



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

May 4, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 9



Rev. Lowell Greathouse

THIS SUNDAY

MAY 8, 2005

WORSHIP

10:30 AM

Rev. Brenda Sene,
preaching

FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

AND

WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES



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.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

Metropolitan District Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference



*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*

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*The Rev. Bonnie
Parr Philipson
Superintendent*

*Paul Staat
Administrative Assistant*

April 25, 2005

First United Methodist Church of Portland
Staff Parish Relations Committee
Dr. Wyd Bleything
1838 Southwest Jefferson
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church:

It is the intention of Bishop Robert Hoshibata of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to appoint the Rev. Lowell R. Greathouse as Minister of Discipleship and Associate Pastor of Portland First United Methodist Church as of July 1, 2005.

Rev. Greathouse has been serving the last five years in extension ministry as Vision Council Program Director for the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette here in Portland. Prior to that he served as pastor of United Methodist churches in Filer, Idaho; in Lake Oswego, Oregon; and in Beaverton, Oregon. Lowell has served the district and conference in many ways, such as General Conference Delegate in 1996 and as Team Leader of Volunteers in Mission Project to Brazil in 2002.

Lowell is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, was ordained as a United Methodist elder in 1988, and completed a Doctor of Ministry Program at Azusa Pacific University in 2001 in spiritual formation.

Lowell is married to Susan who works for the state of Oregon as a dietitian in the WIC program. They have two daughters, Lindsey who is a freshman in college and Kelly who is a sophomore in high school!

With his wealth of experience, his leadership and organizational skills, and his deep commitment to make a difference for Christ in this world, I believe Rev. Lowell Greathouse will serve First United Methodist Church well.

I want to especially thank Dr. Arvin Luchs, Dr. Wyd Bleything, and all of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee for their dedication and help in the consultative process. All of you at First United Methodist Church are in my prayers as we anticipate this time of new beginnings.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Parr Philipson

Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson
Metro District Superintendent

BPP/pds
xc: Arvin Luchs, Lowell R. Greathouse



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

He didn't mince words, "Go...and make disciples." (Matt 28:19 NRSV) Matthew remembered it as the commission given to the first Christians. United Methodists boldly proclaim it our mission, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ." Our congregation's vision statement embraces that mission and our goals define ways we intend to make it real.

"Making disciples" certainly includes inviting and welcoming persons of all ages to offer their lives to Christ and be part of the community of faith—the church. But it is more than that. It is a life-long process of deepening our understanding of God's call and claim on our lives. It involves expressing our faith through worship, music and the arts. But it is more than that. It is building relationships of care and compassion within our church and beyond. It is expanding our vision to share the insights of faith in the public discourse. It is participating, in the name of Christ, in building a just and peaceful society and world. It is opening expanded opportunities to live our faith in our homes and offices, in short-term mission or Christian vocation. In short, 'making disciples' involves all we do to respond to God in our lives—from the time we are presented for baptism to the end of our days!

A big step has been taken to deepen First UMC's commitment to 'disciple-making.' The Staff Parish Relations Committee has studied carefully the professional leadership needed to meet our congregation's vision. Your Leadership Council, on their recommendation, has agreed to a major staff reorganization that will begin as we welcome a new Associate Pastor, Lowell Greathouse, in July.

Dr. Luchs will continue as "Senior Pastor" with overall responsibilities for parish activities, and have primary responsibility for worship, preaching and church administration. He will directly supervise the music, pastoral care, and administrative staff.

Dr. Greathouse will be our "Minister of Discipleship." He will, of course, share in general ministerial duties of worship, occasional preaching and the sacraments, but he will focus much of his energy on 'disciple-making.' He will coordinate the various age-level ministries, and work with lay leadership and staff on member development programs, including outreach and the needs of a reconciling congregation. Staff in education, youth ministry and outreach will report to him.

In the next few weeks we will be announcing the name of a "Minister of Pastoral Care." This part-time position will be responsible for visitation with members and friends in crucial need, those hospitalized and homebound. He/she will work closely with our Steven Ministries as well as the other pastors and staff.

This is an exciting opportunity for our congregation as we focus more intensely on our mission. We'll be fleshing this out more for you in the weeks to come. I invite both your prayers and your thoughtful comments.

See you in church!

Arvin

(with contributions by Wid Bleything)

introducing

Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse



Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse has been appointed by the Bishop as our new Associate Pastor and Minister of Discipleship. He will begin his ministry with us July 1, 2005

I grew up in Portland and graduated from Sunset High School in 1972, before attending the Claremont Colleges in Los Angeles. I met my wife Susan in San Francisco and have been married for nearly 22 years. We have two daughters: Lindsey, a freshman at the University of Oregon and Kelly, a sophomore at Westview High School. Many of you know my brother, Gordon, and Teca, who have been missionaries with the United Methodist Church in Brazil since 1978.

Both Susan and I have traveled and lived internationally. I lived in Mexico while attending San Francisco Theological Seminary. In 1977 our family lived in England for the summer as part of an United Methodist Ministerial Exchange. This past year, our family hosted an exchange student from China, and we are currently hosting a high school student from Brazil.

Between 1986 and 1998, I served three United Methodist Churches: Filer, Lake Oswego, and Beaverton. I have also worked for Catholic Charities, Community Action, and currently work at United Way of Columbia-Willamette.

In 2001, I received my Doctor of Ministry degree in Spiritual Formation from Azusa Pacific University. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and writing, running and biking, attending theater, travel, volunteering with community organizations, and working in the yard. I am looking forward to being a part of the First United Methodist Church community.

Lowell

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!

fellowship opportunity

person to person

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.

stephen ministry

caring and concern



Stephen Ministry training provides church members with the opportunity to develop practical skills for a one-on-one caring ministry. Using Christian resources, skills are developed in listening objectively, understanding feelings, honest communication, crisis theory and intervention, as well as how to encourage steps of growth and change. The class format includes lecture, followed by discussion and application in small group settings. Our church will begin a training program for new Stephen Ministers in fall 2005. Find out more about this program by attending an informational meeting on May 15th at 9:15 AM in the Parlor.



SUMMER NOBEL PEACE INSTITUTE

The Wholistic Peace Institute presents the Summer Nobel Peace Institute to be held June 20-24, 2005 at Portland State University in the Smith: Multi-Cultural Room. Full tuition is \$250.00. The Institute will feature Dr. Robert K. Musil, Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. This group won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. For more information call 503/266.8996.

umw

united methodist women

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

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United May Friendship Day, Friday, May 06, 2005 at Portland Community of Christ 4837 NE Couch St., (1 block north of E. Burnside) Special Guests: Rev. Elijah & Jemimah Githinji, Nairobi, Kenya

10:00 AM is the Annual Meeting followed at noon by a Salad Potluck. Information: Betty-Lou Hare

FAITH GUILD

Note that this is a change of time and place for the Faith Guild meeting. It will be Wednesday, May 18 at 11:00 AM in the Family Room, Court Building Willamette View, 12705 River Road, Portland Hostess: Hazel Wells.

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, May 18, at noon in Room 204. Program: Poetry & Music of Paul Simon led by Mary Coppett, Dessert & beverage provided. Bring a sandwich. Information: Florence Snyder

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Library Program: *In a Sunburned Country* (Australia) by Bill Bryson, led by Gloria Misar, Information: Sue Fisher

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The School of Christian Mission will be at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon Full time School: July 28-31. Choose two subjects. Mini School: July 28-29 or July 30-31. Info: Trudy Kayser



ALIVE

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.

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) in the Fireside Room. The program will include a presentation by Dee Poujade and Corinne Tate on the recent United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip to Cambodia, which was lead by Corinne. Future missionary opportunities will also be discussed. 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.



The Goose Hollow Family Shelter has now ended its sheltering season. This is only made possible by the countless dedicated hours that our volunteers put in month after month. We want to show our appreciation to them with Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, May 17, at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall. There will also be a Silent Auction fund raiser as a part of the evening. Mark your calendar and RSVP to the shelter at 503/228-3195 ext. 220.



We will be recognizing those youth graduating from high school during worship on May 8. If you know other First Church members that are graduating from college, universities or other programs, please notify the office. We'd like to list them in the May 8 bulletin. You can notify the church office at 503/228-3195 or email Agnes Zach at azach@fumcpdx.org.

Who Are We ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

When we first moved to Portland in 1951 I was pastor at the Sellwood Methodist Church. We came in July, but I got a real shock on the first Sunday in October: the able-bodied men disappeared from the congregation! I mean *all* of them! I didn't think my preaching was *that* bad! After an anxious interval I discovered that hunting season had opened and that was where they all had gone. Something like that happened in this church, the City of Portland, and indeed the whole Oregon Territory in 1848. The able-bodied men just disappeared -- not to go deer hunting, but hunting for gold in California. Even the territorial legislature was affected -- it couldn't get a quorum! A standard history of the state says that "about two-thirds of the able-bodied men ... left hurriedly." Not only did men disappear, but prices sky-rocketed as gold began to flow in. The late Laura Kelly, granddaughter of Clinton Kelly who was one of the first members of this congregation, once told me a story about him. One day he brought a load of produce to town (he lived way out, at what is now SE 26th and Powell). At the market a man fresh from California was telling about his exploits there. He took a fancy to some of Clinton's fresh peaches, helped himself, and ate as he regaled a few listeners. About the time he finished his story he had also finished three peaches. When he asked how much he owed, he was told \$15 -- \$5 per peach, and he paid without batting an eye. And you wondering about gasoline at \$2.50 a gallon?

sunday
may 8

FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

LEAP OF FAITH A SUCCESS

Thanks to the Reconciling Ministries, our youth and the congregation for supporting our Act for Action's presentation of *Leap of Faith*. This interactive theatre was a well-balanced, entertaining, thought provoking play about same-sex couples and marriage. Even more, though, the play illustrated problems from talking with friends and family to gaining access to a partner's hospital room. The audience became lively participants, literally jumping into the play to take on a character's role. Seeing Rev. Al Rieke use those pastoral powers was impressive as well as our youth trying on new roles. This event was a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip and turned out to be a fun and educational evening for the participants.

children & youth

a musical



SUNDAY,
MAY 22

Prayer is the message at the heart of the thought provoking musical program, "Fat, Fat Jehoshaphat." It tells the story of a wise and beloved king who must find a way to get his people safely through the hardest test of their faith that they have ever encountered. With armies of the Moabites, the Ammonites, and the Meunites all descending upon their land, King Jehoshaphat knows that the only way to survive the trial is to ask the Lord for help and trust the answer. Can he convince his people to do the same? Don't miss the answer to his question and more ... such as, what does "beneficent" REALLY mean? Join us on Sunday, May 22 during worship and help us give thanks for how good God has really been to us.

On May 8 and 15, Sunday School children in Grades 1-6 will be helping to put this musical together. The Soundseekers and Cherubs choirs will continue to meet at 9:30 am Sunday mornings to work on individual songs. During Sunday School class time, speaking roles, costumes, sets, programs, etc. will be created and finalized. Sunday School kids are asked to meet in their classrooms, and they will travel as a class to Room 202 for musical projects.

family ministry

a breakfast meeting



PARENT BREAKFAST FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A Parent Breakfast is set for May 15 at 9:15 AM in Collins Hall. Join other parents with children ages 2 through entering 3rd grade to review potential curriculum, look at the summer schedule and discuss fall happenings. Coffee and breakfast breads will be provided by Fehrenbacher Hof Coffee House. Donations will be welcome.

VBS

vacation bible school



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 Agnes Zach for more information at 503/228-3195 ext. 227.

music at first

save these dates

GIRLCHOIR SPRINGSONG CONCERT

The Portland Symphonic Girlchoir announces its SpringSong Concert, to be held Sunday May 15th at 3:00 PM. The concert will be held at the First United Methodist Church. Tickets for the concert are: \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students and seniors. For reservations or information please call 503/226.6162, e-mail us at singer@girlchoir.com or visit our website www.girlchoir.com.

HANDBELL CHOIRS

As a fund raiser for the youth bell choirs, the bell choirs of First UMC will present a concert on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir of First UMC will join with the choir of First Presbyterian Church and the Portland Chamber Orchestra to perform Mendelssohn's oratorio: *Elijah* on Sunday, June 5, at 8:00 PM at St. Mary's Cathedral.

also note

these items of interest

CHRISMON MAKING

Chrismon Workshop on Sunday, May 15 at 11:45 AM in Room 134.

METHODIST HIKERS

The May hike will be on Saturday, May 28th. Please look for more details in the next Circuit Rider or contact Paula Justice: jaula354@aol.com

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Priscilla Beckett and Cindy Force, who are recovering from surgery; Patricia Kessel, who is recovering from intervening in a cat fight.

Continued prayers for ...

Dick and Agnes Clark, Tom Iverson, Jane Rhodes, Al Leonard, Robert Forehand, Mary Domreis, Alex Esguerra, Olive Pomeroy and Theresa Giesler.

We also remember in prayer the Rev. Beth Stroud and our denomination as we continue to try to discern whom God calls into ministry, and how inclusive God's love can be.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS SIGN UP

Do you remember the first time you came to First Church? Were you a little shy? Every week visitors come to our church looking for friendly faces. One of the best ways to welcome visitors is to invite them to Coffee Hour after the service. On May 8th and May 22nd in Collins Hall after worship, we will be signing up Coffee Hour hosts for June - September. This is a great opportunity for you to provide members and visitors a comfortable, welcoming place for fellowship.

thanks

an attitude of gratitude

"A heart-felt thank you for all the prayers, cards, e-mails, flowers, and visits during my stay in the hospital. I am home now. Please continue your prayers, calls, and visits."

- *Olive Pomeroy and especially Dick*

"Many, many thanks to all those who made the Goose Hollow Family Shelter Rummage Sale a resounding success! The efforts of our volunteers, those who donated items, and our customers helped raise over \$2000 for the work of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry."

- *Ron Williams, Director of Outreach*

"Thanks to our faithful newsletter crew: Ted Hoch, Betty Hagar, Walt Okell, and Eloise Matlack. You are the best!"

- *Dave Jenkins, Administrative Assistant*

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 18, 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.