



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

July 28, 2004  
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*the* **E** *edition*

## Welcome, Bishop Hoshibata



The Rev. Dr. Robert Hoshibata was assigned to serve as the resident Bishop of our area starting September 1, 2004. Bishop Hoshibata was born and raised in Hawaii. He is a graduate of Middletown University in Connecticut and the Claremont School of Theology. He has served congregations in the Los Angeles area, Hawaii and Washington. In 1998 he was appointed the Superintendent of the Seattle District.

Bishop Hoshibata has been a delegate to General Conference, served on the General Council on Ministries as well as numerous conference boards and agencies.

He and his wife Greta have three children: Courtney, a Ph.D. student at Johns Hopkins University in bio-medical research; Lauren, a senior at Wesleyan University majoring in Classics and English; and Blake, a ninth-grader at Newport High School in Bellevue, Washington, who loves guitar, jazz, playing percussion and is a budding DJ.

They enjoy traveling, art and music. The Bishop loves to cook, good movies and popcorn, reading adventure and mystery novels and is an amateur calligrapher.

### THIS SUNDAY AUGUST 1, 2004

8:30 am  
Informal Communion  
in the Chapel

10:30 am  
Sermon  
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.

## Community CARE DAY AUGUST 21, 2004

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 from 9:00 AM to noon.

First UMC volunteers will meet at 9:00 AM at West Sylvan Middle School, 8111 SW Slope Dr, Portland. A free lunch will be delivered at noon. If you register by August 4, 2004, you will receive a free T-shirt.

### ITEMS TO BRING (if you can)

- Gloves
- Pruning Shears
- Rakes, Shovels & Trowels
- Clippers & Edgers
- Weed Trimmers
- Blowers
- Wheelbarrows
- Hat & Sunscreen



# memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Last week the renowned Cambridge University physicist, Dr. Stephen Hawking, announced he had reversed himself about black holes—those mysterious interstellar pockets where mass is compressed so much that even light doesn't escape.

Previously the conventional view was that matter could be transformed, but not destroyed. Previously, Hawking had defied that notion and argued that the black holes actually erase and demolish all trace evidence or "molecular fingerprints." But he has changed. Now he believes that the holes—created by collapsed stars—don't make matter disappear, and they aren't linked to other universes.

Please don't ask me to explain that to you. Hawking and his colleagues live in a world of theoretical math and physics that is way beyond my understanding. But I am intrigued and impressed that a man of such towering intellect would admit he was wrong and change his mind.

That's an unusual thing these days. So much of what passes for discussion is merely sequential statements of differing positions. Intense conviction is often mistaken for truth. All too often, public discourse does not seek to find deeper understanding or even consensus—but is an attempt to market a point of view in order to gather a following. Listening, learning and new insight are not valued. To change our mind is viewed as a sign of weakness and inconsistency.

In a world in which change is the only constant, our attitudes seem odd. Is it not a sign of strength for a person to be open to new ideas and willing to grow and to learn?

Mahatma Gandhi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and liberator of India, was once challenged by a follower: "You have no integrity. Last week you said one thing, and today something else. How do you justify such vacillation?"

Gandhi quietly replied, "It is simple, really, my son. I have learned something since last week."

Many of the things we learned in school have become antiquated. No capable school district would depend on textbooks that are decades old. As we grow older, we realize that our understanding of relationships and our vocations have deepened. Our beliefs and our faith mature as well. Even the Apostle Paul knew that. Remember his words to the Corinthians, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways." (1 Cor 13:11 NRSV)

Wouldn't it be more realistic to commend, even praise those who continue to learn, grow and change, rather than criticize them?

Consider the thoughts of the venerable Jewish Rabbi, Martin Buber. "I don't have a corner on the truth, and you don't have a corner on the truth. But if you listen to me very carefully, and I listen to you very carefully, together— between us—we may discover more of the truth." (thanks for this quote to Dr. Steve Tollefson, *Good News*, First UMC, Boise, ID, v. 58, no. 22, November 6, 2002 p. 2)

A thought to grow by!

See you in church!

Arvin



## congratulations Bishop Minerva Carcano

Congratulations to Bishop Minerva Carcano. For the first time since 1940 a Bishop has been elected from among the clergy members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference! In addition, for the first time in Methodist history a Hispanic woman has been elected to the episcopacy.

History was made on July 17<sup>th</sup> when our District Superintendent, Minerva Carcano was elected and consecrated during the Western Jurisdiction Conference in San Jose, CA. She was assigned to serve the Phoenix area which includes all of Arizona and parts of Nevada. She will assume her duties in Phoenix on September 1.

In the meantime the new Bishop will be receiving orientation to her new duties and, of course she and her husband Tom and their family will be preparing to move. She goes with the prayers and best wishes of our district and our conference.

Bishop Hoshibata will be considering superintending leadership for the Metropolitan area after he takes office.

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### CELEBRATION 2004 Celebrating All God's Children July 31, 2004

#### Pioneer Courthouse Square

When you go downtown to Pioneer Courthouse Square to enjoy the fun and fellowship of the Metro District, you are asked to bring donations of school supplies for children and non-perishable canned goods.

# adult

christian education

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 1 & 8

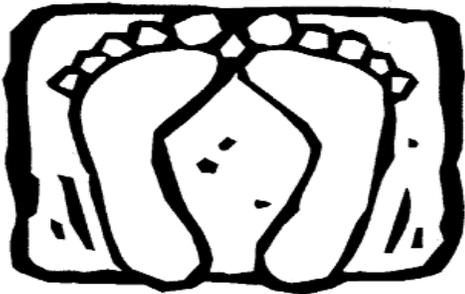
- 9:00 am *Changing Christianity*,  
Fireside Room  
*Profiles of Jesus* edited by  
Roy Hoover
- 9:15 am *The Fellowship of Seekers*,  
Room 134  
*A Bible Study using the passages  
of the preaching lectionary.*

## 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.

August 1  
Mary Coppett  
**Life as a House**

August 8  
Beth Moore and Rebecca Kenney  
**If These Walls Could Talk**



## foot care

st james nursing clinic

St. James Nursing Clinic is a low cost parish nursing service specializing in foot care. Located at 1315 SW Park Ave in Portland, this clinic seeks to provide foot care by specially trained nurses in order to keep people remaining independent and active. The cost of the initial visit is \$27.00 and lasts approximately 45 minutes to an hour. For more information you can call: 503/222-2194.

# umw

united methodist women

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM

I have just finished reading a very funny book by Effie Leland Wilder. It is really three short novels about friends who live in a retirement home. The first part is called, *Out to Pasture*. Over dinner one night, Hattie overhears a fellow resident planning her own funeral -- complete with a caterer so her daughter-in-law's potted meat pate doesn't make the funeral-goers sorry they came! Hattie begins her journal the same evening to capture the whole absurd scene.

The second section is, *Over the Hill?* Hattie is busier than ever keeping up with her cohorts' adventures. Romance is in the air on the inside and new faces on the outside soon become a crucial part of the Fair Acres family.

*Older But Wilder* is the title of the last section. Hattie's knee replacement surgery hasn't slowed her down one bit. This time around she and her fellow residents at Fair Acres Home involve themselves in a couple of lively money-making schemes in hopes of raising funds to build a swimming pool for The Home.

It has over 500 pages but has large print and is full of wonderful examples of life at its ending stages. If you need one more book to help you finish your required reading, I'd recommend reading this one. You will find this in our church library on the UMW shelves and under Nurturing for Community.

Hazel Balcomb

# senior adults

at first church

## SUMMER PICNIC

On Sunday, August 22, there will be a picnic at Ravi, Ursi & Keely Vedanayagam's house in the Columbia Gorge. Carpooling from church as soon as worship is over. Reservations are required. The cost will be \$3, plus a suggested \$5 contribution to your carpool driver for gas. To reserve a space call Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3194 ext. 227 or e-mail her at [cluce@fumcpdx.org](mailto:cluce@fumcpdx.org)

## CHRISTMAS IN SAN ANTONIO

In response to a suggestion on our recent survey, we are offering an escorted five-day excursion to San Antonio, Texas beginning December 7, 2004. Make your reservations soon in order to guarantee availability. For more information contact Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3195 ext 227 or email her at: [cluce3133@aol.com](mailto:cluce3133@aol.com).

## RIVER CRUISE FROM AMSTERDAM TO BUDAPEST

Make plans now for the 2005 River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. 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.

## SENIORS 2004



### **BUS STOP CLEAN UP**

The Planet Church Committee is continuing to sponsor the clean up of the bus stop shelter area at Collins Circle in conjunction with Metro and SOLV.

Thank you to the youth for their help last month, and to Mark Mason for a repeat performance in May! In return for our help, we receive ten Tri-Met tickets each month which are donated to the Goose Hollow Family Shelter for use by its guests. Ron Williams, Shelter Director, has let us know that these tickets are greatly appreciated and much needed. We are looking for volunteers to commit to once a week for calendar month. It usually takes about 15 minutes. Please call Martha Connell at 503/227-0128, or email Ron Williams at [rwilliams@fumc.pdx.org](mailto:rwilliams@fumc.pdx.org). Thank you!

### **FARMERS' MARKETS**

The United Methodist Church has always supported small local agriculture, and in the Book of Resolutions, we are called to "... develop and support farmers markets and marketing cooperatives." In Portland, fortunately, that's very easy to do. This time of year local Farmers Markets are at their peak, and of the more than 20 markets in the Portland area, one or more is open almost every day. Below is a short list provided by the Planet Church Committee. For more markets visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/states/oregon.htm>.

#### **SUNDAY**

Portland, Hillsdale Farmers Market,  
SW Capitol Hwy & Sunset, 10 am - 2 pm.

#### **TUESDAY**

Hillsboro Farmers Market,  
1st to 3rd Streets, 5 pm - 8:30 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY**

Portland Farmers Market,  
South Park Blocks, behind Concert Hall, 10 am - 2 pm

#### **THURSDAY**

Portland Farmers Market,  
Ecotrust Building, 4 pm - 8 pm

#### **SATURDAY**

Portland Farmers Market,  
Park Blocks at PSU, 8:30 am - 2 pm

Portland, Hollywood Farmers Market,  
NE Hancock, between 44th & 45th, 8 am - 1 pm

She had been a member here almost 70 years. Toward the end of her days I once asked Grace Goudy how the Church had changed since she came. She hardly hesitated before answering in four words: "More formal; less strict."

One of the things Protestants in general and Methodists in particular used to be strict about was profanity. It came to mind the other day when the Vice-President of the United States let loose some less than commendable language on the floor of the Senate against a political thorn in his flesh, a Senator from Vermont and, later, refused to apologize for it but said that "he felt better" for having done it.

Which reminded me of a story about a pioneer Methodist preacher who had just arrived via the Oregon Trail. The newcomer was scheduled to preach and a church member was trying to drum up attendance. A passing citizen was invited to attend and responded by inquiring if the new preacher had recently crossed the plains. Upon being told that he had, the man laughed and said, "Oh this is too soon. He ought to wait a while in order to have time to repent over swearing at his team." He was told that the new preacher did not swear; rather, he usually sang a hymn to his reluctant oxen when they needed prodding. Furthermore, the company in which he had come did not even travel on Sunday, but "rested on the Sabbath," as the Good Book enjoins. Which did the trick. The invitee said he wanted to hear a man who had crossed the plains driving an ox team without swearing!

In defense of oxen, it ought be said that not all pioneers found them as stubborn as a Senator from Vermont. One Oregonian reported, "Those who come to this community will be in love with their oxen by the time they reach here. The ox will plunge through mud, swim over streams, dive into thickets, and climb mountains. He will eat almost anything; and it is next to impossible to drown an ox." Maybe there are some loveable attributes even of political foes?

Committee on Archives and History

## *metro district* a new address

As of Monday August 2, 2004, the Metro District office of the Oregon-Idaho Conference will be located at the following address and contact numbers

Metro District Office, The United Methodist Church  
111 NE Failing  
Portland, Oregon 97212  
(503) 249-1851 (main)  
(503) 249-1851 (voice/fax)

Metro District Church Extension Society's address will also move to the above location. Email change notice will be forthcoming as soon as their DSL line is hooked up.

# a summer of service

the youth of first united methodist church



Some Methodists may take the summers off...but not the United Methodist Youth!

You may not be seeing many of their faces on Sunday mornings, but the First Church youth are very active at church this summer. In the Wesleyan tradition of service, Summer Service Wednesdays have replaced the typical full-scale mission trip this season as an opportunity for youth to partake in volunteer efforts right here at home. Each Wednesday throughout July and August, First Church Youth (and anyone else interested) are invited to help in various capacities around the church and in the community. So far, the Wednesday volunteers have assisted with cleaning and organizing Goose Hollow Family Shelter, preparing Sunday School classrooms for Fall, grounds work with the notorious Shovel and Rake Gang, prep work for future Christmas service projects, Car Wash fundraisers for future Mission work, and the schedule continues.

Please join us for any of these future Summer Service Wednesdays:

Wednesday, August 4, 10am-4pm  
Elderly & Shut-In Visits

Wednesday, August 11, 10am-2pm  
First UMC Kitchen Organizing & Window Cleaning

Wednesday, August 18 - Wednesday, August 25  
Serve-A-Thon Mission Trip Fundraiser

Wednesday, September 1, 10am-2pm  
Rally Day Preparations

PIZZA IS SERVED AT NOON



# history

lewis & clark

Primetimers Mission Event will present "A Lewis & Clark Learning Adventure: Lewis & Clark - The Great Journey West" with Dr. Larry McClure, August 29 through September 3, 2004 at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon.

This event will feature: Historical Lectures, Multiple Field Trips, Faith Sharing and a Service Project. The cost is \$490.00. To register call Primetimers at: 1-877/882-4724 or the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center at: 503/647-6411.

# prayer

a week-long retreat

The Oregon-Idaho Camping program will present: Transformations Prayer Retreat Camp, September 19 -29, 2004 at Suttle Lake Camp.

This retreat is designed to provide a relaxed and worshipful atmosphere punctuated by the rhythm of daily sacrament, prayer, meditation and evening programs. Using various scriptures, the retreat will focus on God's restorative grace that embraces us in Sabbath.

This retreat is designed for adults and no child care will be available.

The retreat leaders will be: Pastor Michael Powell from Ashland United Methodist Church and Kate Connolly, District Supt. of the Western District.

To register call Geneva Cook, Camp Registrar, at: 1-800/593-7539.

# around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

*Betty Hager*, whose sister died last week;  
*Michael Whipple*, whose brother-in-law died last week;  
*Margaret Walton*, who is returning to military duty in Iraq;  
*Jerry Lindgren* who is much improved after a serious auto accident;  
*Fern Rollin and family* in the death of her husband, John.

Continued prayers for:

*Maxine Brown, Jan Marshall, Jim Whitcomb, and Agnes Clark.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

*Jim & Joanne Ruyle* on the birth of a new grandchild,  
*Joe O'Leary & Laurie Richman*, on their recent wedding.



While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, a father took his 4-year-old daughter on his afternoon rounds. The various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs, unfailingly intrigued her. One day he found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As he braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

## 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 August 11, 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](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.