



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

March 23, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 6

THIS SUNDAY

MARCH 27, 2005

EASTER WORSHIP

9:00 & 11:00 AM

Sermon
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.

the **E**dition Easter SUNDAY 9 & 11

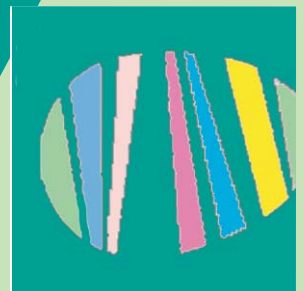


Worship Services at
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
in the Sanctuary.

- Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs
preaching ...
"Someone to Hold On To"
- SPECIAL MUSIC ...
Prelude music by the
Festival Brass and Organ
- The Chancel Choir & Veritas
- Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*
sung by the choirs and the
congregation.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Between services there
will be an Easter Egg Hunt
for children, First Grade and
younger in the Beckham Courtyard.





memo
Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Death seems altogether too close today. The joy and eagerness of the children waving palm branches, and tender moments of the baptism of a child, just weeks old, stood in contrast to the courageous grieving of family and friends as we remembered the too brief life of Gary Jorgensen

As I write, the news is filled with stories of the agony of Terry Schiavo's family, exhausted after fifteen years at the bedside of their brain-damaged daughter and wife, torn with emotion and conflict, struggling over the most difficult decisions humans have to make. There are no easy answers or clear moral choices in such a time as this.

I mourn each day as the headlines report still more deaths from wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Africa. I am stunned by senseless violence and gruesome murders in Atlanta, Florida, and on our own city streets.

The presence of death will be close to us throughout Holy Week. That, of course, is the time we symbolically trek alongside Jesus and the disciples from the adulation of the crowds on Palm Sunday, to a Passover supper in an Upper Room, prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest, trial, floggings and on Friday his crucifixion, death and burial.

As we know, that is not the end. For a Christian, while death is very real, it is never the last word. Within even the most destructive and devastating moments is an energy and a spirit bringing new hope, new possibilities, new life.

And so to a world stunned by misery and loss we proclaim a hope.

To a world held captive to anger and hatred we raise the power of love.

To a world seeped in death and destruction, we declare the power of life.

Come and join with us as we declare our confidence in the power of God—a power that not even death can stop.

See you in Church,

Arvin

stephen ministry
caring for others



Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are—hospitalized, seriously ill or disabled, facing loss of any kind, bereaved, in a life transition, in a job crisis, experiencing a broken relationship, homebound, lonely, in a spiritual crisis, looking for a caring, Christian friend. All inquiries and referrals are strictly confidential. A new class to train Stephen Ministers will begin in fall 2005. Learn more about Stephen Ministry by attending an informational meeting on May 15 at 9:15 AM.

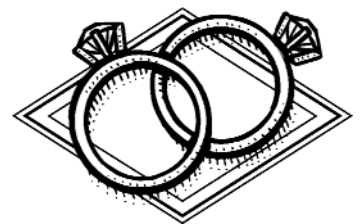
a play
leap of faith



*An Inter-Active
 Theater Piece on the
 Pros & Cons of
 Gay Marriage
 Saturday, April 30
 at 5:30 PM
 Collins Hall
 Tickets are \$20.00*

The Outreach, Nurture, and Congregational Life areas of First United Methodist Church present the professional drama troupe, Act for Action, in dinner theater production of "Leap of Faith." This is an inter-active theater piece that will allow you to experience the triumphs and trials of a gay wedding. The audience is invited to engage in conversation with the actors on the pros and cons of the issue.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and include dinner and the play. Only 200 tickets are available. This is also a fundraiser for the First Church Youth Mission Trip. Tickets may be purchased in the church office or from youth and their parents.



adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS PRESENTS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134. This class prepares to discuss a new "old" book: *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a discussion of Christian fellowship. Everyone is invited to join this class as they explore the implications of Christian fellowship.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Discussion centers on living a Christian life in a world of change. We will begin discussing the book: *God's Politics* by Jim Wallis: starting April 3, 2005. Books available for purchase for \$15.00. Scholarships available. Everyone is welcome!

BEGINNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Adult Bible Study is currently being offered through 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 First UMC member, Paul Adams.

PLANET CHURCH: HEALTHY PLANET - HEALTHY CHILDREN

Planet Church facilitates the discussion of "Healthy Planet - Healthy Children," sponsored by the NW Earth Institute. This discussion group meets in the Parlor (Room 110) at 9:15 AM each Sunday morning to look at the impacts of environmental influences on our children.

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

new fitness

exercise

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 9:00 to 10:00 AM in Collins Hall, a group of First Church members and guests join together for an hour of stretching, limbering and strengthening. This class is open to anyone looking for a way to gain strength and energy without jolting joints or straining muscles. Each class is taught by a professional instructor and costs \$3.00. Coupons to attend a free class are available at the church

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

APRIL LUNCH & QUILT EXHIBIT

Friday, April 29, 11:00 AM in Collins Hall, hosted by Portland First's United Methodist Women. Program based on *Undaunted Courage: The Story of Lewis & Clark* by Stephen Ambrose. Come see these fabulous quilts. Enjoy a delicious lunch. Cost: \$12.00. proceeds to benefit UMW mission projects. The reservation deadline is April 22. For tickets, contact Trudy Kayer, Mary Covert, or Ruth Green.

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, March 30, 10:00 AM Parlor

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Wednesday, March 30, 11:30 AM in Room 204. The program will be a Baby shower for FISH Information: Mary Covert

UMW UNIT GATHERING

Wednesday, April 06, 10:00 AM meeting, in the Fireside Room and an 11:00 AM program by Kevin McClure. Hope for Harmony in Disrupted Dwelling 12:00 PM is lunch. Dessert & beverage provided, bring a sandwich.

METRO DISTRICT

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Metro District will sponsor a one-day retreat, either Friday, April 08, or Saturday, April 09; 9:30:AM to 3:30 PM Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Hwy 211, Eagle Creek, OR Program: Fruits of the Spirit, led by Carole Sullivan, UMW Conference President Registration: \$15 includes lunch. Payment due before April 01. Information: Lila Palmiter.

SCHOOL OF MISSION

July 28-31, 2005

Willamette University, Salem, Oregon Both men and women are encouraged to take advantage of these annual learning opportunities.

global outreach

considering a new covenant relationship



For 2005, the Global Missions committee is asking consideration of a covenant relationship with Clara Mridula Biswas, a missionary from Bangladesh, who, for the past four years, has been posted to Cambodia.

For many years, First UMC has supported three missionaries through "Covenant Relationships." In exchange for a financial contribution (the amount of which is based upon the membership of the church) to the General Board of Global Ministries, the church enjoys a "partnership" relationship with these missionaries. The missionaries keep in touch with partner churches via photos, newsletters and e-mail and, when they "itinerate," or return to the United States for home leave, they visit their partner churches and speak at whatever events are arranged to honor them, and to help them describe their mission. First UMC has had ongoing relationships with Gordon and Teca Greathouse in Brazil, Teri and Ev Erbele in Latvia and Lithuania, and Ron and Diane Ray in Kenya.

For 2005, the Global Missions committee is asking consideration of a covenant relationship with Clara Mridula Biswas, a missionary from Bangladesh, who, for the past four years, has been posted to Cambodia.

In Cambodia, Clara, a trained social worker, has been working with the Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization to provide scholarships and job training to street children, helping to provide nutritional support and a Sunday School program for children in the Phnom Penh dump, working with the orphans in the Live Children Association, and trying to improve living conditions and opportunities for residents of Phnom Penh's slums.

Global Mission committee member, Dee Poujade, had the honor of meeting Clara on her recent UMCVIM trip to Cambodia, and suggested to the committee that Clara's work was worthy of support.

Clara's newsletter will be posted on the bulletin board in Collins Hall along with our other missionaries' most recent newsletters.

who are we

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

A while back I took a guided tour of underground Portland -- the maze of tunnels, rooms, etc. dug in the 19th century beneath much of what was Portland's "downtown," West Burnside Street. I went in under the present "Hobos" bar and restaurant at 120 NW 3rd. The tunnels ran from the waterfront on the Willamette River to about NW 23rd and had legitimate commercial uses (delivery, storage) for many places of business. They were and are not nearly as impressive as those under Kansas City, but they had a noteriety of their own: they were used in the shanghaiing of sailors. Nobody is sure how the word "shanghai" come to be a verb. The *Oxford English Dictionary* says it is "nautical slang" which "originated in the U.S." What it meant was getting a sailor dead drunk, or drugged, then delivering him, for a price, to a ship that was about to sail; when he woke up he was already at sea and had no alternative but to work his way at least as far as the next port-of-call. It was cheaper to get seamen that way than to keep them on salary while a ship lay over in port (maybe two or three months) waiting for new cargo. It was, to say the least, a demeaning and vicious practice, and Portland was famous for it. One of the persons who led in the fight to outlaw it, was a member of this church for more than forty years: "Father" Fletcher. He himself had been shanghaiied; he also had lived the rugged life of a "49er" gold miner in both California and Idaho. Born an Irish Catholic, he had become a Methodist in the gold fields, taught himself to read by studying the Bible, and drifted to Portland for no particular reason. For a long time he was the janitor in our second building, the "Taylor St. Church." But he was also a Class Leader (sort of an unpaid assistant pastor) and a spiritual giant. He established the first mission (sort of a YMCA) for seamen in Portland, and he mobilized the decent citizenry to end the malignant, although profitable practice. He died almost one hundred years ago and was the first to leave what, in effect, became a permanent endowment for this congregation.



seniors

special trip

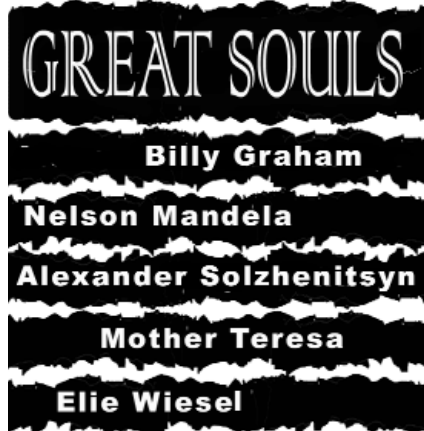
PORTLAND ART MUSEUM & LUNCH

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.

learn

electives for elders



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)

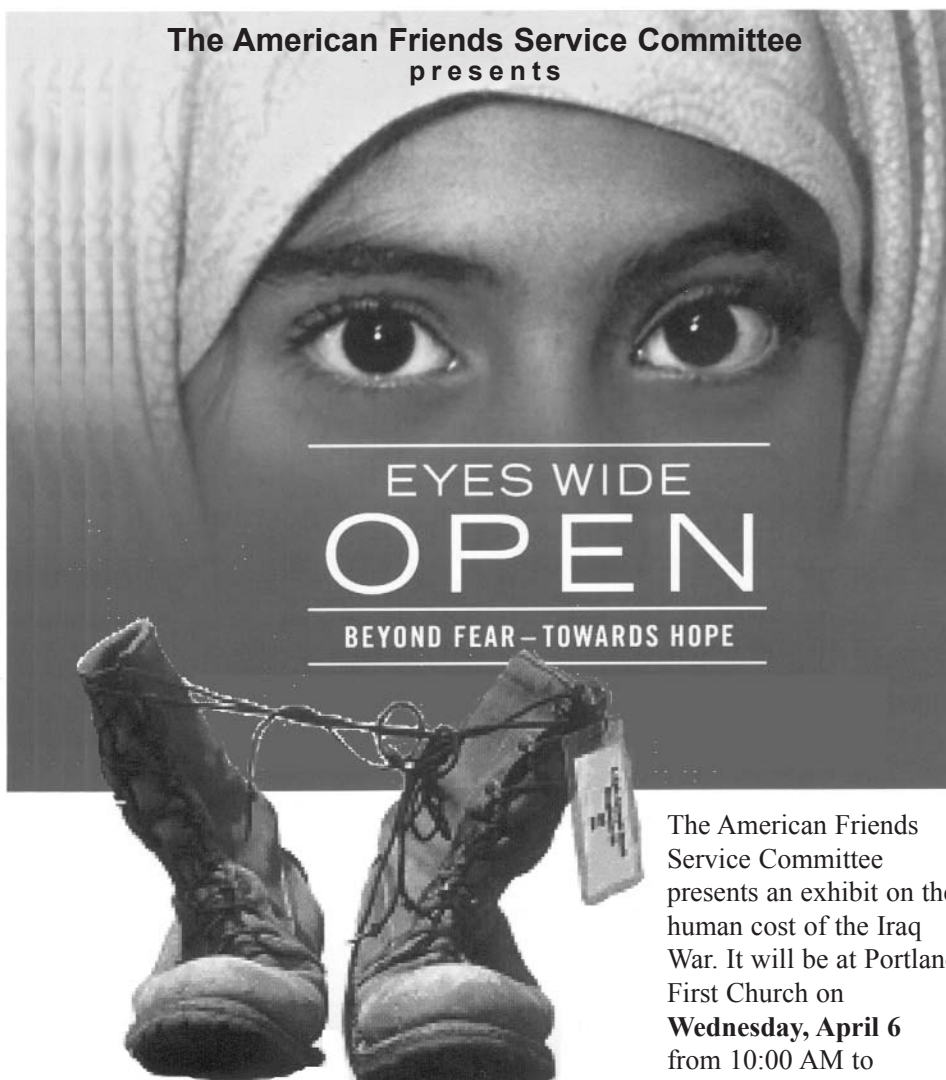
Tuesday, April 12
Nelson Mandela (forgiveness)

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. 227 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.



The American Friends Service Committee presents an exhibit on the human cost of the Iraq War. It will be at Portland First Church on **Wednesday, April 6** from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and on **Thursday, April 7** from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For more information, you can visit their website at: www.afsc.org.

The exhibit features:

- A pair of boots honoring each US military casualty
- A Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the war
- A multi-media display exploring the history, cost and consequences of the war

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

take note

the church family

Our prayers are with ...

Donna Clark and her family, Donna's brother-in-law died in Arkansas;
Louise Ross, who is recovering from surgery;
Bob Lawson and his family, on the death of his uncle;
Theresa Giesler, who is at Legacy Good Samaritan with pneumonia.

Continued prayers for ...

Alex Esguerra, Bob Wilson, Janet White, Al Leonard, Jane Rhodes, Agnes Clark, Bob Ross, Piper O'Brian, and Tom Iverson. We continue to pray for *Clifford Droke and Diane Pinney and the Jorgensen family*, who are coping with grief.

CHRISMON MAKING WORKSHOP

Learn to make the beautiful decorations that will be used on our Sanctuary tree at Christmas. The next Chrismon Making Workshop will be Sunday, April 3, at 11:45 AM in Room 134.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 20-24, 2005

Mark your calendars now. VBS is open to children turning 4 through entering 6th grade. Youth and Adult Volunteers wanted, too! Activities will be scheduled from 9:00 AM through noon each day. Child care is available during VBS for children of volunteers. Contact Angela Kemling for more information at 503/244-6162.



ha!

FIVE REASONS WHY THE EASTER BUNNY BRINGS EGGS

05. Big tax write-off.
04. Who ever heard of Easter Bricks?
03. Secret plan to eliminate human race by cholesterol overdose.
02. Would you want to hunt for waffles?
01. Because the Energizer rabbit got the good job.

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 **April 6, 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.