



The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Spokane WA
Permit No. 1044

Exchanges change lives

By the Rev. Hugh Magee

As part of its missionary outreach in the Caribbean, the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane has for some years been in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Belize.

This link arose in part from the presence of the Rev. Silvestre Romero, the son of the Bishop of Belize, as the Diocese of Spokane's Hispanic missionary from 1999 to 2002.

Commenting recently on the growing partnership, the Bishop of Belize, the Right Rev. Sylvestre Romero, said the relationship between the two dioceses is gratifying.

Even though this diocese is "not able to return material gifts in kind, we hope our gift has been and will continue to be our unique qualities as Belizeans—our appreciation, our hospitality and our love for you as human beings made, like us, in the image of God," he said.

According to the Right Rev. James Waggoner, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, congregations from around the diocese—in cooperation with local Rotarians and others—have provided such support as scholarship funds for student tuition assistance in Belize, medical supplies and travel grants.

Hands-on ministries

"Our most ambitious undertakings, however, have been direct and personal," he said, referring to construction and medical teams that have visited Belize in recent years.



Spokane physician Laura Costello helps a patient. Stephanie Clark of Marysville, background left, also helped at the clinic. Photo provided by Peter Kalunian

The Rev. Peter Kalunian, former rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick and now rector the Church of the Resurrection in Bellevue, organized the missionary teams that have visited Belize for the fourth straight year.

"A 25-member medical team that

included seven physicians recently returned to the United States after conducting clinics, screening school children, completing surgeries and dealing with some 1,000 patients," he said, adding that many members of this team plan to return to Belize next year.

Continued on page 3

The Fig Tree reports on 20th

This issue includes a special section reporting on some of The Fig Tree's 20th anniversary events.

It features comments from readers, program plans and a summary of presentations at the session on poverty.

"Many people made the celebration possible," said editor Mary Stamp, "and we express our thanks to all who shared in it."

Those who have been working with her on the planning committee are Valarie Compton of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, included Deidre Jacobson, of Prince of Peace Lutheran; the Rev. John Coleman Campbell of Highland Park United Methodist Church; Scott Cooper of Catholic Charities; the Rev. Bob Chenault of Messiah Lutheran Church; the Rev. Jim Burford of Millwood Community Presbyterian and Linda Read of the Community of Christ Church.

Table hosts and volunteers include Mark Baetzhold, Sheri Barnard, Marguerite Brislaw, Judy Butler, Sister Bernadine Casey, Andy and Jim CastroLang, Valarie Compton, Austin DePaolo, Connie Forkner, Stan Grant, Jo Hendricks, Brenda Kane, Lance Jacobson, Hugh Magee, Carl Milton, Nancy Minard, Yvonne Morton, Ann Price, Mary Rathert, Linda Read, Raymond Reyes, Edie Rice-Sauer, Roger Ross, Dale Soden, Marilyn Stedman and Sara Thompson Royer.

Lutheran Community Services relocates office

The Spokane office of Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) will move by August from 7 S. Howard seven blocks east to 210 W. Sprague.

Client surveys found ongoing concern about lack of parking downtown, said Dennis McGaughy, director. LCSNW will also increase its staff of therapists from 89 to 97.

"We are moving to improve our service to the community with more space, easier access and better visibility," he said. "We experience high demand for trauma services, with more than 400 calls a month, but capacity to serve only 100 new clients a month."

He attributes that increase in calls for services to expansion of its emphasis beyond sexual assault to trauma experienced by those who witness domestic violence in their homes, to family members of murder victims, to bank employees who experience a robbery and to children coming out of meth homes, not only losing their parents and caregivers, but also unable to keep any of their clothes, toys or possessions.

Funding comes from the Regional Support Network for outpatient mental health services, the Department of Family and Child Services for foster care programs and the Office of Crime Victims. Church support assures that therapists can see clients who lack funds but do not fall under those services.

LCSNW also has offices in Cheney, Deer Park and Spokane Valley. It serves Colville, Chewelah, Davenport and other Spokane County communities out of its Spokane office.

For information, call 747-8224, which will remain the same.

The Fig Tree proceeds with website, rural-urban ties New office, grants, pledges pave way for next steps

With the offer of office space at Gonzaga University, \$5,000 in grants from regional churches and \$6,000 for 2004 in gifts and pledges, The Fig Tree will move ahead to tell more stories of faith and action on the web and recruit area correspondents.

The first step in the process was to have office space outside the editor's home, in a location that would facilitate connection with the wider community, said editor Mary Stamp.

Participants in the Interactive Website Advisory Team from Gonzaga University helped The Fig Tree find an office so Gonzaga could host the website—providing more space than the current host and access to technologies for streaming video and audio.

Raymond Reyes, vice president of diversity at Gonzaga, arranged for space in Unity House, 709 E. DeSmet St. During the summer, The Fig Tree will move in.

"We believe The Fig Tree's

presence will help encourage the university community to transform rhetoric to reality," he said, "and help us network with the wider faith community."

"We look forward to the possibilities for collaboration this office provides," Mary said.

"We seek to educate more people on Fig Tree-style communication that connects faith with living faith. The campus setting will allow us to work with students, faculty and others with skills and ideas for our mutual benefit."

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ Executive Council voted May 26 to grant The Fig Tree \$3,000 for the website project and \$1,000 for rural-urban outreach from its designated "Strengthen Our Church" funds.

In addition, the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Spokane will present The Fig Tree with grants of \$750 for the website and \$300 for the rural project at

its June 10 awards luncheon.

The 350 people attending The Fig Tree "Deepening Our Roots Campaign" benefit breakfast and 20th anniversary events, donated more than \$6,000 (net) in both gifts and 2004 pledges for the campaign. Pledges total \$18,425 over five years.

Of 104 identifiable donors, 41 were new contributors. Many long-time sponsors increased their level of giving. Others continue to send in contributions.

In addition, more than 20 people offered to volunteer in various capacities and 24 will pray regularly for The Fig Tree.

"The response means that we can move ahead with the projects," Mary said.

The Fig Tree Board will hire a part-time website coordinator to share the vision for an interactive website for the faith and nonprofit communities in the Northwest. The coordinator will study what is being done, converse with interested groups, develop a prototype, identify fund sources and write grants.

For information, call 535-1813.

Deepening Our Roots Campaign continues

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

Ecumenical News International, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 Email: eni@eni.ch

Church leaders urge UN Iraq role

New York (ENI). United States, European and Canadian church leaders have met with United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan to highlight their support for a stronger role for the UN in Iraq. "The future of Iraq is tied to the UN," said the Rev. Robert Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, which has long opposed U.S. policies on Iraq.

Cathedral's website wins 'Webby'

New York (ENI). The website of Grace Cathedral, a prominent Episcopal institution in San Francisco, has been honored with a "Webby"—considered one of the "Oscars of the Web." The Web site www.GraceCathedral.org won the spirituality category for the Webbys, which distinguish websites in an annual competition judged by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences.

Irish Catholic seminary mixes business, religion

London (ENI). An Irish Roman Catholic seminary made redundant by a lack of would-be priests has found a new role with a course for prospective business people. St Patrick's College in Thurles, County Tipperary, has launched a bachelor's degree program in business and religious studies, aiming to bring an ethical dimension to the often-savage commercial world.

Catholics in Congress chastise bishops

Washington (ENI). A group of Roman Catholic members of Congress have chastised church leaders, warning of a backlash if bishops deny Holy Communion to legislators who take positions in opposition to church doctrine. In a letter to Washington's Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, 48 Democrats in the House of Representatives expressed concern.

Two-thirds of U.S. internet use is religious

New York (ENI). The link between spirituality and the internet among Americans is no fluke, a recent "Faith Online" survey indicates. Some 82 million Americans—nearly two-thirds of the 128 million online U.S. users—use the internet for religious, faith or spiritual reasons, the Pew Internet & American Life Project has concluded.

Stress higher for church employees in Sweden

Stockholm (ENI). Swedish church employees appear to experience more psycho-social problems from work conditions than other workers, the Swedish Work Environment Authority has found. "I receive more and more reports about conflicts in parishes," Britt-Marie Kjolsrud, an inspector at the authority, said. Complaints relate to bullying, stress and exhaustion.

Computer training helps 'liberate' blind

Nairobi (ENI). Simon Olaki, an Anglican high school teacher, left his home in Soroti, eastern Uganda, for Jumua Training Centre near Nairobi, Kenya, to attend a five-week computer training course for blind persons, tickled deep down by the curiosity of how to use a computer keyboard. "I only used to be able to get to computers and touch the keyboard," he told ENI.

Experts advise naming and stopping evil

New York (ENI). Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressed contemporary manifestations of evil at the 35th national conference of the Trinity Institute, hoping that an interfaith dialogue could help the contemporary world "name evil" and take action.

Churches see challenge reconciling Haiti

Port-au-Prince (ENI). Churches of Haiti face a major task to reconcile people and to educate them into democracy. "The church has an important role in providing education and health care to the Haitian people, but we shouldn't stop there," Edouard Paultre, the general secretary of the Protestant Federation of Haiti, told ENI. "We have to change minds. We have to help construct a society where conflicts can be resolved peacefully."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Habitat acts in faith to build six homes

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane is stepping out on faith—as usual—raising money every day trusting the funds will be there for the six Blitz Build homes being constructed from June 12 to 25 at 2605 E. Boone

"We always build on faith," said Michone Preston, director. "We still need volunteers and funding, but if we dig a hole, we'll build a home. Somehow we have completed 124 homes, we will dedicate two more in early June and we will do six in the Blitz Build for a total of 132 homes."

Two triplexes will be built during the 13-day Blitz Build.

Construction supervisors, trades people, architects and other volunteers develop a day-by-day plan to complete the construction in 10 days and then finish the

homes with carpets, electricity and landscaping.

"Many small sponsors will help us complete the homes," Michone added.

Major sponsors are Special Projects with Spokane Schools, Sterling Savings and First Horizon Home Loans, Providence Services of Eastern Washington and the Valley Churches Ecumenical Builders.

This will be the eighth house built since 1996 by the group of nine churches—Holy Trinity Lutheran, Millwood Presbyterian, Opportunity Presbyterian, Redeemer Lutheran, Spokane Valley Baptist, St. John Vianney Catholic and Zion Lutheran, plus Hamblen Presbyterian.

Women Helping Women has donated funds for a Women's

Build Home, and First Presbyterian Church's Gloria Hope Cooper Memorial House Fund will also support it.

Volunteers pay \$15 to work one or more shifts and receive a T-shirt.

There are two shifts a day. Each will be opened with a prayer or blessing led by local clergy and lay leaders from Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran and Episcopal churches. More are needed.

In addition, area businesses and churches are bringing in meals for each shift—lunch for the morning shift and dinner for the afternoon shift.

"The meal helps develop camaraderie," Michone said. "Volunteers may help with the meals, as well as the building."

For information, call 534-2552.

'Let Justice Roll' events set in Seattle

As part of a 10-city tour to register voters to increase participation in the November election, the Rev. James Forbes will be in Seattle for "Let Justice Roll" events on June 25 and 26.

There will be a community rally and worship service at 7 p.m., Friday, at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 - 19th Ave., and a benefit breakfast for the Washington Association of Churches (WAC) at 9 a.m., Saturday at University Christian Church, 4731 - 15th Ave. NE.

"This is a rare opportunity to hear one of the greatest preachers of our time," said the Rev. Tom

Quigley, acting executive minister of the WAC.

Newsweek magazine calls the senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City one of the "most effective preachers in the English-speaking world." Jim was the subject of a "Special Edition" on PBS's "NOW" with Bill Moyers in December, 2003, and was designated one of America's greatest black preachers by Ebony magazine in 1984 and 1993.

The WAC, the National Council of Churches, the Religious Partnership on Budget Fairness and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, which represents about 25 pre-

dominantly African American congregations in Seattle's Central District, are registering voters in low-income families and communities of color.

Friday afternoon workshops for congregations will promote ways churches can aid voter registration and turnout.

The benefit breakfast will raise funds to support the public policy and economic justice work of the WAC and feature Jim speaking on the need for churches to organize and work for public policy changes serving justice.

For information, go to www.thewac.org.

Ruth Ruibal speaks on church unity

Ruth Ruibal, pastor of Ekklesia Christian Colombian Center, will speak on "Practical Unity in the Body of Christ" at 7 p.m., Sunday, June 13, at Fourth Memorial Church, 2000 N. Standard.

For 20 years, she and her husband, Pastor Julio Ruibal, sought to transform the Christian community of Cali, the center of the Cali drug cartel, full of angry men armed with machine guns.

In 1991, Ekklesia dedicated itself to the unity of the whole church and the transformation of the city. In 1995, the churches started holding all-night prayer vigils with 45,000 and 55,000 attending. In 1996, Julio was martyred for his beliefs and his work against the drug lords. His death helped mobilize churches and break down denominational strife in Cali.

One and a half years after the prayer meeting started, the muscle of the drug lords was broken, with most of them captured, dead or having turned themselves in to the authorities. Many government officials credited the unity among the churches as a key to renewing life in Cali.

Ruth will speak about the power of God's love to triumph over the

darkest of places and how that power can also transform Spokane and the Pacific Northwest.

A documentary video on the story of Julio and Ruth was shown on Elder Ezra Kinlow's Holy Temple Church of God in Christ Sunday evening cable TV program May 30 on channel 14.

For information, call (800) 668-5657.

The Fig Tree is reader supported BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

- \$15, \$25, \$50, \$150, \$1,500
- \$50 for bulk order of 15

SEND TO
The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.
Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editor/Photographer - Mary Stamp
Development Associate - Mark Baetzhold
Editorial Team
Sr. Bernadine Casey, Jo Hendricks, Deidre Jacobson, Nancy Minard

Fig Tree Board
Sr. Bernadine Casey, Jo Hendricks, Deidre Jacobson, Hugh Magee, Carl Milton, Nancy Minard, Roger Ross, Mary Stamp, Marilyn Stedman, Edie Volosing
© 2004
(509) 535-1813
Email: figtree@thefigtree.org

10th Annual **UNITY** IN THE COMMUNITY **IN THE PARK**
CELEBRATION!

<p>August 6</p> <p>Celebration Banquet</p> <p>Location and time to be announced</p>	<p>August 7</p> <p>10th annual Unity in the Community in the Park</p> <p>Liberty Park 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
---	--

For information, please phone
534-3007
SAVE THESE DATES!

In Kennewick, Pullman, Sandpoint, Spokane Valley and Yakima

Congregations visiting Belize understand outreach and give more

Continued from page 1

While several medical team members went from Washington state, the group also included people from California, Arizona and Florida. About 60 people have been involved in the various teams. Although not all have been Episcopalians, most are Christians.

Two-way traffic

According to Peter, the partnership between the two dioceses goes beyond visitations from the North.

The Rev. Shirley Johnson, a priest from All Saints' Church in Belize City, did part of her training in the Diocese of Spokane, he said, referring to the former deacon's participation in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy.

Bishop Romero said this initiative has already produced favorable results in the Diocese of Belize.

"As a result of this training in the Tri-Cities, the scope of our chaplaincy at the hospital in Belize City has grown, and there are plans to take it to the other hospitals in the country," he said.

Bishop Romero has visited the Diocese of Spokane and he participated in the 1999 annual Diocesan Convention held in the Tri-Cities.

Concrete religion

In addition to the teams for medical and religious professionals, some people go to build.

A 14-member construction team that went to Belize this spring included Episcopalians from five congregations in the Diocese of Spokane—St. Paul's in Kennewick, St. James in Pullman, St. Agnes' in Sandpoint, Resurrection in Spokane Valley and St. Michael's in Yakima.

They went to build a concrete block computer lab for an Anglican elementary school at Dangriga, the largest city in southern Belize. The lab is currently being furnished with 16 networked computers donated by the Ballard Rotary Club.

Assisted by a local contractor, the construction team mixed cement by hand, laid concrete blocks, secured rebar and assisted with roof construction.

"Because the school is right on the ocean, we had to build the computer lab to withstand hurricanes," Peter said.



Jean Andrew of St. Paul's in Kennewick; Barbara Carver and the Rev. J.P. Carver of St. Agnes in Sandpoint do concrete theology along with two men from Dangria, Belize.

More trips planned

Peter said more trips are planned for anyone willing to work.

The next opportunity to become part of such a ministry in Belize will be in 2005.

Trips are of varying durations, from eight days to two weeks. The number of participants ranges from 10 to 17.

When asked what was needed in the way of preparation for these ministries, Judi Knutzen, senior warden of St. Paul's, Kennewick—who has visited Belize four times—said it's helpful to "have an open mind towards new things and being willing to work with different types of people and situations, combined with a genuine desire to make things better."

Others spoke of new friendships formed, with both the people of Belize and other team members.

Eye-opening worship

One experience for recent visitors exemplified how an open mind can make participants open to "eye-opening" experiences.

Members of the spring group attended a healing service at a local Garifuna temple.

The Garifuna people are indigenous to the Caribbean and practice a brand of religion that combines certain native traditions with conventional Christian icons of mainly Anglican and Roman Catholic origin.

The group was accompanied by a local Anglican Garifuna priest who, in the words of one team member, "dances a fine line between the two traditions."

eyes of everyone I meet there."

Returning team members describe their experience in Belize as life-changing.

"I will forever after look at life in a slightly different way," said Judi. "Somehow my world is larger, and I understand that God's people are everywhere and that love is universal. I realize we have much in common and by connecting with others, I understand what it means to love your neighbor as yourself."

Congregational support

Peter said that congregational support has risen as a result of this initiative.

"The congregations involved seem to have become more aware of the meaning of 'outreach' and are more inclined to support such

efforts financially," he said.

He pointed out that the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane also funds and supports a medical mission in Honduras.

"Members of teams who go to Honduras also return to their congregations with raised insights about the overall mission of the church," he said.

A Companionship Committee has been formed with representatives from five deaneries in the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane who have participated in these missionary journeys.

"Hopefully we will recruit more folks to join us next year," said Kay Surles, a member of St. James Episcopal Church, Pullman, who serves on the Committee.

For information, contact kaluni.anfamily@email.msn.com.

In leisure time, participants, who are housed in hotels, also visited Mayan ruins and enjoyed the beauty of white sands along the ocean.

Life-changing experience

Asked how participation in the Belize ministries has strengthened their faith, returning team members were struck by the happiness of the people of Belize.

"The fact that they don't have the luxuries we enjoy doesn't seem to concern them," said one visitor: "I see God's love in the

Have you tried
Bishop's Blend Coffee?

- Fair traded • Organic
- Shade grown
- Choice of blends

Your purchase helps to meet needs worldwide

 **EPISCOPAL**
Relief and Development

For individual or group orders:
(800) 334-7626 (ext. 5129)
www.er-d.org



Only 4 copies available!

The Fig Tree
1994 -2004

The second decade bound archival edition
100 issues of The Fig Tree

TO ORDER

SEND \$100 WITH NAME AND ADDRESS
THE FIG TREE • 1323 S. PERRY ST. • SPOKANE, WA 99202
535-1813 • figtree@thefigtree.org

Order and save up to 80% on prescriptions from Canada

Call today to receive your FREE patient information kit and price quote right over the phone.

Questions? Give us a call, we're here to help!

We carry over 2000 brand name and generic prescription drugs

Ask for Extension #359 and for new customers YOUR FIRST ORDER IS SHIPPED EXPRESS FREE of charge, a \$25.00 value



Call TOLL-FREE today!

1.866.535.2764

www.ALLCANADIANDRUGS.com

Ask for Extension #359

KIDS....

Aimless

Unfulfilled

Hopeless

Is this how you want any child to spend the summer? Did you go to summer camp as a child? If so, you know how those days influenced your life. Many children never have a chance to go to camp, make new friends, learn new skills, and enrich their lives. When a family earns barely enough to pay for rent, utilities and food, little is left for the kids. **At the Salvation Army's Camp Gifford** underprivileged children and young adults swim, canoe, climb, do a ropes course and meet people from around the nation and world. **At Camp Gifford** children also learn about possibilities of a better life centered around God through God's caring servants.

Give a child a break in life and share generously to send a child to camp.

 **YES!** I want to help underprivileged children go to Camp Gifford with my gift of: \$150 (one child) or \$_____ (any gift will help)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____

Make check payable to: The Salvation Army Memo: Camp Gifford CamperShip® Fund
Mail to: The Salvation Army, PO Box 9108, Spokane, WA 99209-9108
CHARGE BY PHONE @ (509) 325-6810 Visit: www.salvationarmyspokane.org Code F.T.

Friend to Friend turns 25 – younger than those it befriends

As Friend to Friend reaches 25 years, it is still many years younger than most of the people its volunteers befriend in long-term care facilities in the Spokane area.

Started in September 1979 by the then Spokane Christian Coalition, this organization promotes one-to-one visits—at least for 15 minutes twice a month—with elderly people.

Friend to Friend recruits, screens and trains volunteers. Activity directors in nursing homes match the volunteers with lonely residents who have no family or no family nearby.

More than 300 attended an initial informational meeting about the Friend to Friend program. For many years, there were more than 100 volunteer visitors. Now about 50 people volunteer to meet with people in 35 long-term care and assisted living facilities.

Friend to Friend continued as a ministry under the nonprofit status of the Coalition as it changed to the Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries and then the Inter-faith Council.

This year, it will become an independent nonprofit organization.

Several times it came to the verge of dissolving, and then the minimum donations needed to keep it going would suddenly come in, said Jan Kendrick, part-time volunteer coordinator since 1992.

“People in long-term care facilities need outside friends, personal contact, a familiar face—even if they may not recognize the person from one visit to the next,” she said.

Connie Miles is the longest serving volunteer.

Jan was activity director at Regency South in 1980 when Friend to Friend introduced her to Connie. Jan matched her with a resident.

Over the years, Connie has befriended 10 women and three men in five different facilities—Davis Nursing Home, Regency South, Southcrest, St. Joseph’s and St. Brendan’s.

“I stick with them through the years until they die,” she said.

Jan said Connie was assigned to a reprobate, abusive alcoholic man, who would not speak to the nursing home staff. She “turned him into a human being.” Staff had thought he was unable to speak because of a stroke. No one visited him. Jan said, “He may have alienated family and friends.”

Connie told him in the first week that she thought he could talk and was just buffaloing everyone. She asked if he liked candy. Eventually he nodded



Jan Kendrick



Connie Miles

yes. She brought some candy, but would not give it to him until he said he wanted it. He grabbed for the candy.

“So you want the candy,” she said. Finally, he said, “Yes.”

Connie, whose husband is a forester, said that the man became like family, sprucing up and taking baths when he knew she was coming with her daughters.

“We saw the gruff personality melt. It was a wonderful relationship for five years,” she said.

Her relationship with him rubbed off on others on the nursing home staff, so their work with him was less frustrating.

Connie visited another man in the hospital during the two weeks he was there dying of cancer.

She has also taken people on outings and picnics in the summer.

When she asked one woman what she wanted to do to celebrate her 90th birthday, the woman said she wanted “a greasy hamburger and a milkshake.” So Connie took her to a restaurant where she ordered that. On learning it was the woman’s 90th birthday, the restaurant provided a brownie and a candle.

Connie, who had trained to be a certified nurses’ aide but was unable to find employment because of her own health limitations, would visit people every week. Tuesdays were her “nursing home day,” when she spent up to three to four hours. Until recently, she was visiting four people regularly. Now she visits just two people whenever she can.

“It’s given me a lift to do good to others,” said Connie, cautious about talking about faith.

Friend to Friend volunteers are not to talk about religion or politics unless those they befriend bring up the topics. They are not to proselytize those they befriend. Their witness to their faith is in their caring and presence.

“We are instruments to show

God’s love,” Connie said.

Because of her involvement, Friend to Friend’s office now has its office at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2159 N. Hamilton. For many years, it was at the Episcopal Diocese office and then it was at the Lindaman Non-Profit Center.

Jan, a member of First Church of the Open Bible, said that nursing homes urge people to be sensitive to the residents’ vulnerability in the “precious time as people approach death.”

While Friend to Friend is a Christian ministry, if a nursing home resident is Jewish, Jan will try to find a Jewish volunteer.

One woman studying to be a nurse wanted to be a friend with someone who spoke Greek. There was a woman at one home who was agitated. When the Greek-speaking volunteer came into her room, took her hand and spoke in Greek, the woman began to smile and tears welled in her eyes. The younger woman was reciting some Greek nursery rhymes.

Some individuals and families bring their pets with them, but the animals must be trained.

One family would visit an Alzheimer’s wing, each member going to visit different friends.

Once a volunteer befriends someone, Jan suggests that the volunteer check with the activity director for a calendar of events. Friends may take the residents for outings to the fair, concerts, Ice Capades and other events.

Some drop out after the person they befriended dies. Some drop off as they have babies and rear families. Many will come back

and volunteer again.

“Volunteers grieve the loss of their friends and may go into inactive status. For many, it is like grieving the death of a parent or grandparent,” she said. “Friends become attached, developing strong relationships and learning from each other.

“Scripture says we are to care for the least of our brothers and sisters,” said Jan, who grew up in Spokane and worked as a housekeeper at Holy Family Medical Center. She wanted to be a nurse because of her experiences of growing up with a brother who was retarded.

She also studied gerontology at Spokane Falls Community College, worked a while with Meals on Wheels and then became activity director at a care facility.

Training of volunteers includes the nursing home atmosphere, the aging process, confidentiality issues, communication skills and techniques for talking with people who are confused or frustrated.

Social workers at the care

facilities say that residents with volunteer friends experience an increased sense of self worth, emerging from isolation and depression.

“Volunteers bring in the outside world,” Jan said. “There’s nothing like a friend.”

To raise funds for the work, Friend to Friend has relied on bake sales—formerly at the Franklin Park Mall and now twice a year at First Presbyterian Church. In the fall, board members baked more than 44 pies and raised about \$400.

From noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, Friend to Friend will hold a reunion and picnic for past and present board members, volunteers and others affiliated with the program at the Mission Park gazebo.

On Oct. 2, they will have their annual Walk Run on the Centennial Trail beginning at Mission and Perry.

Friend to Friend seeks volunteers on an ongoing basis.

For information, call 483-1600.



Lundin's Violins

**Sales
Repair
Rental
Appraisal**

4326 N. Maringo Dr.
Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 926-7357

lundinsviolins@att.net
lundinsviolins.com



Lutheran Community Services

N O R T H W E S T
Health • Justice • Hope

**announces the relocation
of its Spokane office
in August to
210 W. Sprague
747-8224**



**The 2004
Wilderness
Spirituality
Program Series**




Out of Sorrento Centre
in Sorrento, British Columbia, Canada

This summer's calendar includes...

July 4 – 10
**21st Century Pilgrims:
The Poet's Journey**
Five day-hikes draw inspiration from the writing and vision of walking poets.

July 11 – 17
**21st Century Pilgrims:
Ridges, Meadows, Plateaus**
Five rigorous hikes, prayers, and reflections.

July 18 – 24
Learn to Canoe, Paddle, Pray
Part practical how-to, and part exploration of the contemplative rhythms of paddling.

July 25 – 31
Seekers Wanted!
Grab a page from Harry Potter on this week of outdoor challenges just for youth (13+).

Aug 8 – 14
Into the Presence of God
Canoeing, centring prayer, and camp life seek a path of attention and presence.

Call for the full program calendar...

Phone: 250 675 2421 • Fax: 250 675 3032 • info@sorrento-centre.bc.ca

www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca

**Festival of the Arts
on the
Shadowy St. Joe**



15th Annual

July 17-18

Cherry Bend Boat Park
St. Maries, Idaho

Art & Craft Booths
Food Booths • Live Entertainment
Children's Art Adventure

Noon to 4 p.m.
208-248-3417



An Ecumenical
Festival & Retreat
of Worship
& the Arts

July 12-17, 2004

at Whitman College - Walla Walla, WA

Contact
Jim Baum
(509) 923-9144
jallan_baum@hotmail.com
for more information

'Singing Our
Heart Songs'

Keynote: Vicki Blake
Choir Director at Bonners Ferry High School

25th Anniversary

The Fig Tree 20th Anniversary Celebration Report - Mobilizing to Overcome Poverty

Council leader restores trust and vision through personal contact

Given that God's reign is beyond human vision, the Rev. Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said humans are to "provide yeast so we can produce beyond our own capability."

Beginning his first of four presentations while visiting Spokane for The Fig Tree's 20th anniversary May 20 and 21, he told of starting in ministry at the age of 19, as youth minister in a United Methodist church in the coal strip-mining region of Pennsylvania.

"It helped me understand poverty to learn about the lives of these people who owned only what was in their homes, not their homes, because the company would strip mine right through the property.

In February 1968, he heard Martin Luther King, Jr., speak to religious leaders at a Presbyterian church in Washington, D.C.—five weeks before he was assassinated. He told them: "War expenses take the oxygen out of human needs programs. We are the first generation who can mutilate the future for everyone with nuclear weapons."

In the years afterwards, Bob was among the leaders who continued their commitment to help people see the connection between war and poverty.

"We must face the fact that tomorrow is today in the conundrum of history," he quoted from Coretta Scott King's book *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. She said that most civilizations learn too late to choose nonviolent co-existence over chaos.

Bob finds that her words have stretched him: "Words help shape who we are."

He then summarized population growth from 1 billion in the world in 1830 to 3 billion in 1960 to 6 billion in 1999—all wanting clean air, clean water and food. He attributes the growth to vaccines that eliminated childhood diseases. In some countries, the average life span has increased.

In the United States, it has risen since the 1960s from 62 years for men and 66 for women to late 70s for men and early 80s for women. Aware of that, Bob calls churches to engage people not only over the age of 65 but also over 85 in serving society.

On the average, 52 in 100 people are women and 48, men; 57 are Asians; eight, Africans; 14 in the Western hemisphere (North and South); 70 non-white; 70 non-Christian, and six would own half the world's wealth, he added.

"Christians need to stop thinking we are in the majority," he said. "We also need to be aware that 80 percent of people in the world live in substandard housing, 70 percent cannot read or write and 50 percent go to bed hungry."

In 1997, Bob came to the National Council of Churches (NCC) when it was suffering financially. In the 1980s he had brought Claremont Theological Seminary from the brink of collapse. He raised the NCC endowments from \$2 million to \$25 million by building trust and sharing a vision.

"With trust and a vision, raising money is easy," he said.

Several of the 36 mainline Protestant and Orthodox member



The Rev. Bob Edgar spoke on poverty, dialogue and diversity.

churches had reduced their contributions before he came.

In addition to those churches—including historic black and historic peace churches—55 other churches—Pentecostal, Evangelical and Roman Catholic—serve on NCC commissions: Faith and Order, Communications, Education, Justice and Advocacy, and Interfaith Dialogue.

Catholics are the eighth largest supporters, Bob said.

Aware that sometimes churches live past their mission, he helped the NCC rediscover its mission—making known its work:

- The NCC is "in the Bible business." It publishes the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New RSV Bibles—so, with a note of humor and sincerity, he urged people to read their Bibles.

- The NCC promotes civil rights, human rights, women's rights and people's rights. In 1957, for example, the NCC loaned its youth director, the Rev. Andrew Young, to Martin Luther King, Jr., to organize white ministers and lay people to go to the South to promote civil rights.

- Church World Service/CROP is the NCC's aid and development ministry working to end poverty, heal the environment and bring

about peace in the world.

The money problem was a symbol of the problems the NCC faced, but was not the real problem, Bob said.

"We needed to change our beatitude—our *be* attitude—about life. We were talking about poverty, the environment and peace, but we were not acting. We needed to stop worrying whether it was safe for the NCC to act, to be faithful and to draw people together to work on issues."

The NCC is taking five steps:

1) It is looking at "trend lines" in American society: Why do 43.6 million Americans—9 million children—have no health care? Why do we accept a minimum wage and not a living wage? Why do we buy 99-cent hamburgers from companies where CEOs earn millions and workers have no pensions? Why 50 years after the Supreme Court's *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision to integrate schools are schools financially separate and unequal? Why do schools base funding on property taxes? Why do we pay ball players more than we pay teachers?

2) The NCC sets achievable goals: How many high school graduates do we want to be able

to read and write? How many people do we want to move off food stamps and into a reasonable lifestyle?

3) It promotes the goals without worrying who among collaborating partners has the credit. The goal is to do something about poverty, whether people or groups are conservative or liberal. Bob finds when people read the Bible "literally enough," they discover God cares about poor people.

4) It can do what churches cannot do to measure results and evaluate what works. Four years ago, the NCC committed to the "Mobilization Against Poverty" to continue until the trends change.

5) The NCC, as part of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, works behind the scenes with Jewish and Catholic leaders to convince people, including seminarians, that "God cares about the environment, the creation."

They also connected with evangelical leaders on the "What Would Jesus Drive" campaign last year about oil use and Middle East policies related to terrorism. They questioned dropping mandatory fuel efficiency standards from the energy bill. With Jewish and evangelical leaders, Bob visited auto manufacturers in Detroit to urge them to manufacture more hybrid cars voluntarily.

Bob links poverty and pollution: "The poorest people live on, by or in the most polluted land, water and air. We oppose distributing powdered infant formula in poor countries because babies die when it is mixed with polluted water.

"We have to work together on all five issues, informing people and asking for money to act," Bob said.

He considers it "bad news" that a women's shelter he helped a church found in one community in 1968 is still open and now has 80 employees.

"We live in a society in which the haves have and the have-nots still have not. We need passionate people to speak out and mobilize the majority. God calls average ordinary people to do extraordinary things," said Bob, quoting the late Bobby Kennedy's call for South Africans not to be discouraged because of the limits of what one person can do in face of an enormous task, but to know each person can work to change a small portion of the task in order

to have an affect on the total.

"The Fig Tree is a voice for helping the poor, healing the environment and bringing peace," he said, calling those at the event to help increase its circulation.

"We are the ones to plant the seeds. We need to stop expecting government to solve problems. We need representative government, but we cannot wait for that to address the needs of the poor. We need to reach out and make a difference doing what we can do," he said.

"Churches doing social services stand for something. They make the fabric of the Gospel the fabric of institutions," he said.

He reminded participants that elected officials—as he was as a six-term representative from Pennsylvania—are human beings in complicated systems. So the best way to lobby them is "through eye contact, so they know your name and will know that you have more information than they have on an issue.

"They are lawyers. They do not sleep in shelters," he said, suggesting that people form alliances, hold each other's hands to prevent burnout, figure strategies to connect and clarify the vision.

Often advocates forget that they have three jobs: to raise money, to raise money and to raise money.

"People need to be asked for money," he said.

Bob also reminded people that faith-based initiatives are not new. Catholic Charities, Church World Service, Lutheran Community Services and many other church-related human service programs receive federal funds.

"We do not want the government to think all social services can be passed on to the churches. The government needs to partner with the faith community to do some of the work, too," he said.

In recent years, people learned of the power unleashed by the internet connections of such websites as MoveOn.org, TrueMajority.org and WorkingAssets.org, whose calls for candlelight vigils before the war in Iraq resulted in 6,500 vigils around the world. Those advocacy websites grew quickly to 2.5 million participants.

So the National Council of Churches is creating a website called "Faithful America" with 5 million email addresses.

More information is available at www.nccusa.org.



ST JOSEPH FAMILY CENTER
healing happens here

1016 N. Superior
Spokane WA 99202
(509) 483-6495
Fax: 483-1541
stjosephfamilycenter.org

Summer Retreats

Exploring Celtic Spirituality
Jane Comerford, CSJ
understand Celtic traditions and their history in prayer, lectures, rituals and experiential processes
June 18-25 \$400 (\$25 deposit due June 11)

East Meets West
Father Leo Cachet, SJ
integrate mystic traditions of the East and West, including wisdom of indigenous people in Nepal & Myanmar
Retreat Weekend - July 2-4 \$145
Week Retreat - July 4-10 \$400

Wellness Retreat Week
Jane Comerford, CSJ
focus on creating and sustaining personal wellness to help you renew and revitalize your life
Retreat Weekend - July 16-18 \$160
Day Retreats - July 19-23 \$50/day

'Involved Fathers Support Group'
12-session series with Tom Schmidt, MEd, LMHC, LMFT, CCDF
Thursdays - 5-6:30 p.m. - Fee: \$12 per person per session
For fathers who want to preserve or build a nurturing relationship with their children

Find your "Point of Inspiration" at

N-SID-SEN

Camp & Conference Center

Year-round facility—270 acres & 4,800 feet of waterfront on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

- Open for non-profit groups from 16 to 160
- Two retreat lodges with all facilities
- Fourteen cabins with baths down the trail
- Lakeside chapel
- Open-air pavilion for worship, dance or programs
- Sheltered cove for swimming and boat moorage
- Excellent food service, served family style
- Canoes and sailboats available
- Hiking trails
- Adventure challenge course
- Volleyball, basketball and horseshoes

Call 1-800-448-3489 to reserve your date for retreats, seminars, workshops or fellowship!
Come and catch the spirit!

A voice of faith

God calls ordinary people to care, heal, seek peace

Recognizing The Fig Tree as “a communication vehicle for today’s times,” the Rev. Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, challenged about 180 at the publication’s 20th anniversary benefit breakfast May 21 to help deepen its roots.

“Let us dig the roots so deep that we respond to all God’s people in the dawn of life as children, in the twilight of life as the elderly and in the shadows of life—the poor, the sick and the disabled,” he said, quoting the late Senator Hubert Humphrey.

“The moral test for people of faith today—in this decade, in this century, in this time of wars and rumors of war, in this time of extensive poverty and degradation of the planet—is that God is calling us as average, ordinary, common people to do the extraordinary thing to care for the least among us, to heal our planet on which we live and to seek peace,” Bob said.

“The Fig Tree is a paper that tries to gather our

minds to think about faith and action. It is changing our beatitude of life,” he said, citing Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount’s recognition and blessing of peacemakers, the meek and the poor in spirit.

“God is calling us to change our beatitude—or be attitude—of life. The Fig Tree helps us to do that. We need to focus on *being* alert, effective, relevant, creative, focused and alive, and being part of a larger global community we call planet earth.”

Bob said people have done much good work helping The Fig Tree and donating \$15, \$25 or \$50, but he challenged those present to “ratchet up” their thinking, given “the days in which we live.”

He stretched them to imagine the influence of the publication if it doubled its circulation in 2004, if all members of Congress and the President read it and learned what the faith community does.

With all the government talk about faith-based initiatives, Bob pointed out that faith-based initiatives come from the bottom up, not the top down.

“God is calling us to change our beatitude of life and change our scale,” he said, turning to reports of prisoner abuse in Iraq and a call to deny the terrorists their victory. “Let’s not let this nation become the nation the terrorists think we are.”

Few people have the power to bend history itself, but each person can bend a small portion, he pointed out, inviting people to support The Fig Tree so it has impact around the world.



The Rev. Bob Edgar

A respected voice

The Fig Tree offers essential, authentic journalism

The role of journalism is to be the voice of the community, said Steve Blewett, journalism director at Eastern Washington University, speaking of The Fig Tree’s role.

“There are more voices in the community than we can possibly count or keep track of,” he said. “Everybody wants to be heard. We live in a world where everyone has an opinion.

“What we really need is an authentic voice and source, a source we can look to, a serious, responsible, caring voice that speaks to the heart of everyone who is there. That is what The Fig Tree has been. The fundamental and essential role of journalism in society is to be that authentic source for people who need to know what is essential and important in our community and society.”

Steve said that when in 1450 Gutenberg invented movable type and the press to communicate to a world exploding with knowledge, many thought he was producing magic and it was from the devil, because nothing could be produced so quickly and so rapidly and in such huge volume.

“Journalism and communication, as Mary knows, is not magic,” he said. “She does not just wave her wand and a *Fig Tree* appears every month. It’s hard work, and it takes effort and commitment.”

Steve pointed out that in recent years journalism has been in a state of crisis, leaving many wondering what its authentic role is.

The Project for Excellence in Journalism captures the essence of the role. Steve quoted from their report:

“Journalism’s first obligation is to the truth. Its first loyalty is to citizens. Its essence is a discipline of verification. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover. It must serve as an independent monitor of power. It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise. It must strive to make the significant interesting



Steve Blewett

and relevant. It must keep the news comprehensive and propor-

tional. Its practitioners must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience.”

Steve concluded, saying: “That’s what The Fig Tree does. It’s what it has done for 20 years, and we hope it will do into the unforeseeable future—continue to maintain that level of authenticity and commitment to excellence. It insures that those people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to speak or be heard have that opportunity.

“That is the essence of essential, authentic journalism and of The Fig Tree,” he said.

A voice for these times

Newspaper holds people together



Valarie Compton

Valarie Compton, coordinator of the anniversary planning committee, said: “I’ve said often this newspaper contains so many and so broadly diversified stories that it’s a wonder it doesn’t explode.”

She invited people to take home and plant tree seedlings provided by the Spokane County Conservation District as table decorations.

“They are ‘fig trees.’ They just don’t look like it,” she joked.

“They are yours to take home and plant to remind you of this day when we made big dreams for The Fig Tree.”

A voice of justice

Fig Tree turns words into action

Raymond Reyes, associate vice president for diversity at Gonzaga University, recalled first meeting editor Mary Stamp in 1984, when she wrote an article on his work with the East Plateau Indian Cooperative of the American Indian Community Center.



Raymond Reyes

“We can think of ourselves either as physical beings with spiritual experiences or as spiritual beings with physical experiences. What I find from Mary is that the quintessential identity of our existence is indeed being spirits with bodies.

“Social justice education connects the head with hands with hearts,” he continued, describing the education approach from the Jesuit tradition at Gonzaga.

He sees The Fig Tree as “the community element that transforms rhetoric into social justice activism, allowing the community to communicate with itself, giving voice to the voiceless, bringing us the sacred stories of those that are not heard.

“The Fig Tree allows them to be heard and become part of the master narrative in the community—including, creating and inviting an authentic, multicultural, democratic dialogue about what it means to be human,” Raymond said.

A voice of hope

People do make a difference

YWCA director Monica Walters said that people in the nonprofit community react to mainstream media headlines every day with outrage and despair: babies killed, women stabbed by ex-boyfriends, hate crimes in North Idaho, teen suicides and more.



Monica Walters

Seeing those headlines, it is easy for nonprofit leaders and volunteers to think that what they do every day has no impact.

“Then The Fig Tree comes, and we see acts of kindness and goodness from everyday people doing everyday things as part of their daily lives, and making a difference. We know we are in community with others,” she said.

The Fig Tree brings together the faith traditions and leaders in government, civic groups, nonprofits and neighbors, she said.

“We not only feel hope because we see those acts of goodness on a daily basis, but we also can share our stories as storytellers, telling what we do every day in the trenches, telling those stories in a safe place because The Fig Tree makes it safe. We know the story will be respected, and it will be told in a way that respects the readers.”

In contrast, she said mainstream media sound bytes or quoting a sentence or two out of context miss the whole story.

“That’s the beauty and gift The Fig Tree is to us in the nonprofit world. It connects us. It gives us the opportunity to see what others are doing, how other people are creating new ideas of how to respond to human needs,” she continued. “It gives us a voice that speaks in depth about what is happening.

“The Fig Tree allows conversation about difficult topics—not only about racism and oppression, but also about the abuse and sexual assault of women and children—to become part of the faith community’s conversation. Often those conversations were not happening. Now they are happening,” Monica said. “It gives us a voice. For 20 years, we have had this wonderful gift. It’s up to us to keep the gift coming.”

Action Recycling
911 E. Marietta
TOP PRICES
HONEST WEIGHT
aluminum
brass
copper
stainless
newspapers
483-4094

Paper Plus™
125 S. Arthur
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-0229
(800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**

Rockwood Retirement Communities are dedicated to the lifelong vitality and well-being of the whole person.

Enhance your Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Intellectual Life in a comfortable custom home or apartment, with assisted living and skilled nursing available.

Rockwood South 2903 E. 25th Avenue
Rockwood at Hawthorne 101 E. Hawthorne Rd.

536-6650

Interactive Website opens new opportunities

Looking to one future project, the Rev. Jim CastroLang, a United Church of Christ pastor involved in the Fig Tree's Interactive Website Advisory Team, said:

"We heard that this is a time when we must do extraordinary things. What if the circulation doubles? What if it explodes into a fuller ministry on the web?"

He cited a prayer in Ephesians that people of faith would have the power to comprehend the breadth, depth, height and length of Christ's love.

For 20 years, The Fig Tree's mission has been to discover faith in action wherever it might be found in the Inland Northwest and to write about it, he said.

"With the emergence of the internet and the worldwide web, The Fig Tree editor and board began to dream of expanding the ministry onto the web. We have begun to work on that dream. This summer, phase one will begin. Of course we need money," he said.

In phase one, the plan is to prepare a prototype of The Fig Tree ministry on the web, expand-

ing coverage in the newspaper through audio, video, photographs and graphics.

In phase two, the goal is to expand the coverage of faith in action activities to the whole Northwest, increasing exposure to and providing content of seminars and other grassroots faith-based events.

"We hope to provide a C-span type coverage of certain types of action and events. In this phase, we will develop interactive features to this website, so it is more than an information source, but it also connects people, ideas and activities in a way that builds on creative energies and encourages more faith in action. Of course we need money," he reminded.

"It is not our goal to distribute more newspapers by going onto the web, although that would be nice, but to expand the ministry using all the tools of our age," Jim said. "We believe that by using many facets of multimedia technologies, not only will The Fig Tree make a bigger splash, but so will the people and activities that



The Rev. Jim CastroLang

put faith into action every day.

"We desire to add to the breadth and length, the height and depth, to the living of the faith throughout the Northwest through churches, service organizations, ecumenical and interfaith groups and spiritual people everywhere.

"Of course we need money," he repeated. "So I hope you will help us to expand that dream."

Fig Tree seeks helpers as it unravels stereotypes

As The Fig Tree unravels stereotypes, makes connections and introduces readers to faithful people and groups who find creative ways to travel their faith journeys, Fig Tree board member and editorial team member Nancy Minard said it uses new and old-fashioned means of outreach.

"While some ministries covered have obvious worldwide implications, some seem relatively small," she said, "but there are no small ministries. We don't know how far the ripples will travel."

While production has gone from literal cutting and pasting to a few clicks of the computer, Nancy said no matter how sophisticated the equipment, the tools are just expensive toys without people with old-fashioned communication skills to recognize a story and to write, edit and place it in an attractive format.

"The new equipment makes it possible to create a larger paper and put it on the web," she said, "but every step of the way has to be fortified with people. That means staff and volunteers."

In addition to funding from several denominations supporting the Rural-Urban Connections Project, funding and volunteers are needed to make wider coverage and distribution possible.

Nancy visits her mother in Newport and delivers The Fig Tree to churches there. Volunteers who travel regularly to or



Nancy Minard

from outlying communities are needed to help with distribution. She also asked for volunteers to write features or sell ads to support pages covering outlying communities. She invited people to advertise their businesses and events, to help with office work and to be sure The Fig Tree is both distributed and used in their congregations.

For example, she urged people interested in recycling to share the May article on a church's recycling commitment with people in their congregations.

"We have an office now which will expand possibilities for volunteer help," she said.

"It's all about facilitating communication among people of faith, because there are no small ministries," she repeated.

'Deepen Our Roots' Campaign raises funds for publication and two projects

In an appeal for funds, Pat Copeland Malone uplifted the power of words, The Fig Tree's expanding possibilities for a ministry of sharing faith in action and the challenge to deepen commitment to God's shalom.

"Our theme is words of hope, because folks have been inspired to act in faith because of The Fig Tree," he said.

Many people have had their stories, deeds of hope and commitments to action shared through The Fig Tree model of ecumenical communication, he said.

Typically, The Fig Tree has asked for the minimum, he pointed out—recalling involvement with it when he served on the former Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries Board of Directors.

"To move into the future, however, The Fig Tree is now asking for what it really needs to expand its circulation and cover more of the many, many stories of hope and inspiration," he said.

Pat suggested that some people might consider major gifts and commitments for up to five years to support the \$27,000 annual budget for the Rural-Urban Connections Project and \$55,000 annual budget for the Interactive Website Project or the \$75,000 annual Fig Tree budget.



Pat Copeland-Malone

"This is a big vision. It won't happen right away, but it will never happen if we don't begin to realize the dream now. Our world needs this now," he said.

The Rural-Urban Connections Project is increasing coverage of and circulation in outlying areas to build awareness of the larger circle of faith in the region. Its new vision is to have correspondents responsible for area pages.

The Interactive Website Project will provide a communica-

tions infrastructure for the faith and nonprofit communities of the Northwest, to pool resources and extend the circle for sharing hope-giving stories.

Pat suggested small groups work together to raise major gifts to give The Fig Tree leverage to secure grants to realize the dreams.

He also asked for commitments of \$1,200 or \$2,400—or any amount—for up to five years to create jobs and make ongoing publication, educational outreach, and special events possible.

"We encourage you to stretch your giving to strengthen and deepen our roots and our ability to send forth new shoots of life," Pat said. "The Fig Tree started small—from the seeds of an idea. It has grown slowly from a seedling to a tree, branching out, greening with leaves and yes, bearing fruit in the region.

"Share in the vision, so we can live in a region, society and world in the shalom God intends and The Fig Tree sees as possible.

"Share in the dream, to invest as our editor, staff and volunteers have invested their lives to make this ministry grow and bloom."

For information, call 535-1813 or 328-0822.

Deepening The Fig Tree's Roots Campaign

Call me about a major gift for the rural or website project

I will give (circle) \$200, \$100, \$50 a month for five (or ___) years

\$_____ a year for five (or ___) years

I will volunteer for (circle) mailings, displays, website, rural project

I will tell "The Fig Tree Story" in my congregation/group

I would like information about advertising

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Email _____ Church/Faith _____

SEND TO: THE FIG TREE • 1323 S. PERRY ST. • SPOKANE, WA 99202

VOLVO • TOYOTA • DATSUN

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207

EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221

Whitworth College
announces the
JOHN KNOX SCHOLARSHIP
for
Graduate Study

The John Knox Scholarship is for teachers and other employees of Christian schools, Christian churches, and Christian nonprofit organizations.

The scholarship is equal to 25 percent of regular graduate-course tuition and can be applied to all Graduate Studies in Education degrees and certification programs, including Community Agency Counseling and General Administration.

For more information, contact
Vernice Hunnicutt, Assistant Director
Graduate Studies in Education • Whitworth College
Email:vhunnicutt@whitworth.edu
Phone: 509-777-4398

Global Folk Art
Spokane's Source for Unique Fairly Traded Gifts & Imports

DID YOU KNOW?

- we are nonprofit and volunteer-run?
- 15-35% of our price goes to artisans?
- buying here helps end social injustice at the root of poverty?

SHOPPING AT GLOBAL FOLK ART MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Open Mon-Sat 10:30-5:30 - Sun noon-5
35 W Main - Spokane
838-0664

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE
Now serving the interment and memorialization needs of our Catholic / Christian community in two locations

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY
7200 North Wall
467-5496

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
17825 East Trent
891-6420

Pre-arrangement plans available for all interment and memorialization needs — including ground burial space, garden crypts, lawn crypts, cremation niches, monuments and memorials.

Indoor mausoleum crypts now available at pre-construction discount prices.

Please call or stop by our offices for further information or visit our website at www.cathcem.org

Local anti-poverty programs give poor people a voice

Leaders of three area programs gave an overview of their efforts to mobilize the faith and nonprofit communities against poverty.

Valley Center assisted 62,000 people in 2003

A staff of five and 140 volunteers at the Spokane Valley Community Center assisted 62,000 people in 2003. The clothing bank alone served 24,000.

Spokane Valley churches formed the center 15 years ago because they realized people in need were going church-to-church asking for gas money, food or clothes. While they wanted means to confirm their stories, they also wanted to track and provide follow-up services to meet their needs more comprehensively.

Several churches purchased an old carpet warehouse for food and clothing banks. Purchased in 2002, today's center—a former church at 10814 E. Broadway—surpasses those early goals. Nine nonprofits share the space.

Mollie Dalpae, director, said that 30 churches participate.

The center offers GED education, emergency assistance, immunizations, computer classes, a children's theatre, a health clinic, glasses, coats for children and 3,000 Christmas gifts.

"The children's theatre is an effort to entertain children and youth with more than video games, violent movies and gang connections," Mollie said.

Center workers think of little things, like providing Valentine cards so low-income children can participate in school Valentine's Day parties.

Back-to-school time in August means providing school supplies, clothing, immunizations and physical examinations in the

Ronald McDonald van.

The center also arranges with schools so homeless children can be transported to the school they started attending, so their learning is not disrupted when family income drops and they have to move.

"We also promote America's Operation Rice Bowl to feed children," said Mollie.

An advocate for homeless parents addresses issues leading to the homelessness. Volunteers and staff offer food classes to train people for jobs in food services. They help people identify their passions—like gardening—and create a resume so they find work that matches their interests.

Mollie told of one woman who did not like the mandatory classes. Eventually, she said, "I'm glad that you did mandate classes. Now I'm more self sufficient."

Spokane Valley Community Center also has 11 apartments and a house for rent to individuals and families who may want to go to school but do not qualify for state housing assistance.

The center works in connection with different nonprofits, with different mission statements and skills to handle different facets of issues people face.

"We help people find and keep jobs; go to and stay in school. We teach people art or skills based on their interest, so they gain skills to move out of poverty and stop repeating the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children."

For information, call 927-1153.



Mollie Dalpae, Kathy Barrick and Cathy McGinty

Downtown church connects members with poor through two ministries

Through Central United Methodist Church, Kathy Barrick participates in two community ministries: Shalom Ministries and the Spokane Alliance.

"In our small city, we are like urban churches in other settings," she said of her church's starting Shalom Ministries in 1994 to provide meals for homeless and chronically poor people downtown and to collaborate with other faith-based organizations.

Dining with Dignity serves 3,500 meals through breakfast and lunch four days a week and dinner one day.

"We treat each person respectfully," she said. "At meals, people form a support community and learn about resources."

Shalom Ministries offers computer education, job training, information and referral. In partnership with other nonprofits, it empowers people to break the cycle of hopelessness.

"Just as the church shares its space with the homeless, we hope the homeless will share with each other," Kathy said.

Shalom Ministries has become the church's identity in the neighborhood and wider community.

The poor are welcomed into the congregation for worship and to serve on boards, so the people attending Central United Methodist are "a spread of the economic spectrum," which "gives us a reality-based knowledge of poverty. Through interacting, we understand issues," Kathy said.

The church is one of 34 faith, labor, education and civic organizations that are members of the Spokane Alliance, representing 30,000 people.

The alliance strengthens member organizations by training leaders and developing relationships among the organizations' members so they can work together in civic responsibility.

Recently the alliance and partners helped pass a .3 percent increase in the county sales tax to help the Spokane Transit Authority maintain bus service. Alliance members rode buses, heard riders' stories and shared them. They registered voters and empowered people to participate by phone calls and door-to-door visits.

More than 150 volunteers gave more than 650 hours because of their passion to sustain the bus service.

Liberty Park United Methodist (UMC), St. Augustine Catholic and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches hosted phone banks. Central UMC participated as a church project in the door-to-door canvassing.

"The poor learned they can have a voice working as partners for the common good," Kathy said.

The alliance will also be a watchdog to keep the STA accountable in use of those funds.

Other alliance projects include promoting public funding for Project Access to provide health care for low-income people, promoting bulk prescription purchases, opposing the proposal by Premera to become a for-profit health insurance company, helping school children gain training through apprenticeship programs, and providing training of individuals in member organizations to understand issues and how they can have their voices heard.

For information, call 838-1431.

VOICES educates low-income people to become advocates for the issues that affect their lives

Cathy McGinty of VOICES—Voices for Opportunity, Income, Child Care, Education and Services—said the program educates low-income people to advocate for themselves with government and other organizations.

"We help people tell their stories in order to break stereotypes. We let people in authority know what it is like to be poor and we advocate a safety net," she said.

VOICES registered 125 voters and worked with the Spokane Alliance on the STA campaign. The alliance has trained VOICES members in negotiating with the City Council to increase human-service funding from half a percent to 1 percent of its budget.

"Some City Council members wondered why there was need for food banks and food stamps, transitional housing and the Housing Authority. We helped them

understand our need to move beyond crisis," Cathy said.

Outside Spokane County, people in Pullman want to form a similar group, she added.

Meeting with a state legislator they learned to continue to be advocates during the summer when legislators are in the community and not facing pressures of being in sessions and having to study and vote on many bills.

VOICES was started in 1989 by the Greater Spokane Coalition Against Poverty—formed by the

Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries after regional bishops and church executives' discussion on the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral on Economic Justice.

"Conversations about fixing the welfare system had left out people on welfare until GSCAP started. The poor met with the wealthy through GSCAP, discussing what programs were good and which were roadblocks," she said.

Limited funding of VOICES has shifted Cathy from program coordinator to volunteer. She

continues because of her passion for the work and because she sees how effective it is.

VOICES works as a partner, connecting low-income people with many other organizations. Its speakers bureau and drama troupe share stories of participants.

It meets at 5:30 p.m., third Thursdays, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

For information, call 532-6121.

David Crum, DMin
Pastoral Family Psychotherapy
Fellow, American Association of Pastoral Counselors
State Licensed Mental Health Counselor

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT:
 Veradale United Church of Christ - 611 N. Progress - Spokane Valley
 St. Mark's Lutheran - 24th & S. Grand - Spokane

443-1096 www.pastoralfamilypsychotherapy.com

Retreat from the World

Immaculate Heart
Retreat Center

A Peaceful Place to Pray and Ponder

6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.
 Spokane, WA 99223

448-1224

Church, nonprofit and business groups may use our facilities for lunch and dinner meetings, one-day, weekend or week-long retreats. We offer:

- Conference rooms
- Conference tools
- Excellent food
- Quiet atmosphere
- Beautiful grounds
- 20 minutes from downtown

A Great Place to Be!
 FOR MEETINGS • RETREATS
 • EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS •

CAMP CROSS

On Lake Coeur d'Alene
 Contact Camp Cross at
 245 E. 13th Ave.
 Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 624-3191

Certificate
in Lay Ministry

Begins September 11, 2004

This year-long program is designed to help train, equip and support lay men and women to serve more effectively in paid and unpaid leadership positions in the church. Topics include

- Biblical Foundations and Ministry
- The Bible and Ministry
- Theology and Ministry
- Church History and Ministry
- Spirituality and Ministry
- Christian Leadership and Ministry
- Management and Administration of ministry
- Conflict Management and Ministry
- Pastoral Care and Ministry
- Discipleship and Ministry

One Saturday a month for 10 months
 September - June

WHITWORTH

To register or to request additional information,
 please contact the Rev. Tim Dolan
 at (509) 777-4676 or tdolan@whitworth.edu

Professor sees historical, economic basis for conservation

While recently traveling to Prague for an international linguistics conference, Eastern Washington University English professor Grant Smith accepted an assignment from his congregation's adult forum, which studied environmental issues from January through May.

Grant and his wife, Lelia, also visited Dresden and Berlin to "take in" art, music and history.

When the Cheney United Church of Christ (UCC) class learned of their plans, they suggested they connect with members of the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference's partner church, the Berlin-Brandenburg Synod of the Evangelical United Church.

The class, which studied environmental stewardship issues since January, wanted to know about German and European recycling practices, water usage, energy consumption and conservation measures.

Grant and Lelia decided to visit Berlin, because he considers it "the fulcrum of 20th century history."

Their invitation to worship at the Grunewald Church fit into that history. It was where theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the last victims of World War II, grew up and was confirmed.

For Grant, two world wars, Hitler, the Holocaust, the Cold War and the Berlin Wall, the thawing and the demolition of the wall call the world to recognize that "we are responsible to one another."

Those events affect life styles, perceptions and attitudes of people there today, he said, opening his report to an April adult forum with the historical context.

"In 1572, many French Huguenots settled in Berlin, when they fled efforts to cleanse France of Protestants. Over the years many foreigners were invited to Berlin to consolidate Prussian power, making Berlin a cosmopolitan city with people from diverse areas.

"After World War II, Berlin was the crucible of the face-off between totalitarian government, collectivism, oppression and individual freedom, dignity and compassion," said Grant.

At the Berlin Air Lift Museum and the Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, he saw memorabilia and newsreel footage he had seen earlier in his life.

"I remember that when Berlin was cut off," he said, "we had the choice of going to war with the Soviet Union or appeasement, we chose a third alternative: containment and an air lift. As a foreign policy option, we used containment for decades, until it was abandoned by the current Administration. To me, containment



Grant Smith

represents American principles and ideals, in contrast to war or appeasement.

"The airlift was a simple idea, an illustration of a Christian spirit of cooperation: We would not abandon the people of Berlin," he said.

The United Church of Christ, with some roots in the German Evangelical (Lutheran) and Reformed Church, expressed that bond and compassion by sending delegations to visit congregations in East and West Berlin and Germany, as a reminder that Americans cared about them.

"After totalitarianism and oppression collapsed in Eastern Europe and the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Berlin became an illustration of renewal and hope for the future," he said.

Grant observed that where the wall once stood, there are now "many new, architecturally splendid buildings as a sign that people are working towards something new and vital."

From previous visits in other parts of Germany, Grant knew of many conservation practices, so he told of the historical and economic context, contrasts to earlier visits and current insights about lifestyles, consumption, transportation, power, water and recycling.

The UCC global partner exchanges are opportunities to make

observations about the context in which people live, and the influence on and of their faith.

Grant believes economics influences many of the practices.

For example, most European cars are smaller than U.S. cars. Taxis run on natural gas or diesel, but he did not see any hybrid cars and his church hosts seemed unaware of that technology.

"The cost of gas at \$4 to \$5 a gallon is the primary motivating factor for people choosing to drive small cars," he said.

"When I previously visited East Germany, I saw how the communist government abused the environment and exploited resources. Then the most prevalent car was the Trabant, known for its dirty emissions. I saw only one Trabant this time, and I saw many Smart Cars, narrow cars for driving in city traffic. I also saw Volkswagens, BMWs, Lexus, Mercedes and Bugatti.

"European drivers, like Americans, like power and speed," he commented. "They want bigger and faster cars, and will have them if they can pay for them."

The high gas tax and the population density create awareness of the need for measures to protect the environment, Grant said.

Europeans he met seemed to accept high taxes on gasoline, because they recognize the social

utility of those taxes as part of their tradition. The social policies were instituted before people bought big cars, so they are sustainable. There, people who have SUVs and big rigs expect to pay the high price for gas.

"In the United States, however, it is hard for politicians to promote a higher gas tax," Grant said, "even though it would be socially responsible to do that."

"Christ calls us to be good stewards and to look at future needs related to our purchases. We may have to change our attitudes about the gas tax and use of foreign oil, not just because of the environment, but also to improve how the world works together. God calls us to this vision—to accept a bit of sacrifice, like higher gas taxes."

Another factor is the ease and ubiquity of mass transportation. Grant found mass transportation used more because the population is denser there than here.

"Subways are efficient and convenient. In Prague, a subway comes every three to five minutes. There are also trams, buses and trains. On a subway, you know you are with humanity," he said.

When he asked why people use subways and mass transit, the first response was efficiency, not environment. Streets are jammed with cars and parking is so hard to find that it's faster to go by mass transit, he added.

"We find it hard to develop

mass transit because we lack riders. Time and money motivate people to use mass transit or small cars, and to conserve electricity and water."

Grant noted that Europeans have found some "ingenious technologies" and practices to save electricity.

Timed lights in hallways, once turned on manually, are now motion-sensitive.

"They are sensitive about use of electricity because of both cost and air quality concerns. Most electricity in the former East Germany is generated by brown-coal-fired plants, which visibly pollute the air. So many people see nuclear energy as the alternative, rather than wind.

"Lighting is not restricted when there are safety considerations or commercial advantages," he said.

To conserve water, many use flow restrictors on faucets. The longer the water is on, the less water flows. Hand-held showerheads necessitate shutting them off while lathering.

"Water use is metered and expensive," Grant said. "Commodities have large tanks but small water wells. Some have two-part levers, one for a little flush and the other for a big flush, but they don't have the vacuum assist flush toilets we have here that reduce water use by half," he said.

Continued on page 11

RSVP Remember when you were a kid & dreamed of changing the world? **You still can!**

Help educate, prepare for or respond to a disaster through local agencies. Share your unique interests, talents and skills with your community

All training is provided.

CALL TODAY! 344-RSVP (344-7787)

Make a phone call. Make a difference.

Donate your unwanted vehicle and help provide health and human care services right here in our community. It's hassle free. We will even arrange towing if needed.*

Call today for details.

Participating Local Agencies

- American Red Cross
- Cancer Patient Care
- E. WA Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center
- Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center
- United Way of Spokane County
- YFA Connections
- Camp Fire, Inland NW Council
- Children's Home Society of Washington
- Excelsior Youth Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank of the Inland NW
- Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP)
- VNA Home Health Care Services
- YMCA of the Inland NW



928-1900

www.cars4charity.org

* Cars do not have to be drivable, but they must be complete.

Spiritually Centered Housing and Community

Experience the joy of shared, cooperative housing in the context of a radical Christianity. Celebrate community, simplified living and working for social justice.

Jubilee Housing/West Bridge Shared Housing Coop
509.328.4540 westbridgecoop@hotmail.com

Peace • Trust • Respect

Providing quality funeral, cemetery & cremation services with care, compassion and dignity

Funeral Homes

- Ball & Dodd Funeral Homes**
South 421 Division St., Spokane 509 624-4234
- Ball & Dodd Funeral Homes**
West 5100 Wellesley, Spokane 509 328-5620
- Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes**
1306 North Monroe St., Spokane 509 327-6666
- Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes**
1306 North Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-9700
- Thornhill Valley Chapel**
1400 South Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-2211

Pre-arrangement Plans Available
www.dignitymemorial.com www.BestHalf.com
www.spokanefuneralhomes.com

Honored Provider



- National Network
- National Portability
- 100% Service Guarantee
- 24-Hour Compassion Help-Line

As those in power opt for war, they choose words to recast morality

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, former President Jimmy Carter said war is sometimes a necessary evil, but even when it is necessary it is still evil: "We will not learn to live together in peace by killing each other's children."

War recasts morality. Last year, Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi, Israeli director of military intelligence, asserted: "Better Palestinian mothers should cry than Jewish mothers." Hearing such a remark, what might go through the mind of an 18-year-old Israeli soldier facing a nine-year-old Palestinian boy whose hands he can't see?

Last month, Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian Authority elected official, was found guilty of murder by an Israeli court. After the verdict, he said Palestinians would continue fighting as long as Israel occupied Palestine, and "as long as Palestinian mothers cry, so too will Israeli mothers cry."

Nothing is accomplished by such mind-sets on either side.

During World War I, casualties were 95 percent military and 5 percent civilian. Today those figures have been reversed.

Humankind has gone to war throughout history. Warfare has provided a heavy portion of the archaeological record. Historians estimate that, of all the people killed in war throughout history, 50 percent were killed in the 20th century.

Under those conditions, why do we continue to agree to go to war? The answer is not simple, but it is partly that we become desensitized to war because of what we are told about it. The quotations above are shocking because they are blunt.

The Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting website includes a syndicated column by Norman Solomon on media and politics.

In a recent column, "Orwellian Logic 101," he writes about Orwell's description

of "doublethink" and "newspeak." More than 50 years ago, the author of *1984* wrote in an essay, "Politics and the English Language" that "in our time, political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible."

According to Orwell, doublethink is the willingness to forget any fact that has become inconvenient. When it becomes necessary again, it can be drawn back into use for as long as it is needed. The purpose of newspeak terminology is not to express meaning but to destroy it.

Solomon lists some terms to think about: collateral damage, American interests, world community and Western values. Each has to be translated before it is anything but a buzz phrase.

The same behavior by different sides in a war is described differently. When enemies put bombs in cars and kill people, they're uncivilized killers. When we put bombs on

missiles and kill people, we're upholding civilized values. They are terrorists; we are striking against terrorism.

The new name for the School of the Americas (SOA), the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, was adopted after the SOA was inundated with bad publicity for teaching torture methods to police and military from South and Central American countries. Along with a new name the school added a course on human rights—one that's elective.

Horrible as Ze'evi's and Barghouti's statements are, they are more honest than vague statements about "collateral damage." They set horrors of war firmly before us.

While those in power may dismiss as naive people who advocate reconciliation and peacemaking, perhaps the naive are those who want to try just one more war.

Nancy Minard - Editorial Team

Faith community takes umbrage with disclaimers of prison abuse

Outrage about the salacious abuse at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq is worldwide. The abuse deserves speedy investigation, trials of the perpetrators and accountability of the U.S. military guards—from the soldiers who committed the crimes on up the chain of command. The action is now in process.

The acts of the U.S. prison guards were despicable and warrant punishment.

Although the abuse occurred last fall and was reported in January, nothing was done until the pictures surfaced. They gave credible evidence of the abuse.

New reports and pictures have arrived, revealing more of the same. Media have circulated views of Iraqi prisoners stripped, shackled and nude. The prisoners were being herded together and questioned by

military intelligence officers.

The world is appalled. In our country, we are shocked and ashamed. How could this happen? How can Americans do this? It is an affront to the high-principled standards that we affirm.

Since 9/11 and the relentless search for terrorists, the government has turned aside long-held values, such as its policy to permit abuse to "soften up" detainees.

Many in the faith community take umbrage with supporters of the abuse: Some consider the abuse a rational measure in a war climate. They ignore the Geneva Conventions as antiquated and consider that the human rights in the United Nations Charter are not practical in a terrorist war situation. If military guards were following orders from the Pentagon, anyone remotely

suspected of terrorist connections could be subjected to torture and bestiality. Caught by the photos, however, those leaders are now saying that the state of abuse at Abu Ghraib is an aberration.

New videos and prints, however, keep surfacing from other U.S. prisons in Iraq.

The Defense Department has developed a new secret system of detention and intelligence interrogation. It is not pretty. It ignores the safeguards of the Geneva Conventions and human rights organizations.

Prisoners are re-classified as "enemy combatants," the status of many at Guantanamo Prison in Cuba. Most of them have never had access to legal counsel. About 600 detainees are being held for intelligence gathering. To hold people for long periods and to abuse them is morally wrong.

The new system bypasses those who consider the Geneva Conventions the prime international agreement for protecting the human rights of individuals.

We are a nation of laws, with human rights written into our Constitution and Bill of Rights. The American public must consider judiciously the culpability of our government leaders.

That is crucial in dealing with the Arab world in the Middle East crisis. It is also essential for negotiations and support from our western allies.

Most importantly, we must ask God for direction and be bold in our righteous anger when outrage over abuse occurs—even when it means "mea culpa." It is the American way. It is God's way.

Jo Hendricks - Contributing editor

Letters to the Editor

Sounding Board

Reflections

Longest history in one location

I enjoyed your "Search for oldest church" article. The Catholic Church on the Kalispel Reservation near Cusick on the Pend Oreille River may be the oldest Christian fellowship in the region. Father Adrian Hoecken started St. Ignatius Mission among the Kalispel Indians, near Cusick in 1844. Father Pierre Jean de Smet offered the first Mass there in 1845. The St. Ignatius Mission moved to Montana 10 years later. Many Kalispels either stayed in the area or returned in the years that followed.

About 60 years later, a Catholic priest from Spokane discovered that some of the Kalispels still knew the prayers and were still worshipping in the Catholic tradition. He helped them arrange finances to build a chapel on the reservation. The Grotto of New Manresa, an open cave named by Father de Smet, has been a place for Christian worship since the mid-1840's.

Father de Smet also built a mission at St. Joe in 1842, but it was abandoned in 1846 and moved 35 miles to Cataldo. It seems the little church on the Kalispel Reservation has the honor of being the fellowship of Christians with the longest history of worship in one location in the region. The story is told in a book about the Kalispels by John Fahey. Most of the information here comes from an internet search. The Diocese may also know more.

Rev. Paul Clay - United Church of Christ - Ione, Oregon

A long-time fan

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of The Fig Tree. I have been a long-time fan.

You've added so much to the

community dialogue on religion and spirituality. It is much needed and welcomed.

**Rebecca Nappi
Associate Editor and Columnist
The Spokesman-Review**

I am writing to correct a statement attributed to me in the May issue. The date 1885 for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church being founded is incorrect. It was founded in 1890 and built in 1895. That makes Holy Trinity the second oldest church building still in continuous use.

**Albin Fogelquist
Holy Trinity Episcopal**

Congratulations on The Fig Tree's anniversary! I enjoyed reading about it in the Spokesman-Review and The Fig Tree. Keep up the good work.

The May story about Kathleen Norris mentions Lennon, S.D.. I wonder if it should be Lemmon, because I know a couple of people here in Pullman from Lemmon.

**Tim Marsh, member of Simpson
United Methodist - Pullman**

I recently saw the May 2004 issue of The Fig Tree sent to a friend in Ephrata. I'm enclosing a donation. It's a very worthwhile paper. God bless you all.

Marie Tasker - Ephrata

You deserve the praise you had in the Spokesman-Review article. God bless you in your oh-so-hard work that you've been performing for the religious, spiritual, moral community in Spokane and environs, and for the far-reaching mailing venue.

**Peggy and Morgan Sheldon of the
former Fig Tree Committee**

Jewish rabbi and Muslim peace activist discover

Walking and talking builds relationships

Knowledge of persons of different faiths is essential for creating peaceful community, a Jewish rabbi and a Muslim peace activist from Albuquerque, N.M., tell people as they talk about their post-Sept. 11 Peace Walk and Dialogue and inspire others to use that model.

Speaking recently in Colville and Spokane, they said their relationship has become one of sharing insights into their faiths, building mutual respect and finding common ground.

Since Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb—one of the first seven women to become a rabbi 32 years ago—was an exchange student in 1966 in Israel, she has been involved with Israeli Jewish and Palestinian reconciliation.

"Peaceful community does not just arise. It takes the spiritual discipline of entering into relationships outside our community of comfort," she said.

After Sept. 11, Lynn invited local Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Native Americans and others, to ask what it would mean to create peace in this time. Buddhists told of their tradition of walking, carrying a peace flame. So they decided to walk from the synagogue to the mosque in April 2002.

Lynn called the mosque and suggested the idea to Abdul Rauf Campos Marquetti, a lay leader. He liked the idea. When 350 people of the different faith communities joined in the 6.6-mile Peace Walk from the synagogue to the mosque, national news gave coverage.

"It was a spiritual pilgrimage of sharing stories, stopping at churches and religious sites enroute," Lynn said. "Abdul and I have done walks in different communities with people who believe peace is possible and what God wants. We create a sense of goodwill and discover we share common ground in the virtues our traditions teach—wholeness, compassion and love expressed through good deeds. Too often we are hung up on what divides us."

Abdul Rauf grew up Catholic in Spanish Harlem and became Muslim while studying

geology at Cornell University. Living and working in Albuquerque in 2001, he said Sept. 11 transformed his life. People from many religious communities came to the mosque the following Friday evening to show support.

"They knew terrorism did not stem from our community," he said. "We suddenly had many requests to speak at schools and universities to teach people about Islam. There was an incredible outpouring."

He had opportunities to dispel misconceptions of Islam as a terrorist religion and to teach that it is an Abrahamic religion with the same prophets Jews and Christians have.

"The Peace Walk was incredibly simple. We walked together from one religious community to another with respect, not political messages. We just said we want peace. In the process, we talked and became acquainted, learning that we had more in common than different," said Abdul Rauf, reminded of his pilgrimage to Mecca, walking with hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world, speaking countless languages. "Peace walkers simply walk with each other, talk and see what happens. A Peace Walk is a dialogue with feet, minds, spirits and hearts."

The two have also organized walks in Philadelphia, New York and Israel: "New Yorkers cried, clapped, and joined us, saying, 'It's about time,'" he said.

"If we can find and face our differences, we can face our common problems and see beauty in our diversity," Lynn said.

"Peace starts in freedom and justice for all," he said. "A Peace Walk allows a community to push aside ignorance and prejudice."

"If you love God, it will be evident in the way you treat people," Lynn said. "An eye for an eye is not justice, but revenge. The Peace Walk is one method, a first step to stir awareness. We also need interfaith dialogue, education on nonviolence, challenge to TV violence and service to the community—feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless."

YWCA invites Mary Robinson

The 2004 YWCA Woman of Achievement Benefit Luncheon speaker will be Irish political leader Mary Robinson, the former first woman President of Ireland.

Mary gained a 93 percent popularity rating while in office, because of her caring use of power.

In 1977, after her seven-year tenure as President, she became United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Presently, she chairs the Council of Women World Leaders.

An outspoken champion of the oppressed, Mary has challenged governments of nations large and small with her uncompromising criticism of their human rights records.

She was the first head of state to visit both Rwanda after the 1994 genocide and Somalia after its 1992 crisis.

She has been honored with the CARE Humanitarian Award in recognition of her efforts. She is recognized as one of the foremost figures in the global quest for a universal culture of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

The YWCA of Spokane's Woman of Achievement Benefit is its primary fund raiser for programs that serve women and children victims of violence, provide family intervention for abused children and offer education to homeless children.

The luncheon will be at noon, Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Spokane Convention Center. For information, call 326-1190 ext 127.

Convenience, cost affect air, water, soil

Continued from page 9

Grant saw recycling containers—glass, newsprint, cans, used clothing, linens and other items—spaced at regular intervals on sidewalks in town and residential areas.

Most toilet paper is unbleached and made from recycled materials, he added. Forests are limited because of the population density, so grocery stores expect shoppers to bring their own bags.

Europeans value parks and green spaces, because space is limited, Grant added.

The experience of making sacrifices and accepting rations in World War II and under communism, plus early changes in laws, have set a climate for acceptance of regulations, recognizing the wider public interest, he said.

"Our larger cars and low taxes will change only when people want to change. Christ, however, calls us to change and calls us as churches to lead toward a vision of what is needed and workable in society," Grant said.

For information, call 235-6025.

Susan Burford

Certified Public Accountant

TAX PREPARATION

for
Individuals & Businesses

Clergy Taxes a Specialty

5322 S. Pittsburg
Spokane
448-6624

At Transitional Living Center Contractors create 'Educare' room

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is creating a new childcare room at the Transitional Living Center, 3128 N. Hemlock.

"ABC is excited to help disadvantaged children receive help from qualified professionals in a safe learning environment," said Tracy Duncan, ABC's training and education director. "What a way to put our construction volunteer activities into a program that will have amazing outcomes."

"The partnership will allow

Transitions to increase the number of low-income children who receive therapeutic childcare. We have been limited by our lack of physical service delivery space," noted Julie Dhatt Honekamp, Transitions executive director of mission and services.

Transitions fosters personal growth of women and children in need through the Transitional Living Center, Educare Program, the Women's Drop In Center and Miriam's House of Transition.

For information, call 535-9967.

Calendar of Events

- June 4-6** • ArtFest 2004, Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W First, noon-8 Friday, 10-8 Saturday, 10-5 Sunday - 456-3931
- June 5,6** • Celebrating Body, Mind and Spirit Expo, Spokane Convention Center, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- June 6** • Stop the Torture rally, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Gondola Meadows at Riverfront Park, 1 p.m.
- June 9** • Guatemalan Mayan K'ekchi Presbyterian Leaders, Reardan First Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m., potluck, and 6:30 p.m. testimonies
- June 12-25** • Habitat for Humanity-Spokane Blitz Build, p. 2
- June 13** • Guatemalan Presbyterian Leaders, Coeur d'Alene First Presbyterian, 521 Lakeside Ave., 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
- Guatemalan Presbyterian Leaders, Faith Community Church, 9485 Maple St., Hayden, 5 p.m.
- "Practical Unity of the Body of Christ," Ruth Ruibal, p. 2
- June 14** • Living Wage Meeting, 35 W. Main, 5 p.m.
- School of the Americas Watch Northwest, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- June 15** • Peace and War (PAW), 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- June 16** • Guatemalan Presbyterian Leaders, Manito Presbyterian, 401 E. 30th, Spokane, 7 p.m.
- June 17** • VOICES, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 5:30 p.m.
- June 18-24** • "Exploring Celtic Spirituality," Jane Comerford, St. Joseph Family Center - 483-6495 - p. 5
- June 19** • Africa Missionary Trip Benefit Concert performed by Khouria Cindy Horton, David Demand, Mark Gallatin and others, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, 1703 N. Washington, 7 p.m.
- Thin Air Radio Film Night: "Indymedia: War & Peace Trilogy," 35 W. Main, 8 p.m.
- June 23** • Senior Legislation Coalition of Eastern Washington, Corbin Community Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., 9 a.m.
- June 25,26** • "Let Justice Roll," the Washington Association of Churches events and fund raiser, p. 2
- June 27** • Panchen Otrul Rinpoche, exiled Tibetan Buddhist monk, "How Spiritual Values Can Help Modern Society," North Idaho Unitarian Church, 10:30 a.m.
- June 28** • Living Wage, 35 W. Main, 5 p.m.
- July 10,11** • "DownRiver!!" The David Thompson Musical Premiere, 900 W. 4th, Newport - call (509) 447-9277
- July 12-16** • Whitworth Institute for Ministry, p. 12
- July 12-17** • Jubilate Ecumenical Festival and Retreat of Worship and the Arts, Whitman College, Walla Walla, p. 4 ad
- July 17,18** • Festival of the Arts on the Shadowy St. Joe, St. Maries, p. 3
- July 18-24** • "Canoe, Paddle, Pray," Sorrento Centre, p. 4
- Aug 6** • Unity in the Community Banquet - call 534-3007
- Aug 7** • Unity in the Community in Lincoln Park (p. 2)
- Sept 1** • Fig Tree distribution, St. Mark Lutheran, 24th & Grand, 9 a.m.
- Sept 2** • Fig Tree Board, 1323 S. Perry St., 1 p.m.
- Mondays** • PEACH Safe Food Orientation - call 455-2552
- Tues-Sats** • Habitat for Humanity work days - call 534-2552
- Fridays** • Peace Vigil at Army Recruiting Office, Colville - call 675-4554
- 1st Sats** • Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship Union, Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, 312 E. 3rd, 10:30 a.m.

Don A. Barlow, EdD

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Grief & Loss Support Groups • Men's Issues Groups
535-7466



Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington

1222 N Post www.altcew.org

Promoting wellbeing, independence, dignity & choice for Seniors and others needing long-term care

For information, assistance & case management, call
Spokane - Elder Services 458-7450
Stevens/Pend Oreille - Rural Resources Community Action (800) 873-5889
Whitman - Council on Aging & Human Services (800) 809-3351
Northern Ferry - Ferry County Community Services (509) 755-0912



Friend to Friend of Greater Spokane invites past & present volunteers, board members and their families to the 25th Picnic Reunion
noon-3 p.m. • Saturday, August 21 • Mission Park
483-1600

Daybreak of Spokane

Chemical dependency treatment

for youth to 18 years old.

Outpatient and residential treatment

Daybreak relies on financial support from churches, individuals and agencies.

927-1688 • 11707 E. Sprague, D-4 • Spokane, WA 99206



At Liberty Lake, WA

ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS

Owned/Operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Gary Hann, Mgr.
(509) 255-6122



Hillyard Florist

FULL SERVICE FLOWER SHOP

4915 N. MARKET

Spokane, WA

489-5001

Shalom Book Club

Exploring a Christ-Centered Approach to Urban Ministry and Community Development

Meets 4th Monday monthly @ 6:30 p.m. • Cost is \$15
Lutheran Book Parlor (1414 W. Broadway) • 328-6527

Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act

The David Thompson Musical



World Premiere

July 10 & 11, 2004

509-447-9277
for tickets

CREATE - 900 W. 4th - Newport

NEED AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUR STUDENT?



Buy • Sell • Trade • New • Large Stock of Quality Used Instruments
Lease a School Band Instrument—It's Cheaper than Renting • Strings Discounted
Visa • MasterCard • Discover Accepted — Wheelchair Accessible — Parking Validated

DUTCH'S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
415 WEST MAIN • SPOKANE • 747-5284

We don't just break the news.

We put it back together.

Don't just get the news. Understand it. NPR News and Spokane Public Radio go beyond the headlines so you know why things happen. Our coverage isn't just current, it's complete. Tune in to KPBX 91.1 or KSFC 91.9 FM, and catch both on the web at kpbx.org.



Retreat center director guides others to discern their callings

By Mary Stamp

Befriending homeless street people and an imprisoned drug dealer led Deacon John Ruschien-sky from a successful career in food distribution to his life today as a deacon, hospice chaplain and retreat center director.

As director at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), he has downsized the budget he manages by more than tenfold, but upsized his role as a spiritual guide, mentor and companion.

At IHRC, Deacon John handles administration, preaching and individual spiritual direction.

"One of the toughest things when I first came here was the financial ups and downs of running a retreat center. Across the United States, retreat centers are struggling. Doing administration and ministry together pulled me from the business aspects of paying bills to spiritual concern for people," John said.

While covering 11 states from the 1980s to 1998, promoting fast foods in convenience and grocery stores, John not only made businesses profitable but also befriended those he met. While he helped people he supervised become more productive, he learned about their lives and families, talking openly about God.

John saw God at work in corporate America—creating jobs, supporting families, feeding people, developing economic health and providing what people need to live. He continues to build relationships among staff and with visitors to IHRC, especially in individual spiritual direction.

With income from donations rather than sales, there are fewer resources and fewer staff in retreat-center work. So it takes more time to accomplish some projects, he said. People give because they believe in what the center does—giving wholeness to people's lives.

Stressed by the schedule of jet travel even after he transferred with Orion Food Systems to Spokane in 1993 to open the market in the western states, Alaska and British Columbia, John was looking for a career change.

Mentored by Bishop Paul Dudley in South Dakota and now by Bishop William Skylstad, John completed three years of lay formation in Sioux Falls and then began formal training in 1995 to become a deacon.

Because he had never run a re-



Mary Krone and Deacon John Ruschien-sky

retreat center, he did not apply when he first learned IHRC was seeking a director. Several people, including his wife, Elaine, encouraged him to apply.

During the three-month search process for IHRC, Deacon John talked with Bishop Skylstad about the role. Now that he has been director for six years, he knows he was called to this work. Assistant director Mary Krone, who joined in the interview, affirms that.

"I am hooked. I see the beauty of this work with diverse people coming to Immaculate Heart, because it is open to all God's people, young and old, in their journeys toward God. The Holy Spirit opens arms to embrace people and let them know God exists and welcomes them," the deacon said.

While half of those coming to the retreat center are Catholic, the other half come from Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of God churches, Mary said. Native Americans, Hispanics, African Americans and Anglos come individually and in groups.

"God made us different. We worship the same God in different ways," Mary, who has worked at IHRC for 15 years, observes from worship in the chapel. "From encounters here, I see the church, God's people, as one flock.

"We touch lives. The world races, not offering time for people to think as they follow their calendars from moment to moment. We give people a chance to step back and be in touch with God, to be quiet and hear God," she said.

"Everyone needs it," John

continued. "We are all spiritual people and hopefully take care of our bodies, but our souls need care, too. Here people open their hearts, minds and experiences."

John mentors those who come to him for spiritual direction in the way he was guided by mentors—based on each person's unique situation.

The church has always been special to John, who was nurtured by watching his mother pray the rosary regularly, her faith unshaken through difficult times.

Bishop Dudley continued that journey with him, guiding him to work with the poor at St. Francis House, a homeless shelter for people on the streets.

"Socializing with them I saw how human they are and how much love they have for God and each other even though they are down and out. Their sense of joy gave me a sense of joy," John said. "They love God even though they have nothing. They care about each other and are family for each other. It would be easy to look down on them and treat them as outcasts."

As he climbed the corporate ladder, this contact kept his feet on the ground. After five years, the bishop suggested that he do prison ministry.

"I didn't want to, but he said I needed to do it and he would pray for me. He assigned me to a drug

dealer who had dealt to children in grade schools," John said. "That was the last person I wanted to be assigned to visit or deal with."

Initial visits were short. John prayed for Ryan but did not want to converse with him because of what he had done. Over 18 months, Ryan shared with him, and God moved John from prayer to conversation, slowly discerning that Ryan had been sexually abused, on drugs and did not know love or think anyone cared, so he took what he could, numbing himself with drugs.

"Hearing of his numbness and desire to escape opened my eyes. I encouraged him to use a liturgy of the hours prayer book, praying morning, afternoon, evening and night. It was hard. I struggled, but I remembered he was a child of God. We prayed during our weekly visits," John said.

Ryan had never known the 10 commandments, but as he learned them, he realized he needed to give back for what he did. So he started to teach the Dare program to children in Sioux Falls schools, where he once dealt drugs. The prison let him out to do this ministry. He came to know love and freedom in God's laws and thought he needed to serve others, to do good where he had done bad.

"My own conversion of the heart came through the people I served. It's where I see Jesus the most and what Jesus told us to do in the Gospels," said Deacon John, who began training to be a chaplain with Hospice of Spokane while training to be a deacon.

In this bereavement ministry, he has helped more than 25 people in hospice care on their final road home to God. They

share their lives, joys, fears and sorrows. John hears from them how God entered their lives. He prays with them and gives them the sacraments.

Sometimes he has to drop what he is doing at IHRC to go to someone who is dying.

At IHRC, Deacon John finds his gifts in administration and ministry come together. He works collaboratively with the assistant director, program manager, development director, kitchen manager, office manager and others—making decisions with them and with volunteers and the board.

"The mission is to help people discern truth in their lives and to guide them into more faithful living. Without truth, people feel a void," he said.

When people come on the property, they sense the beauty of God's creation. They have time to look at what is going on in themselves and their lives and to experience God. That change of pace is the heart of what we offer," he said.

The programs help people reflect, talk and share or just experience being away from everyday life with a chance to bare their souls without pressure.

For information, call 448-1224.

Aunt Bea's Antiques



We specialize in Estate Sales Always buying fine antiques

5005 N. Market Spokane, WA, 99207 (509) 487-9278

TWINLOW CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

New Conference Center Features



To schedule use, Call 208-687-1146

- sleeping for 30 - 10 private rooms
- 5,000 sq. ft. of living space
- sink, shower & toilet in each room
- linen service & laundry facilities
- 30 x 21 meeting rooms - each floor
- 8 lake view rooms, 2 handicapped
- snack kitchen, deck



Experience a retreat at our Benedictine Monastery!

Come To the Quiet
July 1 - 8, 2004
A silent, directed retreat.

Father, Son ... Holy Spirit
July 16 - 18, 2004
Father and adult son retreat.

See our website for a complete retreat schedule!



Benedictine Sisters
Monastery of St. Gertrude
HC 3 Box 121 • Cottonwood, ID 83522
(208) 962-3224 • www.StGertrudes.org

The 29th Annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry

Theme: The Church and the Marketplace: The Relationship between Work and Christian Faith
July 12-16, 2004

Plus special youth and teen programs, recreational opportunities and family activities

- Preacher: Vic Pentz, Senior Pastor Peachtree Presbyterian Church
- Bible Teacher: Richard Mouw, President Fuller Theological Seminary
- Convocation: Rebecca Pentz, Assoc. Professor, Hematology and Oncology in Research Ethics, Emory University
Jack Fortin, Executive Director, Center for Lifelong Learning, Luther Seminary
David Bussau, International Entrepreneur, Founder of Opportunity International of Sydney, Australia
- Contact: Michelle Seefried, (509) 777-3275 mseefried@whitworth.edu or visit www.whitworth.edu/wim

Caring In All We Do



HENNESSEY SMITH
Funeral Home & Crematory

2203 N. Division
509-328-2600

1315 N. Pines Rd.
509-926-2423