



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 18, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 10

the E edition

the children and youth of first church present

THIS SUNDAY

MAY 22, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Blended Worship
Gospel Hymns

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL:
Fat, Fat
Jehoshaphat



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.

FAT FAT



the BENEFICENT

KING

SUNDAY, MAY 22 10:30 AM

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.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

A spiritual giant, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, in the last interview before his death reflected: "God created a reminder, an image. Humanity is a reminder of God. As God is compassionate, let humanity be compassionate." *

In a world in which most of us are treated as data points and our individual humanity yields to mass marketing, we are in desperate need of people who care. Many of us turn to the church to find a warm heart, an open ear, and a compassionate response.

Our congregation has earned high marks for giving care. Under Rev. Sene's capable guidance the ill and hospitalized in our midst receive regular contact and she oversees a network of volunteers. We are grateful to a number of retired clergy who help with visitation. Our Stephen Ministers are assigned to meet with those in particular need of support. Janet Richards has enlisted a team of people who take communion to the homebound on the first Sunday of each month. Our United Methodist Women maintain a prayer chain and their Circles keep in touch with homebound members. Mary Jane Hendrickson, Jane Rhodes the Rev. Ben Owre and others provide a monthly Healing Service as well as a regular prayer calendar.

As your church staff and the personnel committee pondered the impending changes in staffing, it is not surprising that 'pastoral care' was assigned a top priority. I was delighted when the Staff-Parish Relations Committee enlisted the Rev. Tom Foster to be our part-time Minister of Pastoral Care, starting in July.

Tom is, of course, no stranger to First Church. After forty years of effective service as a pastor of congregations in Oregon and Idaho, he retired and settled in our congregation. For the last nine years he has participated in our worship life, lent his musical skills to our choir, been a church officer, taught classes and helped lead the Senior Travel Program. And, along the way, he has given generously of his time and energy to support the pastors in visitation and worship leadership.

Rev. Foster will have an office in our church building and be part of our pastoral and program teams—but a good share of his time will be spent visiting in hospitals and care facilities. He will also be the staff contact for the Stephen Ministries and other care giving teams at First UMC.

I am delighted that Rev. Foster has agreed to serve on our team. In the years we have known each other, I've developed a deep respect and appreciation for both his energy and pastoral talents and his dedication to service in Christ's name. I look forward to welcoming him to the team!

See you in Church!

Arvin

* (Abraham Joshua Heschel: Last Words: An Interview by Carl Stern, *Intellectual Digest*, June, 1973, p. 78 cited by Matthew Fox, *A Spirituality Named Compassion*, HarperCollins, San Francisco, 1990, p. 1)

introducing

Rev. Tom Foster



by Rev. Tom Foster

I retired from active pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church in 1996. During my 40 years of service in the Idaho and later the Oregon/Idaho Annual Conferences, I served seven churches, the last being First United Methodist Church in Roseburg, Oregon.

My father was a beekeeper and my mother a homemaker in Nyssa, in Eastern Oregon. I graduated from Nyssa High School in 1951. In 1955, I received a B. A. degree in religion from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. My Masters of Divinity degree is from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

My wife, Colleen, grew up in Lebanon, Oregon. She was a freshman at W. U. the year I was a senior. We were married following her sophomore year at W.U. She completed her B. A. and M. A. degrees at Idaho State University, where she taught public speaking and ESL, and in 1990 was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister. We are the proud parents of two sons and two daughters and grandparents of six outstanding grandchildren.

We have been involved in the life of Portland First UMC since the fall of 1997. We are both members of the Chancel Choir and Colleen has served as the guest organist when Jonas needed to be away. We have both provided leadership in the Senior Ministries program at First. Colleen has served on the Electives for Elders Planning Committee, and I have chaired the Senior Travel Ministries. Colleen also served on the Music Committee for three years.

My hobbies are beekeeping and wood-working, while Colleen is a watercolor artist. We also love to travel and have had the good fortune of traveling to eighteen different countries around the world, and about 40 of the 50 States.

I look forward to returning to part-time pastoral service and being part of the staff of First Church Portland.

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.

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!

DIFFICULT PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE

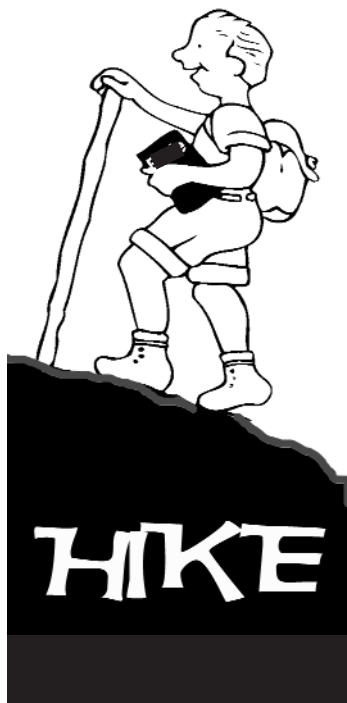
Paul Adams will lead a short-term class on "Difficult Passages of the Bible" for four Sundays beginning, Sunday, May 22 at 9:30 AM in Room 160. Each week is a distinct class, so drop-ins are encouraged.

MARTIN LUTHER VIDEO

Movie aficionado, Chuck Klang, will lead a two-session class on Sundays, June 5 and 12 following worship in the Fireside Room. The class will feature a PBS video on the life of Martin Luther. Food is provided and donations will be accepted. Child care will be available.

METHODIST HIKERS

The May hike will be on Saturday, May 28th. We will be hiking the Eagle Creek Trail in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, a 6.6 mile round-trip hike to High Bridge. It is a moderate hike with a 600 foot elevation gain. 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 wear good hiking boots. There is a suggested \$3.00 per person donation to the driver for carpooling and hikers should also bring \$3-4 for an optional snack stop in the afternoon. We should be back at the church around 3:00 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.



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. The cost is \$10.00, payable to AARP.

umw

united methodist women

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

QUILT LUNCHEON

The Quilt Luncheon, attended by 190 women, raised \$1600 for United Methodist Women's mission projects. The moss/fern center pieces were the artistic contribution of Virginia Bender. The delicious lunch was planned, purchased, and supervised by that dynamic duo, Art & Trudy Kayser. Let us also remember Joyce Hulse and Kitty Riddle who invited carloads of ladies to view the outstanding quilts. Thanks to all who supported this mission project.

CAMBODIAN METHODIST WOMEN

Two months ago, March 2005, the women of Cambodia met for their first national assembly to celebrate the "birth" of Cambodian Methodist Women. Nou Kimsan, lecturer at Roy Phnom Penh University, was elected as the first president. Gratitude was expressed to the women in America who sponsored this historic event. Women of First Church, Portland, were contributors to this celebration through undesignated giving.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will have a change of time and place. They will meet Wednesday, May 25, 11:00 AM for a tour and lunch at St. Mary's Home for Boys, 16535 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy. Beaverton. Information: Grace Renfroe, 503/643-2622

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, June 01, Fireside Room at 11:00 AM. Program: Installation of officers. There will be a picnic at noon. Bring a salad and dessert, beverage will be provided.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Willamette University, Salem, Oregon
Full time School: July 28-31. Choose two subjects. Mini School: July 28-29 or July 30-31. Information: Trudy Kayser or Virginia Bender



shovel & rake spring report

Summer annuals are now in place in Beckham Court and the church entryway. We can look forward to these impatiens and begonias blooming throughout the summer. Shovel and Rake members also have fertilized and mowed lawns, sprayed out herbicides, pruned plants, trimmed ivy beds and set out replacement plants.

This month we are pleased to recognize the contributions of long time members June and Elwyn Kiney. June furnishes delicious cakes regularly and helps serve our weekly coffee-time refreshments. Elwyn's exceptional expertise in carpentry and construction can be seen in almost every part of our building. He is our Mr. "Do-It-All" member on whom we depend to keep our facilities in such good condition. To this very active couple we owe a debt of gratitude for their assistance in every phase of Shovel and Rake activities.

parade of boxes schools in Liberia

Each year the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church asks congregations to participate in missions in a tangible way. This year's "Parade of Boxes" at Annual Conference, June 7-11, 2005 will provide educational supplies for village schools in Liberia. The items listed at the right are sought for the benefit of the Liberian schools. Money is also needed to help pay shipment and port fees for these boxes. Checks may be made out to First Church and marked "Liberia Boxes." All items need to be appropriate for Grades K-4, and for sites without electricity. Items will be collected in a box in the narthex, and will be sorted by item in see-through plastic bags for donation at Annual Conference.



- School Supplies Needed
- pencils
 - sharpeners
 - colored pencils, crayons
 - scissors
 - paper (lined & unlined)
 - rulers
 - chalk, chalkboard
 - erasers
 - pens
 - 70-page theme books
 - binders
 - solar calculators
 - flashcards
 - art supplies and books

PRIDE

The ants go marching one by one - so will First Church on June 19, 2005 when we join the celebration of NW Gay Pride Parade. This will be the sixth year First Church has participated and we invite all in the congregation to join us for this wonderful day of celebration and diversity. There will be a car available for those who cannot walk the parade route. This year's theme is "Everyday People." We look forward to seeing everyone there. The line up for the Gay Pride Parade, Sunday, June 19, begins at 11:15 AM at SW 15th and Glisan. You can also consider joining us after church. The parade generally does not begin moving until about noon. Waterfront Park will hold a variety of activities beginning on Friday and ending on Sunday afternoon with a commemoration for Fathers Day. For further details and information, please contact Bill Birge, Reconciling Ministries Coordinator.

Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

There is considerable discussion currently about "faith" as a qualification for public office, and some are charging others with discriminating against persons of faith. Let me tell you a tale of two bankers, both Vice-Presidents of U.S. National Bank (then a locally owned bank), both men of faith and members of this congregation. One of them was responsible for a bequest left to us in 1908 in the amount of \$3,600. Half of its income was to be sent to our national Board of Missions, and half used by this church for local purposes. In a sense it was the true start of our Permanent Endowment Fund, but this banker, who ran one of the larger branches, was so cautious in his stewardship that he invested the money in a bank Certificate of Deposit (as had his predecessors), so that when we had had the money for sixty years it was still worth \$3,600. On the other banker's advice, (he ran the bank's Trust Department) the Trustees invested a \$10,000 gift. Within a year it was lost totally, and he resigned, a failure in his own eyes, as our advisor. One hardly knows what moral to draw from these two, but one of them surely is that "faith" alone is not a sufficient guide to choose leaders of any type. Another, more surprising moral, is that not even the first one would have won Jesus' commendation. He told a story one time (Matthew 25:14-30), about some slaves given responsibility over substantial amounts of money by their owner. One of them hid his share in a safe place and eventually returned it intact, but he was not commended by his master. The other two risked their amounts, and increased them, and eventually were commended. (Jesus doesn't say anything about the possibility of losing by investing!) The analogy is not perfect, but at least this lesson is: Jesus expects us to take some risks in this life. Playing it safe is not always what we should do. Actually, this tale of two bankers tells us the best we can do is be responsible; faith helps us to do that, but is not in itself a guarantor of good results.

children & youth news & notes

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: RANCH HOUSE KIDS

First UMC, in conjunction with First Presbyterian, Vermont Hills UMC, and Zion Lutheran, is hosting Vacation Bible School 2005: Ranch House Kids. VBS is set for June 20-24 at First UMC. This year's themes are: Talking to God, Remembering God, Loving Each Other, and Giving Thanks. We are excited about our local mission projects this year: a food bank, medical support, and the Humane Society. There will be unique and fun craft projects every day. VBS will end with a family BBQ on Friday, June 24. Helpers are still needed for one day or for the full week. Contact Agnes Zach at: azach@fumcpdx.org or call her at 503/228-3195 to see how your talents might be put to good use for our children!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2005

Thanks to everyone at First Church for their great response to Youth Shares. Your \$25.00 investment in youth has a real pay off! Your contributions enable our youth to have "hands on experience" in mission. There will be a post-trip reception for "share holders." The youth are half-way to their fund raising goal. Anyone with yards to be cleaned, kids to baby sit or ideas for fundraising, please contact Agnes Zach at: azach@fumcpdx.org or call her at 503/228-3195. Youth Shares will continue to be available before and after worship through May. Donations may also be sent to the church office marked: "Youth Mission Trip."

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Summer Sunday School starts June 19 and volunteer teachers are needed! We have two classes each Sunday: ages three-year-old through Kindergarten; First through Third Grade. All curriculum materials are provided. This is a great chance for adults to volunteer with their teens, grandparents to volunteer with their grandkids, and busy families to choose a summer Sunday to spend in Sunday School. You can sign up in the narthex on Sunday, May 22, 2005.

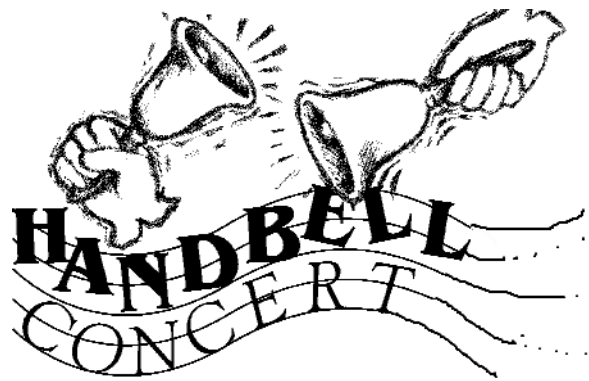
an all-church PICNIC



A SUMMER ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 17 for First Church's Summer All-Church Picnic! It will be from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Oaks Park in Portland. Meat, beverages and desserts will be provided. Bring a side dish to share. Ride bracelets for Oaks Park attractions will be available for \$8.75 each (scholarships available). Contact Agnes Zach at: azach@fumcpdx.org or call her at 503/228-3195 for more information to offer help.

music at first save these dates



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.

this & that events of note

EMO PRESENTS:

THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN EYES

On Monday, June 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will present: Through South African Eyes- The Story of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The speaker for this event will be Peter Storey, PhD, a retired bishop in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and a professor at Duke University. The event will be at Portland First UMC and it is free to the public. A free will offering will be taken. For more information contact EMO at 503/221-1054.

PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

All persons from First UMC and Lake Oswego UMC who will be attending the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference are invited to a "Pre Conference Discussion" on Tuesday, May 31 at 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room at First Church. We will review the agenda for the conference, and discuss significant legislative and financial issues in preparation for Conference to be held in early June. Contact Rev. Luchs or Rev. Sprecher for details.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Tom Iverson, who has a recurrence of cancer;
Edith Aspinwall, who has had a severe stroke;
Pamela Moyer, whose father died recently;
Priscilla Becket and Darlyn Driggers, both recovering from surgery;
The family of Robert Forehand, as they mourn his recent death.

Continued prayers for ...

Jane Rhodes, Janet White, Dick & Agnes Clark, Mary Domreis, Theresa Giesler, and Al Leonard.

We rejoice with ...

Becky Anderson who took first place in the 2005 Solo State Music Championship in the violin category. Becky is a student at Lincoln HS.

HaHa

There was interest in starting up an Emotional Support Group at a local church for middle aged men experiencing hair loss. At the close of the first meeting the pastor sent them with the benediction, "Go, and thin no more!"

coffee hour

hosts needed



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 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.

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 **June 1, 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.