



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

*the E edition*

September 22, 2004  
Volume 8, Issue 19

**THIS  
SUNDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2004

**8:30 am**  
Informal  
Communion  
in the Chapel

**10:30 am**  
**Sermon**  
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

**Fall Frolic  
Worship**  
at Suttle Lake  
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.

**CONSECRATION  
SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 10, 2004**



**WHAT IS GOD ASKING YOU TO GIVE ?**

Giving is indispensable to Christian discipleship. We express our priorities, values, and love by our giving. Giving also connects people with mission. The prevalent belief for many years has been that as church members mature in their faith, they will somehow begin to understand and value giving as an expression of that faith. However, the evidence does not validate this view. A more accurate view is that giving is a part of the process that helps people mature in their expression of faith.

The focus of our conversations about giving should be on a person's need to give as a part of personal spiritual growth and discipleship, rather than on the reality of affluence or poverty. Too often we want those church members who have a large measure of financial wealth to be the financial leaders, but the issue ought to focus on their spiritual maturity expressed by their giving. When churches identify those who express the gift of giving in their community of faith, it is common to find people of modest resources included in the top levels of giving.

Understanding of financial stewardship must begin with the Bible. God is the source, and giving is rooted in God. The recognition that God created and owns everything is the appropriate starting point for understanding stewardship. John Wesley said it clearly in his Sermon #50: "God entrusted you for a season with goods of various kinds but the sole property of these still rests in God, nor can ever be alienated from him." And the Bible offers one standard of measurement in our response to God's generosity: the tithe.

We live in an age where the phrase fair share is valued as politically correct, but the Bible offers the tithe. Some churches have used assessments that are related to a host of variables to establish expectations, but the Bible offers the tithe. Some churches rely on user fees to pay for some ministries, but the Bible offers the tithe. While many of us have not reached a tithe, all of us should have the tithe as our goal.

We look forward to the spiritual growth we can experience together on our journey to Consecration Sunday, October 10, as we more fully realize that our giving is an expression of gratitude and love for God.

\* Selected and condensed from "Faith and Money" by Michael Reeves, pp18-19.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

I have never met Peter and Barbara MacGregor, but the couple, from New York, sent a personal letter to me, filled with scriptural pronouncements, praying for God to intervene in November's election, and warning that if their candidate is not elected it will "usher in an era of hostility to people of faith." Days later came a letter from the other party suggesting election of their opponent would assure the erosion of civil freedoms and suppression of diversity.

The public discourse is never at its most sensible in the weeks leading up to a presidential election. But this year seems filled with more invective and innuendo than any I can remember. Much of it is directed at the religious community. I suppose the sublime moved to the ridiculous this week when West Virginians were greeted with the absurd claim that the agenda of the other side is to "ban the Bible." It was quickly denounced.

Such tactics—employed to some degree by both parties—do nothing to enrich the political debate. Indeed, they only serve to stir fear and spark emotional reaction. They have no place in the very serious matter of selecting the best person to lead our country in perilous times. They underscore the need for voters of careful reason, deep faith and strong values who can see past such shams to the deeper issues at contest.

Sojourner's, the ministry striving to integrate spiritual renewal and social justice, (see <http://www.sojo.net>) has launched an ad campaign under the banner, "God is Not a Republican Or a Democrat." They believe the Christians can vote for either major candidate for reasons deeply rooted in their faith, and they offer some helpful suggestions for discerning how to vote:

"We believe that all candidates should be examined by measuring their policies against the complete range of Christian ethics and values.

We will measure the candidates by whether they enhance human life, human dignity, and human rights; whether they strengthen family life and protect children; whether they promote racial reconciliation and support gender equality; whether they serve peace and social justice; and whether they advance the common good rather than only individual, national and special interests." (accessed at <http://go.sojo.net/campaign/takebackourfaith> on Sept. 19, 2004)

My earliest memory of a presidential election was one of the contests between Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson. My father looked so much like Eisenhower that people would stop him on the street and interrupt our meals in restaurants to meet him. Eventually dad became so tired denying it to unbelieving fans that he simply stole one of Eisenhower's quips, "I only ask you to weigh the issues carefully and vote accordingly."

It's still good advice.

See you in Church

Arvin

## special guest

Melinda Strobel



Melinda Strobel



We are pleased to announce that Melinda Strobel will be our guest speaker on Consecration Sunday, October 10, 2004

Melinda Strobel is a talented actress and a gifted writer. She studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has a degree in theater from Willamette University. She has performed in many shows both in Oregon and Atlanta Georgia, including two seasons at the Georgia Renaissance Festival. Ms Strobel has created several shows featuring pioneering women. Her one-woman show, *Susan B. Anthony: The Napoleon of the Movement*, has received grants from the Kentucky, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and California Humanities Councils to tour.

In January 2003, Ms Strobel began research on Susanna Wesley, teacher, writer and mother to 10 children – most notably John and Charles Wesley. Research culminated in *Susanna: Mother of Methodism*, a one woman show which was created for the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Conference 2003 Lay Academy.

An artist-in-residence, Ms. Strobel teaches at various schools around Oregon. She is married to Brett Strobel, minister at Newman United Methodist Church, and has two children: Colin, age 10 and Peter, age 5. Active in her local church, Ms. Strobel sings in Newman's praise ensemble, dances with Newman's SacreDance group, and is a Certified Lay Speaker for the United Methodist Church.



## adults sunday classes

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 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.



## umw

united methodist women

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Co-presidents: Trudy Kayser 503-292-7528 and Virginia Bender 503-657-1181  
All women are welcome to attend any of the following UMW meetings.

### METRO DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, September 25, 2004

Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 NE Alameda St., Portland  
Registration begins at 9:00 AM with the meeting and program from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be a Salad Potluck Luncheon at 12:30 PM. Mission Project: School Supplies: Paper, Pencils, Crayons, etc. Info: Trudy Kayser 503-292-7528

### IOLA HALLIGAN CALIFORNIA BOUND

Sunday, September 26, the UMW will be honoring Iola Halligan during the Coffee Hour after church. This will be an opportunity to bid her farewell. A basket will be available for cards and/or cash donations in appreciation of Iola's many years of service. We wish her happiness in this new phase of her life as a "California Girl."

### UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, September 29, 10:00 AM, Parlor

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Wednesday, September 29, 11:30 AM., Room 204. Information: Joanne Weiss. 503-292-5947. Catch up on our summer adventures and plan the next year's program. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and coffee will be provided.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED FALL FORUM

Friday, October 1, University Park United Methodist, 4775 N. Lombard, Portland.  
Registration: 9:30 AM, Program: 10:00 AM: Peace & Justice; Pursuing the Vision  
Speaker: Emma Lou Lundgren, UMC pastor. Info: Betty-Lou Hare. 503-292-1773

### UMW UNIT GATHERING

Fireside Room, Wednesday, October 6. 10:00 AM Meeting. and 11:00 AM  
Program by Marilyn Outslay: *Our Connections with Cuba: The People, the Church, the Nation.* 12:00 PM Dessert & beverages provided. Bring a sandwich.

## SENIORS

### 2004



### SENIOR ADULTS TRIP: INTEL OREGON, OCTOBER 27

Tour the Intel Oregon Information Center at Hillsboro Jones Farm Intel campus. The Information Center exhibits include how the microprocessor begins as sand; their state of the art "clean rooms" and what the future possibilities for computers will be. Lunch at McMenamins Imbrie Hall at the Cornelius Pass Roadhouse. Transportation on a comfortable NA Charters coach. Cost for transportation and tour will be \$12, and you will purchase your own lunch selection. Meet at the church at 9:00 AM, returning by 2:00. Reservations are due now to Cheryl Luce, with \$5 deposit. For information contact Cheryl at 228-3195, ext. 227 / email [cluce3133@aol.com](mailto:cluce3133@aol.com).

## fellowship the parker group

The Parker Group will meet on Saturday, October 2, at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck dinner and program. Larry Sawyer will present: "First Church Senior Adventures in Australia." This report on the spring trip will be illustrated with fantastic digital slides. Vistors are welcome. Please contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356 to RSVP. Please join us for this excellent time of fellowship.

## *hurricane recovery*

we exceeded our goal



On Sunday, September 19, the "Bucket Brigade" went into action as buckets were passed down the aisle to aid with replenishing Flood Buckets. The cost of a bucket filled with cleaning supplies is \$45.00. Our goal was \$4500 to UMCOR for Flood Buckets. The special offering, to date, has raised \$4,942.50!

100% of this second-mile offering will go to supplies to help victims of the devastating storms.

It is not too late to participate in this effort. Mark your check: "Bucket Brigade."

## *our library*

opportunity to serve

The library committee is looking for people to share their resources of time and energy. We have scheduled work parties the first Saturday morning of each month this fall, starting Saturday, October 2 at 9:00 AM until noon. No skills required, although a love of books would be useful. If you can help us, please call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761.

## *thanks!*

rally day success

Rally Day was a huge success! 95 children participated in Sunday School classes and 65 teachers received a blessing for their efforts in working with our children. The Kick-Off Brunch in Collins Hall welcomed 150 families as children, youth, music supporters, teachers and more joined together to begin their year together. It is always a thrill to see the halls filled with children and see the adult and youth classes ready for learning. Special thanks to all in the congregation that gave generously to the Children's Program Offering. Your support means a lot to the children and families of First Church.

We are embarking on a new program for 4th-6th grade kids who will be experiencing three programs this fall: Dig into the Bible, Calling the Disciples and a study of Joseph. Each of these programs will use Art, Science, Cooking, Computers, Storytelling and more to teach the stories and engage the kids. This exciting "rotation" through the activities is intended to reach our kids in new and active ways.

## *scouting*

the God & Country series

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts are invited to participate in the God and Country Series. This is an opportunity for scouts to earn their religion emblems of our faith. There are four levels: Level One- God and Me for grades 1, 2, and 3; Level Two: God and Family for grades 4 and 5.; Level Three: God and Church for grades 6, 7, and 8; Level Four: God and Life for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Levels One and Two consist of four to six meetings with at-home work to be completed between the meetings. Level Three and Four are much more extensive. There is an independent study with mentor meetings. Please join us on Sunday, October 31, at noon in Room 210 for an introductory meeting to this program. For more information, contact Michele Fricke at 503/645-5945.



### **COFFEE HOUR**

For your convenience, there will be a sign up table in Collins Hall after worship for Coffee Hour and Continental Breakfast Hosts for the months of October, November, and December.

## *healing & prayer*

an invitation

### **PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICES**

As a part of First UMC's wholistic ministry, we offer a Service of Prayer and Healing the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel, following Sunday morning worship. It is an opportunity to any who desire what only God's Holy Spirit can minister spiritually, physically and emotionally. It is a time for personal prayer requests in a confidential setting. Anointing oil is used as a sacrament and a sign of God's healing presence. This service is led by Rev. Benjamin Owre with assistance from Jane Rhodes and Mary Jane Hendrickson. Our next service of Prayer and Healing will be Sunday October 3, in the Chapel following worship. Please feel free to join us.

## forums @ first marriage and family

# BALLOT MEASURE

# 36

In light of Ballot Measure 36, First UMC is being called upon as a leader in the religious community to take a stand on same sex marriage. This forum is designed to give all Portland First members and constituents an opportunity to weigh in on the subject and have their voice heard. Shall we take a stand? What shall that stand be? Please join us.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room for  
*Stories and Faces of First Church Families***

Speakers: Families of First UMC

## shovel & rake a report

The Shovel & Rake Gang has kept busy this summer, incorporating extra projects into its weekly work. Most recently we tore down the acoustical ceiling in Room 202 and prepared it for replacement tiles. This work involved several members on Thursday and subsequent days, saving the church a few thousand dollars. Expect to find a new ceiling and good acoustics in Room 202 now.

This month we salute long-time member Robert Hetzer. His expertise in pruning trees and plants means he is called upon time after time to do most of the pruning at our church. The beautiful blooming cherry tree at our front entrance is a good example of Robert's skills, as are the Coral Bark Maples at the chapel entrance and the blooming pear trees in Beckham and Collins Courts. Later this month Robert and wife Judy expect to head for their new winter home near Phoenix, AZ, but we are glad they will maintain their apartment here for their return each summer. You can be sure Robert will find much pruning awaiting his return.

## this & that save these dates ...

### SHALOM MINISTRIES AUCTION

Friday, October 15, at 6:30 PM an Auction benefiting Shalom Ministries will be held at Lake Oswego UMC, 1855 Southshore Blvd, Lake Oswego. Shalom Ministries is an important Reconciling Ministry on the Oregon-Idaho Conference. For more information contact Velma McConnell at 503/353-2754.

### FIRST UMC ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Portland First UMC will hold our annual Fall Church Conference on Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 PM at Lake Oswego UMC.

### WEDDING CELEBRATION

Cal Brockman, Sr and Pat Williams invite all our First UMC friends to a luncheon at noon on Sunday, October 3, in Collins Hall to celebrate our marriage (which will take place on the previous day). In order for the caterer to plan adequately, please RSVP to Cal at 503/292-6270 or Pat at 503/295-7879, no later than Monday, September 27, 2004. Please, no gifts.

### COLUMBIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Portland's Columbia Symphony Orchestra Concert Season begins with *Friends Pictured Within-Friday, October 15, 2004*. Tickets are for sale through the orchestra office and at the door the night of the performance for \$20/adult; \$15/senior; and \$10/student. First UMC members are eligible for a \$3 discount per ticket!

## scholarships a report

Bob Anderson received funding from the Memorial Scholarship Committee to attend the Stephen Ministry Leadership Training Conference in Ontario, CA, in July. Bob will now be working as a leader, along with Joan Jozwiak, of the First UMC Stephen Ministry team. He commented on the "extreme challenge" of following Iola Halligan, who held this role for many years.

In his report Bob wrote that the training was intense but generated "an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm" among the 354 people attending. The training covered "every conceivable situation between caregiver and care receiver." Bob emphasized the need for a church our size to increase funding for the ongoing education of the Stephen Ministers and Leaders in order "to maintain and improve the effectiveness, depth, professionalism and care-giving motivation" of the team.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1949 to help United Methodists who are preparing for Christian service and to educate members and staff of this congregation to extend the ministry of the church. The committee will meet again in late October to consider applications. Applications or information can be obtained from the church office or from the chairperson, Marge Terdal.

# around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for

*Dr. Yvette C. E. Walker*, who is recovering from pneumonia;  
*Estella Earls, Robert Forehand, Maxine Brown, and Doris Lavelly*,  
recovering from surgery;

*Marty Martin*, recovering from receiving a pacemaker;

*George Hohnstein*, Janet Brockman's father, who is hospitalized;

*Hazel Goo*, the mother of Greta Hosibata, hospitalized in Hawaii.

*Donna Clark and family*, Donna is in Arkansas with her mother who had a massive stroke last week;

*The civilians in Iraq and the soldiers who serve there*, MyraJean Marshall, our Youth Director, has a brother-in-law now serving in Iraq;

Continued prayers for:

*Agnes Clark, Tom Iverson, John Zuidema, Susan McKinney, Jan Marshall, and Dick Sagara.*

thanks  
for your support

Thanks to everyone for their prayers, phone calls, and cards following my car accident. I am slowly recovering. I appreciated all of your support.  
- Iola Halligan

# children

our kids are great!

## THANK YOU SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Special thanks to all of the families, grandparents, parents, and friends of children that took time this summer to teach a Sunday School Class. Your time and interest were very much appreciated. With continued support from such dedicated members, our children's program will continue to grow and thrive.

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

For \$30.00 you can have a year of savings. Entertainment books are sold each Sunday after church in Collins Hall. Call Agnes Zach, Children/Family Ministry Coordinator to set aside a book for you during the week. She can be reached at 503/228-3195 ext. 229. All proceeds go to the Family Ministry Program for parent education classes.

### 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 October 6, 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.