



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

August 25, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 17

the **E** edition

THIS SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2004

8:30 am
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am
Sermon
*A Covenant of Grace:
11. A Disciplined Life*
Rev. Brenda Sene

Children's Time
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

after the eye of the

STORM
UMCOR
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
CLEANS UP,
REBUILDS, AND
OFFERS HOPE.

United Methodists in the United States can be proud of their church's response to domestic natural disasters such as hurricanes, as well as disasters of human origin.

•HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVACUATE

In Florida, as twin storms-one the hurricane-strength Charley-threatened urban and rural areas, UMCOR called for flood buckets and responded to invitations from bishops of affected regions to provide help once the storms made landfall.

TRAINED DISASTER WORKERS RESPOND

Through local United Methodist churches and trained disaster response workers, UMCOR provides immediate relief.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LONG-TERM RECOVERY

UMCOR's main focus in any disaster is the long-term rebuilding process. Recovery from some devastating storms may take up to five years-well after the media have stopped paying attention. Through your donations UMCOR delivers hope and makes Christ's presence real to hurricane survivors on behalf of all United Methodists.

Your contributions to *UMCOR Advance #982410, Hurricanes 2004*, will enable UMCOR to respond effectively and quickly during this hurricane season. Write the # and name of the project on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.



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.



you won't want to miss ...

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Rally Day is always an exciting day as we celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It was the wee hours of a summer morning about a dozen years ago. I was serving as the Superintendent of the Eastern District—most of southern Idaho and a bit of Eastern Oregon. The phone rang, waking Sue and me from a sound sleep. “Did you know,” asked the voice on the other end, “that a major forest fire was blazing in north of Boise and residents were being evacuated? What can we

do to help?” The fire had been reported just hours earlier—the voice was a disaster coordinator from UMCOR in New York. He was planning to respond before news of the fire even hit the headlines! That’s the way it often works at that amazing agency.

I remembered that call when I heard that UMCOR was once again responding—this time to the terrible devastation wreaked by Hurricane Charley. At this moment, initial assistance is in place and they are ramping up for what may well be years of effort to help those who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, and churches.

UMCOR (the name is an acronym for “United Methodist Committee on Relief”) was born nearly 50 years ago as the world’s heart was touched by the terrible conditions faced by people in Europe and Asia in the wake of World War II. Methodists rallied to help. It was soon apparent that the emerging organization needed to continue. Today UMCOR is charged with three major emphases: disaster response, efforts to alleviate hunger, and refugee resettlement. Their reach is global and their successes legendary.

Sadly, the agency seldom receives mention in the secular press. In part, that is because the UMCOR team puts their energy into helping—not public relations. It is also because they seldom work alone. They always coordinate with FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), Church World Service, the Red Cross, and other groups. Much of our efforts are in long-term recovery. It is not unusual for UMCOR to be still on the scene when the horror of the disaster is a distant memory.

Please don’t get the wrong impression—UMCOR is not a massive organization mobilizing legions of staffers. They have a very small staff trained to organize and equip local people and volunteers to offer aid. In Florida, for example, the staff organizers are aided by a corps of regular volunteers and the Florida Annual Conference Disaster Response Team. Ministers and counselors, and church members from less affected parts of the state form the core team. Short-term volunteers from congregations around the country are welcomed. Many of us remember when a team from First Church traveled to Oklahoma to assist in tornado recovery. So, in a very real sense, UMCOR is us!

Neither does UMCOR command massive funds. The agency is one of the most financially efficient we have. Their staff receives no apportioned money—they operate on the funds received with the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering taken each spring and designated gifts. United Methodists have historically been very generous in response to crisis and disaster. When a major need arises, special offerings underwrite specific recovery efforts. But, like a visible example of the loaves and fishes, UMCOR is often able to leverage ‘in kind’ contributions and various grants to extend their work way beyond the amount of direct contributions.

This remarkable ministry needs our help. Damage from Hurricane Charley has stretched resources thin. Financial gifts designated “Hurricane Recovery” are vital and welcomed. They can be sent to our church office or placed in Sunday’s offering plate. A particular call has been issued for “Flood Buckets” to replenish depleted stockpiles in UMCOR’s Sagar Brown Warehouse. If you feel called to volunteer, please be in touch with me or Rev. Sene and we can make connection with the appropriate coordinators.

Will you help UMCOR help?

See you in Church!

Arvin

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adult

christian education

SUNDAYS, AUG. 29 & SEPT. 5

9:00 am *Changing Christianity,*
Fireside Room

9:15 am *The Fellowship of Seekers,*
Room 134
*A Bible Study using the passages
of the preaching lectionary.*

fellowship

first church hikers



FUMC HIKERS next hike will be on Saturday, August 28th. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 AM. The Elk Cove hike on the north slope of Mt. Hood in the Cloud Cap area is 3.8 miles round-trip. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks and plenty of water and wear comfortable hiking boots. The cost will be about \$7-10 for the carpool, Northwest Forest Pass and an optional snack stop on the way home. We should be back at the church between 4-5 PM. Please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at (503) 524-3737 if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.

umw

united methodist women

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF MISSION

The United Methodist Women are CELEBRATING 135 years of ministries with women, children and youth. The Methodist Episcopal women's first mission response 135 years ago was to provide education and health care for women and children in India, and thus was born the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. They faced adversity in the early years. They were locked out of a Boston church when they tried to organize. The executives of the Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary Society proposed the women raise the money and the men administer it. Although most of the women in the various mission societies didn't handle the purse strings, they saved their pennies, setting membership fees like two cents a week or \$1 a year so membership would be within the means of every woman. Women whose expected role was to perform household tasks found they could also organize at a time when women didn't do that kind of thing.

The history of UMW is both AMAZING and AMUSING. Our local unit will have the privilege of launching our year of celebration with a program about the history and future of UMW that will be presented by Kitty Riddle on **September 8th** (the Wednesday after Labor Day) at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Rm. All women of the church are invited to attend this program. The program will be preceded by a business meeting at 10:00 a.m. and followed by a luncheon for all in attendance.

shovel & rake gang

fellowship and service

Keeping plants and lawns alive through the dry summer naturally increased watering time for our members. Now we should go into the fall months with much improved lawns and healthier plants.

For security purposes the wall behind the dumpster north of the Gym was removed, and the hedge in that area has been cut back drastically.

Our outstanding service person this month is long-time member Larry Sawyer. To complete the Peg Brockman Memorial Garden we needed someone with equipment and expertise to build an arch and trellis for the patio edge. Larry willingly took on this extra project. After his spending many skillful hours at home making the parts plus additional time on site for installation, we now can enjoy this added attraction to the Garden. Our thanks to Larry for completing this beautiful arch and trellis in addition to his regular Thursday morning work with Shovel and Rake.

Join us each Thursday morning at 8:00 AM for service and fellowship.



RESERVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 10, 2004

*Consecration
Sunday and
Our Celebration
Luncheon*

GOD LOVES A

cheerful
G I V E R



FALL FROLIC

SEPTEMBER 24-26

TRADITIONS

The Fall Frolic All-Church Retreat is a time of fellowship, renewal, worship and music in the beautiful setting of Suttle Lake, near Sisters, Oregon. All ages are invited to this fun weekend. Highlights will include the Fall Frolic Band (all instrumentalists invited!), hiking opportunities, crafts, worship by the lake, games, story telling at the campfire and much more. And someone else does the cooking!

COST

Adults		\$68.00
Youth	(ages 13-17)	\$56.00
Children	(ages 6-12)	\$49.00
Children	(ages 2-5)	\$34.00
Children	(under age 2)	Free

The fee is the direct cost for the camp and covers: two nights lodging, five meals, insurance, and program expenses. Some scholarship support will be available.

For more information contact Cheryl Luce at 503/228-3195 ext 227 or email her at clu3133@aol.com.

holocaust memorial

a time of dedication



The Oregon Holocaust Memorial is nearly complete after almost ten years of planning, fund-raising, and legal challenges. The Memorial, located just off Lewis and Clark Circle at the eastern end of Washington Park, will be formally dedicated at 2:00 PM, Sunday, August 29.

Over 10 million people perished under Hitler's tyranny-Jews, Gypsies, gays, Jehovah's Witnesses, the handicapped, and others deemed inferior to "the super race." The Memorial will keep alive the memory of these victims-soil from Nazi death camps has been interred beneath the granite of the Memorial. But the primary goal of the Memorial is educational. The Oregon Holocaust Resource Center will sponsor programs with Oregon schools using the lessons of the Holocaust to teach values of tolerance and appreciation of diversity among peoples.

First Church has been a key participant in the development of the Memorial. While hosting the 1992 Anne Frank Exhibit, First Church developed close ties to the Jewish community. Through Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, First Church has been part of the coalition of religious and community groups working on this project. The meetings of this coalition have all been held at First Church.

First Church is also involved in the Dedication. An ecumenical choir with singers from local churches and synagogues, will sing at the Dedication. The choir will be directed by Bruce Browne. Jonas Nordwall will be accompanist. First Church Chancel Choir members will participate, and the rehearsal will be at the church. Ross Miller will lead a Litany of Remembrance at the ceremony.

On the day of the Dedication, the First Church parking lot will be available for persons wishing to ride shuttle buses to and from the Park. First Church volunteers will make sure the parking and shuttle service run smoothly.

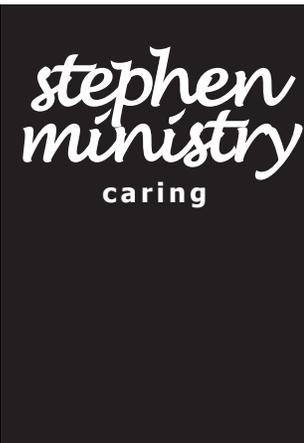
Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay members to provide distinctly Christian care to those who are experiencing all kinds of difficulties in life.

NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER

Bob Anderson was trained and commissioned as a Stephen Leader in Ontario, California, in July. We welcome him as a new Stephen Leader for our congregation.

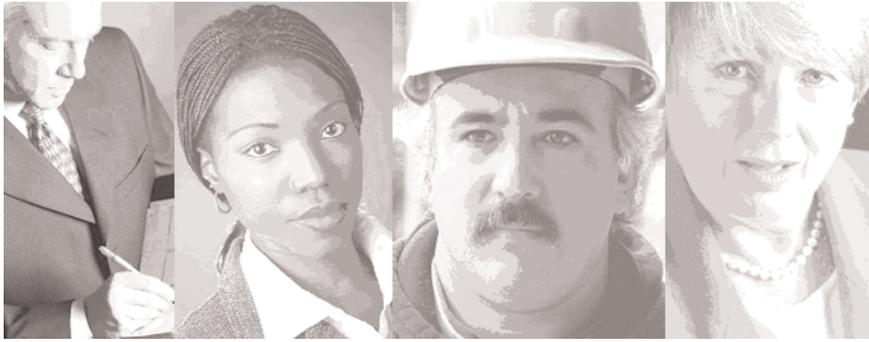
STEPHEN MINISTRY POTLUCK DINNER

The first meeting of Stephen Ministry for the 2004-05 year will be a potluck dinner on Tuesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be in Room 202. Please contact Bob Anderson (503/705-0654) or Joan Jozwiak (503/848-6598) for more details.



forums @ first

marriage and family



Which of these people should be allowed to marry?

What makes a family? What are its dynamics and attributes? What is the role of the family in modern society? Portland First UMC's Committee on Church, Society and Social Justice will host a series of discussions and forums on this theme over the next few weeks. We will examine same gender marriage and the recent movement to address the legal definition of marriage by way of constitutional amendment. Please join us for our series on the family by saving these dates:

Sunday September 12th, 1:30 PM

Pros and Cons of Same Gender Marriage

Sunday September 19th 1:30 PM

Congregational Conversation and Discernment

Sunday October 3rd at 1:30PM

Stories and Faces of First Church Families

All of the forums will be held at First United Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Ron Williams at 503/228-3195 ext 215.

planet church

concern for our environment

Earlier this year Planet Church, which had been a project of Church and Society, was made into a full committee and we thought we would take this opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the congregation. Planet Church is First UMC's environmental committee, and while concern about Global Warming was a major impetus for the formation of Planet Church, we have endeavored for the last three years to remind ourselves and the congregation of a variety of ways in which we can do a better job of caring for God's earth, our home. As the Methodist *Book of Discipline* puts it, "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways we use and abuse it." You may remember some of our past educational programs about global climate change, sustainability, alternative transportation and other environmental issues. If you are new or haven't had the opportunity to acquaint yourself with our work, here are some places to look for us during the next few months:

- *The Circuit Rider*, where we address environmental news and concerns.
- Coffee Hour, where we staff a table regularly beginning September 19th
- Our Bulletin Board, just past the Library.

interns

a report

The Church, Society & Social Justice Committee sponsored two summer interns in 2004: Phoebe Keever and Ciera Shelton. This issue of the Circuit Rider will feature Phoebe Keever's report.

This summer, through First UMC, I was blessed with the awesome opportunity to intern at Mariah Taylor's North Portland Nurse Practitioner's Community Health Clinic. This non-profit pediatric clinic serves families on the OHP or who have no insurance and would otherwise not have health care. I wanted to intern here because I believe everyone should have access to health needs, regardless of income, and I wanted to get better insight into the health field as I was weighing it as a possible career path. From day one I was thrust into things as if I had been there forever! The staff trained me on how to do all kinds of things: checking vitals, asking health histories, doing complete physical and neurological testing, developmental screenings, setting up and administering vaccinations, filling out referrals for patients, calling up patients with follow up lab results, inventorying donated medicines and discard outdated meds, using our computer system and more! After being walked through things once or twice, I was cut loose the rest of the time and was given the freedom to do everything on my own, which I loved! This internship was great for many reasons; I was able to fully communicate and translate to our huge Spanish population (my most challenging, yet fulfilling experience), I gave the staff a well needed extra hand, and with prayer and help of the intern committee, I learned some things about myself and where God is guiding me. I am still listening to where he is guiding me, but I know one thing: this internship has been amazing and I know that I want to serve people in whatever career I do choose. Community is what God wants of us. I am excited to open up another chapter of my life that will, of course, include God. I know if I put my faith in Him, like I have during this internship, than he will always take care of our needs.

Phoebe Keever, pkeever@willamette.edu

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks



We offer prayers for
Peggy Newkirk, recovering from a stroke;
Maxine Brown, recovering from surgery;
Clif Droke and Diane Pinney,
Clif's mother, Hazel Droke, in Walla Walla, WA
is struggling with cancer. Diane's sister, Jean Gonzales,
who lives in Chicago, IL, is also fighting cancer.

Continued prayers for:
Tom Iverson, Jan Marshall, Roy Rogers, Jim Whitcomb, Agnes Clark, and Iola Halligan.



Oregon-Idaho Conference
United Methodist Church
MEN'S RETREAT
October 15-17, 2004
Camp Magruder

Guest speakers include: John Bayless, an area attorney speaking on the Book of Proverbs and Fred Barnes, a businessman and gifted storyteller.

The cost is \$90.00 and includes: lodging, meals, insurance, and program. To register, call the Camp Registrar at 503/226-7931 or visit www.gocamping.org.



A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

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 September 8, 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.