



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

February 23, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 4

THIS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 27, 2005

8:30 AM
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 AM

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time
Rev. Brenda Sene

MARCH 6, 2005

One Great Hour
of Sharing Sunday
Communion

Guest Preacher
Dr. Jim Winkler
General Secretary of
the Board of
Church and Society



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.

SIMPLY SERVING

FIRST CHURCH LENTEN SUPPERS

SCHEDULE

5:30 PM - Meal
6:00 PM - Special Guest Speaker
7:00 PM - Dialogue & Discussion

Wednesday, March 2



DR. MARILYN SEWELL

Dr. Sewell is the dynamic leader of
First Unitarian Church.

Wednesday, March 9



REV. LISA JEAN HOEFNER

Rev. Hoefner is head of Camp and
Retreat Ministries for our Annual
Conference.

Wednesday, March 16



LESLIE & EVA AIGNER

The Aigners are Holocaust survivors
and spend much of their time
sharing their experiences with
schools and community groups.

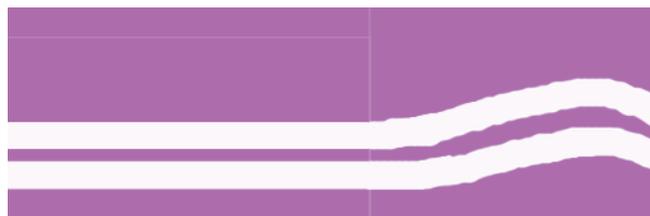
Various community leaders will
intrigue us with their response
to the statement: "This Gives
Me Hope!" during the
upcoming Lenten Suppers.

MARCH 2 DR. MARILYN SEWELL

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell is
an accomplished Unitarian
minister, writer and spiritual
leader. Raised Catholic and
Southern Baptist, Marilyn was
ordained as a Unitarian
Universalist minister in 1986
and has since become a noted
figure in the Unitarian
movement, known for speaking,
writing and teaching.

Dr. Sewell received her Ph.D. in
Theology and the Arts from the
Theological Union at Berkeley,
California, in 1991. She
received her Masters of Divinity
from Starr King School,
Berkeley, California, in 1986.
Dr. Sewell has an M.A. in
English Literature, a master's
degree in social work and a
B.A. in English Education. She
is the editor of two celebrated
books on women's spirituality:
the award-winning *Cries of the
Spirit*, published in 1991; and
*Claiming the Spirit Within, a
Sourcebook of Women's Poetry*,
which came out in November of
1996. In June of 1998, a
collection of her sermons
entitled: *Wanting Wholeness,
Being Broken*, was published.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 6 ...





memo
Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

You see it first in the eyes—a quick look of incredulity then the flicker of an arched eyebrow. It’s the way some people respond when told that *all*—every penny—of their gift to disaster relief actually goes there. “Quit dreaming,” they smirk, “this

is the real world. You can't get something for nothing.” But the fact is, when you give to United Methodist relief efforts (like the Tsunami recovery) or make a second mile gift to mission through the Advance for Christ—every penny—100%—goes to the project! None is spent for administration or overhead. Now that's a deal that's hard to beat!

Before you start thinking there must be some sleight of hand here, let's understand that there are administrative costs to overseeing and managing a world-wide effort to promote, collect, deliver and distribute emergency aid and run an international mission program. The accountants peg the expenses at about 2%. Compare that to the 25-30% that is normal for secular relief agencies!

But, if that 2% doesn't come from our gifts—where does it come from?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the organization that we call on to organize our disaster response efforts, are able to pay their administrative expenses because we take a special church-wide offering, “One Great Hour of Sharing.”

Each Lent the more than 36,000 congregations that make up our denomination are urged to pass the plate to help. On average, well over 3 million dollars is received. That's the largest special offering our church receives. I suspect that's because United Methodists understand how important it is.

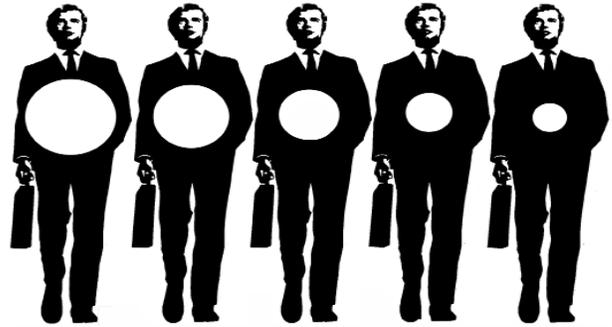
That amount is sufficient to pay overhead as well as maintain a “first response” fund. Think of that this way: when the unexpected happens, our on-call relief teams travel to the scene immediately and begin delivering assistance. The specific gifts to pay for these efforts will be collected in local churches several weeks, sometimes months later. In the meantime, our contributions to “One Great Hour of Sharing” are picking up the tab.

During our worship services on Sunday, March 6 you'll be given the opportunity to participate in this effort when we'll be inviting offerings to “One Great Hour of Sharing.” I hope you'll be prepared to give generously. It really is a deal that is hard to beat!

See you in Church!

Arvin

forum
alcoholism and addiction



***Forum on Alcoholism/Addictions
and the Faith Community***
Sunday, March 13 at 12:30 PM
Fireside Room

by Ron Williams, Director of Outreach

Many members of First UMC know that I am a recovering alcoholic in recovery for eight years. I will celebrate nine years of continuous sobriety on March 1st of this year. Many people, however, don't know exactly what being in “recovery” means. Recovery means that the sufferer of the disease of addiction or alcoholism engages in a conscious and deliberate process that results in total abstinence from drug or alcohol use over a period of time. Many self-help groups, medical professionals, therapists and counselors insist that the period of abstinence should be for the remainder of the affected persons life.

Last year, the US Supreme Court heard a case *Raytheon V Hernandez* that challenged the justices to consider some of the fine points of recovery and sobriety. The discussion among the Justices demonstrated how misinformed and subjective the public can be about this issue. The comments of the justices demonstrated the pervasive negative perception many people have on the subject. Even our own President Bush acknowledges that he had problems with alcohol in the past and now refers to himself as an “ex-drinker”.

In a study conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates in April of 2004 on the impacts of addiction; “A 63% majority say that addiction to alcohol or other drugs has had a great deal or some impact on them at some point in their life, including 38% who say a great deal. Most of those affected, 72%, are affected by a family members addiction or their own addiction.” The study also found that the public does not know what recovery means. When asked what definition best matches their understanding of recovery, 62% said that someone in recovery means the person is currently trying to stop using alcohol or illicit drugs. Have you or someone you know been impacted by addictions or alcoholism? How does the church deal with this issue? What is the methamphetamine crisis? Why is it a crisis and whom is it impacting? Join us!

adults at first

sunday classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. We will be viewing the video: *The Congregation*.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

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

BEGINNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a Beginning Adult Bible Study, February 27-April 24 in Room 160. Meet at 9:15 am to buy coffee; class begins at 9:30 am. Gain an understanding of the Bible in a friendly, open classroom where questions and discussions are encouraged. The class will be facilitated by First UMC member, Paul Adams.

fellowship opportunity

person to person

UM HIKERS

The February outing will be on Saturday, February 26th. If the snow conditions have improved, we will do a 3-mile hike in the Enid Lake area. Bring: snowshoes, poles and boots, 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. We will return about 4:00 PM. Or we will do a regular hike in the Portland Metro area. Meet at 8:15 AM in the Tigard UMC parking lot, 9845 SW Walnut Place, to form carpools. If you have any questions, contact Paula Justice.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, March 5, in Room 202 at 12:30 PM for a potluck dinner and program. John Johnson and Coleen Foster will present "Music from the Civil War." This will be the last meeting of Parker Group until October 8th, 2005. Election of officers will be announced.

seniors

special trip



OREGON ZOO TRIP FULL

The Oregon Zoo Trip on Tuesday, March 15th is FULL. To be put on the waiting list, please contact Jolin Gard for reservations at 503/329-5707.

COMING UP: PORTLAND ART MUSEUM & LUNCH

First Church Seniors will go to the Portland Art Museum and to lunch on Tuesday, May 10th. Cost: \$19.50.

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, March 02, Fireside Room
10:00 AM Meeting and 11:00 AM
Program by Mary Covert: *And Now Concerning Prayer: Dear God, Can We Talk?* World Thank Offering will be received. Lunch at noon. Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 04, in the Chapel
9:30 AM Registration/Coffee
10:00 AM Celebration: *Let Our Light Shine*, a worship service prepared by Women of Poland, who represent nine denominational groups: Baptist, Greek Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Old Catholic Mariavites, Orthodox, Polish Catholic, Reformed, and Roman Catholic. Reflections by Rev. Brenda Sene. Christian women around the world will be participating in this meaningful service. An offering will be received. Information: Betty-Lou Hare

UMW

PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

The UMW Person of the Year Award was given to our tireless benefactor, Art Kayser. We appreciate his many hours of service to United Methodist Women.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Children of the Bible,
India & Pakistan,
Public Education

Both men & women are encouraged to take advantage of these annual learning opportunities.

church directories

pick up your fumc pictorial directory

The 2005 First UMC Pictorial Church Directories have arrived! You can pick one up in the narthex on Sunday or stop by the church office during the week.

lenten series

this gives me hope ...

continued from page 1 ...

MARCH 2 - DR. MARILYN SEWELL

The summer of 2001 saw the release of *Resurrecting Grace: Remembering Catholic Childhoods*, her edited collection of memoirs by people who grew up Catholic. *Breaking Free: Women of Spirit at Midlife and Beyond*, published this fall, is a spirited collection of 27 personal, sometimes daring, essays by women in the second half of their lives.

Marilyn Sewell has received numerous awards and honors. She has been recognized as a Unitarian Universalist Scholar and a John Haynes Holmes Fellow, and she was the recipient of the Feminist Theology Award in 1989. She was named an A. Powell Davies Preaching Fellow for excellence in preaching. In June of 2000, Dr. Sewell addressed 4,000 Unitarians at the UUA General Assembly's Service of the Living Tradition. Throughout the evolution of her career, which has granted her experience as an English teacher, a therapist, a television personality, and now as a minister and spokeswoman, Dr. Sewell has earned the reputation as a dynamic leader, not only in the Unitarian Universalist church, but in the spiritual and political community at large.

MARCH 9 - REV. LISA JEAN HOEFNER

Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner, Executive Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference, has served as a pastor of churches and director of camping ministries in New York and Pennsylvania since 1975. She began work in the Oregon-Idaho Conference in 1998, as the Director of Suttle Lake Camp. A year later she moved to the Executive Director's position and is delighted to be working with all the camps, staff, and volunteers throughout Idaho and Oregon. It is her belief that just as church camping experiences have been known for transforming individual's lives, shared experiences through camping ministries will transform congregations as well.

Lisa Jean is a graduate of Drew University (BA) and Yale Divinity School (MDiv). Beyond her work in our conference, Lisa Jean works with the General Board of Global Ministries as a consultant in cooperative ministries. When not on the road, Lisa Jean can be found enjoying music of all kinds (playing violin in a community orchestra and tuba in the "One More Time Around Again Marching Band"). She also tries not to miss opportunities to hike or canoe.

who are we

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

I was discussing Methodism's stand regarding gambling. I'm afraid I may have left a misapprehension about one of our former pastors, Clarence True Wilson. I described him simply as a "reformer," perhaps making it sound as though Methodists in his time had newly discovered the evils of gambling. Not at all. He was, in fact, merely forcefully reemphasizing something that John Wesley himself had characterized as an activity "as mischievous to society as any," and which had been regularly inveighed against by the frontier circuit riders. Now, on with the argument! The second problem with gambling (the first is its addictive power) is that *the gains of the winners are made entirely at the expense of the losers*. Gain is secured without rendering any service or value in return. It involves a deliberate and considered willingness to profit by another's inevitable loss. In short, it is a form of stealing. How is that for "loving our neighbor as ourselves"?! And it does not mitigate it any to say that the loser has been "entertained" in the process. Any con man can say as much. Someone might ask why we didn't and don't raise more of a fuss about the allowance of gambling casinos on Indian reservations. My recollection is that we did object, but we had to admit that the Native Americans have treaty rights to consider their reservations as independent national entities, where they themselves are sovereign. That we didn't and don't raise more protest over the State lottery, and the Governor's apparent willingness to allow a Native American off-reservation casino in the Gorge, are the grounds for my fear that we won't way or do much about the proposal to allow a non-Native American casino in the state. We should be ashamed of ourselves.



lenten projects

for families ...

This year, families are asked to participate in small projects around the church as part of their Lenten reflection. Sign-ups are available on the bulletin board between Rooms 133 and 136. It is important for families to participate in service together to show the value in volunteering to our children. No project requires a large amount of time and each project is important to the church. Sign up now!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORSHIP SERVICE

Crosscurrents Ministries (Sellwood, Oak Grove and St. Paul's Milwaukie United Methodist Churches) is sponsoring a Black History Month worship service, Sunday evening, February 27, at Sellwood UMC (corner of 15th and SE Tacoma St.). The service will begin at 7:00 and feature the preaching of the Reverend Robert Probasco and the choir of First AME Zion Church.

PUBLIC FORUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY

The Progressive Christianity Alliance of Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties invite you to a public forum on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8:00 PM. entitled: "The Death Penalty: Counting the Costs." Guest speaker David Kaczynski is the executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, and the brother of Ted Kaczynski, better known as the "Unabomber." A national expert on capital punishment, with a compelling personal story, Kaczynski is a thoughtful and excellent speaker. This presentation, followed by a discussion about faith perspectives on the death penalty, will take place at McMinnville UMC, 544 NE Second Street. Donations will be accepted. Child care provided. For more information, contact sallygodard@earthlink.net.

CHRISMON ALERT

The first Chrismon Workshop will be held on Monday, March 7, at 10:00 AM at the church. Before that date you can see a display in Collins during coffee hour. No experience necessary. Marty Martin will lead the workshop.

55-ALIVE

The next 55-Alive class offered by AARP will be at First Church on March 10 and 11, 2005. These classes are open to the community. Cost is \$10.00, payable to AARP. The class meets in the Fireside room from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM each day. Sign-up with Agnes Zach, Interim Director of Christian Education, at 503/228-3195 ext. 229.

HEALTHY CHILDREN, HEALTHY PLANET

Planet Church is sponsoring a parenting course called Healthy Children, Healthy Planet. The course, developed by the nonprofit Northwest Earth Institute, is nine weeks long and includes short readings that the participants will read before each session and then discuss with the other participants. An introductory session for the course is scheduled March 6th at 9:15 AM, in the Parlor, for those interested before committing to the entire series. At this time the class members will choose a class time that works best for everyone.

Healthy Children, Healthy Planet allows participants to understand how the pervasive effects of advertising, media, and our consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world. It also offers ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments and to foster children's creativity and a connection to nature.

This course explores the influence our fast-paced, consumer-oriented society has on children, and how families can deal with these influences. Topics covered in nine sessions include:

- Cultural Pressures
- Family Rituals & Celebrations
- Advertising and the Media
- Food and Health
- Time
- Exploring Nature
- Technology & Child Development
- Education and Creativity
- Celebration

Please contact Martha Connell, or David Kenney.

scouting
God & Country Awards



Pictured are: Joshua Hauser, Brian Hauenstein, Jesse Clark, Max Welch, and Madeline Hauenstein

The "God and Country Awards" include four spiritual growth badges for Boy or Girl Scouts. During Services on February 13 Joshua Hauser, Max Welch, and Madeline Hauenstein received the "God and Me" award. Brian Hauenstein, and Jesse Clark received the "God and Family." Each award involves several months of study and the completion of projects.

Michelle Fricke coordinates the program. Later that day, in a regional gathering, First UMC was awarded "The Paul and Kate Thiess Award" from the Protestant Committee on Scouting and the Cascade Pacific Boy Scout Council for support of Scouting Ideals. Michelle Fricke and church Scouting Ministries Coordinator, Rick Gard were present to receive the plaque.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Janet White, who is recovering from pneumonia;
Alex Esguerra, who is very ill and at Southwest Medical Center;
Family and friends of Frances Miller, who died February 18,
her memorial service will be Saturday, February 26 at Rose Villa;
Bob, Dawn, and Claire Wilson, Bob's father died recently.

We continue our prayers for: *Jane Rhodes, Al Leonard, Thelma Glendinning, Bob Anderson, and Tom Iverson.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving for ...

The baptism of *Brendan William Stephan Cross*, the son of Steven & Laura Cross, and grandson of Mary Bywater Cross and Robert Newman;
The wedding of *Scenna Shipley and Fariborz Tabesh*;
The wedding of *Tracy Morris and Mark Matthews*.

artists

a fine arts program

Are you a painter, sculptor, ceramist, photographer, quilter, collagist or work in any other medium not mentioned above? Please contact Mary Coppett, chairperson of the First United Methodist Church Fine Arts Program.



ha!

What if Bible characters had "theme songs?" To the right are some well-known Bible characters and what might have been their theme song.

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"

Samson: "Hair"

Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"

The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"

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 **March 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.