



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E**dition

June 29, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 13

THIS SUNDAY

JULY 3, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

*Communion
Meditation,*
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time,
Jeanne Teisher

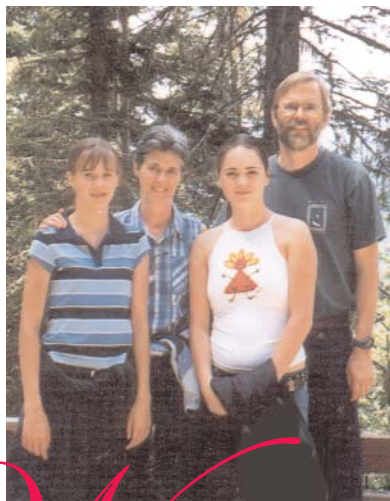
SUNDAY, JULY 10

Sermon,
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

Children's Time,
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs



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.



WELCOME LOWELL GREATHOUSE

*We will officially welcome
Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse
and his family to First Church
on Sunday, July 10, 2005.
Lowell will be preaching that
Sunday and following worship
there will be a welcoming
reception in Collins Hall.*

*Lowell Greathouse has been
appointed by the Bishop as
our new Minister of
Discipleship.*

*Pictured above are Lowell
Greathouse, his wife Susan
and their two daughters
Lindsey and Kelly.*

FROM REV. DR. LOWELL GREATHOUSE ...

June has been filled with saying
goodbye to the colleagues and
friends I've known over the last
several years. As many of you know,
this is a difficult experience to go
through. Individuals you have seen
on a daily basis suddenly won't be a
regular part of your life any longer.
But there is the other side of saying
goodbye, which is saying "hello" to
new friends. Though my appoint-
ment will not start until Friday, I
have already been blessed by your
kind hospitality as you have
expanded your circle to include my
family as newcomers to this church
community.

However, you should also know that
your hospitality and commitment to
the wider community has expanded
your circle of influence in other
significant ways. As I told others
that I was leaving United Way and
moving to First United Methodist
Church of Portland, undoubtedly
someone would say, "Oh, that's a
great church," "Those folks are
really committed to working for
social justice," "Our organization
already works with First United
Methodist, so I know that I'll see
you in the future," "They have a
wonderful music program," or "Isn't
that the church that does The Goose
Hollow Shelter?" Then the person
would frequently say:

"Do you know...?"
"I have a friend at First UMC
whose name is...", or
"Have you met...yet, that's the
church where s/he worships?"

... continued on page 2

**"Hospitality
extends
beyond
feeding the
hungry and
sheltering the
homeless; it
also involves
creating space
where people
can learn how
to receive and
give. In
neighborhoods
across the
nation, the
church is often
in a good
position not
only to gather
families
together each
Sunday but
also to prepare
them to
expand the
circle of those
who are made
welcome
in their
communities."**

*Practicing
Our Faith,*
Dorothy Bass
(Editor)



annual conference

Linda Sullivan, Conference Communicator

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, the first for newly elected Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, met June 8–11 in Sparks Center, Willamette University, Salem, Ore. Bishop Hoshibata brought the session to order with an exact replica of the gavel used by Francis Asbury.

He introduced the theme, “Boldly Making Disciples,” and announced a new bishop’s award for laity who are engaged in bold ministry. Winners are suggested and selected by the cabinet. The first recipient of the new award was Marilyn Outslay, who has been a tireless worker for justice; has served on innumerable conference, jurisdictional, and denominational committees; and several times has attended both jurisdictional and general conferences. She is also an active participant in the World Methodist Council. The second bishop’s award went to Irv Williams, layperson from Echo UMC in Oregon. Almost single-handedly, Williams nearly doubled the worship attendance from 20 to 38, built a Sunday school program that had been discontinued into one where 14 young people now attend, and started a latch-key program as well as with other programs. A newly trained lay speaker, Williams will be assigned as lay pastor for the coming year.

The 2005 Jason Lee Award for Excellence in Communication was given to the Rose City Park UMC Computer Ministry, Portland, Ore., and Jack Ball, Larry McDowell, and Dick Moser, founders of the ministry. The program accepts donations of used computers, repairs and upgrades them, and then gives them free to other churches and people in the community. The final three computers in a two-year project to equip all local churches in the conference with online access were given to Monroe (Oregon), Pleasant Home (Portland), and Shelley (Idaho) UMCs.

Bob and Rachel Chavez, Williamson River UMC, Oregon; and Noel Morfin, Magic Valley Hispanic Ministry, Idaho Falls, Idaho, were named as recipients of the 2005 Denman Award for Evangelism.

Keynoting the “Engaging Disciples Service of Commissioning” was Peter Storey, former president of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, former Methodist bishop of the Johannesburg/Soweto area, and a moving force in the dissolution of apartheid who also served on Nelson Mandela’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Among the business of the conference: 1) a \$5 million apportioned budget was accepted; 2) all eight constitutional amendments were approved; and 3) legislation was passed affirming efforts toward peace in Iraq, condemning illegal detention and imprisonment, encouraging activities to stop global warming, renewing a partnership with the Liberian Conference, opposing capital punishment, renewing the health action campaign, and endorsing consumer rights in healthcare.

Bishop Hoshibata ordained one deacon in full connection and four elders. The conference received one additional person from another denomination into full membership. Ten retired from active ministry.

Membership stands at 34,407, down 840 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 17,632, down 428. (reprinted from *NewsScope*, Volume 33, No. 25, June 24, 2005)

Keever Mission Trip ...

Pheobe Keever, a Portland First Church member and college student at Willamette University, is planning to participate in a three-month mission trip with the Pilgrim Relief Society to Amazon region of Peru. She will help in building churches in the region and also work as a translator for missionaries. She is attempting to raise \$3,000 for this trip. Anyone interested in contributing toward her support can contact her by e-mail at pkeever@Willamette.edu.

FROM LOWELL GREATHOUSE

continued from page 1 ...

Through these encounters I learned two important things: one, First United Methodist Church is known widely for the ministries you have created, and secondly, these ministries have a human face that people identify on a personal, first name basis. In short, this church is known to others through you as you expand your circle and practice true hospitality. First UMC isn’t a great church in theory, it is a great church because people actually experience the ministries you are about personally...know you by name...and feel invited into your circle to receive and give in meaningful ways.

Not only have I already been the recipient of your hospitality, but through my conversations with others I have learned that you are a congregation that actively engages others in ways that create space for people to learn how to receive and give. That’s the kind of community I’m eager to participate in.

So thank you for expanding your circle to include my family. I look forward to meeting many more of you, deepening our relationships, creating an environment open to growth and mutual learning, and continuing to be a positive Christian witness to the wider community.

Together may we receive God’s grace openly and share it freely with those we encounter in our daily lives, so that our circle of influence may continue to expand.

Warmly,

Lowell

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134.

Looking for Bible study? Starting July 3, this class begins delving into the Gospel of Luke using Tom Wright's book, *Luke for Everyone*, as a guide. Everyone is invited to join in the discussion any week. Books are available for purchase for \$11.00.

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!

SACRED PLACES



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

- JULY 6 Dharma Rain Zen Center
- JULY 13 Metropolitan Community Church
Metanoia Peace Community UMC
- JULY 20 St. Patricks Catholic
- JULY 27 Sunset Presbyterian

electives for elders

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.

shovel & rake

a report

With an average attendance of some 19 workers the Shovel and Rake Gang has maintained lawns and plants by pruning, weeding, mowing, fertilizing, watering, spraying, replacing a few plants and adding new ones, such as the Impatiens we have come to expect every summer. You probably have noticed, also, our lovely rose garden now in full bloom outside the Fireside Room, lovely due to the year-round care it is given.

Loren and Karen Smith are a Shovel and Rake couple deserving our thanks. Fortunately for us, their many talents include gardening, as evidenced by the seemingly tireless work they give to areas requiring that special touch. Karen assumes responsibility for keeping Beckham Court and Loren the area behind the gym. We do not take for granted the Smith's year-round work. Their areas of special care seem to greet us as they inspire our heart-felt gratitude each time we come to church.

seniors

senior adults at first

Saturday, July 9, 2005

Washington County Agricultural Tour

Visit the Washington County annual tour and see the Dunroamin' Kiwi Farm, stop at Thumper's Therapeutic Center, which runs horse programs for the disabled. 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.

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.

everyday people first church at Pride



by Paul Nickell

More than two dozen members and friends of First Church joined in the area's annual Pride Parade held on Father's Day, June 19, in downtown Portland. It was the seventh time our congregation was represented in Portland Pride's headline event, a parade that celebrates our diversity and the contributions of the sexual minority community.

This year's theme was "Everyday People," and as always, the event lived up to that promise with a colorful array of participants and onlookers representing the area's multifaceted GLBT community, their friends and family, and many other supporters. Thousands of appreciative onlookers lined the route, giving the First Church contingent -- a convertible festooned with flowers by Marty Martin and colorful banners identifying our church and our church website, followed by our platoon of hand-waving, balloon-carrying and banner-lifting United Methodists -- hearty applause and a generously warm welcome. Many of the marchers noted that this year's welcome seemed more pronounced than previous years. Our contingent welcomed many United Methodist friends along the route, and as the parade unfolded, our numbers increased!

Our presence received some positive attention from local ABC affiliate KATU (2), which focused on the coincidence of Pride festivities with Father's Day. KATU's Shelley Bailey Shaw interviewed Daniel Sene about his role as a father and the values he wants to instill to his children regarding diversity and inclusiveness. Daniel's remarks, along with footage of the convertible filled with children and family, were aired on KATU's evening newscasts.

First Church's participation was organized by Bill Birge, First Church's chair of reconciling ministries, with help from David Perkins, Marty Martin and the Rev. Brenda Sene.

transitions director of community outreach resigns

Ron Williams, Director of Community Outreach for the last two and a half years, has submitted his resignation effective immediately to pursue other professional interests. During his tenure, Williams has overseen the operation of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, provided staff leadership for our Outreach area and First UMC's MACG core team, as well as represented the congregation in numerous community organizations. We are grateful for the ways he has used his gifts and graces to support our ministries and wish him God's blessings in future endeavors.

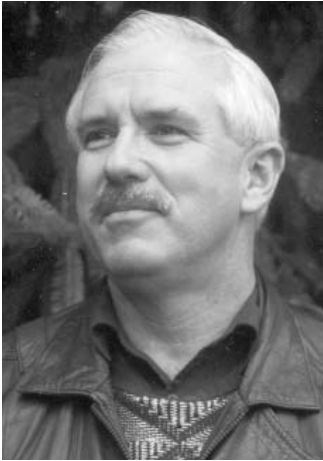
The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will initiate a search for his replacement in cooperation with Outreach and Shelter leaders.

Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

A reader asked me to say something about Methodist worship. Without going back to the roots of all Christian worship in Judaism, New Testament developments, Eastern and Western churches, the Reformation, etc., let me begin with John Wesley, who was a member of the Church of England and thoroughly familiar with what was even then (200+ years ago) its classic Book of Common Prayer. He sent to his followers in the newly-formed United States of America an abbreviation (with some of his own personal revisions) of the BCP. He called it *The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America with Other Occasional Services*. But it was never popular here. In only five years its 305 pages had been reduced to 37 (for printing in the back of our *Book of Discipline*) and conspicuously did *not* include Sunday services of Morning or Evening Prayer. So for more than a hundred years (including about the first 50 years this congregation's existence) Methodist ministers had little guidance in concocting their Orders of Worship. Because of the prevalence of Camp Meeting revivalism, oriented toward emotional preaching (a friend of mine remembers hearing often in his youth an elderly Bishop. The one thing certain in every sermon, he says, was that the preacher himself would cry.) The services, however, always included congregational singing, Scripture reading, and praying. Choirs, primarily to lead the singing, came into being about the middle of the 19th century and we have a picture of ours, reputed to be "the first church choir in Oregon." Organs were not well acclimated to the frontier and were usually regarded by Methodists as "popery" (a pejorative term for Roman Catholic), but we began to use one in the 1850s and still have a pump organ which may have been our first one. I think our 1867 building did not originally have a pipe organ, but one was the glory of our third building in 1889. The 1905 *Hymnal* (which real old-timers like me grew up with) introduced an "official" Order of Worship which included instructions for kneeling to pray, the *Apostles' Creed*, and two Scripture readings (one of which could be a "Responsive Reading"). But its use was optional, and the informality of the Camp Meeting tended to prevail. I've run out of space and will have to continue next time.

the chancel choir

transitions



Dr. Bruce Browne

We have received a letter of resignation from our Chancel Choir Conductor, Dr. Bruce Browne. In part it reads:

"After July, I will be leaving the position of Chancel Choir Director. Of course, this is not without a great deal of thought, prayer and discussion. Daryl and I have deliberated for several weeks. It is our wish to have more time for ourselves, as time is now moving faster than we are. We want to travel, to see family, children, grandchildren and do many things that we have not yet done."

We will all miss having Bruce share his talents and skills both as a musician and director with us in our rehearsals and our services of worship. We wish he and Daryl well in their new endeavors and hope that they will continue to make First UMC their church home when they are in Portland. Please come to a reception for them on July 31, 2005 during the coffee hour after church.

The SPRC, Music Committee and Music Staff are involved in a search for a new conductor for the Chancel Choir. If you know of persons that you think should apply for the position, please have them contact Kelly Qualls at the church or let her know so that she can make the contact.

first church youth

juBELLation bell choir



*Pictured are:
First UMC youth bell
choir juBELLation
and their Director
Karin McDonough
and her husband,
Tim. Also pictured is
composer Timothy
Waugh.*

Eight of our juBELLation youth have just returned from a convention in Springfield, Missouri. They were accompanied on the trip by their director, Karin McDonough and her husband, Tim. Karin says that they had a wonderful time, "What an incredible group of youth with whom to travel. We would do it again with no hesitation. They were amazing at entertaining themselves, and including everyone in their games as we waited between events on Sunday. There was lots of laughter and hugs and some tears. We had two spontaneous nose bleeds, one bitten tongue and one twisted ankle - about what you would expect for a weekend. We had a rambunctious hour of 'Marco Polo' and 'Keep Away' in the pool after the final concert. The bell ringing went very well. I am so proud of the youth. They were well-prepared and we got several compliments from the choir behind us. They were impressed with the ringing ability and behavior of our group of teenagers."

juBELLation was invited and accepted the honor of playing the world premiere of the Donald E. Allured Composition for 2005, *LondeLirinen* by Timothy Waugh. They enjoyed playing it, and have an autographed copy of the published piece and a picture of themselves with the composer. A great time was had by all on this well-planned trip! Many thanks to the juBELLation parents for their assistance in making it happen.

Did you know that the average age of the ringers is 15.1 years? One of the ringers has rung for just six months, and one for seven years. When asked what was their favorite part of being in a handbell choir, most said because of the community and teamwork. One response was, "I really love the community. Bell ringing also creates a cool kind of unity within the choir; I love when a piece is just perfectly together, when everyone has it, and you get that awesome, exhilarating feeling - that's total joy, right there." Perhaps that is the reason that we are so very proud of our handbell ringers here at First UMC!

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Marilen McGill, who fell on Father's day and broke her leg in three places;
Peggy Rockwood, whose aunt died on June 22;
Nancy Fortner's father, who is recovering from surgery in Billings, MT;
Patricia Rieke, whose mother died on June 20;
John Edel, who is struggling with back problems;
Sam Talluto, who has been coping with vertigo;
Erik Iverson, who is undergoing chemotherapy for advanced lung cancer.

Continued prayers for ...

Tom Iverson, Steven Schell, Al Leonard, Dick & Agnes Clark, Jane Rhodes, Janet White, and Priscilla Beckett.

We rejoice upon the recent baptism of ...

Elizabeth Paige Galbraith and Anna Claire Gailbraith,
daughters of Laura & Gregory Gailbraith
Luke Garrison Porter, son of Karen & Steven Porter
Madeline Grace Henion, daughter of Whitney & Gregory Henion
Zachary Lawrence Bolotow, son of Dawn & David Bolotow.

We rejoice upon the recent birth of ...

Kaitlyn Elora Allison Scott, daughter of Kevin & Jennifer Scott.

thanks

to the congregation

FROM BRENDA SENE ...

Daniel and I would like to thank all of you for the love you have shown to our family through the last seven years. Our last Sunday with you was incredible. I thank Arvin for his thoughtfulness and for being such a great partner in ministry. I thank Ross for his humor and for sharing his musical lyrics with us. I thank all of you for your gifts, for your grace and humor, and for your kind words on Sunday. We will miss all of you. If you are ever traveling near Idaho Falls, you will always be welcome in the church and in our home.

Love, Brenda

FROM JOHNSON & HERNANDEZ

Doug Johnson and Dan Hernandez would like to thank the congregation for their recent love and support in helping Doug's father.

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 **July 13, 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.