



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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April-May 2018

Youth organize marches in state, nation

Young marchers against gun violence draw tears from veteran marchers

Across the PNC, members of UCC congregations participated in the Women’s March on January 20 and the March for Our Lives on March 24, as have people across the nation and world.

Ruth Brandon, of Everett UCC and the Global Ministries Committee of the PNC and Northwest Region Disciples of Christ, was one of 11 members of her church joining in the March for Our Lives in Everett. Others from her church joined the march in Seattle.

She returned home to listen to TV summaries and reviews of the day and to interviews with students.

“The Washington, D.C., student speeches and the numbers of people participating all over the country were re-

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Ruth Brandon of Everett UCC joined the March for Our Lives with her grandson and 11 others from her church.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Brandon

PNC leaders find new patterns for its meetings

Moderator’s Report - Peter Ilgenfritz

“We can’t do this again! We can’t!”

Here we were, doing it again.

It was the same old pattern. The meeting began with great connection, vision, dreaming and energy, but after the lunch break, as the conversation turned to plans on what to do next, all that energy we’d experienced fled the room.

We turned to making long to-do lists, agonizing over all we had to do, remembering everything that we’d once tried that hadn’t work. Hopelessness and despair descended like thick fog over our morning mountaintop clarity and excitement.

It had happened to us before—one, three, five—too many times. This time

PNC Board turns to new patterns for meeting

we were headed that same way again until someone interrupted our pattern and said, “Stop. We have to stop. We can’t do this one more time.”

For the past two years, I’ve had the privilege of serving as moderator of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. I am grateful for the board members who have taught me so much and enabled me to learn and grow with you.

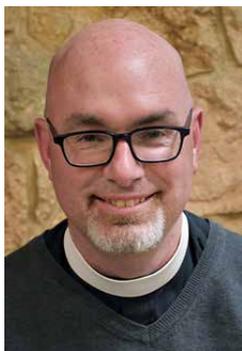
I am grateful for the Conference’s support in enabling the conference leadership to work with a leadership coach, Posy Gering, who has helped us find new questions and make new patterns for our meeting.

It has been a true gift to team with Wendy Blight, vice moderator, Mike Denton, our conference minister and Courtney Stange-Tregear, minister of church vitality, as we have helped lead our board of directors into the new. I am thankful for a great new leadership waiting in the wings with Wendy Blight as moderator and Hillary Coleman as vice moderator after Annual Meeting.

After a year of coming up against some familiar barriers, something began to shift this past year. In the hard

Despite challenges, we can do what God calls us to do

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

In early March, I had a connection through Dulles International Airport on the way home from a denominational meeting in Cleveland. I was wandering during my two-hour layover when there was a weird moment. I was walking to my gate and heard the same phrase repeated four times within 100 yards.

One airline employee was trying to get the attention of another employee who responded in a matter of fact yet pleading way, *"I'm too busy for you right now."* The first employee gave an understanding nod and moved on. A few steps later, someone walking by quickly growling, *"I'm too busy for you right now,"* to someone on the phone. Then a group of teenage girls were listening to one tell a story that ended in their laughter with an exaggerated, dramatic delivery of the line *"I'm too busy for you right now."* Finally, I heard *"I'm too busy for you right now"* from one of the seats at my gate. I don't know the context, but the only people I saw were a mother and daughter engrossed in their phones. I heard and saw this within, maybe, two minutes.

At another point, if you asked if God sent us messages this way, I would have rolled my eyes and suggested it was coincidence, but I've come to believe God loves us so much that they created a world that's full to the brim with meaning. This was a moment to drink deeply.

I'd come from multi-day meeting with varying configurations of UCC Conference Ministers, the head executive staff from our denominational offices in Cleveland, and members of the UCC Board. Our meeting focused on difficulties that are frequently part of our relationships. The accompanying unofficial theme was how the number of things we all have on our plates makes connecting with each other difficult. We struggled with how to change this. We need each other, and we're too busy for each other.

This is a reality that keeps me up at night about our conference life, too. In our various settings, we recognize how much we need each other. There is so much to be done that we don't get much of an opportunity for deepening, meaningful relationships. We have the least amount of people, money and non-committed time we've had in a long time. Statistical projections about mainline churches in the U.S. see this trend continuing. When we look at the state of the world, it's clear how much the UCC commitments, voice and work are needed. We need each other, and we're too busy for each other. Or, maybe not. Of the four stories, the narrative of the teens laughing didn't fit.

On the denominational level, everyone agreed to add an extra day to our gathering and agreed its theme needed to be related to creating whole-hearted relationships. Guess what happened? We made progress on some budget questions that, because of the nature of our relationships, we'd been stuck on for two years. We created the bones for some information sharing processes that will help us share to help each other across the church's settings. We had difficult conversations about the equity between conferences we had discussed around the edges before, but for the first time we discussed these questions openly. These people's jobs mean they feel the church's pain every day, but the painfulness didn't define us as expected. We walked in with a toxic brew of hopelessness and high expectations, and walked out full of cautious hope.

In the PNC, we've been transparent about the challenges we are facing. Our board has recommitted to cohesive priorities that are broad and deep. It's moving from an intellectual exercise to one of the heart and soul. Deepening relationships, doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God are good priorities and things we've heard before. The difference is how our finances, staffing, intention and messaging are being invested in these priorities. We're finding new life in these things as a conference.

It feels as though something is turning in our financial life. Some local churches have had to step back, but six churches pledged to increase their giving. Individual giving increased significantly this year, and both camps have received large financial donations recognizing their work and ministry. Some of these monies come from folks outside the PNC who recognize the gifts our camps are.

Mark and Wade are consulting with other camps about their ministries. Courtney is consulting with other conferences about church vitality. Arlene helps us through some administrative realities of conference life. Michelle has helped more than one church sort through a difficult financial question. Our staff are recognized for their gifts, experiences and callings. Tara Barber, in her called and contracted role, is sharing her model for Communities of Practice and boundary training model in other conferences. Our Justice Leadership Program is being studied as a model by other regions. Local clergy and lay folks are regarded as leaders in the region and denomination. Demographically, we're far from the largest UCC conference but, proportionally, we have one of the largest impacts. Something has been quietly happening in our conference

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*When we
live into
the ancient
priorities
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called us to,
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Transitions announced

Michelle Doherty, who has served the PNC nine years as accounting manager, leaves her position April 9, because of family commitments. “She leaves our financial records in an excellent state and has put in place systems to help us organize our financial life,” said Conference Minister Mike Denton, who recently hired **Kara Newsome** to fill that position.

Lara Crutsinger-Perry will be ordained and installed as associate pastor at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 22, at the United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave. SE in Olympia. She joined the staff in 2012.

Darrell Goodwin will be installed as pastor of Everett UCC at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at 2624 Rockefeller Ave., as part of the church’s 125th anniversary.

Laura Robinson will be ordained at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 5, at Plymouth UCC in Seattle. Laura, who grew up in Plymouth UCC, Seattle, did the discernment process with the PNC. She graduated from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga., in May 2017, and is now associate minister in the transition into ministry program at Plymouth UCC in Des Moines, Iowa.

Andrew Conley-Holcolm, pastor at Admiral Congregational UCC, welcomes a son, Asher Finnigan Conley-Holcom, born March 22.

Catherine Colwell, a homemaker and wife of the late David Colwell—pastor of Plymouth UCC in Seattle from 1967 to 1982—died recently at the age of 99. She lived in Horizon House since 1993. A service celebrating her life will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 28, at Plymouth.

Women’s Retreat is May 18-20

“Circle of Souls” is the theme for the 2018 PNC Spiritual Retreat for Women from May 18 to 20 at N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center.

The retreat will consider how a circle is a place of safety, where all are welcome to explore and remember the truth of who each is. In a world where many are told what to believe, accept and repel, retreat leaders will encourage participants to ease into the sacred space within themselves.

The retreat is a time for discovery, sharing, singing, worshiping, praying and relaxing in community and solitude.

The leaders are Lynn Nelson, pastor of Affirmational Congregational UCC in Colfax, Linda Crowe, retired pastor, and Courtney Stange-Tregear, PNC minister for church vitality.

For information, email bamba2@q.com, revlindacrowe@gmail.com or courtney@pncucc.org. Registration is \$105 to \$120 online

at n-sid-sen.org, with a discount before April 23.

Forum on ‘Finding Space to Solve Homelessness’ is April 14

Seattle University School of Law, SU Homeless Rights Advocacy Project and Seattle Journal for Social Justice are bringing together 23 leaders in homelessness for the “Finding Space to Solve Homelessness” Forum on Saturday, April 14, at the School of Law.

They will discuss ideas, solutions and challenges around using public and private property to address homelessness—such as safe parking lots, authorized encampments,

faith-based shelters and construction of dwelling units in back yards.

For information, visit <https://law.seattleu.edu/finding-space-to-solve-homelessness>.

Sunnyslope honors David Brown for his service to that church

On Sunday, April 15, Sunnyslope Church—UCC and Church of the Brethren—in Wenatchee will honor retired Conference Minister David Brown for the talents he has shared with the church.

The recognition will be part of worship at 10:25 a.m. and after worship at the church, 3330 School St.

David continues to serve the church doing pulpit supply and various forms of lay leadership, from serving on the leadership team to serving in the kitchen.

He was conference minister from 1992 to 1996. He started the Small Church Project with the conference in 1975.

For information, call 509-663-5745, email sunnyslopechurch@nwi.net or visit sunnyslopechurch.wa.org.

WRYE is June 25-29 in Hawaii

Fifty-five PNC youth will attend the Western Regional Youth Event June 25 to 29, at the University of Hawai’i in Honolulu. The program includes community, music, justice, spirituality, joy and service under the theme, “Come to the Water”—E Hele Mai’Ka Wai,” said Cristina Airaghi, pastor for children and youth at First Congregational UCC in Bellevue. She is the on the WRYE planning committee. Youth will explore faith, make friends and engage in service. Early registration is April 15.

For information, email cristina@fc-bellevue.org, follow WRYE on Twitter @WRYE_2018.

Conference News Briefs

Now is the right moment to give to the PNC, camps

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for a long time that is becoming impossible not to notice.

If you have been waiting for the right moment to give to our conference and our camps, this is the moment. If you’ve been looking for the right moment to step up for committee work, this is the moment. If you’ve been waiting for that time to reach out to your Siblings in Christ in another

church in the conference, this is that moment.

We have some of the same challenges the rest of the U.S. Church does, but this is also the moment we can laugh at the drama. What’s happening in the Church is important, hard and sometimes a little scary.

Are you deepening relationships? Then you’re doing what God has called us to do.

Are you doing justice? Then you’re doing what God has called us to do. Are you doing the work of “loving kindness?” Then you’re doing what God has called us to. Are you walking humbly with God? Then you’re doing what God has called us to. If you’re not, the best news—the Gospel—is that today is a good day to start and God will welcome it.

It is tempting to look at the

numbers related to the church and be convinced the Church is dying. In the big picture, the numbers are lower, but it was never just about the numbers. It’s about the call. When we live into these ancient priorities God has called us to the reality is we’re not dying. In fact, we’re just getting started. In this crazy, broken, hurting world of ours, there is lots for us to do, to share and to offer. We’re just getting started, friends.

Members of many PNC congregations join marches

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ally deeply emotional for me,” Ruth said. “I knew many, many demonstrations: civil rights, women’s rights, anti-Vietnam war, anti-apartheid and pro-independence for Portuguese colonies in Africa, anti-Klan, pro-peace, and smaller ones for welfare rights, student rights and more.

“I am so thankful to see a new generation in the streets and militant for change to make the world they grow up in better,” she said. “We movement people of the 1960s are their ready-made allies.”

Ruth like others reported having tears of joy.

“I think I may have had more tears today than when my mother died. She was 99 years old. I celebrated her life and I still miss her and think of her, but today’s youth make me cry that they are so strong, on target, determined and together,” Ruth said. “May they have the stamina to continue and may they indeed register and vote. They are beautiful, and I am grateful for them.”

The March for our Lives in Everett, with good adult support and good speeches by primarily youth, drew about 500 people from Marysville, Mukilteo and Everett.

Ruth marched with her son and grandson.

About 5,000 marched in Spokane, including many from Westminster Congregational UCC and Veradale UCC.

Youth from area middle schools and high schools organized the Spokane rally in Riverfront Park and march along several blocks downtown.

They carried signs and repeated chants that said: “Kids not guns.” “Love not hate makes America great.”

“No more thoughts and prayers. Take action, show you care,” read one sign.

“Am I next?” asked another.

They made it clear, they are not about removing every firearm from every home, but making gun ownership more responsible so everyone is safer.

They now have a facebook page, No Kids Left Spokane. The group organized a March 14 school walk out for a month after the Parkland, Fla., shooting, and plan walkouts for April 20, the anniversary of the Columbine, Colo., shooting.

In Seattle, when a large march is held at Cal Anderson Park across from the German United Church of Christ in Seattle, Thomas Wert, pastor, opens the building so marchers can have access to refreshments and restrooms.

Veradale UCC found another way to express its concerns about gun violence by using its church sign to say, “We stand with Parkland High School kids. Thoughts and prayers are not enough.”

Members worked together to decide what to say on their signboard after another mass shooting.

Gen Heywood, pastor, said they surrounded the base of their sign with chicken wire for “all those too chicken to do something about gun violence.”

On the chicken wire, hangs a ribbon for each child—17 years or younger—who has died by gun violence in 2018. These children died in homes, schools and neighborhoods. There were 263 ribbons on the wire as of Sunday, March 11, 2018. The number killed comes from the gunviolencearchive.org,

“Every Sunday, ribbons are passed out at the beginning of worship for the lives of children lost during the week,” said Gen.

Members of the congregation hold the ribbon and keep all the friends and family of the child in prayer through the wor-



Chris Hanson with her granddaughters.

Photo courtesy of Chris Hanson



Members of Westminster UCC in Spokane march with their sign.

Photo courtesy of Westminster UCC



German UCC in Seattle opens doors to people during marches.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Wert



Veradale UCC signboard in Spokane Valley is interactive.

Photo courtesy of Gen Heywood

ship service. After worship, the ribbon is added to the chicken wire.

“While the church is active in thoughts and prayers We, like so many of our other UCC churches, know that this is not enough,” she said. “So, in our

love for neighbor, children and the planet, we also participate in marches, letters to the editor, city council meetings and other groups moving toward a more just and compassionate society.

For information, call 425-220-2476 or 509-926-7173.

Hearing loops mean worshippers can hear service

The Congregational Church on Mercer Island (UCC) recently installed hearing loops in its sanctuary that have made a difference for hearing impaired members and visitors.

“Because of the architecture of our building, we had to cut slots into the floor for the wires,” said Roberta Rominger, pastor.

Now some members will hear the entire service for the first time ever, Roberta said.

“I’ve got a prayer of thanksgiving,” Diane said on Easter morning. “I can’t tell you what a joy it is to be able to hear every word of the sermon. It’s been years!”

The new hearing loop at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island went live on Palm Sunday.

It enables direct transmission from the church sound system to people’s hearing aids and cochlear implants. No background noise and no headphones.

Hearing had been a problem since the new pastor arrived three years ago.

“My voice is in a low register,” said Roberta. “Turning up the volume on the microphones helped a little, but it was still a frequency issue. We were about to install extra speakers at the rear of the sanctuary.

“Now we know that was the worst thing we could have done,” she said.

Roberta was surprised that churches in the United States don’t all have hearing loops installed. In the United Kingdom, where she served previously, all the churches had them.

Members in Mercer Island were skeptical. With all the wireless solutions available, why install a loop?

It took some research to convince them that the loop system was the best technology available, she said.

The problem was that the normal installation, around the

perimeter of the room at an overhead height, was not possible. The Mercer Island sanctuary has a glass wall. No one wanted to spoil it with a casing for hearing wires.

Spencer Norby of Hearing Loop Northwest came up with a solution. He would embed the wires in the sanctuary floor.

“Evidently that’s the first time on the West Coast that this sort of installation has been attempted. The hearing loop installer designed new tools just for this job,” Roberta said.

He created special tools, a double-bladed power saw and guiding channel, so that the cuts around the edges of the floor would be straight and precisely the right depth.

Church members offered labor for the incision and clearing the grooves of sawdust. They helped lay the wire. Then they spent a day on their knees carefully pressing putty into the cracks to seal the wire in.

“The result is an outstanding system, one of the best sets of readings the installer has achieved after more than 130 installations around the region,” Roberta said.

The complications now are personal.

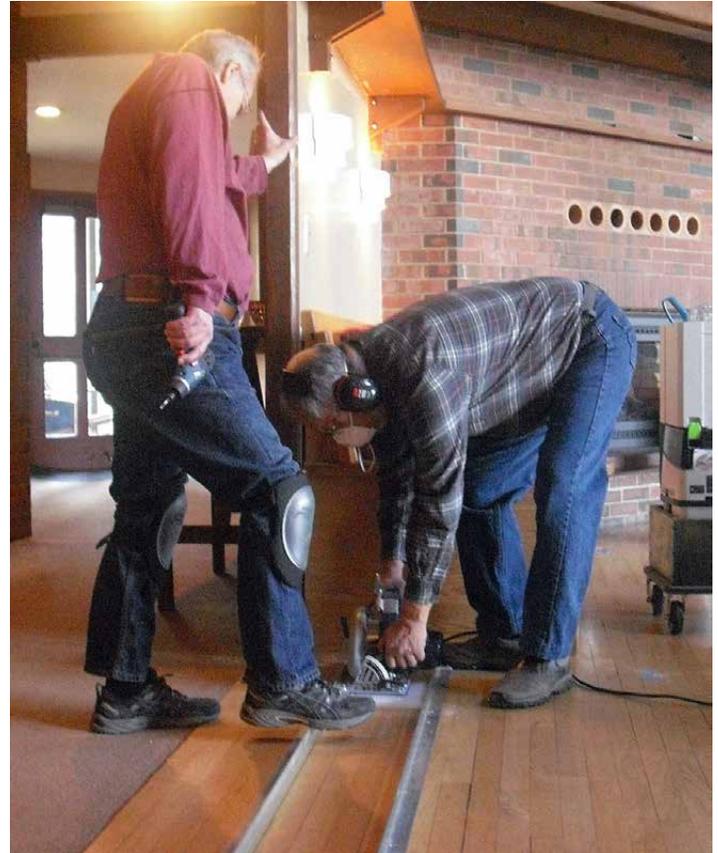
Most hearing aids and implants have the necessary telecoil, or T-coil, but it isn’t always activated. Each person has to figure out how to switch their device to the T position.

Some will have to make trips to their audiologists, Roberta said, but once they know how to tune in, they are delighted with the results.

“Since we’ve installed our loop, I’ve started seeing them everywhere,” she said.

“There was one in the community hall where we held our ecumenical Good Friday service last week. There is even one at the information desk at the public library,” she said.

“It’s a simple technology but a real life-changer, enabling peo-



Dale Rominger and Charles Nishida cut grooves in floor for channels for wire. Below, Spencer Norby of Hearing Loop Northwest cuts grooves.

Photo courtesy of Congregational Church of Mercer Island

ple to hear.”

**232-7800 or 360-932-4562 or
For information, call 206- email office@ucc-ccmi.org.**

Workshops set for Annual Meeting April 27-29

Gathering for Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference April 27 to 29, delegates, leaders and friends of the PNC will reflect on the theme, "Breaking Forth," which celebrates the PNC ministry of building deeper relationships and growing vitality in PNC churches and communities.

"We'll gather this year at a familiar setting for some of us, the Conference Center in Yakima, but we will break out of some familiar patterns for meeting and carrying out the business of the conference," said Wendy Blight, vice moderator. "We will bring forward some of the unique ways that we gathered at our camps last year and provide more opportunities to connect with new people and address issues using the power we experience in community."

The guest presenter in Bishop Dwayne Royster, who has served in pastoral ministry for 20 years and is the minister emeritus and founding pastor of Living Water United Church of

Christ in Philadelphia.

He is currently serving as political director for People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO). PICO believes in building a more just world by teaching people of faith how to build and exercise their own power to address the root causes of the problems they face.

At the center of PICO's model of faith-based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation—of people, institutions and the larger culture.

As an advocate for preparing congregations for the ministry of availability, Bishop Royster often says that, "ministry should not be limited to Sunday mornings. Sunday is a time of worship. Ministry should be done Monday thru Sunday on the bus stops, at the supermarkets, in workplaces, at soccer games and wherever people are."

A passionate speaker and preacher, he will share his knowledge in both dynamic

and practical ways.

Participants—official delegates and others—will experience forging new relationships, building power and promise in their local church, and transforming institutions official.

Friday afternoon workshops support this year's theme of "Breaking Forth" in building an deepening relationships, cultivating spiritual vitality in ourselves and among our communities.

Jill Komura announced that those workshops are the following:

- Rev. Joy Haertig and Marci Scott-Weis will facilitate "Moving from Church 2.0 to 3.0: Visioning to Action."

- Sophie Morse, conflict consultant and trainer with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, will facilitate "Engaging Conflict Across Communities."

- PNC minister for church vitality Courtney Stange-Tregear and the Stewardship Committee will lead a discussion on "Burdens to Blessings: New

Life Through Church Buildings."

- Paul Benz of Faith Action Network will lead "Social Engagement Opportunities for Your Congregation."

- Justice and Witness Ministries will facilitate "Justice Potpourri," a multi-part conversation based on Matthew 25, about providing sanctuary and welcoming immigrants and refugees, and exploring more economically just choices in banks and taxation systems.

Annual Meeting business will include a discussion about whether or not the Conference wishes to ratify the UCC Constitutional Amendments passed at last year's General Synod, which, among other things, alter the denomination's governing structure, include gender-neutral inclusive language, reiterate support by local bodies over ordained clergy and recognize the UCC's full communion relationship with the United Church of Canada.

For information, call 206-725-8383.

God is with us as we step into new ways

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holy work that is the work of transformation, we started as a board and Conference leadership to be transformed. We were thrust out of our comfort zones and familiar patterns.

We met at Pilgrim Firs for Annual Meeting and had a fall gathering at Camp N-Sid-Sen in September. On that first night on Lake Coeur d'Alene, we gathered for Courtney's installation not on comfortable chairs inside but on benches down by the lakeshore. The sun set. We had to lean in close to help each other see read the hymns and liturgy with our flashlights. When Mike invited Courtney to see who was gathered, he invited us to shine our lights up towards the stars



Peter Ilgenfritz

above, and suddenly, we could see. We could see each other and all that was here that we

had missed.

As Roberta Rominger noted afterwards, "It was a perfect expression of who we are and are becoming as Conference."

God is here in and among us. We are stepping forth into the dark on the little boat of this Conference and helping us in our life together to deepen relationship and live into more vital ways of being as church.

That day last month when the Board fell back into our same-old routines, we did something different. We stopped. We put down our to-do lists, raised our heads from our hands, unclenched our fists, and became curious about what we were doing. We talked about our fears. We acknowledged that as a board we had a

lot invested in our time, energy, histories in holding this work together and keeping it going.

We remembered however that our call wasn't to keep things going as they'd always been, but to do things differently, to lead into change.

This coming year, I hope that wherever we are, we will look around and see who's out here with us. To see it is truly God, Christ in our midst.

Then I hope we will step forth into the dark—into mystery, transformation and grace—where Christ is ever leading us to go: into a new life together, a way of being Conference and church that we have never imagined before.

For information, 206-524-2322.

Prospect collects stormwater from roof in cisterns

Prospect UCC in Seattle included on Palm Sunday a celebration of installing new cisterns, taking advantage of RainWise rebates to promote clean water, said the pastor Meighan Pritchard.

As part of the event, King County's RainWise staff shared information about the RainWise programs goals, impact and how to participate. Earth Alchemist, the contractor who installed the churches' cisterns offered insight on this installation and use of the water stored in cisterns.

The installation, said Sonja Sivesind of RainWise, is "a milestone to control one of the largest sources of pollution in Puget Sound."

This is the latest in a series of community projects. RainWise Program partnered with Prospect UCC Church to install two 865-gallon cisterns to catch and hold roof water.

Prospect UCC's cisterns will capture runoff from 3,230 square feet of roof area, keeping 12,700 gallons of stormwater out of the combined sewer system, Sonja said.

"Prospect UCC members are excited to have two cisterns as tangible evidence of our willingness to walk the talk about caring for our environment," said Meighan. "We talk about environmental justice and climate change and are pleased to be taking this step to mitigate stormwater runoff in our community."

"The people in the RainWise program and our contractor made this process easy. We hope the RainWise program will continue to be able to serve Seattle in this way for as long as is needed," she said.

The RainWise Program now has more than 1,400 participants. By channeling stormwater runoff from more than 40 acres of impervious rooftops to green infrastructure facilities,



At the Palm Sunday dedication, contractor Mars Simpson, pastor Meighan Pritchard and Prospect folks Caitlin Jones, Justice Leadership intern Leda Zakarison and Brian Russell show off one of two cisterns.

Photo courtesy of Meighan Pritchard

such as rain gardens or cisterns, these properties are keeping 20 million gallons of runoff out of the combined stormwater/sewer system, and controlling overflows in local water bodies during heavy rains, Sonja explained.

Prospect UCC urges other faith organizations, businesses, neighbors and community organizations in eligible basins to take advantage of the program. Private property owners in the Montlake and Capitol Hill neighborhoods and others in Seattle, are eligible for RainWise rebates that may cover up to 100 percent of the cost to install a cistern or rain garden.

"Besides beautifying landscapes, rain gardens help control stormwater, a significant source of pollution in Lake Washington, Puget Sound,

Lake Union and the Duwamish River," Sonja said.

"By controlling stormwater, people can support the city and county goals to control overflows of sewage and stormwater that occur in these waterways during heavy rains," she added.

RainWise is a joint program of Seattle Public Utilities and King County's Wastewater Treatment Division. More than 50,000 properties in Seattle are eligible for RainWise rebates.

For information, call 206-322-6030 or visit www.rainwise.seattle.gov.

Bob Anderson's art on display at Guemes UCC

Fifty art works by Robert Anderson will be on display at the Guemes Island Community Church UCC through April. The reliefs, fired clay, sand castings and drawings are arranged by themes related to Holy Week through post Easter, but filtered through the universal metaphor of movements of peace and justice, and of confronting domination and rising over it, said Bob, who was min-

ister of outreach and parish care at University Congregational UCC for eight years in the 1970s. He served several other churches and did landscaping in the Seattle area before moving full-time to Guemes Island in 1999.

A 6 p.m. soup supper on Tuesday, April 10, includes a gallery tour by the artist.

For information, call 360-293-3770.

David Bowman's memoir reflects on parish roles

David Bowman, former pastor of two conference churches, recently published a book, *Parish, the Thought: A Memoir in Ministry*.

His title is a play on the response to an unpleasant or ugly suggestion: "Perish the thought!"

"The title is an ironic take on that expression, making the spelling of 'parish' and the comma of importance," he commented recently.

The term, "parish," he said, comes at a time of its reduced usage, especially now when people tend not to think of their church as the one in close proximity. Rather they jump in their jeeps and travel 20 minutes to "the church of their choice."

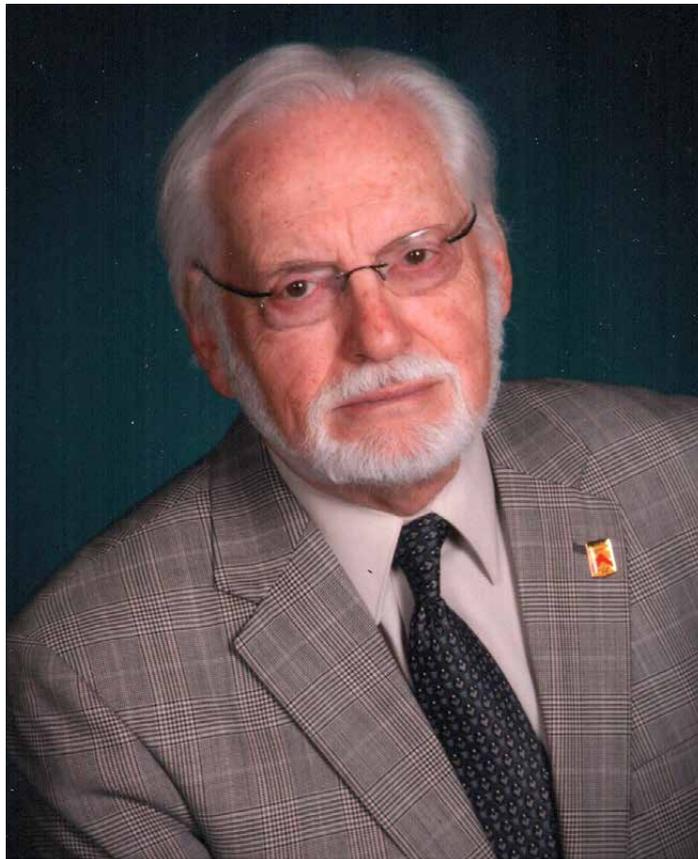
The subtitle, "A Memory in Ministry," might lead expectations astray, David suggested.

"A reader will not find the minister doing much navel gazing. Neither will one find a severe critique or an outburst of applause for the parish church," he said.

Instead the pages contain 81 vignettes, under seven categories, covering four decades in parish ministry: Straight Talk from the Pulpit, Engagement Beyond the Sanctuary, Mission in the World, That They May All Be One, Conflict and Resolution, On the Lighter side, Close to Home, The Parish Church Building, and The People of the Parish.

"Readers from parishes I have served will find allusions they may remember, perhaps from a different perspective," he said.

"Continuation in parish ministry requires faith and resilience," David pointed out. "Not a few parish ministers have gone off to do school counseling, surrendered the ordained role in order to sell real estate, or simply suffered terminal burnout.



Former PNC pastor David Bowman writes memoir on ministry.

Photo courtesy of David Bowman

"If not a hero of the faith, I do claim persistence. 'Come weal or woe,' as they used to say, the journey to the celestial city is not as a lone ranger; rather, as they once said in a parish on Mercer Island, Wash., 'Christ takes form in a band of persons.'

"Perhaps this account will enable an ordained reader to draw parallels," he said. "Maybe the lay reader will gain insight into the life and work of the clergy and ideas about the ministry of all God's people."

David also suggested that someone standing at a distance from church life, through these memories, might be led to lend heart and hand.

In the book, David discusses how the calling to parish ministry involved "a journey leading through lowland thickets and high plateau vistas,

so it's not a vocation for weak spirits.

"Wearing one hat after another, the pastor may speak from the pulpit, join a team processing a current social concern, visit the intensive care hospital unit and counsel at birth, marriage and death," he said. "This may be all in one day."

Parish, the Thought provides insight into this ministry as David tells about defeats and victories he experienced over 40 years in the parish.

David conveys his commitment "to priestly and prophetic ministry, to comforting the distressed and nudging the comfortable out of apathy. He covers the personal and public dimensions of faith, sharing of real people in real situations of spiritual significance related to the realities of guilt, confes-

sion, forgiveness, redemption, humility, humor, joy, hope, and a continuous sense of God's living presence," said Russell Pannier, professor of Law at William Mitchell College of Law at St. Paul, Minn., in his review.

David said he spends little time in navel gazing but explores the humor, conflicts, ventures and achievements he remembers, Russell added.

Retired PNC Conference Minister Jim Halfaker, said, David's sketches and recollections each summon up a unique moment and place with crystal clarity; yet the characters, moods, and feelings are universal. His life in active ministry glosses on social protest, race and ecumenism. At the same time, the delicateness of person-to-person pastoral relationships shine through with the same humanity and emotion as the largest historical trends. This memoir is a joy to read and an inspiration of lived faith."

David, who now lives in Saratoga, Calif., is author of another book, *Saints Along the Way: Women and Men Who Have Influenced My Life*.

His parish ministry, following doctoral studies at Glasgow University in Scotland, were in New York, California, Michigan, Washington, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio.

In Washington, he served Community Congregational UCC in Pullman 11 years from 1971 to 1982 and United Church in University Place eight years from 1982 to 1988.

He also includes several stories from a visit to the then East and West Germany as part of the national UCC partnership with the Evangelical Church of Germany while he served in the then Washington North Idaho Conference.

For information, call 408-647-2079, or email dbb01@comcast.net.

Addresses poverty and human rights in Asia

Bruce Van Voorhis, a mission co-worker, visits PNC

The Global Ministries Committee of the Pacific NW Conference and the NW Region Christian Church Disciples of Christ is hosting Common Global Ministries Mission Co-worker Bruce Van Voorhis April 7 to 16.

He is preaching and giving presentations during Sunday worship on April 8 at Everett UCC and April 15 at Prospect UCC in Seattle. He will also meet with people for a lunch gathering on Thursday, April 12, at the home of Mary Olney-Loyd — maryolneyloyd@gmail.com for directions and bring finger food.

Bruce has served more than two decades in Hong Kong working on behalf of the church on human rights and ecumenical projects in many Asian countries.

He has frequently been involved in training young people in mediation and in non-violent witness, said Ruth Brandon of the Global Ministries committee, who is organizing visits to congregations in the region.

UCC and Disciple congregations welcome Bruce to learn about the work of his human rights ministry in Hong Kong.

Bruce enjoys sharing the stories of his life in mission in Hong Kong, preaching, speaking to adult forums and Sunday school classes for adults and teenagers regarding interfaith relationships in Asia, human rights, justice and peace.

His visit provides an opportunity for mission outreach committees and congregations to learn about the work being done on behalf of the church in a critical area of the world, Ruth said.

The program he works with, the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF), is a regional network in Asia of young people of different faiths between the ages of 20 and 30 who are committed to working for interfaith



Bruce Van Voorhis fosters human rights throughout Asia.

Photo courtesy of Global Ministries

justpeace through their local organizations.

The issues people in the network are addressing are about transforming conflicts, responding to human rights violations, upholding women's and children's rights, caring for needs of internally displaced people and alleviating poverty, he said in a report online at globalministries.org/bruce_van_voorhis.

Founded in 2003 at an interfaith meeting in Indonesia, the ICF has offered an annual 14-week School of Peace since 2006 in Bangalore, India.

Bruce edits the ICF's monthly e-newsletter, which is available online, mentors ICF network members in Indonesia and the Philippines, and conducts human rights trainings.

His concern about human rights began during a 12-day 1986 exposure trip to El Salvador and Nicaragua when these countries were in civil wars, and impoverished people faced daily human rights abuses.

Having grown up in a middle-class family in a small northern Ohio town, Bruce had "never seen poverty of this magnitude, heard stories of human rights tragedies from the victims themselves nor learned about the contribution of my

government to their suffering," he said.

This emotional impact remained with him for months after he returned to Denver where he was living.

He decided to use his skills as a photo journalist to help change what he had seen and heard in Central America.

That led him to work since October 1990 with several regional organizations in Hong Kong through Global Ministries on issues related to poverty, human rights and interfaith justpeace.

He connects members of ICF's regional network and informs them on interfaith issues in Indonesia and the Philippines. He also trains people how to respond to human rights violations.

The scripture Micah 6:8—"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"—motivates his work challenging injustice.

"People who experience injustices rarely know or feel kindness or humility," Bruce said, pointing out the importance of searching for justice in ways that reflect kindness and a humble spirit to help heal the inhumanity many people have experienced.

Bruce described some of the struggles he helps address in Asian countries.

- The Philippines has extrajudicial killings and disappearances. Muslims are treated as second-class citizens.

- In Indonesia, violence between Muslims and Christians, and between Sunnis, Shias and Ahmadis mean people need to engage in dialogue to foster understanding.

- In East Timor, the young population seeks to overcome decades of poverty and violence, and need employable

skills to build a new country

- In Hong Kong, which has a large gap between rich and poor, people seek democracy with one person one vote. They also want an end to the screening process for candidates that eliminates people favoring democracy.

- In Cambodia, development takes people's land, homes and livelihoods.

- In Buddhist Burma, where democracy is fragile, ethnic communities fight the government. Muslim Rohingyas flee discrimination and violence.

- In Bangladesh, Rohingyas are not accepted as refugees.

- In Nepal, squabbling between political parties inhibits a stable government, making it hard to address poverty.

- In Thailand, Muslim and Buddhist communities experience violence.

- In Sri Lanka, Tamils still face discrimination even though the civil war with the Sinhalese-Buddhist government ended in 2009.

"The most important lesson from my work with ICF in Asia is the power of youth," Bruce said. "I have learned not to underestimate the power of children."

On a 2010 visit to a small community in Sri Lanka, he learned that a YMCA children's club created dramas on their problems: drunk fathers, teen marriages, child abuse, child labor and migrant worker parents separated from families. They performed them in villages making the issues public. They also have written government and police officials.

Bruce, a member of Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, serves the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs in Hong Kong coordinating interfaith programs.

For information, call 425-220-2476 or 206-291-8953, or email arembem@mac.com.

Training about 'Creating a Congregational Culture of Generosity'

The Conference Stewardship Committee is offering a training event, "Creating a congregational culture of generosity," July 21 to 22 at Sunnyslope Church, 3330 School St., Wenatchee.

Two years ago, Ron Patterson, Wendy Blight, Tara Barber and Roberta Rominger attended a national stewardship training event in Orlando, delivered by the UCC and Disciples national teams.

"It was news to me that the paradigm of financial giving has completely changed, from a generation that supported the church as a matter of principle, commitment and loyalty to a new world in which people need to be convinced," said Roberta.

The treasurer used to be able to say, "We're short this month, could you all please dig a little deeper?" and people would respond, she said.

"Now that kind of message would be counter-productive. Scarcity and failure don't attract donations," she said. "We

need to put our mission priorities front and center and communicate our enthusiasm for what we're doing. We have to talk about faith."

The July event is a condensed version of Orlando, two days instead of four. The trainers come from the Lilly Foundation's Lake Institute, recognized for cutting-edge expertise and training excellence. Churches are encouraged to send at least two people, their pastor and stewardship chair—ideally three or four.

The weekend will begin with a description of the altered giving landscape. Then there will be sessions on theological underpinnings, generosity as a key to church renewal, donor sensitivity as pastoral care, transparency and accountability, and making plans.

The national UCC is footing the bill. The PNC is only responsible for local costs.

United Church of Christ, and Lake Institute on Faith and Giving offer this seminar experience to help change the way

individuals and congregations approach giving and generosity.

"Creating congregational cultures of generosity" is a two-day interactive seminar, demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation.

This course is intended for those who 1) believe in their congregation's capacity for greater generosity; 2) have a desire to become more comfortable with money; 3) are willing to redefine giving in their congregation, and 4) understand giving to include service, social networks, and sharing ideas and professional expertise.

Leaders are the Rev. Andrew DeBraber and the Rev. Marc Kirchoff.

Andy believes that when people give us their money, they are giving their hearts, and it's important to treat it as such.

This principle has guided Andy, who lives in Grand Rap-

ids, Mich., as a local church pastor, community organizer, nonprofit executive director and now as a major gift officer for the United Church of Christ. He believes the local church is more important now than ever.

Marc, an ordained American Baptist minister, is a development officer for International Cooperating Ministries. Bringing 37 years of ministry experience, his expertise is in stewardship, including strategic planning, personal and organizational financial management, administration and fundraising. He often speaks at churches and in other public settings, providing workshops, Bible studies and sermons to churches, congregational groups and nonprofit organizations.

The \$115 registration fee for the seminar includes lunches both days, Saturday dinner and a copy of the participant workbook.

Register by June 25 at www.pnuc.org. For information, call 239-253-1512 or 206-232-7800.

Poor Peoples Campaign has grassroots organizers in the state

Bianca Davis-Lovelace, who became the executive director of Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) on March 1, is one of tri-chairs of the Washington State Coordinating Committee for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival.

Bianca, who previously was pastor at Eastgate UCC in Bellevue, said that the campaign's 40 days of mass actions will begin May 13 and end in late June.

"We ask clergy to prepare sermons and worship services dedicated to themes of systematic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation," she said.

In Spokane, the tri-chair is Liz Moore, executive director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. She is collaborating with Gen Heywood, pastor at Veradale UCC, who is helping coordinate the Leaders of Conscience for Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

The Poor People's Campaign is an effort by Repairers of the Breach, founded in 2015 by the Rev. William Barber II, a Disciples of Christ pastor, in collaboration with the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, the Education Project, and hundreds of local partners. It is a multi-state movement to end systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction and

other injustices.

Liz said there are plans for a Mothers Day protest in Olympia with people traveling there from around the state. On Moral Mondays, groups will gather in their state capitals to call leaders to take moral actions regarding poverty, racism, militarism and the environment.

In Spokane, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, a diverse group of spiritual leaders, has come together, facilitated by Gen.

"We as a diverse group of spiritual leaders can model what it means to repair the breach. We can model unity in the effort to overcome poverty, racism and militarism, and move toward developing the

beloved community," she said.

Gen is taking and posting 40 videos of people telling their stories to help build relationships and understanding.

She added that the Poor People's Campaign will include voter registration and meditations about overcoming divisions. The FLLC is discussing activities like visiting prisons and community service.

Repairers of the Breach state that the faith traditions are about how society treats the vulnerable and the need for equal protection under the law, the desire for peace among nations, dignity for all people and caring for the earth.

For information, visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.

Street corner vigils call for the common good, engage passersby

On first Sundays, participants in Spirit Workshops and others at University Congregational UCC (UCUCC) in Seattle ground themselves in prayer in the church's narthex and then head out to stand on the four corners 15th Ave. and NE 45th St., the busiest intersection in Seattle's University District.

From noon to 1 p.m., they stand with signs, wave, chat with passers by and engage in neighborly interaction, before heading back to the church for "a cuppa" and to debrief.

They call the vigils "Calling for the Common Good," said Beth Amsbary, convener of the church's Spirit Workshops and philanthropy manager for seven years at the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

"We first called them 'Standing for the Common Good,' but realized the 'ablist' wording might leave out someone in a wheel chair," she said.

Participants bring signs to share their positive vision for the world: "Home for All," "Safe Schools," "DACA for Dreamers," "Black Lives Matter," "Peace" and "Kindness."

They hold signs saying what they want for the common good. People passing wave, honk or say it's a good idea.

University UCC and Spirit Workshops organize the vigils.

Spirit Workshops began in February 2017 to offer programs exploring spiritual practices for people of all beliefs.

After a year-old church plant at University UCC closed when its leader left, Beth, who was on the committee for that project, was asked to discern other prototypes.

She conversed with 20 people, asking, "What do you thirst for? What do you think the world needs? What do you enjoy doing? What do you hate doing?"

As they were formulating the idea of a spiritual community focusing on practices, not



Cecelia Frye is a regular attendee of Spirit Workshops and the Calling for the Common Good vigils.

Photo courtesy of Beth Amsbary

dogma, UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer's book, *Beyond Resistance*, came out with similar proposals.

"We decided to convene people of all beliefs in a sacred space, but we also wanted to be active," Beth said. "In the traditional church, worshipers are recipients, listening and singing, having a spectator experience like in a theater."

The group wanted to have activity, reflection, sharing in small groups, a sacred snack and opportunity to "try on" and practice tools of spiritual life. So they called the project "Spirit Workshop."

Their "trying on" the spiritual tools of others recently included a session on the science and culture of tea with Thich Nhat Hanh, meditating on mindfully drinking tea.

Participants explore a theme for one to four weeks:

"Drawing as Meditation," "Local Walks to Justice Shrines" or "Blessing the Bicycles."

"We journey inward—creatively connecting with deeper selves and bigger truths," she said. "Then we journey outward. Our aim is for each person who participates in a workshop to leave grounded and strengthened, better able to act in accord with the sacredness of our world."

"The core group of eight to 30 people come for one workshop or a season," Beth said.

They decided to meet at the church rather than at a non-church setting for consistency and to save money.

Beth said that Spirit Workshops help participants reflect on how to become the change they want to be in the world.

"They help us deepen contact with our wisdom, and bring life to our daily work in the

world," she said.

So this year, they added Vigils for the Common Good.

"Standing on the street corner, however, is not enough," said Beth, who has attended UCUCC for 20 years. She grew up in an Episcopal church in Champaign, Ill., and moved to Seattle in 1987 to start a theatre company to make the world better.

"Theatre and church do the same thing in that they present a wonderful story and offer an opportunity to engage in meaningful reflection on the world and our place in it," she said. "For me, making theatre and liturgy go side-by-side.

"We need to be relevant to the urgency of our time of economic, environmental and social imbalance and injustice. The earth is crying out," she said. "Spirit Workshops empower and encourage us to be part of the healing.

"Martin Luther King Jr., spoke of the "fierce urgency of now" for discerning how to engage in the world. The Spiritual Workshops and Vigils for the Common Good are part of that experience.

From 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, April 15, UCUCC, 4515 16th Ave. NE, plans a program on "When Your Map Doesn't Work." Beth said, "On the trail and in life, things get confusing or go wrong and suddenly we're not sure which way to go or how to get over that mountain that's in the way."

The workshop will offer practices hikers use to navigate through uncertainty, then discuss how to apply them to life in this time of constant re-orientation.

"We embrace the value of varied beliefs, cultivating space where a diverse ecosystem of views flourish together," Beth said.

For information, call 206-524-2322 or email spiritworkshops@ucucc.org.

Justice Leadership Northwest takes group on tour of history, approaches

Pilgrimage introduces participants to homelessness

The first Justice Leadership Northwest Pilgrimage on Homelessness was a rousing success, said organizer Rich Gamble, executive director of the Justice Leadership Program of the PNC.

During Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week—from March 26 to 28—nine people spent about seven hours each day steeping themselves in the issue of homelessness and exploring social justice responses.

Participants heard from some of the key leaders in the struggle to end homelessness in Seattle.

The first day started with a history of homelessness.

Prior to the late 1970s homelessness was not a word in common use in America, said Rich.

Homelessness grew out of a confluence of three major movements in America:

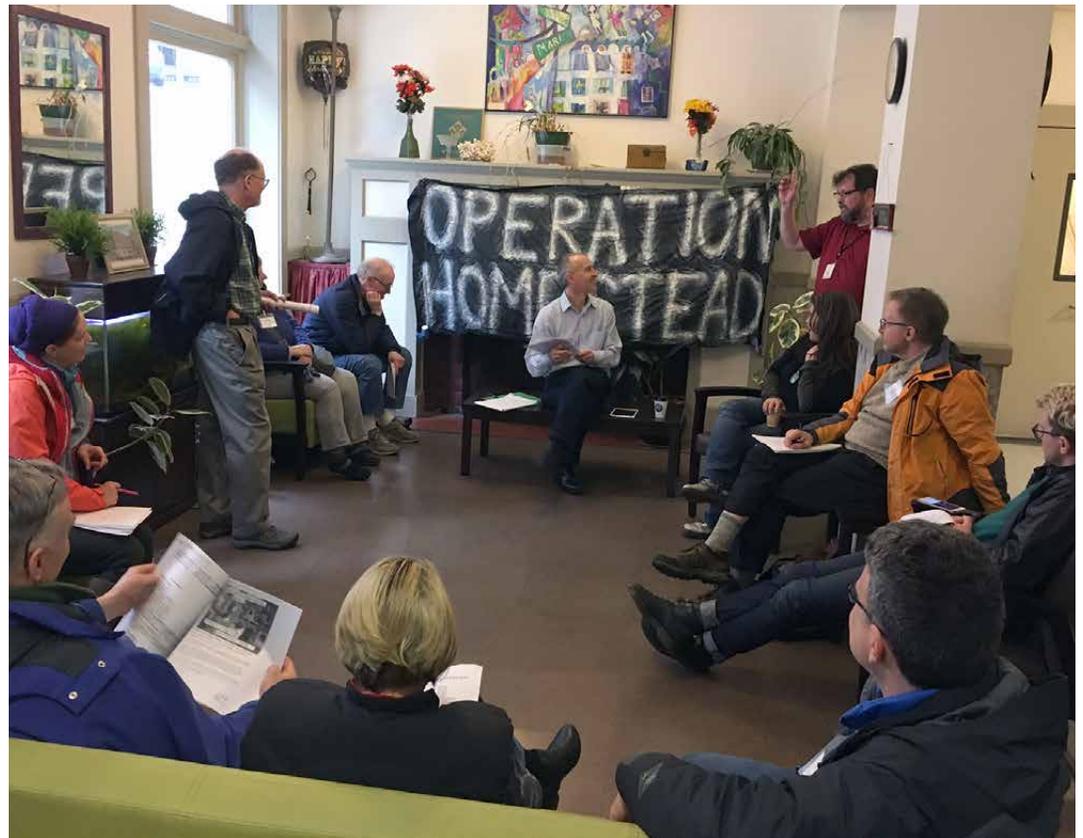
- The first was the redevelopment of urban centers. Buildings that had been sources of affordable housing for low-income people were knocked down to make way for office buildings, condos, sports stadiums and in, Seattle, the Convention Center.

- Between 1978 and 1983 under President Ronald Reagan, the primary federal program tasked with building low-income housing had its budget cut by more than 75 percent.

- Adding to this was the release of people from state mental institutions without the build-up of local support systems for people with mental health issues.

“These three forces converged to create homelessness as we now know it,” said Rich.

The focus of the pilgrimage was to look at how people in Seattle have responded to the



Pilgrimage Participants and staff from the Pacific Apartments met with Jon Gould (center) who shared the story of how the group “Operation Homestead” occupied the Pacific Apartments in order to save the building as a source of low income housing. The Pacific Apartments are now managed by Plymouth Housing a low income housing program started by Plymouth UCC.

Photo courtesy of Rich Gamble

crisis of homelessness.

Over the course of the pilgrimage, participants heard from a homeless shelter chaplain, a community organizer of homeless people, the executive director of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, the founder of Real Change newspaper, an advocate who has worked for nearly 40 years to slow down the loss of affordable housing, an activist who was a leader in a group who occupied an abandoned building and through their efforts saved the building as a source of low-income housing, among others.

Participants visited a homeless shelter, a tent and tiny house encampment, a tenant

supported transitional housing site, and model housing program for the most vulnerable of those who are homeless alcoholics.

The Pilgrimage organizers were Hunter Paulson-Smith and Rich from the Justice Leadership Program and Keystone UCC. They were joined by David Bloom former associate director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle in planning the three-day event.

Evaluations of the pilgrimage by the participants were uniformly positive. They agreed that the most inspiring impact of the event was meeting those who have spent decades working to end home-

lessness.

One participant said that the pilgrimage “restored my faith in my call social justice.”

Inspiring people to join the ranks of advocates, activists and organizers was the goal of the pilgrimage and all the Justice Leadership Programs.

“All the participants in the pilgrimage said that they were inspired to become more involved in the work to end homelessness,” said Rich.

Given the success of this pilot program it is likely that there will be future pilgrimages, possibly covering other social justice issues.

For information, email jlpl.rich.gamble@gmail.com.

PNC camp roles change over years: time to discern

**Summary of reflections on camps
by Conference Minister Mike Denton**

The PNC's relationships with the camps has changed in recent years. Over the last 30 years, about two-thirds of the conference-owned UCC camps have been closed. Only one other conference has two camps. Many were in places folks wouldn't go. PNC camps are in beautiful places where people want to go for vacation.

Once the PNC considered selling one camp when it was subsidizing them, but then we recommitted to the sites and several churches committed to weeks and weekends. Individual donors stepped up. We worked to make the camps to be self-supporting.

Recently the PNC adjusted its commitment.

- Ten years ago, the camps kept their own financial records. Now it is mostly done through the conference office and the Stewardship Committee.

- Ten years ago, the camps were treated as organizations separate from the conference, but slowly we have clarified how we are mutually accountable to and supportive of each other.

- Ten years ago, the camps operated independently. Now, the camp managers are in regular communication, planning, strategizing and supporting each other's programs. Now they have shared about best safety practices and about creating a space and programs that include faith formation.

Once little from Our Churches Wider Mission went to camps, but that has changed.

Part of the adjustments have also come from demographic

changes. Churches have fewer children and youth, so fewer come to weeklong summer camps. That was going to become unsustainable, so instead of two camps doing the traditional programs, they are consolidated at N-Sid-Sen.

Pilgrim Firs programming for youth, is at various times of the year for shorter periods. It is the launching site for intergenerational work camps, which are harder for churches to plan.

Once church use of camps was supplemented by non-church groups. Now the majority of camp income is from non-church groups. Many of those groups have a greater sense of ownership and dedication to the camps than our churches.

Recently, some of our most significant gifts have come from non-church related groups that rent the camps.

Our camp managing directors Mark Boyd (N-Sid-Sen) and Wade Zick (Pilgrim Firs) are stepping up and asking hard questions. They are not to step up alone and come up with all the answers. We have to discern what we're being called for together.

In the coming months, PNC individuals and churches will be invited to discern the role of the camps in our conference life, as well as discern their involvement in the camps; what they can give to camps for maintenance issues and upgrades; what ministry the camps may offer to the world as we seek to deepen our relationships, do justice, serve through loving kindness and walk humbly with God.

Several decades ago, our conference committed to a brave and risky covenant to fill part of our call to ministry through our camps.

What are we being called to in this time and place?

Everett UCC celebrates 125 years of ministry

For more than 125 years Everett United Church of Christ (formerly First Congregational Church) has been a positive influence in the city of Everett, said Mimi Lane moderator.

Affectionately known as the "Rainbow Church" the church's mission has been to serve the local community with God's extravagant welcome.

"Whether it's the more than 14 groups that utilize our church for community gatherings, or the three churches that also worship in our space we see a still speaking God working in and through us as a faith community," she said.

Everett UCC hosts the Dinner Bell ministry that serves more than 200 people a week,

has a food pantry the last two Mondays of every month, and hosts a drop-in center in collaboration with the Our Common Ground Ministry.

The Everett UCC church also hosts two Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, three Narcotics Anonymous meetings, PFLAG meetings, Gender Alliance, three Sex Addicts Anonymous Meetings, Gamblers Anonymous meetings, Everett Rock and Gem Club, Rookie Rock Hounds and Everett Eagles Drill Team.

The church also shares its building with three other churches—the Micronesia Fellowship (Apostolic), Marshall Islands UCC, and the Sanshinji meditation group.

"At Everett, we do not just

accept the marginalized. We exist to validate and empower all people who enter," Mimi said. "Our worship experience is vibrant, vital and thought-provoking."

As it celebrates a moment in its history and looks forward, Everett UCC will combine the celebration of its 125th anniversary with the installation of its new pastor, Darrell Goodwin at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the church, 2624 Rockefeller Ave.

Darrell, who was the founding pastor of Liberation UCC in Seattle, will continue to serve as the pastor there, as well as serving as pastor at Everett UCC.

Bishop Yvette Flunder, the founder and pastor of City of

Refuge UCC, "a radically inclusive community embracing a theology of acceptance" in Oakland, Calif., will be guest speaker.

Yvette is an ordained UCC minister who holds both masters and doctorate degrees in Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion and the San Francisco Theological Seminary, respectively.

In 2003, she was appointed Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi-denominational coalition of over 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all over the world.

For information, call (425) 252-7224, email churchadmin@everettucc.org or visit everettucc.org.

Wade Zick reports impact of 'Friends of the Camps'

In the past year, funds collected through "Friends of the Camps" for Pilgrim Firs made a huge impact on the work staff has been able to do for the site with landscaping, removing broken fireplaces in cabins, address deferred maintenance issues, improving the well system, paying for additional staff time to improve trails, and upgrades to some of the kitchen gear, reported Wade Zick, managing director.

For Pilgrim Firs, registra-



Wade Zick, managing director at Pilgrim Firs, says donations help move camps to a sustainable future.

site becoming "Friends of Pilgrim Firs."

- Several individuals are both sustaining givers and one-time donors.

"There is a long history of amazing generosity, both to the camps and the conference. There are also periods where we have not been as clear in our ask for dollars," Wade said. "We can no longer afford to not be clear. We need the commitment and the generosity of individuals and groups.

"The donations to "Friends," given to the conference and to the camps, are helping us move into a more sustainable future where the needs of the churches in the conference are being better served. It is an exciting time to give as there is so much impact being seen."

Wade hopes members of the conference and campers are experiencing some of that new energy and life present in the PNC.

He said "Friends" gifts to the conference and/or camps can make at the conference website or either of the camps.

For information, call 360-876-2031 or email wade@pilgrim-firs.org.

2018 N-Sid-Sen camp schedule is:

Clergy Retreat
April 2 to 4

Women's Retreat
May 18 to 20

Emerging Adult Camp
June 15 to 17

Work Camp (all ages)
June 18 to 21

Senior High Camp
July 8 to 14

Kid's Camp
July 15 to 18

Intermediate Camp
July 15 to 21

Rainbow Retreat
July 20 to 22

Family Camp #1
July 29 to Aug 4

Junior High Camp
Aug 5 to 11

Family Camp #2
Aug. 19 to 25

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

tion dollars fund staff, food, electric, insurance, vehicle upkeep, an overall maintenance budget and hospitality items such as linens.

The costs for site issues and capital improvements would usually come from donors, not the operating, but have come from past budget surpluses.

So Pilgrim Firs has used "dollars designed for the camper experience to fund capital improvements," Wade said.

For example, new roofs were put on all cabins are still being paid back from operating funds.

"By using operating funds,

rather than creating a robust and strong donor base, it keeps a site like Pilgrim Firs in the hole in terms of improving the camper experience and investing in the long-term major improvements that are necessary," he said.

Who are the "Friends of the Camp?"

- Several individuals from the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop (PSGW) community have become friends. Donations from their members included an unrestricted gift of \$10,000.

- There are also UCC church groups that have been taking up an offering while on

2018 Pilgrim Firs camp & retreat season

PNC Counselor & Director Retreat - May 20 to 22

Service Camp in the Kitsap Community
June 24 to 29

Service Camp in the Kitsap Community
July 15 to 20

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