



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

September 8, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 18

**THIS
SUNDAY**
SEPTEMBER 12, 2004

**RALLY
DAY**

8:30 am
Informal
Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am
Sermon
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.



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 cluce3133@aol.com.



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.

Rally Day is always an exciting day as we celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School year. On Sunday, September 12, join us for this special event.

9:15 AM ... Brunch

Brunch in Collins Hall for all families with children age two through Senior High School. This will be an opportunity to meet teachers, plan fellowship activities and see inter-generational bonding at work!

10:30 AM ... Worship

Join in the Sanctuary for worship. There will be a blessing of the teachers for the new year.

**10:45 AM ...
Class Sessions**

Children's Sunday School classes will have their first session of the new Sunday School year.

**11:30 AM ...
Ice Cream Social**

There will be a hot dog and ice cream social in the Collins Hall Courtyard. Everyone is invited!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12
RALLY DAY



SUNDAY SCHOOL GOES HAWAIIAN
First Church children and Sunday School teachers will be decked out in Hawaiian shirts and welcome you with leis and a warm ALOHA.



HOT DOGS

smile!

It's NOT too late to be included in the new congregational photo directory! Appointments are still being made for sittings with Olan Mills at our church on Monday through Saturday during the weeks of September 13 and September 27. Look for sign-up tables on Sunday before and after the worship service. Or call Edie Jensen at 503.624.0229.

You will receive one 8 x 10 portrait at no cost and a copy of the directory. Additional photos may be purchased at the time of your appointment if you wish.

Our goal is to have a photo of everyone who is associated with First Church in the directory. It helps us recognize and communicate better with one another.

congregational life

wake up! wake up! wake up!

Something new is happening in our Congregational Life Area ...

Standing Committees are out. Short-term small groups and task forces are in. It is a three-month commitment, period! The first groups and task forces will run from mid-September through mid-December. Take a look at a few of the tasks and groups to sign up for on Rally Day, September 12.

FELLOWSHIP: Participate in home Bible Study or join a discussion group

NEW MEMBERS: Help plan the fall New Members Class

ADVERTISING: Help plan the church advertising for the year

RECONCILING: Help plan AIDS Awareness Sunday (Dec. 5) or Reconciling Sunday (Feb. 6)

HOSPITALITY: Help with the Coffee Hour after church

GREETERS: Greet at one of the Christmas Eve Services

HEALTH & WELFARE: Check and refill church emergency kits

THE HOMEBOUND: Adopt a homebound church member in your neighborhood and visit monthly

habitat for humanity

Join Habitat for Humanity in a worldwide celebration of Faith in Action during Building on Faith Week September 12 to 19. Construction workers are needed on Wednesday and Thursday (September 15 and 16) from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. We also need volunteers to help provide lunches to about 30 construction volunteers on Thursday, September 16. Youth (ages 14 and above) don't miss out on a chance to join with other youth groups from around the city in a paint party from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday night, September 17. If you have questions please contact Kate Elliott at 503-318-4004 or katemelliott@yahoo.com. You can sign up during coffee hour on Rally Day, September 12.

hospitality coffee time hosts

If you could throw a party and invite everyone at First Church, would you? If you could offer them nice, warm beverages and provide a friendly place for them to get to know one another, would you? You bet you would — and you can — simply sign up to host the coffee hour after worship. It's an instant party! Each week four volunteers serve as coffee hosts. You can sign up to host with your family, with your service group, or as a single who would like to team up with other singles. Some coffee hosts bring goodies to serve and some bring flowers for the table, but all that is required is that you come to church early to put the coffee on to percolate about 9:30 am and that you pour beverages and chat with folks after the service. It is an easy job, yet provides an invaluable service to the congregation and to visitors.

Watch for the sign-up table in Collins beginning Sunday, September 19!

umw united methodist women

FAITH GUILD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

The Faith Guild will meet at 10:00 am. in the Parlor. Marion Hollenberg will be the hostess. Only coffee and tea are provided. Bring one favorite piece of jewelry and tell why it is special. Briefly catch us up on your summer. For information contact Hazel Wells at 503/652-6274.

RUTH GUILD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

The Ruth Guild will meet at noon in Room 204. This will be a planning session. Bring a sandwich and a non-perishable food item for FISH. All women are invited. For information contact: Hazel Balcomb at 503/244-0971 or Betty-Lou Hare at 503/292-1773.

READING GROUP, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The Reading Group will meet from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Library. It will be a planning meeting and we'll also discuss our summer reading. On October 21 Marilyn Outslay will lead a discussion on "Methodists at Risk." All are invited. For more information contact Sue Fisher at 503/203-1445.

HONORING IOLA HALLIGAN, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The United Methodist Women want to honor Iola Halligan as she leaves Portland and moves to the Sacramento area. We want to invite church members to contribute to a fund that can be given to her as we celebrate her send-off. You can send or drop off your donation at the church office. A coffee will be held in her honor after church on September 26. All are invited.

adult classes on Sundays short-term elective

In additions to our two ongoing Sunday Classes for adults (*Changing Christianity* at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room and *Fellowship of Seekers* at 9:15 AM in Rm 134) there will be some short-term electives for adults on Sunday morning.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD: ISLAM, THE MUSLIM WORLD 9:15 AM In the Fireside Room (Hosted by Changing Christianity) September 12 & 19: Shahid Haque,

Executive Director of the Muslim Educational Trust. A native of Bangladesh, he has been in the U.S. for 14 years. Mr. Haque has a PhD in Electrical Engineering and works at Intel.

September 26: Dr. Zaher Wahab,

Graduate School of Education, Lewis & Clark College. An Afghan-American, Professor Wahab is a long-time friend of First UMC through his connection with The Goose Hollow Family Shelter. He was a senior Fulbright scholar in Egypt, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan in 1990-2001. He has taught at Lewis & Clark since 1972, designing over 30 different courses.

CHRISTIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE - 9:15 AM In Room 202

October 3: Christianity Expressed in Art

with Bob Hyslop, Portland Art Museum docent. Bob has a broad range of interests and has taught classes on many topics. He is a retired IRS tax attorney, and has been speaking about art for seven years at the museum.

October 10: Dr. Raymond Balcomb

The Art, Architecture & Symbols of First United Methodist Church.

hurricane recovery

a practical way to help

The United Methodist Florida Conference and Sager-Brown request help to replenish their "Flood Buckets." (Flood Buckets are 5-gallon buckets filled with supplies to aid in flood clean-up.) According to UMCOR and the Field Team Coordinator at the Florida United Methodist Conference they have completely exhausted the entire supply of available Flood Buckets. These Flood Buckets are a key staple to the initial recovery process for those left to pick up after a devastating storm like Hurricane Charlie. Can you help?

For a list of materials contained in a Flood Bucket, visit our website (www.fumcpdx.org) and go to the Outreach page or obtain one from the bulletin board in the narthex. We ask each of you to either bring in something from the list or if you feel inspired, put together an entire bucket. For the next few weeks there will be a supply bin in the narthex to receive these supplies. We will then send the Flood Buckets off to Sager-Brown for immediate distribution.

As hurricane devastation continues in the south, UMCOR still needs generous gifts for relief efforts. You can make your donations by making a check out to First UMC and marking it: *UMCOR Hurricane Relief*.

the music ministry

friends of music dinners

The FRIENDS OF MUSIC dinners have been completed with wonderful success! The Music Committee wishes to express thanks to all of the people in the church that either hosted or attended the dinners. These dinners created an opportunity for church members to experience a sense of community and bonding around food and music. The hosts provided varied menus that tantalized and pleased the palates of the attendees. The dinners featured a wide range of musical entertainment – from opera to a banjo player. It also included a jazz pianist, a trombone quartet, Hungarian violin music, vocalists and a string trio.

Of course, the dinners had another purpose, that of raising money to strengthen the music program at First UMC. We were successful in raising \$6500 that will be given out as grants in three areas: to update the Chancel Choir Music Library, to enhance the Children and Youth Music Programs, and for planning and executing future concerts.

Again, thanks and kudos to all who participated! Be certain to watch for more opportunities in the future with Friends of Music!



Sharon & Bev Graver will be selling special clothing items with the First UMC brand on Sunday, September 12, in Collins Hall. This is the time to purchase and wear First UMC clothing. In addition to the already popular items, we will be displaying three new items: a pullover windbreaker, a casual jacket, and a new shirt in different colors. We have something for everyone. These make great gifts. It promotes our church with the public and raises awareness to First UMC. Come take part in supporting First UMC with brand merchandise, promote and wear with pride.

who are we?

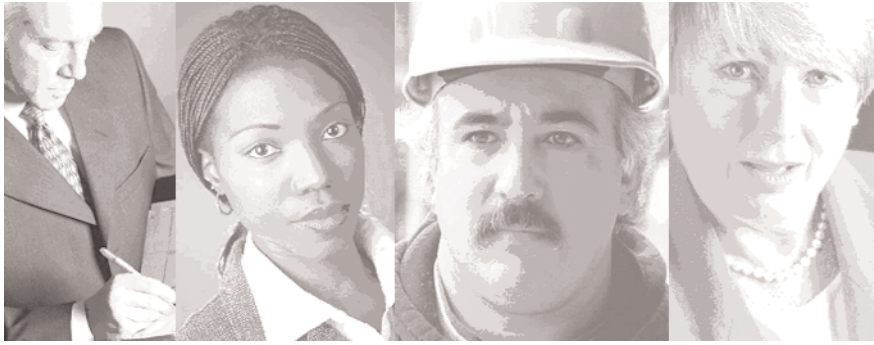
Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

One of the Sundays early in August there was an extensive article in *The Oregonian* about one of our UM Church camps (the one at Wallowa Lake), and you had to read very carefully to find out that it was a "Methodist" camp. In fact, the heading described it as an "(Un) Church Camp" and much of the article extolled its appeal to people who don't go to church ordinarily, people who think of themselves as "spiritually independent." I am not taking offense at the newspaper, but as a member of this church you have a right to know that this congregation has had a hand in all seven (yes 7) of our camps in Oregon and Idaho. We supported their purchase and development. Our conference camping program is virtually self-supporting, but through our budget we contribute every year to the salary of its Executive Director, the Rev. Lisa Jean Hoeffner (who was pictured along with the story, and whose office is in the Conference building next door). When the property for Camp Magruder at the coast was given by Dr. Magruder of the Oregon State faculty more than 60 years ago, we helped build the first buildings on it. They were small sleeping cabins for those attending and our crew had a sense of humor because they named the cabin "Nye the Sea" – a pun on the name of our then pastor, Dr. Laurence E. Nye. When the District purchased the land for what was first called "Camp Lee" (after Jason Lee, the pioneer Methodist leader in Oregon), we helped finance it, and it is now the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, named in memory of a member of this church in recognition of his family's support. Through the Conference, I repeat, we have a hand in even the camps most remote from us geographically: Latgawa in Southern Oregon or McCall in Idaho. Right now some of our members are active in the camping program, serving as counselors and on maintenance oversight, and policy making committees. We serve not only "our own," but also other denominations and, as the article pointed out, many who find no other way to God.

Committee on Archives and History

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, Fireside Room
Pros and Cons of Same Gender Marriage

Sunday September 19th, 1:30 PM, Fireside Room
Congregational Conversation and Discernment

Sunday October 3rd, 1:30 PM, Fireside Room
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.

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 Ciera Shelton's report.

Interning at Sisters of the Road this summer was a very positive and rewarding experience. The philosophy of gentle personalized care really showered love upon everyone who walked through the doors, and I saw and felt that outreach happening. I spent most of my days working a few hours in the cafe, selling meal coupons, sending letters for the Bluegrass Auction, planning our spot in the Good in the Hood parade, and organizing GuitarZilla.

During my time at Sisters, I saw four customers get jobs, and three get housing. Some of them used their volunteer work at Sisters as a reference to place them in their positions, and it was so awesome to see an end to homelessness for a handful of people in the community as a true testament to the work I put in to the organization. I thank everyone within First United Methodist Church for giving me this invaluable opportunity to give back to the community this summer, and remind me just what faith can do- it changes lives.

Ciera Shelton

this & that

items of note and interest

AN INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE AND CONCERT

Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00 PM at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets: \$11, Adults and \$5, Children
This dialogue brings together Senior Oregon Faith Leaders for a dialogue on how peace can be achieved in the Middle East and area musicians for a special concert. For more information visit their website at: www.holisticpeaceinstitute.com.

NW HOUSE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The Northwest House of Theological Studies will hold their Annual Convocation on Saturday, September 18, at 8:30 AM at the Cone Chapel of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

VOLUNTEER FOR HOSPICE TRAINING

Do you have two hours a week to share with someone who needs you? Consider Mt. Hood Hospice, Volunteer Training. No Cost! Begins September 13, 2004. Information: Dean Yamamoto, 503/668-5545 * chaplain@mthoodhospice.com.

OREGON REPERTORY SINGERS CONCERT

Oregon Repertory Singers will present a concert, Nurturing the Soul, on Sunday October 3, at 2:00 and 7:30 PM at First UMC. For more information visit their website at www.oregonrepsingers.org or call 503/230-0652.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for
Thelma Glendinning, who has been ill;
John Zuidema, recovering from pneumonia;
Estella Earls, recovering from surgery;
Robert Forehand, recovering from surgery;
Jan Marshall, who is hospitalized;
Mary Domries, recovering from heart problems;
Cynthia Griffen, whose mother has been diagnosed with cancer.

Continued prayers for:
Agnes Clark, Maxine Brown, Roy Rogers, Tom Iverson, Cynthia Griffin.

a report

adopt-a-highrise

First UMC, in partnership with Temple Beth Israel, hosted an afternoon BBQ for the Adopt-a-Highrise program Sunday, August 16 at Northwest Tower, NW 19 and Everett Street. Phil Wood, leader of First UMC's sponsored Scout Troop No. 1, brought Scouts who pitched in and did a great job. The Scouts were: Brandon and Austin Fassiotto, Jack Wood, and Hunter Morford. This event also featured the music of pianist, Christopher Holt, and of Julia and Anne Kayser from First Church. Bill MacDonald and Phil Wood manned the BBQ with the help of the Scouts. Thelma MacDonald and with volunteers from Beth Israel did kitchen duty. Approximately 125 tenants were served. Scout leader Wood commented that First UMC has done so much over the years for the troop that it was a pleasure to help.



DON'T BE A NO-SHOW FOR YOUR PHOTO

If you have an appointment for a portrait to be made for the photo directory this coming week, please plan to be at the church 10 minutes ahead. Can't make it? Please call the church office to let us know and to reschedule.

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 22, 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.



There is good news about how we share God's good news! We asked members of our church family to embark on a spiritual process: to search their souls, to prayerfully consider the gifts God calls upon us to offer, and in so doing, to grow in Christ. It was, by any measure, a grand success - an achievement culminated with the joyous celebration we called Consecration Sunday.

We did it on faith. 176 households decided to step up in their giving. We asked you to consider the question "What percent of my income is God calling me to give?" and 38 households indicated they were stepping up to or beyond tithing. 52 households made estimates of giving for the first time at First Church. We were able to continue the vision of a vital church working in today's world. Author Michael Reeves said it succinctly "...preaching and teaching about faith and money has little to do with budget support. But the connection between faith and money has everything to do with who we serve, what we believe, and how we express our beliefs."

We have been celebrating all year long as our programs are able to thrive and flourish. When we consider our commitment to God's work we see that Consecration Sunday is a very important day in the life of our church. It is the day we reaffirm our plan to support God's church going forward into the future. We grow spiritually when our giving helps us make hard choices about our lifestyle and how we use the material blessing we have at God's hand.

I am now asking you to save the upcoming date of Sunday, October 10, because that will be Consecration Sunday 2004. I hope you will plan now on attending both of the two important events that day: the Sunday morning worship service, in which we will consecrate our offerings, followed by the Celebration Luncheon, a catered meal immediately afterward.

As last year's events illustrated, Consecration Sunday is a special and spiritual time for our congregation. The campaign touched many hearts and souls. People responded strongly to God's call. The campaign was completed in December and church leaders were able to develop programs with available resources. And, we were able to make full payment of our fair share of apportionments including our world-wide outreach through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

God is truly at work in our congregation!

I urge you to reserve the date of Sunday, October 10 for Consecration Sunday. It promises to be an exciting time of spiritual growth and commitment. Thank you for joining us in spreading God's good news!

Save the upcoming date of Sunday, October 10, Consecration Sunday 2004. I hope you will plan now on attending both of the two important events that day: the Sunday morning worship service, in which we will consecrate our offerings, followed by the Celebration Luncheon, a catered meal immediately afterward.