



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 20, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 8

THIS
SUNDAY

APRIL 24, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

YOUTH
SUNDAY

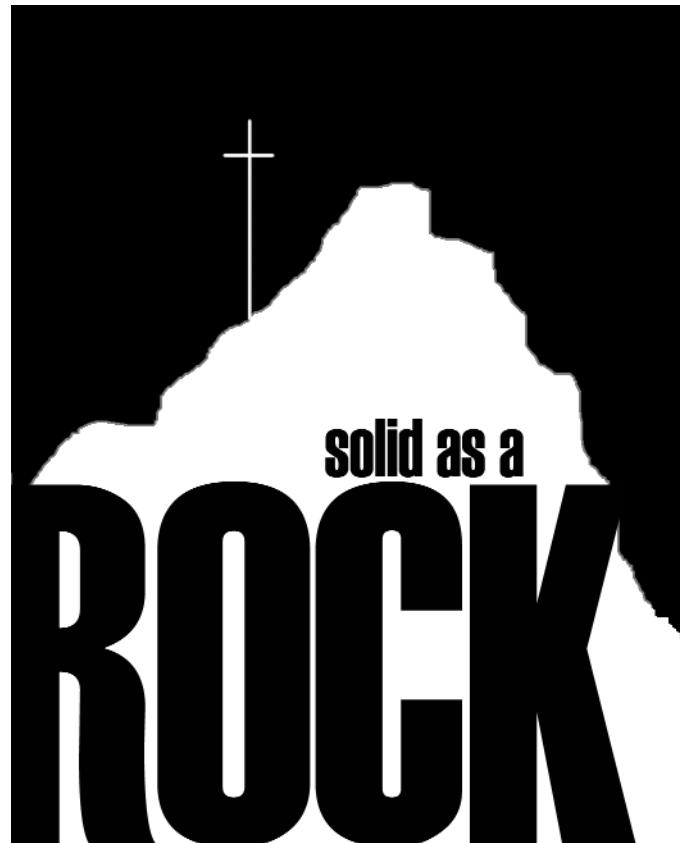


As a Reconciling Congregation, members of First United Methodist Church have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation.

the E edition

YOUTH SUNDAY

APRIL 24, 2005



Psalm 31: 2

There will be a Farewell Reception for MyraJean Marshall following the Youth Service. Donations toward a farewell gift may be forwarded to the Church Office, marked: MyraJean

YOUTH
MISSION TRIP
FUND RAISER

LEAP OF
FAITH

DINNER THEATER

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



Lasagna
(Vegetarian or Meat)

Rustic Bread

Mixed Green Salad with choice of dressing

Snoqualmie Gourmet Ice Cream Desert



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

She calls it the “None Zone” because, when surveyed about religious preferences, Pacific North Westerners check “None” more often than any other part of the country.

Patricia O’Connell Killen, a professor at Pacific Lutheran University and author of a provocative new study, *Pacific Northwest: The None Zone*,* says it’s a reality as old as pioneer Euro-American settlements. She quotes Professor E.J. Klemme of the Washington State Normal School who wrote in 1915,

“The people that builded (sic) this empire (left) the Golden Rule beyond the Rockies and then proceeded to do others before others could do them. In the east they were faithful church members; now they are not even church (at)tenders. The ascent of the Great Divide seemed too steep for church letters. The air of the Northwest too rare for prayer. We have hurried forth to conquer the wilderness, but we have been conquered by it.” (Klemme, E.J. and Kumler, B.F., *The Pacific Northwest Pulpit*, The Methodist Book Concern, New York, 1915 quoted in Killen, Op.Cit., p.9)

Killen suspects several factors contribute to the low religious affiliation: rampant individualism, the lack of strong sectarian traditions to provide ‘religious reference’ points, and the impact of nature—the grandeur of the mountains, lush forests and captivating ocean beaches. Her study includes reflections of several distinguished scholars about four religious clusters: the mainline (including protestants, Catholics, and Jewish traditions), the sectarian entrepreneurs (mostly evangelical mega-churches), pacific rim (native religions as well as eastern religious traditions) and the largest cluster, “secular, but spiritual.”

Killen’s book is one of nine published by the Center for the Study of Religion at Trinity College in Connecticut. The publishers believe that there are clear ‘zones’ of religious culture—each with their own unique dynamics and culture.

The “None Zone” volume is available in our Library and in most bookstores. If you’d like to hear for yourself, Killen will be the keynote presenter at a seminar to be held at First United Methodist in Vancouver, Washington, on May 24 under the auspices of the Northwest House of Theological Studies. A poster with details is on the office window.

The unique landscape of Northwest religion is also the subject of a research project by Dr. James Wellman of the University of Washington. He is researching the contrasting life of evangelical and ‘progressive’ congregations in Washington and Oregon and has asked our congregation to participate. On the weekend of May 15, Dr. Wellman and a corps of graduate students will be meeting with focus groups and conducting individual interviews in our building. The results of his research will be the subject of a forthcoming book to be published by Oxford University Press.

I find this renewed interest in scholarly study of religion in the Pacific Northwest intriguing. Denominational leaders have puzzled for decades about it. Church growth gurus have soared over the Rockies in flocks descending on us with kit bags full of ‘answers’ to help us harvest the fields of the “unchurched” for the Lord—all with little or no success. United Methodists in other regions—especially the south and southeast—have been quick to criticize our seeming lack of evangelical fervor—without understanding the regional differences. Perhaps careful research and thoughtful analysis will offer some ‘keys’ to unlocking the religious potential all around us.

Wasn’t it Socrates who suggested, “Know thyself!”?

See you in Church,

Arvin

* (Rowan and Littlefield, Walnut Creek, CA, 2004),



award

from emo

During worship services on Sunday April 17, 2005, our congregation was awarded the coveted “Green Congregation Award” by Leslie Pohl-Kosbau from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The Award recognizes outstanding efforts in environmental education and lifestyle change as part of our new Green Congregations Award program.

In presenting the award to David Kenney, Chair of First UMC’s Planet Church environmental stewardship committee, Ms Pohl-Kosbau noted,

“The Green Congregations Awards program recognizes religious communities for exemplary achievements in environmental ministry. This program has been developed by the Environmental Ministries Committee to encourage an understanding of environmental stewardship as an integral part of congregational life. The judges who included people deeply involved in ministries of greening congregations in Oregon, Minnesota and New York, were impressed with the quality of the applications.

(continued on page 5)

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

UMC HIKERS

The March hike to Cape Lookout is rescheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2005. The five-mile round-trip hike through coastal rain forest 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 in the afternoon. 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. If the weather on the coast forces a cancellation, I will try to plan an alternate hike for that day. 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.

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.



55-ALIVE DRIVING CLASS

The next 55-Alive Driving class is scheduled for June 16-17 at First UMC. The class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM each day. The instructor is Irene Reed.

umw

united methodist women

Co-presidents: Trudy Kayser 503/292-7528 and Virginia Bender 503/657-1181.

COVER TO COVER BOOK CLUB QUILTERS

These nationally known quilters read the same book and then interpret some aspect of the story in their individual quilts. Don't miss this unusual exhibit on Friday, April 29 at 11:30 AM in Collins Hall. The program is based on the book, *Undaunted Courage: The Story of Lewis and Clark*, by Stephen Ambrose. Lunch is included for only \$12.00. Proceeds will go toward our UMW Mission Project. The reservation deadline is April 24, 2005. Get your tickets from Trudy Kayser, Mary Covert, or Ruth Green.

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, April 27 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, April 27 at 11:30 AM in Room 204. The program will be, "Bells and Hymns." This is a "hands on" program

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, May 4, in the Fireside Room. At the 10:00 AM meeting the World Thank Offering will be received. The program will begin at 11:00 AM: "Insights: Success for Teen Parents." Lunch will be at noon. Bring a sandwich, Dessert and beverage will be provided.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The School of Christian Mission will be at Willamette University, in Salem, Oregon. Full-time school is July 28-31 with a two choices of three class offerings. Mini-school is July 28-29 or July 30-31 with one choice of three class offerings. Subjects offered are: Children of the Bible, Education, and India/Pakistan. Both men and women are invited to participate. For more information contact Trudy Kayser.

concert information

the joy of music

COLUMBIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Portland's Columbia Symphony Orchestra presents a concert at 8:00 PM on Friday, April 29 2005 at the First United Methodist Church. Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Huw Edwards, the concert features two Anton Bruckner works: Motets performed by Cantores In Ecclesia and Symphony No 4. A pre-concert conversation with Mr. Edwards and Cantores Director Dean Applegate begins at 7:15 p.m. A special second performance of the concert plays on Saturday, April 30, 7:30 pm at St. Mary Church in Mt. Angel. Season ticket holders may attend either performance and ticket prices are the same at each venue. 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 prices are \$20 adult/ \$15 senior /\$10 student.

PORLAND SYMPHONIC GIRLCHOIR

The Portland Symphonic Girlchoir announces its Spring Concert, to be held Sunday, May 1st at 3:00 PM. The concert will be held at the First United Methodist Church. Tickets for the concerts are: \$14.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students/seniors. For reservations or information please call 503.226.6162, e-mail us at singer@girlchoir.com or visit our website www.girlchoir.com. The concert features music circling the globe from South Africa, Australia, Great Britain, and the United States. We will present our commission *Tsvey Taybelekh (The Two Doves)* with its poignant text hauntingly arranged by Chicago composer Lee Kesselman. Then we will "visit" ancient China with a sneak preview of Iman Raminsh's stunning new children's choral opera *The Nightingale*, which we will premier June 10-11, 2005.



CALLING ALL MALE VOCALISTS

All men that are able to hum a few bars of *Beautiful Savior*, we're looking for YOU! The Music Ministries area of First UMC is inviting men to sing with the men in the choir on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8 for our morning worship.

There will be just two short rehearsals immediately after church on April 24 and May 1 in the sanctuary to prepare for the event. Music will be available for you to pick up in the office, or you can just wait and get it on April 24 If you pick it up early, please sign your name and whether you are a tenor or a bass on a sheet that will be provided.

Who Are We ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

We have been inundated with medieval spectacle and procedure since the death of Pope John Paul II. I would say it is too soon for history to decide whether he deserves the title "Great," or not, but certainly his influence on the last quarter of the twentieth century was remarkable. He was easily the most personable, charismatic Pope of recent times (although Pope John XXIII might have been his equal had he lived longer). His witness to human dignity, freedom, and peace was considerable. Still, we ought not to forget that he had his limitations. We ought not to forget that we are Protestants for good reasons, some of which he reinforced. To be a "Protestant" is not merely to be one who objects to something. As its Latin roots ("pro" = "for" and "testari" = to be a witness) it means "to witness for" something. For example, as Protestants, the people called Methodist have witnessed for "the priesthood of all believers." John Paul II weakened that in his own Church by his expansion of papal authority. He "made it clear that he did not consider individual conscience a legitimate rationale for believers' second guessing the church's position on birth control, abortion, female ordination," homosexuality and a lot of other things. Again, he ordered that the English version of his revision to the catechism delete gender-neutral references to "humanity" and "men and women" and use "mankind" instead. He asserted that his decision that only males could be priests was "infallible" - an assertion of that authority beyond its former boundaries (which themselves, had only been in existence since 1870). His papacy saw the centralization of church authority - he published a decree effectively requiring national bishops' conferences to get Vatican approval before making doctrinal statements. He was curiously quiet about the priestly sex-abuse scandals in the U.S., and so on. His influence was considerable; how "great" it was is yet to be determined.

Plan to participate with First UMC in the Pride Parade as a Reconciling Congregation
Sunday, June 19, 2005

global missions

a potluck meal

GLOBAL MISSIONS POTLUCK PLANNED

On Sunday, May 15, the Global Missions committee will host a potluck lunch, immediately following coffee hour (approximately 12:00 noon). The program will include a presentation by Dee Poujade on her recent United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip to Cambodia. The potluck will be held in Collins Hall, and those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass. For further information, contact Pat (Williams) Brockman at 503/292-6270 or Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

green award

continued from page 2

Assigning the awards was difficult. Each congregation follows a unique path and works with a different set of resources, challenges and opportunities. What set most applicants apart, was the degree to which care for creation was woven into various aspects of the life the congregation on a consistent basis."

"There are several reasons why your congregation stood out in its education and lifestyle efforts. First United Methodist's education efforts were notable for their comprehensiveness and impact on the whole congregation. Education on earth concerns is consistent and made accessible to all by regular inclusion in newsletters, a highly visible bulletin board that reinforces themes being emphasized by Planet Church, regular presence at church coffee hour for material distribution and informal conversation, and quality education events. Education efforts are thoughtfully designed and implemented to result in action. First UMC's lifestyle and education efforts are well integrated and mutually supportive, so judges wanted to recognize you in both areas. Judges also noted that education and advocacy were well integrated. First UMC's campaign to educate members about transportation choices and help them become more comfortable with public transportation was especially notable. Not many congregations address this important area of lifestyle change. The 1-2-3 program and Food for Thought program also represent significant integrated efforts to create awareness of lifestyle choices. Success in these and other areas is enabled by the ongoing ministry of Planet Church—a strong, committed and talented core group, along with the support and involvement of the pastor and other staff."

Congratulations—and special thanks to the Planet Church Committee for their leadership.



VOLUNTEER NOW FOR VBS

Adults and youth are needed as teachers and helpers for First UMC's VBS, June 20-24, 2005. Activities will be scheduled from 9:00 AM through noon each day. Contact Angela Kemling for more information at 503/244-6162.

job opening

youth ministry

YOUTH MINISTRIES POSITION

Director of Youth Ministries half time position open May 1, 2005 at First United Methodist Church, Portland. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in related field, experience in working with youth, theology compatible with this congregation. Salary commensurate with experience and includes benefits. Send a cover letter and resume to Debbie Morse, dmorse@fumcpdx.org or c/o First UMC 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201. First UMC is an equal opportunity employer.

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

caring
stephen ministry

Our prayers are with ...

Olive Pomeroy who is recovering from surgery and has been diagnosed with cancer;

Dick Clark who is slowly recovering from hip surgery;

Jeanette Ormsbee who is in increased pain;

Mary Domreis and Theresa Giesler who are recovering from pneumonia;

We lift in prayer our concerns for ...

Those affected and hurt by the recent court decision regarding same-sex marriage;

the recent decisions by our state officials regarding gambling, which go against The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

Prayers of thanksgiving for ...

Kent & Kim (Ottaviano) Mallory who were married on April 16, 2005.

Continued prayers for ...

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

Everyone goes through difficult times.

Having someone to care, to listen and to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

- If life seems like more than you can handle alone right now ...
- If your health, your spirit, or your relationships are suffering ...
- If you are adjusting to a job transition, change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, or a recent move ...

Might you, or a church friend benefit from having someone in your life who will listen objectively and care deeply? Contact Brenda Sene 503/228-3195 to discuss the possibility of having a Stephen Minister meet with you or a church member you know.

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 **May 4, 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.