



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

the E edition

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

CONSECRATION SUNDAY A

October 20, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 21

**THIS
SUNDAY**
OCTOBER 24 2004

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.

HOWLING SUCCESS

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON: A BLAST

The Consecration Sunday worship service and Celebration Luncheon made October 10th an exciting day at First Church. Susanna Wesley (Melinda Strobel) was spellbinding and her lesson at Children's Time had them literally howling like wolves. Then her powerful sermon inspired new understanding of our money's place in a Christian life. The worship service was followed by a festive Celebration Luncheon. Jonas surprised us with the inaugural playing of the Wurlitzer Theater Organ in Collins Hall. It was really a blast!

We rejoiced to have received 237 Estimate of Giving Cards from individuals and families. This means that on Consecration Sunday over sixty-percent of our households have made their commitment to support God's work through our church. Almost forty-percent have chosen to step up in their giving. I am very grateful for this generous response to God's call. Your tithes and offerings are the financial backbone of our church as we become an even more effective part of the body of Christ in the world today.

I also want to thank the members of our Financial Stewardship Committee including the wonderful volunteers who set the tables and made the meal and the youth who served it. Our guest speaker, Melinda Strobel, was fabulous, just the inspiration we needed. What a great group of people giving testament to God's glory. Your generosity is again a reminder of God's grace!

However, we are not yet done. We need to have all of our members and friends who have not yet completed an Estimate of Giving card do so. And please do so soon, so your Estimate of Giving can be included in the total sum upon which our church will base its ministries in 2005. Everyone's gifts are important, but they are most important when they are most effectively used.

Art Kayser, Chair, Financial Stewardship Chair

Have you completed your Estimate of Giving Card? If not, please do so soon. Every gift is very important; now, when our ministries for 2005 are being planned.

*Lost your Estimate of Giving card?
Call the church office. 503/228-3195.*



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

"Now watch what you say, son!" my mother quickly enjoined her impetuous young boy when she sensed I was about to blurt out something impulsive. Dr. Deborah Tannen would like to say that to the nation --particularly in these pre-election days of partisan polemics.

Tannen is the distinguished professor of linguistics at Georgetown University and the author of numerous books and articles about the social impact of language.

She is particularly concerned with our tendency, nurtured by the media, to approach every problem as if it were a fight between two sides.*

"We see it in our public conversations, which are always debates, get the most polarized extremes, put them on, let them slug it out. And we see it in an attack culture where journalists, intellectuals of all sorts think unless you're attacking and criticizing, you're not really thinking. It's a general atmosphere of animosity and contention that has taken over our public discourse." (interview with David Gergen, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, March 27, 1998 accessed at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/gergen/march98/tannen_3-27.html on Oct 17, 2004)

Significant issues seldom have just two alternatives and in the simplification it becomes impossible for leaders to find compromise and consensus. Not only has the political process been paralyzed, but, in a paper published in August, the professor observed,

"the personal connection between citizens and nation...has broken down, replaced by an adversarial stance of citizens toward their government... Rather than regarding the government as "ours"--a source of services that better citizens' lives--many Americans now see the services the government provides as their due, while regarding the government that provides those services as an enemy force." (Tannen, Deborah, "We the Government: Repairing the rift between citizen and state," *The American Prospect Online*, August 1, 2004, accessed at: <http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=ViewPrint&articleId=8144> on October 17, 2004)

While Tannen's studies focused on the government, mass media and political discourse, I suspect her analysis can be applied to most organizations-even the church. The fabric of unity that binds United Methodists together has been stretched and tattered by rhetoric that simplifies centuries of rich and textured discussion of the Bible and of faith into either "progressive" or "conservative." Our "General Conference"--the only group that can officially speak for the church --- was rent by polarization and animosity. We seem unable to come together to find a consensus on significant issues of church life and public witness. The sense of ownership and support for ministries beyond the local church is waning.

It doesn't have to be this way. The Doctor offers a prescription for America to move beyond the acrimony:

"Reclaim compromise and conciliation in our own exchanges. Be more careful in choosing the words we use. Put ourselves in the other guy's shoes. Look beyond "the other side" to "another side" or "other sides." Reframe polarizing choices to find a third -- or fourth -- solution. Take the "argument" out of our argument culture. We can live with what's left." (summary of and interview from *The Paula Gordon Show* accessed at <http://www.paulagordon.com/shows/tannen/> on Oct 17, 2004)

It's not bad medicine for our church. Like my mother said, "Now watch what you say!"

See you in church

Arvin

*cf. Tannen, Deborah, *The Argument Culture: Moving from Debate to Dialogue*, Random House 1998.

ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

November 7, 2004 2 PM
Lake Oswego UMC
A New Way for a New Day

The annual Church Conference is a key moment in our congregation's life.

Everyone is invited and welcome to share in reviewing the life and ministries of our church and capturing a vision for the future. The meeting is convened by the District Superintendent--because that office is in transition, our meeting will be led by Central District Superintendent, The Rev. John Watts.

This year the meeting will be in a new context and have a different shape. Since the Conference has asked each congregation to link with others in a "Connecting Mission" (we are paired with Lake Oswego UMC) our annual church conferences will be held together. The emphasis will be talking together about how our mutual ministries can be enhanced and extended by our "connection."

Leaders and members from both congregations will meet at Lake Oswego's building (1855 So. Shore Blvd in Lake Oswego--maps will be available) at 2:00 PM. After a time of worship together, we'll separate into congregational meetings to receive and approve the reports from the individual charges, then return to a common session to vision our ministries together. We expect to conclude by 3:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome and will have 'voice.' All church members have a vote.

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.

ushering please volunteer

Have you considered ushering? Ushers report for duty at 10:00 AM and finish around 11:45 AM. We will do our best to make you comfortable with your duties. If you can't commit to one Sunday a month, consider adding your name to the on-call list and be called in an emergency? Contact: Scott Gratton at 503/256-0010 or email him at jandsgratton@comcast.net.

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*

UMW OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

When: Saturday, October 23, 9:00 AM. to 3:30 PM
Where: First United Methodist Church, Eugene, OR
Cost: \$7.00. Lunch provided. Program: "A Handful of Women in Mission"
Call Trudy Kayser for a ride.

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, October 27, 10:00 a.m. Parlor

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m. Room 204.
Program: Public Education, School of Mission Study, by Trudy Kayser
Information: Joanne Weiss, 503-292-5947

UMW UNIT GATHERING

Wednesday, November 03, Fireside Room 10:00 AM Meeting. Pledge Service. Bring offering of \$1.35 to commemorate our 135 years of mission.
11:00: Program by Susan Glick: Shopping in 10,000 Villages. Connecting with crafters from around the World. Shop with a social conscience. Hand crafted items will be available for purchase. A luncheon at noon. Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

Friday, November 05, First AME Zion Church, 4304 North Vancouver, Portland, OR
Program: "In Faith, Women Shape the Future for Peace."
Information: Betty-Lou Hare, 503-292-1773.

groups & committees please take note

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.

T.A.G. HALLOWEEN PARTY

The T.A.G. (The Adult Gang) fellowship group will have a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 23, at 7:00 PM at Marc and Sandi Wood's. To RSVP call Jeanne Teisher at 503/574-4557 or email her at: jteisher97007@yahoo.com

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet in Room 202 at 12:30 PM, Saturday, November 6, for a potluck dinner and program. Our speaker, T. J. Browning, will advise us on how to be "Smart and Safe Seniors." For more than five years she has worked with groups helping seniors and others avoid being victims of scam games. Guest are welcome. Please contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356 to RSVP.

GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE

The Global Mission Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 11, at 5:30 PM in the Library.

children

and family life at first

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 to the Family Ministry Program for parent education.

ACTIVITY BAGS

Children's Activity Bags can be found each Sunday morning before worship on the visitors table in the narthex. Also there are Children's Bulletins—one for ages 3-6 and another for ages 7-12. Please pick up a bag and bulletin for your child to enjoy while in the sanctuary. Once the worship service starts, any bags not taken will be placed in the sanctuary on the first pew in the middle back section. If you see a young child remaining in worship and think they would enjoy having an Activity Bag please feel free to quietly get up and get one for the child. Bags should be returned to the table in the narthex after worship. Children are encouraged to take the coloring page and bulletin home with them.



directory

photo directory update

More than 330 individuals and families will be smiling out at you in the new church photo directory. Having this many portraits made means an abundance of volunteers worked to make it happen. Peg Cook recruited 48 people to serve as hosts and hostesses at the church during the photo sessions. Anne Kayser found 12 who each made more than twenty phone calls to invite people to make photo appointments. And it all began with 22 people making and encouraging photo appointments in two locations on seven Sundays!

Our special thanks to these people:

Appointment Sign-Ups: Sue Luchs; Carrie Saito; Yvonne Williams; Joan Jozwiak; Rosemary Dodds; Melissa West; Joanne Weiss; Char Dietterich; Carla Oesterle; Tamara Mucha; Cathy Connall; Lila Palmiter; Virginia Bender; Collen & Tom Foster; Gwyneth Rochlin; Karen & Loren Smith; Mary & John Coppett; Kelly Allan; and, Betty Lou Hare.

Photo Session Host/Hostesses: Caroline Crumpacker; Betty Lou Hare; Bob & Judy Hetzer; Ruth Green; Walt O'Kell; Jim & Betsy Elliott; Carrie Saito; Gloria Mizer; Lila & Dick Palmiter; Marion Hollenberg; Rosemary Dodds; Paul Adams; Paul Nickell; Mary & John Coppett; Bob & Joann Weiss; Jim & Joan Jozwiak; Gwyneth Rochlin; Norman White; Shirley Carlson; Marva Guenther; Sharon & Bev Graver; Keiko Archer; Sadame Tsunenaga; Frank & Louise Hodapp; Char Dietterich; Betty Hager; Doug & Frey Stearns; Bruce & Judy Rogers; Diane & Larry Sawyer; Gloria & Steve Tillotson; Leah Vislisel; Pat Rullman; Sandra & Marcus Wood; Linda Talluto; and Nadine Schechtman.

Telephone Callers: Joanne Cannon; Janet & Cal Brockman, Jr.; Julia Kayser; Martha Connell; Marilen McGill; Rosemary Dodds; Marsha Freed; Leah Vislisel; Hazel Balcomb; Jane Rhodes; and, Anne Kayser.

Many, many thanks to all!

Edie Jensen, Photo Directory Coordinator

global outreach

mission trip to Guatemala

First UMC members Marge and Leif Terdal will join the Oregon-Idaho Conference Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trip to Guatemala from November 20 to December 3. Marge is making her first trip to Guatemala; Leif has been there before. The VIM team, consisting of 15 volunteers, will be based in Chichicastenango.

To aid in the VIM endeavor, the following donations are being sought: Clothing for children birth to age 16, School Supplies, Sunglasses, Vitamins - (adult, children's and pre-natal) Tylenol and/or Ibuprofen, Personal care items Medical Supplies: cough medicine for children, Tums, Pepto Bismal tablets, diaper rash medication, triple antibiotic creme, Desitin, multiple daily vitamins and calcium tablets.

Beginning Sunday, October 24, and continuing through Sunday, November 14, a collection box will be placed in the Narthex for donations. A send-off potluck is planned for after church on November 14 at 12:30 PM in Room 202.

For additional information contact the Terdals at 503/244-5714 or email terdalm@pdx.edu.



special music

the willamette university chamber choir

The Willamette University Chamber Choir will be singing for our November 7th 10:30 AM worship service. The Willamette Chamber Choir, directed by Dr. Long, is a 48-voice ensemble open by audition to all Willamette University students. A wide variety of literature selected from the Renaissance through the contemporary periods is studied and performed each year. The group tours annually throughout the Northwest and is frequently invited to perform at music conventions and workshops held by the American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference and Oregon Music Educators Association. In the summer of 2004, the Chamber Choir toured South Africa at the invitation of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In the spring of 2005, the Choir will tour California.



music

sound seekers children's choir

We welcome Ronnee Edwards to our music staff as the conductor of our Sound Seekers Choir. Ronnee was bitten by the performing bug early. At the age of 4 she sang her first solo and she hasn't looked back since! Ronnee is excited to be involved with the music program here at FUMC. Sharing the joy of music, especially young people, brings a smile to her heart and a bounce to her step.

Sound Seekers Choir meets every Sunday morning in Room 136 from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. They will sing for our morning worship several times during the year. There have been hints of this group doing a musical in the spring. If you have children in grades three through six, this is the choir at FUMC for them. They are fortunate to have Daniel Sene as their accompanist.

ha!

A young girl excitedly told her elementary teacher what she had learned in Sunday School: "Jonah was swallowed by a whale!" "Do you really believe that?" replied the sceptical teacher. "Yes, and when I get to heaven I'm going to ask him about it!" "But what if Jonas isn't in 'heaven,' little girl?" The girl thought and then replied, "Then YOU can ask him about it!"

who are we?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Talking a week or so ago to a group about the "Architecture and Symbolism" of our building brought to mind again the fact that we have an altar in our sanctuary. I would guess that no Methodist of retirement age ever saw an altar in a Methodist Church in his/her childhood, while many of those under 60 have seen them all their lives. One of the ironies of my own lifetime is that in 1949 I wrote an article which was published in a Methodist magazine for ministers, entitled: *No Altars for Protestants*, and every church I served after that, with one lonely exception, had an altar! My article in 1949 was inspired by the obvious trend of the times in remodeling and new building toward using altars, which was the outcome of evangelical Protestantism's early 20th century being smitten with the godliness of older Christian architecture: either that of Christopher Wren (of which one sees a great deal of in southern churches) or medieval Gothic, which one sees in the First United Methodist Church of Evanston or Riverside in New York City, which were built in the first third of the century. This was accompanied by a revival of interest in more formal worship, use of "liturgical colors," robed ministers, etc. The architect of our present building said that the shape of our altar was patterned after that of primitive Old Testament altars (piles of stones). So far as I know he never explained why he faced it with polished granite! It has never been fully functional -- it is too high and too far from the communion rail to use in that service (and it is outdated by even Roman Catholicism's recognition in the 60s that a *table* should be used for that purpose). It is good for the uses we make of it: flowers and the presentation of the offering. My argument in 1949 was, basically, that altars were invented and used for animal sacrifice, and that is their basic symbolism. And I still contend that therefore they are inappropriate in a Protestant church.

Archives and History Committee

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for ...

Dick & Mary Sagara and their family, on the death of Dick's father;
Nancy Nordwall's brother, Charles Thomas, diagnosed with cancer;
Rick Fortner, who is anticipating heart surgery;
Tom & Colleen Foster, on the death of Tom's eldest sister: Crete Sager.
Rev. Brenda Sene and family, upon the death of Roy Rogers. There will be
a service on Saturday, October 30th at 1:00 PM in the Chapel.

We continue prayers for ...

Linda Hampton, Jane Rhodes, Jan Marshall, Agnes Clark, Leah Sawyer,
and *Estella Earls*.

Prayers of thanksgiving for ...

Zoe Hertlein, the daughter of Adam & Trista Hertlein;
Madeine Henion, the daughter of Greg & Whitney Henion;
Houston Marshall, the daughter of Michael & MyraJean Marshall.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION ...

"Dearest Friends, Thank you so much
for your continued prayers and support.
My heart is still there with you every
Sunday morning!"

- Tom Iverson



our giving

an update

OUR GIVING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

YEAR-TO-DATE-GIVING

\$535,519

YEAR-TO-DATE PLEDGED
(prorated estimate)

\$615,000

SHORTFALL

-\$79,481



On
Saturday
night,
October 30,
set your
clocks
back one
hour.

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
November 3, 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.