



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 30, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 13

SUMMER SIZZLER

THIS SUNDAY

JULY 4, 2004

8:30 am

Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

Communion
in the
Sanctuary

Old Fashioned
Hymn Sing

Meditation

A Covenant of Grace

3. The Way Home

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.



GEORGE REINMILLER'S

BIG BAND

WEDNESDAY

JULY 21, 2004

6:30 PM

First Church invites you to this special summer event. The fun will begin at **5pm** with a play area with inflatables for children and dance lessons by Viscount Studio for adults. (Suggested donation for the dance lessons is \$5.00) There will be an indoor picnic BBQ beginning at **6pm**. Bring meat to grill and your place settings. We will provide salads, condiments, and beverages. There will be a suggested donation of \$8.00 per person for the concert.

Call our reservation line at:
503/228-3195 ext. 240

This performance is co-sponsored by the Music Performance Trust Funds
in cooperation with Local 99, American Federation of Musicians



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

a big success

see page five for a full report!

memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs



By now, gentle reader, you may be weary of reading about United Methodist Conferences. They seem to proliferate. Let me explain. Every area holds an annual meeting to plot mission, share ideas and appoint clergy, and every four years we add two other gatherings: last May's General Conference (bringing representatives from around the world) and upcoming Jurisdictional Conference (involving delegates from a geographical region.)

Across the denomination Jurisdictional Conferences are held the same week-July 14-18. Our region, the Western Jurisdiction, will meet in San Jose, California. Each Conference is allocated delegate seats in ratio to membership size. We will have, officially, 4 votes-though with alternates and others involved in the event there will be several dozen Oregon-Idahoans there.



The focal activity of the Jurisdictional Conference is the election and assignment of Bishops. Two WJ bishops have announced their retirement. Bishop William Dew of the Phoenix Area and Bishop Elias Galvan of the Seattle Area. Conferences and special interest groups have nominated candidates-but any ordained elder in good standing, anywhere in the country, may be considered. Delegates will be polled in a sequence of votes until a name garners the required majority. The west is notorious for extended balloting. Our record, in 1980, was 47 rounds. In the end, Bishop Calvin McConnell was elected.

Oregon and Idaho have only seen one bishop selected from their midst since the Jurisdiction was created. That was the first election, in 1940, of Bishop Bruce R. Baxter. He was selected on the 13th ballot. This year we pin our hopes on two nominees-both familiar to First Church. Minerva Carcano and Steve Sprecher were endorsed at the annual conference session in early June. Both display abundant gifts and graces for the position, and both have extensive experience in ministries beyond the local church and conference.

Candidates face a grueling week in which delegations, caucuses and the press will probe both their faith and their vision and they will see their chances rise and fall with successive ballots. With God's grace, on Saturday evening July 17th, two will have been set apart for consecration in an impressive worship service scheduled for Los Altos UMC.

As soon as there is an election, the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will meet, talk with the active Bishops and their spouses, then determine the assignments for the next four years. Barring extenuating circumstances, Bishops are normally assigned for two terms-eight years. Sadly, this means our current Bishop, Edward Paup, will probably be assigned elsewhere. Customarily, a bishop is not sent to the conference from which they were elected. So, we will not know who our next Bishop will be until the assignments are fixed.

While the Jurisdictional spotlight will be on the elections-there is other important business for the group. Some of the other regions have a range of jurisdictional programs, buildings and staff. We are more informal. Nevertheless, past conferences have supported ministries for youth, racial ethnic minority groups and church development. This conference will also consider strategies for supporting theological education, theological diversity, and witness to social issues that impact the western states.

I invite you to keep the Conference, our delegation (Minerva Carcano, Tom Wogaman, Steve Sprecher, Greg Nelson), the Bishops and the candidates in your prayers as they gather to conference about our common mission.

See you in Church

Arvin

The Metro District of the Oregon-Idaho Conference presents ... Celebration 2004

Celebrating All God's Children

July 31 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at Pioneer Courthouse Square

adult

christian education

SUNDAYS, JULY 5 & 12

- 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 begin at 9:15 am in room 202.

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

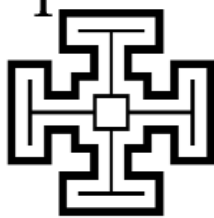
Mary Coppett **Life as a House**

August 8

Beth Moore and Rebecca Kenney

Film to Be Announced

sacred spaces



sacred places

umw

united methodist women

READING PROGRAM by Hazel Balcomb

Part of the program of United Methodist Women is an annual Reading Program. Members are asked to choose from a recommended list and report the books they have read. The books are all types, ranging from novels, biographies, to studies of world affairs. Those who complete four or more books receive a Certificate of Recognition and the local group receives recognition also. (Last year, our group read more books than other other in the Metro District!) So far this year Jane Lenon, Mary Vance, Lila Palmiter, Betty Lou Hare, Kitty Riddle, Jo Woodley, Lavonne Hawes and I have reported reading four books, I know of at least twice as many more people involved. One need not be a member of the UMW to participate. There is still time, although I need the reports from everyone by the end of August, so I can report to the District Secretary in time for our Fall District meeting. The books are well-written (for the most part), interesting and informative. You can find them in a separate "UMW" section of the Church Library and you are invited to drop in and look them over.

A RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Nurturing My Sisters and Myself: An Event for Young Women

Facilitator: Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson

Who: Young Women age 18 and up

When: August 13-15, 2004

Where: Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, OR

Cost: \$100

Sponsored by OR-ID United Methodist Women

Questions? Call Trudy Kayser 503-292-7528

Two UMW scholarships are available.

senior adults

at first church

DOWN THE ROAD

July 10: Washington County Ag/Forestry Tour 2004

July 23: Salem Sights - All Around the Capitol

ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS - SACRED SPACES / SACRED PLACES

Summer Electives for Elders Tours- "Sacred Spaces/Sacred Places":

July 06 - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

July 13 - Lake Oswego United Methodist Church

July 20 - Neveh Shalom Synagogue

July 27 - Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Each tour will begin at 10:30 am at the designated location. Carpooling from First UMC will be an option for each tour. Further details will be provided upon registration. For more information contact Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3194 ext. 227 or e-mail her at cluce@fumcpdx.org

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 227 for costs and dates. Space is guaranteed with registrations submitted soon.

collins retreat

beliefs & values in conflict

Willamette at Collins

August 15-17, 2004

Beliefs and Values in Conflict: Why the Current Clash of Cultures Is So Violent

We are witnessing a direct clash of moral and cultural values around the globe and in our own communities. Because these conflicts issue from the deeper level of our basic beliefs and values, the use of force only seems to stiffen resistance and to make the conflict worse. Such fundamental conflicts can only be addressed by naming the deeper beliefs and values, by acknowledging their roots and rationalizations, and by evaluating the behaviors that are produced by these beliefs and values. Participants in the workshop will survey traditional American values and beliefs, reflect on their roots in Biblical tradition, and explore the consequences for our attitudes and behaviors in the modern world.

Guest speakers include: Dr. Michael R. LaChat, Dr. Susan J. Crawford, and Dr. Lane C. McGaughy.

The cost of the retreat is \$130 for resident or \$75 for commuter. For more information contact Alton L. Collins Retreat Center at 503/637-6411.

guitarzilla

a fundraiser for sister of the road

Do you play guitar? Are you looking for a chance to jam with other musicians as well as set a world record? The Second Annual GuitarZilla may be just for you! On Sunday, July 25, from 11:00 to 3:00 PM, in Pioneer Courthouse Square nearly a 1,000 guitar players will gather to play "This Land Is Your Land" in the key of D. This record-setting event is a fund raising event for Sisters of the Road Cafe. The registration fee is \$10.00. Sisters of the Road is a non-profit organization committed to helping the homeless and low-income families of Portland. For more information contact: Ciera at Ciera@sistersoftheroad.com or call her at, 503/222-5694.



who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

A few Sundays ago the opening prayer in the service was "adapted from Ted Loder's 'Empty Me,' from *Guerrillas of Grace*." Ted Loder grew up in this church; his father, Ted, Sr. and mother Bess were long-time "pillars," and between them probably at one time or another held every office from Trustee to President of the Women's Society and served in every way open to lay persons in this congregation. Ted, Jr. is now retired, but was for a long period pastor of an historic and important congregation, the First United Methodist Church of Germantown (once an independent community, now a part of Philadelphia) whose roots actually go back farther than organized Methodism, dating to a sermon by John Wesley's most famous colleague, George Whitefield, in 1739. That is the same year as Wesley's famous "heart-warming" experience, and before his own career began to blossom! If Ted, Jr.'s books are used here, it is safe to assume that other churches are quoting from them as well, so the influence of this congregation is wider than one might have thought. The Loder family genes produced another leader for Methodism. Ted, Sr.'s brother (and therefore Ted, Jr.'s uncle) was Dwight Loder who was President of what is now Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, one of Methodism's leading graduate schools of theology, and later a Bishop. Both the late Bishop Loder and Ted Loder, Jr. have preached here in living memory.

Archives and History Committee

Rev. Al Rieke submitted a recent article from *The Oregonian, 100 Years Ago: 1904 ...*

To establish a free bed at the Portland Sanitarium, the ladies of the Taylor-Street Methodist Episcopal Church will give an entertainment at the church, Wednesday, June 29. The programme will contain a number of plantation songs and melodies, the whole entertainment being named, "An Hour in Ole Virginia." The purpose is wholly charitable, and the hope is to make it possible for the indigent to receive medical aid and to maintain a bed at the sanitarium for those needing it. Tickets will be sold by the ladies themselves, and will be on sale at Woodard Clarke & Co.'s drug store.

community care

a work day a west sylvan middle school

In an effort to show that area churches care about the community, First UMC is participating in "Community Care Day." We will be doing a grounds clean up day at West Sylvan Middle School, on Saturday, August 21, 2004.

Watch for more details in church publications or contact MyraJean Marshall at mmarshall@fumcpdx.org on how you can participate in this effort to show the community we care!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

OUR HEROES

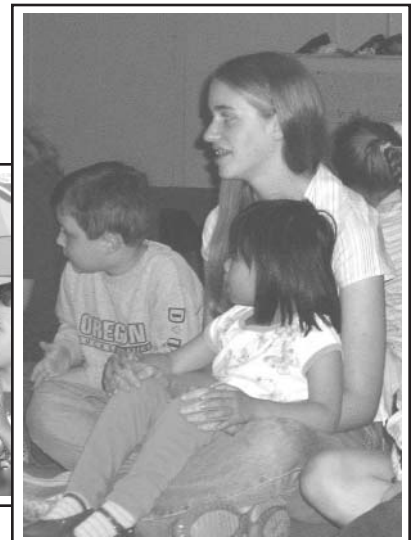
Fifty-five children from First Church and First Presbyterian joined with 12 youth leaders and 10 adult teachers to celebrate the theme of Heroes at Vacation Bible School. Kids in first through 6th grade experienced the stories of Esther and Daniel through stations in Cooking, Journalism, Crafts and Drama. Kindergartners and younger spent the week learning about heroes throughout the Bible and how everyday people can be heroes.

This year, VBS chose Ronald McDonald House as our mission project. Families at the Ronald McDonald House that come on short notice will now have soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths and hair brushes at their disposal. In addition, each child made a bandanna and brought a book from home to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. These special gifts are meant for the children--both those receiving care in the hospital, and the siblings staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Everyone celebrated with their families on Friday. The celebration included braided bread and Hamantschen cookies made in the cooking unit; plays about Esther and Daniel from the Drama unit, newspapers created in the Journalism unit and artwork galore from the Craft unit. The preschool children presented several songs they had learned during the week along with their special posters of themselves. These outline posters displayed their messages for the week: Be Strong, Be Brave, Be Determined, Be Daring and Be Loving.

Special thanks to everyone that made this week long experience a true expression of God's Love. Our teachers: Judie Carpenter, Trudy Kayser, Angela Kemling, Elizabeth Lassetter, Daniel Hernandez, Jennifer Myers and Esther Stone. Our music leaders: Nancy Nordwall and Mary Sagara, Our youth leaders: Julia Kayser, Michelle Fisher, Bon Honjas, John Allan, Bethany Lassetter, Caroline Tawney, Sara Bettinger-Anderson.

Agnes Zach,
Children's Ministry Coordinator



around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

pride 2004

We offer prayers for

Maxine Brown, who is hospitalized;
Trisha Pavan, who is recovering from pneumonia;
Paul Nickell, whose father died recently;
Vicki Sloss, who is having surgery on June 29;
The family of John Morford, who recently passed away;
Jackson Burgess, who is recovering from a heart attack;
Brigitte Charboneau, who fractured a bone in her hand..

Continued prayers for:

Betty Lemmon, Agnes Clark, Michael Whipple, Jan Marshall,
and Tom Iverson.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Mac McDowell & Char Dietterich, who were married on June 26;
Allen & Florence Snyder who celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary;
Kenneth Burns, who recently celebrated his 92nd birthday;
Josh Fricke, who received his Eagle Award.

Celebrating the baptisms of:

Allison Adelle Mansberger, daughter of Heather & Steve Mansberger;
Mitchell Austin Kekel & Hannah Marie Kekel, children of
Eric Kekel & Kersti Pettit-Kekel.

The 2004 Pride Parade was once again a big success. There were many diverse participants that added to the day's festivities. With it being held on Father's Day and with a variety of other activities available our participation was small but. I personally want to thank those that walked, provided transportation and helped Further First Church's reconciling message to the community. The support of our congregation is so important in these troubling times. What a great congregation we have that supports inclusiveness in our church life.

Bill Birge, Chair
Reconciling Ministries

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 July 14, 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.