRIES send their thanks and appreciation for our full support of our OR-ID Conference Shared Ministries. This, in part, funds outreach ministries on nine college and university campuses.

Liz Boeri

Liz Boeri
Boise State University

Jeremy Hadju-Paulen

Jeremy Hadju-Paulen
University of Oregon

Peg Tofsvold

Peg Tofsvold
Chair, Campus Ministry Team

Denise Mosher

Denise Mosher
Western Oregon University

Timothy Stover

Timothy Stover
Oregon State University

Charles Wallace

Charles Wallace
Willamette University

Elizabeth Winslea

Elizabeth Winslea
Portland State University

Marcie Collins

Marcie Collins
Idaho State University

Kaye Garver

Kaye Garver
Eastern Oregon University

Rich Lang

Rich Lang
Southern Oregon University

who are we?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Cal Brockman, Sr., a member of our congregation, is an "old pro" in the furniture business. He recently gave to us a newspaper clipping about the "anatomy of the Eames" lounge chairs currently used in the SE "reading corner" of the library. We have four of them and they were originally bought, on the architect's recommendation, for the Fireside Room. According to the clipping, they are now regarded as "collectable classic" because they "embody the American modernist movement." They are made of three interlocking sections of molded plywood, upholstered in black leather and fixed to a welded steel swivel frame. They are in the library because they never really quite "belonged" in the Fireside Room (partly because we have made that room into more of a multiple use room than the "parlor" was originally designed to be). That room was originally designed at the request of the premier women's group, then the Women's Society of Christian Service (now the United Methodist Women), for their use and more "refined" uses such as wedding and memorial service receptions, piano recitals, etc. -- usages that one would associate with one's living room (as opposed to one's family room, for example). These chairs, one woman complained at the start, "made it look like a men's club." At least one prior pastor used a couple of them in his office. But they seem now to have found a proper place.

They bring to mind some other Herman Miller Co. chairs we have -- the white, molded fiberglass chairs used in 202. These were bought in 1957 and have withstood the rigors of church usage (churches are pretty hard on tables and chairs; some of the former bought in 1985 didn't last ten years) very well. They embodied a unique set of unconventional legs, a spidery framework of welded steel, little larger than wire, which proved to be very durable and also provides a very stable chair (one can stand on one, for example, as people do to reach high shelves, etc). The design has only one flaw -- it can't be stacked or folded, so they take a lot of room to store when not in use. By 1967, when Collins Fellowship Hall was built, the design had been modified to make them stackable, and we have them there also. They were not the least expensive chairs available, but they have more than repaid their cost by their durability.

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, Chair of the Archives and History Committee



trustees
raising the roof

TRUSTEES BEGIN REROOFING PROJECT

The Trustees have entered into a contract to replace the roof of the classroom wing containing rooms numbered 100 excluding the offices, narthexes, chapel, sanctuary or north addition.

The existing slate roof was installed in 1956/57 at original construction. It is nearing 50 years of age. There is an active leak. The new materials will be similar to those at the chapel, library and north addition. Work is expected to start the week of May 17, 2004 and be completed about June 11, 2004.

The contractor is CC&L Roofing, a local company with broad experience. They have worked for this church in the past. They will use six to nine of our parking spaces for on site storage of supplies and equipment. These spaces will be fenced off for the safety of people and equipment. They will not be available for our use. Old materials will be removed from the site daily by dump truck. We will see additional truck traffic during weekday work hours.

The Trustees have established a major maintenance "sinking fund" to pay for large projects such as this.

adult christian education

SUNDAYS, MAY 23 & 30

- 9:00 am **Changing Christianity**,
Fireside Room
Remedial Christianity
by Paul Allan Laughlin.
- 9:15 am **The Fellowship of Seekers**,
Room 134
*A Bible Study using the passages
of the preaching lectionary.*

groups fellowship opportunities

FIRST UMC HIKERS

First UMC Hikers' May Hike will be Saturday, May 22. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 am to carpool to Southwest Washington north of Carson. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks and water. Wear comfortable hiking boots. The cost will be about \$7-10 Contact: Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or 503/524-3737 to participate or if you have any questions.

JUST FRIENDS

The Just Friends (GBLT) Potluck will be Saturday, June 12 at 6:00 PM, at John Johnson's home, 6415 NE Killingsworth St. #C1, Portland. The theme is the 3 S's (Sandwiches, Salads, and Soups). Bring one or more of these and John will provide the drinks. If you have questions or need directions call John at 503/281-3468.

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

HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

Wednesday, June 23, a trip to the Willamette Valley Equine Hospital in Aurora is scheduled. The trip will be followed by lunch at *Remember When* and then browse the wonderful antique shops. The Willamette Valley Equine Hospital offers the most comprehensive equine veterinary care available in the Pacific Northwest. Cost: \$15.00 which includes motorcoach, tour, and gratuities. Lunch will be paid individually, ranging from \$3.50 to \$7.00. Reservations are due by June 15, with a \$5.00 deposit. 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.

united methodist women at first church



QUILT LUNCHEON A SUCCESS!

The UMW Quilt Show Luncheon was enjoyed by over 135 attendees. The quilts, based on the novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*, are now on display in Collins Hall. The New Mexico setting of the book inspired the cactus table decorations and a Southwest menu. Following the luncheon, Janet Fogg from the quilting group, "Cover to Cover", talked about quilting and described the individual quilts, several of which have been entered in national competitions. The festive event netted over \$1000 for UMW Mission Projects. Thanks to all who helped make the luncheon such a success, including all who purchased tickets. We plan to repeat this event next year.

**Thursday,
May 20, 10:00 am**
Reading Group, Library
Gloria Misar reviews, *In the Land of the Grasshopper Song*, the story of two young women in the Klamath River Indian Country in 1908-09.

**Wednesday,
May 26, 11:30 am**
Circle of Friends, Rm 204

Bring a brown bag lunch, beverage and dessert will be provided. Mary Covert will present the program, discussing the books of Ted Loder. Members are also invited to bring Ted Loder books. Visitors & new members welcome.

**Wednesday,
June 2, 11:00 am -**
UMW Unit Gathering, Rm 202

A potluck luncheon with the installation of new officers. People whose last name begins with: A- M are asked to bring salads, N-Z to bring desserts. All women of the church are welcome.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

Janna Steed, who preached at First Church on Ellington Sunday,
and is coping with cancer;
Kevin Nye and his family on the death of his mother;
Mildred Nye Thompson;
Marty Martin, recovering from bypass surgery;
Karin McDonough, undergoing a pulmonary workup at the Mayo Clinic;
Betty Hagar's sister, recovering from surgery;
Jared Bomberger and Margaret Walton, serving in and near Iraq.

Continued prayers for:

Harry Baker, Henry Townend, Tom Iverson, Doris Lavelly,
and Jan Marshall.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Ryan Danker, our intern from last summer;
who graduated from the Divinity School at Duke University;
Bob and Elma Benefiel on their 48th wedding anniversary;
Dorothy Fortune on her 90th birthday;
Sara & Chris Hale on the baptism of their son, *Kellen Robert Hale*;
MyraJean & Michael Marshall on the baptism of their son,
Kepler William Bruce Marshall.

a thank you

from Tom & Colleen Foster

Tom & Colleen Foster wish to thank members and friends for their many prayers, notes, and caring thoughts before and during Tom's cancer surgery on April 26. The pastoral presence of Arvin Luchs made the hours much less stressful for all the family. We felt God's hand guiding the surgery, and now God's healing touch as Tom regains his health. He is making an excellent recovery, and we anticipate he will soon be able to be at home. We know you will rejoice with us that the cancer appeared to be contained, so we do not expect further treatment, and we look forward to being back among you soon.



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 2, 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.