



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

November 17, 2004
Volume 8, Issue 23

the **E** edition



THIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 21, 2004

8:30 am
Informal
Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

**Thanksgiving
Sunday and
Third Grade
Bible Presentation**

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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- 8:30 AM Special Adult Advent Class with Chuck Klang
Christmas Music: Ancient and Modern
- 10:30 AM Worship: The First Sunday of Advent
- 11:30 AM 4th-12th Grade—Lunch and “Hanging of the Greens”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 9:00 AM Special Adult Advent Class with Dr. McGaughy
The Magi and the Object of Faith
- 10:30 AM Worship: Communion
- 11:30 AM Christmas Faire & Chili Feed (11:30 am - 1:00 pm)

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 11 & 18

- 9:00 AM Parent's Day Out (9:00 am to 1:00 pm)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 9:00 AM Special Adult Advent Class with Dr. McGaughy
The Virgin Birth and the Morality of Faith
- 10:30 AM Worship: The Chancel Choir presents:
Vivaldi's Gloria

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:00 AM Special Adult Advent Class with Dr. McGaughy
Angels and the Content of Faith
- 10:30 AM Worship: Children's Processional & Lessons and Carols
- 12:00 PM Parent's Afternoon Out (noon to 4:00 pm)
- 2:00 PM Christmas Desserts
- 3:00 PM All-Church Christmas Caroling

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 5:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service of Las Posadas
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Service
- 9:00 PM Candlelight Service
- 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

“All for one and one for all!” the rallying cry rang out. It wasn’t a clutch of swashbuckling renegades. It was a gathering of United Methodist leaders—lay and clergy—from across Oregon and southern Idaho. It wasn’t the rebel yell of the gallant d’Artangan, but the reasoned thoughts of

our Conference’s Director of Connectional Ministries, Scott Harkness. It wasn’t a retelling of Dumas’ *Three Musketeers*, but a new way of looking at a central value of United Methodism. We believe that we are more effective in ministry when we work together.

John Wesley once said that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. He was saying that our personal faith flourishes in a community of believers—and he also meant that our communities of faith are more effective when they join hands in mission. He called it “connexion” and made sure that every class, every preaching place and every mission was related to the whole society. 300 years later we declare our “connection” to be central to the “Methodist Way.” Our book of order, *The Discipline*, states, “Connectionalism...is multi-leveled, global in scope, and local in thrust...It is...a vital web of interactive relationships.”

(para 130)

Harkness described each congregation as a mission station focused on making disciples of Jesus Christ and our regional conference a network of ‘discipling centers.’ He added, “The conference needs each ministry setting to accomplish our connectional mission...each ministry setting needs the conference...to help provide the connectional reach of ministry beyond the local level.”

That “Connection” came to life in our worship service last Sunday.

Our new bishop, Bob Hoshibata, shared in worship and delivered our morning message. The demands on a bishop’s time are daunting. They are the spiritual leaders of our connection. In addition, they are charged with the administration and oversight of the mission of the conference, the personnel management of the clergy, as well as responsibilities to lead in the national and international church. We are grateful that he and his wife, Greta, were able to schedule a visit so early in his tenure. But it is especially poignant that they brought the perspective of the world-wide church to our congregation and our pulpit.

During that same worship service, with our children’s help, we commissioned Drs. Leif and Marge Terdal to a Volunteer in Mission effort in Guatemala. They fly to Central America later this week. Over the next few weeks they’ll be doing construction, visiting orphanages and delivering clothes and vitamins to poverty-stricken communities. They are part of a team of volunteers from across our region. Over the years we’ve sent a substantial number of First Church members to join forces with United Methodists from across the country in offering help and support not only to Central America, Africa, India, but also mission efforts within the United States. Others have participated by providing financial support as well as clothes, medicines and school supplies that are distributed on the mission field.

In that service we not only received from the wider connection—we offered our best effort back to it. “Connection” is not an organizational principle—it is a dynamic relationship. “All for one and one for all.”

See you in Church!

Arvin

CHRISTMAS Faire

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

Sponsored by
Children’s Ministries &
Youth Ministries

- God’s Eyes
- Craft Projects
- Advent Countdown
- Christmas Ornaments
- Christmas Cookies
- Advent Wreath Making
- Crafts
- Advent Wreaths
- Scholastic Book Fair

11:30 AM
COLLINS HALL



\$3 a bowl



GREENS NEEDED

Evergreen boughs, holly, and other Christmas greens are needed for the Christmas Faire. Drop them off at Collins Hall on Sunday, December 5th.

adults at advent

sunday classes

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

On Sunday, **November 28**, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM in the Parlor, Chuck Klang will play selections from his collection of ancient and modern Christmas music. Selections will include: *Gaudete Christus est natus* (anonymous 1582), *Star In the East* (An American shape-note hymn, 1859), *Ave Maria* by Rachmaninoff, as well as carols from many lands. Program notes will precede each piece. Please feel free to come and go during this time, (silently, if during the playing of music.) A listing of performances of local groups will be provided. Special Christmas treats will be available. Come and enjoy a relaxing time of music.



DR. McGAUGHY: THE HISTORICAL JESUS & CHRISTIAN FAITH

Orthodox Christian faith has been constructed around the creeds of the early church and their focus on Jesus as the divine son of God and second member of the Trinity. Biblical scholarship since the Enlightenment has been searching for the historical figure of Jesus of Nazareth behind the creeds. Does this historical figure of Jesus have any relevance for Christian faith? If so, how would this unfolding knowledge of the historical Jesus affect our beliefs, ethics, and worship? What difference, if any, does the quest for the historical Jesus make for Christian faith?

The adult class, Changing Christianity, hosts this class featuring **Dr. Lane C. McGaughy**, George H. Atkinson Professor of Religion & Ethics Religious Studies at Willamette University.

Sunday, December 5 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room
THE MAGI AND THE OBJECT OF FAITH:
Must we accept the ancient worldview to be Christians?

Sunday, December 12 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room
THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND THE MORALITY OF FAITH:
In what sense is Jesus the redeemer from human finitude?

Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room
THE ANGELS AND THE CONTENT OF FAITH:
In what sense is Jesus the revealer of divine knowledge?

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134 and has just begun a study of the book: ***The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*** by Marcus Borg.

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 UNIT GATHERING

Wednesday, December 01, in the Fireside Room
10:00 AM Meeting and 11:00 AM Program: Music to Make the Heart Merry. Prepare your heart for the Christmas season. 12:00 PM Lunch will be served in Room 202. Bring unwrapped gifts for foster children. Selections may be toys or clothing appropriate for infants through high school age. OR bring wrapping paper & ribbons. OR bring a cash donation.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JOYCE HULSE

Sunday, November 28, during Coffee Hour after the worship service. Come and enjoy birthday cake as we celebrate Joyce Hulse's 90th birthday. We are appreciative of Joyce's many years of service to United Methodist Women. All are welcome.

No UMW Executive Board in November.

library

opportunity to serve

The Church Library is seeking a volunteer to staff the library once a month on Sunday morning. No skills are required, although a love of books would be helpful. If you are interested, please call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761.

your health

blood pressure checks

The Health and Welfare Committee of First Church is moving free blood pressure checks to the second Tuesday of each month. They are available in Collins Hall following Coffee Hour.

For all of you who completed your Estimate of Giving cards:

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

You will make a positive difference for Christ!

If you are among those who have not yet completed your Estimate of Giving, cards are available in the pew racks and may be placed in the offering plate or check your mail and complete and return your card.

We invite you to prayerfully consider the question:

"What is God calling me to give?"

YOUR ANSWER WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.



Celebrating the Results of
CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Thank You for Your Generosity

- 359** Estimates of Giving cards returned as of November 12, 2004 (this represents about 91% of the total number of households who provided Estimates of Giving last year.)
- 147** have Stepped Up in their giving compared to last year.
- 53** Households completed Estimates of Giving for the first time at our church

As of November 15th the grand total of estimated giving is

\$762,398

our giving
an update

AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2004

YEAR-TO-DATE-GIVING

\$651,748

YEAR-TO-DATE PLEDGED
(prorated estimate)

\$717,499

SHORTFALL

-\$65,751

guatemala
global missions

Just in time for Christmas, a sale of Guatemalan gift items, sponsored by the Global Missions Committee and Los Amigos de Los Romeritos, will take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 12.

This sale is a means of providing financial assistance to Los Romeritos, a Guatemala City day care center that is supported by a number of UMVIM teams and the Oregon City UMC. Both Pat Williams and Dee Poujade visited this ministry last winter; Leif and Marge Terdal will be visiting it on their trip to Guatemala this winter.

Items available will include tote bags, fabric glass cases with carrying strap, miniature dolls in typical garb, pillow covers with embroidery of children around a world, purses, scarves, and delicious Panajachel Coffee beans. It's a perfect opportunity to pick up a few more holiday gifts or to buy a little something special for yourself!

*this
&
that*

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY ART BENEFIT

An art exhibit and sale will run through November 28th at the Blandena Coffee House, 4637 N. Albina Ave, Portland, OR. Local artists are making their work available to benefit Strength for the Journey. 100% of proceeds will be used to fund scholarships allowing persons with HIV/AIDS to experience a retreat opportunity where they can reflect, rest, and gain strength for the journey.

GET ME THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Ann Kister from Providence Community Outreach will offer help for persons who have experienced grief or loss, which can make the holiday season a difficult time. The FREE workshop will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday December 1st at the Tabor Heights United Methodist Church 6161 SE Stark Street, Portland. For info call the Tabor Heights UMC at 503/232-8500.

children sunday school open house



You are
invited to our

Sunday School OPEN HOUSE

November 21

After worship come to Collins Hall and enjoy a Sandwich Buffet (donations accepted) and congratulate the Third Grade Class on their new Bibles. Also it will be an opportunity to visit displays from each Sunday School class.

alternative christmas a project of global missions



2004

Does Dad really need another tie? Does Mom need another bottle of perfume? How about giving the gift that can make a difference? The Global Missions Committee has the perfect gift for everyone's shopping list - Alternative Christmas. For the four Sundays of Advent (beginning November

28), First UMC members and friends can shop at the Alternative Christmas table in Collins Hall, choosing a project that reflects the recipient's (or giver's) view of how to best make a difference.

Alternative Christmas projects for 2004 are:

- The Goose Hollow Family Shelter
- The Medical Clinic Salud y Paz in Guatemala
- Southern Philippine Methodist College (scholarships)
- Pastoral Support in Lithuania

Donations in any amount may be made to any or all of these projects, which are described in more detail in the literature that will be available at the table. And shopping couldn't be simpler - just write a check (or hand over some cash), and receive a gift card that can be used to notify the recipient of your gift! And move over, Santa!



Do you want to remember a friend or loved one who has passed away from HIV/AIDS? On Sunday, December 5, we will be remembering our loved ones by reading their names aloud in church. If you are interested, please write the person's name on the back of an attendance card and specify, "for AIDS Awareness Sunday." It's as simple as that!

who are we ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

I was recently asked to do a one-page history for our upcoming pictorial directory. This is what I wrote:

An 1844 land claim was given the name of Portland a year later and had a few rude log cabins. Within three years it also had a few Methodists, and not later than 1848 it had its first church of any denomination. The town had about 100 inhabitants and the church had seven members (which so far has been the highest proportion of members to inhabitants it has ever enjoyed.) The current membership of that church is pictured in this directory.

We built our first building in 1850 (which had the bell you can still see in our narthex), and subsequent ones in 1868, 1889; the present building dates from 1957-1971. We started out on the edge of "downtown" and we are still on the edge of downtown, and we have helped start about 40 other Methodist Churches (not all of which still exist) in Portland, as well as many others in Oregon and Idaho.

We have survived through the great flood of 1861, the great fire of 1873, the Columbus Day storm of 1962, recurring financial "panics," the Great Depression, thirty nine Presidential elections and sent service people to the Civil, Spanish-American, First and Second World, Korean, Vietnamese, Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraqi wars. Among our members have been laborers, homemakers, skilled workers, school teachers and administrators, professors, police, professionals, business and industrial and civic leaders, governors, and members of Congress.

A few years ago a small earthquake rocked a college campus in the middle of the night, awakening almost everyone; one student shouted, "It's an earthquake!" and another answered, "I think there's one under my bed too!" That is a graphic description of our time: we are feeling troubling tremors and there is an earthquake under almost every bed. But in God's providence we believe that this church's work has just begun and we are privileged to have a part in it.

History & Archives Committee

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

We offer prayers for ...

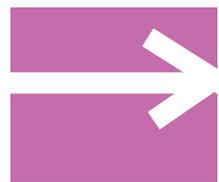
Larry and Diane Sawyer, upon the death of *Leah Sawyer*. Her memorial service will be Saturday, November 20, at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.;
Jean Baker and family, on the death of *Dorothy Fortune*, a Celebration Reception will be held Sunday, November 28 at 2:00 PM in Fireside;
David Poindexter, who is recovering from surgery;
Elizabeth Burnert, who is leaving for military duty;
Rick Fortner, who had surgery recently.

We continue prayers for ...

Jane Rhodes, *Agnes Clark*, *Estella Earls*, *Tom Iverson*, *Bob Ross*, and *Eleanor Stubbs*.

We congratulate ...

Marilyn Outslay, who was elected co-president of the national board of the Methodist Federation for Social Action during a mid-October directors' meeting in Chicago, Illinois.



God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Prayer: Don't give God instructions, report for duty!



One of First UMC's most senior members is celebrating her 100th birthday on December 2, 2004. **Lela Lawrenson** joined our church on November 10, 1929, when our church was located at 12th and Taylor, and she was able to regularly attend worship services until about five years ago.

She is celebrating her birthday with an Open House from noon to 8:00 PM on Saturday, December 4th. Please come and visit. No gifts, but **cards for her scrapbook** would be welcome.

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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 December 1, 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.