



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

September 7, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 17

THIS SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time,

Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

**HURRICANE
RELIEF
UPDATE ON
PAGE 7**



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.

the **E** *dition*



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A ...

Continental Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00 AM in Collins Hall
Food provided by Fehrenbacher Hot Coffee Shop (Donations accepted)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN ...

Sunday School for ages 2 through 5th Grade at 10:45 AM

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH ...

6th - 8th Grade Class at 9:30 AM & 9th - 12th Grade Class at 9:30 AM

ESPECIALLY FOR ADULTS ...

Changing Christianity at 9:00 AM
Practicing Spiritual Living Within a Community of Faith at 9:15 AM
Fellowship of Seekers at 9:15 AM

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ...

Worship at 10:30 AM - Blessing of Teachers & Congregational Welcome

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ...

An All-Church Lunch at noon in Collins Hall



memo

Bishop Hoshibata

Dear Friends of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference,
At the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, Bishop Bruce P. Blake (then of the Oklahoma area, now retired) preached an extraordinary sermon entitled, "Give Until It Heals."

In that sermon, Bishop Blake urged us all to exercise the Wesleyan discipline of giving until our gifts of love, compassion and money result in the healing of mind, body and spirit in our communities and world. We now have another opportunity to demonstrate our willingness to give until it heals.

This past week has seen danger, destruction, and death in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. As always, the media have offered us startling glimpses into the fury of the hurricane. When the morning after dawned, we became aware of massive destruction and the sorrow of loss brought by wind and water. A very long and extensive recovery process will be required before life can resume with any sense of "normalcy." We offer prayers for those whose lives have been touched directly and indirectly by Hurricane Katrina.

Now, efforts are being directed at the clean-up and rebuilding. As resolute as humans are, most are beginning to focus on the future. And yet, there are many who will not be able to see clearly what comes next in their lives. Still too much uncertainty; too much pain to get on with life just yet.

As you and I have come to expect, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already responding. This disaster relief arm of our United Methodist Church is ready because you have empowered it to be ready through your "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering. UMCOR is thus empowered to turn 100% of your donations to relief supplies and efforts, not administrative costs. It is a miracle of our denomination that such immediate reaction is possible.

This calls to mind our United Methodist "connectionalism." The response to a disaster elsewhere in our connection is a reminder that we are one in Jesus Christ in our common compassion for others who are suffering or in distress. When Jesus calls us to be "one," it is exactly this kind of benevolence that unites us, and UMCOR offers us the mode to respond not as individuals, but as a body of Christ, a family of God. Together we can participate in the healing of those in pain and the uplifting of those who are downtrodden. In the vernacular, "That's what 'church' is all about!"

Just eight months ago, we were called to respond to the disastrous tsunami in southern Asia. You responded graciously and generously. Now, I call upon you to in like manner, to give out of compassion to those whose lives are overturned by this disaster of mammoth proportions. To do so is to share in the call to care for one another as Christ cares for us.

In Christ's shalom,
Robert T. Hoshibata

a prayer

God, our Creator, we stand in humility in the midst of destruction of such proportions as we have witnessed. We are stunned by the proportion of destruction and damage. So we turn our prayers to ask you to lift out of darkness those who have experienced great loss: of life, of health, of purpose in life. We ask that you also surround with your care the many who have lost homes, places of employment; material goods and property. As we respond with our prayers and with our resources, may we know deep in our hearts that we are living into our faith in Jesus Christ when we give generously and compassionately. We ask that your spirit may move us to give until it heals in the name of Christ who gave his life that we might be healed in eternal life, Amen.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE
CLEANS UP,
REBUILDS, AND
OFFERS HOPE.

You may make a donation to UMCOR for this disaster through First Church
Your checks should be marked: Hurricane Relief. To keep up on the latest news regarding UMCOR'S response you may go to our website at www.fumcpdx.org.

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.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202. Discussion centers on living a Christian life in a world of change. They are beginning a discussion of the book: *The Sins of Scripture* by Bishop John Spong. Books available for purchase for \$16.50. Scholarships available. Everyone is welcome!

first church seniors

for your information

ELECTIVES FOR ELDERS

This wonderful learning opportunity for senior adults meets for five sessions from 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM, beginning in the Fireside Room..

Photography 101

Curious about digital photography? David O'Connor is a professional photographer and the teacher for this series. David is currently an instructor for Portland Community Colleges as well as a freelance photographer.

The course is offered: Tuesdays, October 4 - November 1. from 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. in Room 134. There is a \$15.00 Registration Fee.

Continuing Life's Journey

We have invited five pastors to talk about how they were led into ministry, how they have been involved in reaching out into the world, and where they see themselves in the future. Speakers include:

Rev. Patricia Kessel, Rev. Earl Riddle, Rev. Al Rieke,
Rev. David Poindexter

The course is offered: Tuesdays, October 4 - November 1. from 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. in the Fireside Room. There is a \$15.00 Registration Fee.

To register contact Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext. 222 or email dmorse@fumcpdx.org.

AUTUMN FEST ABOARD THE MT. HOOD RAILROAD

On October 15, 2005 enjoy a scenic ride on the Mt. Hood Railroad. The cost is \$22.00. This includes your Mt. Hood Railroad ticket only. Lunch is on your own. Please arrange with your carpool driver to cover the cost of fuel and parking. Parking is \$2.50 per vehicle. A deposit of \$11.00 is due by September 25, 2005 to reserve your space. SPACE IS LIMITED. We will leave the church by carpool at 8:15 AM on Saturday, October 15 and return to the church by approximately 4:00 PM. To register contact Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext. 222.

SENIOR ADULT TRAVEL

There will be a Tour of Italy Preview on Sunday, September 18, 2005 at noon in the Fireside Room. The next featured international tour sponsored by First Church Seniors is a September 2006 13-day tour of Italy with an outstanding itinerary. For information contact Cheryl Luce, 503-380-8604 or cluce3133@aol.com.

FIRST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL

Art EXHIBIT

SEPT. 11
2005

The congregation is invited to the First Annual Congregational Art Exhibit in Collins Hall, following worship on September 11, 2005.

All art work and photographs are due at Collins Hall from 10:00 AM until noon on Saturday, September 10, 2005.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

Calling all youth up to and including the 8th grade. The church is seeking additional individuals to participate in the Sunday Services as an Acolyte. Laura Templin-Keith is the coordinator. Please contact her if you are interested. Parents on deck: Laura is looking for an assistant for coordinating the Acolytes. This would be only when she is unable to fulfill her responsibilities. Please contact Laura for details at templin6@msn.com. We hope you will consider this an area where you can put your talents to use. There will be an Acolyte Training for 4th and 5th graders on Sunday, September 11, 2005 at 10:30 AM in Room 134.

shovel & rake report

a great fellowship opportunity

“This is by far the best fellowship group I have ever experienced!” So said one of our Shovel and Rake Gang recently. Our attendance has averaged some 20+ workers each week throughout the summer. In July, 38 members and their spouses, enjoyed a potluck picnic at the McManus farm out from Sandy, with special guest Joyce Hulse. In 1982, Joyce Hulse joined her husband Clarence in initiating the first such group. A pictorial directory of the group, now in the church library, was shown for the present members to appreciate during our gathering.

One of the special projects for this summer has been creating a new lawn behind the church gym. We have taken out the ivy and troublesome laurel hedge. The ground has been rototilled and a sprinkler system is being installed in preparation for seeding before the end of summer. Anyone with time to join us for work on Thursday mornings will find a warm welcome in this weekly fellowship group.

youth mission trip

a special report

This summer’s Youth Mission Trip to Campbell Farms was a huge success. In all, we had 14 youth and five adults who responded to God’s calling by volunteering their services to the people of the Yakima Valley in Washington. The group worked in various capacities at the farm, at food banks and thrift stores, painting people’s houses, and teaching young children. The week-long trip allowed for many opportunities for making friends and sharing talents.

One our our youth had this to say, “The Mission Trip left me wanting to continue to give, as service and devotions ought to do.”

We would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone at First UMC for supporting the youth and helping make this summer’s trip possible!

your faith & your money

“Your Faith and Your Money” is a workshop conducted by Dr. Michael Reeves, author and notable church leader. This workshop will be offered on Sunday, October 9 at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Dr. Reeves will preach that Sunday morning. After hearing him preach you will not want to miss this workshop sponsored by your Financial Stewardship Committee. Plan your day so you can stay and participate in this workshop about the future of our church. Lunch and child care will be provided. Watch for more information about Dr. Michael Reeves and this important workshop in the next issue of the *Circuit Rider*.

Who Are We ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

We have been discussing worship, and particularly its current trend in western (I don't know much about mid-western or southern Methodism in this regard) Methodism toward a “post-modern” form. There are a number of things to be said about it from an historical perspective. One, it is a continuation of what we have been doing since our founding in 1784, that is, change a little every generation. We have always had Orders of service that were “put together” by our ministers, rather than following some ancient authority like the medieval Western Catholic, or Martin Luther’s or Archbishop Thomas Crammer’s (who virtually wrote the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*) adaptations of it. Our fathers and mothers resisted things we regard as “traditional” as much as some of us are resisting the “post modern!” And a few of us would like a real Camp Meeting type of service. Secondly, the use of contemporary music is at least as old as Luther or Wesley, both of whom utilized popular (even bar-room) tunes in their hymnody. Thirdly, such services have the basic fundamentals of Protestant worship: congregational singing, Scripture reading, prayer and preaching. A printed Order was a technological innovation in its time, just as much as a Power-Point projection is in ours. Finally, emotion has its place in worship. Most of us are a little wary of too much exuberance, but who is to say that a worshiper cannot be inspired to enthusiasm, vocal outbursts, dancing, by the Holy Spirit? Any careful Bible reader and church historian knows that such outbursts have been common, at least since the time that King David made a fool of himself in his wife’s eyes by cavorting “with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets” before the Ark of the Lord (2 Samuel 6). The only real question to ask of those who practice such things was told to Bishop Roy Nichols by his mother. He was an African-American brought up in a tradition of enthusiastic worship. His mother’s wisdom was, “Roy it doesn’t matter so much how high they jump as what they do when they come down.” To the extent that post modern worship will increase “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” among us, I am all for it.

learning and spiritual growth

workshops and forums



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS: MOTTO OR REALITY?

The Oregon-Idaho Conference Race and Religion presents a special conference at Portland First United Methodist Church on September 16-17, 2005: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors ... Motto or Reality? The conference will feature The Rev. Eric H. F. Law, an internationally known consultant on diversity. The purpose of this event is to:

- Raise awareness of issues related to diversity
- Develop trust in each other and break down assumptions
- Respect and celebrate our own culture and the cultures of each other
- Learn how to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors

The event will begin on Friday, September 16 at 6:00 PM at Portland First UMC with a dinner prepared by Epworth UMC, followed by a 7:00 PM worship service.

On Saturday, September 17 the event will begin with a 9:00 AM worship service. A lunch will be provided and followed by a 4:00 PM worship service.

The registration cost is \$20.00 and includes two meals. Registration forms are available in the First Church office. For more information contact D. Joan Collison, CCOR Chair, at 541/745-7901 or e-mail her at djoancollison@comcast.net

HOLY PLACES: CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM PERSPECTIVES

The Institute for Christian Muslim Understanding (ICMU) cordially invites you to attend a presentation on "Holy Places: Christian and Muslim Perspectives" on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at St. Mary's Academy located at 1615 SW 5th Avenue, Downtown Portland. Presenters: Dr. Nohad Toulan from Portland State University and Dr. Cecilia Ranger, SNJM from Marylhurst University. This event will begin with a reception and potluck at 6:00 pm followed by the presentation at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Please bring a dish to feed six people. We kindly ask that you do not use pork or pork products in your food. For further information, please contact Rev. Chuck Cooper at 503/348-7214.

RECONCILING UNITED METHODISTS TO MEET IN SALEM

Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists will meet Saturday, September 24, 2005 - Morningside UMC, 3674 12th St SE, Salem OR. This gathering will be facilitated by the Rev. John Schwiebert of Metanoia Peace Community, Portland.

The event will begin at 3:00 PM with a time of greeting, sign in, administrative issues, and agenda prioritizing. At 3:30 PM, there will be a discussion of conscience around power, our willingness to risk, limits of tolerance, how we stand together, and true reconciliation. The event will conclude with a 5:30 PM potluck supper (beverages and table settings provided) and 6:00 PM worship service. All with open hearts and open minds are welcome at this open-door meeting.

WESTERN JURISDICTION UM VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION RALLY

A Western Jurisdiction UM Volunteers in Mission Rally will be held September 16-18, 2005 at Camp-on-the-Boulder, near Yellowstone Park. For more information on this event visit their website at www.umvimj.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ADOPTION?

PLAN Loving Adoptions invites you to a free seminar on adoption on Thursday, September 22, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at First UMC Room 202. Learn more about adoption basics, different options for adopting from the U.S. and overseas, and ideas on how to finance adoption. For more information call PLAN at 503/247.8452.



around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

moving

keeping in touch

Our prayers are with ...

Marilyn Ringquist, whose recent biopsy was benign;
Alice White, recovering from surgery;
Gloria Misar, recovering from surgery;
Eleanor Stubbs, recovering at home from two falls;
The victims of hurricane Katrina and those mourning loss due to the devastation.

Continued prayers for ...

Lai K Choi, Shawn White, Callie Cribbs, Alex Esguerra,
Agnes and Dick Clark, Tom and Erik Iverson, Al Leonard, Jane Rhodes,
Jim and Jean Whitcomb

We rejoice with

Caroline Crumpacker on the birth of her grandson, Lachlan Filipo Bailey,
born August 27, 2005 in Hong Kong;
Philip & Susannah Greenberg upon the baptism of their son,
Jules Elias Greenberg on August 28, 2005.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS ...

Do you have a child in college? Please notify the church office at 503/228-3195 or email us at office@fumcpdx.org.

FROM THE BARNES FAMILY

The Barnes family (Dave, Jean, James, and Lizzie) is moving to England on September 10, 2005. We will be working in the Hastings/Tunbridge Wells area as Occupational Therapists for one year. James will also work there, and Lizzie will go to school for her junior year. We have a blog (thanks to help from Paul Adams) where you can log on to follow our experiences, look at photos, and send comments. The address is: www.barnesinbritain.com. We will miss our church family here, but trust we can find a Methodist church in England! We hope to hear from you and we would love to have visitors in England.

BETTY GRAY

We bid farewell to Betty Gray, who is moving to Cincinnati, Ohio. Betty is moving to accept a work-related position. Congratulations, Betty!

HURRICANE
RELIEF
UPDATE ON
PAGE 7

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 **September 7, 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.

HURRICANE KATRINA

RESPONSE UPDATE

PORTLAND'S FIRST UNITED METHODIST

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

(Compiled including information from United Methodist News Service and UMCOR releases)

The immediate response of First Church members and friends to the horrible suffering in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast is gratifying.

As of this time over \$14,000 has been contributed in special offering for Hurricane Relief! More is arriving, literally, hourly. A check with Sunday's gifts was forwarded yesterday. We will send every contribution to UMCOR promptly. Thanks to all of you who have made it possible.

Nationwide—as of Tuesday—had given more than 1.7 million. That is only the start!

Our gifts are directed to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) who are at the scene and responding. Their efforts are coordinated with FEMA, The Red Cross and Church World Service.

UMCOR's Sager Brown Distribution Depot (in Baldwin, LA) has received and sent thousands of health kits, sewing kits, blankets, flood clean-up buckets and bottled water to emergency aid stations. UMCOR Teams are distributing truckloads of food, water and clothing donated by (among others) TV psychologist "Dr. Phil" McGraw and Oprah Winfrey.

UM Churches, hospitals, retirement centers and campgrounds have been opened to receive the displaced. Work teams are preparing to go into areas where waters are receding to help victims pick up the pieces.

At First Church, a response task force under the guidance of Minister of Discipleship, Dr. Lowell Greathouse, will meet tonight to identify some 'hands-on' ways we can be involved in the effort. Their concern is both with victims who are being relocated to Portland and those still in the ravaged southeast.

Your gifts of money, are still the most effective immediate response. Another offering will be taken next Sunday. In the meantime, checks can be made out to First United Methodist but clearly designated "Hurricane Relief." 100% of your gift will be used in the relief efforts—there is no overhead or administrative fees.

In Christ

In Christ

Arvin R Luchs
Senior Pastor