



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

July 26, 2006
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THIS SUNDAY

July 30, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING

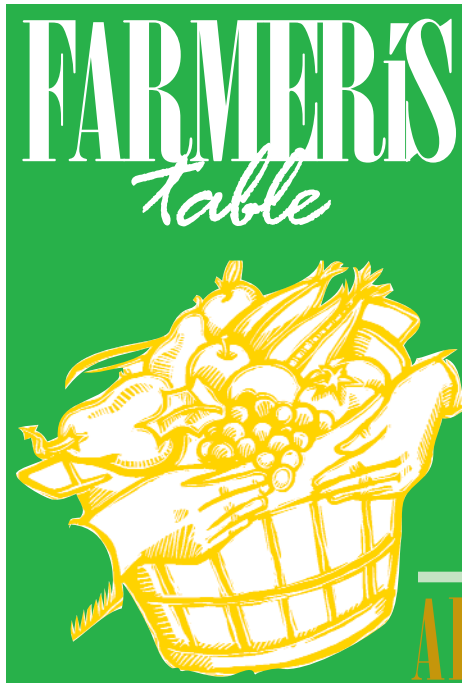
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

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.



Sunday morning after church, please visit our Farmer's Table at the Commons and enjoy freshly picked organic produce grown and sold by refugee Meskhetian Turkish farmers. While savoring fresh organic produce, you will be helping to support and encourage two families of refugee Meskhetian Turkish farmers who arrived in the Portland area last year. Now, with the help of Mercy Corps Northwest, they are farming Oregon-style in their new home!

Our Hunger Task Force and Planet Church Committee invite you to bring your welcoming smiles to our guest farmers and take home some scrumptious veggies every Sunday morning this summer!

ABOUT HAYAT FARMS

The Meskhetian Turks are political refugees from Uzbekistan who arrived in Portland in 2005. Over the past 60 years, their families were subjected to ethnic violence and many episodes of relocation within the former Soviet Union. Upon their arrival in the United States, they began talking about farming once again.

The refugee families are hoping to make farming a full-time job in order to support their families and become part of the farming community. The business training they are receiving from Mercy Corps Northwest is helping them achieve this goal.

If you would like more information about this program you can contact: Monique Dupre at 503/715-349 or contact Mercy Corps Northwest at: contact@mercycorporsnw.org.



School Supplies NEEDED

Summer is a great time to get good buys on school supplies! The Children Ministries of First Church, is participating in the Every Child Deserves School Supplies Drive. Collection boxes will be available in the narthex, starting September 3, 2006.

If you have questions about this effort please contact Agnes Zach at the church office at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or email her at: azach@fumcpdx.org.



memo
 Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

youth
 in mission

Ours is a small act of hospitality—just a token, really.

Last Sunday we welcomed two families of refugee Meskhetian Turks who brought tables full of fresh produce to sell. They arrived in this country last year and are seeking to establish a truck-farming business. Led by our Planet Church and Hunger Task Force, we have joined forces with Mercy Corps and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to help them settle. I understand there was a good response this week—they will return each Sunday for the remainder of the season.

Hospitality is a core value in our heritage. Leviticus (like Deuteronomy) puts the issue directly and clearly: “Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:34 as found in Eugene, Peterson’s, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*). During the days of the patriarchs, the wandering, nomadic Hebraic tribes embraced all who sought refuge. Even an enemy would receive a couple of days of food, shelter and respite.

Two millennia later Jesus commended those who received the alien: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.” (Matthew 25:35 NRSV) Hospitality was tested by despised Roman occupiers who could commandeer their subjects to carry their baggage for a mile. Jesus insisted that his disciples not respond with anger and resistance, but with overwhelming hospitality. “...if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile” he urged. (Matthew 5:41 NRSV)

What has happened to such attitudes recently?

The media is filled with voices of fear and anger. Much of the public seems rigidly xenophobic and rabidly inhospitable.

Hospitality seems to be an endangered commodity in the legislative halls, too. Caught up in ideological polarizations, Congress is deadlocked on how welcoming the US will be. Last December, the House passed one of the most restrictive immigration reform packages ever seen. In its provisions undocumented aliens would not only be unwelcome—but classified as criminals. In May, the Senate passed milder reforms, authored by an unlikely threesome: Senators Harry Reid (D-Nevada), John McCain (R-Arizona) and Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts.) The solon’s version establishes a ‘guest worker program’ and defines clear paths to citizenship. The two branches are stalemated in committee seeking a compromise.

In response, our General Board of Church and Society is seeking 100,000 United Methodists who will sign the following pledge:

We pledge ourselves as followers of Christ to stand with our immigrant neighbors who have come to the United States from throughout the world. We recognize immigrants as human beings made in the image of God and we prayerfully commit ourselves to support laws that affirm their dignity, preserve their families, and acknowledge the value of their presence among us.

Sounds a lot like those values we inherited from our scriptures!
 See you in Church.

Arvin

(If you would like to know more—or sign the pledge go to:
<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/pp.asp?c=fsJNK0PKJrH&b=1826565>)

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP
 SHARES AVAILABLE**

First Church youth are once again selling shares to help raise funds for this summer's mission trip. As you may already know, we are planing to take the youth to Idaho Falls, Idaho from August 5 through August 12, 2006. Money is needed to help with transportation costs and food, along with other fees associated with mission work and travel.

Shares are available in denominations of \$20 each. Everyone who purchases a share will receive a postcard from the trip, and will be invited to a “shareholder's dinner” in the Fall, featuring a slide show of the trip and the work done. To purchase a share, please contact one of our youth or Paul Adams, or write "Youth Mission Share" in the check memo and put it in the collection plate.



**PORTLAND BEAVERS
 BASEBALL / FAITH NIGHT**

On Wednesday, August 23, 2006 a group from First Church will gather to cheer on the Portland Beavers against the Las Vegas 51s. There will be a pre-game concert, featuring Christian bands, beginning at 5:00 PM, talks by players and then the game, beginning at 7:00 PM. Plan to park and meet at the church, it’s a short walk or MAX ride to PGE Park.

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134

Using Ron Miller's book, *The Gospel of Thomas: A Guidebook to Spiritual Practice*, this class is discussing an alternative Christian theology with an emphasis on translating its principles into daily practice. Anyone is welcome at any time during the course of the class.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202.

We are beginning study of *American Gospel* by Jon Meacham.

NEW SUMMER ADULT CLASS: READER'S THEATER

Join this summer class at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and read various plays together as a group. Plays to be read include:

July 23 & 30 *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee.

August 6 & 13: *Song for a Sanctuary* by Rukhsana Ahmad.

this & that

items of note

THE JAPANESE HISTORICAL PLAZA

August 6 and 9, 2006 mark the 61st anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hiroshima Day Commemoration will take place, for the victims of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, on Sunday, August 6th at 6:00 PM at the Japanese American Historical Plaza at NW Naito Pkwy and Couch St. in downtown Portland.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES

Portland's First UMC has an opportunity to sponsor the NW Film Center Human Rights Film Series which starts in October. As a sponsor we would be asked to choose a film, of our own choosing, to sponsor a speaker to lead a discussion about the film, participate in a resource literature table. As a sponsor we would be including in advertising done by the NW Film Center for the series, which would include a program guide distributed to over 50,000 homes in the Portland area. The fee for sponsorship is \$300. We are seeking members and friends who would share in the cost of congregational sponsorship. For more information contact Annie Heart at the church office at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 or email her at aheart@fumcpdx.org. We need an immediate response, as the sponsorship deadline is August 1, 2006.

KURT-ALEXANDER ZELLER FEATURED

Atlanta's radio station WABE-FM will be airing a concert featuring Kurt-Alexander Zeller and Michiko Otaki given in December of 2005 at Spivey Hall. It can be heard on the internet in a simulcast at www.wabe.org on Monday, August 14, 2006 at 6:00 PM (PDT). The program is entitled, *Everyone Sang: British Songs Between the Wars*.



DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBIT IN SEATTLE

On Saturday, November 18, 2006 we will travel to The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit in Seattle. It is an exhibit that will take you on an expedition that is beyond words, beyond time, and beyond your imagination. Experience the most remarkable archeological discovery of the 20th Century, and explore both the spiritual context of these scrolls with the science and scholarship associated with their discovery. See fragments never before displayed in public and follow their history to present day. We will be traveling to Seattle via RAZ Transportation, leaving First Church at 8:00 AM and returning in the evening. Cost is \$76 per person, which includes admission to the Pacific Science Center Museum and exhibit "Discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls," admission to the IMAX theater presentation "Mysteries of Egypt," and round-trip luxury motor coach to Seattle. There will be time on your own for lunch and shopping at Pike Place Public Market as well. Deadline for registering: October 6, 2006. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195.

theater
tickets available



Was the Wicked Witch of the West framed? On September 15, 2006, First Church has tickets to the 7:30 pm performance of *Wicked*. Tickets are \$76.00 each and can be reserved by contacting Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195 or azach@fumcpdx.org. 40 tickets were reserved, only 12 are remaining. Reserve yours today!

around the parish

prayers and concerns

thanks

expressing gratitude

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE FOR ...

Paul Chilcote, Colleen Foster's brother is making good recovery following a liver transplant in Seattle on July 16, 2006.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Margaret Stearns, whose fiancée, Chris Pate, was tragically killed in Iraq the third week in July. She is the daughter of Douglas & Frey Stearns.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Douglas Eberwein, two year old son of Bart & Jill Eberwein, undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia;
Marilyn Rinquist, struggling with several health problems;
Esther Greene, recuperating at Holiday Plaza Care Facility, following surgery;
Melody Fifield, recuperating at home following an auto accident
Janet Blalock, scheduled for surgery, July 31st. She is the daughter of Shirley Blalock.
Mary Domreis, under the care of hospice.

FROM LA VONNE HAWES

I am most appreciative for your concerns for my accident, as expressed through your prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits, including members of the staff. I know that we are truly a "united" church.

FROM JANET BENNETT

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all for the cards, calls, fruit, flowers and love sent to me during my recovery from a hip replacement. Thanks to all.



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 **August 9, 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.