Faith leaders encourage listening to help overcome divisions, hate

By Mary Stamp

A panel of bishops and church leaders related the 2018 Eastern Washington Legislative theme, “Framing Faithful Discourse for the Common Good,” to bridge the anxiety prevalent in today’s political, religious and economic climate.

Elise DeGooyer, co-director of the Washington Washington Legislative, moderated their discussion on how to inspire and mobilize people to live the faith the Washington Legislative theme, “Framing Faithful Discourse for the Common Good,” to bridge the anxiety prevalent in today’s political, religious and economic climate.

“The religious community is responding. But it’s not about religion or politics. It’s about how we treat each other,” said the Rev. Gregg Sealey, superintendent of the Inland District of the United Methodist Church, said society is in a time of cultural reactivity. “As leaders of faith communities, we should cultivate a different way of being in the world but not of it, so we are less reactive” he said. “We have an opportunity to break the herd mentality and lead the culture a new way.”

“If we focus on the Divine, we do not blame or need quick fixes. How do we step away from the culture and engage our faith so we will be different in the world?” Gregg asked.

Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, said, “We need to take first things first and look at our own part. “It’s easy to blame others, but the Scriptures say that where our heart is, there is where our treasure is,” he said, telling of the Hispanic bishop of the San Bernardino Diocese describing himself as a “recovering racist.”

“Looking at where my heart is demands humility, listening, relationship with the Lord and one another in the human family,” Bill said. “Racism in the heart is unhealy physically and spiritually, and works against the common good. We need to challenge what we see in each other’s hearts.”

“For many, the first lenses to look at life are politics, economics and profic,” he said. “Where is the Lord? I need to look at all life through the lens of faith. I need to see people of every culture and creed as brothers and sisters. We need to respond to everyone who is hungry, thirsty or naked.”

The Right Rev. Gretchen Re...Continued on page 6

Diocese and Synod are now sharing office space

As of March 1, the Eastern Washington (EWAID) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) moved into shared space with the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane at 245 E. 13th Ave. The Synod office has been at All Saints Lutheran Church at 314 S. Spruce since the ELCA’s inception in 1988.

“I give thanks for the partnership our Synod has had with the people of All Saints. I am proud that our Synod has been at All Saints Lutheran Church for 34 years,” Bishop Kristen Kuempel said. “I look forward to a closer working relationship with our closest ecumenical partners, the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane at the Synodical and Diocesan level, we will set an example for congregations to follow,” said Bishop Kristen Kuempel.

“The role models in today’s contentious environment are not good,” she said. “People feel free to express themselves and make ugly comments more than I ever heard even five years ago.

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The Right Rev. Gretchen Re...Continued on page 4

Kevin Kriebel

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The Right Rev. Gretchen Re...Continued on page 6
**Mission and evangelism conference is in Tanzania**

Bishop Fredrick Shoo, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), will host a “Welcome” in the Handbook for the upcoming World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWMW). He is featured in an interview that comments on issues in the conference that will require deliberations to lead toward a transforming discipleship. The upcoming CWMW is March 8 to 13 in Arusha, Tanzania.

**Q: What do you most wish conference participants will ponder during their stay in Arusha?**

**Bishop Shoo:** We will welcome all of the participants to ponder the meaning of the question: “In what ways can we make the conference the practical realization of this conference.”

**Q: Can you spell a bit about the conference objectives?**

**Bishop Shoo:** There are four basic aspects of this conference: its missional, ecumenical, African and youthful character. In its deliberations, the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism strongly urges the conference to reflect missionologically—in an African and ecumenical context—on the signs of the times in our world today. This is a world in which God is active and present, bringing completion to God’s creation.

Looking at the content of the conference, I see crucial issues that will need our bold deliberations. I hope that we shall be vigilant in action that will make this the last life in the world today.

**Q: What does a transforming discipleship call us to do?**

**Bishop Shoo:** A transforming discipleship calls us to leave our comfort zones and be ready to carry the cross. Fear and selfish interests need to be seen and transformed. So, let us join as disciples of Jesus, the master of the cross and resurrection, teaches us what it means to be transforming disciples, as he says: “If any want to be first, let them be first in becoming servants. 27 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for the world.”

**Q: In what ways will the conference reflect the African context?**

**Bishop Shoo:** Our Local Host Committee and the Conference Preparatory Committee of the All Africa Conference of Churches have joined together to ensure that the conference embraces the African context. A joint process by the Conference Planning Committee and ELCT staff was crucial in preparing ground for the practical realization of this conference.

Tanzania is a country with great and beautiful flora and fauna. There is much to see, hear, taste, touch and learn.

**Groups hold ‘Loaves and Fishes’ to educate**

The Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is partners with the neighboring Ulanga Kilombo Synd in Tanzania, and visitors have gone through Arusha.

**United Methodists hold dance-concert**

When the Unitarian Universalist Church Board decided to be active in the Sanctuary movement, they realized there was a need for funds to help most vulnerable families with legal assistance.

They raised $1,500 one Sunday morning at an official meeting and received a grant to underwrite a concert-dance event of Latin music and make direct grants available to help sanctuary families through nonprofit organizations.

The dance-concert will be held 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 14, at the Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave.

**Fig Tree Benefits are March 9 and 14**

The Fig Tree continues to re- cruise hosts, while hosts for 50 tables continue inviting guests to the tables. Benefice: Benefit Lunch, Friday, Mar 9, 12-1 p.m., at the Fig Tree Cafe, at 1428 W. Broadway in Spokane.

Sponsors and guests have gone through Arusha.

**Addressing the theme at the Benefit Lunch will be Sima Thor- pe, executive director of The Arc of Spokane; Bishop Emeritus Zellmer of retired physician who helps plan Temple Beth Shalom’s annual Vom Hashas; Dr. Patmatching a Kamko- si, program coordinator of Empire Health Foundation, which helped underwrite the event; and James Casper, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho.

**Speaker at the breakfast is Mark Kinney of Thrivent, a Fig Tree writer, advertiser and spon- sor.**

**Kimmy Meineke, Pat Millen OSF, Wade Schwartz, Mary Stamp, Malcolm Haworth, Kaye Hult, Nick Beamer, Barb Borgens, Shelby Bassett, Kathy Berg, Inga Jakubavicius, Mary Mackin, Doe Pydowski, Joel Shepherd Sarah Vraner, Paula Young**

**Fig Tree Sundays are March 9 and 14**

“Arts in the Cascades” returns to the Fig Tree Cafe for a second year of a second-year renewal center in the North Cas- cades, from Friday to Monday, March 9 to 12, exploring the relationship of art, the environ- ment and the spiritual life.

Participants will consider what it means to be in the wilderness, engage with the natural world, transform their characters and realize divine energies, and express themselves through the medium of water- color.

Kristen Gilje, a renowned art- ist and former artist-in-residence at Holden, will lead the immer- sion retreat with Holden spiritual director Stephanie Zellmer and village naturalist Travis Houle.

There will be hiking and studio time for up to 20 artists with some drawing and watercolor painting experience.

Artists will use art to deepen our observation and our interior emotional responses to invite the sacred into our painting time.

Whether describing mountains and fog, snow, close-ups of wild- flowers, or tree bark and rocks, we will try to use the proper expression of watercolor to explore the essence of what we observe and remem- ber.”

**Earth Ministry and Save Our Waterways hold salmon loaves lunch**

The salmon-and-bread lunch, Northwest tribal members and local farmers, commercial fisher- men, Northwest tribal members and faith leaders about challenges facing the region’s wild fish, Na- tive people and food producers.

Speakers—Salmon pas- tor Liv Larson Andrews, wheat farmer Bryan Jones, commercial fisherman Ron Richards and Lippis: Protecting the environ- ment director Jill Salzenstein—will lead the burden of recovering endangered salmon falls on everyone, but especially the people at either end of the Northwest’s food pro- duction: farmers and fisherman.

“ar, we need to respect the Earth and love our neighbors. We believe the inter- ests of fishing communities, local farmers, native tribes and wild salmon can be served simultane- ously. A dialogue on salmon and dams, barge and irrigation, and treaty rights and recreation is a step toward a more equitable, neighborly region,” said Leda Zakarison, a Justice Leadership Program intern with the United Church of Christ at Earth Ministry.

“During Lent, we reach out across the region, seeking new connection in our shared journey,” said Leda, who grew up in Ynez, Washington. “We bring together people with varied viewpoints and celebrate the life- giving waters and farmlands that we stewarded together.”

**Unitarians hold dance-concert**

When the Unitarian Universalist Church Board decided to be active in the Sanctuary movement, they realized there was a need for funds to help immigrant families with legal assistance.

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Chorale Coeur d’Alene performs concerts

Chorale Coeur d’Alene, originally the “Northwest Sacred Music Ensemble,” was founded in 2001 by Coeur d’Alene church musician and pianist Cynthia Marlette to bring the great sacred choral music of the ages to audi ences in the Inland Northwest. Over the years the now 75-member ensemble has held to that commitment.

Now in its 17th season, the chorale has performed choral masterpieces such as Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Brahms’ German Requiem and Bach’s Magnificat, as well as spirituals, hymns and songs of praise.

Stann McClanahan, a church musician for 50 years who has led St. John’s Cathedral’s bell choir since 1941, became artistic director and conductor of Chorale Coeur d’Alene, which is not affiliated with any church, in 2015. He oversaw changing its name and broadening its repertoire.

“REQUIEM!” this year’s Chorale Coeur d’Alene spring concert will feature Gabriel Fauré’s late 19th century “Requiem in D Minor” and Dan Forrest’s 2014 “Requiem for the Living.”

A X-Acto knife guide will accompany the chorale and soloists for the concert at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 23, and at 3 p.m., Saturday, March 24, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N. 5th St. in Coeur d’Alene.

The third performance will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 8, in Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 1001 W. Sprague in Spokane. Stann said the Fauré and Forrest presentations differ from traditional Requiems by Mozart and Verdi. “The Dies irae” (“Day of wrath”) text is replaced with scripture or liturgical texts stressing humanity’s frailty and God’s eternal grace.

The virtuoso choir’s reputation for its setting of the “Sanctus,” has led St. John Cathedral’s Choral Program to request the “In Paradisum,” said Stann, who has led St. John’s Cathedral’s Choral and bell program since 2014. Forrest cites imagery from the Hubble telescope as the inspiration for his setting of the “Sanctus,” he said.

The chorale rehearses Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at Peace Lutheran Church at 8134 N. Meyer Rd. in Post Falls. For information, call 208-440-2333 or visit cdcpokane.com or foxtheaterspokane.com.

For the fifth year, Spokane Gives, a month-long community initiative in April, shines the spotlight on the need for giving year-round by matching volunteer passion to needs, said Brian Dodgingham of the City of Spokane.

There are volunteer opportunities during April for many interests. People can become involved by volunteering Spokane.org, which provides information about volunteer options. Last April, 17,863 volunteers gave 104,687 hours of service, an average of nearly six hours per volunteer. “Using the federal equivalent of $24,140 volunteer hour, the total is more than $2.5 million of economic impact volunteers gave to the community,” said Brian.

Since its inception, more than 51,000 Spokane Gives volunteers have given more than $6.5 million in volunteer impact in Spokane.

The generosity and compassion of volunteers are why Spokane was the only city recognized by the Friends of National Service organization last year,” he said.

“United Way of Spokane County and other partners have given us their time, talents and treasures the past five years to make Spokane the most compassionate U.S. community,” he added.

For information, email bodingham@spokanecity.org or visit volunteer.spokanegives.org.
Continued from page 1

Lori recently told her class that when she was a little girl, the bad guys in the movies were the Soviets. Now the bad guys in movies are Muslims, she said. When she met students in the former Soviet Union, they said bad guys in their movies were Americans. Her students were amazed.

“We are products of our media,” she said. “Most students do not watch TV news or read newspapers but follow news online.”

“It’s frightening that students today do not read or listen to news unless it’s short,” she said. “We educate students to pay attention to lessons of history, so they see the relationship.”

Lori lived in California and moved several times before settling in Spokane where she graduated from high school. She earned a bachelor’s in social studies and political science from EWU in 1985 and a master’s in social sciences in 1988 with a thesis on how women experience racism in other countries treat history.

Since 1990, she has taught AP European history, AP and regular world history, history through the arts and—as an adjunct professor with Eastern Washington University (EWU)—a college-level western civilization class for college credit.

Lori first went overseas to Hong Kong when she was 21 after winning a Dick Clark $25,000 Pyramidal Scholarship. She has since traveled around the world with and without students, mostly in Europe, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe—when it was under communism and since.

She has led two- to five-week educational student trips, some including home stays, for 40 to 50 students and teachers from Spokane area high schools, and some parents. Over the years, she has taken hundreds of students to places they study in class.

“It’s an extraordinary teaching opportunity to retrace Michelangelo’s steps and contributions, or to go to Bukow, Azerbaijan, where teens have never seen white American teens,” she said. “I see students’ jaws drop when they enter a cathedral.”

Lori makes arrangements through a tour company, requesting opportunities to interact with local people. Part of a trip is about people and part about history.

“We focus on society, economics and politics, so we look at the culture,” Lori said. “We are all human beings occupying the same planet, so we focus on similarities rather than differences. There are universals in every culture.

We look at different religions and cultures to see what all value, such as family. Each has some kind of social organization. Some have nuclear families, and some extended families. In some, because of economics, 35-year-old children live with parents. “Now that’s happening more in the U.S.,” Lori said. “We look at how economic, political and social challenges in other countries mirror those challenges here.”

In Italy recently, students saw growing racism against immigrants from North Africa and the Middle East, and saw similarities to U.S. attitudes about Hispanics and Muslims.

“In both cases, people left their homelands because of harsh economic and political situations,” Lori said.

She believes travel helps students understand the U.S. position in the world, and helps them develop empathy for people and appreciate their own country.

Some later study abroad. Some try to speak Spanish or French they learn at school.

“Students go from being wide-eyed to being able to discuss issues,” she said.

This year, Lori has been teaching a class on history through arts. Students learn about the “rape of Europe” when Hitler stole and destroyed art, especially art created by Jewish people. Some was saved and some destroyed.

For many years, Lori has taught about the Holocaust, not only in the trips but also by bringing survivors, such as Carla Peperazk and Corander Koorkkian, to speak to classes. Students hear different survivors’ experiences.

“It’s important to introduce them to survivors because the number of survivors is dwindling. They need to hear stories from people before they are only on video,” she said.

Some of the universal tenets of the world’s major religions are:

• Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

• Honor your parents

• Honor and respect life.

• Attentive to communities, she sees many “wonderful aspects” in each religion.

As part of history, Lori teaches about world religions, even including science as a way some understand the relationship of human beings to the world.

“My goal is to break down stereotypical views to promote tolerance and acceptance,” said Lori. She also takes students on field trips in Spokane to religious and cultural festivals, like the Greek Festival, the Kosher Dinner and Yom Hashoah, and encourages them to go to performances at St. John’s Cathedral to see the architecture and art.

In addition, she connects students with refugees through World Relief.

“I want students to see people as people, and feel connected as I do with the many traditions and cultures around us,” she said.

For information, call 710-7321 or email jacobsenl@evod.org.

March concerts include baroque, soul music

The Spokane Symphony’s second Baroque chamber concert, “Venice—the Magical City,” will be presented at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 17, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, and at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 18, at Spokane Valley Church of the Nazarene, 15515 E. 20th Ave.

The music, which was written for both sacred and secular set- tings by Venetian composers, including Albinoni and Vivaldi, will be conducted by Eckart Preu with Matusz Wolski on violin and the Spokane Symphony Chorale.

The Fox is presenting the “Tower of Power 50th Anniversary Tour 2018” performance at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, at the Martin Woldson Theater, 1001 W. Sprague Ave. Tower of Power combines rhythm and blues classics, funk, soul and jazz for intergenerational music lovers.

In 1968, Emilio Castillo, whose parents are Mexican and Greek, founded the band with baritone sax player Stephen “Doc” Kapka. In an interview in the February issue of The Black Lens in Spokane, Emilio said music gives his life meaning. After years of involvement with drugs, alcohol and sex, when he was sober in 1988, he sought a spiritual path, and started to pray. Now the band, which includes Christians and Muslims, prays together.

Emilio said his life has changed profoundly, so when the band is not touring, he’s at home with his wife and children, and active in their local church.

The 16-member Tower of Power band includes saxophones, bass, drums, keyboards, trumpets, guitar and vocalists. For information, call 624-1200 or visit TicketsWest.com.

Group plans Poor People’s Campaign

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane and local faith leaders are planning local events to coincide with efforts across the nation as part of the Poor People’s Campaign from April 4, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. through June 21. Officially the campaign of 40 days of action starts on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 14, with a focus on Children and Women in Poverty.

More than 50 people are involved in planning in Spokane. The next meeting is at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 15, at Bethany Presbyterian, 2607 S. Ray St. For information, call 838-7880 or 408-593-9556.
Muslim community leaders lend insights to mobilize people to act

To talk to people with different beliefs can be difficult, said Admir Rasic, a Muslim refugee from Bosnia, who co-led the opening prayer and reflections for the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference (EWLC) on Jan. 27. To demonstrate the difficulty, he read the poem “Refugees,” by Brian Foulum, twice—reversing some wording to reinterpret it.

“They have no need of our help so do not tell me these haggard faces would belong to you if life had dealt a different hand.” He later read an: “If life had dealt a different hand, these haggard faces would belong to you or me.”

Admir listed stereotypes of refugees some use to say they are not welcome, and said, “We should see people for who they are,” and not only welcome them, but also share “our food, our homes and our country.”

One version said not to see refugees and immigrants as “just like us,” but the other said to see them as “just like us.”

While one version concluded not to think that the world can be looked at in another way, the other concluded that “the world can be looked at in another way.”

Admir said the system too often is “just a strategy of independence and possession, might makes right, dependence is our most valuable possession, might makes right, dependence is our most valuable possession,” said Admir. “We pray we can reject the strategy of independence and possession, might makes right, dependence is our most valuable possession, might makes right, dependence is our most valuable possession.”

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“Allah is the all knowledge and the all authority, Rasheed prayed tht these verses in the Koran in Arabic and then in English: “O Mankind, I created you in male and female and made you into nations and tribes that you may get to know one another. Surely the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is he who is righteous. Al-lah is the all knowledge and all authority.”

“Rasheed prayed tht these verses would ring true not only during the conference but also in the ears of leaders locally, nationally and globally.

“I pray that our different tradi-
tions, cultures, races and beliefs do not continue to rip us apart, but are used as a glue to hold us together as the human race. We must stop judging others who do not look like or act like we do,” he said, noting that the traditions present in the conference have examples of harmonious societies, such as the prophet Mohammed setting up the city of Medina as a place where Jews, Christians and Muslims could live safely and have equal rights.

He prayed that the Creator of Heavens and Earth would “continue to guide us,usher us with blessings of hope and inclusiveness to overshadow hate with love and understanding, and guide us in our discussions that we may organize and mobilize our communities to take a stand in the political arena, in a social discourse or just in our families for the betterment of all human beings,” Rasheed said.

The full poem and other content from the EWLC will be in video online at thefigtree.org related to stories.

Regional church leader’s closing prayer is a call to courage and action

Courtney Stange-Tregear began closing remarks at the Jan. 27 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference telling of her role to help congregations think in new ways about vitality in her work as minister of church vitality with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

“We tend to think that educa-
tion, evangelism and formation are on one side, and advocacy, social justice and lobbying are something separate,” she said, “but there is no vitality without community connection and being relevant in the community.

“There is no way we can evan-
gelize if we do not know who we are talking,” she said.

Courtney helped participants debrief what they learned to help them look at where they were going.

She invited them to reflect on what value drives them and their communities, and how that value compels them to act.

She also encouraged partici-
pants to think about potential partners—people and organiza-
tions—to work with to accom-
plish their goals.

“It’s great to come together to talk about justice, and to see that others care about justice and want their convictions, love and faith to change the world,” Courtney said.

“Through a prayer, she then spoke of people gathering from different places, economies, races and histories despite the “myth” that says “institutions are dead, community is lost, neighborhoods are no more and traditional fami-
lies are threatened.”

“This myth also says our in-
dependence is our most valuable possession, might makes right, some worked hard and made it on our own, that bootstraps have pulled anyone up. This myth per-
sists,” she said.

Courtney said the participants gathered, not as independent, autonomous individuals, but as people formed by faith commu-

dinities, institutions, families and neighbors.

“It is not our independence but our interdependence that matters most,” she said. “Our interdepen-
dence changes lives, challenges the status quo and brings God’s will on earth as it is in heaven.”

She pointed out that the “myth” is not a myth, but is a “strategy” to keep people separate, keep people down, keep people afraid and keep people fighting each other instead of fighting injustice.

“It is a strategy to use power over us, so we can’t recognize the power we have together. It is a strategy to make us think that if we get enough individuals on our side we will change things,” Courtney said, “but we know that community, love and connection change the world.

“So we pray we will go forth, not just with the courage of our convictions but also with the power of our communities,” she said.

“We will dismantle white su-
premacy, loosen the bonds of poverty, house the homeless, care for this planet, de-escalate our habitual state of violence and, with #MeToo fresh on our lips to challenge sexual assault and harassment, we will also smash the patriarchy.

“We pray we will have the courage to listen to one another, to believe the truth of what we hear, especially from the voices of the those who are different from us,” she continued.

“We pray we can reject the strategy of independence and claim proudly our interdepen-
dence, because we are in this together. We’ve been called from all our different places, called together for just such a time as this,” Courtney concluded.

For information, call 206-725-
8383 or email courtney@pncec.
org.

Spokane Arena Jewish Family Services

offering family-oriented programs and services incorporating Jewish values, ethics, culture and the tradition of helping people help themselves

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Spokane Jewish Family Services

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She left the church and lived with people who had listened to her. Sandy listed four things those people needed: 1) instead of assuming bad intent, they assumed it’s possible to have honest engagement, because people can disagree without being enemies. They asked honest, curious questions and let her ask questions. They stayed calm in the face of provocation. They stated what they believe, rather than arguing.

The Rev. Walter Kendricks, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church and president of the Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship, sees life through a spiritual lens. His career with an airline took him around the world, but it did not satisfy him. When he started to study theology, he concluded that God either is or is not, and God’s Word, God’s revelation, is either true or is not.

“As we explore the common good, we realize that from one side of the street today, but also for the church of today, but also for the church of all decades. With his conversion, Christians accepted that a follower of Jesus Christ could be in the military and lend money. What difference did it make to follow Jesus? The church failed there,” she said.

Gregg said people need to look at themselves rather than blame others for homelessness.

Sandy said the leader of the Poor People’s Campaign, the Rev. William Barber, a Disciples pastor, speaks out of faith and scripture in a pastoral and political way.

“The campaign is Christian and interfaith. It calls Christians, Muslims, Jews and people of all faiths to speak out about immigration, refugees, poverty and hunger, because Jesus makes us realize that and because faith compels us to work for the common good and care for the least.”

“Education, formation and evangelism are about the common good and caring for the least,” said Bill. “When a bomb goes off in Kabul, it hurts me and has an impact on the common good.”

To a question about people assuming they are at a point of scarcity, but God speaking of abundance, Gretchen agreed most do not see their abundance. She spoke of a theology of “enough.”

“We need to live into awareness that some will not have enough, if we do not share. Capitalism can be a religious system,” she said.

Another asked why more than 50 percent of Evangelical Christians and non-identic Catholics voted for the current President.

Walter said, “God loves everyone—black, white, gay, Democrat and Republican. Where is the disconnect?”

Bill said, “the church is not to be partisan, and we need to look at all as brothers and sisters.”

Gregg, who sees an urban/rural split, asked after the election he visited some communities and saw many Trump Signs. At a church meeting, many seemed pleased with the result.

“In the current culture of Facebook, social media and friends, we surround ourselves with people who believe as we believe. At church meetings, we need to see the diverse group of people you in conversation, hear their concerns and build relationships.”

Sandy told of a meeting in Washington, D.C. with people who had supported Clinton and were feeling upset and lost.

“They were in a bubble, believing everyone believed as they did. They didn’t engage with or listen to others. We need to listen and engage more,” she said.

Gretchen’s cousin, who is a Democrat and a Republican in Congress, sees her as liberal. She said they agree on fundamental desires about solving hunger, homelessness and crime, but disagree on how to do that, so they listen to each other.

Bill said that often people are concerned about which way the winds are blowing.

“Our role is to change the direction of the wind,” he said.

For information, call 535-4112.

Faith agency advocates give overview of priorities for 2018 legislation

At the recent Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, faith leaders, including Donna Christianson with Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) and Paul Benz, co-director of the Faith Action Network (FAN), gave an overview of priorities of their faith communities on issues before the State Legislature.

With the November 2017 election results of many Democrats to the majority of the Washington Senate, Donna said there is more progress on some issues.


Two issues FAN and the WSCC support are funding K-12 education and mental health.

To reduce poverty, the FAN advocates funding the Civil Legal Aid Program, full restoration of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant program, and the Breakfast After the Bell program for student health and readiness.

Its priorities are: 1) advocating for civil legal aid for those too poor to afford equitable Washington; 2) promoting safe and just communities with crimi-}

nals justice to promote restorative justice; 3) grief, violence reduction, anti-human trafficking, health care reform and immigrant reform; 3) protecting housing and preventing homelessness, and 4) fighting crime by creating Washington’s environment.

Donna, who has worked 18 years in government relations and as a lobbyist with the WSCC, listed the state Catholic organi- zation’s priorities that include supporting religious liberty and life through abolishing the death penalty, requiring parental noti- fication for abortions of minors and opposing mandating abortion coverage in health insurance.

Its education priorities are to improve school safety and fund child abuse prevention education. Its priorities for poverty, fam- ily and restorative justice include: 1) approving funding for the Housing Trust Fund; 2) supporting “safety net” pro- grams; 3) changing legal financial obligations for those convicted of a crime; 4) continuing the document recording fee to support homeless programs; 5) prohibiting discrimination based on a renter’s source of income, and 6) ensuring legal counsel for youth.

Donna reported that Joe Spence became the WSCC di- rector after Sr. Sharon Park OP retired in 2017.

Both the WSCC and FAN oppose funding FETOAs (LFOs) being added when people commit crimes. A bill would prevent accumulation of interest and fees, and make the priority restitution. The LFOs help create a debtor’s prison.

Donna mentioned bills that challenge several practices of landlords, including denying renter’s based on the source of their income. Two bills would require just cause for eviction and a cap on rent increases.

“Landlords may not discrimi- nate against those struggling to pay for housing,” Donna said. “A landlord mitigation fund is available so landlord can make repairs.”

Both supported the bipartisan neutrality bill that passed in response to the Federal Com- munications Commission overturning federal regulations. They also support a bipartisan sexual assault protection bill.

For information, call 206-625-9700 or visit fanwa.org for FAN, or call 206-301-0556 and visit thewsc.org for the WSCC.
After more than 27 years of working with Lutheran Community Services Northwest in Spokane, a total of 47 years in social services, Dennis McGaughey is retiring as of March 15. A retirement party for him is planned from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 14, in The McMinimy Room at 116 W. Pacific, Suite 100.

Dennis said the desire he sees in staff in Spokane to make a difference in people’s lives reminds him of his youthful passion to make a difference and reduce human suffering.

“We do front-line work for the church in society,” he said. “Lutheran theology says God works through all people for good. Anyone can use their gifts to help others. We don’t ask where people go to church.

“Our mission is to bring health, justice and hope, and the greatest of these is hope,” he said. “We let people know they are not alone. We help them through a transition they need hope to move forward.

“There is much pain in the world, and people need resilience to work through that pain. ‘I am with you’ is part of the message of how we work, “said Dennis, who has understood his work as a calling to serve God and humankind.

“I looked forward to coming to work each day and spending time face-to-face with people,” he said. “Human life is valuable.”

Dennis, who grew up Lutheran in Seattle, earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1969 at Washington State University. He worked in a residential center in Portland and married, and then spent two years working with the Lutheran Church as a social worker in Nome, Alaska, and then Anchorage, Alaska.

While there, he connected people to resources, started a 24-hour hotline and a home for trauma for children. People needed help with drug and alcohol abuse.

Then Dennis worked two years with Anchorage churches on social services, before studying at the University of Alaska, where he earned a master’s in social work in 1974.

His next seven years were with Lutheran Community Services (LCS) in Wilmer, Minn., until he learned that the Spokane LCS needed a district director.

Dennis served in that role until the last 20 months when he was chief operating officer for the eight Lutheran Community Services Northwest offices in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, each of which has unique programs based on area needs. Spokane focuses on mental health, trauma, therapeutic foster care, unaccompanied refugee minor foster care and wraparound services.

Dennis may focus on ag, drug and alcohol treatment or foster care.

Heike Lake, the new executive director, has been with LCS in Spokane for 22 years, working as associate director until she became district director 20 months ago.

“LCS in Spokane is a certified sexual assault center with programs for education and advocacy for sexual assault victims and survivors of family homicide. LCS advocates and counselors help sexual assault victims navigate the legal system and provide them with resources for healing. Advocacy with the legal system helps victims achieve good legal outcomes. It requires perseverance because the system can work slowly, said Dennis.

“We stay with people as long as they need us and are there if they need to come back,” he said. “We seek to move families from trauma, out of crisis and into stable lives.”

For two years, he said, the unaccompanied refugee program has brought youth from refugee camps to Spokane as one of two LCS Northwest sites approved for care for unaccompanied minors. Half of the 25 refugee children here are in foster family care and half in group homes.

Adult refugee resettlement is done in Portland, Seattle and Tacoma offices.

“In Spokane, we partner with World Relief, which resettles adults and families, not unaccompanied minors,” Dennis said. “We understand here that we are part of a network of services, not an island. We collaborate with other agencies to bring resources to the community,” he said.

LCS also connects with the YWCA on domestic violence, VOA and Transitions for homeless women and children; Providence Medical Center Emergency Room to connect chronic users with less costly care, and law enforcement to combat human trafficking.

“Our success comes from employing dedicated people, passion about and committed to serving others,” he said.

Many employees have been with LCS in Spokane for many years. In 1990, there were 35 employees. Now there are 100.

“We embrace our staff, not only for their contributions to the agency and those we serve, but also for their lives outside the agency,” he said.

Growth in recent years has come from: 1) the Affordable Care Act’s coverage of mental health care, 2) a federal lawsuit, in which the state won wrap-around services for foster children, and 3) the MeToo movement giving women courage to access LCS services.

Dennis said that over the years, LCS has learned what to do and what not to do with sexual assault and trauma victims.

“We know to believe victims, not blame them,” he said. “We know long-term healing is aided by professional and legal help leading to tangible closure. Part of healing is to maintain a safe environment.”

Lutheran church services support the agency, as do individual donors, corporations, small businesses, volunteers and other faith organizations.

“Our belief as Lutherans is that we are called to serve others,” said Dennis, who attends St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

His hope for the future is for more collaboration among agencies, ministries and the faith community in serving people.

Dennis said that one legacy he leaves LCS in Spokane is a unique fund raiser that grew out of his passion for road cycling.

He helped found the Eight Lakes Leg Aches Bike Ride benefit for LCS in 1999. There were 17 riders the first year, 68 the second year and 150 the third year. Now there are 600 to 700 riders, with 100 of them raising $200 to $5,000 each in pledges. To date, the ride has raised about $1 million total.

“It has been a great career,” Dennis commented. “I am a better person for what I have been able to give and for all I have received. So many people have journeyed with me and I am so grateful for all they have done for me and those we serve.”

For information, call 747-8224.

**SIF offers a portfolio of school options so that families have the freedom to choose the school that is right for their child. The best fit may be their neighborhood school, or one with a certain focus or different way of learning.**

**School options programs for the 2018-19 school year include:***

- Spokane Public Montessori (grades K-8)
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- Core Knowledge (a rigorous, classical curriculum for grades K-6)
- The Innovative Cooperative (homework support for grades P-5)
- The Community School (parent-based learning for grades P-5)
- On Track Academy (accelerated learning for grades 6-11)
- Institute of Science and Technology at North Central (molecular biology immersion for grades 7-12)
- Spokane Virtual Learning (instructor-led online courses for grades K-12)
- NEWTECH Skills Center (vocational and technical training for grades 1-12)

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**Mark’s Lutheran Church.**

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**CEOE for Lutheran Community Services reflects on career journey**

**Dennis McGaughey retires after 27 years.**

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Grants help learning communities address six ways to transform churches

Terry McGonigal nurtures lives of churches.

Terry McGonigal nurtures lives of churches.

In addition to the Lilly grant support, a Murdock grant provided a $3,000 stipend for 30 students each year to be involved with churches and ministry partners for the Summer Ministry Fellows program, shadowing a pastor or agency leader.

While four went to Scotland, the first summer, students mostly go along the West Coast. For example, in San Diego, students worked at the Solana Beach Presbyterian Immigration Center to help immigrants becoming U.S. citizens.

Students learn what is happening in this institution that has been thinking creatively for 25 years, he said.

“`Institution’ is not a bad word,” Terry said. “Institutions do creative ministries.”

The Academy of Christian Discipleship equips lay leaders in biblical study, theology and history. Over three years, 500 have been trained in cohorts—small groups of five or more. They meet at Whitworth in the fall, winter and spring.

A cohort at First Presbyterian in Missoula grew from 12 to 25 to 40 in three years, involving five churches.

Jerry Sittert, coordinator, films Whitworth faculty teaching and offers a supplemental guide, outline, questions to prompt discussion and exercises to apply to ministry contexts.

The calling and vocation grant embeds the themes in Whitworth programs so students grow in commitment to Christ and explore their calling.

To support ministries, Whitworth helps churches gain biblical literacy through the Academy of Christian Discipleship. It ties scripture to ministry churches decide to do. It matches financial resources with people addressing needs a church sees.

While the OCE is identifying leaders, it is not launching all six areas this year, Terry said.

“We are not in a rush, but want to be intentional, so we use resources wisely. It’s just beginning, so interested churches can still contact us,” he said.

The OCE serves, supports and partners with churches and ministries as they discern how to be the church. It is a resource for visioning, planning and developing new forms of ministry to engage the rapidly changing culture.

“It’s equipping people to live faithfully in their churches and communities,” Terry said. “Living for the common good is not easy in these times. There are pushes and pulls in the current climate of divide that has invaded our churches, so we must focus on being reconciling communities. Churches with divisions need help to reconcile intentionally.

“Since the election, rather than our first identity being following Jesus, it is where we stand on a topic or candidate,” Terry said. “Spirituality, economics and social justice interplay. In the divisions, we need to be allies on race, rather than following rhetoric and stereotypes of races.”

Recently 35 churches met to discuss “The Church as a Reconciling Community.”

“How do we talk as followers of Jesus about people so our language is not the same as the secular world?” Early Christians had profound disagreements, but they built relationships,” said Terry.

For information, call 777-4547 or email tmgonigal@whitworth.edu.
DADS Committee helps support fathers in their desire to be better parents

Having been a stay-at-home father for 15 years while his two children were growing, Carlos Alden now helps other fathers be better dads through his work for six years as the Fatherhood Project coordinator and counselor with Catholic Charities’ Childbirth and Parenting Assistance (CAPA). He leads a fathers’ support group, teaches parenting classes and does counseling.

Soon after he started at CAPA, he joined the DADS Committee, a coalition of people from the Department of Social and Health Services, Children’s Home Society, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, Office of Support Enforcement, health care professionals and other agencies.

Service providers, who realized there were few services for fathers, networked with father-friendly agencies to form the DADS Committee in 1993. “Research shows fathers that if fathers are involved in a healthy way, children do better,” Carlos said. “We need to train professionals and look at barriers. Fathers need to be involved with DSFS child foster care as much as mothers.”

Ten years ago, the DADS Committee decided to do an Engaging Fatherhood Conference.

In 2016, the annual Engaging Fatherhood Conference and Resource Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 30, in the Lair Student Center at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St.

The event includes a keynote speaker, Clint Edwards, author of “No Idea What I’m Doing” parenting blog.

Workshops include fathering success, digital device safety, the importance of dads, co-parenting issues, when to brainwash their kids and reconnecting with older children after recovery. Workshops for social service professionals are on creating fatherhood groups and delivering father-friendly services.

Clint, who saw his father infrequently after he left when Clint was seven years old, knows it’s challenging for fathers who do not have a model, but says if fathers know and love their children, they can be good fathers.

Carlos said 40 to 100 caregivers, others, mothers, social workers and counselors usually attend.

At CAPA, the Fatherhood Project helps men be good fathers. It has a facilitated group that meets once a week for fathers of children who are five years or younger, and referred by a social worker, the court or a friend.

Carlos Alden connects fathers to resources.

The conference features workshops on the importance of dads, co-parenting and love their children, they can model, but says if fathers know for fathers who do not have a frequently after he left when Clint Edwards, author of the “No Idea What I’m Doing” parenting blog, Clint Edwards, author of the “No Idea What I’m Doing” parenting blog.

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Carlos Alden connects fathers to resources.

Catholic Charities has five volunteer father mentors to help with groups of two to eight fathers. Some come to a group one or two times. Others come for one to three years.

“It’s a place to share the joys and struggles of being a father,” Carlos said.

“People come to CAPA to grow as parents. They work hard to be parents. The system sometimes can prevent parents from being with their kids. Dads are hungry to be with their children,” he said.

Carlos’ roots were in Buffalo, N.Y. He spent three years at the Rochester Institute of Technology and studied at the School of Visual Arts and Painting in New York City, in 1976. He graduated in 1979 from San Francisco State University with a master’s in psychology in 1983.

From 1986 to 1987, he and his wife Janine taught English in China. Then they lived in California’s Central Valley of California, where they had good jobs. He was an outpatient counselor with an agency there. They found that his license as a licensed marriage and family counselor would transfer to Washington. They decided to move to Spokane in 1992.

Janine began teaching English as a Second Language to Japanese students at Eastern Washington University and retired in August.

When they moved to Spokane, Carlos decided to be a stay-at-home father for their children, Zac and Michaela, they were two and four years old. They are now 26 and 29 years old. “I liked doing art and music with them. I play banjo, guitar and mandolin. Zac, now an aspiring musician in three bands in Portland, learned electric guitar and base. Michaela studied piano for eight years,” he said. “I painted, drew and did crafts with them, sharing from my art education,” said Carlos.

“When they went to school, I picked them up and volunteered at school. I volunteered at church, at KPXI and with a band,” he said.

“I wanted my children to see I was there for them and in school with them. Most of their friends’ fathers were the breadwinners,” he said.

“I learned how to be a good parent without slipping into being a professional counselor,” he said.

Carlos advises fathers to look at their long-term goals, accept their mistakes and simply be involved, so they know their children.

“When I visited Zac, we were on a panel about fathers. He was aware that things were different because I was around,” he said. “I was the carpool person, the one who shopped, bought food and cooked. My role; challenged expectations of fathers.”

Carlos said he experienced what many mothers experience—feeling alone and lacking adult company.

“My eyes were open to what mothers go through to maintain their sanity, and their fears of losing their college education and the goals they had before they were parents,” he said.

Carlos says the conference helps fathers feel they are not alone.

“Where I work now, I feel I’m serving people who may be encountering challenges or lacking resources. Some come to CAPA after riding two buses for 40 minutes, carrying a baby and bringing a toddler.

“Parenting classes help parents be the parents they want to be, do things to change,” Carlos said.

For information, call 455-4966 or email calden@cebspokane.org.
Florida students speak out and step into an ongoing journey for action

Praise for the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., who are turning their anger and trauma into a call to action. The students, members in three buses to Tallahassee to ask state legislators to turn around attitudes on guns and ban AR-15 assault weapons like the one that killed 17 classmates and teachers on Feb. 14.

The pro-gun legislators turned them down, but there will be school walkouts, marches and meetings to turn around the thinking that keeps taking lives of children beginning their lives. After shootings in the past, the lines to dismiss such action is that “it’s too soon” or “don’t politicize it.”

Students bring new energy to join parents and teachers who are working with Spokane Public Schools. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

A friend on Facebook noted that there weren’t such school shootings 20 years ago. His point was it must be something other than the guns — media violence, angry males, mental illness — but overlooked that 20 years ago an assault weapons ban was in place — 1994 until it expired in 2003.

How media attention was needed to keep pressure alive on the health impact of smoking, on the need for civil rights and equality, on the carnage and senselessness of the Vietnam War? What is the tipping point that drives escalation of momentum to the point of change?

Perhaps those supporting assault weapons need to prove those guns are not intended to kill. For example, why are some targets human-shaped?

The momentum to control guns would be slashed by self-control so there are no more school shootings. Three buses to Tallahassee to ask state legislators to turn around attitudes on guns, ban AR-15 assault weapons like the one that killed 17 classmates and teachers on Feb. 14.

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Media are covering many proposals: ban bump stocks, ban assault weapons, arm teachers, repeal the second Amendment, use metal detectors, background checks, age limits, mental health criteria, ban all guns in schools, don’t name shooters, uplift heroes, focus on victims’ trauma, value the right to life over gun “rights.” Students say “never again,” gun buy-outs, vote out those accepting NRA campaign funds, join school walkouts, let the Center for Disease Control research gun violence as a public health issue, sign Gabby Gifford’s pledge to flip Congress, and more.

Action may take a long time. Momentum to abolish the death penalty in Washington is building. A bill has passed the Senate and was in the House. Oregon had a death penalty in 1864. It was abolished in 1914 and reinstated in 1920, both by popular vote. In 1964, and it was reinstated in 1978, both by popular vote. Oregon’s Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1981. Voters reinstated it in 1984. The governor declared a moratorium on executions in 2011.

That’s just to say that after a “win” on a policy, momentum and education must continue. We see that as necessary with efforts now to undo civil rights and allow hate crimes to happen. We see momentum toward civil rights, no slavery in the long haul, even forever, to educate new generations. We can never assume something is won forever because there are often built-in sunsets for some laws to expire.

What’s needed are: perseverance, persistence, education, prevention, dialogue, ongoing momentum and readiness to keep on keeping on.

Students bring new energy to join parents and teachers who are working with Spokane Public Schools. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

Legislative Conference

Policies and practices that push students out of the classroom and educational experiences, like MESA (Math, Engineering, Science, Agriculture, Technology and Science) or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), have over the years worked against students of color and poor students. Those students are discipline problems, more discipline problems, more discipline problems.

“Identity forms how youth interact with the world around them,” Pavel said. “Identity forms how youth interact with the world around them.”

On the education committee of the NAACP, Spokane discussed how schools exclude, not just to comfort the grief or silence the anger of the survivors, but also to sustain the momentum for people to act, educate and end the trail of senseless violence.

They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

Students bring new energy to join parents and teachers who are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

Where will people gain strength to continue for the long haul, as was required to end slavery, win suffrage for women or continue for the long haul, even forever, to educate new generations? Where will people gain strength to continue for the long haul, as was required to end slavery, win suffrage for women or continue for the long haul, even forever, to educate new generations?

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Legislators for Washington schools are sometimes in the grip of big tobacco companies. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

Parents of minority and low-income students seek to adopt sensible solutions. Parents of minority and low-income students seek to adopt sensible solutions. Parents of minority and low-income students seek to adopt sensible solutions.

“Do you want to make it harder for that®build solidarity and overcome divisions that are played up to stymie common, effective advocacy. We need leaders with the power of ‘thoughts and prayers’ that build solidarity and overcome divisions that are played up to stymie common, effective advocacy.”

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We can never assume something is won forever because there are often built-in sunsets for some laws to expire.

What’s needed are: perseverance, persistence, education, prevention, dialogue, ongoing momentum and readiness to keep on keeping on.

Students bring new energy to join parents and teachers who are working with Spokane Public Schools. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students. They are working with Spokane Public Schools on ways to support students.

Legislative Conference

Policies and practices that push students out of the classroom and educational experiences, like MESA (Math, Engineering, Science, Agriculture, Technology and Science) or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), have over the years worked against students of color and poor students. Those students are discipline problems, more discipline problems, more discipline problems.

“Identity forms how youth interact with the world around them,” Pavel said. “Identity forms how youth interact with the world around them.”

On the education committee of the NAACP, Spokane discussed how schools exclude, not just to comfort the grief or silence the anger of the survivors, but also to sustain the momentum for people to act, educate and end the trail of senseless violence.

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**Calendar of Events**

**Mar 1**
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee.** 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7707
- **• Would There Be Christianity without Migration?** Church as a Community of Migrants! Peter Cho Pham, Department of Religious Studies. Being Religious Inter- religious violence, Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Dismet Ave., Gonzaga University, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 313-6782

**Mar 2**
- **• Opening for month-long “Unwanted Journeys” art exhibition by Ildikó Kalapács, 1815 E. Sprague, 2nd floor, 5 to 8 p.m., 340-3043 or bhorhammer65@hotmail.com**
- **Winter Waters 2018.** Honoring Watershed Heroes, Kootenai and Flat-Banded journals, Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave., 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 270-6958, wasser@wslf.net

**Mar 3**
- **Retirement Party for Happy Watkins, Davenport Grand Hotel Ballroom A & B, 6 to 9 p.m.**
- **• Nine Days of Grace,** November at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boine, 313-7266

**Mar 4**
- **• Loaves and Fishes,** salmon-and- bread lunch and presentations by farmers, fishermen, tribal members and faith leaders, Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway, noon to 2 p.m., leldo@earthlink.net
- **• Jewish, Israeli, or Middle Eastern?** Dilemmas of Israel identity and its Place in the Middle East. Brent Saxby, associate professor of political science University of Texas at Arlington, Gonzaga, 708 Auditorium in Jepson Center, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Mar 8**
- **International Women’s Day Celebration, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID.** 326 N. Howard St. 5:30-324, chaplainse@hotmail.com
- **• Catholic Peace Day, The Harding Center, 15th and W., Spokane, 6:30 p.m., 354-4650, bishopring@msn.com**

**Mar 9**
- **• Fig Tree Benefit Lunch, Caledonia Hall at Gonzaga, buffet begins 11:30 a.m., program noon to 1 p.m., 333-1813 rsvp**
- **• Discussion on Refugees by Fred Slayton and Kassahun Berhan, cultural anthropologists, with “Unwanted Journeys” art exhibit by Ildikó Kalapács, 1815 E. Sprague, 2nd floor, 5 to 8 p.m.**

**Mar 10**
- **• Let Your Voice Be Heard!** International Women’s Day with Sandra Williams, editor of the Black Lens, Spokane Women’s Club, 1428 W. 9th Ave., 789-9209, mikolen@msn.com

**Mar 13-15**
- **• Watercolor Journey,** Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 808-962-2000, spokane@livingwaterretreats.org

**Mar 14**
- **Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast, Caledonia Hall at Gonzaga, buffet begins 7:15 a.m., program 7:30-9:15 a.m., 333-1813 rsvp**
- **• Lutheran Community Services Retreat Planning Session, The City Club, 110 W. Pacific, Suite 100, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., 747-6224**

**Mar 15**
- **• Poor People’s Campaign Planning in Spokane.** Morning Star Baptist Church, 3909 W. Foxway, 6:30 p.m., 353-6770
- **• Show Up for Social Justice planning in “International,” Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 328-4220**

**Mar 19**
- **• Instead of Red Face.** cherokee playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle, Wolf Auditorium in Jepson at Gonzaga, 6 p.m., 335-1813, cherokeeframe.org

**Mar 20**
- **• Poor People’s Campaign, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, Veradale United Church of Christ, 611 N. Progress Rd., 9:30 a.m., 408-627-7173**

**Mar 22**
- **• Faith over Fear.** Standing with Our Muslim Neighbors in Yakima, Central Lutheran, 1604 H. Jackson, Yakima, 6:30 p.m., terry@neighborsinhalal.org
- **• Hamletmachine.** by Heiner Mueller, multi-media theatre performance at Gonzaga’s Magnuson Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**Mar 23**
- **• The Lamb of God: An Easter Celebration,** Oratorio by Rob Gardner, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1520 E. 29th Ave., 7 p.m.

**Mar 24**
- **• Choreur Cœur d’Alique.** “Requiem!” Trinity Lutheran, 812 N. 5th St., Cœur d’Alique, 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 804-446-2337
- **• Art in the Cascades,** Holden Village, church.director@holdenvillage.org

**Mar 26-28**
- **Women’s Holy Week Retreat.** Find Your Wholeness in Holy Week, Fr. Jeff Puthoff, S.J., Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Bur Rd., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Monday to Wednesday, 488-1224

**Mar 27**
- **• Exploring America’s Relationship With War,** Mike Nemeth, U.S. Army veteran, and editor of Six-Ward War, Hemmingson Center Retreat, 7:30 p.m., 328-4220

**Mar 28**
- **• Partners in Progress** YWCA Spokane Annual Meeting, Historic Sierra Building at McGrady, 320 E. Spokane Falls Blvd, Ste. #100, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., 509-965-3055, ywcaspokane.org
- **Spokane Police Accountability & Reform Coalition, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870**
- **• Dial M for Murder,** Spokane Civic Theatre benefit for Partnership for Progress, 1020 N. Howard St., 6:15 p.m. appetizers, 7:15 p.m. performance, 725-8400**
- **For more information, spokanecivictheatrebenefit.html**

**Mar 29-31**
- **• Men’s Holy Week Retreat.** Find Your Wholeness in Holy Week, Fr. Jeff Puthoff, S.J., Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Bur Rd., 4:30 p.m., Friday to 1 p.m., Saturday, 448-1224

**Mar 30**
- **• Engaging Faithfulness Conference,** DADS Committee, the Last Student Center at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St., 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 455-4696 or caldon@ccspokane.org

**Apil 1**
- **• Easter Sunrise Service,** Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 N. Government Way, 6:30 a.m., 326-8813

**Apil 3**
- **• Tovern of Power 50th Anniversary Assembly.** Martin Woolson Theater at the Fox, 1001 W. Sprague, 7:30 p.m., 233-6200

**Apil 4**
- **• Fig Tree Dinner, St. Mark’s Manor, 1 E. 24th Ave., 5:35 p.m. 1813**

**Apil 5**
- **• Fig Tree Benefit and Board,** 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon for benefit and 1 to 3 p.m. for board, 353-1813

**Apil 8**
- **• Chorale Cœur d’Alique, “Requiem!” Martin Woolson Theater at the Fox, 1001 W. Sprague, Spokane, 3 p.m., 353-2483-2333

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**March 18-19**
- **A Woman’s Call to Spirituality: Emerging Faith in Our Daily Walk**

**March 18-19**
- **Trade Show**

### Upcoming Events at Spirit Center at the Monastery of St. Gertrude

- **Mar 16-18**
  - **Sacred Celtic Landscapes: God’s Evolving Message of Love**
- **April 9-11**
  - **Centering Prayer Intensive**
- **April 16-18**
  - **Zentangle: Creating Art and Wellness**
- **May 18-20**
  - **A Woman’s Call to Spirituality: Emerging Faith in Our Daily Walk**
  
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**487-9863 OR 484-5221**

**Partnering for Progress Civic Theatre Benefit**

**Wednesday, March 28 at 6:15 p.m.**

**Benefit price $35**

- Student price $30

**For tickets call 720-8408 or visit partnerforprogress.org**

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Peer specialists walk with people as they step from homelessness into stability

By Nancy Hill

As permanent supportive housing coordinator at Donna Hanson Haven (DHH), Amanda Fowler considers her work a calling. She hopes she can help make it, as Bishop Emeritus William Skelystad said at its opening in December 2017, “a dwelling place of love.”

Part of Amanda’s job is working with three peer specialists who have had life-altering experiences related to homelessness. They support individuals who have been chronically homeless and struggle with issues such as mental illness, psychological trauma and substance abuse.

The building is named after Donna Hanson, former executive director of Catholic Charities in Spokane, who dictated messages of love and gratitude before her death. In a Sept. 24, 2005, Spokesman Review article, staff writer Virginia De Leon wrote, “As the Diocese of Spokane’s secretary for social ministries and the CEO of the largest faith-based social service organization between Seattle and Minneapolis, Donna was recognized as a courageous leader, a champion for social justice and a Mother Teresa-like figure who became just as anxious over a malnourished child in Africa as she did when her own granddaughter had the flu.”

Clients at DHH meet the chronic homelessness standards set out by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Acceptance is based on length of homelessness and acuity scores through Spokane’s singles coordinated housing assessment. Those most in need are accepted. The average length of homelessness for referrals has been 10.5 years. The 50 units at Donna Hanson Haven are filled.

Research shows that permanent supportive housing is the best way to help people move from the streets, overcome barriers, and progress into a successful life, said Amanda.

DHH partners with Excelsior Youth Center in Spokane. Onsite services for mental health and chemical dependency are planned. Bible study is offered, and a priest is available for support.

“At our facility, peer specialists are the bridge between homelessness and stability,” Amanda said. “With their help, personal success for the residents is possible by connecting clients to case managers and to the services that are available in the programs,” Amanda said.

They also help clients with basic life skills, such as doing dishes, storing food in refrigerators, being a good neighbor and recovering from “housing guilt.”

“Residents may feel guilty leaving friends who are still living on the streets,” she said. “In the beginning, living here can be isolating. Peer specialists help each individual build community while checking to make sure they aren’t withdrawing.”

Amanda has a bachelor’s degree in social work and plans to complete her master’s degree this summer. She has worked with the homeless population for five years.

Beginning with outreach in Walla Walla, she went into case management with Volunteers of America’s Health, Housing and Homeless program serving the medically vulnerable homeless population. Then she became case coordinator for the House of Charity in Spokane.

Growing up in a family who lived in poverty and suffered with mental illness, she knows what it’s like to be ostracized by those who consider poverty to be a personal failing. Amanda said her French, Irish and Spanish heritages did not have a strong influence, but her family poverty culture did influence her.

“My family was poor growing up but we had a strong sense of community with those around us, and everyone did their best to support everyone else in times of need. They all helped to instill the value of giving back and taking care of those who are the most vulnerable in the community,” she said.

“Poverty and homelessness are complicated issues,” she said. “On the streets, dodging threats of weather, rape, abuse, violence, addiction, incarceration and hunger were everyday modes of life for residents who now live at DHH.

“However,” Amanda said, “life doesn’t have to end that way. With the steadfast help from those who care, Bishop Skylstad’s prayer is becoming a reality.”

Multiple issues can have a snowball effect on an individual, making existence debilitating. Residents at Donna Hanson Haven realize no one knows this better than a peer specialist, who becomes the stepping stone into a better life for the client.

Service providers help individuals with mental health issues, help residents pay rent on time and understand their rights and responsibilities, and help people with chronic illnesses manage their care to keep them out of hospitals or nursing homes.

The multiple tasks service providers perform add up to individuals reconnecting with society in a healthy way, Amanda said.

Amanda noted the difference between the support individuals might not receive, and the support of a peer specialist.

“Service providers help reconnect clients to families. Some will obtain jobs while others may move into their own place,”

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, supportive housing achieves better housing stability than case management without rental assistance. This type of housing can reduce the use of other costly systems, especially emergency health care and corrections, Amanda said.

People with disabilities who live in supportive housing after release from jail or prison were 61 percent less likely to be reincarcerated one year later than those not offered supportive housing, she added.

One reason the program is effective is that the peer specialists have understanding from personal experiences.

Like so many in the world who have their own stories to tell, a peer specialist’s “quiet, yet extraordinary, life, infused with love and gratitude, exemplifies grace freely given.” Amanda added.

For information, call 960-8092 or 390-9217, or email afowler@ccspokane.org.