



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the E edition

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH MISSION TRIP

2006



Please pray for Paul Adams, our Director of Youth Ministries, and our First Church youth while they are on their summer mission trip in Idaho Falls, Idaho. They arrived in Idaho on August 5 and will return August 12, 2006.

August 9, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 15

THIS SUNDAY

August 13, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING
Rev. Tom Foster

**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.



Farmers' TABLE

Every Sunday morning after church, many have visited the Farmer's Table near Collins Hall and enjoyed freshly picked organic produce grown and sold by refugee Meskhetian Turkish farmers. Thanks to Mercy Corps, EMO, and our Planet Church and Hunger Task Force for organizing this opportunity to enjoy fresh produce and support these newcomers to Oregon!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Folks who read the Brownsville Times know him as “Oregon Bill.” His family and friends—including the members at his church—recognize him as Rod Fielder. He is a former professor of education from Oregon State University who farms filbert nuts at his spread near Sweet Home, Oregon and shares his wisdom and insight and his faith in a weekly column published in the *Times*.

I met Fielder a couple of weeks ago when several of us presented him with our Conference’s top award for excellence in communication, “The Jason Lee Award.” In response, he read his most recent column. It spoke to me—and I think it will to you as well. So I asked his permission to reprint it:

Oregon Bill . . . Assisted Living

We all dread the idea of being placed in a care facility in our last years of life, don’t we now? Not having a car, using a walker, enduring the faint smell of urine in the long hallways, the forced joviality of visitors, all of these are not the best feature of our “golden years,” not by a long shot. Yet, in a strange sense, each and every one of us is already enrolled in an assisted living program and have been for years. It’s called “my life.” The care facility housing us is called “planet Earth.” Here is how I know.

Oregon Bill’s heart arrested recently. First they pounded on his chest. Then they reared back and hit him with the electric shock paddles. Brought the old gaffer’s pumper right around, sure enough. Then they hauled off and planted a titanium unit the size of a small cigarette pack under the skin in the chest with wires running down into the heart chambers. That thingamabob is a defibrillator and a pace-maker. It makes “paces” about ten percent of the time. That pace making activity fills me with both a sense of wonder and a sense of dread all at the same time. The dread arises when I acknowledge that my living is now assisted, assisted by an electronic widget that could fail as human contrivances are prone to do. The sense of wonder arises when I acknowledge that I’ve always had an electronic beat mechanism, even a back-up system, functioning steadily in my heart all my born days - - a kind of “assisted living” feature built into my body and yours.

I deal with the feelings of fear and dread when they arise as best I can. Mainly, I cope by calling to mind another feature of assisted living here on planet Earth, a feature called love. We all begin life, do we not, in an assisted living facility called a womb. After we are discharged from that facility we begin the life-time task of seeking and building a community around us to cushion the snares and pain that is our lot as well as to celebrate the good times when they roll. In a very real sense we all have to build our very own “care facility” to assist us in living out our lives.

Maude and me felt ourselves lifted and carried through the whole cardiac event by our community. We were held in the light in an activity called prayer. My eldest son captured the image and feeling of those prayers one evening in the hospital when he remarked, “Dad, this whole room just glows from the light of those prayers.”

In addition to light, prayer also takes the form of energy. Our friends cleaned our house, brought food, mowed the yard, fed the pets, housed Maude near the hospital, took care of the orchard, transported us home, brought healing music and reiki, brought their energy to the hospital and later to our home. Energy freely, lovingly given is also a form of prayer.

How do I know? I’ve been there. How can you know? Try using “assisted living” as a lens to look at your own circumstance, the events you call “my life” here on planet Earth. How is your life “assisted”?

*Brownsville Times, July 19, 2006 (Reprinted with permission of Rod Fielder)

See you in Church!

Arvin

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

this & that

items of note

UMC HIKERS' AUGUST HIKE

Our August hike will be on Saturday, August 26th near Oswald West State Park on the Oregon Coast. We'll meet in the Tigard UMC parking lot (9845 SW Walnut Place) at 8:15 AM to form carpools. The hike will be a three-mile round trip to the summit viewpoint of Neahkahine Mountain. This is a moderate hike with a 900 foot elevation gain. Hikers should bring a lunch, snacks and water, wear comfortable hiking boots and dress appropriately. There is a suggested \$6.00 per person donation to the driver for carpooling. Also bring \$2-5 for an optional snack stop. Return to the church between 5-6 PM. Anyone is welcome, but you must sign up to insure that we have enough transportation available. 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.

FAITH AND AMERICAN VALUES SUMMIT 2006

Faith and American Values Summit 2006, featuring Rev. Jim Wallis will be Thursday, September 14 and Saturday, September 16, Portland, OR. Rev. Jim Wallis will give the keynote address for this event at the First Baptist Church (909 SW 11th Ave, Portland), sponsored by the Oregon Center for Christian Values. Rev. Wallis' address will be followed by a full-day conference on Saturday, September 16 from 8:30 am-4:00 pm at the same location. Register at: www.occv.org, or call Brian at 503/307-4119. Rev. Wallis address is FREE. Registration for the full Summit is \$35 and includes lunch.

MUDDY BOOT ORGANIC FESTIVAL

You're invited to attend the Muddy Boot Organic Festival, Sept. 8-10, 2006, celebrating sustainable and organic living in our local community. It will begin Friday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church. Tickets are available for \$45 each. Purchase tickets online at tickets@muddyboot.org or call 503/764-7525. The festival will continue on Sept. 9 and 10, featuring live music provided by popular performers.

umw

united methodist women

WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH

It's time to mark your calendars. The following UMW meetings begin in September. The Unit Gathering meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 in the Fireside Room.
Chairs: Pat Brockman at 503/292-6270 and Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479.

FAITH GUILD meets the Third Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Chair: Eleanor Stubbs at 503/659-9024

RUTH GUILD meets the Third Wednesday at 12:00 PM in Room 204.
Chair: Betty-Lou Hare at 503/292-1773

READING GROUP meets the Third Thursday from 10:00 - 11:30 in the Library.
Chair: Sue Fisher at 503/203-1445

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS meets the last Wednesday at 12:00 PM in Room 204.
Chair: Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528

UMW BOARD meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM in Room 134.
Chair: Pat Brockman 503/292-6270

Let us join together to support Mission Giving for women, children, and youth in our country and around the world. All women are invited to attend any or all of the above groups.

fall frolic

October 6-8, 2006

FALL FROLIC, The Sequel: All God's Critters

Join your church family and friends at Suttle Lake October 6-8, 2006 for Fall Frolic. This fun family camp is open to children, youth, adults and seniors. It includes lodging and five meals. We'll have activities, quiet moments, campfires, worship and more. What a way to celebrate!

Registration is \$69.00 per adult for the weekend and pro-rated for youth and children. Look for registration forms in the narthex, The Commons and in the mail or contact Agnes Zach, Children/Family Ministry at azach@fumcpdx.org.



around the parish

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Mary Domreis, in hospice care,
Janet Blalock, the daughter of Shirley Blalock, is recuperating at home following surgery.
Piper O'Brien, the daughter of Betty-Lou Hare, is continuing chemotherapy;
The family of Herbert Williams, who died June 16, 2006.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Jim & Jean Whitcomb, and Dick & Agnes Clark



SUNDAY SEPT 10, 2006

thanks

expressing gratitude

FROM HILARY PURTLE

I want to express my sincere thanks for all your prayers, visits, flowers, cards and phone calls following my recent surgery. I was most appreciative of all your kindness. - *Hilary Purtle*

FROM ELEANOR STUBBS

After a long session of physical problems, including my neck laminectomy and my right shoulder break in a serious fall, I would like to acknowledge my most grateful thanks to my church family, Faith Guild and the staff for their concerns with their prayers, cards, and calls. It has been a difficult time for me and I am most appreciative. *Eleanor Stubbs*

FROM THE STEARNS

Each note, call, hug, tear, prayer, and presence you have given over the past week has been deeply appreciated by us. Truly, First UMC is our A-No. 1 family, and we are most grateful for everyone's concern and support.
Margaret, Doug, David and Frey Stearns

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 23, 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.