



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 1, 2005  
Volume 9, Issue 11

## THIS SUNDAY

JUNE 5, 2005

WORSHIP  
10:30 AM

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Blended Worship

First UMC  
Jazz Combo  
with special guest  
Darrell Grant

Meditation,  
Rev. 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.

an **E** special edition

# 2 Special MUSICAL EVENTS



bell choirs

The handbell choirs of First Church: **Genesis Ringers, juBELLation, and Sanctuary Bells** present a benefit concert on Sunday, June 5 at 2:00 PM in the First Church sanctuary. A freewill offering will be taken as a benefit for the juBELLation trip to the National Festival in Springfield, MO, June 17-19, 2005.

## elijah

### ELIJAH: AN ORATORIO

Sunday, June 5 at 8:00 PM

St. Mary's Cathedral, 1716 NW Davis, Portland. The Portland Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Yaacov Bergman will perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, featuring the choirs of Portland First UMC and First Presbyterian Church of Portland. One of the featured soloists will be our own, Dr. Bruce Browne. General admission is \$25.00 with discounts available. For more information visit their website: [www.portlandchamberorchestra.org](http://www.portlandchamberorchestra.org) or call them at 503/771-3520.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, JUNE 20 -  
FRIDAY, JUNE 24,  
9:00 AM TO NOON

Our Ranch House Kids VBS week is starting to take shape. We are working with three other area churches to create an action-packed week of fun and learning.

WORSHIP

MISSION PROJECT

ARTS & CRAFTS

DRAMA

JOURNALISM

MUSIC

SNACKS

For registration information contact:  
Agnes Zach at  
503/228-3195 ext 227.



# memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Author and journalist David Aikman suggests a “Great Soul” is one “...who has exerted a phenomenal, and unquestionably beneficial influence on the human race.” \* The former TIME senior editor identified people such as Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II, and Elie Wiesel. A number of us have just finished studying and discussing his six selections and

speculating on who we might add to the list.

One who makes my list of great souls is **Dr. Peter Storey**. You can meet him next Monday evening when he visits our church to describe the work of South Africa’s “Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” He’s uniquely qualified to talk about it. Former South African President, Nelson Mandela appointed Storey along with his close friend and Anglican colleague, Archbishop Desmond Tutu to create it!

Peter Storey ...

- Served as pastor of several local churches in Cape Town.
- Was chaplain to the imprisoned Nelson Mandela on Robben Island.
- Led the Central Methodist Mission to become the first fully integrated congregation in South Africa.
- Founded, and for nine years edited *Dimension*—the Methodist churches’ newspaper noted for its outspoken stands against apartheid.
- Participated in the development of businesses, schools and housing that included persons of all races—defying national segregation.
- As President of the South Africa Council of Churches, alongside their General Secretary, Desmond Tutu, led the anti-apartheid fight.
- President and later Bishop of the South African Methodist Church.
- Co-led (along with Bishop Tutu) an ecumenical delegation to the United Nations to bring international pressure against the government’s forced removal policies.
- Co-chaired regional peace accord structures to intervene in political violence.
- Headed the “Journey to the New Land” process that redesigned the Methodist Church for a new mission in South Africa.
- Is a patron of the *Methodist Order of Peacemakers*.
- Was the first chairperson of the *Gunfree South Africa* movement
- Appointed by then-President Mandela to help select the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”
- Named one of 30 “Great Preachers” and featured in a video series.
- Is currently the “Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry” at Duke Divinity School.

Susan and I have met Dr. Storey and his wife, Elizabeth, (she was once Archbishop Tutu’s personal assistant.) They were in Nashville, Tennessee on a previous visit and Storey was appointed pastor of Christ United Methodist Church—a few blocks from our house. I was impressed with the way he combines the warm glow of a pastor’s heart with the fiery intensity of a prophet.

I was delighted when Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon extended an invitation for him to speak in Portland and jumped at the opportunity to host the event in our building. I hope that you will make an extra effort to meet and hear this Great Soul: Monday, June 6, at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. There is no charge—a free will offering will be received.

See you in Church

## Arvin

\* Aikman, David, *Great Souls: Six who Changed a Century*, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, 2003, p. vii.



Dr. Peter Storey

Ecumenical  
Ministries of Oregon  
Presents

# THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN EYES

The Story of  
South Africa’s  
Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission

FEATURING:

## DR. PETER STOREY

Monday,  
June 6,  
2005

7:00 PM

## Portland First UMC

This event is free to  
the public, there  
will be a  
free will offering.

For more info:  
**503/221-1054**

# 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 has begun a short-term class on "Difficult Passages of the Bible" for four Sundays through Sunday, June 12 at 9:30 AM in Room 160. Each week is a distinct class, so drop-ins are encouraged.

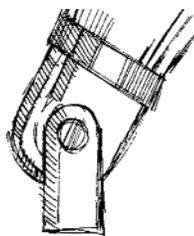
## MARTIN LUTHER VIDEO

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.



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.

## PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT



Sara Callier, a Benson High School senior and First Church member, won four titles in the OSAA Class 4A girls track and field championships last week. She set a state record in the 200 meter dash at 24.85 seconds. In addition, Sara took first in the 100 meter long jump and triple jump. Two weeks ago she broke the triple jump record in Portland Interscholastic League meet with a mark of 40 feet 7 1/4 inches. Sara will attend Kansas State next year with all expenses paid through a five-year scholarship. One of her goals is to obtain a graduate degree in business management.

# umw

united methodist women

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

## UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, June 15, at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Please note that this is a change.

## YOUR READING PROGRAM

Please give Hazel Balcomb the titles/authors of the books you have read in the Four Mission Emphases Groups: Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, and Nurturing for Community. The deadline for responding is August 1st. Reporting forms can be found in the library. For information call Hazel at 503/244-0971.

## 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.

Choose one subject.

## CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE:

Glean the place of children in ancient times from both the Hebrew and Greek texts.

## INDIA/PAKISTAN:

Study the richness and diversity of two Asian cultures, exploring key issues including gender, poverty, child labor, population, caste, illiteracy, religious extremism, globalization.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Identify and examine systemic issues related to public education in the US. Study also available at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID July 14-17. Information: Trudy Kayser or Virginia Bender

## REFLECTIONS ON OUR JOURNEY

Third Annual Young Women's Event Fellowship & Fun, Songs & Praise August 5-7, 2005

Facilitator: Rev. Barbara Schultz  
Aldersgate Conference Center  
7790 Marion Road, Turner, OR 97392  
Cost: \$100, Scholarships available.

## 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.

- 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

## war & faith a forum at first

by Ron Williams

At first blush, it would seem easy for Christians to reach a consensus regarding war. We basically believe that killing is bad, especially when it is done to oppress or concentrate wealth among the powerful. We all agree that genocide is never good. Most would say that nations dominating or controlling other nations is also bad. We do agree, don't we? But is war sometimes necessary and right under certain circumstances? What sort of nation would we have today if we had not taken up arms against the British or if we had stood idly by and allowed slavery to expand into the Western United States? What has been the role of the Methodist Church, over time, regarding war? What is the origin of your moral and ethical stance on war? Is your stance on war based on theology or politics? What did Jesus say about war? Are we as a church or denomination being true to the teachings of Christ when we take a stance individually or as a congregation? These are important questions that deserve study, research, prayer and reflection.

As First UMC is called to endorse resolutions on this subject, we must be sure that we have a solid foundation of beliefs that reflect the spirit and teachings of Christ on the subject.

On Sunday, June 12, at 9:00 AM there will be a forum presentation to address many of these questions. This will begin a discernment process to arrive at a place where the Church, Society and Social Justice Committee may present a resolution to First UMC Leadership Council that truly reflects the Christian values, ethics, spiritual and moral identity of the congregation.

Contact: Ron Williams 503.228.3195 ext 215

## Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

One of the great stories about "Father" Wilbur, the first full-time pastor of this congregation, who led in building our first building, is that one Sunday evening some river front toughs, out for a good time, gathered in front of the church and tried to interrupt the services by boisterous and offensive jeers and conduct. Wilbur went out to remonstrate with them. "We are at worship," he said, "leave us in peace." Oaths and jeers were his answer, whereupon he waded directly into the bullies, gave a little better than he got (he would have made a pro-football lineman - 6'2" tall and 300 pounds!), and triumphantly knocked down the ringleader. "There," he told them, "go before I deal harshly with you!" And they did. I like a "moral" to a story as well as the next preacher, but I want to warn you against both of the simplistic ones often drawn from this kind of event. One of them is to conclude that Wilbur was not really, fully Christian. He was not a faithful follower of our Lord, he didn't ask himself, "What would Jesus do?" because his use of violence is hard to square with "turn the other cheek" and "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The other too simple reaction is to conclude that because this "man of God" did what he did, muscular Christianity is okay and justifies the use of violence ("for good ends") for anything from police brutality to the war in Iraq. I think that the really Christian ethical standard is neither of the above, but in the dictum that we should "act only according to the maxim by which one can at the same time will the action to become a universal law." (For example, it is easy enough for any of us to tell a lie, but none of us can want lying to become a universal pattern, so ordinarily we should not lie; but lying to a Gestapo agent about a Jewish neighbor might be in order.) All the circumstances taken into consideration, I think Wilbur's action passes muster. And that's the moral of the story!

## church office summer hours

Because of limited summer staffing the church office will be open from 9:00 AM to noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Summer Office Hours will be in effect from June 6 through August 31, 2005.

## children & youth news & notes

### 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](mailto:azach@fumcpdx.org) or call her at 503/228-3195. Thank you to the many people who have purchased "Youth Shares" to support this 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 with Agnes Zach, 503/228-3195, ext. 227.

## 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](mailto:azach@fumcpdx.org) or call her at 503/228-3195 for more information or to offer help.

## transitions

Rev. Brenda Sene's Farewell

Rev. Brenda Sene, who has served First Church for seven years has been appointed by the Bishop to Idaho Falls UMC. That appointment will begin July 1, 2005. We will have an opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Brenda on Sunday, June 26 following worship. Contributions toward a going away "love gift" may be made through the church office. Make checks payable to First UMC and in the memo write: Brenda's Gift.

## prayer the umw prayer chain



*Have there been times when you would like your church to pray for you or someone you know? Simply call Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356 to get the Prayer Chain started.*

The United Methodist Women's Prayer Chain is being revised and updated. Would you like to be one of the callers for the Prayer Chain? If so, please call Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356 for more information.

## hunger an interfaith summit

The Oregon Faith Round Table Against Hunger and the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County present a Tri-County Interfaith Hunger Summit: How Congregations Can Respond!

The Hunger Summit will be held Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1147 NW 19th, Portland. The summit will be at 8:30 AM and end at noon. The keynote address will be given by Rev. Wes Taylor, pastor of Tualatin United Methodist Church. His address is entitled: "The Scandal of Hunger in Oregon: How Seven Congregations Chose to Help."

There will opportunities for break-out sessions with a variety of resources around the issue of hunger. For more information contact Rev. Maureen Hagen at 503/478-1210.



# around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

# thanks

words of appreciation

## Our prayers are with ...

*The family and friends of Edith Aspinwall, who died on May 20, 2005;*  
*Doug Johnson's father, Norm, who is recovering from surgery;*  
*Jerry Lubofsky, who is recovering from a stroke;*  
*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, Tom Iverson, Janet White, Priscilla Beckett,*  
*Dick and Agnes Clark*

## We rejoice with ...

*Elwyn & Ann Williams, who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary*  
*on May 29, 2005.*

Dear Friends at First United Methodist,  
A heartfelt thank you from us for your generous and welcoming gift of your church for our "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit. I can't imagine a more stately setting and it was such a joy to see so many visitors moved and enlightened by the exhibit there. Truly it was a wonderful event which couldn't have happened without you.

With much gratitude and appreciation for your commitment to peace,

Susan Segall,  
American Friends Service Committee

# WELCOME

## *We welcome into membership ...*

Kevin and Jennifer Scott, Scott Clendenning and Eun Jung Cha,  
Heather Proctor and Micheale Asenbery

## *We celebrate the baptism of ...*

Landon Graham Scott, son of Kevin and Jennifer Scott  
Micheale Asenbery

## 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 15, 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.