



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

June 2, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 11

THIS SUNDAY

JUNE 6, 2004

Peace with
Justice Sunday

8:30 am
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Communion Mediation

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Brenda Sene



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.

Music SUNDAY

JUNE 13, 2004 at 10:30 AM



There has long been a tradition at First Church of fine music sung and played to the glory of God. We are blessed all year long by a variety of rich meaningful music which enhances our services of worship. On Sunday, June 13, all of the different musical groups of First Church will be singing and playing. Included will be the Genesis Ringers, juBELLation Ringers, Sanctuary Bells, the Cherub Choir, Sound Seekers, Veritas, and the Chancel Choir, as well as our new instrumental group. We encourage you to come and join us for this glorious service of music and the spoken word.

featuring the music of ...

- Genesis Ringers
- juBELLation
- Sanctuary Bells
- Cherub Choir
- Sound Seekers
- Veritas
- Chancel Choir
- Instrumental Group

For everything
there is a season,
and a time
for every matter
under heaven:
a time to be born,
and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up
what is planted;
a time to kill,
a time to heal;
a time to break down,
and a time to build up;
a time to weep,
and time to laugh;
a time to mourn,
and a time to dance;
a time to throw
away stones,
and time to gather
stones together;
a time to embrace,
a time to refrain
from embracing;
a time to seek,
and a time to lose;
a time to keep,
and a time to throw away;
a time to tear,
and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence,
and a time to speak;
a time to love,
and a time to hate;
a time for war,
and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
NRSV



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

I'm sure any "Top Ten Scripture" list would include the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. The first eight verses, reminding us of life's 'seasons,' have been immortalized in literature and song. It is often requested for funerals and memorial services because it gives a sense of perspective that can be so helpful in moments of tragedy and loss.

It is not only about death and grief. Indeed, the "Teacher" is reflecting on the balance of life. Just as there are times of loss, struggle and pain—so also there are also moments of celebration: of laughter, dancing and embracing. Life is always found in the balance. So it is with our congregation.

Last week we gave thanks to God and celebrated the more than 800 people who volunteer at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. Thanks to you more than 68 families—about 190 people—who would have been living on the cold streets found gracious hospitality, warm shelter and care. We were able to help 15 families more than last year because volunteers offered to keep the shelter open an extra month.

On May 23rd we proudly recognized graduates from high school and bid them Godspeed as they move on to college and careers. At the same time we bid farewell and expressed our appreciation to Joan Ford who retires after more than 17 years rocking our babies and tending our toddlers in the nursery.

Next Sunday we will welcome young men and women who have been exploring their personal faith in a series of confirmation classes and are now ready to take vows of church membership. This is a very important time—a milestone moment—both for the new confirmands and for us all. They have rigorously reviewed our traditions and explored their hearts and in conversation with their teachers and pastors discerned God's call and made their decision of faith. It is a moment when each of us is encouraged to revisit our own faith and commitment.

That day we will not only have an opportunity to greet the new members, but to thank God for our congregation's most valuable asset: dedicated volunteers. At a recent church conference we elected a new slate of volunteer leaders—and anticipate their vision and energy when they start their terms on July 1. We also say thanks to leaders who have served us well and completed their term of duty. We'll recognize them—as well as announcing First UMC's "Volunteers of the Year" during Sunday's coffee fellowship. Three awards will be given: the "Guy Wheaton Award" for service within the congregation; the "Lewis Hughes Award" for service to the community; and the "Wesley Spirit Award" for one whose service exemplifies a balance of spirit and service.

"For everything there is a season..." and this is our time for hugs of joy, for celebration and for saying "thanks!"

See you in Church

Arvin

letter from a shelter guest

To Whom It May Concern (and I hope it concerns you all):

My daughter and I are just two of the many lives touched by this shelter. In late January of 2000, I came upon Goose Hollow Family Shelter in Portland, Oregon. I had been traveling north from Arizona for weeks, walking and hitching rides. With me was my partner, a young man who turned 20 during our stay. On top of not having a home or jobs, I was pregnant. Despite my partner's arrogant and rude demeanor, we were welcomed to stay at the shelter. Finally, we had a warm place to sleep, a place to bathe, and were able to do laundry. I remember the feeling of relief I had as I lay down, and how soundly I slept that first night. During our stay, I had a chance to get sober and decide just what I was going to do for this baby. I was given maternity clothing and made to feel human, not just homeless. The Goose Hollow staff made me feel human and hopeful. I was able to talk to people and get suggestions on how to go about getting a job and a place to live. I felt like maybe I really did have a chance at changing my life for the better.

Continued on Page 3

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.fumcpx.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@fumcpx.org.

letter from a shelter guest
goose hollow family shelter

Continued from Page 2

In February, 2000 my daughter was born. I headed west to Washington State, where I was originally from, this time without my child's father. Several times, I just wanted to give up. It was too hard! But then I remembered the people who devoted their time and energy to those who had less. Those who had families at home, still gave their time and help to us. So I kept pushing and working.

From January to September 20, 2003, I worked two full-time jobs and built my own home. On September 21, I was standing in my new living room, a proud homeowner. Goose Hollow helped save the life of my unborn child, as well as my own. Without the caring people that make Goose Hollow work, we couldn't have made it where we are today. My daughter is now four years old and has her own room. She has everything she needs and nearly everything she wants! The man my daughter calls "daddy" is not her real father, but loves us both endlessly. We will be married soon. I am currently pursuing a career in real estate, and finally, I am very proud of where I stand.

I feel I owe my life and success to Goose Hollow Family Shelter. I want people to know that there ARE success stories, and there ARE happy endings. If ever Goose Hollow would like me to speak about my experiences, I would love to!

Eternally in your debt,
Diane Gibson

Congratulations to Diane Gibson and her daughter Drewsilla upon making the transition from shelter to homeowner.



missions
a special project

Donation to the Portland Seafarers Mission can still be made. See the list of items being sought for the project. A box has been placed in the Narthex for your donations.

Bibles, religious materials, daily devotionals, small toilet articles (soap, shampoo, combs, toothpaste and brushes), paperback novels, magazines, t-shirts, belts, pens, writing paper, envelopes, dominoes, cards and small games.

church Library

Bob Wilson, Library Chair



LIBRARY COMMITTEE SOLICITS INPUT FROM CONGREGATION

In our library, First Church has a tremendous resource. It has been developed into one of the best church libraries we've ever seen, but there's always room for improvement, and we'd like your help making it better. On Sundays, June 6 and 13, a survey will be inserted in the bulletin. The Library Committee would appreciate it if you would take a moment to fill it out. Let us know how you use the library and how we can serve you better. If you're not a library user, let us know what we could do to help you take advantage of this resource. Surveys will also be available at the desk in the library.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE SEEKS TYPEWRITER

Computers have their place of course, but there are times when you really need a typewriter. If anyone out there has a correcting typewriter they would be willing to donate, the Library could certainly put it to use!

who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Old timers will remember Laura Kelly. Laura was the granddaughter of Clinton Kelly. Clinton was one of the pioneers who helped establish this church in Portland. His land claim was at what is now SE 26-30 and Powell Blvd. One of his children was Dr. Richmond Kelly (who restored the damaged family Bible by hand lettering, a story I told in this column some months ago). Dr. Kelly was the father of Laura and one of the group from Taylor St. Church (the building which was at SW 3rd and Taylor) who went forth to found the Grace M.E. Church, whose building was built at SW 12th and Taylor in 1889. The two churches were only nine blocks apart, and were reunited into a single congregation in 1912 and chose to use the new (Grace) building. I have never found the slightest inclination that the founding of the Grace church was anything other than an amicable procedure, but the reuniting of the congregations was far from that. In fact, a large faction in the original Taylor St. congregation finally went all the way to the State Supreme Court to prevent the merger. The place Laura enters into this is that she gave us a number of items pertaining to our history. One of them turned out to be a certificate of her "graduation" from the 3rd grade of the church school. Nothing unusual in that, you say? But the church school in question was the one at the old Taylor St. Church! Why did she go to church school there if her father had helped start and belonged to Grace Church? One would think that the latter would have had a more flourishing church school because it was in a residential (rather than "downtown") district. Was the newer congregation trying to help prevent some kind of decay in the older? The statistics don't show anything like that was occurring. Was there some kind of dissatisfaction brewing in the Grace congregation, too, about ten years before merger? If so, no one ever left any record of it. I have no explanation to offer, and I don't expect we'll ever know. But I wonder about it every now and then.

Archives and History Committee

miscellaneous

events and items of interest

GILCREST UMC FISHING TOURNAMENT

Gilchrist UMC will host a Fishing Tournament on June 18 and 19, 2004. Fishing will begin from one hour before sunrise on the 18th until one hour after sunset on the 19th. Lakes included are: Crescent, Odell, Twin, Craine Prairie and Wicciup Reservoir, as well as the Little and Big Deschutes Rivers. For information about costs, registration and accommodations contact the church at Gilchristumc@uci.net or call Joe Spinelli at 541/433-2682.

NORTHWEST HOUSE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES OPEN HOUSE

Northwest House of Theological Studies in Salem, Oregon will have an Open House and House Party on Sunday, June 6, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at 600 State St, Salem, OR. A complimentary dinner at 6:00 pm will be served. Please RSVP to nhts@99west.com or call them at 503/588-4344. This event is open to all and will include a tour of the facilities as well as an opportunity to interact with the students and faculty.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANOTHER GRADUATE

Congratulations to Jessica French, who will receive her B.S. in Psychology with a minor in English from Portland State University, on June 12, 2004. Jessica is the daughter of Debbie French.

adult

christian education

SUNDAYS, JUNE 6 & 13

- 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.*

Coming This Summer THEOLOGY AT THE MOVIES

Theology at the Movies is back this summer! Each week, a different member of our congregation will present a short clip from the chosen film and lead a lively discussion on how it relates to our faith. Classes start on Sunday, June 20 and will begin at 9:15 am in room 202. The first film of the series will be *The Year of Living Dangerously*, led by Mike Taylor. This film is set on the island of Java in Indonesia in the year 1965, on the eve of the revolution by the PKI, the local communist party. The lives of three different people converge seeking answers to the question, "What then shall we do?"

this & that

items of interest

PRAYER CHAIN

The UMW Prayer Chain is being revised and updated. Would you like to be on of the callers for the Prayer Chain? If so, please call Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

GIRLCHOIR CONCERT

The Portland Symphonic Girlchoir will have a 15th Anniversary Gala Concert on Sunday, June 20, at 3:00 pm at Portland First Church. The concert theme is "Celebrate the Dream." Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for students and seniors. For more information about the concert, you can visit their website: www.girlchoir.com.

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.

groups

at first church

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.

FIRST CHURCH HIKERS

On Saturday, June 26, First Church Hikers will hike the Laurel Canyon Trail. It begins near Government Camp and follows a portion of the historic Barlow Trail. Meet at the church at 8:00 am for the carpool. We will share transportation and trail fees. Bring a lunch, snacks, water and good hiking shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing for June. The trail begins at 3500 ft and is about three miles in length, mostly downhill! For lunch we will picnic at the McManuses home, NE of Sandy. If you are planning to go on this hike, call Chuck Klang at 503/452-7826.

umw

united methodist women

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.

July 22 -25, 2004 The School of Missions at Williamette University

There are three mission schools this summer:

- *Concerning Prayer*
- *Public Education*
- *Cuba*

Each two day school is taught by a well qualified and trained leader and includes a course text. Worship and fellowship are also part of the experience. The cost of the two day school is \$100 and our local UMW unit will pay for the study guide and a small reimbursement for part of the cost. Several will be commuting to Salem for the classes and transportation can be arranged. For more information see the bulletin board near Room 204 or contact Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

Bill Connor, recovering from injuries suffered in a bike accident;
Oliver Newcomer (Sonja Connor's mother who lives in Kansas) is ill;
Eleanor Stubbs, recovering from a traffic accident;
Betty Lemon, hospitalized following surgery;
Doris Lavelly, recovering from surgery.

Continued prayers for:

*Harry Baker, Tom Iverson, Karin McDonough, Agnes Clark,
and Jan Marshall.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Teresa & Joshua Finck on the baptism of their daughter,
Grace Alexandra Finck;
Ann Marie & David Webster on the baptism of their son,
James Robert Webster.

summerfest

alton l. collins retreat center

Summerfest 2004 are scheduled for Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Hwy 211, Eagle Creek, OR. Three summer evenings are scheduled:

June 13 - Tom Ten Eyck

Tom will play the music of the 20s, 30s, and 40s, exploring a variety of genres.

July 11 - Estacada Madrigal Singers

Acappella music in a variety of choral styles.

August 15 - Judy Simon

Judy will sing and play the guitar. She will entertain us with Celtic, gospel and love songs.

Stroll the grounds beginning at 4:00 pm. The concerts will begin at 5:00 pm followed by and ice cream social. For more information call 503/637-6411.



TOP FIVE CHURCH READER BOARDS

1. Free Trip to Heaven. Details Inside!
2. Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.
3. Come in for a faith lift.
4. Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons, come hear one!
5. Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday.

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 June 16, 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.