



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

*the* **E** *edition*

**September 21, 2005**

Volume 9, Issue 18

**THIS  
SUNDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2005**

**WORSHIP**

**10:30 AM**

*Sermon*

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

*Children's Time,*

Rev. Dr. Lowell

Greathouse



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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR ...**

## **ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

First UMC's Annual Church Conference which will be held Thursday,

September 29 at 5:30 PM in the Fireside Room.

A light meal will be provided.

**HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF RESPONSE**  
**\$30,693**

**HAS BEEN GIVEN BY FIRST CHURCH TO DATE**

**Thank you for your generous response ... your gifts are still needed and welcome!**

*first things first*

### **DR. MICHAEL REEVES TO KICK OFF 2005 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

#### **Preaching ...**

Dr. Michael Reeves will be our guest preacher on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 at 10:30 AM

#### **Teaching ...**

Following worship at 12:30 PM he will offer a workshop entitled: "Your Faith and Your Money." This workshop will be 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.

#### **Giving ...**

Portland First UMC's Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, November 6, 2005



Nationally known as a stewardship expert, Dr. Michael Reeves is experienced in consulting with congregations on financial planning, as well as leading more than 200 church capital campaigns. He has worked for two of the largest stewardship firms in the country, and led workshops for the Association of Fund Raising Professionals and the Christian Stewardship Association.

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# memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Katrina's devastating wake left behind so much tragedy—the picture is only now becoming more clear. The grief and pain of so many lives lost, people injured and families torn apart. Hopes and dreams lay shattered amid the ruins of homes, offices, businesses, schools, and public facilities. The fabric of trust in government at all levels has been stretched and frayed and our confidence in their plans revealed to be only “a façade of security.”

This horrible catastrophe has been a stern teacher of difficult lessons—the reality of evil. Suddenly we have confronted the agony of poverty we too easily overlook. We have once discovered the cesspool of racism and the lawless, violent streak that prowls just below the surface of civility.

But the response to Katrina has surfaced some of the most noble virtues in humankind. Courage, selflessness, kindness, resilience in the face of overwhelming challenges, love and faithfulness were etched in our hearts by the deeds of so many. It has also revealed a deep vein of care and generosity in the heart of people around the world.

I am overwhelmed by the generous and compassionate response of the people in this congregation to the need. You have already contributed more than \$30,000—and more has been promised. The Leadership Council will be pointing us toward some action responses after their Wednesday meeting. I thank God for your spirit and your love.

Experts say there are three phases to disaster response:

The emergency phase—already substantially completed—involves rescue efforts and infrastructure repair and is primarily the responsibility of official agencies, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

We are beginning the second, “relief phase,” in which assistance is provided to home owners who need to “muck out,” assess damage, receive emotional and spiritual care, and begin their long road to recovery.

The third phase, “long-term recovery,” involves a holistic approach to people who have suffered losses, covering everything from seeking them out in their neighborhood to providing information and advocacy with federal and state assistance rights as well as repairing and rebuilding of homes, and assistance with living expenses.

(see [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org))

Our financial gifts as well as volunteer assistance will be welcome and important not only now but into the future. Gifts may be designated to First United Methodist but clearly marked for “Hurricane Relief.”

I cannot resist sharing with you some beatitudes written by Steve Goodier, an insightful pastor and blogger:

Blessed are those who mourn for the hurricane's victims;  
may they find comfort in their pain and hope in their helplessness.

Blessed are those who found a way to survive;  
may they now find sufficient strength and healing  
as they reassemble the scattered pieces of shattered lives.

Blessed are those who tirelessly strive to give relief;  
may they be amply encouraged in their valiant efforts.

Blessed are those who generously give money and supplies,  
may they know the deep satisfaction of having made a difference.

Blessed are those in every nation who unite now in compassionate service and love;  
may they show us what it means to be family.

(accessed at [www.lifesupportsystem.com](http://www.lifesupportsystem.com))

See you in Church

**Arvin**

# adults at first

sunday classes

## THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134. Looking for Bible study? This class is 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!

## FAITH & MONEY

*Your Family and Money* is a four session class beginning October 2, 2005. It will offer ways for parents to help children develop money management skills and values at an early age. Sessions examine talking about money, allowances, promoting independence, saving, and credit habits. Facilitator: Janice Gratton Sessions are at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings beginning October 2, Room 204.

## CURRENT THEOLOGY MEETS THE NONE ZONE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Dr. Lane McGaughy will offer a one session class examining: Why is the main religious preference in the Pacific Northwest "none" and what is happening with theological learning in our region? He will discuss current trends and what the Northwest House of Theological Studies is doing to offer opportunities for theological study.

Facilitator: Dr. Lane McGaughy is the George H. Atkinson Professor of Religion and Ethics at Willamette University The class is scheduled for October 2, 2005 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

# first church seniors

for your information

## 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. Register with Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext. 222.

## 55-ALIVE: A SENIOR ADULT DRIVING COURSE

55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers will be offered October 13-14, 2005. Each day class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Outstanding AARP leader, Irene Reid, teaches this refresher course for drivers 50 years of age and over. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10.00. Make checks payable to: AARP. Register soon because class size is limited to 30 students. To register call Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 or email [dmorse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:dmorse@fumcpdx.org).

PHOTOGRAPHY

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CONTINUING  
LIFE'S  
JOURNEY

## 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  
Mr. Dave Jenkins

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.

### To Register

To register contact Debbie Morse at 503/228-3195 ext. 222 or email [dmorse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:dmorse@fumcpdx.org).

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

A reader, on the chance I hadn't seen it myself, sent me a copy of an article in *The Oregonian* (August 7, p. A21) about Clinton Kelly. Although I was on vacation I was still reading the newspaper and had seen the piece, but I appreciated not only the thoughtfulness but its revelation that someone reads this column! Clinton Kelly was one of the early members of this congregation (it is not clear whether the article is correct in saying that he was an "organizer of Portland's first Methodist Church." We were probably formally organized and in operation a few weeks or months before he arrived. He did, however, have a leading part in organizing a congregation on Mt. Tabor, and one of his sons, Dr. Richmond Kelly, helped organize the Grace M.E. church which "spun off" from First and later reunited with us). He was himself an ordained minister and had left Kentucky to get away from slavery. He once refused a gift of a slave, and on his Kentucky circuits had black as well as Caucasian members. Kentucky (one of the "border states" during the Civil War) had Methodists on both sides of the 1844 split that had divided the Methodist Episcopal Church and produced the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Act making Oregon a Territory in 1848 prohibited slavery here. And we entered the Union as a "Free" state. Before we get carried away with our own virtue, however, we need to remember that we also prohibited free Negroes from living here! (As late as 1955 I had to be careful to insure that a black guest preacher I was having in Medford would be allowed to stay in the hotel.) One of the interesting things about the newspaper article from my standpoint is that it names several of his brothers who also bought up donation land claims here. None of them, so far as I know, were active church members or were notably active in civic affairs. Not all of the prominent Kellys in Oregon's early days were related to him but many of them were and the church has a copy of a little book edited by his granddaughter (and long-time member of this congregation that old timers will remember) Laura, tracing *The Kelly Clan*.

### Editor's Correction ...

In the September 7, 2005 edition of *Who Are We?* the sentence referring to a Camp Meeting type of service should have read: "And few of us would like a real Camp Meeting type of service."

## youth mission trip thank you dinner

The youth and sponsors of the 2004 Youth Mission trip would like to thank our parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends and anyone else who contributed to this summer's Youth Mission Trip. Everyone who purchased shares in the Mission trip are invited to be our guests at a special dinner and program. The dinner will be at the church on Saturday, September 24, at 7:00 PM in Room 202. In addition to providing dinner, we will show pictures of our trip and share how the Mission Trip impacted our lives.

Please RSVP to Paul Adams if you plan to attend. He can be reached at 503/228-3195 ext 229 or by email at [padams@fumcpdx.org](mailto:padams@fumcpdx.org).

## welcome home sunday a word of thanks

First Church welcomed everyone to the beginning of a great year of education and worship on September 11. Continental breakfast from Fehrenbacher Hof greeted class attendees, parents and families. Music provided by the juBELLation added to the festivities along with a table from the library. The blessing of the teachers in worship and a Children's Story illustrating how far we can reach to help those in need (all of the way out of the Sanctuary!), were great ways to kick-off the children's Sunday School program. We ended the day with an outstanding lunch created by Michael Copeland and sponsored by Reconciling Ministries. With the Fall Frolic Band, books to check out from the library, First UMC attire to purchase and friends to chat with, the lunch was a delightful way to end the day.

Thanks to everyone that made our Welcome Home Sunday such a success: Michael Copeland, Reconciling Ministries, juBELLation, the First UMC Library, Fehrenbacher Hof Coffee Shop, Erin Riley and the Fall Frolic Band.

## church membership an orientation

First Things First: An Introduction to First Church session will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2005 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. We will provide a light lunch and beverages, as well as childcare if needed. We will gather in the Parlor near the church office. Staff and church members will give you an overview on our church and traditions, information about the various ministries we are involved in, and share about what it means to become a member of the First Church community.

Please call the church office at 503/228-3195 if you would like to attend and if you will need child care. It will be helpful to know how many are coming in advance, so that we will have all the materials we need.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE AND STORYTELLING**

Enjoy an evening of Native American flute and storytelling on Saturday, September 24 at 7:00 PM at the Wilshire UMC, 3917 NE Shaver St., Portland. Admission is free, donations will be accepted. Dessert will be served. for more information call: 503/287-6526

### **FUMC/TUMC HIKERS - SEPTEMBER 2005 HIKE**

The September hike will be Saturday, September 24th, at Gales Creek, outside of Forest Grove. Meet at 8:15 AM in the First Church parking lot to form carpools. and return to the church by 3:30 PM. If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact Marge Terdal at terdalm@pdx.edu or call her at 503/244-5714.

### **PARKER GROUP**

The Parker Group invites you to a potluck and program on Saturday, October 1, 2005 in room 202. The potluck begins at 12:30 PM. Following the potluck Marge and Leif Terdal will tell us of their marvelous Amazon experience this past spring, followed by questions and answers. Visitors are welcome.

### **MISSIONARY POTLUCK**

On Sunday, October 23 the Global Missions committee will host a potluck lunch, at noon following the coffee hour. The program will include a presentation by Dr. Phil Plunk, DDS, who operates the medical/dental clinic Salud y Paz in Guatemala. He is seeking support for a new program to provide fluoride treatments for elementary school-aged children, both financially, and from dentists who are willing to travel to Guatemala. The potluck will be held in Room 202, and those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass. For further information, contact Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270 or Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

### **GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER VOLUNTEER TRAININGS**

Watch for upcoming details on Goose Hollow Family Shelter Trainings. Two trainings will be held: October 15 and October 20, 2005. If you have ever thought about volunteering at the shelter, this training would be helpful.

### **LITURGICAL ARTS RETREAT**

There will be a Liturgical Arts Retreat at Camp Magruder. The emphasis will be creating art for worship, dedication, and Christian Education. It will be held November 3-5, 2005. The fee is \$123 and the Camp Dean is Ardis Letey.

Using paint, fabric, paper and objects from the environment, we will seek to reveal God's visual message. Our source materials will be scripture, Christian education curriculum, the language of visual art, and our own creativity. Minimum of 15 participants needed. Rev. Ardis Letey is a deacon in Arts Ministry based in Toledo, Oregon. Call the Camping office at 503/226-7931.

### **JOIN PRIMETIMERS TRIP TO BRAZIL**

It is not too early to register for the Primetimers event, Putting Children First: Brazilian Methodists in Action, an educational and mission experience coordinated by missionaries Gordon and Teca Greathouse. The program will be held April 25 - May 5, 2006. Information and registration forms are available by calling 877/882-4724, or e-mailing: primetimers@gbgm-umc.org. Locally you can contact Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337, mimi99@easystreet.com) or Tom and Colleen Foster, who are veterans of two Primetimers events.

### **REEVES BIO**

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As an adjunct professor at Perkins School of Theology, he teaches doctoral-level courses in "Theology of Stewardship" and "Faith and Money in American Culture." Reeves has published numerous books and articles.

Currently Dr. Reeves is President and CEO of the Louisiana United Methodist Foundation and manages their combined assets of over \$90,000,000. Each day he works with local churches, and districts within Louisiana and his services are in great demand around the denomination. Much of his current attention is focused on providing support for the displaced pastors and congregations in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.



### **SANCTUARY BELL CHOIR SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**

The Sanctuary Bell Choir is looking for a few adventurous musicians to round out their ensemble, and welcome any and all inquiries, as well as visitors to rehearsals to see if handbell ringing appeals to you. Come to any of our rehearsals during September and October (except Oct. 6), and they'll show you the ropes. Then you can decide if handbell ringing is for you, and whether you're ready for Sanctuary Bells, or would feel more comfortable developing your skills in Genesis Ringers, the intergenerational beginning handbell choir directed by Karin McDonough. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Room 130. If you would like to attend a rehearsal, please call the church office and leave a message for the director, Nancy Hascall.

# around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

## Our prayers are with ...

*Art Kayser*, recovering from knee surgery, at West Hills Village rehab;  
*Ted Hoch*, recovering from hip replacement, at West Hills Village rehab;  
*Gloria Misar*, recovering from surgery at The Terrace, Willamette View;  
*Charles Rich*, recovering at home from surgery;  
*Norman White & Family* following the death of Janet White on  
September 17, with services on October 1 at 2:00 PM at First UMC;  
*The family of Alice White*, who died on September 9,  
with service at First UMC on September 22, 2005 at 10:30 AM.

## Continued prayers for ...

*Jim & June Whitcomb, Al & Jean Lenoard, Jane Rhodes,*  
*Tom & Eric Iverson, and Agnes & Dick Clark.*

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## 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](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org).

# thanks

to the church family

## FROM THE BROWNES

You sent us back to one of our favorite romantic destinations. Of course, there is also the golf, hiking and hot tubbing.

Your greatest gift to us, however, was your friendship, spiritual support and the music. Week after week you made the most lovely tones and phrases. It was an honor to be with you. Keep on singing and loving each other.

Bless you all.

With love,  
Bruce and Daryl Browne

*Bruce Browne was our Chancel Choir  
Director. As a parting thank you he and  
Daryl were sent to Skamania Lodge.*

## 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 **October 9, 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](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.