



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 16, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 12

congratulations *thanks*

THIS SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2004

8:30 am
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

Worship
in the
Sanctuary

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Agnes Zach



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 LEWIS HUGHES AWARD

is given to a volunteer to recognize service beyond our congregation. This year's recipient, Ruth Green, gives of her time and energy to a variety of ministries including: United Methodist Women, ecumenical church projects, the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, prison visitation and support of the WICS program that prepares young women for the transition from prison back to society.



RUTH GREEN
The Lewis
Hughes
Award

THE GUY WHEATON AWARD

honors those who serve in ministries within our congregation's life. This year The Shovel and Rake Gang was recognized. Week after week this dedicated group of men and women care for our buildings and grounds in a joyful fellowship.



SHOVEL & RAKE
The Guy
Wheaton
Award



THE WESLEY-SPIRIT AWARD

celebrates those whose lives exemplify the integration of dedication to others and heartfelt spirituality. This year's award was given to Byron and Elizabeth Wright. The Wrights enrich our lives as they share their faith through music, but in addition quietly reach out to help and support others.

There are, literally, hundreds of members and friends who serve in the name of Christ through this congregation. The people we honor are symbolic of all of you who hear Jesus' words, "Go into all the world..." and make those words come to life. Thanks!



**BYRON &
ELIZABETH
WRIGHT**
The Wesley
Spirit
Award



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

“Anyone can be a Methodist,” a cynical friend used to tell me, “because Methodists don't believe anything!” Now hold on there!

It's true that United Methodism does not have a unique creed or a statement of faith all members must affirm. Neither is there a systematic “United Methodist theology” as there is for Roman Catholics. It's accurate that the questions of faith (see the Hymnal p. 46-47) we ask those seeking baptism and membership are basic Christian ideas and subject to diverse interpretations.

Some suggest that United Methodists are held together more by a shared “culture,” that is, a common heritage in the Wesleyan movement, a common polity and service to the world. While that is true, there is more.

Ted Campbell, professor of Wesleyan Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary, suggests that there are some ideas that United Methodists agree should be taught—he calls them “doctrines.” John Wesley, he notes, distinguished between *essential* doctrines, and *opinions* about theology and church practices on which disagreement must be allowed. “A consistent trait of the Wesleyan Heritage and the Methodist Church has been a notable liberality or openness on doctrinal issues.” What John Wesley called a “catholic spirit.” “Learning the Methodist tradition,” he writes, “should entail learning the whole of Christian tradition in a way in which liberality or openness in doctrine is encourages as a central spiritual discipline.” (see Campbell, Ted A., *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, Abingdon Press, 1999, pps. 17-19.)

Scholars can (and will) debate what is essential and what is opinion. They will discuss whether they can be called “doctrine” or not. But there are some ideas—basic ways of understanding the faith—that undergird our mission. They form the sinews that bind us together in what our book of organization, *The Discipline*, describes as “A Covenant of Grace.”

Brenda Sene and I have agreed to focus the sermons this summer on those emphases. We'll reflect on our human quest, the nature of God, three faces of grace, Wesley's “quadrilateral” and so on. We're finding it exciting to grapple with the basics of our tradition. It should be fun for us all. I invite you to join us in the journey.

See you in Church

Arvin



music

Dr. Browne to Retire

Dr. Bruce Browne, First UMC's Chancel Choir Director for the last three years, has announced to the choir and the Staff Parish Relations Committee his intention to seek retirement from the church effective August 15, 2004. Dr. Luchs noted last Sunday, “We are saddened to receive this news, but grateful to God for the enormous contributions Bruce has made to our music program. We wish Daryl and Bruce God's blessing as they plan for retirement.” A congregational farewell is planned for August.

The SPRC, in cooperation with the Music Committee has formed a committee to initiate a search for a new director. Kayla Carruth is current chair of the committee. More details about the search will be upcoming.

confirmation

welcome new confirmands



We rejoice with those who were recently confirmed:

Forrest Alexander, Jacques Allan, Sam Baker, Anna Deffebach, Kelsey Hall, Maggie Jennings, Thomas Kayser, Alicia Kroell, Dominique Moore, Stephanie Myers, Carrie Nicholson, Claire Schechtman, Blake Thompson.

In an ecumenical pastoral letter released May 11, leaders of the National Council of Churches (NCC) USA and its 36 Protestant and Orthodox communions called for a change of course in Iraq. Their goal, they agree, is peace and a renunciation of violence as contrary to the will of God.

“In a sinful world, some of us may hold that there may be times when war is necessary evil,” they write. “But Christians should never identify violence against others with the will of God and should always work to prevent and end it.”

Specifically, they call on the US “to turn over the transition of authority and post-war reconstruction to the United Nations -- and to recognize US responsibility to contribute to this effort generously through security, economic, and humanitarian support -- not only to bring international legitimacy to the effort, but also to foster any chance for lasting peace. We would ask that members of our churches, as they feel appropriate, contact their respective congressional delegations to urge the US to change their course in Iraq.”

sizzler
concert

Mark your calendar for the 2004 Summer Sizzler.

On Wednesday, July 21, 2004 our Summer Sizzler will feature the George Reinmiller Big Band and the vocal stylings of Shirley Nanette, as well as Portland's most well known drummer, Mel Brown! Watch for details in the next Circuit Rider regarding: dance lessons and other exciting aspects of this summer concert. It will be one you won't want to miss!

There will be a meal that evening and child care will be available.

children
at first church

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School has begun with a modified schedule that 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.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Teaching positions are currently available with: 2 year olds, 4 year olds, and the 2nd and 3rd Grade Class. Additionally teachers are needed for such specialty areas as: Science & Cooking, Science & Video, Drama & Computers, and a two week service project. There is a sign up sheet in the 100 hallway or contact Agnes Zach for more information at: 503/228-3195 ext 229.



macg
metropolitan alliance for the common good

**WHICH DRUG DISCOUNT CARD IS GOOD FOR ME
A Brown Bag Lunch on Monday, June 28, 2004**

On Monday, June 28, from noon to 1:30 pm in Room 202 will be an informational meeting for seniors and other interested individuals about three potential resources to help with the high cost of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications:

1. THE NEW MEDICARE LAW
A short video narrated by Walter Cronkite will take you through aspects of the new Medicare law. In addition, and especially urgent for seniors, will be an explanation of the benefits and disadvantages of signing up for the Medicare drug discount cards, which are now available. Enrollment information will be available.
2. OREGON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PURCHASING POOL
The new Oregon Prescription Drug Purchasing Pool will also be described, and eligible seniors given an opportunity to enroll.
3. METHODIST DESTINATIONRx DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM
Information will be made available on the Methodist DestinationRx Drug Discount Program.

This event is co-sponsored by the First UMC UMW, MACG Core Team, and the Health and Welfare Committee. For more information call Ron Williams at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 or Debby Fisher at 503/645-4802.

shovel & rake

James McManus

Twenty-four participants of the Shovel and Rake Gang recently welcomed three new members: James Manuel, Jeff Fujimoto and Walter Okell. This brings our roster to 27 members. We enjoy our work together and the fellowship that goes along with it.

Special new: for her 15th birthday celebration, in lieu of the traditional birthday party, Julia Kayser invited her friends to a work party benefiting First UMC. Julia and six friends, along with her mother Ann, spent four tiring hours cleaning out ivy beds, preparing soil and setting out and watering plants in the Peg Brockman Memorial Garden. This special gift is deeply appreciated by First UMC, the Shovel and Rake Gang, and the Brockman family.

Our rose garden is especially beautiful this spring due to George Rives' dedication and expertise in growing roses. In late 2002, when the Gang was asked to maintain the rose garden, George volunteered. We took out the old hedge, constructed the redwood railing and revamped the sprinkler system. Financed by the NYNOs Fellowship, the old roses were replaced with healthier ones, and George took it from there. If you haven't seen our roses lately, it would be worth your while to walk around that way and just enjoy!

George also oversees the fountain and garden area between the Chapel and the Library. Several of our volunteers now oversee the maintenance of chosen areas, thus helping to keep our work on schedule. We will highlight more of these areas in future reports.

missions

Guatemalan Craft Sale

A sale of Guatemalan gift items, sponsored by the Global Missions Committee and Los Amigos de Los Romeritos, will take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 27th. This sale is a means of providing financial assistance to Los Romeritos, a Guatemalan City day care center that is supported by a number of UMVIM teams and Oregon City UMC. Both Pat Williams and Dee Poujade visited this ministry last winter. Items available in the sale will include: tote bags, embroidered eye-glass cases with carrying strap, miniature dolls in typical garb, pillow covers with embroidery of children around the globe, purses, scarves, and delicious Panajachel coffee beans. It's never too early to start Christmas shopping, or to buy a little something special for yourself!

who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Real old timers (80 or over) who grew up in the Methodist Episcopal Church (or the M.E.C., South) may remember the Epworth League. It had its national beginnings in the late 1880s and was organized in both the Taylor St. and the Grace M.E. congregations which are our predecessors in 1890. It was named for the hometown of John Wesley. It was designed to "provide a more definite church life for and with young people." Its program was four-fold: 1) spiritual and devotional life; 2) educational activity; 3) missionary outreach; and 4) social activities. It was disestablished nationally in 1928, when it was formally absorbed into the Board of Education, but the name hung on for the youth work in local churches, including ours, until replaced in 1939 by the Methodist Youth Fellowship, which in turn became United Methodist Youth (UMY) at the time of our union with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. It comes to mind now because the General Conference which held its once-every-four-years meeting last month to "lay down the law" for United Methodists, in its infinite wisdom has now created a new Division of Young People. The claimed virtue of this new Division is that it centralizes our work with high school and young adults (18-35), which had become splintered into three or four groups, in the one place under the national Board of Discipleship. "God moves in mysterious ways his (or hers, as the case may be) to perform," not the least of which is the bureaucracies inherent when large groups of human beings try to work together! I hope I am not being cynical when I say that maybe we should have stuck with "Epworth League" all the way. At least it had a name which evokes something Wesleyan.

Archives and History Committee

church Library

Bob Wilson, Library Chair



MARILYN SCHUBERG HONORED

The First UMC Church Library Committee would like to invite members and friends to a reception in honor of retiring Library Committee Chair, Marilyn Schuberg. The reception will be on Sunday, June 20, following worship. Marilyn has presided for many years over what is surely one of the finest church libraries in the region. Please join us for refreshments, a celebration and thank you for Marilyn's many years of dedicated service.



A teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment of bringing something to represent their religion. The first boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is the Star of David." A girl got in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm am Catholic and this is the Crucifix." Another boy stood and said, "My name is Tommy and I am Methodist and this is a casserole."

adult

christian education

SUNDAYS, JUNE 20 & 27

- 9:00 am *Changing Christianity*,
Fireside Room
Profiles of Jesus edited by
Roy Hoover
- 9:15 am *The Fellowship of Seekers*,
Room 134
*A Bible Study using the passages
of the preaching lectionary.*

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.

- June 20
Mike Taylor
The Year of Living Dangerously
- June 27
Dave Clark *The Green Mile*
- July 4 ... Holiday ... **No Class**
- July 11
Kim Ottaviano **Finding Nemo**
- July 18
Kent Mallory **X2: X-Men United**
- July 25
Chuck Klang **The Truman Show**
- August 1
Mary Coppett **Life as a House**
- August 8
Beth Moore and Rebecca Kenney
Film to Be Announced

senior adults

at first church

ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS - HOLY PLACES / HOLY SPACES

Also you won't want to miss the Summer Electives for Elders Tours- "Holy Places/Holy Spaces":

- July 06 - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
July 13 - Lake Oswego United Methodist Church
July 20 - Neveh Shalom Synagogue
July 27 - Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

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 soon.

groups

at first church

FIRST CHURCH HIKERS

Saturday, June 26, First Church Hikers will hike the Laurel Canyon 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 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

July 22 -25, 2004

The School of Missions at Willamette 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.

reconciling

all are
welcome
in God's
family

GAY PRIDE PARADE 2004

First United Methodist will be marching with the Welcoming Congregations of Portland on Sunday, June 20, 2004. The parade begins at 11:15 am and formation will take place at NW 14th and Glisan. We need to be in line no later than 10:45 am. There will be cars for those who cannot walk the parade route. Please be advised the time and route have been changed this year. The Reconciling Committee is also looking for persons to carry the two banners. For further information on the parade, contact: Bill Birge at 503/827-0622 or email him at kairo1728@aol.com

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

Jane and Sara Baker and family in the death of Harry Baker;
Virginia, Sue, Sally, and Nancy Townend and family in the death of
Henry (Hank) Townend. His Memorial Service will be Friday, June 18 at
2:00 PM in the Chapel.
Jack Nickell, Paul Nickell's father, in Bellevue, WA is critically ill;
Harvey Carruth at home following surgery;
Betty Lemmon in a care center following surgery;
Lyle Iverson recovering from an illness at home;
Mavis Newman recovering from illness.

Continued prayers for:

Lorna Carey, Agnes Clark, Michael Whipple, Jan Marshall, and Tom Iverson.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Kaja Birk on being released from active military duty.
She will be returning to her studies at the University of Oregon.
Hazel & Ray Balcomb who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary
on June 18th;
Ruth Uphaus who recently celebrated her 96th birthday.

*After my stroke on March 3rd
and four angiograms over the
past three months I wish now to
send my deep appreciation for
all the many cards of prayer
and support I have received
from church friends. The
blockages are cleared and I am
being helped by a speech
therapist. Soon I hope to be
back in church and Chancel
Choir. You have all been such a
great help to me. Thank you so
much.*

Doris Lavelly

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 30, 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.