



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** *edition*

November 16, 2005
Volume 9, Issue 22

THIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 20, 2005

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time,
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse



ADVENT calendar 2005



O COME, O COME
EMMANUEL



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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- 8:30 AM Adult Advent Class with Chuck Klang
Christmas Music: Ancient & Modern
- 10:30 AM **Worship:**
The First Sunday of Advent
- 11:30 AM Christmas Faire & Chili Feed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 9:00 AM Parent's Day Out (9 AM to 1 PM)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 10:30 AM **Worship:**
The Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Service
Presentation of Third Grade Bibles
AIDS Awareness Sunday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 9:00 AM Parent's Day Out (9 AM to 1 PM)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 10:30 AM **Worship:**
The Third Sunday of Advent
Music Sunday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 9:00 AM Parent's Day Out (9 AM to 1 PM)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 10:30 AM **Worship:**
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children's Processional
Lessons and Carols
- 12:00 PM Parent's Afternoon Out (noon to 4 PM)
- 4:00 PM All-Church Christmas Caroling

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 7:00 PM Ecumenical Longest Night Service
for the Grieving
At First Christian Church.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- Worship: Christmas Eve Services**
- 5:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Service
- 9:00 PM Candlelight Service
- 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 10:30 AM **Worship: Christmas Day**
Family Christmas Carol Singing
No Sunday School Classes
The Church Nursery will be open



memo
Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse

*I note the obvious difference
Between each sort and type,
But we are more alike, my friends,
Than we are unlike.*
- Maya Angelou

On a recent Sunday morning, while leaving the Commons in Collins, someone approached me and said, "Will the Commons always be so much fun?" I replied: "Yes, but we won't always have music or serve pumpkin pie."

Now I realize that music and pumpkin pie definitely helps to make things fun, but the Commons in Collins has been a lot of fun every week. In fact, I often hear people say how the Commons has created an opportunity for us to become more of a community. In the Commons we not only can enjoy the company of friends and meet new people, but we also get to enjoy wonderful art, learn about the ministries of our church, advocate for causes that our congregation feels strongly about, and volunteer our time or sign up to be a part of a church event. Community building is about such things. It is how we come to know and understand each other more fully. It is also about having fun with others along the way.

Whenever I experience community, I feel a part of something larger than myself. I meet people who are, as Maya Angelou says, different sorts and types, but in the process I also learn about how we are alike in so many ways. We are all people seeking to live faithfully in complex and difficult times. For me, community is so critical to life because it is the lifeblood of the soul. In community, we learn and grow. In community, we find our place. In community, we experience the joy of living. In community, we know that we are not alone.

Robert Kennedy once said that "community demands a place where people can see and know each other, where children can play and adults work together and join in the pleasures and responsibilities of the place where they live." This is at the heart of what it means to be a church. It is at the core of what we want to develop and nurture at First Church.

Join us in the Commons in Collins on a Sunday morning. It's a great place to experience and practice being a part of a community. But more importantly, find a community within our church to invest yourself in whether it be in a class, taking part in a church event with others, volunteering at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, making it a personal ministry to reach out to others who visit First Church on a Sunday morning, or serving on a committee. We are a church, but we build our community together. It is where we learn that "we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike." See you in church.

Warmly,
Lowell

confirmation
Paul Adams

CONFIRMATION Q&A MEETING

The First United Methodist Youth program is gearing up for winter/spring confirmation classes. Confirmation this year will be geared to 7th and 8th graders, as well as older youth who have not yet been through the class. The program will begin January 8, 2006. There will be six Confirmation class sessions, followed by two sessions in which each student in the program will be matched with a mentor from the congregation. Confirmation Sunday will take place on March 19th, 2006.

In confirmation we will learn about and discuss our relationship with God; various aspects of worship, including the rituals and traditions that are a part of the Christian life; the meaning of Jesus' life; the importance of spiritual practices and disciplines; what it means to be a United Methodist today; and the various expressions of a life of faith. We hope that you will want to be involved in this important experience.

We will hold an orientation session for students and parents on Sunday, December 4th from noon to 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room, following the worship service. Please call the church office at 503/228-3195, or contact Paul Adams at padams@fumcpdx.org, if you would like to be a part of the Confirmation Program at First Church.

first things first
report: week 2

Pledges received:
240

Pledge total:
\$587,773

If you have not yet responded we encourage you to do so soon. Follow-up efforts will begin soon.

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. There will be a discussion of the *The United Methodist Social Principles* on Sundays, December 20 and 27. Beginning on Sunday, December 4, this class will begin a study of *The Gospel of Thomas* and continue for ten or eleven weeks. The basic text for the *Gospel of Thomas* study will be *The Gospel of Thomas, Annotated and Explained* by Stevan Davies. Copies will be available for purchase.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: ANCIENT AND MODERN, FROM NEAR & FAR

On Sunday November 27 from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room, Chuck Klang will play short selections of Christmas music from his CD collection. Selections will include both ancient and modern music from many lands. Program notes will precede each piece. Please feel free to come and go during this time, but Chuck requests silence be observed during the playing of music. Special Christmas treats will be provided. A listing of local Christmas performances will be provided.

opportunities

take note

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY: The Power of Holy Habits

This three-part series began on Tuesday, November 15 and continues November 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.

THE COMMUNITY OF WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

The Pacific School of Religion's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies and the Community of Welcoming Congregations proudly presents: CLGS OutFront Oregon: Building Welcoming and Affirming Communities on December 2 & 3, 2005 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1244 NE 39th Ave., Portland, OR. Workshops include: *Faith Into Action*, *Reading the Bible Ethically*, *How to Respond to, "I don't care what you say, it's just wrong."* The program begins at 7:00 PM on Friday evening and runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday.

NOW RECRUITING SMILING, FRIENDLY FACES

The Sunday morning greeter's team needs you! We especially need greeters for the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month. Individuals, couples, and even entire families of all ages are encouraged to help First Church personify the UMC motto of "Open hearts, open minds, open doors." For more information, contact Mark Isham at 503/590-8203.

umw

united methodist women

The UMW Unit Gatherings are held the first Wednesdays of each month. All women are invited. Co-presidents: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528, Mary Covert, 503/652-6480.

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

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, November 30 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, November 30 at 11:30 AM in Room 204. The program, *Bells for Everyone*, will be led by Mary Covert. Chair: Leah Vislisel

17th NATIONAL UMW ASSEMBLY

The 17th National UMW Assembly will be Thursday-Sunday, May 4-7, 2006 in Anaheim, California. The program theme is: *Rise! Shine! Glorify God!* Plan now to attend this great gathering of UM women.

FUMC LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

It is time to start thinking about the Winter Carnival and our Annual Book Sale! If you have books to donate, we invite you to bring them in to the library. While we're open to accept donations, there's no rush...the sale is still a few months off. Space limitations make it impossible for us to accept big donations of "leftovers" from other large sales and we've found that there is no market for textbooks, encyclopedias or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Otherwise, come on down! If you have any questions, please check with the Sunday Librarian or call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761 Remember, proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library, so feel free to use the "Suggested Titles" sheets in the library and in The Commons for your recommendations.

Who Are We ? Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb

Leading into an explanation of the “water” and “fish” symbols in the new handles on the southern exterior door of the Chapel/Choir Room narthex, I made an unnecessary and ill-advised remark about the architect for that most recent addition to our building, and there were some readers who noticed it and were offended. I hereby apologize to him and to all who were offended by the harshness of my off-the-cuff censoriousness. I remember well the lecture he gave to us when the Chapel/Choir Room was complete, and how he pointed out the symbolism of its being a square room. The ancients thought there was something perfect about a square (and, also, interestingly enough, about a circle) and that symbolism appears in the Bible. John’s vision of utopia - God’s perfect society to be established at the end of time, you remember -- is a city that “lies foursquare, its length the same as its width.” (Rev. 21:16), and every time we go in the Chapel we should be reminded of our destiny. He also noted that there were twelve pilasters (pseudo columns) and twelve, of course in the Old Testament always reminds us of the twelve Tribes of Israel, and in the New Testament of the twelve Disciples. And so on. His own description of the symbolism he employed is framed and mounted in the Chapel Narthex. All this got me to thinking about one of the symbolic ideas in our building which went wrong. When the Tower was built, I and some of the members of the Committee thought it would be a fine idea to have some symbols which could be changed periodically (with the season of the Church Year, if I remember correctly). The architect obligingly designed a three-cornered device at the very top, with removable panels, incorporating ideas we suggested. But, alas, the panels were really more than a single custodian could safely handle at that height, especially when it was windy. So we only changed them about one time. Moreover, their symbolism wasn’t all that great. I haven’t looked at the top when approaching the church on SE 18th in a long time, but the one I think is there is an “alpha” and “omega” over an outline of our cornerstone rock in Beckham Court. We thought it very unique and admirable, but the first person who noticed it without being told what it was, thought it meant we thought the beginning and end was a gold nugget! So I am in a very poor position to be casting stones at others about the use of symbolism!

shovel and rake update

A REPORT FROM SHOVEL AND RAKE

Our new lawn between the gym and Max Station now has a sprinkler system in place which allowed us to plant the grass seed in time for it to germinate before winter weather sets in. One can see that it even will need to be mowed soon! Also, the evergreen trees near the Max Station have been pruned, so we are well on our way to making that part of our campus beautiful. We still have some landscaping to do there.

Attendance for our Thursday morning work and fellowship time is holding up well, thanks to the dedication of our members in keeping the grounds so beautiful. We are pleased to welcome two new members to Shovel and Rake: Tom Foster and Lowell Greathouse. Their presence enriches our fellowship. If you have the desire and time for this group, we would gladly welcome you, too!

christian education from Agnes Zach

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2006

Portland Entertainment Books are being sold in the Commons on Sunday after worship and in the church office for \$30.00. The Family Ministry area uses the proceeds from the book to plan family events and/or speakers in the spring. The Entertainment Book is a great way to receive discounts on groceries, restaurants and activities in the Portland Area.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR KATRINA SUCCESSFUL

Thank you to everyone that donated school supplies for survivors of Hurricane Katrina in October. Our Sunday School classes were able to create 25 individual packages of school supplies to send to the Sager Brown facility in Louisiana. The bags will be distributed to school children in areas devastated by recent Hurricanes as well as around the world.

The school supplies are required to be packed in a cloth bag with handle. The United Methodist Women gladly took on the project of creating bags for our school supplies. Joyce Hulse, Liah Vislesal made many bags themselves. We would have been unable to complete this project without their generous help!

GREENS NEEDED

Evergreen boughs, holly, and other Christmas greens are needed for the Christmas Faire. Drop them off at Collins Hall on Sunday, November 27, 2005.



CHRISTMAS



Faire

SUNDAY

NOV. 27

Welcoming the Advent Season

Sponsored by
Children's Ministries & Youth Ministries

- Advent Calendar
- Christmas Star Bobbers
- Christmas Flower Arranging
- Christmas Tree Centerpieces
- Christmas Cookies & Frosting
- Christmas Pins

Donations encouraged for crafts.

ADVENT WREATHS
available for \$5.00

EVERYONE IS INVITED

11:30 - 1:00 PM

\$3 a bowl



events of advent 2005

OUR CHRISMON TREE

You've probably read the word 'Chrismon' in one of our church bulletins. Wonder what it was all about? Well, from now until Christmas there will be snippets of information about what to expect when the beautiful fir tree arrives in our sanctuary. There have been about 15 members working on this project since last May, led by Marty Martin and Beth Iverson. Watch for more about this in upcoming bulletin inserts. Christmas should be more meaningful this year because of the Chrismon project.

PARENT'S DAY OUT

On three Saturdays, **December 3, 10, and 17**, First Church will host Parent's Day Out. We want parents to be able to take a break and do some Christmas shopping and enjoy the season while your children participate in Christmas crafts and activities. The Church Nursery will be open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There is a cost of \$5.00 per child, with a \$15.00 maximum.

Reservations are required. Sign ups are available in the church nursery. (Call Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 ext. 229.) This is open to children of all ages. There will be computer activities, movies, games, and more! On Sunday, **December 18**, the above program will be available from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.

CAROLING PARTY

On Sunday, **December 18** join us at 4:00 PM in the Fireside Room for a time of fellowship. We will warm up our voices and then spread the joy of the season by caroling to our shut-ins. Everyone is welcome!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 2005

How about giving the gift that can make a difference? The Global Outreach (Missions) committee has the perfect gift for everyone's shopping list - Alternative Christmas. For the four Sundays of Advent, beginning November 27, First UMC members and friends can shop at the Alternative Christmas table in the Commons at Collins Hall, choosing a project that reflects the recipient's (or giver's) view of how to best make a difference.

Alternative Christmas projects for 2005 are:

- The Garbage Dump ministry in Cambodia,
- The Goose Hollow Family Shelter,
- The Medical/Dental Clinic Salud y Paz in Guatemala
- Bread for the World.

Shoppers can make a donation to any or all of these projects, in any amount, and receive gift cards to present to friends and relatives. You can also make a donation in your own name - or request that your loved ones do so.

Shopping couldn't be simpler - just write a check (or pay with cash), and receive a gift card that can be used to notify the recipient of your gift! Don't forget - all of the funds donated go directly to the projects you select - no overhead costs are taken out. So get out your shopping list, check it twice, and see us in Collins Hall!

around the parish

prayer concerns and expressions of thanks

thanks

an appreciation

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ...

Bill Connor, who had a hip replacement on Wednesday, and is recovering at home;

Tracy Stevenson, the brother of Terry Stevenson;

The Williams family, the mother, Kelly, is the daughter of Judie Carpenter

Alex Esguerra, who continues to struggle with health problems.

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION ...

Ted Hoch was able moved, this past week, from the Rehab Center to an apartment at Terwilliger Plaza.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

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

FROM THE FAMILY OF JANET OLIVIA WHITE

The family of Janet Olivia White wishes to thank the many members and friends of First Church who remembered her in their thoughts and prayers, and sent notes and letters to us at the time of Janet's death. Your expressions of sympathy and love are much appreciated.



ha

The preacher of a small church was not accustomed to being wired for sound. His microphone was attached to a long cord. As he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

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 30, 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.