

The Circuit Rider

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1838 SW Jefferson - Portland, OR 97201-2496

October 6, 2004

Volume 8, Issue 20

CONSECRATION SUNDAY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2004

LIFE IS A LEAP OF FAITH by Art Kayser

Each of us is separate, unique, complex, and individual. We walk our paths, often with arms linked to others, but they are *our* paths, even when they are not necessarily of our choosing. Sometimes to follow a path we must take a "Leap of Faith": that the job will pan out; that the relationship will last; that the money will cover the cost; that there will be enough time. Life teaches us many lessons through the schools of joy and hard knocks, difficulty and happiness, thrift and plenty.

At sixty-plus years I have experienced much: joyous births of children and then grandchildren; deaths of parents, relatives, friends; times of relative peace and world-wide war; wonderful friendships and alienation from friends; jobs with horrendous schedules requiring enormous commitment; frugal times and times of plenty.

And what have I learned through my experience? "I don't have to go through this (Life!) alone." God's spiritual presence is my constant companion. And truly, even when my path is difficult and steep, my cup is full and overflowing.

What does my life experience have to do with financial stewardship? Everything! How can I not return a portion of my blessings to the God who has been so generous, the God who has given His Son Jesus to show us the ways to *real* life. I *want* to be a good steward. When I take a portion out of my cup and give it for God's use, my cup still overflows. It's a miracle!

How is *your* cup doing these days? I hope your cup is full and God's blessings on you are many. There is a deep spiritual dimension in the act of giving money to help God's church reach out as *his hands* into our community and our world. If you follow the news you know that the world needs God's hands to be active and energetic and helping in so many places and ways. And money does, in fact, help the world go round.

There is also a deep connection between faith and money that has everything to do with who we serve, what we believe, and how we act on our beliefs. On Consecration Sunday each of us asks: "What is God calling me to give?" Consider your blessings, God's generosity. Can you step up in your giving next year? Jesus said: "Where your money is, there your heart will be also."

Take a Leap of Faith that will help lead to life that is *really* life. Let's join our arms, and walk the path of generosity and faith — joyously, separately, and all together.



Melinda Strobel

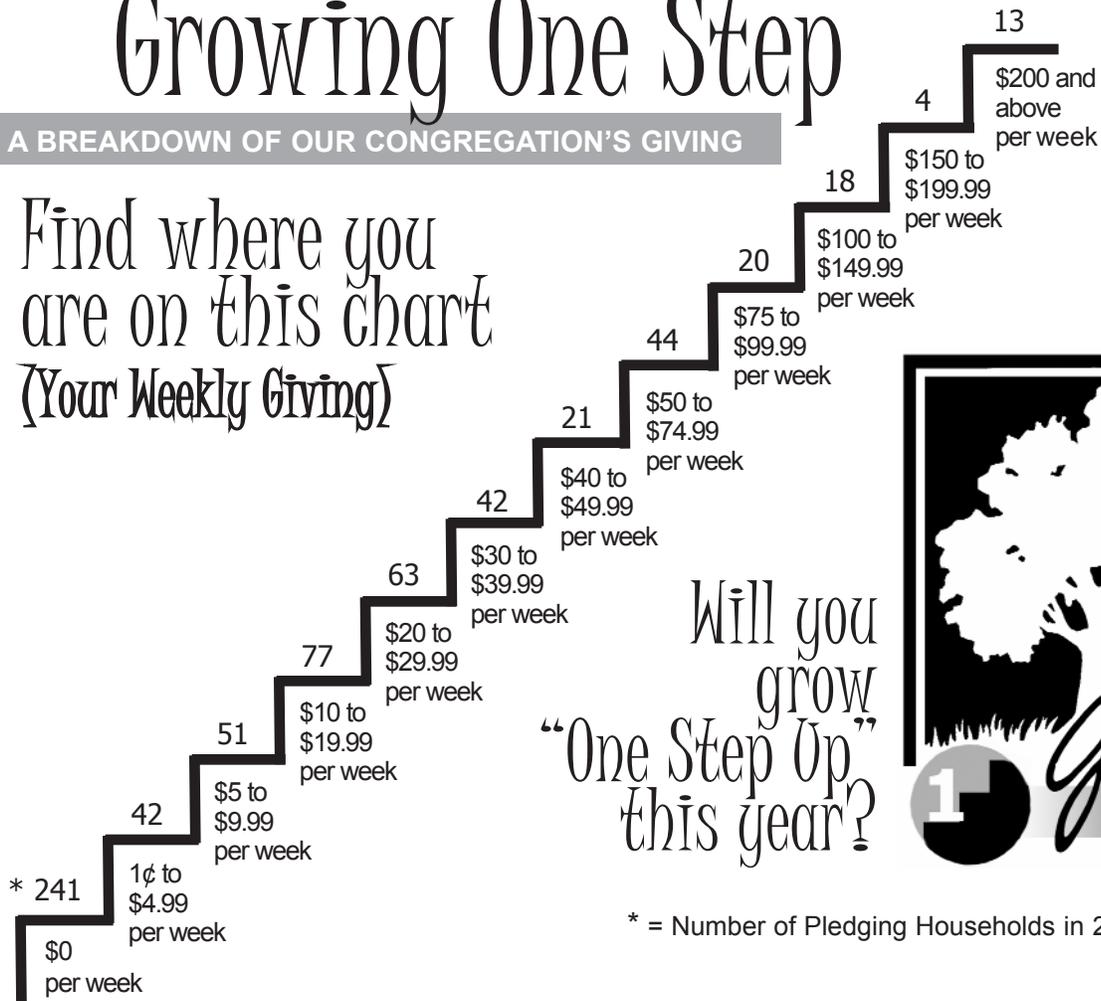
MELINDA STROBEL OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Melinda Strobel is a talented actress and gifted speaker. She has appeared in numerous theatrical productions, but is most well known in this area for her stirring portrayal of Susannah Wesley. You won't want to miss this unique and dynamic challenge in regards to our financial stewardship.

Growing One Step

A BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING

Find where you are on this chart
(Your Weekly Giving)



Will you grow
"One Step Up"
this year?



* = Number of Pledging Households in 2003



A SAMPLE OF AN ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

This is a picture of our Estimate Of Giving Card for next year, 2005. I invite you to look it over to familiarize yourself with it. You will receive your Estimate Of Giving Card in a Stewardship Packet given to you as you enter the sanctuary on Consecration Sunday, October 10th. If you are unable to attend the worship service on Consecration Sunday, we will send you an Estimate of Giving Card by mail as soon as possible.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD



Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to **GROW** in my giving.

- STEP UP BEYOND TITHING**
My desire is to do more than God's minimum.
- STEP UP TO TITHING**
I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.
- STEP UP TOWARD TITHING**
I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.

MY COMMITMENT IS:

\$ _____

PER WEEK
 PER MONTH
 PER YEAR

Portland First United Methodist Church

adults sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134. Do you enjoy discussing faith relevant literature as a means of continuing your spiritual development? Come to this class for lively discussion as well as fellowship and sharing our experiences in the Holy Spirit. We have just begun a study of the book: *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg. Books are available during class time. Drop in the class any time. Everyone is welcome.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00-10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Discussion centers on living a Christian life in a world of change. The usual format is shared leadership in discussion of a contemporary book written by a respected scholar.

55 ALIVE

55-Alive Mature Driving is a unique program for older drivers. Have you always intended to take this program or is it time to take it again? It will be offered next on November 18-19 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Outstanding AARP leader, Norman Friedman, teaches this course for drivers 55 years of age and over. Preregistration is required, with Cheryl Luce. Cost is \$10, checks to: AARP.

fellowship first church hikers

Our final hike of the year will be on Saturday, October 23, to Silver Falls State Park about a five mile hike. Meet at 8:00 AM at the church to carpool. Cost is \$6-8 for the carpool, entrance fee and an optional snack. We should be back at the church by 5PM. Contact Paula at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737 to participate or if you have any questions.

umw united methodist women

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

WOMEN'S OPEN AGENDA

Wednesday, October 13, Fireside Room, 6:30 PM Social Hour, 7:00 PM Meeting, and 8:00 PM Open Agenda. Elizabeth Walton will share stories of her two military daughters who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Information: Ruth Green, 503/698-8420

FAITH GUILD,

Wednesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. Parlor, Hostess & Devotions: Jo Woodley Program: Public Education, a UMW Study, by Trudy Kayser Information: Hazel Wells 503/652-6274

RUTH GUILD

Wednesday, October 20, Noon in Room 204, Program: Public Education, a UMW study, by Trudy Kayser Information: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

READING GROUP

Thursday, October 21, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Library, Program: Marilyn Outslay will lead a discussion on "Methodists at Risk." Both men & women invited. Information: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445.

UMW OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

When: Saturday, October 23, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at First United Methodist Church, Eugene, OR, Cost: \$7.00. Lunch provided. Program: "135 Years. Handful of Women in Mission" Mission Outreach: Hands on opportunity, no sitting around in the afternoon. Registration deadline: October 15. Call Trudy Kayser 503-292-7528 for registration forms.

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.



ORDER TICKETS FOR OUR NEXT THEATER PARTY

Little Shop of Horrors will be presented Sunday, October 24, 2004 at 6:00 PM in Keller Auditorium. This is a musical comedy masterpiece about a loser, the girl he loves and the man-eating plant that is about to change their lives forever! Seating: Orchestra D, Row S & U, cost: \$55.35 and First Balcony D, Row D & E, cost: \$50.85. Contact Cheryl Luce to order tickets at 503/228-3195 ext. 227.

BALLOT MEASURE 36

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TAKES ACTION FOLLOWING DISCERNMENT

Beginning last spring and continuing through the past month, First UMC has sponsored forums on the topic of same-sex marriage, with the aim of engaging our congregation in dialogue (or as John Wesley might put it, "holy conferencing") on a timely issue that also commands our attention in November's election.

Last spring, a general session on the same-sex marriage garnered a large attendance. Just a few weeks ago we revisited the issue with a more specific presentation about the pros and cons of Ballot Measure 36 (which qualified for November's ballot after our spring forum). Then on September 19 members of First UMC gathered for a time of prayer and spiritual reflection, engaging in the discipline of spiritual discernment to ask the question: "What is God's will for our congregation on this topic?"

Reflecting on these events and the outcomes of the discernment process, the Leadership Council at its September 22 meeting approved this resolution:

We are United Methodists who believe that our Christian faith demands social justice and equality. We confess that as a body we are not of one mind on the right to marry or the definition of marriage, and we seek to discern God's will for us and our human relationships. However, we oppose any state or federal constitutional amendments or laws that would deny equal protections, equal rights, the enumerated privileges or immunities guaranteed by the constitution to citizens regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Therefore, we recommend a No vote on Ballot Measure 36, which seeks to amend the Oregon Constitution by defining legal marriage as being only between a man and a woman.

This resolution was considered and voted upon after considerable dialogue and prayer. Key to the Leadership Council's action was, first, an acknowledgment of First UMC's historic and longstanding support of civil rights. And at the same time, the Leadership Council also recognized that this question engenders other opinions, varying and also valid. Reconciling these two points of views resulted in the language you read above.

Briefly, here's how to understand the Leadership Council's action on behalf of our congregation: We endorse equal civil rights for everyone. We are not yet of one mind on the question of same-sex marriage. We turn to God to discern God's will for us. In the meantime, we reject the human measures that would interfere with our discernment. We earnestly seek to continue our prayer and study.

Such a result likely will not surprise most United Methodists. After all, John Wesley pretty much suggested as much: On essential matters of Christian belief, he preached, Methodists are united; but on non-essential matters, he added, Methodists "think, and let think." And, he said, they pray.

Even today, as we attend to current issues and headlines, our heritage of relying on Scripture, tradition, reason and experience continues to be relevant, it thrives, and it indwells still in our every act.

Hear what Spirit is saying to the Church: Thanks be to God. Amen!

children
and family life at first

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Bunnicola: A Hare-Raising Play by the NW Children's Theater is showing October 31 at 2:00 PM followed by a Halloween Party. Tickets are \$25 per person for the play and party. Contact Agnes Zach, Children and Family Ministry coordinator at 503/228-3195 for details.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Protecting Our Children: A Workshop on Child Abuse will be presented by Teri Poppino on Wednesday, November 10 at 6:30 PM in Room 202. This presentation is designed for Sunday School teachers, volunteers with youth and children, as well as parents and community volunteers. RSVP with Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 or azach@fumcpdx.org. Child care will be provided.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2005

For \$30.00 you can have a year of savings! Entertainment Books are sold each Sunday after church in Collins Hall or call Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 ext. 229 to have one set aside for you during the week. All proceeds go the Family Ministry Program for parent education.

important!
special events for first

GREET OUR NEW BISHOP

A Service of Celebration of Assignment for Bishop Robert Hoshibata will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at 7:00 PM at First UMC. Come and join us for worship, music, and celebration as we formally welcome our new bishop. A reception will follow the service.

FALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Annual Fall Church Conference will be on Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 PM in Lake Oswego at the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church.

this & that

save these dates ...

THE 15th ANNUAL SALEM PEACE LECTURE

The 15th Annual Salem Peace Lecture will be Wednesday, October 20, at 7:30 PM in Hudson Hall of the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center of Willamette University. The lecture will feature Chris Hedges speaking on: *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. It is open to the public and there is no charge.

CHRISTIAN DRAMA

First Baptist Church's West End Theater presents: *The Beams Are Creaking*, an inspiring, powerful, and true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who defied the Nazis. The play will be presented on Fridays and Saturdays from October 22 – November 6 at 7:30 PM and Sundays, October 24 and 31 at 2:00 PM. There will be a pre-show lecture a half-hour prior to show-time. The production will be presented at the West End Theater, 1220 SW Taylor in downtown Portland.

A WORKSHOP ON FORGIVENESS

A workshop entitled: *Holding a Grudge May Be Hazardous to Your Health* by Judy Brodkey. It will be held on Saturday, October 23 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st, Portland. The cost is \$75 to \$45 and is on a sliding scale for individuals. To register or for more information, call 503/234-1012 or email her at j246brodkey@aol.com.

SPECIAL CHORAL CONCERT

Gloria featuring the Revalia Men's Chamber Choir of Tallinn, Estonia Portland Boychoir, Unistus, and the Pacific Crest Wind Symphony will be presented on October 24, at 6:00 PM, at First UMC. For more information contact Barbara Stevens at 503/697-3872.



the church library

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

Thanks to everyone who has shared their book wealth with us! We have received a wonderful array of books from the membership, and these donations are greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, space and other considerations prevent us from cataloging all of these books in our permanent collection. If you want us to return a donated book to you, in the case that we can't retain it, please leave us a note in the book.

A friendly reminder: books are due three weeks after the checkout date. We are diligently trying to send out reminders for books that do not return in four weeks. However, if you have one or more of our books from a former year – or 1another life – please bring them in. We promise not to question you unduly!

who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Our pastor recently quoted a group which uses as one of the standards for measuring political candidates by “measuring their policies against ... a range of Christian ethics and values” including, among several other things, “gender equality.” That, to our shame, is a johnny-come-lately to Methodists. Although John Wesley himself commissioned women as Lay Preachers, the chief bodies of American Methodism did not permit their ordination until 1956, and the first woman ordained in Oregon-Idaho was in 1960. In this church, women had to maneuver to have any official participation at all. That was part of the Women's Rights Movement of the last half of the 19th century, and the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary societies were one of their means. They were organized by women and for women, often against the advice/wishes/power of male pastors. In Oregon, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in 1867 raised \$11.50 from seven churches and offered it to the Annual Conference, so it had to be given to a male pastor to present the women's gift to the missionary cause! Women could not participate by membership or voting in local church administrative bodies until 1912. More than half of the membership were women, but the 1954 Building Committee which planned the first unit of our present building had only one woman. In 1960, or so, when the Trustees were trying to pay off the indebtedness on the building the women had \$10,000 which they had raised for a new kitchen and a “parlor” (neither of which had been included in the original construction). They were asked to give it for the retirement of the indebtedness. They did so on two conditions: 1.) the next unit of construction had to include a full kitchen and a parlor (which were met by the present kitchen serving Collins Hall and the Fireside Room); and 2.) there had to be a woman on the new building committee. The struggle for inclusive language (not always referring to God as a male - “Father,” “he,” etc) is even more recent and not yet fully won. The 1988 Methodist Hymnal, which we use, made some tentative steps in that direction, but refused to be thorough. Many of the anthems used by our choirs blatantly ignore the problem. Physician, heal thyself!
- The Archives and History Committee

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for ...

The Brockman and Hohnstein families, George Hohnstein's memorial will be October 10 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary. A reception will follow.

The Clark family on the death of Donna's mother in Arkansas;

The Butler and Ailes family on the death of Celia Butler;

Leah Sawyer, who fell and broke her hip;

Jane Rhodes, who is on a new chemotherapy treatment;

Jan Marshall, who is hospitalized;

Linda Hampton, who has been ill.

We continue prayers for ...

Maxine Brown, Roy Rogers, Agnes Clark and Estella Earls.

smile church photo directory

You can still be included in the church photo directory. If it is a professionally taken photo, we must have a release from the company. We have release forms in the church office. However, a "snapshot" is acceptable. Put your name, address and phone number on the back and to the church office no later than Sunday, October 17th. If you have questions, call Edie Jensen at 503/624-0229.

thank you

from parishoners

FROM IOLA HALLIGAN

Thanks to the United Methodist Women for my "farewell" during the Coffee Hour on September 26th. Thanks to all who spoke to me personally, who gave cards with wonderful comments, and the monetary gifts. It has been 24 wonderful years;

FROM SUSAN MCKINNEY

Thank you for your cards, meals, flowers, and well wishes during my recent bicycle accident and injury. Although I am not quite back to 100%, I am much better thanks to your prayers. I look forward to seeing you in church soon.



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 20, 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.