



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 19, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 20

**THIS
SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 23, 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.

an **E** special edition



LOOKING TO SERVE

As a United Methodist, I like to walk my talk and that of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, who said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

In just two weeks, on **November 1, 2005**, we will reopen **Goose Hollow Family Shelter**. The Shelter operates from **7:00 PM – 7:30 AM** during the winter months. With your help we are able to provide for area families with children who might otherwise have no nighttime shelter. There are many nights where we are in need of volunteers to help provide a meal, to provide a helping hand, to facilitate kids time and to be an Overnight Host. Please call the Shelter Office at extension 220, or me at extension 215 to volunteer your time and to share in this little bit of kindness with God's children.

If we want peace in the world, we must make it easier for people to care for themselves. The Shelter is just one of my priorities as Director of Outreach for First UMC. I will also be working with Church & Society, Planet Church, Global Outreach and others to find ways to engage ministries of love, kindness, and justice so that together we may all "walk humbly (in peace) with our God." Together, we can alleviate human suffering. Come walk your talk with me.

Annie Heart, Director of Outreach



**WE WELCOME
ANNIE HEART**

We are pleased to announce Annie Heart as our new Director of Outreach/Shelter Director at First Church. Annie comes to this position with a wealth of experience working on social justice issues in the community. She was the Director of Peace with Justice Ministries with the United Methodist Church in Denver, Colorado, where she developed/facilitated outreach programs for community service, education, action, and advocacy related to social change. Annie has a Masters degree in Specialized Ministry (Justice and Peace Studies) from Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

Annie will be responsible for developing and facilitating the community outreach ministries at First Church, the operation and management of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, and working with the congregation to create community initiatives and increase our participation in various community-based activities. We are so pleased to have Annie as a part of our church staff.

first things first
COMMITMENT SUNDAY
November 6, 2005



memo
 Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs
first things first



boo!
 halloween events

“What if the Census Bureau changed its mission?” wondered Donald Grant.* When they knock on your door instead of asking *who* and *how many* live in your house ask, “What sort of person lives here?” Grant pondered what would need to be considered:

1. What do you treasure?
2. What do you rejoice over?
3. What do you retain in glowing memory?
4. What do you lift up, revere, or hold in awe?
5. What do you want to pass on to your children, your children’s children, and to others?
6. What do you want your children to discover for themselves?
7. What fragile dreams do you cradle for fear, that if mislaid or crushed by your clumsiness, it will be lost forever?
8. What do you grieve over?

Perhaps, Grant suggested, your responses will help answer one of life’s basic questions:

What is important to you, *really important?*

How would you respond?

What really *is* important to you?

Does it make a difference in the way you dedicate your time and energy? Does it show in the way you relate to others—your family, your friends, your neighbors, the strangers you encounter? Is it revealed in the way you spend your money?

In the next few weeks as we prepare to answer the question, “What is God calling me to give?” I invite you to ponder the importance of God, your faith and your church for your life, your family, this community and our world.

Does it show in your spiritual life? In your participation in the church? In the way you offer compassion and care to others—particularly the less fortunate? In your financial support of God’s work?

What is important to you, *really important?*

See you in Church!

Arvin

* Thanks to Maribeth Collins who shared with me her friend, Donald K. Grant’s essay, “Census,” written in 1990.

SCARY MOVIE NIGHT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

On October 29 at 5:00 PM in the Youth Room will be a "Scary Movie Night" for the Middle School Youth. We'll be watching the classics from the 1930s including *Frankenstein*, *The Wolfman* and whatever else we can squeeze into the evening. It's the perfect time to catch up on some of the cornerstones of American pop culture from the comfort of the bean bag chairs and couches in the Youth Room. Popcorn and movie-sized sodas will be provided! Tell your friends!

SAFE SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN

Senior High and Middle School FUMY invite all the grade school kids, and their parents, to a special Safe Space Halloween Party in Room 202 on Sunday Night, October 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes. The night will include activities and light refreshment.



FIRST THINGS FIRST: AN INTRODUCTION TO FIRST CHURCH

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Learn about First UMC, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in joining. The next introductory session will be held on Sunday, November 13th following the worship service. Call the church office at 503/228-3195 if you are interested.

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!

REKINDLING THE JOY OF LIVING: October 23

In this class, we'll identify common responses to changes that challenge your assumptions, consider positive alternatives to stagnation in life, and work toward authenticity with one's self and toward others. Facilitator: Rev. Penny Christianson, Psy.D. Resident, Samaritan Counseling Center. Classes are scheduled for Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 9:15 in room 160.

opportunities at first

take note

OCTOBER HIKE

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. 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.

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

On Wednesday, December 14, 2005, join First Church Seniors for a fun evening of dinner at Who-Song and Larry's at 6:00 PM and then view the Willamette fleet of Christmas ships beginning at 7:00 PM. Cost: \$20 per person, covers the cost of a five entrée buffet that includes dessert, beverage and gratuity. If you are interested in this winter adventure, contact the church office at 503/228-3195 or sign-up at The Commons in Collins. Deposit of \$10 is required since space will be limited.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY: The Power of Holy Habits

This three-part series will be held on Tuesdays, November 15, 22, and 29 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Parlor. We will be using William Hinson's book *The Power of Holy Habits* as a way to enrich our faith through the power of Christian disciplines and practices. If you are a newer member of the church, this class will introduce you to critical aspects of the Christian life. If you have been a church member for some time, this class offers an excellent way to help you renew your commitment to the faith journey. If you would like to register, please contact the church office at 503/228-3195. If you have questions, call Lowell Greathouse, at 503/228-3195 or sign-up at The Commons in Collins. Deposit of \$10 is required, since space will be limited.

umw

united methodsit women

A SPECIAL SATURDAY BRUNCH

Women of all ages ... 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." Child care will be available. To reserve your space for the luncheon or if you have questions call: Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479 or Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The Conference Annual Meeting will be October 22, 2005 in Payette, Idaho. Keynote Speaker, Bishop Robert Hoshibata. Attending: Melba Rizzo

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, October 20 at 10:00 AM in the Library. William Douglas will review *The Poet* by Jody Picoult.

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, October 26 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

No October meeting of Circle of Friends. The Circle will have a beach retreat in early November at Manzanita hosted by Trudy Kayser - Chair: Leah Vislisel

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, November 2 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. and will include a pledge service. at 11:00 AM: Hands and Heart-Reaching out in mission to Chiloquin. Meet Annie Heart. 12:00 Lunch. Bring a sandwich.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

World Community Day, Friday, November 4 at Berea Baptist Church, 4822 N. Vancouver Avenue. The program will be: *A Light to the Nations*. For information contact: Betty-Lou Hare

Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

A new set of door handles has been scheduled for installation on the southern exterior glass doors to the Chapel/Choir Room narthex (rotunda), and should be in place by the time you read this. They are a memorial to Elrose B. Pearson, an out-of-town relative of a member of this congregation, and they are worthy of your making the necessary effort to look at the next time you are at the church building. They came about because the architect who designed this latest part of our church building was curiously insensitive to the desirability of and possibilities for Christian symbolism. The handles he specified, therefore, were right out of some commercial catalogue -- one can see their like a dozen times over in any shopping mall. The memorial handles, however, have specific biblical and Christiana overtones. And they are unique; there are none exactly like them in the known world. A couple of ideas were suggested by the donor; and a member of this congregation, Gale Morris, designed and fabricated them. Gale is a retired industrial designer and his talents and skill have helped us before (such as in the fixture holding the historic bell in the narthex), and we simply cannot express in words the debt all in this congregation owe to him. The handles and push bars themselves incorporate two symbols: water and fish. They are not meant to stress that fish swim in water! Water itself is one of the rich symbols of the Bible. Christians associate it most, I suppose, with baptism, but that does not exhaust it by any means! Water is always especially valuable in a dry land and water was valuable enough to be sold on the streets of ancient Jerusalem (much as people buy bottled water even in damp Portland). Its value and its cleansing power presumably are what made it popular for religious ablutions, even libations, in many religions (you still have to wash your hands to go in the Moslem "Dome of the Rock" on Temple Moun, for example and Hindus use it for daily sacrifices). It also has cosmic dimensions. All the old near-eastern theories about Creation (cf. Genesis 1:2, 6, 7; Is 40:12; Ps 33:7; Job 38:8-11) involve "waters." I am out of space. More next time. But take a look at the new door handles at your first opportunity!

(There will be a dedication of the new handles on Sunday, October 30, 2005, following worship.)

taking action for change

TAKING ACTION: HEALTH CARE

Oregon is in a health care crisis. Over 600,000 people in our state, including over 100,000 children, are currently without health insurance. The high cost of health care coverage is forcing many employers to reduce or eliminate healthcare coverage for employees or require higher employee-paid premiums. Many families are without basic health insurance. County health clinic funds have been cut. A growing number of people without health care insurance are forced to use the emergency rooms of local hospitals or the Oregon Health Plan as the avenue to medical care. The consequences are serious: preventable major illness creates huge medical bills; death rates for uninsured are higher; and children go without care for ear infections and asthma.

First UMC and other organizations are working together through the Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good (MACG) to address these and other issues. First steps include educating our congregations and collecting information. Over the next several weeks our MACG Core Team will be collecting information from our congregation to determine just how we are affected by the health care challenge facing our community. Please look for these surveys in late October. Our information will be merged with data from other MACG members and used to develop a strategy to expand access to health care. Also, please visit the MACG Core Team table in the The Commons in Collins.

TAKING ACTION: ENDANGERED SPECIES

A new, national collaboration of faith groups has been established called the "Noah Alliance," which views protection of endangered species from extinction as a responsibility and privilege of people of faith. Please stop by the Planet Church Committee's table at the Commons in Collins Hall, Sunday, October 23, after church to learn more about endangered species, the Endangered Species Act, and ways to make a difference. Also, you may wish to go to www.noahalliance.org.

TAKING ACTION: HUNGER TASK FORCE

First UMC's Church and Society for Social Justice Committee has commissioned a Task Force on Hunger. The task force will consist of 8-9 members whose charge will be to examine the major issues and needs regarding hunger in Oregon and beyond and identify ways in which our congregation can respond through outreach and social justice work.

The task force will report back to Church and Society with recommendations and an action plan by a date to be determined. The work of the task force is expected to take 6-8 weeks. Liz Jacob of the Church and Society Committee will chair the task force. For more information contact Liz Jacob (503) 293-3166 or ejacob-jacob@comcast.net, Marnie Dey (503) 223-0083 or lcuster@mta-ltd.com, or Nancy Miller (503) 626-1624 or rossnancymiller@earthlink.net.



The Hurricane Relief Task Force made a number of recommendations to the First Church Leadership Council concerning our church's response to the recent tragedy in the Gulf Coast region. In addition to the over \$38,000 that First Church has already been sent for hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region, we will be:

- Collecting school supplies through Sunday, October 23 to send to the UMCOR Sager Brown facility in Louisiana (Boxes for these kits are available in the narthex if you'd like to contribute or see Agnes Zach for more information)
- Setting up a partner church relationship with a church in the region affected by this disaster and developing specific ways to assist in their rebuilding effort.
- Linking our commitment to provide relief with our advocacy to see that the needs of the poorest families and children are being addressed.
- Sending a Volunteers in Mission Team to the Gulf Coast in 2006 to help with rebuilding.
- Providing information related to disaster education and preparedness for our own congregation.
- Providing regular updates to the congregation on what we are doing as a church to respond and provide on-going opportunities for those who are interested in being involved in the rebuilding effort.

You will be hearing more about each of these efforts in the coming months.

Thanks to everyone who participated on the Hurricane Relief Task Force: Bob and Marilyn Weber, Kelly Allan, Cheryl Bittle, Colleen McLain, Michael Whipple, Debby Fisher, Dee Poujade, Janice Gratton, Bruce Gaffield, Terry Connell, John and Mary Coppett, Bill and Sonja Connor, and Kal Toth.

reaching out
serving Christ in the world

UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING SCHEDULED

The Oregon-Idaho UMVIM program requires that all Volunteer In Mission teams have leaders who have received the official UMVIM team leader training. If you are considering leading an official UMVIM team you need to attend this workshop. If you just want to know what leading a UMVIM team involves, you are also encouraged to attend. If you are thinking about leading a team to the Gulf Coast, you must complete this training which will focus on leading a team in a disaster area. The training is to be held Saturday, Nov. 12 at Rose City Park UMC, 5830 NE Alameda, Portland, OR from 10:00 AM.- 5:00 PM. Team leader training is provided at no charge; leaders will be given an official manual valued at \$25. Lunch is provided. Please contact Corinne Tate to reserve your space at tomcor4m@comcast.net.

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY: FOUR SUNDAY SESSIONS

Understanding Poverty is a four-session series that will use a variety of guest speakers and presenters to help us understand the dynamic of poverty in America. The schedule is four Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in the Fireside Room.

- Session 1: October 30 - *Look Here! Views from the Invisible Community...*
Plus the Sisters of the Road Café Homelessness display in Collins Hall following the worship service
(Display runs October 30 through November 3, 2005)
Presentation of *Cold, Cold Ground* and dialogue with Sisters' photographers and speakers at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room.
- Session 2: November 6 - *Housing and Homelessness in Portland*
Guest: Rob Justus, Executive Director of JOIN
- Session 3: November 13 - *Hunger in Oregon*
Guest: Norene Goplen, Director of Advocacy, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Oregon
- Session 4: November 20 - *Dialogue on Poverty/Panel Discussion: Where do we go from here?*
Facilitator: Lowell Greathouse, with special guest speakers



around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

reconciling

Oregon-Idaho Conference

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ...

Dr. Raymond Balcomb at home with his leg in a cast following a fall at his home last week;
Liz Howell who will have surgery this Friday;
Joan Hill, at home awaiting testing next week for possible heart problems;
Elizabeth Walton, doing relief work with the Red Cross in Texas;
Beth Iverson, at Crestview Rehab Center, making slow recovery from a stroke.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Jane Rhodes, Jim Whitcomb, Al Leonard, Ted Hoch, Gloria Misar, Agnes & Dick Clark and Tom & Erik Iverson.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO ...

Gerry Peterson and family following the death of Thelma Petereson.
A memorial service is anticipated sometime next month in our Chapel.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists will meet Saturday, November 19, 2005 - Lake Oswego UMC in Lake Oswego. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Jeanne Knepper, the meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. Jeanne will teach us about the process of making changes to the *Book of Discipline* and review the history of the current rule banning gays in the ministry. There will be a potluck at noon with beverages and table settings provided. The meeting will conclude with a worship service at 1:30 PM.

All with open hearts and open minds are welcome at this open-door meeting

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VETERANS DAY/ARMISTICE DAY - NOVEMBER 11, 2005

We are proud each year to list the names of our members who have served in the military. If you have served in the military but your name was not included on last year's list, please inform Terry Connell at connelltj@msn.com so that your name can be added to our list

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 **November 2, 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.