



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

February 8, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 03

THIS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time
Rev. Dr. Lowell
Greathouse

FEBRUARY 19, 2006
Sermon
Rev. Chuck Currie



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.

LIZABETH CASWELL PIANIST IN CONCERT

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 25

A benefit concert
at First UMC
for the West
Women's and
Children's Shelter

7PM



see page 4 for further details

THE FIRST CHURCH

PANCAKE

PAPA PALOOZA

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 26, 2006

11:45 AM COLLINS HALL

see page 3 for further details



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Each January, we submit First UMC's end-of-the-year statistics to the Conference Office. Once again we were able to report shouldering our full 'fair share' in connectional missions. We are a part of world wide ministries not only through volunteers in

mission but paying our apportioned amount of the World Service Fund and generous second mile effort for relief and mission efforts. Last year \$45,477 went to fund global missions and \$65,039 in direct aid—including missionary support, and gifts to recovery from both the Tsunami and Hurricanes.

Those are substantial dollars—and it is fair to ask, “Are we getting any ‘bang for the buck’?”

There are many ways to measure. But for me, the most important response is to consider the way our investment in global mission is shaping men and women of faith who are, literally, changing the world for Christ. Consider two women—products of our mission dollars—who are “on the headlines” these days:

In Liberia, West Africa, **Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** was elected President and inaugurated on January 16th. She is the first woman to head a government in Africa, holds a masters degree from Harvard University, is an internationally recognized economist, and has worked in both the World Bank and the United Nations before turning her attention to her native land. She brings to the task both skills and contacts critical to a country wracked by more than 14 years of deadly and destructive civil war. She is a member of First United Methodist Church in Monrovia.

Soon after her inauguration, the new President told a delegation of United Methodist leaders that she was reared in Methodist mission schools. “Our country has had a tradition of mission schools,” she explained. “In those schools—many established by the United Methodist Church— rural children received an education, learned work ethics, learned to fear God, and were brought up in a Christian environment.” She appealed for the leaders to rebuild the schools substantially destroyed during the years of warfare, and asked for prayers that her term in office might be marked by, “courage, strength and good health to do the right thing.”

Half a world away, in Bolivia, **Casimira Rodríguez Romero** was appointed to serve as Justice Minister on the cabinet of newly-elected President Evo Morales.

Ms. Rodríguez's was raised in poverty—but her parents made sure their daughter participated in Emmanuel Methodist Church. She continues to be an active Methodist. In a recent interview, Rodríguez reflected, “There were times when I felt insignificant. When I met the Lord, my life was filled with hope and faith because God is with the poor, he denounces injustice and cures the sick.”

At just 13, she began work as a maid and soon after began to advocate for better treatment of household workers. She became the instigator of a labor movement that lead to the organization of CONLACREAO—the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Domestic Workers. She has been the Confederation's secretary general and has championed judicial and legislative action on behalf of the poor. In 2003, Romero received the coveted Peace Prize from the World Methodist Council for her “Courage, creativity and constancy,” in the struggle for the labor and the rights of domestic workers in Bolivia.

I don't know how you measure it—but for me that's a lot of bang for the buck!

See you in Church!

Arvin

first things first

Our 2006 financial campaign, titled, “First Things First,” is moving toward its conclusion.

We have asked you to consider what God is calling you to give to your church and its ministries, and respond with your best estimate of your giving for 2006 to support work of the church.

At this writing, nearly two dozen families who shared estimates of giving last year have not responded this year. In addition, there may be new members or others who are not clear about the process and have not submitted estimates. We urge every member to help us plan for 2006 by submitting an estimate of giving card. Have you done so?

To give some perspective, at this moment estimates of giving total approximately \$760,000. Last year we budgeted with estimated giving of \$803,000.

Your commitments make a world of difference. We will plan and carry out our ministries based upon estimates received at the end of the campaign in a few weeks. Our church and its ministries are growing. Without everyone's dedicated response our efforts will need to be reduced.

If you have not yet returned your estimate of giving card, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not have a card please call the church office at 503/228-3195 and ask either Debbie or Shirley to send one.

Bev Graver
For the Financial Campaign
Committee

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
This class is currently discussing the book: *How to Be an Open-Minded Christian Without Losing Your Faith*, by Jan Linn.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202.
This class is studying *The Gospel of Thomas* and will 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.

SHORT-TERM CLASSES

Healthy Children-Healthy Planet

This eight-part series (Ends March 12, 2006)
This eight-part series explores how the pervasive effects of advertising, media, and our consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world, discover ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments for children, and explore ways to develop a child's connection to nature, and to foster creativity. The sessions will deal with cultural pressures, family rituals and celebrations, advertising, food and health, time and creativity, technology and the media, and ways to explore nature.

Ending Hunger Now

Ending Hunger Now is a four-part class (Ends March 5, 2006)
It will explore the issues and scope of global, national, and local hunger, using the book by Bob Dole, George McGovern, and Don Messer, all United Methodists, as a guide. This series will serve as a powerful challenge and practical guide to show how we, as persons of faith, can help eliminate hunger in our neighborhoods and around the world. Books will be available for purchase at \$12.

PANCAKE PAPA PALOOZA

**Sunday,
February 26,
2006
11:45 AM
Collins Hall**



Pancake Brunch by the Youth
\$3.50 per person
Primroses for Sale
United Methodist Women
Face Painting
Children & Family Ministries
Fishing Pond
Children & Family Ministries
Family Activities
Boy Scouts in the Fireside Room
Mission Walk
Global Outreach Committee
Used Book Sale
By the Church Library

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.

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, February 15 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.
Program: India-Pakistan Study by Colleen Foster
Devotions: Nan Schuler
Hostess: Hazel Wells

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, February 15, at 12:00 PM in Room 204.
Program: India-Pakistan Study by Lila Palmiter. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverage will be provided.
Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, February 16 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Library. The featured book will be: *Saturday* by Ian McEwan. Discussion led by Christine Sjogren. Contact: Marilyn Weber.

UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UMW Executive Board will meet Wednesday, February 22, at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, February 22, at 11:30 AM in Room 204.
Program: Book Sharing, come ready to share your favorite book. Chair: Leah Vislisl

UMW UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit Meeting will be Wednesday, March 01, at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Come, meet the legendary Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane, a pioneer for women in ministry. Your life will be enriched as you hear the dramatic account of Dr. Crane's life as presented by the Rev. Tom Whitehead. Contact: Colleen Foster

UMW SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Resurrection Women on Friday, March 03, at 6:00 PM to noon on Sunday, March 05 at the Woodburn UMC. Cost: \$40 includes 3 meals and all supplies. Register by February 23. Lodging can be available at a local hotel. Contact: Trudy Kayser.

music notes

please take note

ELIZABETH CASWELL IN CONCERT

The First Church Friends of Music are proud to present Elizabeth Caswell, pianist, in concert on Saturday, February 25, at 7:00 PM in the First Church sanctuary. The concert will feature the music of Scarlatti, R. Strauss, Mozart, Schubert, and American Hymn concert arrangements. Also featured in the concert will be tenor, Byron Wright. The concert will benefit the West Women's and Children's Shelter. Come and enjoy the great music and support a worthy cause.

INTROITS AND RESPONSES

We hope members of the congregation have found meaningful inspiration in the past few months from the Chancel Choir choral introits, responses and benedictions. During the month of January, our responses were drawn from a set of compositions by Tom Iverson, a very talented musician and former choir director at First UMC. Tom's approach is to set Scripture, including many beloved Psalms, to appropriate 4-part, 6-part, or 8-part choral arrangements. The choir has enjoyed singing his arrangements. Tom would enjoy hearing from you!

THE COLUMBIA SYMPHONY

Portland's Columbia Symphony Orchestra, presents *Yearning for Spring* at 8:00 PM on Friday, February 24, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church. Huw Edwards will conduct works which include: Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 25. in C major*, the World Premiere of *Nocturne for Orchestra* by local Pacific University Professor Tim Stephens, and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. First UMC members receive a \$3.00 discount on all tickets. For ticket information call 503/234-4077.

CHORAL CONCERT

Confluence: The Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus presents an evening of Sondheim on Friday, March 17, 7:30 PM at Unity Church, 4525 SE Stark, Portland. Tickets \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. Confluence affirms the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight people in it music and community activities. For more information, call 503/587-SING or visit: www.confluencechorus.org.

FLUTE CHOIR

Do you play the flute? If you do and would like to participate in a flute choir to play for a worship service, please call Kelly Qualls at the church for information: 503/228-3195 ext. 235.

Who Are We

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb



We were last talking about the change in wording "from what we grew up with" in some of the hymns in our *Hymnal*. A case in point would be, *There's a Wideness In God's Mercy*. The last two stanzas used to be:

*For the love of God is broader Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the eternal Is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple We should take him at His Word;
And our lives would be all sunshine In the sweetness of our Lord.*

But now are:

*For the love of God is broader Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple We should rest upon God's Word;
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.*

The committee which produced the present hymnal did not make these changes of its own volition. It was instructed by the General Conference to "be sensitive to ... inclusive and non-discriminatory language" but also "to respect the language of traditional hymns" -- classical political doubletalk by a democratic assembly in which there were wide differences. That is why not all of the hymns have been appropriately modified. (No change was made, for example, in the *Gloria*, which still sings praise to The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.) Not everyone in the UMC "believes" in inclusive language, and not everyone has to. But a majority recognizes that its proponents have their point. And it is a right and good thing to suffer a little irritation to advance its cause.

this and that

items of note

SCOUTING SUNDAY

Scouting Sunday will be February 12, 2006.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Girl Scout uniforms to church that Sunday.

A SUNDAY BRUNCH AT COLLINS RETREAT CENTER

Alton L. Collins Retreat Center would like to introduce the special place that the Retreat Center is and share its life enhancing work. You are invited to a Brunch at the Retreat Center on Sunday, February 26, 2006. Seatings are at 11:30 AM, 12:30 and 1:30 PM. The cost is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 for two. Reservations are required. Contact Janice Stevens at 503/637-6411 or email, collins@gocamping.org.

EMO SHARED HOUSING PROGRAM

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Shared Housing program matches people looking for housing with people who have one or more rooms to rent. If you are looking for low-cost housing or have a room you'd like to rent, please contact the EMO office at 503/225-9924.

opportunities for growth

A FORUM AT FIRST: HEALTH CARE

Sunday, February 12, 2006 in the Fireside Room
from noon to 1:30 PM.

Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

Few people in Oregon would disagree that "the health care system in Oregon is broken." Addressing the matter of "brokenness," Oregon State Representative Mitch Greenlick, will be making a presentation on the Oregon and U.S. approach to health care and its brokenness by showing: (1) How we've tried nationally for 100 years to achieve universal access and failed; (2) How the current Oregon Health Plan is threatened because of the growing number of uninsured; (3) How we're in trouble, along with other states; and (4) How The Hope for Families ballot initiative No. 40, is the proper next step to deal with the problem. He will also comment briefly on the Kitzhaber approach so much in the news today.

Following the presentation a three-person panel will engage Mitch Greenlick in a health care conversation. The panel consists of: Cheryl Bittle, chair of Church, Society, and Social Action; Ron Jamtgaard, member health committee of the Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, and David Leslie, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon .

Child care will be available.



THE NONE ZONE: RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Sunday, February 26, 2006 from
9:15 to 10:15 AM

First Church is pleased to sponsor this special Oregon Chautauqua program with Mark Shibley. The Pacific Northwest, and particularly Oregon, is the least-churched region of the country.

Recent public opinion polls suggest that relatively few people here identify with a historic religious tradition-leading scholars to refer to this region as the "None Zone." Yet spirituality abounds in this secular province. Southern Oregon University professor Mark Shibley highlights these religious patterns and raises questions about the past and future role of secular spirituality and church-based religion in the public life of the Pacific Northwest. Mark Shibley is Associate Professor of Sociology at Southern Oregon University

This program is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH). OCH is an independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and is dedicated to providing opportunities for lifelong learning for Oregonians through programs like Oregon Chautauqua.



FAITHFUL WITNESS IN A TROUBLED WORLD

Dr. Robert Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, will be the featured speaker at First Church on Saturday, March 4. The event is sponsored by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and will begin with registration at 9:00 AM. The cost for the event, which includes lunch, is \$25. The registration deadline is February 17 or \$30 if registered later. Dr. Edgar will speak to the theme of *Faithful Witness in a Troubled World*. For more information and registration forms, contact Marilyn Outslay at 503-649-9801.

expression
LITURGICAL ART

LITURGICAL ART

Calling all artists! Liturgical Art will be our very special feature at our April art show in Collins Hall. Liturgical art is art that engenders a religious response. You are invited to put your hearts and hands into creating art that comes from your soul, reflecting faith symbols and stories. For more information on liturgical art go to our Conference website, www.UMOI.org (connectionalministries/ nurture/worship). If you have questions, contact Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479 or tcfoster2@verizon.net.

around the parish

way to go! congratulations

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ...

Mary Cross & her family., Mary's mother, Janet Bywater, died in Iowa City on Jan. 23, 2006;

Mary Domreis, who is under hospice care;

The family of Eric Kekel, whose mother died on January 26, 2006;

Jordan Reynolds, 12 year old cousin of Janice Hauser

Rev. Robert Benefiel who is suffering with shingles.

WE CELEBRATE WITH ...

Amanda & Aaron Weller, on the arrival of their adopted daughter, Kendra Alexis Weller, born January 24, 2006;

Jeff and Tara Seymour, on the birth of their daughter,

Charlotte Rachel Seymour born January 26, 2006. Steve Seymour is the proud grandfather.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Jim Whitcomb, Al Leonard, Agnes & Dick Clark, Tom Iverson and Bob & Virginia Anderson

Congratulations to Sara Callier who was named women's "Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year" at the Oregon Sports Awards on January 29, 2006. The awards welcome prominent Oregon athletes in twelve categories covering pro, major college, small college, high school and Special Olympics sports. There were 75 finalists for the twelve awards. The award is named after the well known television sportscaster, Johnny Carpenter. Callier was honored for track and field while she was a Benson High. She is now in college at Kansas State University

Mark your calendar to observe the first Sunday of each month as

FISH SUNDAY - FOOD BARRELS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE NARTHEX.

FISH Emergency Services is staffed by volunteers and provides emergency food boxes to people most in need.

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 **February 22, 2006.**

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.