



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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April-May 2016

Ritzville session offers environmental insights

Mark Boyd discusses environmental concerns in North Idaho area

At a recent listening session, Zion Philadelphia UCC in Ritzville was offered an opportunity for PNC leaders to learn about environmental concerns from the perspective of Eastern Washington communities.

Mark Boyd, managing director at N-Sid-Sen; Christina Carter of Big Bend Electric Cooperative in Ritzville; Ron Jirava, a Ritzville wheat farmer, and John Hubbe, an engineer involved in cleanup at Hanford were other speakers. Mark and Christina's stories are in this issue. Ron and John's will be in upcoming issues.

Mark told how forests and mines affect the region as well as ministries at the PNC's camp and conference center on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

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The camp dog, Sage, stands on top of two trees cut down because of root mold and beetles.

Photo courtesy of Mark Boyd

New Minister for Church Vitality to be announced

The highlight of the 2016 PNC-UCC Annual Meeting Friday, April 29, to Sunday, May 1, at the Wenatchee Convention Center will be the introduction of the PNC's new Minister for Church Vitality Courtney Stange-Tregear.

Courtney, a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School who is serving Zion UCC in Perry Hall, Maryland, will preach at the Friday evening worship service. She has served churches in the Boston and Bay areas, and has been president of the Chesapeake Association and on the Church Vitality Commission of the Central Atlantic Conference. She will move to the PNC with her family in the summer.

Planners invite churches to contrib-



ute up to 10 photos of ways in which they are going out on a limb with their congregations as part of a Saturday evening presentation on the theme, "Out on a Limb."

The featured presenter, is Rob Leveridge, a UCC musician and pastor from Davenport, Iowa. In addition to preaching and speaking, Rob writes worship music shaped by themes of peacemaking and the common good. He will help lead music, worship, a workshop and a concert on Saturday evening.

Photos for Saturday evening may

**Annual Meeting 2016
April 29 to May 1
at the Wenatchee
Convention Center**

be sent to Gen Heywood at genheywood@att.net. There will also be a gallery of local church art on Friday. Those with something to show and items for an auction may email Scott Ward at scott@magnoliaucc.org

Scott, coordinator of the planning committee, also invited churches to bring their banners and banner stands, which will be placed along the walls in the meeting hall.

"Another great way to share your out-on-a-limb ideas is to sign up for a 'Speak Out on a Limb' to tell in two minutes or less, how your congregation has followed the Spirit to do things perhaps outside your comfort zone or in a way that is yet unpopular," he said.

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Idea of membership changes, affects churches

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

Church membership, in and of itself, is a problematic idea in mainline and progressive churches.

The idea of being a “member” of an organization or group has significantly changed. It used to be rare and had a narrower definition that meant something you were asked to be a part of or something you were born into. It carried a high expectation of involvement, identity and giving. Membership was something to be protected and had a sense of exclusivity or commitment.

Slowly, with dawn of the industrial and consumer age, use of the term began to increase as membership became packaged and sold, bundled with an “exclusive” place, product or community. It increasingly became a way to determine the haves and have nots, as well as an expanded tool to institutionalize prejudice and identity politics. It became an individual choice to be a member more than an institution’s responsibility to choose or invite members as in recent years membership organizations lost influence and control. It should be no surprise that use of the word crested in about 1960 and, since then, has been in decline as institutional trust has declined.

Church membership, in and of itself, is a problematic idea. I think it might be particularly problematic in the mainline and progressive church. The idea of church leadership or members deciding whether someone would be accepted as a member used to be a normal part of church life (and is still an often ignored part of many constitutions and bylaws, unless there’s a conflict). As church membership declined, as ecumenism increased and as church membership decisions became exposed as a way to ensure class or ethnic exclusivity increased, the practice faded. The number of churches that offer membership classes or orientation has also declined significantly. The membership model we have in most churches is exclusively based on an individual’s decision to name themselves as a member with only the gentlest suggestion it should mean something more with the exceptions of stewardship campaigns and times of conflict. For the most part, we’ve adopted the consumerist version of membership that makes membership exchange for services as opposed to a commitment to support the values, faith, governance and mission of our churches.

Last month, I spoke of the phrase used in UCC churches, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” I noted how useless it was without an intentional effort to define “here.” Part of this conversation has to include better defining church membership (or whatever we choose to call it).

I am a strong believer in local church autonomy that’s part of covenantal congregationalism, but things start to fall apart when we equate covenantal congregationalism with individualism. It

might look similar, but it’s not the same. Oversimplified, our covenant is our promise that, as a denomination, we will work together to love and serve God and God’s people. Our congregational nature recognizes that living out covenant happens primarily and best in a local church setting.

If people join a church, it makes sense they should want to help support the mission because they can best fulfill this mission with other Christians who participate in this covenant.

Our historical precedence around churches deciding who members might be is problematic. Having no expectations of members is more problematic for congregations.

If a church is not clear what membership is about, they can expect conflict, a consumer mindset around membership and a diminishment of their community. They can expect that any individual or small group can easily sidetrack a congregation’s missional goals and good intent as those individuals discover there are no repercussions for destructive or selfish behavior. They can expect individuals will share nothing if not asked for something. Some individuals might to treat membership as more of a birthright than commitment. Others will sometimes treat the church’s assets as theirs instead of Gods. The church’s mission becomes serving the members and not the community and world. Like marriage, baptism or any covenant, our commitment has to be renewed and not accountable to ourselves, alone.

It’s worth taking a closer look at the idea of membership, or whatever we call it, being renewed on a regular basis. What if, as part of every Easter service or before every annual meeting, there had to be both a commitment made and a vote taken by a trusted body of the church? What if there was a ritual in which church members were reminded of their commitments to their church? What if there had to be a clear reason (health or a transition) why they couldn’t make those commitments and the church was given the opportunity to care for that person? What if individuals were given the opportunity to say, “This community has changed so much it’s time for me to step away?” or “I need to find a new faith community closer to me” or “I have changed and it’s time to go in another direction?”

The church’s numbers have been declining since 1964. This is less important than the diminishment of our mission, vitality and clarity on what it means to be a church. Some of the shift is because of focusing only on leaders for solving church problems, making them a false idol.

I’ll talk more about this idea in my next article.

Transitions announced

A Northwest memorial for **Barbara Rogers**, wife of the Rev. John Rogers, will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 24, at University Congregational UCC in Seattle. They moved to Pilgrim Place in Claremont in 2007. She died Feb. 8. She and her husband John lived in Hartford, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles and East Lansing, Mich., and then in Austria, France, Germany, Hawaii, Indonesia and Japan. In early retirement they lived in Port Townsend.

A funeral was held April 2 for **Stephen Hanning**, former pastor at Richmond Beach Congregational UCC in Shoreline from 1983 to 1993, interim at Everett UCC from 2007 to 2012 and interim in Hawaii before retiring to Edmonds. He died March 17.

Jamie Kepros was installed on Saturday, April 9 as pastor of Lummi Island Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

John Dorhauer to be installed

Plymouth UCC in Seattle is hosting one of three installation services for the Rev. John Dorhauer as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 17.

PNC-UCC youth ministers meet

PNC-UCC Youth Ministers and Advocates Gathering will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, June 11, Bellevue First Congregational Church, 11061 NE 2nd St. to support one another and share resources.

For information, call 435-454-5001 or email pncuccyouth@gmail.com

Church discusses guns

Normandy Park Congregational UCC recently held a screening of Brave New Films' feature film, "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA," said Susan Andresen, minister of youth.

She said Brave New Films is a non-profit that produces documentaries on social justice issues. The film tells how guns—and the billions of dollars made off of them—affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features stories of people affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. It exposes how gun companies and the NRA resist responsible legislation for the sake of profit.

For information, call 206-824-1770 or email at susan@npucc.org.

Boundary training set

Clergy with standing or licensed in the PNC are required to take a boundary training workshop once every three years.

Clergy Boundary Training will be sponsored by the PNC-UCC Committee on Ministry and led by Tara Barber from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, and 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, April 29, at Sunnyslope Church, 2339 School St., in Wenatchee. Attendance at both sessions is required.

Registration by April 13 is online at n-sid-sen.org.

For information, contact the Eastside chair, Marj Johnston at pastormarj@gmail.com or 509-730-9969; or the Westside co-chairs,

Ryan Lambert at ryan@kccucc.org or 425-822-3811, or Judi Edwards at Edwards.jc@comcast.net or 360-303-0309.

Scholarships and childcare reimbursements are available. **For information, call Mike Denton at 206-725-8383 ext. 2 or email revdenton@gmail.com.**

FAN offers resources

The Faith Action Network (FAN) will lead the state faith community's effort to educate people on Initiative 1433. It calls for raising the state's hourly minimum wage in graduated steps to \$13.50 per hour in 2020 in places without higher minimums. It also requires employers to provide workers with seven days of paid sick, family, or safe leave annually.

"This increase still falls short of a livable wage, but it is a dramatic increase from the current state minimum of \$9.47 per hour," said Steve Claggett of the PNC Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

The initiative needs 330,000 signatures by June 30, said Steve who is coordinating FAN's Economic Justice Working Group.

For information, email claggett@comcast.net or call Erin Parks at FAN, 206-625-9790 or email fan@fanwa.org.

Justice Leadership Jubilee starts

Justice Leadership Jubilee is an expansion of the PNC's Justice Leadership Program, in which young adults live in community for a year, develop their faith life and do justice work in the Seattle area.

The jubilee program—from September 2017 to July 2018—will be for adults who want to integrate faith and justice work into their lives in a meaningful way, said Jenn Hagedorn, social justice liaison with Plymouth UCC in Seattle.

"Jubilee signifies the responsibility of each generation to contribute to future generations' struggle for social, economic, racial and environmental justice," she said.

Justice Leadership Jubilee is an intentional 10-month commitment of 10 to 15 hours a week for adults who want to develop their faith and learn change skills with a community of peers. It will include skill building, community work, church engagement and collective reflection.

For information, call 206-265-2834 or email justiceleadershipjubilee@gmail.com.

UCC urges environmental action

The national office is challenging UCC churches to start or expand environmental ministries, proposing five steps.

- Those new to environmental ministry can start with a church energy audit, a forum, a book group or planting a tree.

- A church, association or conference can form a Green Team to discern how they are called care for the gifts of creation and people who suffer from abuse of the gifts.

- On Sunday, April 24, UCC pastors are asked to focus on creation care in the worship service and sermon.

- To ensure that creation care is part of the congregation's spiritual DNA, they can participate in the UCC's new Creation Justice Church program.

- Congregations can also discern if they are called to civil disobedience. In May, UCC environmental leaders will join a global campaign of civil disobedience aimed at keeping fossil fuels in the ground.

Brooks Berndt, minister for environmental justice, is keeping people informed on environmental issues and actions in The Pollinator, an environmental justice newsletter.

For information, call 216-736-3722 or visit <http://www.ucc.org/pollinator>.

Plymouth hosts art exhibition

In April, Plymouth Church UCC hosts traveling art exhibition, Street Heart, a project of Facing Homelessness, a Seattle non-profit that focuses on raising awareness of those living without shelter through photos and their personal stories.

The colorful exhibition with 15 mixed media portraits painted by 15 regional artists is based on original black and white photographs snapped by Rex Hohlbein, the organization's founder.

For information, call 206-622-4865.

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Mark Boyd discusses tree removal, mine waste

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"Forests affect us locally and regionally as we have in recent years experienced wildfires that have meant people lost homes and have filled the air with smoke," he said, expressing gratitude for the snow pack this year.

Because it has been so dry, a big, 100-year-old Ponderosa pine fell last summer.

"No one was around, but I began looking and saw more diseased trees," he said.

The trees have been diseased because of bark beetles and root mold in fir trees.

On the 80 acres on the lake side of Hwy. 97, he has had 20 percent of the trees taken out because they were dangerous near buildings. Across the lake, Sweyolaken had to take out 80 percent of its trees because of root mold, Mark said.

"Now I can tell if a tree is dying by looking at the crown to see if its thinning and the pitch bleeding out," he said. "What do we do to maintain our forest now the trees are out?"

One project is to remove the scrub brush to protect the camp from fires. Then they will plant larch, which is hard to kill, and cedar in wet areas.

"We cannot put fir back, because root mold likes young trees," he said, "and pine is susceptible to bark beetles."

Across Hwy. 97 to the east, N-Sid-Sen has 200 acres. It is working with a forester, the Idaho Small Free Farmers Association, the Spokane County Conservation District and Washington State University. They recommend doing some logging to manage the land, leaving a certain number of trees per acre. To cut diseased trees, they needed a variance from the Idaho Lands Council

Because of the Great Fire, or Big Burn, of 1910 in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon and Wyoming, forest management practices were developed,

recognizing the need to harvest.

Once controlled burns were used in forests, because pine cones do not release seeds without heat, he said, adding that agriculture also used fire for disease control and releasing seeds. With winters are shorter, beetles survive freezing does not kill root mold.

"Now we realize we need a balance between no fires and letting fires burn," he said.

Mark expects the reduction of trees on the grounds may shock some campers.

Tree removal across the highway provides some income. Some of the trees logged were taken to mills. Some are being cut for firewood. They need to be split, so beetles don't spread. Some are being chipped for trails.

Mark worked with Plants of the Wild in Tekoa for seeds and seedlings for native grasses he will plant in several areas.

"We cut down trees with root mold, but did not need to pull the roots out, because killing the top of the tree kills the mold," he said.

Mark also discussed water quality issues, which arose during the February Environmental Justice Training Retreat. Wallace, Kellogg and other area communities grew because of mining silver. Miners left piles of tailings, other minerals they did not want. As a result, there are heavy metals in the bottom of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

"It's being crystal clear is an illusion," he said, "because there are contaminants. It is safe to swim in areas, such as N-Sid-Sen, but not in areas near the Coeur d'Alene River or Harrison. The lake is still affected by toxins."

The Coeur d'Alene River is a Superfund Cleanup Site. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Kootenai Alliance are working with the Environmental Protection Agency, with the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho



Open view from a cabin to the lake and a stump by the bell.

Photos courtesy of Mark Boyd

Department of Water and the Kootenai County Water and Health Departments.

The tribe is pushing for the cleanup, so when swans land as they migrate north, they can drink the water and be safe.

For two years, campers on float trips on the Coeur d'Alene River have taken garbage bags and picking up things like cans and trash from the river bed. Now they find fewer things.

Three of the big mines are still open. Mark said they were not challenged in the past about how they operated and what happened to the tailing piles. Increased interest in cadmium and other precious metals for cell phones drives today's mining.

"The Silver Valley was named for the silver and other precious metals mined and still there," he said. "Regulations had been lax. There is also concern of people about having a livelihood. Environmental justice is concerned about what the toxins do and about how people can earn a living.

There has been lead in water, in yards and in people, and people can be tested to treat and remove the lead, but many don't want their children tested because they don't want to acknowledge that their work may be causing lead poisoning in their children," he said.

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org

Energy co-op engineer explains power grid, sources

Christina Carter, an electrical engineer with Big Bend Electric Cooperative, which serves Adams and Franklin counties, offered rural perspectives on the power grid in the region, state and nation.

She spoke during a listening session held March 18 and 19 at Zion Philadelphia UCC in Ritzville.

Big Bend Electric has 2,500 miles of lines and serves 9,000 meters.

Many of its members are farmers and their biggest use of its energy is for irrigation.

Big Bend primarily buys hydropower from Bonneville.

Christina, a member at Zion Philadelphia and licensed engineer, said that investor-owned power companies are operated for profit of shareholders.

After she earned a degree in electrical engineering at Gonzaga University in 1997, she worked in the Tri-Cities before coming to Ritzville 10 years ago.

Puget Sound Energy and Avista serve about half of the people in the state. The rest are served by municipal public utility districts and power co-ops owned by people, she said.

“For example, Big Bend serves irrigators and small towns. Avista serves Ritzville,” she said.

Early in the 1900s, investor-owned utilities electrified the towns. In the 1930s, municipal power companies formed Public Utility Districts (PUDs) to provide electricity to smaller communities.

In 1939, the Big Bend Electric Cooperative formed to provide power in the countryside.

There are 20 co-ops and 28 public utility districts in Washington, and just half a dozen investor-owned power companies, Christina explained.

“The public power companies and co-ops use about 82 percent hydro power, which is carbon-free power.



Christina Carter explains power grid, conservation issues.

She said that investor owned companies have a third of their power from coal, a third from hydro and a third from a mix of gas and other sources such as wind turbines, solar, landfill gasses.

With most large dams built in the 1930s, power companies help absorb the expense of mitigation for fish, she said.

Bonneville Power Administration spends \$500 million for fish mitigation, because lower dams like Bonneville have fish ladders and spillways.

Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams, Christina said, have a greater drop and were not built with fish ladders or spillways.

Now Native American Tribes advocate having salmon reintroduced above those dams.

When the Columbia River Treaty is renegotiated with Canada, she said, there will be reconsideration about how much water is held above the border and and tribes want reintroduce salmon above Grand Coulee included. While toxic discharges into the Columbia in Canada from Tech Cominco have been reduced, cleanup of toxins is needed.

Power generation and spill issues affect fish. Too much

spill adds oxygen in the water, which kills the fish.

Christina also explained some of the innuendos of producing, selling and trading power, and how it is complicated by antiquated transmission towers and electromagnetic relays from the 1950s

She pointed out the need to consider the mix of power sources, because power needs to be used or transmitted to California for use when it is produced. It can't be stored, although there are efforts to build batteries to store it.

Production of solar and wind energy need to be coupled with other energy sources, she said, ideally hydro, because it's hard to predict when and how much power solar and wind can produce, Christina said.

Solar, for example, is not as effective in Seattle as in Eastern Washington or New Mexico. Solar panels and wind turbines should to be near dams so hydro power can supplement to assure continued energy.

If there is drought, hydro power has less capacity, she said, noting that in a drought-prone area with an average rainfall of three inches, drier years are less dramatic than in areas that have 14 to 20 inches

of rainfall a year.

Big Bend forecasts members' needs in order to purchase adequate power from power suppliers.

“Irrigation pumps need constant pressure, so farmers use variable frequency drives,” she said.

“Once they are up to pressure, they use less electricity, so pumps are turned on in March and turned off in October. They run night and day. Irrigation pivots go in a one-mile circle and keep moving to keep the right amount of moisture on crops,” she said. In the desert area, crops die if they don't have enough water, and we could be liable.”

It's a balancing act.

Big Bend does not want to buy more power from Bonneville than farmers can use, but they have to buy enough to keep the irrigation going.

Christina said that another factor is to transmit excess power to California, after 5 p.m. when there is a surge in use. During the day, less power is needed in California, which can transmit it to Washington to keep irrigation going.

“When energy is transmitted, alternating current (AC) is converted to direct current (DC) which has less resistance and is not lost as heat as it passes through the wires,” she explained.

Once every town had its own flour mill, sawmill and bakery, and was self sufficient. Today, the power grid connects everyone.

While conservation means declining sales, the Northwest Power Council recommends conservation and energy efficiency, so Big Bend Energy Co-op promotes conservation for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural members.

For information, call 509-347-6408 or email ccarter.ritz@gmail.com.

Bellevue First moves into new building, rebirth

On Good Friday, First Congregational Church in Bellevue (FCCB), which at 120 years is the city's oldest church, held its last service in their 60-year-old church building. On Easter Sunday, March 27, they celebrated their spiritual rebirth with services in its new building at 11061 NE Second St., still in downtown Bellevue.

"The church is the people, not the building," said Kevin Brown, lead pastor for six years, "but now with a new building, we can become a new people as we discern how we will live out our core ministries in exciting ways."

When he interviewed to be pastor there, he suggested addressing the 1950s-era building with pinned down pews and classrooms off long corridors.

The new space is flexible with light coming in windows in a large atrium, expressing FCCB's belief in transparency, openness and acceptance.

The building will accommodate its core commitments to worship, the congregation, outreach, youth, music, education and downtown, as it considers ways to expand those ministries in the new location.

In 2014, after careful consideration, the church sold the property it owned at 752 108th Ave. NE for \$30 million. That amount allowed the congregation of about 500 to buy an office building and convert it into a creative worship place that is "an environmentally friendly space of awe," Kevin said.

"We wanted to create a space where we can grow together in community and be a place of discovery," he said. "We want to know our neighbors and learn the role that our church can play in this community. We look forward to measuring our success by the energy we create."

Architect Susan Jones designed a 50-foot-high sanctuary and bell tower.



New sanctuary and chancel have open, light ambience.

Photos courtesy of Bellevue First Congregational UCC

"No one had ever said 'we want you to create a space that inspires awe,'" said Susan, who was inspired by their willingness to take risks.

The Bellevue church has served as an incubator for ideas and social action, said Lisa Clark, minister of spiritual formation.

Since its formation in 1896, the church has made its building available for others to use for worship, community meetings and social action projects.

The church was an early member of Congregations for the Homeless on the Eastside and The Sophia Way, a nonprofit helping end homelessness for women in King County.

The new church includes two office spaces for nonprofits. The Sophia Way and Catholic Community Services will use the space at below-market rent.

The congregation planned the building design for the

church to serve in today's downtown Bellevue, where the median age of residents is 34, and 45 percent speak a language other than English at home, said Kevin.

The church has feeding programs, services for low-income people and space for community gatherings. Members are also involved in global outreach, CROP Walk and social justice.

"We look forward to the discovery process of what will incubate there," said Kevin. "We are listening for God's will for us and are willing to change."

The church celebrated its rebirth beginning with a Palm Sunday procession half a mile through downtown from the old location to the new one. Good Friday was the last worship service at the old location, and Easter Sunday services expressed the church's rebirth.

"The church on the corner" has ministered to the needs of a

growing and changing community," Kevin said.

Neighborly openness once meant multiple denominations shared the same rural church building. The community focus that once meant farmers relied on one another in hard times is now represented by outreach that actively strives to address social issues locally and around the world, said Kevin.

"Our theology is that God's world is an amazing place, full of mystery and miracles. No one has all the answers, so discussion is good," he said. "Together we explore, appreciate and find meaning in our own and each others' lives through a faith journey with the Bible as our source book."

The congregation, like others in the UCC, sees that the Bible was written in a cultural setting different from today, but its lessons, combined with increasing knowledge of the world, give a time-tested perspective on life, he said.

The church is known as the "rainbow church," because for years it had a God is Still Speaking UCC rainbow banner outside. It has been open and affirming since 1994. The banner was defaced and replaced three times since Kevin came.

Recently, they had added a "Black Lives Matter" banner.

In February after it was up four months, that sign was vandalized with the word "blue" spray painted over "black," referring to the movement to support police officers, countering Black Lives Matter. The church left the banner that way to encourage discussion.

The mostly white congregation put up the banner to challenge institutionalized racism, in which churches are complicit, said Kevin, who has served nine churches in his 40 years of ministry—in Florida, Arizona, Illinois and Kansas.

For information, call 425-454-5001 or visit fccbellevue.org.

Fire at Ballard church causes smoke damage and more

Tim Devine, pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Ballard, received a call from the fire department at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, to say that the building had caught fire.

Neighbors called 911 when they saw smoke coming out of the church. No one was hurt, said Tim, but there was significant smoke damage that will take time to repair.

The fire started in the front furnace room by accident, he said, "and an investigation as to the exact cause is still underway."

The fire was contained to a basement area, but traveled through the air and heating ducts to create hot spots throughout the building. There was damage in the downstairs lobby, nursery, library and sanctuary near the entrance.

"In those areas parts of ceilings, walls, and floors were removed by the fire department to take care of them. There is also some water damage and extensive smoke damage," he said.

With no access to the building, Tim invited the congregation to gather at 11 a.m., Sunday, April 3, in the church parking lot for prayers. They processed walking 10 minutes or carpooling to Ballard



Members of St. Paul UCC put on face masks for protection from asbestos released by the fire.

Photos courtesy of Tim Devine

First Lutheran Church, where they will worship in Haavic Hall for several weeks.

The estimate is that the building will be closed for three months. An asbestos abatement process is underway.

"The church is far more

than a building," said Tim, expressing his gratitude to friends and colleagues in the Pacific Northwest Conference for their "outpouring of prayers, concern and offers to help.

"We're a small but mighty congregation," he said, "and

we will continue to be faithful and to serve in the weeks and months ahead," he said.

For information on church matters, email tim@stpucc.org. For information on 12-step meetings, contact Seattle intergroup at www.seattleaa.org.

Annual Workshops offer varied lengths, topics

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To participate in that, email Arlene Hobson at pncucc@gmail.com or check in at the Registration Desk on site.

Based on feedback from last year, the planning committee decided to continue the "TED Talk" style mini-workshops again this year. Along with the shorter workshops, there will be three 90-minute workshops on Friday. The Saturday workshop sessions will be 55-minutes long.

Friday workshops will be

on a new Economic Justice Ministry Network, other Justice Ministry Networks, Radical Hospitality for Hospitality Workers, Guerilla Gospel, Funding Out-on-a-Limb Ideas, Engaging Science through a Progressive Christian Lens, Out on a Limb with Church Financial Statements, Church Needs for Social Media, Justice Leadership Jubilee, Engaging People of Faith during the Election Season, Farm Worker Ministry Northwest, Gender Inclusion, Small Group Ministry

and Photography Skills.

Saturday workshops will be on the Justice Leadership Program, Beyond Direct Service, Radical Approaches to Doing Justice, Small Group Ministry, Contemporary Worship, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation Education and Organizing, Paradigm Shifts for the 21st Century, Climate Change and Fossil Fuel Divestment, White Congregations and Black Power, and Conversing with Rob Leveridge.

Business will include the

budget, a bylaw change and welcoming a new congregation from Alaska.

Voting cards for delegates the churches choose will be in a church packet at the registration desk.

From 5 to 6:30 a.m., Saturday, there will be a sunrise photo meditation. Saturday evening is a concert.

Registration is by mail or at www.n-sid-sen.org. For information, call Arlene at 206-725-8383 or 800-954-8777, or email at pncucc@gmail.com.

Olympia churches mark 100 years of federation

Throughout 2016, the United Churches of Olympia will celebrate 100 years of two mainline denominations, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ forming a federated church.

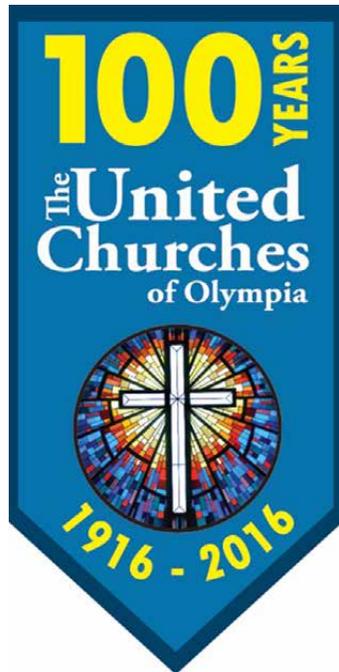
In 1916, the Congregational (now UCC) and Presbyterian churches federated.

The founding churches are older. First Congregational, which first met in a schoolhouse in 1873, is 143 years old. Three founders were Mrs. Hannah Steele, Mrs. O.B. Manning and Deacon Alfred Walker from the Center Church in New Haven, Conn. First Presbyterian Church, organized in 1854 by George Whitworth in a cooper shop, is 162 years old.

The congregations have had several buildings in downtown Olympia in their histories.

The two congregations exist as one. New members may join one denomination or the United Churches of Olympia. Members are involved in the PNC and Olympia Presbytery.

“The idea that people decided to federate with creeds



Banner for United Churches of Olympia centennial.
Photo courtesy of **Kmbris Bond**

and in a good spirit was not common,” said Eunice Robb a member of the planning committee and member of the church since 1975. She’s Presbyterian and her husband,

Steve, UCC. They met at the ecumenical campus ministry at Oregon State University.

“The churches joined for practical, financial and theological reasons. It did not make sense to maintain two buildings,” she said. “We are together except for business of deciding delegates to PNC and presbytery meetings.”

The congregation will celebrate its centennial throughout the year one Sunday per month to focus on the history of the church during worship services.

On Jan. 10, the first event included the unveiling of the centennial logo, viewing the church’s first lectern usually housed at the Secretary of State’s office, and viewing historical clothing displays.

Future celebrations are Sundays April 17, May 1, June 26, July 17, August 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4.

In April, former staff and pastors will be honored, including David Kratz, Andy and Jim CastroLang, Mark Dowdy, Paul McCann and Norris Peterson.

Monthly activities include

hearing moments from the church’s history, selling the church history book, singing old hymns and having receptions.

On Oct. 23, Douglas Cleveland, renowned organist and a former member of the church will give an organ concert.

In December, 15 people from the church’s 30-year sister church in Costa Rica will join the final celebration. Members from Olympia had gone to its the Costa Rican church’s 60th.

The church serves through the SideWalk rapid rehousing program, Thurston County Food Bank, Community Kitchen monthly meals at the Salvation Army, InterfaithWorks, the Winter Warming Center shelter, the Mission Peace and Justice Resource Binder of volunteer opportunities, and Recovery Group Meetings.

Transitional leaders of the church are Tammy Stampfli, interim pastor, and Jill Komura as interim associate pastor.

For information, call 360-943-1210 or email [tammy.stampfli@gmail.com](mailto:tampfli@gmail.com), or visit theunitedchurches.org.

Richmond Beach UCC celebrates 125th

Richmond Beach Congregational Church (RBCC) formed following services on Sunday, March 1, 1891 when seven people presented themselves for membership.

Current members of RBCC carry on a 125-year tradition of being open and accepting of all who wish to participate, of commitment to serving the broader community in a variety of ways, of dedication to providing a nurturing place for children and youth to discover their faith and of a deep feeling of fellowship with all who enter, said Carol Colt, Community Life Board chair.

Members and friends of the church in Shoreline celebrated

the anniversary on Sunday, March 6, with a worship service and celebration brunch.

Between worship and brunch there was a presentation written by a member for the church’s 100th anniversary. It told the story of the connections between the church and the founding community. Others spoke during the brunch.

“We opened the cornerstone, set October 30, 1960 on completion of the current church building, and displayed contents along with other records from the Shoreline Historical Society,” Carol said.

For information, call 206-542-7477, email coltca@msn.com or visit rbccucc.org.

RBCC hosts faith-science dialogue

The Rev. Ron Cole Turner and Michael Zimmerman will lead a dialogue “How does evolution connect to God and God to evolution?” from 11:20 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, April 24, at Richmond Beach UCC, 1512 NW 195th St., in Shoreline.

Ron teaches theology and ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and promotes dialogue between science and faith with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Templeton Foundation. He is writing on the science of human origins from the standpoint of theology.

Michael, an evolutionary biologist and provost of Evergreen State College, empowers

faith leaders—Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian—to speak to the relationship between faith and science through the Clergy Letter Project.

In 2004, he helped clergy in Wisconsin prepare a statement to support teaching evolution in response to anti-evolution policies passed by the school board in Grantsburg. In a few weeks, nearly 200 clergy signed it. The school board retracted their policies.

Support from clergy around the country encouraged Michael to make this an international project with annual evolution weekend celebrations.

For information, call 206-542-7477.

Suquamish celebrates centennial on April 24

Suquamish Community Congregational UCC is celebrating their centennial on Sunday, April 24, during its 10 a.m. worship, a reception, a grounds dedication and a Native American drumming and blessing.

Conference Minister Mike Denton and former ministers will be among the participants in the service.

Currently, the church's interim pastor is Bill Comfort. He and wife, Sheri came from the Custer Community UCC of South Dakota Conference, where he served for seven years, after serving several Pacific NW Conference churches.

The Search Committee has begun their process to survey members and to build a profile to move forward in their search for a new minister.

Church life revolves around sharing space with the Unity Church, providing space for local groups to meet including AA, Yoga and Reiki, Five Rhythms and Movement Meditation, Voice In Silence meditation, Dances of Universal Peace, Sound Spirit, a book club and a youth music group.

Suquamish UCC prepares free weekly community dinners, supports the "Fishline" food bank with volunteers, food and money.

Through its "Change For Change" program, children collect "change" from members one Sunday a month and donate it to community outreach, such as Heifer Project, local people needing financial assistance, a local pre-school and a centennial landscape project.

"We are known for our bazaars and rummage sales that provide good food and fun," said Sally Nelson of the Centennial Committee.

"We are a dedicated, spirited, open and affirming spiritual group of people from many walks, sharing our journey and living in the hope and blessing of God's love for all God's



The first building used for the church, top. Renovated church building and grounds at Suquamish UCC, middle and bottom.

Photos courtesy of Sally Nelson

people," she said. "Following the example of Jesus, we strive to heal the broken, to feed the hungry and to provide service through outreach and involvement, seeking wholeness, justice and righteousness for all people.

"As stewards, we are called to be a caring people, living in harmony with the environment, respecting and honoring the gifts of God's creation," she said.

As part of the centennial, the church has installed new doors for the entrance to the sanctuary with a matching door for Stuart Hall.

"People are working to clean up clutter, add some areas of fresh paint, and spruce up the church to welcome guests," Sally said.

To commemorate the centennial, Robert Clifton de-

signed some mugs people can purchase.

A time line showing milestones in the church's history will be posted including some interesting facts:

- The cost to construct the original church building was \$881.61.

- The roof was replaced in 1935. Cost of the shingles was \$62.35, and the cost of labor was \$23.00.

- The church bell was donated in 1939 by Roscoe Todd and John Steel. It was obtained from an abandoned church in Doty, WA.

- With the opening of the Agate Pass Bridge in 1952, the community was linked by road with Eagle Harbor Congregational Church on Bainbridge Island and could share a part-time pastor.

- In 1957, the church voted

to join the United Church of Christ.

- Construction of the Rainbow Room began in 1979.

- Stained glass windows, created and contributed by Virgil and Merle Williver, were dedicated in 1985.

Renovation of the church's back yard has also been part of the centennial celebration. Dan Blossom, a long-time friend of the church and a landscape architect, contributed the design for this renovation.

The plans were on display after Sunday morning worship services for several weeks, so members could ask questions and offer input.

The intent has been to make the backyard more family-friendly, to include opportunities for children to play while also including opportunities for spiritual practice by children, as well as adults.

A chain-link fence, originally installed when the church hosted a day care, was replaced by flowering shrubs and other plants. Existing plants that are healthy were retained.

The aging play structure was replaced by lawn and some big rocks to play on.

A labyrinth, about 30 feet in diameter, would be installed. It is smooth concrete, so it's accessible by people with walkers. The labyrinth design was created by dying the concrete. It also provides a hard flat surface where children can play with balls.

Several peace poles are installed beside the labyrinth.

There is a concrete bench beside the labyrinth, where people can sit and meditate or watch the children play.

The estimated cost is about \$8,000 for the landscape work, plus \$2,000 for the labyrinth.

The renovation was funded by donations and grants.

For information, call 360) 598-4434 360-779-2822 or email sallyn63@yahoo.com. or

Retired minister finds new life in writing children's books

Children's books brought unexpected joy into Kizzie Jones' life. When she needed consistent self-care, they have given her a meaningful outlet and made a smooth transition from ministry to retirement.

She served 18 years as director of spiritual care at Horizon House Retirement Home, retiring in January 2015 after a medical diagnosis meant she needed to retire early.

As author of two Tall Tales books, she found an outlet for whimsy and make believe, creating stories that model and honor kindness, compassion, collaboration and diversity.

"I hope each time the books are read seeds are planted to further the cause for a gentleness of spirit for all humanity and nature," said Kizzie, who lives in Edmonds. "Picture it: a world of friends delighting in the whimsy of life bringing out the best in one another. I can think of no greater legacy."

As reported in the June 2013 Conference News, while she and a girlfriend were spending a week vacation on the Oregon Coast, they stopped in an eatery with "Tall Tale" place-mats. They agreed they each would write a tall tale

"Within a couple of days, my friend, a fiction writer, had her tale polished and ready to be shared. The day before we were to leave, she asked how



In retirement, Kizzie Jones has become author of children's books.

Photos courtesy of Kizzie Jones

my tall tale was coming along," Kizzie said. "I hadn't written a word. I'd been a non-fiction writer for years, but had no clue how to make up a story."

Having agreed to the task, she recalled the magic of the days there.

"For three days a pod of whales had been close by our lodge window. I could look out from my writing table and watch them spout and glide under the water with their massive backs," Kizzie said. "During two of the lowest tides of the year, I had the time to observe

normally hidden sea creatures. Interpretive signs at the ocean's edge indicated sights on land, sea and air at different tides.

"The crowning glory was that each day I saw dachshunds with friendly owners who allowed me to get my doxie fix!" she said.

With her friend's urging and collaboration with illustrator Scott Ward, "How Dachshunds Came to Be: A Tall Tale About a Short Long Dog" was born.

Kizzie won first-place for nonfiction writing from

the Write on the Sound writers' conference and first-place awards in the Tall Tales category of Readers' Favorite, the National Indie Excellence Book Award for Cover and Graphic Design and New York's Beach Book Festival.

This March, the second book, a coloring book, "A Tall Tale About a Dachshund and a Pelican: How a Friendship Came to Be" was published.

In March, she read from her books and joined naturalists at tide pools during Cape Perpetua's Winter Discovery Series.

Meanwhile, Kizzie's life has shifted to reading to children in schools, participating in Reading Across America events in honor of Dr. Suess, reading for Global Points of Light, donating books for dachshund rescue fund raising and the Edmonds Off-leash Park, reading for Whale Watching Week at Cape Perpetua Visitors' Center in Oregon, guest on Pet Talk Radio, speaker on marketing to writing groups, and meeting many new people.

She spent March on the Oregon Coast doing research for book three, "A Tall Tale About Dachshunds in Costume: How Dogs Came to Be."

For information, call 425-775-2789, visit kizziejones.com or visit pncuccnews.org/june13pnc/063013kizziejones.html.

Global Ministries member describes efforts of three partners

Ruth Brandon of Everett UCC and the Global Ministries Committee of the PNC and Northwest Region Disciples of Christ, invites people in the region to be aware of current mission work by the UCC and Disciples around the world.

She shares reports about mission partners who have news they wanted to share.

John and Karen Campbell-Nelson, missionaries in West Timor, have written re-

cently that the main environmental concern now is an extended drought. Many villages have seen their springs and wells run dry.

"People walk a mile or more to the lowest point in a stream where water still seeps out, bathe and do laundry there, and carry enough water back up hill for drinking and cooking," they report. "If these conditions continue, there will be need for emergency food and water aid.

"We are grateful for new Synod leadership and the first woman moderator who has made issues of environment and human trafficking a priority in her ministry," they said. "She is giving support to Timorese villagers who are trying to shut down a mining operation that is ruining their fields and their water supply."

Erik and Kim Free from Oregon are missionaries in Mozambique supported by many

in the PNC.

"Most of Mozambique is in the grips of a devastating drought, while in the north, flooding is causing major problems. Crops are failing. Food is becoming scarce. Our training fields have failed because of a lack of rain," the Frees report.

Soon after construction on their home in Goi-Goi is completed, Kim plans to start a rabbit-breeding program. The

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Space still available in May visit to South Korea

Space is still available for people to join the delegation for the exchange visit to church partners in Seoul, South Korea, said Ed Evans, convener of the Global Ministries Committee of the Pacific Northwest UCC and Northwest Region Disciples of Christ.

Delegates, who will travel to South Korea May 16 to 23, will be visiting the DMZ demilitarized zone in Panmunjom, which separates North and South Korea. The Joint Security Area in the middle of the DMZ is where negotiations between the two Korean nations take place, said Ed.

"The Panmunjom Peace Village in the DMZ is the only place where South and North Korea can hold talks," he said. "A trip to the disputed zone helps visitors come to a greater understanding of the reality of the divided Korean Peninsula."

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have had a partnership since 1993 with the Seoul East Presbytery of the PROK, the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea.

"A priority of the PROK is the reunification of the two Koreas," said Ed.

The PROK was created in 1953, after breaking away from the larger Presbyterian Church



The DMZ - Demilitarized Zone - on the South Korea-North Korea border is one of the sites the delegation will visit.

Photo courtesy of Ed Evans

of Korea (PCK) over conservative and progressive theological differences. The PROK became the first denomination in Korea to ordain women into the ministry in 1956, he said.

The delegation will also be visiting the House of Sharing, a nursing home where surviving World War II Japanese soldier sexual slaves, known as comfort women, continue to live.

"South Korea and Japan foreign ministers recently reached a breakthrough settlement that includes a written apology from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a pledge by Tokyo to provide \$8.9 million for Seoul to establish a foundation to support the surviving women," Ed said.

According to the Internet news site for the Voice of America, voanews.com, the settlement also asks South Ko-

rea to remove a "comfort women" statue located across from the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Supporters have held a weekly protest rally for years at the site demanding an official Japanese apology and restitution. Only 44 comfort women survivors remain in South Korea, of the 238 who came forward. Their average age is 89.

The delegation will also join in another peace action, expressing solidarity with the Gangjeong Peace Village. In 2012, the Global Ministries Committee of the region voted to support the people of Gangjeong Village of Jeju Island off the southern tip of South Korea.

In 2007, South Korea said they intended to build a Navy base at Gangjeong Village to accommodate both Korean and U.S. Navy ships. A 15-foot high wall was built to keep villagers away from the proposed base, but the people protest it.

"Since that time they have been engaged in a campaign of daily nonviolent resistance and have been joined by religious leaders, priests, nuns and various church organizations including the National Council of Churches of Korea (NCCCK), the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)," Ed said.

A letter of solidarity was

sent by the Global Ministries Committee of the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference to "encourage the passion and courage of the people to resist outside forces of destruction."

The villagers have been engaged in a nonviolent resistance campaign against construction of the Navy base at the island that would accommodate up to 20 warships, including submarines and U.S. Aegis destroyers armed with cruise missiles.

"South Korea says the ships based on Jeju Island will protect shipping lanes for South Korea's economy, which depends on imported oil. It will also enable South Korea to respond quickly to a territorial dispute with China over Socotra Rock, a submerged reef south of Jeju that Koreans called Ieodo. American ships cruising to East Asia will also be permitted to visit the port," Ed reported.

According to the National Catholic Reporter, many villagers have been arrested, imprisoned and had land and civil rights taken from them during their resistance, staging sit-ins and using their bodies to block construction equipment. The long running protests of Gangjeong Village can be followed on the Facebook page, "No Naval Base on Jeju!"

For information, call 360-670-1073 or email edevans@aol.com.

Partners are in East Timor, Mozambique and Hong Kong

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local committee agreed to expanding food sources as one goal. Rabbits are a good source of protein and can be sourced locally.

"Erik contracted malaria, but is able to afford medications and combat the illness," Kim said. "Most Mozambicans cannot afford the medications, and malaria remains one of the top causes of death.

"Sometimes, when the big

picture is overwhelming, it is a good idea to focus on life's small joys: reuniting with friends, laughing at a joke, or watching the Smurfs (in Portuguese) with the neighborhood kids on the TV in the shop downstairs," she said.

Bruce Van Voorhis, a missionary in Hong Kong, wrote recently that 14 youth from Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam have completed the

third module of the School of Peace (SOP). The first modules were in August and September.

Then they had a gap of several months to put into practice in their communities what they learned.

The program sought to sensitize the participants to the various identities that all people have based on gender, race and ethnicity, nationality and religion, and the ways in which one's identity can become a

source of conflict, Bruce said.

Discussions have revolved around how people respond to conflict with engagement of "the other" through dialogue promoted as a non-violent means to reach consensus on addressing disputes. The module in February focused on transforming self, and then communities and societies.

For information, call 937-367-4978 or email arembem@mac.com.

'Fearless Faith' is the 2016 camp curriculum at both sites

Camp managing directors Wade Zick at Pilgrim Firs and Mark Boyd at N-Sid-Sen said that this summer's kids and family camps will be using the "Fearless Faith; Courage in Community" curriculum that helps campers draw courage from their friends, families, churches and other communities.

"They will encounter biblical leaders who used the community given to them by God to stand up to mistrust, injustice, and fear itself," said Wade.

There will be opportunities to reflect on forgiving others, changing attitudes, and connecting to and welcoming all people, Mark added.

"Fearless Faith: Courage in Community" is not just about campers "making friends at camp, enjoying nature and challenging themselves," it is also how campers can create lasting communities in Christ to become a part of and gain support from.

Pilgrim Firs is the PNC camp and conference center on 100 acres that include 60 acres of forest and nature trails, a large play field and an outdoor chapel on the seven-acre, spring-fed Lake Flora the Kitsap Peninsula in Western Washington, said Wade.

N-Sid-Sen is the PNC's 270-acre camp and conference center with 4,788 feet of shore-

line on the eastern shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene in North Idaho. The lake and forest there afford opportunities for swimming, sailing, canoeing, hiking, walking, fishing, outdoor games and contemplation, said Mark.

Both are "wonderful places

to come and learn about your faith and how it fits in God's world," Mark said.

Register for camps and retreats at n-sid-sen.org or pilgrim-firs.org.

For information on Pilgrim Firs, call 360-876-2031 and on N-Sid-Sen, call 208-

Mattress campaign continues

Both N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs are continuing a \$50,000 "Sweet Dreams: Adopt a Mattress Campaign" to replace the 334 mattresses at both sites. The suggested donation to adopt a mattress is \$250.

Mark and Wade pointed out that camps and retreats are enhanced when people have good nights of sleep.

Once mattresses are purchased, both camps will share in a PNC capital campaign to fund projects for both camps.

Plans for N-Sid-Sen in-

clude pedestrian paths under Highway 97, lodge-style, year-round housing for older guests and relocating the manager's residence. Pilgrim Firs proposals include RV sites, improved staff housing, a program and performing arts building and acquiring additional acreage.

For the mattresses, checks go to the conference office, 325 N. 125th St., Seattle WA 98133 or online at pncucc.org and click the donation button.

For information, call 206-725-8383.

2016 N-Sid-Sen camp schedule

Women's Retreat - May 20 to 22

Work Camp - June 13 to 18

Young Adult - June 17 to 19
Tod Camp, Jen Towner & Max Aquino

Kid's Camp - July 3 to 6
Gale Peterson & Trudy Lambert

Intermediate Camp - July 3 to 9
Esther Sanders & Kim Schulz

Senior High Aqua Camp
July 10 to 16
Tony Kliment & Sheila Thieme

Family Camp #1
July 24 to 30
Ryan & Shauna Lambert

Junior High Aqua Camp
July 31 to Aug 6
Sarah MacDonald & Dana Sprenkle

LGBTQ Camp
Aug 5 to 7 - Jan Shannon

Family Camp #2 - Aug. 7 to 13
Janet Malley & Andrew Conley-Holcom

For information,
call 208-689-3489
email mark@n-sid-sen.org
register at n-sid-sen.org

2016 Pilgrim Firs camp & retreat season

Work Camp - May 5 to 8

LGBTQ Spiritual Renewal Retreat - May 27 to 29

PNC Counselor & Director Retreat - May 20 to 22

LGBTQ Retreat - June 3 to 5

Work Camp June 16 to 19

Senior High Camp
June 27 to July 2
Kristen Almgren & Andrew Conley-Holcom

Junior High Camp
July 3 to 9
Susan Andresen & Rich Porter

Kids Camp - July 10 to 13
Eric Anderson

Intermediate Camp
July 10 to 16
Katy Lloyd & Sandy Cheatham

Counselor in Training Camp
July 12 to 18
Kaila Russell & Wade Zick

For information,
call 360-876-2031
email wadezick.pf@gmail.com
register at pilgrim-firs.org

Counselor and leader training camp planned July 10 to 16

Counselor in Training / Leader in Training (CIT/LIT) Camp will focus on building the next generation of leaders July 10 to 16, the same time as Kids Camp and Intermediate Camp at Pilgrim Firs.

Kaila Russell and Wade Zick will be co-directing a revised Counselor in Training / Leader In Training program for \$250 for 15 to 18 year olds.

The program focus is on building the next generation of leaders with a particular emphasis on faith, with servanthood as the foundation, said Wade.

The program is built upon creating community among participants, assessing individual leadership qualities, understanding stages of human development as represented by campers, practical service opportunities with campers on site, and delving into camp management basics, he explained.

This revised CIT/LIT program is the result of feedback from previous CITs and counseling staff.

As a result of the broader focus of the program, there is no required previous camp experience. The program is for youth who have leadership potential and are seeking leadership experiences.

Registration is at pilgrim-firs.org.