



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

## the **E** edition

June 15, 2005  
Volume 9, Issue 12

### THIS SUNDAY

JUNE 19, 2005

WORSHIP  
10:30 AM

Sermon,  
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.



Brenda  
sene  
CARING  
COMPETENT  
COMPASSIONATE

Now that Pastor Brenda Sene is leaving us, it is time to reflect on what her seven-year tenure has meant to us. Here are some thoughts. You may have others to add.

One of Brenda's major missions is to guide visitors in the journey to membership by welcoming them warmly, inviting them to explore the history and values of First Church, and then incorporating them into its spiritual and social life.

Whenever and wherever there is a cry for help, Brenda listens and responds. Quite often a hospital visit or a comforting encounter occurs at an inconvenient time but she can be counted on to respond. She seems to know when a prayer is needed along with a comforting ear or astute advice. She continues to actively support acceptance and assistance of persons experiencing emotional difficulties.

Brenda is passionate about the church's commitment to reconciliation and is instrumental in nourishing and strengthening the Reconciling Fellowship. Joining her as members and friends march in the First Church contingent of the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 19, would be a wonderful tribute to her contribution in this area.

Brenda's sermons are particularly noteworthy because of her ability to link scripture to life experiences. In addition, many of us, children as well as adults, have been touched by her Children's Time messages, offered with occasional help from husband Daniel.

*continued on page 2 ...*

## PRIDE 2005

Join the First Church contingent on Sunday, 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." 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.



# offerings

Rev. Brenda Sene

My family's last Sunday at First Church, June 26, is quickly approaching. We have been dreading this Sunday. Even though we are excited about a new adventure in Idaho, with new friends to make, and new people to work beside, it is difficult to say good-bye to the church and friends whom we have grown to love in seven years. This church has truly become our family's faith home. Cameron was born during our first year at the church. Jared got over his separation

anxiety in the church nursery by watching and talking to the Max trains. This congregation supported our whole family during Sean's two years on the ketogenic diet. Sarah made her first public appearance on the organ in our sanctuary during a Youth Sunday. She impressed even Jonas when she sat down and played her piece perfectly without any music in front of her. After the service we discovered that she hadn't planned it that way; she had actually lost her music.

I arrived at First Church after three years away from ministry. I had spent those years questioning my call to ministry after a divorce and remarriage. When I returned to ministry by serving this congregation, I did not know if I would be staying in the ordained ministry, but First Church is a healing congregation. The reconciling ministries of this congregation extend beyond the boundaries of lay and ordained. I quickly fell in love with this congregation and with serving God again through service in the church. Over the last seven years I feel that my call to ministry has again been confirmed and strengthened. I thank you for your grace and love as we have worked together in the church and community.

I have been fortunate to work with two senior pastors whom I admire and respect. I have appreciated Ross' sense of humor and his gentle witness to God's inclusive love. I have enjoyed Arvin's quirky humor and his sometimes extreme devotion to the church. I have been amazed every time it has snowed and he has rented a room at the Mallory so that he would be close to the church. First Church is fortunate to have so many supportive retired pastors to add to the leadership of the appointed clergy. I know that I have benefited greatly from their wisdom and sometimes gentle criticism. I look forward to their continued mentoring in the years ahead.

One of the greatest gifts this congregation has to offer the Portland community is its strong message of God's unconditional love and acceptance. It has been uplifting to hear new church members say that they have chosen to attend First Church because they want to raise their children with the value of inclusiveness. I have been humbled in these years by the courage and faithfulness of the people in our congregation who have been asked to leave other churches, who have faced possible rejection from their families, who have even encountered occasional unfortunate looks or comments from unthinking people in our own congregation, and who have still remained strong in their love for God and for the church. The most spiritual moments for me in the last seven years have been Communion Sundays as I have watched all of you come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ. I always think of your stories, and I say a prayer for each of you.

It helps to leave knowing that Lowell Greathouse and Tom Foster will be serving beside you in this congregation. I have been blessed to be part of the long line of servants in this church. Thank you. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, evermore. Amen.

Grace & Peace,  
**Brenda**

# Farewell Brenda



*continued from page 1*

In addition to her many other responsibilities, Brenda has provided leadership for the youth program during times of transition, and has supported small groups including adult Sunday school classes.

Brenda's spiritual bearing, her warmth and her sense of humor will be missed. She has strong beliefs and defends them with passion.

Our congregation will hold a "good bye and thanks for the memories" event on Sunday, June 26, in Collins Hall after the worship service. Please come to share memories, hugs (and a tear or two) and refreshments with Brenda and her family.

While we will miss Brenda, Daniel, their four children and her mother Laurentine, we are glad for Brenda. We rejoice with her as she moves into this new appointment and role of pastor of the Idaho Falls United Methodist Church.

Contributions toward a going away "love gift" may be made through the church office. Make checks payable to First UMC and in the memo note: Brenda's Gift.

# 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!

# umw

united methodist women

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

## UMW MISSION PROJECT

Proceeds from the Lewis & Clark Quilt Luncheon, about \$1600, has been donated to three Native American mission projects:

- 1) Williamson River Indian Mission, Chiloquin, Oregon
- 2) Wilshire UMC Native American Program
- 3) Colville Tribe Missionary Program, Omack, Washington

# seniors

senior adults at first

**Saturday, July 9, 2005**

## Washington County Agricultural Tour

Venture out into Washington County for their annual tour and see the Dunroamin' Kiwi Farm, stop at Thumper's Therapeutic Center, which runs horse programs for the disabled. We will also visit a logging operation and an orchard. Tour begins and ends at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. Cost: \$50.00, includes bus transportation from Jackson Bottom Wetlands, box lunch, a picnic dinner buffet and tours of the farms.

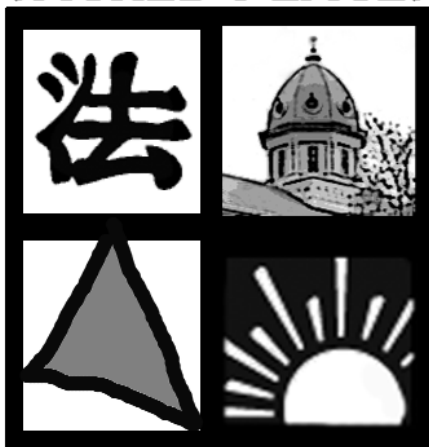
**Tuesday, July 19, 2005**

## Japanese Garden, Quilt Show, and The International Rose Garden

A guided tour of the five special gardens that make the Japanese Garden. Also featured are local artists of fine art quilts titled "High Fiber Diet". The quilts feature antique kimonos and other materials to create an Asian theme of Fine Art Quilts. Afterwards, we will venture to the Rose Garden for a deluxe box lunch picnic and strolling through the International Rose Test Garden. Cost: \$22.00, includes transportation, driver gratuity, lunch, and garden tour.

Please sign up soon to assure your space. Contact Jolin Gard for sign-up or for more information at 503/329-5707.

## SACRED PLACES



## SACRED SPACES

## SUMMER ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS

Four tours of five very different churches in the Portland area for four Wednesdays in July:

JULY 6 Dharma Rain Zen Center  
2514 SE Madison

JULY 13 Metropolitan  
Community Church  
2400 NE Broadway  
Metanoia Peace  
Community UMC  
2116 NE 18th Ave

JULY 20 St. Patricks Catholic  
Church  
1623 NW 19th Street

JULY 27 Sunset Presbyterian  
14986 NW Cornell Rd

Each tour will begin at 10:00 am at First UMC. Carpools will be arranged at that time. Tours are from 10:30 to 11:30 AM each Wednesday. Lunch will be arranged at a nearby restaurant and at your own expense. The cost is \$5.00 per tour. The fee is donated to each church we tour. For more information contact: Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 ext 227 or e-mail her at: azach@fumcpdx.org.

# youth at first

a special event



## PARENT BBQ POTLUCK DINNER

All youth parents and other interested adults are invited to attend a special "get to know Paul Adams" BBQ Potluck hosted at his house. The date is Saturday, June 25, at 5 PM. The address is 931 SW Gaines St, which is located at the top of the hill right next to OHSU. Paul will be supplying BBQ brisket, please RSVP so he knows how much to have on hand.

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 or to offer help.

*church conference*  
june 26, 2005

**Special Church Conference**

Our District Superintendent has set a special Church Conference for Sunday, June 26, 2005 following the farewell reception for Rev. Sene (approx. 12:45 PM). Agenda of the conference shall be limited to election of congregational officers and the re-distribution of compensation for the new Minister of Discipleship. The redistribution changes the breakdown of salary and housing allowance--but does not change total compensation. Everyone is welcome. All members have a vote.

*youth ministries*  
welcome Paul Adams

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul L. Adams as the new Director of Youth Ministries at First UMC. Paul assumed responsibilities on June 1.

In announcing the appointment, SPRC Chair, Dr. Wid Bleything, noted that Paul comes to this position with deep roots in the Methodist Church. It starts with his great grandfather who served as a Circuit Rider preaching in Methodist churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Paul's grandfather and father followed as Methodist ministers as did his brother. This provided the setting for his long-term involvement with the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. Parallel has been his work with the Boy Scouts and he has recently taught classes for youth and adults at First Church..

Paul is otherwise self-employed as a graphic/web design consultant and has held computer science positions with NASA and related technology firms. He is the 'techie' behind the website for First United Methodist Church, by the way. Welcome, Paul!

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

I can remember that fifty years ago the river front property on the south side of the west end of the Ross Island Bridge was industrial property. I suppose it was because it was such an eye-sore that through urban renewal, or some other procedure, the city was able to vacate it and make possible the development heralded today by towering construction cranes and presumably an aerial tram to OHSU. Over a hundred years ago it was part of what was called South Portland and it was an industrial neighborhood, "the wrong side of the tracks," populated largely by recent immigrants to the United States. Methodism tried to serve the area by a "South Portland Mission," largely sponsored by our church (then at [SW] 3rd and Taylor). The Mission became the responsibility of the Conference Women's Home Missionary Society, which among other things established an "industrial refuge home," a "home away from home" for girls and young working women, aimed particularly at serving the underprivileged and poor. Eventually the Mission renamed itself the "Portland Settlement Center," and had a Sunday School, "Girl Reserves" club, a gym and an "Americanization" program to help immigrants acclimate to their new country in language and other ways, and organized a new M.E. Church which was oriented toward ministries of social welfare. It also had a day-care center. By the 20s it had a paid staff of ten persons and needed larger quarters and money was raised for a handsome three story brick building at [SW] Front and Hooker, named for the largest donor, "The Helen Kelly Manley Community Center." At every step lay persons from this church, by then in the building at [SW] 12 and Taylor, were active as Board members and volunteers (one of our physicians conducted a weekly free medical clinic). Unfortunately, the building of Harbor Drive and connecting it with Front Street (all now Naito Parkway) and connecting it with the Ross Island Bridge and Barbur Blvd. in 1947 isolated the building (which can still be seen from Naito at Hooker), making its location very awkward for its purpose, and the Center was closed and the building sold. The stained glass windows and furniture from its Chapel went to the Goodwill Industries Chapel (another institution of Methodist lineage), and the proceeds from the sale went to a similar work then being carried on in another industrial neighborhood, Linnton.

# volunteers at first church

awards for 2005



**The Guy Wheaton Award**  
Beth and Lyle Iverson



**The Wesley Spirit Award**  
Michael Copeland



**The Lewis Hughes Award**  
David Clark

Thank You

God has blest our congregation with an abundance of willing and talented visitors. Each year hundreds of First Church members engage in ministry through the congregation. They are involved in diverse settings all the way from hosts at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, musicians, ushers, greeters, church school teachers, elected officers, committee members, UMW members, and those wonderful men and women who make up the "Shovel and Rake Gang." To list all of them would take pages and pages-but we wouldn't be a church without them. To underscore our appreciation, each year we award three "Volunteer of the Year" awards to people who have exemplified the spirit of First Church. On June 5th we celebrated the following recipients for 2005:

The Guy Wheaton Award: For Service within our Congregation -Beth and Lyle Iverson

The Wesley Spirit Award: For a balance of service and spirituality - Michael Copeland

The Lewis Hughes Award: For service beyond the Local Church - David Clark

We give thanks for the many ways God has gifted and called these persons to service in our congregation and in the wider community. They symbolize the many ways God has blest us in this church. Thank you all!

## bishop's award

Marilyn Outslay



**Bishop Hoshibata & Marilyn Outslay**

### CONGRATULATIONS, MARILYN

At last week's session of the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference Bishop Robert Hoshibata announced a new Bishop's Award for laity who are engaged in bold ministry. The first recipient of the award was Marilyn Outslay. For many years Outslay has been a tireless worker for justice, has served on innumerable Conference committees and several times attended both Jurisdictional and General Conferences as a delegate from Oregon-Idaho. She is national co-chair of the Methodist Federation for Social Action as well as a director of the General Board of Pensions. She is also an active participant in the World Methodist Council and will be attending the British Methodist Conference in London as a lay delegate from United Methodist. Congratulations, Marilyn!



### MUSIC AT COLLINS

On Sunday, July 17 the Summer Concert Series at Alton L. Collins will present a concert of "Old Time Fiddlers." The program begins at 5:00 PM with an ice

# around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

## Our prayers are with ...

*Erik Iverson*, who has lymphoma;  
*Al and Pat Rieke*, upon the death of Pat's mother in North Carolina;  
*Steven Schell*, who is recovering from surgery.

## Continued prayers for ...

*Norman Johnson, Tom Iverson, Jane Rhodes, Dick and Agnes Clark, Al Leonard, Janet White, and Alex Esguerra*

ha  
ha  
ha

A preacher saw a young boy trying to sell a lawnmower. The parsonage need a mower so the preacher made an offer which the boy accepted with one bit of advice, "Preacher, there is a secret to starting this lawn mower." Then the boy raced off on his bike.

The preacher took the mower to the parsonage lawn and tried to start it by pulling the rope. He pulled the rope until he was dripping with sweat. Just then the young boy came by on his bicycle, "Preacher, the secret to starting the mower is you have to cuss to get it started." The preacher responded, "I am a man of God, in fact don't even remember how to cuss." The boy replied, "Just keep pulling on that rope. It'll come back to ya."

# this & that

news to note

## CALLING ALL COUCHES

Our Goose Hollow Shelter Family lounge needs a serious furniture up grade. Our couches are in disrepair and need to be replaced. We want to replace three of our couches with ones that are durable, stain resistant, comfortable and attractive. If you would like to donate a nice couch to the shelter, please call Ron Williams, Shelter Director at 503/228-3195 ext 215.

## SUMMER OFFICE 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 are in effect through August 31, 2005.

## 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 29, 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.