



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **F** *edition*

January 26, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 2

THIS SUNDAY

JANUARY 30, 2005

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.



SERIES TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 9, 2005

February 9 - Ash Wednesday Service.
February 16 - Dr. Rod Landes
February 23 - Dr. Jonah Edleman
March 3 - Dr. Marilyn Sewell
March 9 - The Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner
March 16 - Leslie and Eva Aigner

SCHEDULE

5:30 PM - **Meal**
Collins Hall
6:00 PM - **Special Guest Speaker**
Collins Hall
7:15 PM - **Dialogue & Discussion**
with Guest Speaker
Fireside Room

PLEASE NOTE

CHURCH CONFERENCE
A Church Conference is slated for:

**Sunday morning, February 6 at
11:45 am in the Fireside Room.**

This brief conference is called and the agenda limited to consideration of a 2% compensation increase for the Associate Pastor. Everyone is welcome, all members can vote.



**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 13
11:45 AM
COLLINS HALL**



You won't want to miss this fun First Church event! Lots of great activities for all ages: A Cake Walk, a Book Sale and a Pancake Feed for the whole family. Proceeds from the event will go toward Camp Scholarships.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

The world is teetering on the brink of despair. International conflict, civil strife, terrorism, global economic turmoil, wrack our planet. We struggle to recover from the most devastating natural disaster in memory while famine lurks in the shadows. The international dialogue has degenerated into a shouting match of national self-interest while arms traffic flourishes. Is there any hope?

Ted Loder suggests, "A community of faith and/or action makes the difference between hope and despair. Because hope is contagious. We catch it when we connect with others who gather in and act out of hope, who search for at least some answers to what it means to love sacrificially in this world." (Loder, Ted, *Loaves, Fishes and Leftovers: Sharing Faith's Deep Questions*, Augsburg Fortress Press, Minneapolis, MN, to be published, 2005, p. 10)

Expose your self to hope's contagion during our "Simply Serving" Lenten Suppers. We'll begin on February 9th with the traditional Ash Wednesday Service of Dust and Ashes only this year we will move from Collins Hall to the Chapel for worship.

On succeeding Wednesdays we will welcome leaders from our community who have been asked to respond to the statement, "This Gives Me Hope!"

On February, 16th **Dr. Rod Landes**, Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center will be our guest.

February 23rd we will welcome **Dr. Jonah Edleman**, Executive Director of Stand for Children and a nationally known advocate for the needs of societies youngest.

March 3rd our guest will be **Dr. Marilyn Sewell**. Dr. Sewell is the dynamic leader of First Unitarian Church—the largest congregation in that denomination. She is also a popular author, speaker and community activist.

On March 9th, **The Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner** will be our speaker. Rev. Hoefner is head of Camp and Retreat Ministries for our Annual Conference—a program that is considered a leader nationwide. She is also a leader in the national Cooperative Parish movement.

Our last Supper this year will feature **Leslie and Eva Aigner**. The Aigners are Holocaust survivors and spend much of their time sharing their experiences with schools and community groups.

Each speaker will share their thoughts immediately after supper in Collins Hall. After a brief break they will move to the Fireside Room for further dialogue and discussion.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge (though we invite a donation to defray the cost of food.) Invite your friends and neighbors. It starts at 5:30 on Wednesday, February 9, 2005.

See you Sunday—and each Wednesday of Lent!

Arvin

transitions

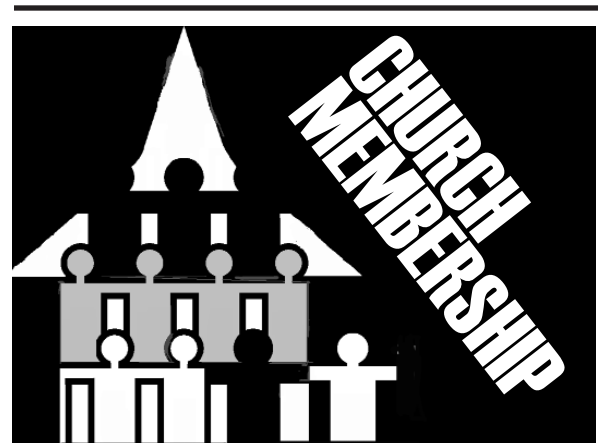
saying "thank you ..."



Last Sunday Collins Hall was filled with people sharing their love and appreciation with Cheryl Luce. She is leaving our staff after more than 20 years as Director of Christian Education. The event featured remembrance of her many achievements, the music of the "Fall Frolic Band," a slide show of memories, presentation of gifts and a special song written for the occasion by Dr. Ross Miller.

Thanks and appreciation to the Staff Parish Relations Committee who sponsored the event: SPRC Chair, Wid Bleything and event coordinator, Martha Connell. We also want to thank: Michael Copeland, Gene Balcomb, Dr. Ross Miller, the Fall Frolic Band, and presenters. A special thanks to Barbara Baker who wrote the article about Cheryl in the last issue of the *Circuit Rider*.

We wish God's blessings to Cheryl as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.



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.

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 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

the parker group

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, February 5, in Room 202 at 12:30 PM for a potluck dinner and program: "Getting Ready for a City-Wide Emergency," led by Rachel Jacky. She is the Community Services Manager of the Portland Office of Emergency Management. She will tell the group about home preparation for families and how the agency develops Neighborhood Emergency Teams. Emergencies are man-made as well as naturally occurring. Portland is subject to major earthquakes but not tsunamis. Guests are welcome to this event. Please RSVP to Evelyn Casey.



On January 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.

USED BOOKS SOUGHT FOR SALE

As part of Winter Carnival, February 13, the Library Committee will hold our annual Used Book Sale and we are now soliciting used books. Drop your used books by the Church Library. Then come to the Winter Carnival and browse for some great book bargains!



umw

united methodist women

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

MANY, MANY THANKS

Special thanks to Art & Trudy Kayser for the delicious quiche lunch they provided for all members and guests at the January UMW Unit Gathering. We very much appreciated their generosity as well as the service provided by the extended Kayser family.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

Wednesday, February 02, Fireside Room 10:00 AM Meeting and 11:00 AM Program: Hazel Balcomb & Team. Reading is a ball. Cover the four bases: Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. 12:00 Room 202. Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED WINTER FORUM

Thursday, February 03, 9:30 AM Registration, 10:00 AM Program St. Anthony Catholic Church, 3560 SE 79th & Powell, Portland, Program: *Shining Light on Hate*. Speaker: Randy Blazach, Sociology professor, Portland State. Information: Betty-Lou Hare

METRO DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Saturday, February 05, 9:00 AM to Noon, Beaverton UMC, 1255 SW 4th, Beaverton, Program: Legislative Event by Carol Johnson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

School of Christian Mission, July 28-31, 2005
Willamette University, Salem, OR
2005-2006 Mission Studies:

- Children of the Bible
- India & Pakistan
- Public Education

upcoming forum

the war in Iraq

The Church, Society and Social Justice Committee has drafted the following resolution and asked the Leadership Council to endorse on behalf of the congregation.

“At the beginning of the war in Iraq, this church through its Leadership Council took a stand against the U.S. participation. Now the basic premise for the war (weapons of mass destruction) has been discredited. Thousands of civilian Iraqis have been and continue to be killed. Over 1300 Americans have lost their lives and thousands have been wounded. We continue to strongly support our troops. Nevertheless, our actions as a nation are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. We believe the United States should remove our armed forces from Iraq. We should turn over the future of the country to the United Nations. Our humanitarian aid should be channeled through the United Nations.”

It is our church policy to invite congregational discussion and ideas prior to Council action. A forum for discussion of the resolution and its implications will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2005 at 9:00 am in Room 202. Everyone is welcome

mission moments

global outreach

CAKES SOUGHT FOR CAKE WALK

Donations of cakes and cupcakes are being sought for the “Where In the World Is ??? Cake Walk,” which will be held as a part of the Heart to Heart Winter Carnival after services on Sunday, February 13, 2005. This popular event, sponsored by the Global Missions Committee, is a traditional cake walk with a “twist.” Participants will proceed on a path marked with the names of the countries in which First UMC has mission involvement. Of course, cakes are needed to make this event a success. Please bring cakes to Collins Hall prior to the February 13 service. Plan now to come and play! For further information, contact Pat Brockman, Global Missions Chair.

AN EVENING IN CAMBODIA

First UMC member, Dee Poujade, is one of ten members of a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team that will be leaving for Cambodia on February 14, 2005. The team is holding a fundraiser 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 29 at 6:00 PM, at the Rose City Park UMC, located on Alameda Street near the corner of NE 57th and Sandy Blvd. For the occasion, the church basement will be turned into an Asian Getaway, complete with palm trees. Cambodian native, Sou Nay, and her crew will prepare a Cambodian meal. Tickets are \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door). For ticket information contact Dee Poujade.

MISSION POTLUCK

On Sunday, February 6, the Global Missions committee will host a potluck lunch, at approximately 12:00 noon in Room 202. The program will feature Gordon Greathouse, UMC Missionary to Brazil, who will present a program on his current work in that country. Also on the program is a send-off for Dee Poujade, who will leave on February 14 to join a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team to Cambodia. (Dee is collecting simple over-the-counter type of glasses for this mission trip. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex for donations through Sunday, February 13.) Those attending the potluck are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass. For further information, contact Pat Brockman or Dee Poujade.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Many, many thanks to all who contributed a total of \$6405 for our annual Alternative Christmas giving. The following amounts were received and already sent to the Board of Global Ministries to forward on to the respective projects: \$570 to support pastors in Lithuania; \$960 for the Salud y Paz (Health & Peace) program in Guatemala; \$2550 for scholarships to Southern Philippines Methodist College; and \$2325 stays right here for our own Goose Hollow Family Shelter. This was our best year so far.



PROPHETIC WITNESS *for such a* TIME AS THIS

Annual Spring Event of
The Oregon-Idaho Chapter of
Methodist Federation for
Social Action
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005
featuring:
James E. Winkler

stewardship

a report on the stewardship campaign

A BIG Thank You to all of our members and friends who completed and returned their Estimate of Giving cards. You have made it possible for the Finance Committee and all of our many ministry and program areas to develop our church budget for 2005 with confidence. It will be a job that involves hard choices this year, since even though our operating and fixed costs have gone up our pledges for 2005 have gone down slightly from 2004. The chart below shows how the small reduction (1.5%) from last year's pledges is distributed across our giving levels.

Why is our estimate of giving for 2005 down? I don't know the answer, but I can share a few facts with you. First, we had an unusually large number of deaths in our congregation last year, including some significant givers. Second, Arvin reports that more job losses in 2004 caused some members to not pledge this year. They are willing but unable. Deaths and job losses are life situations when the church can provide much needed support and assistance to members and friends. You can be sure it will continue to do so in 2005. Our hope is that programs will go forward as planned with careful attention to saving costs and continued congregational generosity.

I also want to thank all of the Consecration Sunday Committee: Jean Barnes, Debbie Morse, Trudy Kayser, Arvin Luchs, Ursi Luckert, Paul Nickell, Kelly Qualls, Ravi Vedanayagam. All of the committee members have made outstanding contributions to the life and well-being of this church. I thank God for their willing participation, enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility, hard work and for being my friends.

Art Kayser, Financial Stewardship Committee Chairman

First UMC Comparative Pledge Report for 2004/2005 Annual Giving Campaign

	2004	2005	Difference	Numeric
Pledge YTD Total/Actual	\$815,755	\$793,245	97%	-\$22,510
Number of Pledging Units	391	385	98%	-6
Average Pledge (excluding zero pledge)	\$2,086	\$2,060	99%	-\$26

PLEDGE DEMOGRAPHICS - \$	2004	2005	% Change	Change
\$20 - 100	18	16	89%	-2
\$101 - 499	62	71	115%	9
\$500 - 999	85	82	96%	-3
\$1000 - 1999	99	92	93%	-7
\$2000 - 2999	41	46	112%	5
\$3000 - 3999	38	27	71%	-11
\$4000 - 7999	36	39	108%	3
\$8000 - 19999	10	10	100%	0
20000	2	2	100%	0
TOTAL	391	385	98%	-6

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	2004	2005	% Change
Reduction in Pledge from Previous Yr	43	67	up 35%
Increase in Pledge from Previous Yr	173	151	down 13%
No Change in Pledge from Previous Yr	86	112	up 23%
New Pledges	52	55	up 6%
TOTAL	391	385	
Pledged Last Yr but No Pledge This Yr	39	24	
No Pledge	25	24	

thanks

words of appreciation

This is to send the biggest
THANK YOU I know how for:

The assiduous and skilled pastoral care I received from our pastors while hospitalized for coronary by-pass surgery.

The many, many cards and calls I received from First Church family members.

For the "Berlin Airlift" of dinners organized by Rev. Brenda Sene to bridge the time when our home health aide had to return to the east coast and when I had recuperated enough to take on dinner preparation.

The term Church Family has for me been invested with splendid new meaning. At First Church it is not a slogan: it is a reality for which I am profoundly appreciative.

David O. Poindexter

To My Church Family,
Thank you for your caring support following the loss of my mother. She loved the fellowship she found in this church when she visited over the years. I am grateful for those memories as I celebrate her life.

Kris Peterson

To Our Church Family,
Words cannot express how thankful my son and I are to the members of this wonderful church. The Giving Tree gift of the Rejuvenation Spa Treatment and babysitting money went above and beyond my wildest dreams. My son was thrilled with the wonderful gifts that he received; Thomas the Tank engine and clothing which he needed.

Two Grateful Members

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

growing

memorial scholarships

Our prayers are with ...

Johnson and Moima Doe, who are both unemployed;

Myra Jean and Michael Marshall and their family.

Michael's grandmother, Clarice, suffered a severe stroke January 22;

Ted and Judy Tosterud and their family, Ted's mother died in Minnesota;

Bill and Doris Lavelly, Bill's brother died in Massachusetts,

and *Doris* is in Phoenix for surgery;

Jane Rhodes, who is living with cancer;

Vanessa Walton, who is working in Afghanistan;

Jim & Nell McManus, upon the death of Nell's sister in Louisiana.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Margaret Walton, who has left Iraq for Germany. By summer, she will be stationed in Alabama.

To the December Carolers,

How does one say "thank you" to such a fine group of singers and bell ringers? The fact that you cared enough to take time away from a busy December Sunday afternoon to bring joy to many meant so much to me. My family enjoyed your visit as much as I did! May I also say a very special thank you to the teenagers who I enjoyed teaching when they were in the Fourth Grade. So many of them were in the handbell group. Thanks again for such an enriching experience!

Vi Teasley

The Memorial Scholarship Committee met January 24 to discuss applications for funding. This scholarship is used for grants to help United Methodists preparing for Christian service and to educate members and staff to extend the ministry of the church. To apply, please contact Marge Terdal

The most recent grants went to Agnes Zach, Janice Gratton, and Michele Fricke to attend the Christian Educators Fellowship National Conference in New Orleans in October. In her report, Agnes wrote, "our church is fortunate to have children, youth and adult coordinators." Janice commented on the scope of ministry represented at the conference and the opportunity to listen to outstanding speakers, to make connections, and to purchase materials for parents and other books to add to First UMC curriculum.

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 **February 9, 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.