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Energizing movement and music

Dances integrate faith

By Mary Stamp

While some people fill their spirits sitting in pews, about 20 from many churches and faiths in the area gather bimonthly to energize their spirits through movement, singing and being face-to-face with each other in a circle, doing Dances of Universal Peace.

Two participants who come at 7 p.m., first and third Thursdays at Unity Church, 2900 S. Bernard, say the simple, repetitive chants and movements help them embody their values.

Some songs are slow and thoughtful. Others are joyous and jazzy.

Chants and dances come from Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic, Sikh, Zoroastrian, Native American, African, Middle Eastern and Celtic traditions. Some are from a Latin Catholic tradition and others from African American, Aramaic, Russian or Spanish traditions.

The combination of the music and movement puts participants inside a religion, culture or language for an experience of cross-cultural group meditation. The leader helps

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Joan Conger and Elaine Tyrie dance at a recent Dances of Universal Peace.

Benefit deepens Fig Tree roots as area resource

The Fig Tree's 2007 Benefit Breakfast from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 14, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University will recognize and review people whose stories make a difference, overcome differences and celebrated differences, said editor Mary Stamp.

"Stories of Everyday Heroes" is the theme for those sharing the value of The Fig Tree and for a video on several recent interviews.

The Planning Committee still welcomes table hosts to help expand participation and seeks others willing to help with preparation.

In addition to celebrating Fig Tree coverage, the breakfast is an opportunity for people to support its alternative voice through the newspaper, website, cable TV and efforts to educate on media justice.

The Fig Tree recently took over responsibility for publication of the Directory of Congregations and Community Resources, which intersects with its mailing list and online directory.

For information, call 535-1813.

From U.S. Institute of Peace

Peace conference draws national speakers

Speakers from the United States Institute of Peace's (USIP) education program will present a peace conference on "Causes of Conflict, Conditions for Peace" Friday, March 30 in Cataldo Hall and Saturday, March 31 in Jepson Hall at Gonzaga University.

Attorney David Smith, the USIP education program's senior program officer, and Betty Bigombe, a senior fellow with the institute from Uganda, will open the conference with addresses at 7 p.m., Friday, on the conference's sub-theme, "African and Developing World Case Studies."

The Saturday program begins at 8 a.m., with the following workshops until 4 p.m.:

- Linda Bishai of the USIP will speak on "Sudan: The Unfinished Peace." She develops secondary and university curricula in international relations, conflict resolution, human rights and peace studies.

- Winners of the college students' pre-conference essay contest will receive awards and give a presentation. Essays, which are due March 5 to maccarone@gonzaga.edu, are to focus on media violence and resources to shift to

a culture of peace.

- David, whose emphasis is secondary and university education in peace studies, conflict resolution and legal studies, will lead a USIP simulation exercise for students. He was in Spokane in May 2006 to meet with faculty and students at Gonzaga University interested in establishing a peace studies program.

- John Caputo, professor in communication arts at Gonzaga University and director of the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media will discuss "Media, Violence and Youth."

- For a session on "Elections: Opportunities for Peace or Warnings of War?" Dorina Bekoe, a researcher with the institute's Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention will talk on lessons from Nigeria and Ghana, and Dan Chirot of the University of Washington and a former institute senior fellow will reflect on the role of elections in solving conflicts.

- Father Patrick Barraza of Gonzaga University and Our Lady of Lourdes will speak on "Inter-religious Dialogue."
- David and Betty will also lead

a presentation on child soldiers. Betty helped in peace negotiations in Uganda to end the Lord's Resistance Army's insurgency and was a cabinet minister working to pacify North and Northeastern Uganda.

Sessions are geared to practicalities and changes needed if the hope for peace is to be realized.

The U.S. Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress to prevent and resolve violent international conflicts, to promote post-conflict stability and democratic transformations, and to increase peace-building capacity, tools and intellectual rationale worldwide.

Established by the U.S. Institute of Peace Act in October 1984, the institute provides education, research, training, resources and direct involvement in peace-building, using knowledge to promote peace and curb violent international conflict.

Recently, it has worked on peace-building in such areas of the world as Afghanistan, the Balkans, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, the Palestinian Territories,

Continued on page 3

Exhibit ignites knowledge about suppression of ideas

Being responsible for 300,000 books in the Foley Center Library, when information on the "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and Nazi Book Burnings" exhibition crossed Eileen Bell-Garrison's desk, it caught her eye and hit her at a "gut" level.

The traveling exhibition of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will be on display from March 10 to May 5 at the Foley Center Library at Gonzaga University.

Hosting the exhibit and educational events is a means to inform teachers, students and others in the community about the censorship of ideas related to Adolph Hitler's rise to power and others who destroy books to stop ideas.

"Hitler's rise was rooted in changing the thinking of the time by burning books, eliminating a source of information and knowledge," said Eileen, dean of library services.

"The German nation was emerging from the Weimar Republic and a time of high inflation, economic depression and political turmoil," she said. "To bring a revolution, Hitler knew he needed to re-create and 'cleanse' the German spirit, so he started at the universities."

Eileen did not realize until she began working on the exhibit how he targeted universities, bringing educated people on board to control dissent and spread hate.

When she decided to bring the exhibit, Eileen immediately called Jerri Shepard, director of Gonzaga's Institute for Action Against Hate, as a likely partner. In 2000, the institute brought an exhibit on Ann Frank that drew area teachers and students to learn about what hate does.

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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*

India releases Bible for people with HIV

Bangalore, India (ENI). A series of biblical texts called "Ronnie's Bible," which give support to those who are HIV positive and to terminally ill people who may feel they are faced with hopelessness in life, has been released in India.

Islam challenges private religion

Wittenberg, Germany (ENI). The growth of Islam in Europe is challenging deeply-held notions that faith is a private matter that should be banished from public life, a prominent sociologist of religion told a recent gathering of European Christian leaders.

WCC head speaks on Dalits, North Korea, MTV

Bangalore, India (ENI). Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, recently likened treatment of Dalits in India to apartheid.

On the same day, he welcomed a perceived breakthrough on North Korea's nuclear armaments.

He also noted during his visit in India that the church hardly communicates with the youth of today. Even in "so-called Christian countries" the majority of young people are illiterate on the Bible but well informed of the latest MTV programs.

Australian churches' signs trigger debate

Sydney (ENI). Some Australian churches have triggered a debate among Christians and also stirred the criticism of the prime minister by declaring Jesus' love for Osama Bin Laden in signs outside places of worship.

Latin American churches warn U.S. churches

Buenos Aires (ENI). Participants at the once every six years meeting of the Latin American Council of Churches have asked U.S. church representatives if they are aware of what their country is doing in the world and how it impacts on their region.

German leader calls for church unity efforts

Wittenberg (ENI) German President Horst Köhler has called on Christian churches to redouble efforts to promote unity, warning they risk squandering their opportunities by letting differences and disputes drown out the message of their faith.

Bishop urges Palestinians to use non-violence

Jerusalem (ENI). Holy Land Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan has urged Palestinians to "use brains, sanity, dialogue and non-violence, and not arms, to deal with differences." Speaking at a February conference called by non-governmental organizations, he encouraged "democratic, non-violent strategies as the only way to achieve Palestinian goals of an end to the 40-year military occupation and the creation of an independent, viable state living side-by-side with Israel."

Younan, vice president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), said recent infighting among Palestinians "is a sin and a shame on our people." He urged politicians and leaders to listen to those who agree with them, to the silent majority and to the voice of the opposition. This, he said, is the only way to develop a "peaceful, non-violent strategy for justice and to build a common vision of a modern, civil, democratic society."

He also urged victims of the fighting to forgive and not to allow hatred and vengeance to overcome them.

In Geneva, the general secretary of the LWF, the Rev. Ishmael Noko, welcomed the Feb. 8 agreement for a Palestinian unity government by Hamas and Fatah groups.

Younan reminded the international community of its responsibility to support the signed agreement, saying it has the task "to sustain hope in the Holy Land, for the sake of both Palestinians and Israelis, and indeed for the sake of the whole world."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Three events planned for International Women's Day

Three events are planned for International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8.

- Spokane's International Women's Day Breakfast will celebrate "Sheroes," women of Spokane and women of the world, beginning at 7:15 a.m., at the Holiday Inn on the Sunset Highway.

For information, call 599-1177.

- Eastern Washington University's Women's Studies Center will offer a lunch lecture on "The Status of the Gender Salary Gap,"

from 12:05 to 1 p.m., at the Riverpoint Campus Student Academic Center #20, 600 N. Riverpoint.

- Rex Fuller, dean of EWU's College of Business and Public Administration and co-author of papers on gender equity and salary, will discuss how women are progressing and regressing.

For information, call 359-2898.

- In the afternoon, the Spokane Women's Coalition will offer a program on "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and

Girls" at 4 p.m., at the Women's Club, 9th and Walnut. There will be information booths, entertainment and presentation of the 2007 Bella Abzug award winner.

For information, call 448-2189.

International Women's Day began March 8, 1975, during United Nations' International Women's Year. In 1977, the General Assembly established a day to review women's progress toward equity, which continues on March 8 in the United States.

Temple plans dinner, holocaust essay contest

Temple Beth Shalom's 66th annual Kosher Dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 11, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

"From generation to generation, the tradition of kosher meal preparation continues," said organizers. "This is our chance to share our heritage with the community."

Many who have worked on the Kosher Dinner since the early days now enjoy watching children and grandchildren plan it, said Ethel Grossman.

Temple Beth Shalom is also preparing for the April 15 Yom Hashoah, Holocaust remembrance service.

Concerned that despite the

pledge of "Never again!" genocide and ethnic violence continue around the world, planners decided to stir awareness in a future generation by inviting high school students to submit essays for a contest. Essays will discuss what they can do personally to make "never again" a reality.

For information, call 747-3304.

Workshop addresses legal issues congregations face

The Institute for Congregational Leadership (ICL) is offering a workshop on "Legal Liabilities Affecting Religious Organizations," led by Chuck Wilkes, attorney, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 24, at The Clare

Center, 4624 E. Jamieson Rd.

With changing times, religious organizations cannot function with immunity from legal interference, said Carl Green, director of ICL. Employment issues, sexual misconduct, organizational short-

comings, land use and tax matters are a few of the processes for which leaders are ill-equipped.

The workshop gives practical advice on "navigating the minefields facing them," he said.

For information, call 448-4887.

Conference speaker informs on media images

Jean Kilbourne, who has challenged advertising practices related to addiction and images of women, will discuss "Surviving and Thriving: Deadly Persuasion: Advertising and Addiction" in a conference from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, at Spokane Community College.

The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, a regional center for media literacy at Gonzaga University, and the Women's

Leadership Conference of the Inland Northwest are sponsors

Jean's book, *Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel*, received the Association for Women in Psychology 2000 award. She is also known for the documentaries *Killing us Softly*, *Slim Hopes* and *Calling the Shots*.

Sessions will consider the relationship of media images to such societal problems as violence,

abuse, rape, harassment, pornography, censorship, teen pregnancy, addiction and eating disorders. Participants will consider how media affect their attitudes and actions in ways that inadvertently perpetuate sexism and violence.

There will also be sessions on media literacy and women's leadership, dialogue with presenters, a marketplace, lunch and awards for women leaders and media literacy.

For information, call 323-3578 or visit <http://nwresponsiblemedia.org>.

Easter Sunrise Service set

Spokane's Easter Sunrise Service was part of the Rev. Joyce O'Conner-Magee's family tradition growing up in Spokane.

This year she will fulfill a dream by being the preacher at the 6:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 8, at Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 N. Government Way.

"It was different to be outside, dressed warmly and gathered in communion with people from

many different churches," said Joyce, pastor of Manito United Methodist since 2005.

She chose "Don't Panic!" as the theme as a reminder that life always triumphs over death and that God is always present.

"Because life triumphs, gathering at a cemetery is appropriate for Easter," she said of the location for the service, organized by the Interfaith Council.

For information, call 329-1410.

Exploring Celtic Spirituality

a pilgrimage to Ireland
May 9-19, 2007

Contact
Sister Jane Comerford
509-868-1683
or 2007irelandn@earthlink.net

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Mid-Columbia Center offers CD-series

A 12-lecture "Great World Religions" CD-video series is being shown by the Mid-Columbia Center for Theological Studies in Kennewick. The sessions on Islam are being shown at 10 a.m., alternate Saturdays, from Jan. 6 through March 17, at The Manor at Canyon Lakes, 27th and Ely.

On the videos, five professors offer a survey of major religions—Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Ruth Steach of the Mid-Columbia Center said the full "Great Religions" series will run through March 2008.

The Mid-Columbia Center was started by the late Marvin Cain,

who died in 2001. Ruth, now 83, was president of the Board then. Although the center closed, she began using the retirement village where she lives as the meeting place for ongoing theological programs, most are produced on video or CD by the Teaching Co.

Other studies since 2002 have been on the Old Testament, the New Testament and the philosophy of religion.

About 50 people from different churches and faith communities attend the sessions.

Ruth, who helped build and was a member of Central United Protestant Church at Richland from 1951 to 1989, said churches and

all religions are in a crisis.

"We need to change our ways of thinking, because more than half of the 30 wars going on today are caused by religious differences," she said. "We need to bring our thinking up to date and in line with teachings of our faiths about peace and love."

"Our worldview, as scholars say, has outrun our religious view. What we teach in churches no longer makes sense to many people, especially when some imply that religion and scientific knowledge are opposites. We need to help people make sense out of religion," she said.

For information, call 586-5620.

Church shows movies for Lenten study

In a twist from the usual for Lent, Manito United Methodist Church is encouraging churchgoers to be movie goers.

It is offering a Lenten film and discussion series at 6 p.m., Saturdays, from Feb. 24 to April 7, at the church, 3220 S. Grand, showing movies from various periods and countries depict Christ's life through lenses of Hollywood and other film producers.

The series began with "Passion: Religion and Movies," Feb. 24, a

TV history channel special giving an overview of movies on Jesus.

The other movies it will show are Cecil B. DeMille's 1927 silent biblical epic, "King of Kings"; a 1964 Italian movie, "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," on Jesus as a champion of the poor; the 1973 rock musical, "Jesus Christ, Superstar"; the 1988 movie on "The Last Temptation of Christ"; a 1990 French Canadian film on actors updating the Passion Play, called "Jesus of Montreal,"

and the 2004 film on Jesus' trial and execution, "The Passion of Christ."

Because some are R-rated, it urges viewer discretion.

For information, call 747-4755.

U.S. Institute of Peace educators lead sessions for Spokane event

Continued from page 1
Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda and Sudan.

Judy Butler of Pax Christi, which is helping sponsor the event, said the conference is for people looking for a way to express their values of peace, non-violence and conflict resolution.

"A peace conference is a way to nurture university and high school faculty and students, people in religious and community organiza-

tions, and individuals concerned about peace," she said.

"Our awareness of the problems of violence in the local and international community will benefit by bringing together concerned people to learn, discuss and express our hope for a community and a world that solves problems without resorting to violence," said Judy.

For information, call 323-3955 or email maccarone@gonzaga.edu.

CROP Walk plans underway

The resource event and recruiter training for the 2007 Spokane CROP Hunger Walk will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, March 5, at Mission Community Presbyterian Church, 2103 E. Mission.

Lynn Magnuson, regional director for Church World Service/CROP, will train participants in online donations and discuss current global hunger issues the walk supports.

Representatives from participating congregations will pick up resources to help them recruit walkers, said Bonnie Churchwell, coordinator, urging people to bring computer-savvy members.

The Spokane CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, April 29, begins at Martin Centre at Gonzaga University. Other spring CROP Walks in the Inland Northwest are on April 21 in Sunnyside, and May 20 in Milton-Freewater and the Leavenworth Upper Valley area. For information, call 888-297-2767.

NW Alliance for Responsible Media & Inland NW Women's Leadership Conference present

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featuring **Jean Kilbourne**

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Wednesday, April 18

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Relationship of media to societal problems, such as violence, abuse, rape, pornography, censorship & addictions.

Registration: \$35, students \$10 - includes lunch
visit: www.gonzaga.edu/ce • call: 323-3578



A WEEKEND
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J. Philip Newell
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April 27-29
7:30 p.m., Friday
Listening to the Heartbeat of God
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday
Christ & Creation:
Twin Loves of Celtic Christianity
10 a.m., Sunday
Sounds of the Eternal
Episcopal Cathedral of St. John
127 E. 12th Ave.
455-6795
spiritus@stjohns-cathedral.org

GOT GARBAGE?
What Should We Do With Our Trash?
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March 14 East Central Community Center, 6pm-10pm
500 S. Stone, Spokane
March 15 Center Place @ Mirabeau Point, 6pm-10pm
2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley
March meetings will focus on the Plan's Recommendations.
The Spokane County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan draft is available at www.soidwaste.org.

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System
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2007 Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast
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Program ends by 8:30 a.m.

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Easter Sunrise Service
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6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
April 8, 2007

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The Rev. Joyce O'Conner-Magee
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email info@interfaithnw.org

Exhibit tells of Hitler infiltrating and suppressing education

Continued from page 1

Hitler initially appealed to educators, but the movement soon became anti-intellectual, anti-foreigner and anti-Jewish.

There have been book burnings throughout history, beginning nearly 2,000 years ago when libraries in Alexandria were trashed and burned.

The exhibit will include a mock bonfire using book pages with singed edges to stir a reaction in those coming to the exhibition.

On Jan. 30, 1933, torchlight parades heralded the beginning of the Nazi Revolution, and within months flames had destroyed the Weimar Constitution.

Book burnings began on May 10, 1933, and continued throughout the Third Reich, Eileen said.

German students and professors sympathetic to Nazis raided libraries, bookstores and museums. Students passed books along human chains to feed bonfires in the "Action Against the Un-German Spirit" targeting works of Sinclair Lewis, Karl Marx, Ernest Hemingway and others.

The exhibition, which was developed by Stephen Goodell, director of exhibitions at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, includes displays of period artifacts, documents and news coverage, along with film, video and news-reel footage.

It examines how in post-World-War-II years the Nazi book burnings affected American life, politics, literature and popular culture.

The exhibit also focuses on how the book-burnings became a symbol during World War II for America's battle against Nazism and concludes by examining their continued impact on U.S. public discourse.

Americans reacted with revulsion to the suppression of freedom of expression, both immediately and in the following years, she said.

Eileen, who has been at Gonzaga University for 25 years, six as dean, said censorship through burning books is a tool of hate and fear.

"To win over educators is powerful. Young people in the United States are also vulnerable. At Gonzaga our mission is to promote respect, tolerance and diversity, she said. "This exhibit is an example of the power of education.

"Book burnings happen all the time. Every time there is a new



Eileen Bell-Garrison trains docents as exhibit guides.

edition of Harry Potter, some fundamentalists who associate the wizards in it with Satan burn some of the Harry Potter books," Eileen observed.

On Jan. 27, 2007, a Neo-Nazi Aryan group in Minneapolis burned copies of the Talmud, Q'uran and other books they consider anti-American.

"Even in this internet age of electronic media, the idea of burning books still connotes destroying ideas," she said.

"Media rarely report book burnings, but they still happen in the United States," said Eileen, who earned a bachelor's degree in 1975 at Wittenberg University in Ohio, a master's degree in library science at the University of Kentucky in 1980 and a doctoral degree in leadership studies at Gonzaga University.

"At Gonzaga, we believe in

the Jesuit idea of formation of the whole person. We require students to take classes in philosophy, religion and English with an emphasis on values," she said.

A member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, she commented: "God gave us minds to use. We teach students to think. Hitler taught students not to think, but to act blindly to promote an ideology.

"At Gonzaga, we want students to integrate their minds and their faith," she said.

"I believe books are here to stay, because there's something about the tactile experience of holding a book and turning pages that makes books an art form. Electronic

media are more appropriate for short periodical articles. I find it hard to read anything of length on a computer," Eileen said.

Gonzaga students will be involved in serving as docents, or exhibit guides, taking people through the exhibition.

There have also been some sessions scheduled to train teachers to bring their classes through the exhibit.

The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays, and from noon to 4 p.m., Saturdays, from March 10 to May 5 in the Special Collections Reading Room at Foley Center Library. It will be closed April 6 to 9 for Easter.

For information, call 323-6535 or visit <http://fires.gonzaga.edu>.



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Coming of Age with Aging Parents
Gail Geller - author, speaker
Thursday, March 22 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Caring for aging parents is humbling. Gail brings years of experience in eldercare.
Cost: \$15, Senior/Student: \$10

Ikebana I & II: Flower Arranging as a Personal, Spiritual Practice
Cliff Evans, SFO, MA
Ikebana I:
Sat., March 17 • 9 a.m. to noon
Cliff brings 30 years of oriental studies and ikebana experience to provide an enlightening, transforming artistic, spiritual experience for all levels.
Ikebana II:
Sat., April 21 • 9 a.m. to noon
Go deeper into this Japanese expressive art and discover hidden riches in nature and yourself.
\$40 includes floral materials each event

Body Awareness Movement Workshop
Katherine Crow-co-director OnStage
Tuesday, May 8 • 5 p.m.
Core movement and strengthening class develops flexibility, improves endurance and increases range of motion.
Cost: \$15, Senior/Student: \$10

Embracing diversity strengthens formation at Ministry Institute

For Shonna Bartlett, diversity entails much more than potlucks she experienced as a child in Chugwater, Wyo., population 250, where people brought dishes from their Bohemian, Jewish, Irish and western European heritages.

Diversity for her now includes ecumenical understandings and international connections she encounters as director of formation and sabbatical programs at The Ministry Institute at Mater Dei, 405 E. Sinto near Gonzaga University.

Diversity for her now also involves sensitivities she needs in a multi-racial family, knowing when to advocate for her Irish and African-American children. That includes her involvement in the multi-cultural St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Starting in chemistry at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Shonna shifted to opera before she graduated in 1973. Her senior year, she met her husband, Bob.

They married in April 1974 and lived 11 years in Grand Junction, Colo., where she worked as a legal secretary and piano teacher before coming to Pullman, where she ran an at-home typing business.

Shonna moved to Spokane in 1989 when Bob, came to Gonzaga University, after completing a master's degree at Washington State University. He is now director of multi-cultural education at Gonzaga's Unity House.

In Spokane, she worked 13 years in various roles with Cancer Care Northwest, including as a telephone operator.

"One day, I looked out the window and realized I wanted to walk with people on their spiritual journeys," said Shonna.

So she completed a master's degree in pastoral ministry at Gonzaga in 2002.

At the Ministry Institute since 2005, she finds her work taps both her education and her informal experience in formation.

The formation program is for students in Gonzaga's Religious Studies master's programs.

The sabbatical program is for priests and women religious on sabbatical from around the world—this year from Rwanda, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and South Dakota.

Coming for four months to a year for rest and renewal, they audit religious studies and other courses. For example, a nun is studying special education. Some study English as a second language, and others have progressed into doctoral programs.

The Ministry Institute started in 1981, when Father Armand Nigro, SJ, Father Vince Buezer, SJ, and



Shonna Bartlett shares her informal and formal training.

Father Jack Evoy, SJ, anticipating a shortage of priests, found men who had been widowed and in other careers, but were interested in serving as Catholic priests. Conventional seminary training was not appropriate, so they established Mater Dei as a seminary to train second-vocation men for the priesthood.

In the mid-1990s it ceased to be a seminary. In the late 1990s, plans began to use the building for lay and ordained Catholics, and for non-Catholics in the Religious Studies graduate program, which gained accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools several years ago. Now non-Catholics can transfer credit for their work to seminaries in their denominations.

In the 1990s, the former CREDO and FOCUS programs, which brought priests and nuns from around the world for sabbatical studies, became the Ministry Institute's sabbatical program.

Shonna's informal experience in formation began when at 14 she helped plan liturgy as choir director at the Catholic church she attended. She later helped her mother, who was Methodist, study to become Catholic.

Rearing her children, Alicia, Erin, John and Jamie, gave her more skills in formation. Bob, who grew up in the Church of God in Christ, Episcopal and Methodist churches, became Catholic in 1981, with her assistance.

As mother of a multi-racial family, formation is more than teaching beliefs. Shonna is aware of how easy it is for people to have a commitment to justice but not speak up. She is called to speak when her children need her to stand up for them.

She has also been "formed" by the "skill set" Bob brings. For example, one day when the family was driving home from church with the children, someone shook

ties to share in gatherings and seminars.

Weekly meetings formation and sabbatical students for worship, a meal and a community evening are an opportunity for the master's students who are entering ministry to engage with people who have wisdom from years of ministry, she commented.

The theme for a fall 2006 series was "Living the Beatitudes: Ministerial Growth in Community, Justice and Diversity." She also developed a four-month series for the community on "Listening for God's Word." It ends in March. Sessions explored spiritual direction, journaling, prayer and silence to help people listen as part of acting and speaking truth.

"I led the session on silence because I need it. Silence helps to settle us. With so much sadness and craziness in life, silence can be healing," she said.

"Students who are so involved in ministry need a chance to draw back and receive the gift of silence," she noted.

Aware of the struggles in the Catholic Church, Shonna, who is a board member for Call to Action, added that "if we call people to responsibility or to speak the truth, we must do it from a place that is grounded and centered in God.

"People are hungry to find ways to deal with the tensions we face," she said. "Speaking truth involves looking at both legal and faith perspectives."

As groups such as Call to Action invite church leaders to listen to the need for more lay participation in decision-making and for healing for all people in the diocese, she is aware that the Ministry Institute supports such programs for lay and ordained

ministers.

"The emphasis is on everyone's ministry, using gifts of all people for good in all the world," she said.

"We continue to look for ways to support ministries in the diocese, especially as pressures about the bankruptcy distract priests and non-ordained members from doing the ministry they love," Shonna said.

As a tool to help discern some issues for people in ministry and for congregations, the Ministry Institute for five years has used a survey and interviews in "Profiles of Ministry."

Shonna said that it helps seminary students consider how their personal characteristics relate to their ministries and helps the institute look at curriculum needs based on where the students are. It helps both students and ministers be aware of the need for self care, as well as care for others.

Last year, students from different denominations used the Profiles of Ministry to discuss their different responses to different scenarios based on their personal backgrounds and denominational approaches.

Shonna has found that Profiles of Ministry can also be used as a tool to build awareness of pluralism, diversity and social action.

"Every time I engage with another culture I'm enriched," Shonna said, adding that there are challenges.

She also cited the words of St. Francis: "Preach the Gospel always and if you have to, use words."

"The challenge for every person of any faith is to live it so people can see it," she said.

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Dances help people move beyond words of faith and into meanings

Continued from previous page
people pronounce the words from other languages and traditions, and explains their meaning.

Bruce Calkins, who became involved in the dances about 12 years ago and is now a leader-teacher, especially likes the dance to the words of Chief Seattle: "Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. Our God is the same God."

Often, he said, the specific meaning of words may be less important than the "intention of the person's heart, openness to people around the world and the desire to live in peace and love.

Sometimes words impede, Bruce said.

Elaine Tyrrie said that since being introduced to Dances of Universal Peace at a retreat 10 years ago, she continues to learn. She finds that participation "helps dissolve the separation of cultures, religions and ideas into an experience of the sacred."

The Spokane group is among 14 in Washington and more than 210 that meet on an ongoing basis throughout the United States. It began in the 1970s, and for a while met at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

There are also groups in Canada, Mexico, 14 European countries, seven South American countries, Russia, Japan India, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand.

In the United States, the groups often meet in Unitarian Universalist, Unity, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, Mennonite, United Methodist and Friends churches, plus in yoga and other community centers.

Dances of Universal Peace is part of the tradition of sacred dance, celebrating sacred seasons, everyday renewal, life passages and faith values.

The movements and songs in more than 500 dances include themes of peace, healing and celebrating life.

Based on folk-dance steps and a sacred phrase, such as "As Salaam Aleikum"—"Peace be with you"—or "Heenay Mah-Tov"—"Oh How Good it is for Brothers and Sisters."

Dances often use sacred phrases of Jesus—such as the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes—in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke.

Teachers share the dances in schools, therapy groups, prisons, hospice houses, drug rehabilitation centers, homes for the developmentally disabled, retirement villages, holistic health centers and ecumenical worship.

Moving to Spokane in high school and attending Marycliff



Bruce Calkins and Elaine Tyrrie

and Gonzaga University, Elaine found that the openness to people of different religions from the Catholicism of her growing years was reinforced in her studies of world religions and philosophy in college.

In the 1960s, she began her career, which has included social services, elementary school counseling, and drug and alcohol counseling, and began her marriage and child-rearing years.

While Vatican II opened possibilities, it did not open enough possibilities for Elaine, so she drifted from the church.

Her encounter at a retreat with the Dances of Universal Peace drew her back into a spiritual expression that fit, because it incorporates many faith traditions, makes prayers into dances and moves people in circles.

"In a circle, everyone is included. No one is left out or elevated. A circle can expand to make room for everyone," she said. "I don't do the dances to move away from the world but to bring my values into my body and my voice, so I can bring them into my life."

Bruce said that all faiths "work for people to love each other, but religions must get along before everyone can get along. We should not let our differences separate us."

After his first 18 years attending Grace Baptist church in Spokane, he left both Spokane and the church, and spent some time as an agnostic/atheist before returning to church through the Unitarian Universalist Church and Unity Church.

He earned a bachelor's degree in math and economics in 1976 at Eastern Washington University, a master's degree in economics in 1982 at Washington State Uni-

versity, and a masters in clinical psychology in 1990 from the University of Idaho.

Bruce, who has run Brused Books in Pullman, for 25 years, has also been involved with the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Global Folk Art, contra dance, caring for elderly relatives and backpacking.

The Dances of Universal Peace, also known as "Sufi Dancing," began in the late 1960s in San Francisco under Samuel Lewis, a Sufi teacher and Zen master, who had studied the traditions of Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. Influenced by Hazrat Inayat Khan, who first brought Sufism to the West in 1910, and Ruth St. Denis, a feminist pioneer in modern dance in America and Europe, Samuel wanted to connect young people with their spirituality and with peace through arts.

Bruce said the message of Sufism is that the same truth is accessible through all traditions.

"In school and work, we can become lost in head understandings of and explanations about love rather than engaging in loving and connecting with people," Bruce said. "Love is about loving people—strangers, even enemies."

Elaine told of driving back from the Coast recently in bad weather. Tense, she remembered to breathe in gratitude and breathe out peace to help her relax. In other circumstances, she brings the simple messages to mind, which she said helps bring the dances to her life.

"The dances and songs take me into my heart and away from the confusion thoughts can bring," said Elaine, who also attends classes on Sufi offered by Baraka, which sponsors classes and workshops, as well as the dances.

"We talk about Sufi practices, not religion, and a Sufi path referring to experiencing the sacred through a poem, music, meditation, circle, community and the broad brush of experiences," said Elaine, a grandmother who volunteers for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane and a local disaster response organization teaming with Komari, Sri Lanka, a community recovering from the December 2004 tsunami.

In the Dances of Universal Peace, no one is asked to give up his or her faith as a Christian or questioning as an agnostic. Each is encouraged to continue to explore through his or her own ways.

"It has been a gift that has helped me experience Christianity deeply, differently and in new ways," she said. "I experience the blessings of traditions I knew nothing about before."

Troubled by the exclusiveness of the systems in place, Elaine and Bruce said people can see positive options available if they open their eyes and let go of fear.

Doing the Dances of Universal Peace brings Bruce peace, strength and joy, and motivates him and others to be involved in peacemaking activities.

For Elaine, promoting the living wage, nonviolence, micro-lending and fair trade are inclusive ways to resolve problems that relate with the values she uplifts in the dances.

"These solutions communicate that everyone has value and a place, despite the societal, economic and political system that works well for those who receive the multi-million dollar stock options, but does not care about those who work hard," she said.

Elaine added that it's easy to become caught up with what's happening and forget "the peace I seek to be."

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Spokane teen engages in decision-making at global youth event

By Deidre Jacobson

As one of six young people representing the Pacific Northwest at the United Methodist Global Young People's Convocation Dec. 28 through Jan. 1 at Johannesburg, South Africa, Micah Coleman Campbell, 17, learned and shared as delegates suggested "legislation" to forward to the world Methodist leaders.

The convocation was the first United Methodist global meeting for young people. Delegates came from Africa, the Philippines, Europe and the United States.

A Lewis and Clark High School senior who enjoys video games, bicycling, computers and sports, Micah is a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church.

His heart for serving the church and interest in Africa come naturally.

The son of two Methodist ministers, John and Joanna Coleman Campbell, he has been active in the church all his life.

He recently became involved in the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and has helped plan retreats for junior-high age youth.

Two years ago, Micah and his father, John, who is pastor of Highland Park, spent two weeks in Malawi, working at the Ministry of Hope orphanage and feeding center, caring for abandoned infants with AIDS. His mother, Joanna, is pastor of Cheney United Methodist.

The recent convocation included worship, Bible studies and speakers on topics of international concern and social justice.

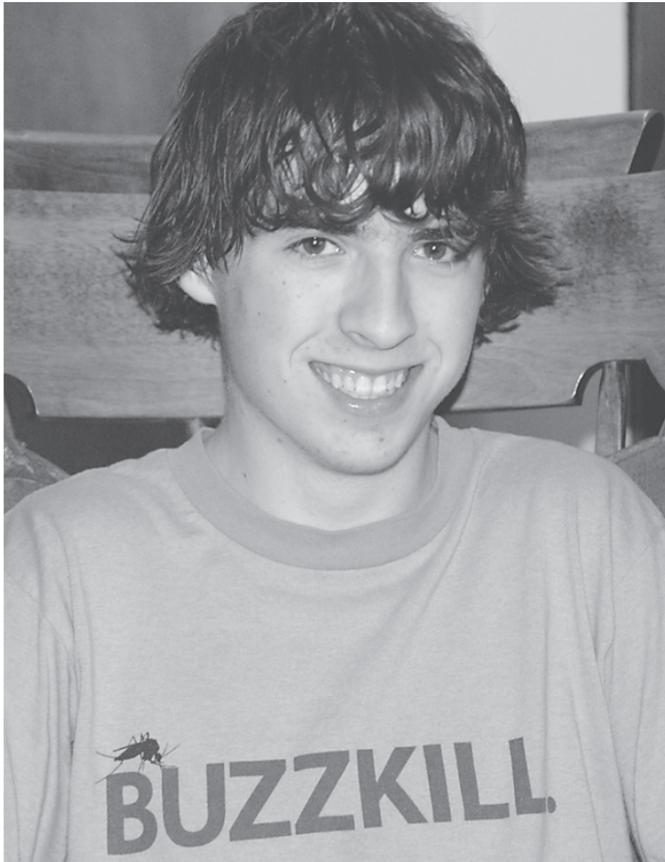
Speakers included Bishop Eben Kanukayi Nhiwatiwa, on the faculty of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of the Germany Central Conference, Beauty Rosebery Maenzanise, dean of the faculty of Theology at Africa University and Liberto Bautista, the assistant general secretary of the United Nations.

About 300 youth—from 15 to 18—young adults—from 19 to 40—and chaperones attended. Of these delegates, 96 were able to vote on legislation.

Micah was not originally a representative with voting rights, but was given the opportunity when a representative from California was unable to attend.

Legislation included articles that would increase the number of youth and young adults to leadership positions within the church body both globally and at the local church level and require youth and young adults be included in general agencies and boards.

The representatives also voted to increase awareness and action



Micah Coleman Campbell wears Nothing But Nets T-shirt.

regarding the situation in Darfur, increase funding to Africa University, increase church involvement in the prevention or the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to congregations and the community.

The youth and young adults passed an amendment recommending that the membership of all local United Methodist Churches include those who have been baptized and who have professed their faith regardless of age, class, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation.

The convocation also voted to support the "Nothing but Nets" campaign, a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Malaria is preventable, but infects nearly 500

million people each year and kills more than one million of those people who become infected, states the initiative.

Micah said each delegate had a voting card to express support or opposition. Three people presented arguments for and three against before the voting took place. A two-thirds majority was required for the legislation to pass.

"There were a few communication problems. Information was presented in English. Non-English speakers used headphones for translation. Some people had difficulty understanding and the process had to be slowed down.

A few pieces of legislation passed before the problem was solved.

"What impressed me the most about the convocation was the focus on action. I realized how hung up Americans can be on issues such as homosexuality, when other issues like AIDS and malaria are killing people every day," he commented.

"The legislation passed by the Youth and Young Adults Convocation will be sent to the General Assembly, which will have the final say and will vote to appropriate funds," said Micah.

Conference attendees also did some sightseeing.

They visited an apartheid mu-

seum, which had a chronological exhibition beginning with the Bushmen through the colonization of South Africa to the present. They also visited the Hector Peterson Museum, named for the first man shot in the resistance, and Nelson Mandela's home.

Micah reports that the trip has strengthened his desire to stay involved with the church and especially the youth ministry.

He hopes to attend the University of Puget Sound after graduation, majoring in history, with a goal of teaching upon completion.

He would also like to attend the next convocation in four years.

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Newport woman establishes office for World Medical Relief in her home

Ruth Calkins' effort to help combat HIV and AIDS through an educational website she started from her home in Newport, opened her to involvement with World Medical Relief (WMR) as another way to address her concerns about Africa.

A TV special on AIDS in Africa introduced her to the World Medical Fund. In 2004, she emailed the founder, who wanted to expand in the United States.

Ruth offered to help. Now her home address is the address for World Medical Relief USA.

The organization established mobile children's clinics, operating in Malawi with three Land Rovers equipped with medical supplies. They travel to villages to give medical treatment and provide anti-retrovirals to children born with AIDS.

Three medical officers go in each Land Rover with a pharmacist and a nurse. There are 10 volunteers for every paid person.

When they come to a village, more than 100 people line up. Children are weighed and measured to address malnutrition.

Every day, they visit three villages, revisiting each every four months in the Nkhotakota Western Lake District of Malawi.

At each village, they train volunteer health workers to weigh and measure children. Pharmacists give out medicines and mosquito nets.

In August 2006, WMR held an education program to help protect African girls, who are sexually active at early ages, Ruth said. Education also discourages them from sexual activity as the best way to prevent AIDS.

"Families are so poor that a girl will offer herself in exchange for a meal," she said, "even though children can see the ravages of AIDS in their villages."



Ruth Calkins maintains ties to Africa.

World Medical Relief wants children aware early that those outcomes connect with being sexually active at an early age.

"We seek to have churches, mosques and schools cooperate in a program of education for children. Where the program has been done, the rate of HIV has dropped from 16 percent to 2 percent," she reported.

In 2006, World Medical Relief treated nearly 14,000 children for malaria and bilharzi—a parasitic flatworm—and distributed 362 mosquito nets. They reach a total of 30,000 sick children a year.

Michael Burt, WMR founder, said they have given out 5,000 nets, but there is need for 100,000 nets in 586 villages.

Beginning in 1984, he often traveled to Malawi on vacations, volunteering for agencies working with AIDS victims. He became disillusioned with administrative

costs of clinics and offices.

So he retired early from his job with the British Health Services in 1997 to start World Medical Relief to aid children in hard-to-reach areas with few medical resources. The average daily income in those areas is 41 cents from subsistence farming or fishing.

To save administrative costs, Michael operates WMF from his home, just as the treasurer and Ruth work from their homes. They keep careful records, she said, both to justify expenses and so their work can be duplicated.

A Quaker most of her life, Ruth has also been involved in United Methodist, Unity and now United Church of Christ churches.

Her first husband's work with Rutgers' Agricultural College took them overseas, from 1959 to 1963, in Sri Lanka—then Ceylon. Then he worked with U.S. AID from 1963 to 1972 in Nigeria.

They returned because he had a head injury in a car accident. He died in 1974 in Arlington, Va.

Ruth was a legal secretary there, where she married Dan Calkins. They moved three years ago to settle near grandchildren in Newport.

Knowing what native villages look like from having lived in Nigeria, Ruth realizes how AIDS adds to the burdens.

With this work, she has less time to keep up the website, which includes statistics and descriptions of AIDS in South Africa, Somalia and Uganda. She prepares the

newsletter for World Medical Relief and gives talks to area groups about the program.

For information, call 447-5957.

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Father Tom, who taught and served in campus ministry at Gonzaga Prep, is novice director for the Jesuit Oregon Province.

A graduate of Gonzaga University, he entered the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus in 1986 and was assigned to Gonzaga Prep, where he taught, coached football and softball, and worked in campus ministry.

He has been involved in the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL) Program.

Cindy, provincial assistant for the Oregon Province's secondary and middle education, spent 24 years at Gonzaga Prep as theology teacher, campus minister, admissions director and academic vice

principal. She recently became assistant for the Jesuit and Lay Partnership program.

She was on SEEL Spokane's board and is its spiritual director. For information, call 323-5896.

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Move to accessible church building helps congregation grow

Morning Star Baptist Church moved from feeling trapped in a decline—is if caught between Pharaoh and the Red Sea—in its former location in East Central Spokane.

The congregation chose to look to the future by calling a full-time pastor, moving in October into an accessible location, establishing a memorial library for its famous astronaut son and starting day-care and outreach to its new neighborhood in Northwest Spokane.

For their pastor, the Rev. Herman Lewis, it has been the first time in 25 years that he has been a full-time senior pastor. When he came seven months ago, he came on faith, leaving an \$80,000-a-year job in management with Holiday Inn.

Morning Star's leap has resulted in about 100 attending Sunday morning, in contrast with 13 previously, Herman said.

Accessibility—along with preaching and outreach—has made it possible for older members to come.

Several were no longer able to climb the stairs at the former building at 1829 E. Mallon, the church's location for 40 of its 104 years. None of the members lived in that neighborhood any more.

At 3909 W. Rowan—in a building a multi-racial Pentecostal church outgrew—Morning Star painted stripes for four handicapped parking spots, so people can walk or wheel right in from the parking lot.

"A 96-year-old woman we had to carry up the steps in her wheel chair cried when she learned we bought the building. Here she can just roll into the building," said Herman, who has a passion for elderly people from spending time with his grandmother while growing up.

Not only has congregation fulfilled their dream of a larger, accessible facility, but also the building has space for a library to honor a famous member, astronaut Michael Anderson, who died with his six crewmates when the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart on reentry in February 2003.

Herman said the library has been a dream of Michael's parents, members Bobbie and Barbara Anderson.

They want it to be a place where other young people can come, see artifacts, read books and be inspired to follow their dreams, as Michael followed his dream as a boy growing up in that church. He graduated from Cheney High School, determined to be an astronaut.

"If young people have a goal



Pastor Herman Lewis

and a dream, we want them to stick with it," Herman asserted.

The library will be open five days a week. While there are several other libraries honoring Michael, this one has some original items.

Herman shared his journey to Morning Star Baptist. His parents moved from New Orleans to Winnie, Texas, when he was 14. There, they attended St. Paul Baptist Church, where he recognized his call to ministry at the age of 16.

"When I first felt God calling me to ministry, I walked a mile and a half to my grandmother's home to tell her first. My parents were having marital problems. She told me to go back and tell them," he said.

Herman found they were so moved by his call to ministry, they decided to straighten out their relationship and stayed together until their deaths. Two of his seven brothers are also pastors now. Herman also has four sisters.

After graduation from high school in 1975, he attended LaMarr University from 1976 to 1978. As all-state quarterback, a basketball player and track

athlete, he played two years at LaMarr, but felt out of place.

"I kept thinking about the Bible when the coach was talking," he said.

At the age of 21, Herman became a licensed pastor and served his first church in Beaumont, Texas, from 1981 to 1989. The bishop paid for him to attend Mount Zion Lively Hope Bible Institute, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology in 1984. He served a church in Brazoria, Texas, from 1989 to 1994.

From 1994 to 2004, he served a church in Galveston and led it to construct a new building to hold 500.

As senior engineer with Holiday Inn, his employer for many years, Herman was moved to a position in the Seattle-Tacoma area last year, and began serving a church there, where Gerald Moore of Morning Star Baptist heard him and told the church about him.

"I told them I wasn't interested," Herman said. "They told me to pray over it. I knew nothing about Spokane except the sign I saw in Seattle."

Herman followed the sign to visit the church. He felt God

calling him to come to Spokane, trusting God would reveal what he was to do there.

He was impressed that the congregation wanted him to be their full-time pastor, not just to preach Sundays. So he retired from his career with Holiday Inn to become their pastor.

As he started at Morning Star, members showed him blueprints of a building they wanted to build. It would cost \$1 million to remodel the church, and more to tear it down and build a new church on E. Mallon.

"I heard God calling me to move the church, not remodel or rebuild the former building," Herman said. "I didn't have a clue where."

He had the business card of a pilot he had met at the SeaTac Holiday Inn. The pilot's wife was a realtor in Spokane. Herman called her and in a week found the present building.

"I know how it is to have faith, and I know how it is not to have faith. I know how it is to trust God, and not to trust God," he said.

When Herman went to see the building, another church was there with a checkbook in their hands, ready to write a check for \$19,000 less than the full price.

"I told the realtor, this is our church," he said. "We offered the full price."

"Despite having funds in certificates of deposit and savings, plus collateral on the Mallon building,

banks turned us down because we had so few members. We kept praying," he explained.

A mortgage company also turned them down. The congregation continued to pray.

"The realtor called on Friday and said the building was ours," Herman said. "I began moving things with a rental truck on Saturday, Oct. 21 and on Sunday morning, we had our first service there."

He has baptized 14 people since coming to Spokane, and nine since coming to the new location, which has a TV screen for projecting sermons and songs.

Now in the building, the dreams continue. The church plans to form a nonprofit organization to open a day-care center for preschoolers and start an after-school learning center for the community, open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Herman's wife, Sandra, and several women in the church have completed training to operate the day-care center and the after-school learning center.

Before Thanksgiving, members gave out free food boxes with 16 turkeys given annually by Gonzaga Preparatory School, plus 32 turkeys the church bought so people could enjoy the holiday meal.

Herman has reached out to other churches and agencies serving the neighborhood to tell about outreach plans and learn about needs the church could serve.

For information, call 216-1119.

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Media reformers challenge limits to information by conglomerates

Concern about control of access to information by "Big Media" conglomerates drew more than 3,500 journalists, union people, alternative media folks, bloggers, activists, organizers and others to gather several days in January at Memphis for the National Conference for Media Reform.

Addressing them, Bill Moyers, PBS journalist, challenged that media run by a small group of elites impede a "free and independent press in America."

He likened media-mergers of recent decades to the "plantation mentality" feeding inequality and poverty today as it once did in the South. Wealth created in the last 25 years has not been shared, but is concentrated among the top 20 percent, supported by reactionary forces that control the majority of newspapers, TV stations and cable networks, he said.

"A small group of elites determines what ordinary people do and do not see or hear. In-depth coverage, let alone problems people face day-to-day, is scarce as sex, violence and voyeurism are pervasive," said Bill. "The successful business model, by democratic standards, is censorship of knowledge by monopolization of the means of information."

As slogans and rhetoric create false impressions and replace necessary information and views, Bill reminded media reformers that it took repeated scenes of water hoses, dogs and churches ablaze in the South and repeated scenes of destruction in Vietnam for Americans to understand what was happening and to act to change it.

Whether the economic system is a just system "is off the table for investigation and discussion," he said, noting that with

independent sources of information and analysis scarce, inequality has grown, schools have re-segregated and environmental deregulation has increased.

"If we need to know what is happening, why it matters and what to do about it, Big Media won't tell us, so we have to tell the story ourselves," Bill said, noting the gift of alternative media and the digital revolution, which make it possible 1) to have "a nation of story tellers" and 2) to rally activists to challenge efforts to control the internet.

Calling for net neutrality—equal access to internet—people in diverse groups flooded Congress with petitions to say the public cares about media and democracy. The call brought together the Christian Coalition, Gun Owners of America, Common Cause and Moveon.org.

Fortunately, even though the forces of

Big Media will not give up, neither will reformers, who need to continue vigilance as Congress now rewrites the Telecommunications Act.

Bill aptly stated that alternative media are needed so that the country does not "die of too many lies." To be proactive, he plans to return to public TV with a weekly series, "Bill Moyers Journal," for which he said he will take no money from PBS.

He believes it is crucial for media to reveal hidden facts and to be an "Underground Railroad tunneling beneath the plantation." He likened media reformers to those involved in the abolition, suffragette and civil rights movement in "touching the soul of democracy."

The Fig Tree, as alternative media, is committed to be part of the challenge.

Mary Stamp - editor

Spending on war deprives children in wealthiest nations, study finds

"Child Poverty in Perspective: An Overview of Child Well-being in Rich Countries," released by UNICEF on Feb. 14, was no valentine for U.S. children.

The Netherlands rated highest of the 21 countries, followed by Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Spain. The United States was 20th and the United Kingdom was 21st.

The study by UNICEF's Innocenti Research Center in Florence, Italy, used data for 2000 to 2003 from the 30 industrialized nations in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. Some countries did not provide data for all topics and were not included in the final tables.

Data was collected in six areas: 1) material well-being, 2) health and safety, 3) education, 4) peer and family relationships, 5) behaviors and risks, and 6) young people's own subjective sense of well-being in these areas.

The study is the first of what is planned as a regular monitoring of child well-being.

No single country leads or is in the top third in all categories. Per capita gross national product is not a predictor of place. Poland and the Czech Republic lead a number of wealthier countries.

The seven countries in the top third are the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Spain, Switzerland and Norway. The Netherlands missed ranking in the top third in all categories, by ranking 10th in one.

The second tier is Italy, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Greece and Poland.

The third tier is the Czech Republic, France, Portugal, Austria, Hungary, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The U.S. ranks last in health and safety with its high rate of infant mortality, many low-birth-weight babies, low immunization rate and a high childhood death rate from

accidents and injuries—reflecting our lack of universal medical care.

We ranked next to last in two categories: 1) family and peer relationships, and 2) behaviors and risks. Fewer than 60 percent of U.S. children live with both parents, while more than 90 percent in Italy and Greece do. U.S. children reported spending little time with peers or family.

Behaviors and risks deal not only with drug/alcohol use and sexual activity but also with fighting and bullying, including cut-throat competition.

The highest rating received by the U.S. was 12th in education.

Marta Santos Pais, director of the IRC, pointed out that the policies and programs of the most highly rated countries showed a high correlation with the guidelines of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United States and Somalia are

the only nations that have not signed that convention.

Those who signed agreed to a wide range of rights and protections for children, including protection from abuse and neglect, uniform access to education and health services, freedom from participation in war, and protection from its results.

The convention calls on countries to invest in their children "to the maximum extent of available resources."

"A country cannot be said to be doing the best it can for its children if other countries at a similar stage of economic development are doing much better," said Marta.

The two countries at the bottom of the survey, the UK and the US, are those that have spent the most lives and money on a pre-emptive war in Iraq, cutting social programs at home at the same time.

Nancy Minard - editorial team

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

Jesus tells his disciples when an adversary strikes us on the cheek, we are to offer the other cheek. Striking the cheek was the worst form of insult, equivalent to laying a curse or spitting on a person. The phrase "striking the cheek" was not meant literally, but doing anything that showed disrespect and insulted another—undermining relationships, destroying a reputation, spreading lies.

When Jesus said that he was saying, "If your adversary insults you, don't retaliate." We may not return "blow for blow," even if verbal. Harder is his teaching to do good to the one who hates you. Retaliating is off the table. We are to see the needs of our adversary.

This is an expectation for individual Christian life and for the Christian community. We are to confront adversaries with caring and truth. We don't have to accept being victimized.

In conflicts, those who call Jesus 'Lord of Life' must not initiate, encourage or participate in a spiraling of antagonism. We must look for ways to heal and overcome intentional injuries, confronting wrongdoing in the spirit of Jesus.

The Rev. Leslie Ann Knight
Audubon Park United Methodist

We are to love God with our minds—to use our minds not check them at the church door.

We are to love God with our strength—to do something takes sweat, action, patience and endurance.

We are to love God with our wills, our choices and our resolves—faith challenges our willpower.

We are to love our neighbors as ourselves, so we have to know something about our neighbors—who they are, how they think and live, what's important to them. We

have to cross invisible, social boundaries of ethnic and lifestyle differences. We cannot love neighbors in an abstract, sentimental way. Loving neighbor is about people who are different from us.

The Rev. John Temple Bristow
Country Homes Christian

What dividing walls do we put up as human beings between ourselves and another person, culture, religion, country or gender? Why do we put up walls?

Walls bring to mind issues of separation and division in the sense of polarities: black and white, right and wrong, left and right, and the ultimate, most dangerous one, "us and them." To use these words is to engage in a false sense of security known as absolutism, which presumes that one side is always right and another always wrong.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds. This Lent, let us listen to stories of neighbors in other parts of the world and learn about the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

These eight initiatives work to fight eight walls that face many of our brothers and sisters: extreme poverty and hunger, lack of education, lack of gender equality, child mortality, poor maternal health, spread of HIV/malaria and other diseases, loss of environmental stability for drinking water and fertile land, and lack of global partnership among the rich and poor nations.

How can we take down these dividing walls and be one in partnership with other nations to make a difference in this world?

The Rev. Anne Barton
St. Paul's Episcopal – Kennewick

In the Yakima Valley, we are experiencing the effect of launching large

amounts of pollutants and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every day.

With more stringent air quality standards, we have been put on air alerts more frequently than in years past. With global populations rising, the increased number of people driving cars and flying, and the increase in factories, the amount of pollution is increasing.

This is a theological issue. If we believe God created this world and we are stewards of it for God, then how we treat the waste, soil and air says something about what we think of God. The world doesn't belong to us, but to God.

Are we willing to demand more energy-efficient cars and drive them? Are we willing to support new sources of nonpolluting, renewable fuel? Are we willing to support solar and wind generation of electricity?

I look at my grandchildren and wonder what kind of life they will have after my years on this earth. Will they suffer because of how previous generations lived?

The Rev. David Helseth
Englewood Christian – Yakima

Traditionally Lent has been a time of repentance, a time of acknowledging our sinfulness. This has been lived out through making a sacrifice, often a dietary one. For example, one Roman Catholic man who was alcoholic gave up drinking every Lent and for six weeks a year tasted being sober. Our dietary sacrifices help us be whole and healthy. Rarely, however, do we remember Jesus' sacrifice when we say "no" to dessert.

Some choices might help us focus spiritually: 1) Choose and memorize six favorite Bible passages. 2) Learn the first line of one to six hymns. 3) Pray with your spouse. Say a new set prayer or table prayer. Buy a prayer book. 4) Keep a journal to reflect

on a day and your life. How do we live out our faith?

These ideas are about doing things and choices of being for Lent.

The Rev. Helga Janssen
First Lutheran – Kennewick

The rigorous discipline of Lent has never been popular and in an era when Lenten disciplines were widely practiced, it was mostly in response to edicts of a powerful church buttressed by the authority of an equally powerful state, rather than in response to the inner compulsion of souls seeking God. I am convinced that about as many people take Lent seriously as ever did, but they are observing Lent in a different, more secular context, which perhaps ironically better captures the original intent.

It is a distortion of Lent to focus on how bad we are. The purpose is clarity and truth—an atmosphere in which we can face the truth about ourselves in the context of the God who loves us unconditionally and seeks us ceaselessly. Facing ourselves honestly is painful for most of us, but that is the price of truth, not a punishment for being bad. I need to face my dishonesty and fears so I will grow and become a different freer person capable of more honesty and courage. Lent is meant to help us become fully human, to live up to the nobility of our calling as children of God.

In an increasingly secular world, we must help modern people understand their modern experience and show them how, wherever the liberating truth of who they truly are brings a greater sense of life and love, a greater ability to fulfill their own best selves, there is Lent.

The Rev. Bill Ellis, dean
Episcopal Cathedral of St. John

Hospice hosts teleconference on grief

Hospice of Spokane will host a national teleconference on "Living With Grief: Before and After the Death" from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, March 22, at CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., Spokane Valley. After the

teleconference, a local panel of bereavement professionals will respond to the national program.

The event examines perspectives on grief in a life-limiting illness and after a death, including grief and mourning before death;

reviewing life; assisting families at the time of death; planning funerals, memorials and rituals, and self-care for professionals.

For information, call 456-0438 or visit www.hospiceofspokane.org.

Dinner benefits Adopt-a-Minefield

The Night of 1,000 Dinners potluck to raise funds for the United Nations' Adopt-a-Minefield program will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 12, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr.

The event educates participants about the impact of landmines—killing and mutilating children and adults long after they are "planted" in wars.

"There are 45 to 70 million landmines worldwide," said organizer Marion Moos of United Nations Association-Spokane.

For information, call 747-2407.

Homelessness films focus of Lent study

Trinity Lutheran Church, at 1300 NE Lybecker in Pullman, is hosting an ecumenical film series on "Faces of Homelessness" beginning with soup and bread gatherings at 6 p.m., Wednesdays, March 7 to 28.

The films explore issues related to homelessness, such as youth and foster care, mental health and the working homeless.

Sponsors are the Common Ministry, Sacred Heart Social Justice Ministry Committee, St. James Episcopal Church, Community Congregational United Church of Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church.

For information, call 332-1985.

Fig Tree schedules review of directory

The Fig Tree will hold a review of the last Directory of Congregations and Community Resources for people to give input on content for the 2007 directory. It will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, at St. Ann's Parish Hall, 2120 E. First.



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Calendar of Events

- Mar 1** • PeaceWorks planning for March 17 rally, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m. - call 838-7870
- Mar 3** • "Islam at the Crossroads: Women and Change in Islam," Mid-Columbia Center for Theological Studies, "Great World Religions" series, The Manor at Canyon Lakes, 27th and Ely, Kennewick, 10 a.m. - call 586-5620
- Project Hand-Up, Second Harvest, 1234 E. Front Ave., 8 to 11:30 a.m., or 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - call 252-6242
- "Jazzed for Justice" Benefit for the Center for Justice, CenterStage, 5:30 to 10 p.m. - call 835-5211
- Mar 5** • CROP Hunger Walk Recruiter Rally, Mission Community Presbyterian, 2103 E. Mission, 7 p.m.
- Mar 7** • Directory of Congregations and Community Resources review, St. Ann's Parish Hall, 2120 E. First, 7 p.m. - call 535-1813
- "Forgiveness: Reflections on Ethics after the Holocaust," John Roth, director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth College, 7 p.m. - call 777-3275
- Mar 7-28** • "Faces of Homelessness," ecumenical film discussions, Trinity Lutheran, 1300 NE Lybecker, Pullman, 6 p.m.
- Mar 8** • International Women's Day: Breakfast, Holiday Inn, Sunset Hwy, 7:15 a.m.; "The Gender Salary Gap," Academic Center, Riverpoint Campus, 12:05 p.m.; "End Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls," Spokane Women's Club, 9th and Walnut, 4 p.m.
- Great Decisions, "Responding to Global Hunger," Benjamin Homan, president of Food for the Hungry, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m. - call 777-3270
- Mar 9** • Spirit of St. Patrick Party, benefit for St. Margaret's Shelter, Mukogawa Ft. Wright Commons, 6:30 p.m. - call 358-4254
- "ABCs of Business Website Development," AHANA Business and Networking Monthly Luncheon, Riverview Thai Restaurant, 1003 E. Trent, noon to 1:30 p.m. - call 838-1881
- Yoke's Spring Food Drive for Second Harvest - call 252-6242
- Mar 9-10** • "Women's Dream Quest," Spiritus Center for Spirituality, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th - call 483-0438
- Mar 10-May 5** • "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and Nazi Book Burning," Exhibit, Foley Library at Gonzaga University, - call 323-3471
- Mar 10-18** • Novena of Grace, St. Aloysius, 330 E. Boone - call 323-5896
- Mar 11** • Kosher Dinner, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. - call 623-0372
- Mar 12** • Night of 1,000 Dinners Adopt-a-Minefield Potluck, United Nations Assn., Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr., 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 13,27** • Spokane Citizens for a Living Wage, 35 W. Main, 5 p.m.
- Mar 14** • "Stories of Everyday Heroes" Benefit Breakfast, The Fig Tree, Globe Room, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 7:15 a.m. - RSVP 535-1813
- Mar 15** • Great Decisions, "New, Modern Iran," Shahrzad Saderi, international consultant, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m. - call 777-3270
- Mar 16** • "Before the Music Dies," film, KYRS-FM, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 17** • Peace Rally and March, Pledge of Resistance Against War on Iran, Franklin Park, Division and Queen, 2:30 p.m.
- Mar 22** • Hospice of Spokane Teleconference, Center Place, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. - call 456-0438
- Good Works in Action Tour of Catholic Charities programs, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. RSVP to 358-4250
- Great Decisions, "Christian Micro-Enterprise - New Model for Aid in Developing Countries: Philippine Perspective," Ruth Callanta, Center for Community Transformation, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m. - call 777-3270
- Mar 24** • "Legal Liabilities Affecting Religious Organizations" Chuck Wilkes, Clare Center, 4624 E. Jamieson Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - call 448-4887
- Mar 25** • Taize Service, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 7 p.m.
- Mar 28** • Business Leader's Diversity Breakfast, Lair, SCC, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
- Mar 30-31** • "Causes of Conflict: Conditions for Peace," Peace Conference, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday - call 323-3955
- Mar 31** • AHANA Anniversary Dinner, Northern Quest, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights - call 838-1881
- Apr 4** • Fig Tree Distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Apr 5** • Fig Tree Board, Manito United Methodist, 3220 S. Grand, 1 p.m.
- Tues** • Need to Know, Emmanuel Lutheran, 314 S. Spruce - 848-4409
- Tues-Sat** • Habitat-Spokane work days - call 534-2552
- Fridays** • Colville Peace Vigil - call 675-4554
- 1st Sat** • Ministers' Fellowship Union - call 624-0522
- 2nd, 4th Weds** • Pax Christi, St. Joseph's Catholic, 1503 W. Dean, noon - 844-4480
- 3rd Mons** • NAACP - call 467-9793
- 1st & 3rd Tues** • Volunteers' Community Night, Second Harvest - call 534-6678

Business Diversity Breakfast

Diversity in the Evolving American Workforce

On March 28, Greater Spokane Incorporated will present a Business Diversity Breakfast to provide its membership and the Spokane community an opportunity to better understand diversity in the workforce. We will focus this breakfast on four subject areas: Generational, Race, Gender, and Economic Diversity. The format will include a panel of experts on each topic with ample time and encouragement for audience participation and feedback.

March 28, 2007 - 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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Potlatch Lutheran, Presbyterian churches share a pastor, worship

Serving the Lutheran-Presbyterian parish in Potlatch, Idaho, the Rev. Larry Veith appreciates both the flexibility of Presbyterian worship and the repetition in the Lutheran liturgy.

Nearly three years after coming to his first pastorate out of Fuller Seminary in 2002, he is discovering the roots of the 100-year history of both Grace Lutheran Church and the Community Presbyterian Church, which formed an ecumenical parish 35 years ago.

Since deciding to share a pastor in 1971, the churches have alternated between Lutheran and Presbyterian pastors.

Until five years ago, the pastors conducted two Sunday services, one in each church, following the style of each denomination.

Now the churches hold a 10:30 a.m. worship service for both congregations. For a month, they meet at Grace Lutheran and use the Lutheran liturgy. Alternating months, they experience a Presbyterian service in the Presbyterian building. The Sunday school is always at the Presbyterian church.

"We switch between buildings and styles so each church can maintain its identity, but we live together in the community and do mission together," Larry said. "We are one community."

He finds a vitality as the churches worship, study and serve together like one congregation but with two buildings and worship styles. Along with having a Parish Council, there is a Presbyterian Session and a Lutheran Council.

Having grown up in "a Presbyterian world" in Ventura, Calif., Larry did not realize "Presbyterian" was a worship style. He soon learned to lead the liturgy in the Lutheran book of worship.

"It's refreshing to experience the humility of these people of different traditions worshipping together," he said.

Each week, Larry's sermons relate the Scriptures to the people's lives. In prayers, he remembers people who suffer locally and from the world's injustices.

As a youth and as a youth pastor, he went with Teen Missions for two months to rebuild a church in Jamaica and a month to build a youth house in Kenya.

"Those experiences gave me an awareness of poverty and justice beyond books and TV," he said. "Befriending Kenyans helped me see with new eyes and bring a global perspective to sermons."

On those mission trips, Larry also developed a habit of daily prayer and Bible reading that nurtures his ministry.

Larry, lay leaders and the Rev.



The Rev. Larry Veith

Ken Onstot, a former pastor now at Hamblen Park Presbyterian in Spokane shared the following background on the community:

The Potlatch Lumber Mill founded Potlatch in 1906 as a company town. It built and owned the stores, houses and church buildings.

The mill built a Catholic church and a 900-seat Protestant church—called the Union Protestant Church. Norwegian Lutherans, however, decided to build their own church, holding meetings and worship in early years in Norwegian. It celebrated its 100th anniversary in October.

In 1937, the mill began selling the stores, houses and other buildings. When it gave the church buildings to the congregations in 1940, the Protestant church decided to affiliate with the Presbyterian Church, because many of its pastors had been Presbyterian.

The Presbyterian building burned in 1951 and was rebuilt on the current site by 1953.

When the mill closed in 1981, a few managers moved to other mills, but many people stayed and began commuting to jobs in Moscow 16 miles south and Pullman about 25 miles southwest. The town is now about 800 with about 2,500 in the surrounding area.

There are loggers, U.S. Forest Service workers and farmers in the surrounding area. There are fewer farms, because many have retired and lease the land. Now one farmer can farm land

once farmed by several, growing wheat, lentils or bluegrass.

The Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, which have fluctuated in membership over the years, now have about 40 in each congregation with about 60 at worship.

Ken, who served there from 1979 to 1988, said when the company left during his ministry, it changed the expectation that young people would graduate from high school and stay to work at the mill. Since then, more have gone on to college.

"The community became more cohesive, forming a food bank and supporting those who struggled when the mill left," Ken added. "People in the church talked more about what was important in life beyond having a job and making money. They realized the importance of caring for each other."

The Presbyterian and Lutheran members and members of four of seven other churches in the area—St. Mary's Catholic, Elmore United Methodist, Princeton Church of the Nazarene and Onaway Faithful Gospel Church—donate food and volunteer at the food bank, which is open on Tuesdays. Others run a clothing bank.

Larry and pastors of five other churches meet regularly in a support group and plan five ecumeni-

cal worship services each year—Thanksgiving, Easter morning and evening services, baccalaureate and a summer service. On fifth Sundays, they hold evening worship services together.

Five to 20 teens from six congregations meet in a weekly community youth group at the Presbyterian church.

For Larry, relationships from meeting people each day at the post office and stores are central to ministry—wherever people are and whenever they gather.

"Pastors need to be in relationship with people," he said.

So he drops in to chat with the women who meet each week and make more than 100 quilts a year

to distribute locally or overseas through Lutheran World Relief.

Gayle Worthington, parish council president and a member of Grace Lutheran, said the parish does some outreach aided by matching funds from Thrivent for Lutherans. They help support the Children's Home in Lewiston.

Sunday school children raised \$500 in a rummage sale. With a \$400 match from Thrivent, they bought gifts for children.

Eileen Ball said when the churches came together, mission became foremost—giving to the larger denominations, to world mission and to local outreach.

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