



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 5, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 19

THIS SUNDAY

OCTOBER 9, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon

Dr. Michael Reeves,
First to the Lord
2 Corinthians 8

Children's Time,

Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

Special Music

The Chancel Choir,
*For the Beauty of
the Earth* with
instrumental combo

The Cherub Choir
under the direction of
Janice Hauser



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
first things first
MAKE SUNDAY A

first
PRIORITY

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



*The 2005 Stewardship
Campaign, **First Things
First**, is a crucial element in
the life of First Church. It
allows you to ask yourself a
critical question as you
establish spiritual priorities
and goals: "What is God
asking me to give?" Plan
on being in church this
Sunday, make it a priority.*



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

sprc
an update

Episcopalian priest, John Danforth, who is also a lawyer and politician, is somewhat bemused by the attention he has been receiving lately. Since publishing two Op-Ed articles in *The New York Times*, the former three-term Republican senator, ambassador to the UN and special presidential envoy to the Sudan has become, in his

words, “the toast of the liberals.” *

Danforth wants everyone to know that he is a “conservative,” a “traditional Republican,” even though his two opinion pieces decry the transformation of the Grand Old Party into “the political arm of conservative Christians.” He wrote,

“In the decade since I left the Senate, American politics has been characterized by two phenomena: the increased activism of the Christian right, especially in the Republican Party, and the collapse of bipartisan collegiality. I do not think it is a stretch to suggest a relationship between the two.”

In recent months, goaded by the divisive religious rhetoric of party leaders (and the President) to both the tragic death of Terry Schiavo and the debate over stem cell research, Danforth has decided to “come out” as a “religious moderate.” Danforth declared,

“To assert that I am on God’s side and you are not, that I know God’s will and you do not, and that I will use the power of government to advance my understanding of God’s kingdom is certain to produce hostility. By contrast, moderate Christians see ourselves, literally, as moderators. Far from claiming to possess God’s truth, we claim only to be imperfect seekers of the truth.”

The “moderate” Christianity he embraces affirms the solid Biblical scholarship, compassion for the marginalized, and the passion for social witness that characterizes the Episcopal Church that ordained him. But, rather than denigrate conservatives, he sees great value in their emphasis on personal faith and individual responsibility.

The major job of the church—he told Krista Tippett in a recent radio interview—is to be a reconciler: “We believe it is God’s work to practice humility, to wear tolerance on our sleeves, to reach out to those with whom we disagree, and to overcome the meanness we see in today’s politics.” (Speaking of Faith, *American Public Media*, 9-8-05)

And then he said something that piqued both my interest and sparked concern:

“If Christianity became a place—if the church became a place—where people, faithful people doing their best in their own, you know, inadequate way to follow their Lord and to hear out and honor the views of people who are very different, if that’s what the church is, I think that that could be very, very exciting.” (ibid.)

“Do you see churches now stepping into that role?” Tippett wondered. “No,” Danforth replied, “But I’m hopeful.”

Might First Church be such a place?

See you Church!

Arvin

* (Full texts are available at:

http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/danforth/danforth_oped-politics.shtml and http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/danforth/danforth_oped-onward.shtml)

From the Staff Parish Relations Committee...

It is with sadness that the staff and the SPRC bid farewell to Ron Morse who resigned from our staff recently for health reasons. Ron has been our daytime building custodian for more than four years. In that capacity he has diligently cared for the upkeep of our church and provided room arrangements and equipment for meetings. We thank him for his faithful service and offer our prayers and best wishes for his recovery.

Those who wish may send monetary gifts or expressions of appreciation and farewell to Ron Morse c/o the church office.

Because of the resignation, the SPRC has affirmed the following changes in staffing. Josh Yaklin, who has been night custodian for several years, has been re-assigned to daytime duties. Steve Jackson, who has been our weekend custodian for three years, will be interim night custodian—and retain the weekend duties. (Both are less than full time assignments.)

Please be sure to welcome them to their new duties when you next are at the church!

Trudy Kayser
Mary Sagara
Co-Chairs, the SPRC



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 discussing 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 which began 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 in Room 204.

opportunities at first

take note

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.

OCTOBER HIKE

Anyone who enjoys hiking, is welcome to join us for the last hike of the season on Saturday, October 29, 2005. Meet at 8:15 AM in the First Church parking lot to form carpools. We'll head off to Lewis River Falls east of Cougar in SW Washington. The Lewis River thunders over three colossal falls along this riverbank path. This is a seven mile round-trip hike, but we will plan to do a car shuttle and hike the 3.5 mile trail one-way. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks, plenty of water and wear comfortable hiking boots. The cost will be \$5-8 for the trail pass and carpooling. We should be back at the church around 5:00 PM. Please e-mail Paula Justice at jpaula354@aol.com or call her at 503/524-3737 if you would like to participate or if you have any questions. All are welcome, but you must sign up to insure that we have enough transportation available.

FOOD AND FRIENDS

Food and Friends will be starting their fall line up of dinners out for the 2005-06 year. This is a group chooses a place to dine out each month for fellowship. We are parents of any age children, and singles looking for some good food and friends. Our first dinner will be on October 7, 2005 at the Macaroni Grill on 300 SW Yamhill. Nursery care will be available at the church on those nights, for a minimal fee. The nursery opens at 6:00 PM, with dinner reservations at 6:30 PM. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Donna Clark at 503/289-3829, or dclarkio@msn.com.

umw

united methodsit women

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, October 19 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Program: *Children of the Bible, a School of Christian Mission* study, led by Ruth Green. Devotions: Kitty Riddle. Hostess: Nan Schuler.

B COME TO Brunch

A SPECIAL SATURDAY BRUNCH

Women of all ages and stages of life: young, less young, employed, stay-at-home moms, sisters, mothers, aunts ... just what you've been waiting for-- a FREE BRUNCH! Hosted by United Methodist Women, this exciting event will be on Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 AM. in Room 202. Come, get acquainted with other women, enjoy quiche & croissants, scones & fruit, coffee or tea. The program will include music and a fascinating speaker, Dani Leis from the downtown teen refuge, "Outside In." You will also have an opportunity to get inside information on women in mission. To reserve your space or if you have questions call: Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479 or Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

UMW CONFERENCE ANNUAL MTG

The UMW Conference Annual Meeting will be October 22, 2005 in Payette, Idaho. The Keynote Speaker will be Bishop Robert Hoshibata.

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, October 19 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Program: *Children of the Bible* by Ruth Green. Devotions: Kitty Riddle. Hostess: Marilyn Weber.

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, October 19 at 12:00 PM in Room 204. Program: Planning meeting. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare.

Who Are We ?

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Maybe you saw in the paper, or on TV, after the Hurricane Katrina disaster, something about the Portland pastor who had personal ties to the Gulf coast. She personally arranged for a dozen or so victims to come to Portland, and set them up in apartments here. One of the things that caught my eye in the newspaper account was that the apartments were “furnished with donated items from Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette. They also have lined up job training and placement opportunities” for the evacuees (*The Oregonian*, 9/10/05 p. A5). It caught my eye because Methodists in general, and this congregation in particular, have some very close ties to Goodwill Industries. We are connected in general because Goodwill was the brainchild of a Methodist pastor and literally began in a Methodist church a hundred years ago in a downtrodden neighborhood in Boston, MA. His plan was simple. Unwanted clothing and household articles were solicited and collected from the more affluent community, and unemployed poor and/or handicapped people were given a chance to learn a skill, a trade, and earn income by repairing these items. The sale of the items gave the poor in the neighborhood a chance to get bargains, and the money raised paid for the whole operation (which originally had no building overhead expenses because it was housed in a church). The idea spread, and for several years in the early twenties of the last century it became a part of the program of the Methodist Episcopal Board of Home Missions. In time it became an autonomous group without any direct Church connection. Our local Portland Goodwill was begun in 1927, and this church’s part was significant, perhaps even decisive. The first meetings were held in the District Superintendent’s office and the first Executive Secretary was a Methodist minister. Our district’s City Church Extension Society was the formal organizer and on the first Executive Committee was our pastor (Dr. B. Earle Parker, for whom the Parker Group is named), and prominent lay members of our congregation such as J. S. Rasmussen, Amedee Smith, and E. S. Collins. I did not know any of these personally, but I have heard my elders speak appreciatively of them.



an internship report

Angelo Honjas

Over this last summer, I used my First UMC internship to work at the Community Music Center. The Director, Gregory DuBay, quickly centered my attention on the task of archival retrieval of records, from paper (rather haphazardly kept in boxes) onto hard drive. These had been stored in a room downstairs since before 1961. Having met the CMC board members, my title was “Liaison to the Board.” Among other things, I have visited the City of Portland Archives to view additional records, and entered past student records (over 5,000 names with classes, teachers, and parent information) onto a user friendly format, after reviewing (conservatively) over 7,000 documents containing over 10,000 entries (more than 6,800 KB of information)! I was given the creative and developmental freedom to design permanent historical documents as well. One was a “faculty timeline,” in which old report cards and records containing past instructors’ names are organized in such a fashion that it literally charts the progression and length in which each instructor was teaching at the center since 1961 (over 200 on the list).

Along with all this, I assisted Mr. DuBay in conducting rehearsals of various string groups; received, inspected, and assessed over 30 donated string instruments for future use; and accompanied the youth string orchestra playing clarinet.

Thank you for your benevolence both on part of myself and the Community Music Center. We were a perfect match!

In God’s Love and Service, Angelo Honjas

8
weeks of
growth

NURTURING CHRISTIAN GROWTH: A SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

How do you create a well-balanced spiritual life? What do the various Christian traditions teach us about deepening our spiritual journeys? How can we become more intentional in practicing our faith? Each session provides a time for prayer, reflection, Bible study, and sharing. Rev. Lowell Greathouse will facilitate an eight week group beginning Wednesday, October 12th from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the Library.

THE WEST END THEATER WILL PRESENT: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

An adaptation of Tolstoy’s *Crime and Punishment* will be presented October 14-22 and 28-29. For ticket times and prices contact the West End Theater box office at 503/228-7465 ext. 116. The theater is located at 1220 SW Taylor, Portland, Oregon.

this & that of special interest

MISSIONARY GATHERING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 23

The Global Missions Committee is incorporating the presentation by Dr. Phil Plunk, DDS, who operates the medical/dental clinic *Salud y Paz* in Guatemala, with the Open House and introduction of the Commons In Collins on Sunday, October 23. Instead of the previously-announced potluck, Dr. Plunk will be available at an informational table in the Commons. Afterwards everyone is invited to bring their sandwiches into the Fireside Room, where the Missions Committee will serve dessert and beverages while Dr. Plunk gives a presentation on his work in Guatemala. He is seeking support for a new program to provide fluoride treatments for elementary school-aged children. In addition to financial support, Dr. Plunk is also looking for volunteer dentists who are willing to travel to Guatemala and assist with the procedure. For further information, contact Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270 or Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

Goose Hollow Family Shelter will offer two trainings from which to choose. Come either Sunday, October 16 at noon or Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 PM. The trainings will occur in the First Church Fireside Room. If you have ever thought about volunteering at the shelter, this training would be helpful. This will also be an excellent opportunity to meet our new Outreach Director, Annie Heart.

coming soon to first church

the Commons In Collins

- Want to know more about what's happening at First Church?
- Where can I get the latest information on community issues our church is working on?
- Where can I sign up to ... volunteer ... participate in a group ... take a trip?
- Where can I check out a good book to read?
- Where can I go to have a cup of coffee with my friends?

The answer: **THE COMMONS IN COLLINS!** Every Sunday, beginning in October, we will have tables set up with information displays ... and friends to answer questions about what we are doing as a church and how you can get involved.

We will have some displays up beginning Sunday, October 2, but the **GRAND OPENING** of The Commons in Collins will be on Sunday, October 23, 2005. Join us after worship for the excitement!



HURRICANE RELIEF RESPONSE

GIFTS TO UMCOR

To date, our church has collected \$38,500 to send through UMCOR to assist in the Gulf Coast Region. 100% of these funds goes directly to the relief effort there. If you are interested in contributing funds you can do so by making a check out to First UMC and noting that it is for the HURRICANE relief effort.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT

After worship each Sunday, through October 23, 2005 the Sunday School classes will be collecting school supplies to send to the UMCOR Sager Brown facility in Louisiana. The school kits will be distributed throughout areas hit by the recent hurricanes, as well as around the world. Our children will have placed brightly decorated boxes in the narthex to collect your school supply donations.

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

Our prayers are with ...

Beth Iverson, recovering at St. Vincent's Hospital from a stroke she had on Sunday.

Ted Hoch, recovering from a broken hip and arm, at West Hills Village Rehab;

Debbie Morse, at home reovering from foot surgery;

The family of Dr. Katherine Smith, who died September 27, 2005;

Grace Renfroe, recovering at home from surgery.

Continued prayers for ...

Art Kayser, Gloria Misar, Charles Rich, Jim & Jean Whitcomb,

Al & Jean Leonard, Jane Rhodes, Tom and Erik Iverson, and

Agnes and Dick Clark.

We rejoice with ...

Proud grandparents, Leif & Marge Terdal on the birth of their grandson, Lukyan Anders Terdal, born on September 21, 2005. The parents are Paul and Tatiana Terdal.

thanks

to the church family

FROM JANE RHODES

To My First Church Family,
Having cancer is not fun. Your prayers, cards and phone calls have softened the pain and eased the illness. Thank you for your love and care.

Jane Rhodes (503/771-6461)

TO JOYCE CRAMER

The Sunday Ushers would like to thank Joyce Cramer for her many years of faithful service to our congregation as an usher and other endeavors. May she enjoy a prosperous life in her new environment. Thank you, Joyce!

CHRISMON COUNTDOWN

Crismon makers, are you ready for the countdown?

The next get together will be Sunday, October 16, in Room 134, following worship.

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 19, 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.