



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

November 2, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 21

first things first **COMMITMENT SUNDAY** November 6, 2005

THIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 6, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time,
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse



Mother Teresa said, "We go to the people and tell them, I have come to give you a chance to do something beautiful for God. And the people, they want to do something beautiful for God, and they came forward." We ask you to come forward on commitment Sunday November 6, 2005 and consider First Things First. Each of us will be asked to seriously consider the relationship between our spiritual life, our money and our faith. After our commitment during worship service, we will have a brief celebration in Collins hall. The Fall Frolic Band will preform. Pumpkin pie, cookies and drinks will be provided. First Church welcomes all of you to come forward and make this a successful commitment to do something beautiful for our Lord through First Things First.



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.



prayers presence gifts service



memo
 Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

*“They never quite leave us,
 those friends who have passed
 Through the shadows of death to the sunlight above;
 A thousand sweet memories are holding them fast
 To the places they blest with
 their presence and love.”*

Margaret Elizabeth Sangster's words haunt me this time of the year as “All-Hallowed Eve” yields to “All Saints Day.”

Today the word “saint” conjures images of spiritual giants from the past. That is not the way our first Christian forebear understood the term. To the Apostle Paul, a “saint” was simply another term for those who had faithfully responded to God’s call to follow Christ. (cf 1 Cor 1:2; Eph 1:1)

And so each year on the Sunday nearest “All Saints Day” we name those 'saints' of our congregation and toll a bell in their memory.

Last Sunday, we remembered those who died in 2005:

- Janet White,
- Katherine Smith,
- Robert Forehand,
- Doris Starkweather,
- Marilyn Neu,
- Thelma Glendinning,
- Alice Newgard-White,
- Walter White,
- Frances Miller,
- Elma Shuck,
- Edith Aspinwall,
- Brita Wendell,

Though they were unintentionally omitted from last Sunday's reading, we also should have included those who left us in 2004 after All Saints Day.

- Leah Sawyer
- Dorothy Fortune
- Estella Earls
- Ken Anderson

We regret and offer sincere apologies for the omission. Their lives and memories are no less precious in our hearts.

Thanks be to God for all that these men and women have meant to us and to the work of Christ. May each of us continue to hold high the torch of faith, love and hope that they have passed to our care!

See you in church!

Arvin

caring
 Rev. Tom Foster

Rev. Lowell Greathouse’s sermon this week prompted me to share with you our care and concern for persons in need. His focus of concern was for persons who are often overlooked because they are not thought of as part of our circle of friends. I'm thinking of the members of our congregation who can no longer come to church on their own and others who are actually homebound. If you, or someone you know, falls into either of those groups please let me know. We may already know of the need, but on the other hand maybe we do not.

When we know who the persons are who have these needs we will make an effort to meet their needs. Those who would come to worship if they had a ride, need to be put in contact with those who are able and willing to provide transportation for one or more persons. Those who are willing to provide a ride need to be put in contact with those who have the need. I am willing to coordinate this ministry of caring, so please let me know.

For our homebound members a phone call or a visit can make their day and reassure them that their church has not forgotten them. I would like to know who would appreciate a call and who would be willing to make such a call. Some of the homebound would like to receive Communion on the Sundays we have Communion at worship. I need to know who would appreciate having Communion and who would be willing to take Communion to a homebound member.

My request is for you with needs to have the courage and trust to tell me. My other request is for those who are willing to provide a ministry of caring to tell me of their generosity.

Pastor Tom Foster, Minister of Pastoral Care
 Office: 503/228-3195 extension 233
 Home: 503/641-3479
 E-Mail: tfoster@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? 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!

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY: A SPECIAL SHORT-TERM CLASS

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. Sunday mornings 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

opportunities at first

take note

Caruthers

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

SATURDAY BRUNCH A SUCCESS

The first UMW Saturday Brunch was a great success thanks to Betty-Lou Hare, Colleen Foster, and Trudy Kayser. Dani Leis, Volunteer Coordinator of Outside In, spoke of the many compassionate services their agency provides to the homeless.

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, November 16 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. The program is Wycliff Bible Translators by Susan Stubbs
Hostess: Marilyn Weber
Devotions: Jo Woodley
Chair: Hazel Wells

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, November 16 at 12:00 PM in Room 204. Program: Celebrating a memory. Come prepared to tell your favorite memory. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage provided - Chair: Florence Snyder

THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, November 17 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM in the Library. Marilyn Weber will review *Mr. Ives' Christmas* by Oscar Hijuelos.



FIRST CHURCH THEATER PARTIES

Group theater tickets will be ordered for the following productions:

Peter Pan at the NW Children's Theater, December, 2005

Frog & Toad at the NW Children's Theater, February, 2006

For more information contact Agnes Zach at: 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or email her at: azach@fumcpdx.org

Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

We were discussing some the biblical references to *water* which are evoked by the new push bars on the exterior doors to the Chapel/Choir Room. In biblical imagery water is most of all life and salvation. God corrupts the water, which is life and health to the Egyptians (Exodus 7:20), in delivering the Israelites from bondage, save the latter by dividing the water through which they have to pass (Exodus 14:21-30), and produces life saving water for them in the desert (Numbers 20:8-11, Exodus 23:25). The care and providence of God are characterized by leading us "beside still waters" (Psalm 23:2), and the good life is described as a tree planted beside "streams of water" (Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:8). The classic vision of God's Utopia in Ezekiel includes a spring beside the Temple which becomes a mighty river in a mile or so, imagery which is reproduced in the New Testament in The Revelation (22:1). Also in the New Testament, of course, the Gospel According to John depicts Jesus as promising the water of eternal life (John 4:10-15; 7:37-39). There is more! I guess I have made my point. The other new symbol on the doors (in the actual shape of the door-pulls themselves) is that of a fish. It is not a biblical symbol so much as a distinctively Christian one. The early Christians made a cipher and/or acronym out of the Greek word for "fish," *ichthus*, meaning "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior," and they used it both as a secret identification -- because Christianity was illegal -- for the newly baptized and to represent the Lord's Supper; as symbol for the faith it is earlier and more common in the catacombs and on the sacophagi, for example, than a cross. In recent times it has become popular again, perhaps mostly among evangelicals, but we ought not to let it become representative of any sect, or division, or group of Christians. It belongs to us all.

The new Chapel door hardware is a wonderful addition to the wealth of Christian symbols-traditional and contemporary-that are part of the design of the chapel and chapel narthex. A plaque, provided by the architect, describing the chapel's features is attached to the wall just west of the Chapel doors. It can help you explore and discover his unique vision.

this and that please take note

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Overnight Hosts are needed throughout the month of November to stay with our shelter guests, about half of which are children. Our Shelter Hosts arrive at the shelter at 7:00 PM, have dinner and interact with guests, assist them in setting up their sleeping space, spend the night, set up breakfast, and leave by 7:30 AM in the morning. Please contact the Shelter Office at 503/228-3195 ext 220 or Annie Heart ext 215 to sign up. Both men and women are needed. Other volunteer opportunities available include: providing a light, nutritious dinner meal, help out as an extra hand, or kid time helper.

OREGON FAITH ROUND TABLE AGAINST HUNGER

There will be a Harvest of Hope Breakfast on Thursday, November 10 at 8:00 AM. The Oregon Faith ROUND TABLE Against Hunger invites all to attend. The Keynote Speaker is: David Sarasohn, Oregonian Columnist and Associate Editor. He will be speaking on: "Daily Disasters/'Katrina' Disasters: Maintaining Support for the Nation's Hungry While Responding to Major Humanitarian Needs." This event will be held at: St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 2408 SE 16th Ave in Portland.

FIRST CHURCH TRAVELERS PREVIEW

A special opportunity to tour one of the loveliest and most unique places in our country will be part of our early summer tour. Mackinac Island, with two nights at the world-famous Grand Hotel, is often called the "Bermuda of the North". No automobiles are allowed on the island, and horse-drawn carriages provide the main transportation through the cottage-filled village. Other highlights will include a tour of Chicago; Door County, Wisconsin; Frankenmuth, Michigan (with the world's largest Christmas store) and a tour of the Ford Rouge Factory. The tour will be filled with wonderful and memorable experiences!

Registrations are now being accepted, and for information, call Cheryl Luce at 503/380-8604. A preview slide presentation on this tour will be held at First United Methodist, Portland, on Wednesday, November 16, at 1:00 PM, in the Fireside Room. Information on the September 2006 tour of Italy will also be available at this travel preview.

UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING SCHEDULED

If you just want to know what leading a UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteer In Mission) team involves, you are 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.

books to read from the church library



NEW BOOKS AND OTHER PICKS

A Hidden Wholeness, by Parker Palmer
(author of *Let Your Live Speak* and
The Courage to Teach)

This book brings together four themes: the meaning of community; teaching and learning for transformation; the shape of an integral life; and non-violent social change. At a time when many of us seek ways of working and living that are more resonant with our souls, *A Hidden Wholeness* offers insight into our condition and guidance for finding what we seek—within ourselves and with each other.

Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Live,
by Tony Hendra

This is a funny and sometimes irreverent true story of finding faith, friendship and family through the decades-long influence of a surpassingly wise Benedictine Monk named Father Joseph Warrillow.

God Has a Dream:
A Vision of Hope for Our Time,
by Desmond Tutu

Addressing the timeless and universal concerns all people share, Tutu envisions a world transformed through hope, compassion, humility, kindness, understanding and forgiveness. Nelson Mandela comments that Bishop Tutu “shows each of us how to transform our pain and sorrow into hope and confidence in the future. Whether you are the head of a country or the head of a household, you will cherish his words.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, A Biography,
by Eberhard Bethge (1048 pages!)

An authoritative, exhaustive book written by a friend, pupil and relative by marriage of Bonhoeffer. The library staff will offer a prize to anyone who reads this book and offers proof of his or her accomplishment!

growing in Christ making connections

UMVIM TRIP TO GULF COAST PLANNED FOR MARCH

A United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) trip from First Church to the Gulf Coast region is being planned to assist in the relief effort there. While the exact dates of the trip have not been finalized, members of our Global Outreach Committee are working on logistics with Corinne Tate, UMVIM Coordinator for the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference. The tentative date for the VIM trip will be in late March 2006. We hope to have enough interest at First Church to send an entire team. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, put your name on the “interest list” being compiled in the Commons or call the church office at (503) 228-3195 or contact Dee Poujade or Lowell Greathouse.

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 (brother and sister-in-law of our own Lowell Greathouse). The program, which will feature visits to the Shade and Fresh Water Network and other projects of the Methodist Church of Brazil, as well as explorations of Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro, will be held April 25 - May 5, 2006. The basic cost for the trip is \$1,050, which includes housing, meals, local transportation, accident insurance and entrance fees. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from Brazil (estimated between \$600 and \$1,200), passport and visa fees and intra-Brazil flights (\$250-\$350). Payment of a (fully refundable) \$150 registration fee will hold a place.

Information and registration forms for this or other 2006 Primetimers events is available by calling 877/882-4724, or e-mailing primetimers@gbgm-umc.org. Gordon and Teca will also answer inquiries directed to: tecagreathouse@terra.com.br. Anyone who would like more information about this event, or about Primetimers in general, can contact Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337, mimi99@easystreet.com or Tom and Colleen Foster, who are veterans of two Primetimers events.

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 13 following the worship service. Call the church office at 503/228-3195 if you are interested.

VIST THE COMMONS IN COLLINS AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you haven't already come and browsed the various tables in The Commons, follow the signs and come see what is happening there. The Commons is set up after church every Sunday. There is various literature to pick up, volunteer opportunities to be a part of, and conversations to have with friends who are involved at First Church. Make The Commons a regular part of your Sunday morning experience. See you there!

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

thanks

an appreciation

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ...

Joan Hill at St. Vincent's following surgeries
Richard Sagara, whose mother died last week;
Lai K Choi, the mother of Susan Ng, who is struggling with cancer;
Liz Howell, who is home recovering from surgery;
Janet Bennett, who had foot surgery on November 2nd.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

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



After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's wonderful! But what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to set down and listen."

FROM DEBBIE & RON MORSE

We are deeply grateful for the prayers, cards and good wishes received during Debbie's recovery from foot surgery. Special thanks to Eva LealLara for filling in during Debbie's absence from the church office and to Edie Jensen and John Zuidema for all their kindness and medical equipment.

FROM DR. RAYMOND E. BALCOMB

Thanks to all for calls, cards, concerns and prayers.

FROM ELIZABETH LASSETTER

I would like to say thank you to the many kind and thoughtful people who have been thinking of my father, Ted Hoch, through their cards, phone calls, visits and prayers. Your kindness has been overwhelming and we truly appreciate it. He is looking forward to coming back to church soon.

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 16, 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.