



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

April 4, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 7

THIS SUNDAY

APRIL 10, 2005

**BLENDED
WORSHIP**

10:30 AM

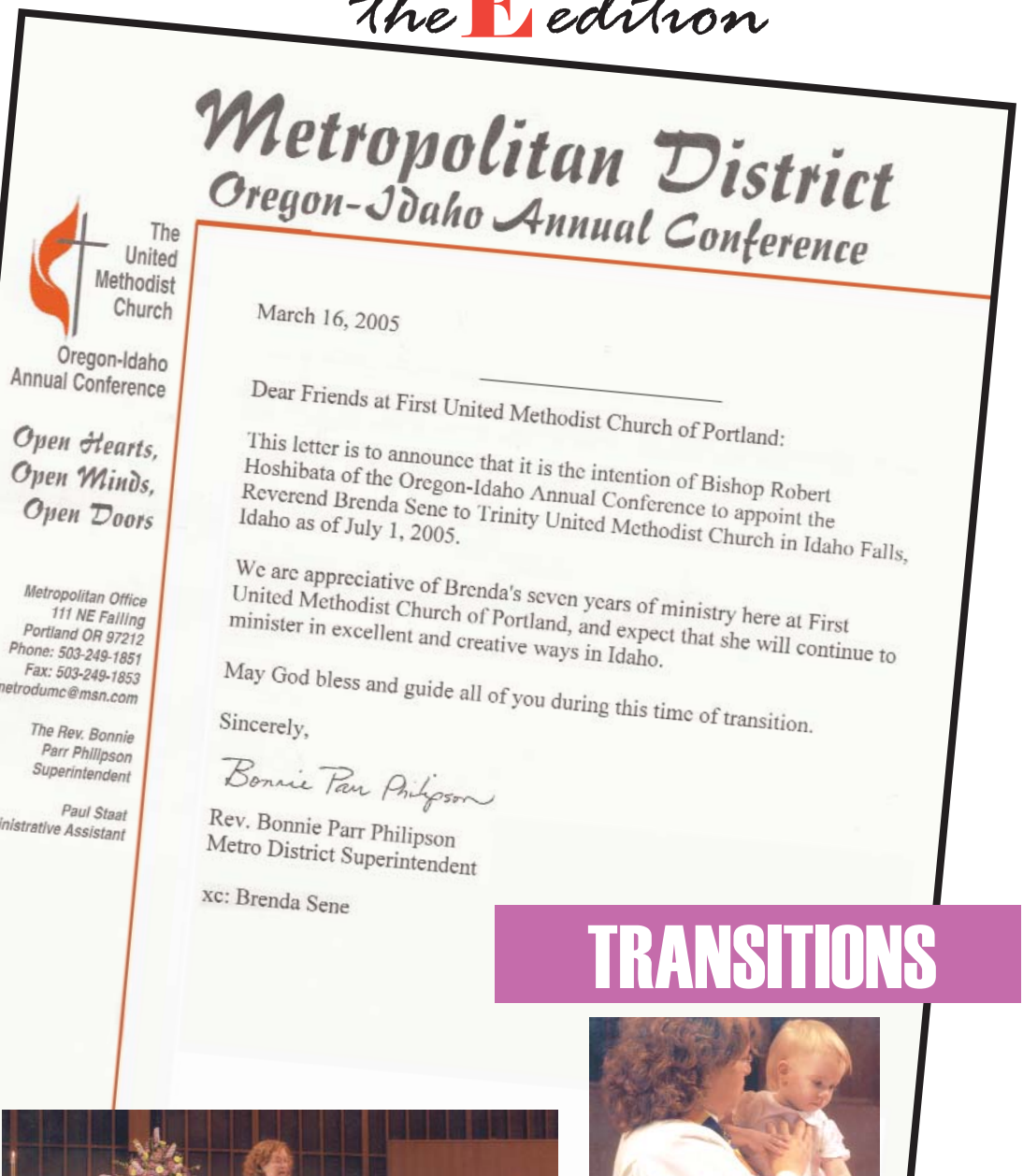
The Fall Frolic
Band and
Jennifer Graver

Shared Word
Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time
Rev. Brenda Sene
and Ronnee Edwards



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.



TRANSITIONS



Congratulations, Brenda!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs



If you're like me, the announcement from our District Superintendent that Bishop Hoshibata intends to appoint my dedicated colleague, Brenda Sene, to another congregation fills me with a mixture of feelings: regret,

disappointment, appreciation for her fine ministry among us and celebration that she will be the pastor-in-charge of a wonderful and significant congregation. She will do us proud!

Some have wondered, "What happens next?" Let me explain.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (our personnel committee) under the able leadership of Dr. Wid Bleything has already met several times. They are your representatives in the assignment and coordination of clergy and staff. Currently they are working to perfect a job description that reflects their best understanding of our pastoral needs for the foreseeable future to share with our District Superintendent.

Our Superintendent, The Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, will consult with her colleagues and the Bishop about the best candidates to join our staff. They will contact their choice to determine her/his willingness to come to First Church. The Superintendent will consult with me and with the SPRC about their nominee.

If everyone is in agreement, a mutual meeting will be scheduled with the candidate and the SPRC to test compatibility. If all goes well, the Bishop will give us (and the candidate's church) authority to announce the intended appointment.

How soon will that take place? Well, we can't precisely set a timeline. Be assured that both the Bishop and the SPRC are making every effort to make the process as smooth and timely as possible. If all goes well, we will know well in advance of June's Annual Conference who our next associate will be. Move day is June 29 and we will welcome a new associate pastor on July 3.

See you in church!

Arvin

offerings

Rev. Brenda Sene

Change is difficult. My mother moved into an Assisted Living facility a few weeks ago. We had been working toward this for months, so we were very excited on the day the news arrived that there was an opening for her. Many people in our congregation have either made this decision and move for themselves, or have participated in the decision and move for their parents or other family members. It is a difficult decision. It is hard for any person to give up their independence and adjust to life within a community.

On the day the news of my mother's acceptance arrived, my family was surprised by the news that we, too, would soon be moving. As a United Methodist pastor, I know that there is always the possibility of being asked to move to another congregation, but I did not expect to receive the phone call from a District Superintendent this spring. I had requested to remain at First Church again this coming year, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee had also requested that I remain, but the Cabinet (comprised of the five District Superintendents of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and our Bishop), after prayerful consideration, requested that I consider a move to Trinity Church in Idaho Falls.

My initial reaction was complete panic! How could this possibly happen? I am so comfortable at First Church, and I love ministry with this congregation. How could I possibly be asked to give this up? But then I took the time to think through what the Cabinet was asking of me. I have been the Associate Pastor of First Church for seven years. I have been blessed with the mentorship of many retired pastors here. I have learned about Reconciling ministries, and about what it means for a congregation to help people heal from hurts partially inflicted by churches in the past. I have grown in ministry by working with incredibly strong lay leadership in this congregation, and by working with gifted staff. I have learned about church administration and leadership from working with two Senior Pastors I have grown to love. Ministry along side all of you at First Church has grown to become comfortable for me because my theology is so similar to the theology of many of you. Perhaps it is time for me to leave the comfort of First Church and accept the challenge of continuing to grow and learn in ministry with another congregation. And perhaps it is time for First Church to experience the freshness of a new pastor.

I have accepted the offer of ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church in Idaho Falls. We will be moving in late June. My mother will follow after we are settled. There are still three months of ministry here at First Church before the move, and we have lots to do! Spring is such a busy time in the church, and I'm not ready to say "good-bye" just yet. So, roll up your sleeves with me, the same as we do every year. Choose your area to work on. I'm going to be working with the youth on their upcoming mission fundraiser theater dinner, planning and participating in the Pride Parade, planning worship, helping with Vacation Bible School, encouraging the children's musical on May 22, working with the Lay Leadership Committee to fill committee positions for next year, visiting people who need pastoral care...the list goes on. Much can be accomplished in three months. Let's continue with ministry together, and continue to share God's incredibly inclusive love with each other! We'll save the "good-byes" for later.

Grace & Peace,

Brenda

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134. This class is discussing a new "old" book, *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Everyone is invited to join this class as they explore the implications of Christian fellowship. Books are available in the classroom for \$10.00.

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. Currently they are discussing the book: *God's Politics* by Jim Wallis. 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 May 1st in Room 160. 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



JUST LUNCH: RECONCILING MINISTRIES

The third Sunday of every month, the Just Friends group goes out to lunch after church. Everyone is invited. The next Just Friends' Lunch is Sunday, April 17 at Buster's Texas-Style BBQ in Tigard. For more info contact: Paul Adams at 503/790-0606.

FOOD AND FRIENDS

Food and Friends will be dining at the Oba! Restorante on April 15 at 6:30 PM. The address is 555 NW 12th Ave., nursery care will be available at the church. Form more info contact: Donna Clark at dclarkio@msn.com or 503/289-3829.

UMC HIKERS

The April hike will be on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Please reserve this date and watch for more details in the next Circuit Rider or e-mail Paula Justice at: jpaula354@aol.com

TRIP TO THE PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

On Tuesday, May 10, First Church Seniors will go to the Portland Art Museum. We will enjoy lunch at the Georgian Room at Meier and Frank. Following lunch we will tour the Portland Art Museum. The cost is \$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.

APRIL LUNCH & QUILT EXHIBIT

A Quilt Exhibit and Lunch will be held Friday, April 29, 11:00 AM in Collins Hall, hosted by United Methodist Women. The book upon which the quilts are based is *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose. It is an introduction to the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1803 to 1806. The book begins with Lewis' early life and continues through to the aftermath of the expedition, which ultimately leads to Lewis' suicide. It will be interesting to see how these concepts are portrayed in the quilts. Come see these quilts and enjoy a delicious lunch. Cost: \$12.00. A UMW mission project. Reservation deadline is April 22. For tickets, contact Trudy Kayser, Mary Covert, or Ruth Green.

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, April 20 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Hostess is Mary Vance with devotions by Kitty Riddle. The program will feature Dr. Arvin Luchs' review of the book, *The Iceberg is Melting*, by Rev. Schaller.

RUTH GUILD.

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, April 20, 12:00 PM. Room 204. The program: the ministry of Goose Hollow Homeless Shelter with Ron Williams. Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich. Info: Betty-Lou Hare.

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, April 21 at 10:00 AM in the Library. Program: *Undaunted Courage: The Story of Lewis and Clark* by Stephen Ambrose. Leader: Trudy Kayser, info: Sue Fisher.

CWU SPRING FORUM

The Church Women United Spring Forum will be Thursday, April 7 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 6835 SW 46th Ave, Portland. The program will feature preventing identity theft. For more info contact: Betty Lou Hare.

God's creation

celebrating earth day



Children's and Family Ministries join with Planet Church and the Church Library to celebrate Earth Day with "Celebrating God's Creation!" on Sunday, April 17, following worship. There will be lots of things to experience, enjoy and share!

Some Background ...

Earth Day began in 1970 as an organized grassroots effort to bring environmental issues to the forefront of political and social dialogue. Organizers intended for it to be a way to recognize the vital dependence that we all have on the Earth and all of its natural resources, and our important responsibility to take care of our environment. Over the years, Earth Day has evolved into Earth Week to accommodate all the events that fall on the days before and after Earth Day.

Planet Church ...

The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the critical role humankind plays in protecting God's Creation in our Social Principles. At First UMC, we will celebrate Earth Week on Sunday, April 17 with Celebrating God's Creation. The Planet Church Committee will be hosting coffee hour after worship.

In addition, during this fellowship time, there will be an information fair with literature and other materials about important environmental issues and activities that will reduce your impact on the Earth. Displays will include information on climate change, recycling, community supported agriculture and more. In addition, Chinook Books (books with coupons for businesses with environmentally-conscious practices) will be for sale.

A Special Brunch ...

In the spirit of Earth Day, Children's and Family Ministries is providing an organic buffet lunch. The buffet will feature organic foods appealing to young and old alike. Donations will be accepted for the lunch and information will be on the tables about taking care of yourself through the foods you choose to eat.

Also a Book Sale ...

Don't forget to visit the Library Book Sale as a part of Celebrating God's Creation. There will be a wonderful selection of books to choose from. Take what you want and donate what you can. All contributions to the book sale support additions to the collection of the First Church Library. In Earth Day tradition, any remaining books will be donated to the Beaverton Library Used Books department

shovel & rake

a report

Throughout the winter Shovel and Rake attendance has continued to average about 18 persons assembling each Thursday at 8:00 AM to care for our grounds and our building. Improving the area north of the Gym (between the Gym and Max Station) by putting in lawn and landscaping plants is one project we hope to complete before summer.

A very important member is Betty Hager, who assumed the duties of the late Ruth Peterson (that of hosting our coffee time each Thursday), when Ruth moved to Minnesota over five years ago. Betty is at church promptly at 9:30 to serve cake, coffee and tea, then attend to the clean-up work afterwards. She, with June Kinney and Nell McManus, also takes her turn at baking cakes in addition to keeping us supplied with other treats to satisfy dietary restrictions. Betty's always cheerful attitude brings much joy to our gatherings. She greets each individual personally when we meet for our mid-morning coffee break. Every member appreciates her thoughtful service. Everyone looks forward to this time of fellowship, which we have found to be unequalled.

To accomplish all our landscaping needs we urge others to join the Shovel and Rake Gang in this work. Just show up when you are ready!

leap of faith

dinner theater

The Outreach, Nurture, and Congregational Life areas of First United Methodist Church present the professional drama troupe, Act for Action, in a dinner theater production of "Leap of Faith," Saturday, April 30 at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall.

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.

outreach ministries lobbying at the capitol

Congratulations and thanks to the First Church members for making EMO's Interfaith Advocacy Day in Salem a huge success. We had over 150 people from religious groups throughout the state and twenty groups that sponsored the event including Portland FUMC. We met with many legislators on issues and legislation related to poverty.

One highlight of the day was our group being addressed by House Speaker Karen Minnis for nearly seven minutes during our morning session. Speaker Minnis reminded the participants that there is a cap on spending and there will be no additional revenues forthcoming. Speaker Minnis further explained that all of her colleagues in the House and Senate on her side of the aisle are "compassionate and caring people" and we should not forget that the voters of Oregon are the ones who voted down the last referendum on tax equity. This was a theme that was repeated throughout the day.

Jonah Edelman of Stand for Child was the primary lobbyist trainer for the day. Mr. Edleman presented some very helpful advise for meeting with legislators that included the idea of appointing a leader for your group to be the primary spokesperson and to also set a time frame for the meeting at the beginning. One last recommendation is to always ask for a specific commitment that can be followed up on later.

our worship experience next sunday

Next Sunday you are invited to share in a special experience in our 10:30 AM worship service.

Last fall we surveyed your opinions about worship. A significant response favored a "blended worship" experience in addition to our regular service. Responding to that interest, our Leadership Council has asked that this spring we try out a variety of styles during our regular worship time to gauge interest and reaction. Next Sunday will be a first attempt.

Our Fall Frolic Band along with Jennifer Graver will participate. Ronnee Edwards will help with the Children's time. It should be a tune-filled and lively time. We hope that you will come with an open and expectant heart to worship God and share with us your reactions and comments.



our website www.fumcpdx

Have you visited the First Church website recently? (www.fumcpdx.org) Our new webmaster, Paul Adams, has made some significant improvements to the site. It is a great place to check in for current church information.

transitions youth ministry

With sadness and regret, we announce the resignation of MyraJean Marshall who has been our Youth Director. Late last year she and her husband, Michael moved to Chehalis, Washington where Michael, is employed. Understandably the impact of a long commute and a young family have made it difficult for her to continue, though she and her husband plan to remain in our membership.

Myra Jean has been a creative and positive influence in the youth area taking on many challenges and expanding opportunities for the youth to be involved in local service, music and enrichment. She has represented the area well with Leadership Council and in the Metro-District. We will certainly miss her.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is reviewing congregational expectations and a search committee has been formed. An opportunity for parents and youth to share their ideas with the committee is planned for next Sunday following worship.

A farewell reception for MyraJean is planned to follow the Youth Sunday worship on April 24th in Collins Hall.

Wid Bleything, Chair of SPRC

rummage sale shelter benefit

On Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 there will be a Rummage Sale to benefit the Goose Hollow Family Shelter in the First Church parking lot. Shout it from the rooftops! We need your donations of good, clean usable household goods, clothing, sporting goods and miscellaneous gifts for our first Rummage Sale. Spring is here, which means it's time to clean out the closets and of course the garage! We will be collecting your unwanted items that are in sellable condition on Friday, April 22 between the hours of 7:00 AM and noon. If you can drop off the items here in the parking lot on the 22nd, that would be great! We cannot accept donations delivered to the church prior to those dates and times. Limited pick up is possible with lots of advance notice. Rummage Sale hours are:

Friday, April 22 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM and
Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

If you have questions, please call 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or email the shelter at: ghfs@fumcpdx.org.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Barbara, Greg, Sam & Sarah Baker and their extended family upon the death of Barbara's father who died in Nebraska;

Dick Clark who fell and broke his hip. He is recovering from surgery;

Mary Domreis, hospitalized at Good Samaritan Medical Center;

Theresa Giesler, who is at Good Samaritan Medical Center;

David & Marliss Shelton, upon the death of David's father Ray who died on Sunday.

Prayers of thanksgiving for ...

Audrey Creevey, who was baptized following worship on April 3. Audrey is the child of Lynn Porta and Mark Creevey.

Continued prayers for ...

Agnes Clark, Bob & Louise Ross, Jane Rhodes, Tom Iverson, Al Leonard, Alex Esguerra, and Janet White.



take note

the church family

A RETIRING USHER

A big thank you to Dick Clark who has decided to retire as a church usher, after 25 plus years of service.

SOMETHING TO WATCH FOR

The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," with our own Kim Rhodes is now airing daily on the Disney Channel (Comcast 41). Check your local listings for scheduled airings.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 20-24, 2005

Mark your calendars now. VBS is open to children turning age 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.

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 20, 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.