



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

January 12, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 1

THIS SUNDAY

JANUARY 16, 2005

8:30 am
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 am

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Agnes Zach

Liturgist

Ron Williams



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.

CHERYL LUCE A LIFE OF MINISTRY

It is with fond reflection that we recall the last 20 years at First UMC. That is the amount of time Cheryl Luce has given us since arriving in Oregon in 1981, having been raised in the great Midwestern state of Michigan. After a brief time attending other United Methodist churches in the metropolitan area, Cheryl quickly seized the opportunity to become Director of Christian Education at FUMC in 1984, during the ministry of Rev. Askew Crumbley. She trained for this type of ministry at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Illinois, receiving a Masters in Christian Education in 1977. Since that time she has enhanced her education with a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology from PSU in 1994. She has worked with four senior pastors, one interim, seven associate pastors and nine youth directors.

Which of us hasn't enjoyed the Fall Frolic retreat, begun in 1987 at Suttle Lake Camp, the Winter Carnival, the Christmas Faire and Chili Lunch, the Hands-On Palm Sunday crafts, Summer Sizzlers, all-church clean-up days, Third Grade Bible overnights, Vacation Bible Schools, or a fine educational experience on Sunday mornings with Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh, Lane McGaughy or another theologian? All of these things have been made possible through Cheryl's creative vision for ministry. And there are so many more. Who hasn't had a fine travel experience, benefited from the caring of the well-spouse group or inter-faith volunteer care-givers, taken a class on Tuesdays for seniors, or sat misty-eyed during a beautiful Christmas or Easter processional? It would seem Cheryl's ministry has touched each of us in some special way. Through her work in the National Christian Educators Fellowship, she has become nationally recognized for her commitment to spreading faith and fellowship to all ages.

And now the time has come for Cheryl to pursue some new opportunities. Our congregation will join in thanking Cheryl and acknowledging her life in ministry on Sunday, January 23 after worship. Please join us as we celebrate a life of ministry! Contributions toward a "love offering" for Cheryl may be made through the church office. Make your checks payable to First UMC and in the memo indicate: Cheryl Gift.



Celebrating **CHERYL**

*Join us on
Sunday, January 23,
following
worship for a
Farewell Reception
honoring
Cheryl Luce
and her twenty years
of outstanding
ministry in
Christian
Education.*



missions
an evening in cambodia

South Asia Emergency

UMCOR is assisting survivors of tidal waves set off by a powerful 9.0 earthquake. More than 150 thousand died and about five million people lack basic essentials. Half a dozen countries in South Asia and Southeastern Asia will receive United Methodist aid. Gifts will help feed and shelter 50,000 families in India alone. In addition to India, United Methodist gifts will be at work in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

Coordinated response is most effective.

UMCOR is working through its international faith-based partners to provide food, clean water, and shelter. Its partners: Action by Churches Together in Indonesia; Churches Auxiliary for Social Action in India; and the Sri Lanken Council of Churches. At this time thousands of local volunteers are assisting the Methodist churches to provide assistance.

Sanitation and fresh water have been compromised.

Aid workers will restore sanitation facilities and provide fresh water to families.

Food supplies have been cut off.

Disaster workers are distributing food to the most vulnerable.

UMCOR IS DELIVERING ‘LOVE IN ACTION’ ON BEHALF OF UNITED METHODISTS.

Here are some ways you can continue to be there:

- \$12.00** Provides a health kit for a child.
- \$100.00** Underwrites relief items such as: cooking utensils, sleeping mats, blankets, and tarps for families
- \$1,000.00** Invests in long-term reconstruction - buy roofing, shingles, and other building materials to restore a family's house.

HOW YOU CAN GIVE:

Checks can be made payable to: First UMC. Please note in the memo: TSUNAMI, or contact the office to arrange a credit card gift. Your monetary donations can be dropped by the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.

First UMC member Dee Poujade will be going to Cambodia with a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team in February, 2005. The ten-member team will be lead by Corinne Tate, Coordinator of the Oregon Idaho United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, and Rev. Tom Tate, pastor of Rose City Park UMC. While team members will pay all of their own expenses associated with the trip, the team is holding a fund raiser to increase the amount of money available for mission purposes while in country.

An Evening in Cambodia, with Cambodian food and entertainment is scheduled for Saturday January 29th at 6:00 PM, at the Rose City Park UMC. The church is located on Alameda Street near the corner of NE 57th and Sandy Blvd. Tickets are \$10 and are available from UMVIM team members or at the door.

For the occasion, Rose City Park's church basement will be turned into an Asian Getaway, complete with palm trees. Cambodian native Sou Nay and her crew will prepare *An Evening In Cambodia*. For more information you can contact Dee Poujade at deelaw33@hotmail.com.

MISSIONS VIDEO SHOT AT FIRST CHURCH

Participants around the country in next summer's United Methodist Women School of Mission will see a resource that First Church children helped create. During Christmas break, a video crew from Good News TV spent a day at our church filming. Several of our children participated by answering questions, interviewing each other, and actually helping with the camera. They responded to questions such as "What would God think about our world today?", and "How do you see children helping make the world a better place?" Participants were Keely Vedanayagam, Richard and Alicia Kroell, Sean Bettinger-Anderson, Carter Lassetter, Carrie Lawson, Elisse Saito, Matt Fricke, Patrick Craddock, Caitlin McMorris, and Maggie Jennings. We will receive a copy for First Church to view.

adults at first

sunday classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Discussion centers on living a Christian life in a world of change. We are studying the book: ***The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*** by Marcus Borg. Here are the remaining topics:

- January 16: *Thin Places: Opening the Heart*
Leader: Diane Pinney
- January 23: *Sin and Salvation: Transforming the Heart*
Leader: Ken Panck
- January 30: *The Heart of the Matter: Practice*
Leader: John Coppett
- February 6: *Heart and Home: Being Christian in an Age of Pluralism*
Leader: Karl Luckert

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134 is currently studying the book: ***The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*** by Marcus Borg.

fellowship opportunity

umc hikers

UMC Hikers will have their first outing of the year. It will be a snowshoe hike on Saturday, January 22, 2005. (The meeting place and time will be determined later). If snow conditions are good, we will do a three-mile hike in the Enid Lake area near Ski Bowl on Mt. Hood. Besides the snowshoes, poles and boots, participants should wear appropriate warm clothing and bring water, snacks and lunch. The cost will be about \$6-8 for the carpool, Sno-Park Permit and an optional snack stop on the way home. Snowshoeing is a great way to get exercise and enjoy the beautiful Mt. Hood area. Beginners are always welcome! If you would like to participate or have any questions, please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737.



On January 16 and 30 in Collins Hall after worship we will be signing-up for Continental Breakfast and Coffee Hour hosts from January through June. This is a great opportunity for you to serve. Continental Breakfast hosts provide two half-gallon containers of juice and 48 small servings of something suitable for breakfast. They arrive by 8:45 AM. Coffee Hour hosts arrive in Collins Hall by 9:45 a.m. to help make the coffee, punch and tea served during Coffee Hour after the worship service. Some bring cookies, or flowers, or a candle for the table. The hosts make the beverages, lay the tablecloths, and put out sugar and creamer before worship service. After the service they head to Collins Hall to begin serving.

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

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, January 19, 10:00 AM in the Parlor.
Hostess & Devotions:
Beth Iverson with program by Marilyn Outslay, U.S. Representative to British Methodist Conference. Information:
Hazel Wells 503-652-6274.

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, January 19 at noon in Room 204
Program: Daughters serving in the War. Elizabeth Walton, speaker
Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich. Information: Betty-Lou Hare 503-292-1773

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, January 20, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Library. Program: #1 *Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. Leader: Kitty Riddle
Information: Sue Fisher, 503-203-1445

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMEW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, Jan. 26, 10:00 AM. Parlor

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 26 at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Members will share the books they have read this past year. Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich. Information: Mary Covert 503/652-6480.





CREATING CONNECTED COMMUNITY JANUARY 29

On Saturday, January 29, 2005 the Metro District will present a Leadership Enrichment Event at First UMC. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM. Our new Metro District Supt., Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, will preach at a 9:30 AM worship service.

Three exciting workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon:

1. **Connecting Missions/Ministry**
Rev. John Schwiebert
2. **Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors**
Rev. Dean Yamamoto
3. **Nurture, Outreach, Witness**
Rev. Arvin Luchs / Marilyn Outslay

The event will close with Bishop Robert Hoshibata leading worship and communion.

Lunch will be served at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Registration is available at the door.



CEF

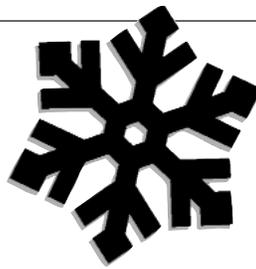
FEB. 25 & 26

Portland First United Methodist Church will host the District Christian Educators Fellowship training event on February 25 and 26, 2005. The theme of the training is: Spirituality in the Church Family: Finding It, Growing It, and Keeping It. The keynote speaker will be MaryJane Pierce Norton.

MaryJane Pierce Norton is a deacon in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and serves as Director of Family Ministries on the staff of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. She has three children and both she and her husband, David, teach children's Sunday school classes every week. She is the author of *Teaching Young Children: A Guide for Teachers and Leaders and Children Worship!* (Discipleship Resources).

The event will begin at 12:30 PM on Friday, February 25 and continue to 4:00 PM. It will resume at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 26 and continue to 3:30 PM.

There will be individual workshops focusing on working with children, youth, and faith development and are open to all. The cost of the event is \$10.00 per person and includes lunch. Child care is available for \$10.00 per child. For more information or to register, contact Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 or email her at azach@fumcpdx.org.



ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS

classes for seniors
TUESDAY MORNINGS
January 25 - March 1

Winter Term of Electives for Elders. They will begin Tuesday, January 25 and run through March 1, 2005. Class schedule is an Opening Session at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room, followed by Class Sessions from 10:20 am to 12:10 pm with a break. The cost is \$15.00 for the entire term.

ADVENTURES IN PAINTING with Alice Wanke Stephens

This adventure in landscape painting will involve acrylic paints on canvas or board with palette knives. A supply list will be sent to you upon registration for the series. (There is an additional \$30.00 fee for this class.)

THE STORY OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE with Dr. Ross Miller

"THE WORD in Our Own Words: The Story of the English Bible" will take a look at the fascinating history of making the scriptures available to ordinary people. Translators have been banned, burned, condemned and executed. Come and learn the political, religious, and literary struggle of their endeavors.

words of appreciation

children & family ministries



The Children/Family Ministries wants to say “thank you!” to the church family:

December has been a busy month around First Church and we want to thank everyone for their support.

The December 5 *Christmas Faire* was fun and enjoyable for members of all ages. The Scholastic Book Sale sold over \$500 in books. This translated to a return of \$300 in book credits to First Church. We used the book credits to purchase small prayer books as Baptism Gifts.

The *Christmas Processional* on December 19 garnered 5 boxes of gifts for the West Women's Shelter and over \$670 in quarters for the Heifer Project.

The *Annual Parent's Day Out* program was supported with 12 or more kids each Saturday plus the one Sunday afternoon.

All of your support and interest continue to make our Children's Program grow and thrive.

Agnes Zach,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

who are we ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

By the time you see this in print Christmas will be long gone from your thoughts. But there are some historical reflections which I had thought would appropriately be expressed in the first week of January when I thought this version of *The Circuit Rider* would be published. The fault is entirely my own, dear reader, so skip to the next item if this is too *deja vu* for you! Christmas is the “biggest” Christian festival currently observed in the U.S.. It was not always so. Easter is properly the most important Day in the Christian calendar. No one knows, of course, when Jesus was born; and so far as we can tell, no one cared for three hundred years or more. And then different dates were used in different places. Folk/religious festivals of merry-making and gift giving are nearly universal in human cultures. Judaism celebrates not only Hanukkah but Purim; and Hanukkah is especially popular in the U.S. because it provides for Jews an alternative to Christmas (hence the *menorah* in Pioneer Square). Moslems have a similar festival following their month-long fast of Ramadan. And so on. The date of December 25 prevailed in Western (Latin) Christianity (January 6 is still preferred in Eastern [Greek] Christianity), probably for the same reason Hanukkah has become so popular among American Jews - it provided an alternative to popular pagan festivals celebrating the shortest day of the year. (Even Hanukkah, which is also a “festival of lights,” may have been dated similarly.) Protestants tended to downgrade many of the Latin festivals as “unbiblical” (there are only two stories in the Bible about it, and they don't agree). And Christmas (“Christ Mass”) was one of them. It began to revive in England in the 19th century, through the influence of German-born royalty and the writings of Charles Dickens. In this church we now have four Christmas Eve services. We never had one until 1963! And the second one, a “family” service for those for whom a midnight service was impractical, begun four years later, was so innovative and tentative that it was held in the Fireside Room! Our “traditions of an Advent Wreath, Christmas banners in the sanctuary, and a creche in Beckham Court were begun about the same time, although I think a tree in the Sanctuary is somewhat older. (Maybe an old-timer can inform me?). Living religions change, so Christianity, despite some indications to the contrary, must be alive.

winter book sale

the church library solicits books for sale

The Church Library solicits used books for the Winter Book Sale I don't know about you, but giving books is a big part of our Christmas tradition. And in our house there always comes a time, maybe a week or two after Christmas, when we look around and realize that it's time for some of our precious books to move on. If that happens to you too, we have a solution.

As part of Winter Carnival, the Library Committee will hold our annual used book sale and we are now soliciting used books. Gather your superfluous volumes and drop your “offerings” by the Church Library. Help us to make this year's sale a success...and while you're at it, check out some of the new titles we have acquired recently, courtesy of last year's successful book sale.

The Winter Book Sale will be on February 13, as a part of the Winter Carnival in Collins Hall.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Jerry and Carol Young, Jerry's mother died recently;

Kris Peterson, whose mother died recently;

Duane Paulson, who is recovering from surgery;

Janet White, who is recovering from pneumonia.

thank you

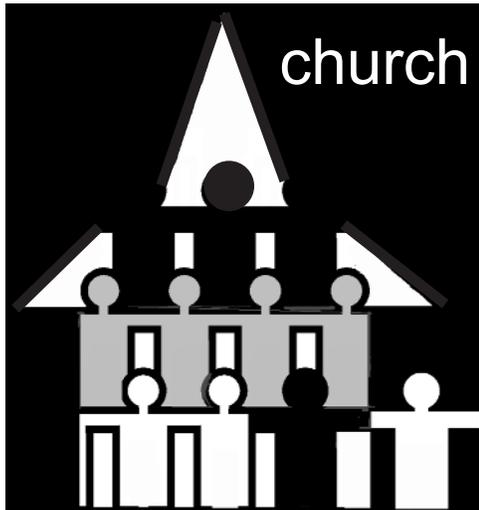
words of appreciation

I would like to extend a great many thanks to all that donated gifts to my children this Christmas. You fulfilled a great many wishes, and then some! We have been so blessed since joining First Church over two years ago, and the generosity of everyone continues to amaze me. Thank you all for making this Christmas so very special for them. It makes me believe that Santa truly does exist. Please know how much your selfless gifts gave them all great joy. God Bless you all, and a very Blessed New Year!

A First Church Family

To the Bell Choir and Carolers,
What a Christmas treat! It really set the Christmas mood to hear you all, Thank you everyone for your happy enthusiasm and the gift basket. I will be using it soon!

Alice White



church membership

There will be a membership class following the worship service on January 30, from noon until 3:00 PM. Lunch and child care will be provided. If you are interested in church membership, or have recently become a member, please contact Rev. Sene in the church office at 503/228-3195 to sign up for this class.

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 **January 26, 2005**.

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.