



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *dition*

March 9, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 5

**THIS
SUNDAY**

MARCH 13, 2005

8:30 AM
Informal Communion
in the Chapel

10:30 AM

Sermon
Rev. Brenda Sene

Children's Time
Agnes Zach



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.



*It is said that the great German reformer, Martin Luther once looked out the window at the bleak late winter countryside and remarked, "The world is now in its working clothes, and that by and by it will be arranged in its Easter garments of joy."**

That is certainly true now. The daffodils are trumpeting forth in brilliant yellow. The plums and cherries are bursting into bloom. The trees are beginning to green and bud. In just a few weeks what is now barren will be ablaze with glorious color. Nature points us to a spiritual reality-even in the most barren times, God's grace is a work, renewing and restoring.

During Holy Week we will remember and relive those days of doubt and terror when Jesus' disciples were convinced that death was the end, and at the last glimpse their master would be clothed in burial linen. The darkness of that Friday obscured the view of God at work. As Sunday's dawn glimmered, they were overwhelmed by the sight of the resurrected Christ clothed in brilliant garments of joy.

Won't you join with us as we celebrate this amazing week-and invite your family, friends and neighbors?

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP, MARCH 20, 10:30 AM
We will celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as the children lead us in a Parade of Palms. Through word and music we will hear again the story of that first Holy Week.

HOLY THURSDAY COMMUNION AND SERVICE OF DARKNESS, MARCH 24, 7:00 PM
Remembering the Last Supper, we will gather to share the bread and wine of communion and, as candles are extinguished, we remember our Lord's arrest, trial and crucifixion and depart in darkness and silence.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE, MARCH 25, NOON
We will host congregations from around the downtown area in our Sanctuary as we remember Christ's final hours and his death. Our Chancel Choir and members of the Choir of First Presbyterian Church will present a powerful cantata, *Lux Aeterna*. Clergy from many traditions will lead the worship.

TWO FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICES, MARCH 27, 9:00 AND 11:00. AM
The wonder and joy of Easter will be celebrated in two glorious worship events. The Festival Brass, Jonas Nordwall and the Mary S. Collins Organ, and the Chancel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Bruce Browne will lead us as we rejoice in Easter's joy in both word and song. Between services an Easter Egg hunt for children will be held in Beckham Courtyard.

It will be a week to remember. Don't miss it!

* Remembered by Spurgeon C. H., *World on Fire*, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, August 3, 1873



memo
Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Christ's body is still being broken!

I read with sadness of the decision of Anglican leaders to exclude their American and Canadian colleagues from their next world-wide gathering because of differences in understanding sexuality and Biblical authority. The American Episcopal church, you remember, has

consecrated a gay man as Bishop in New Hampshire and both churches conduct same-sex marriages. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, said the dispute had "weakened, if not destroyed, the sense that we are actually talking the same language within the Anglican Communion." (quoted by Barr, Robert, in an article, "Anglican leaders agree that U.S., Canadian churches will withdraw temporarily from key church organization," AP Worldstream; Feb 25, 2005.)

The news of the Anglican conflict coincided with reports of increasing tension within our own denomination—not only over sexuality and Biblical authority—but a variety of matters including understanding of tradition, the nature of missions, and theological diversity. There are calls from the conservatives for "amicable separation" and emerging "progressive" voices determined to stand fast against those who would quash differences. Many wonder how we speak "Good News" to the world when we cannot find common ground to share our differences collegially, let alone affirm the wonderful spectrum of gifts and ideas that God has given us.

Since the time of the apostles, the Church has been described as the visible presence of the risen Jesus—the Body of Christ. Movements and schisms that have divided and separated Christians into rival factions are seen as wounding and breaking the Body. People of faith, both conservative and progressive, continue to do injury when they draw boundaries around God's love, establish their own standards for what constitutes true faith, and assume that they -- not God -- should judge.

Something else is happening, though. Amid the pain and struggle, there are sprigs of hope, glimpses Easter's new life, emerging.

There is remarkable energy reported in dialogues among Christian communities that have long been separated. Some have already yielded agreement on previously intractable ideas.

For example, Lutherans and Catholics, concluding 30 years of talks, have found agreement on doctrines that have separated them for 482 years. British Methodists and the Church of England are sharing in productive discussion that could lead to significant cooperation. Episcopalians and Lutherans have signed a pact to share clergy, and communion. Their talks could lead to union. Our own denomination is involved in energetic dialogue with historically black Methodist denominations from whom we separated a century or more ago.

Consider, too, that our General Conference, wracked by sharp dispute, concluded by overwhelmingly adopting a covenant declaring that even in disagreement we "...reaffirm our covenant to work together for our common mission" (General Conference May, 7, 2004) Are these signs of a Spirit that transcends even our deepest differences—a hope that in discord we may find unity?

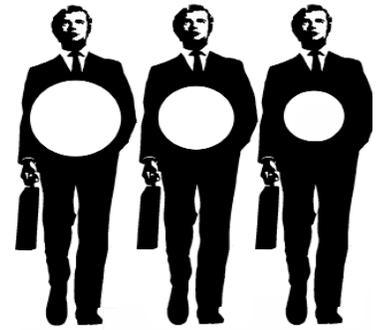
At Easter we do not proclaim that the fullness of God's reign has already been revealed—or that the Risen Christ is fully present in his resurrected body—the human church.

Rather we declare our faith that on an Easter morning two thousand years ago the reconciling, redeeming, transforming power was released. And we proclaim our confidence that one day all humanity will be one—and his broken body restored. Until that time, we wait and work in faith.

See you in Church!

Arvin

forum
alcoholism & addiction



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

SPEAKERS INCLUDE
 Representative
 Chip Shields,
D-Portland Dist. 43
 Ed Blackburn,
**Director of Health and
 Recovery Service CCC**

caring
stephen ministry

Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay members to provide distinctly Christian care to those experiencing all kinds of difficulties in life. Grounded in Jesus' command to love one another, it is based on the belief that caring for each other is an intended way of life for followers of Jesus Christ. Our church currently has 16 active Stephen Ministers. An information meeting will be held on May 15 at 9:15 AM to explain the Stephen Ministry program.

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

Beginning Adult Bible Study runs 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 is facilitated by Paul Adams.

fellowship opportunity

person to person

UMC HIKERS

Our March hike will be on Saturday, March 26. We will be hiking the Cape Lookout Trail on the Oregon Coast. The 5-mile round-trip hike through coastal rainforest offers spectacular views of the ocean and a chance of whale sightings. We will meet in the Tigard UMC parking lot (9845 SW Walnut Place), at 8:15 AM to form carpools. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks, water and appropriate clothing for the sometimes unpredictable spring weather on the coast. There is a suggested \$5.00 per person donation to the driver for carpooling and hikers should also bring \$4-5 for an optional snack stop. We should be back at the church around 5:00 PM. Anyone who enjoys hiking is welcome to join us, but you must sign up to insure that we have enough transportation available. Please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503 524-3737 if you would like to participate or if you have any questions

seniors

special trip

PORTLAND ART MUSEUM & LUNCH

Tuesday, May 10, First Church Seniors will enjoy lunch at the Georgian Room at Meier and Frank. Following lunch we will tour the Portland Art Museum with the help of a knowledgeable docent to view the new exhibit, "People of the River: Native Arts of Oregon Territory." This exhibit contains over 200 artifacts from the Pacific Northwest region. It is dedicated to the Native Americans that have lived along the Columbia River for over 10,000 years. Also, we will experience "Waking Dreams: The Art of the Pre-Raphaelites." This exhibit spans over 50 years of the Victorian era on loan from the Delaware Art Museum and many of the pieces have never been seen outside of Wilmington. Cost: \$19.50

Please contact Jolin Gard for reservations at 503/329-5707.

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

Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, March 16, 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Hostess: Janet Bennett. Devotions: Marion Hollenberg, Program: Life at Goose Hollow Shelter, 2004-2005 by Ron Williams. For information contact Hazel Wells.

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, March 16, 12:00 noon. Room 204 Program: An Hour before Daylight by Jimmy Carter, Nobel prize winner. It's a memory of his rural boyhood presented by Florence Snyder. Dessert and beverage provided. Bring a sandwich. For more information contact Hazel Balcomb.

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, March 17 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Library, Program: Benjamin Franklin, an American Life by Walter Isaacson. Leader: Hazel Wells. For more information contact Sue Fisher.

quilts

lewis & clark

First Church United Methodist Women will host a quilt exhibit based on the book, *Undaunted Courage: The Story of Lewis and Clark*. There will be a luncheon on April 29, 2005 at 11:00 AM in Collins Hall. The cost is \$12.00 and will benefit UMW's Mission Project. The Reservation deadline is April 22, 2005. The luncheon will feature conversations with the artists.



church finances

a report ...

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMITMENT...

You have already heard the report from the chair of our Stewardship Committee, Art Kayser, that estimates of giving for 2005 total just over \$803,000. We thank God for your response to God's love and your dedication—particularly in such uncertain financial times. That response, though, was slightly less than 2004: about 1.5% (\$12,500) lower.

HOWEVER ...

Since the campaign, our Finance Committee has been gathering budget data on what will be needed to fully support our growing ministries. They report that the fixed costs—utilities, insurance and maintenance, small cost-of-living salary adjustments, and the shared costs of our connectional ministries have increased significantly.

AS A RESULT ...

Since those costs represent such a large portion of our budget, unless our income figures change substantially, our local programs (age level ministries, congregational life, worship and music), as well as discretionary allocations for local agencies and second-mile missions will face reduction—ranging from 20-40%.

Staff and elected committees are currently identifying priorities for line items to share with the Finance Committee. A proposed budget will be presented for adoption to the Leadership Council at their next meeting, March 16, 2005.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

On Sunday, March 20, our children will exit the sanctuary with palm fronds, the church's purple t-shirts and their quarter collections. Everyone is encouraged to return their quarter collection on that Sunday. All money will be donated to UMCOR. Sunday School classes will be held as usual.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER

Sunday School classes for 3's through First grade at the 9:00 and 11:00 service. Two-year-olds will be in the church nursery. Second grade and up will participate in worship.

Easter Egg hunt sponsored by First UMC Youth will be held at 10:30 AM between the two services.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE SET FOR MARCH 13

The First Church Library will have an Open House on Sunday, March 13 following worship. Come and explore the possibilities in Children's Books, Adult literature, current events, magazines and videos. The library will be open before and after worship service with special treats after worship.

TICKETED BY MISTAKE?

City Center Parking issued tickets to cars in the parking lot at the corner of 18th & Jefferson (the lower lot) on Sunday, March 6. If you received a ticket, you can disregard it.

who are we

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

The current issue (Winter 2004) of *The Oregonian Historical Quarterly* has an article about "Impressions of Oregon: The Art of Reverend Melville Thomas Wire." It caught my eye because I knew "M.T." personally. Although he had retired from the Annual Conference a few years before I came to Oregon, he had continued to preach as an "approved supply" - a person that could be used by a District Superintendent to fill a pulpit that would otherwise be vacant. I was on a board which certified (many of them did not quite meet the educational, or some other, standard) persons annually for such emergency service. A Retired Elder was, of course, fully qualified, but we had to certify them annually anyhow. The article mentions that "M.T." (as he was affectionately known, at least behind his back) was married in the "First Methodist Church on Taylor St." in Portland. That's us, our second building at SW 3rd and Taylor. Whether his bride was a member there, I haven't tried to determine (although our records should show). But I have discovered that he had another tenuous connection with us. His father was our "Presiding Elder" (19th century lingo for "District Superintendent") and participated in the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone of Grace M.E. Church at 12th and Taylor (which had spun off 1st Church in 1884 and later was merged again into this congregation in 1912, and whose building then became our third building). It is not hard to believe (remembering the restrictions on youthful activities on the "Sabbath," especially for preacher's kids) that his son Melville, then 12-years old, may himself have been in the crowd. The article, incidentally, makes it clear that Wire has a significant place as an Impressionist in Oregon art history, and some of his work will be on display in the Hallie Ford Museum at Willamette University from March 12 through May 8, 2005. He also did etchings, some of which will be on display March 26 through May 21, 2005.

theater parties

THE LION KING

Tickets are being reserved for *The Lion King* for First Church Theater Parties October, 2005. Contact Agnes Zach for details.

SIMPLY SERVING

FIRST CHURCH LENTEN SUPPERS



SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday, March 16

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS LES & EVA AIGNER TO SPEAK ...

Les Aigner was born in Czechoslovakia in 1929. In June 1944, because of his religion, as a 15-year-old boy he was taken from his home, at that time Budapest Hungary, with part of his family to Auschwitz (Poland) Concentration Camp. From there he was shipped to several camps, and was liberated in Dachau Germany by the American forces. After spending some time to recover his health in the field hospital, he started to look for his family and went back to Hungary. Les found out that most of his family was killed in the Holocaust. Hungary became a Communist country after the war years.

Eva Aigner was born in Czechoslovakia in 1937. As a 7-year-old child she was taken from her home in Budapest Hungary, because of religious reasons. She was taken to the Ghetto with her older sister who was 15-years-old. Eva survived the Budapest Ghetto, but lost many of her family members in the Holocaust.

Les and Eva got married in Hungary in 1956, and escaped together from Communism with the great desire to build a new family in a free country.

“We kept silent about our experience for many years, but we have decided we need to share our history of incarceration during the Holocaust in order to teach the younger generations what hate and discrimination can do to people’s lives.”

this & that

a variety of items of interest

DEAD MAN WALKING

The Jesuit High School Drama Program presents, *Dead Man Walking*, the Oregon Premiere of the new stage adaptation by Tim Robbins. The production is currently running and will continue through March 13, 2005. Showtimes Thursday - Saturday are 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM. It is at the Marilyn Moyer Theater of Jesuit High School. This play is directed by Jeff Hall of First UMC and is a powerful statement against capital punishment. For ticket information call: 503/291-5468.

COLUMBIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Portland's Columbia Symphony Orchestra presents a concert at 8:00 PM on Friday, March 18, 2005 at the First UMC. The concert features Rosa Li, Judy Park and Jessica Shim each playing a movement from Mozart's Concerto No. 14. A pre-concert conversation with Mr. Edwards and piano teacher Dorothy Fahlman begins at 7:15 PM. This concert exemplifies CSO's mission to present new and rarely performed works with its performance of Auber's Overture to the Bronze Horse, Tippett's Suite for the Birthday of Prince Charles, and the world premiere of Playman's Symphony No. 4. Tickets are available at the door the night of the performance and through the orchestra office by calling 503-234-4077 or 360-993-1711. Ticket are \$20 adult/ \$15 senior /\$10 student.

learn
 electives for elders

GREAT SOULS

Billy Graham

Nelson Mandela

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Mother Teresa

Elie Wiesel

ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS APRIL 5 - MAY 3, 2005

From his unique vantage point as a senior journalist with TIME magazine, David Aikman witnessed some of the most important world events and interviewed many of the prominent global power figures of his time. Aikman profiles several of these figures who embody specific virtues sorely needed today.

Join Pastor Luchs each week as we examine in depth several of the lives that “changed a century.”

Tuesday, April 5
Billy Graham (salvation)

Tuesday, April 12
Nelson Mandela (forgiveness)

Tuesday, April 19
Alexander Solzhenitsyn (truth)

Tuesday, April 26
Mother Teresa (compassion)

Tuesday, May 3
Elie Wiesel (remembrance)

Register for this series by contacting Agnes Zach, Interim Director of Christian Education at 503/228-3195 ext. 229 or at azach@fumcpdx.org Series cost is \$15.00 with the book available for purchase for \$15.00. Individual classes may be attended for a cost of \$5.00.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

take note

the church family

Our prayers are with ...

Clifford Droke and Diane Pinney, Diane's sister died on March 2;
Bob Wilson, who is recovering from surgery;
Alex Esguerra, who is very ill with pneumonia;
Becky Bullis, who is recovering from surgery;
The family of Elma Shuck, who died in February;
Marty Martin's mother, who is recovering from a stroke;
Ankor and Louise Jorgensen and their family,
Their son, Gary, died in Costa Rica on February 5. He is survived by
his wife and eight year old son.
Ariel Gutierrez' mother, Rafaela, who has had a series of strokes
in Puerto Rico.

Continued prayers for ...

Janet White, Al Leonard, Jane Rhodes, Agnes Clark, and Tom Iverson.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for ...

Bill & Melba Rizzo, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

ha

What is the difference between a bad golfer and a bad parachutist? A bad golfer goes: whack, "Darn!" A bad parachutist goes "Darn!" whack.

GREETERS NEEDED

Greeters are needed for the Maundy Thursday service, March 24th at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday, service at 12: noon, March 25th, and Easter Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 am March 27th. Greeters need to be available thirty minutes before the service begins. Sign up sheets are posted on the windows of the long hall by the office. Please consider donating thirty minutes of your time for one or more of these important events in the life of our church.

SAVE THE DATE

June 19, 2005 will be First Church's 6th annual participation in Portland's Gay Pride Parade. We are planning some special events to help the marchers celebrate this festive occasion. Details will unfold as soon as we know all the details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 10-24,
Open to children turning 4 through entering 6th grade. Youth and Adult Volunteers wanted!

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 23, 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.



Easter Lilies

It is time to order flowers to prepare our sanctuary for Easter. This year there are three choices: lilies or azaleas for \$11.50 each or hydrangea for \$13.00 each. Use the below form to indicate which flowers you want to order and if they are in memory or honor of someone. Return the form to the church office with your check, **by March 20, 2005** Indicate: LILY in the memo portion of the check.

EASTER LILY	(\$11.50)
AZALEA	(\$11.50)
HYDRANGEA	(\$13.00)

Your Name

Name In Memory In Honor

***If you are ordering lilies or hydrangeas
please get your order in ASAP.***