

CELEBRATING
OUR 30TH YEAR

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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest
online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Cookbook's co-editor serves community

By Mary Stamp

Joyce Miller has coordinated cookbook fundraisers for several groups where she has volunteered—including St. George's School, Covenant United Methodist Church and the Priest Lake Fire Station.

Three years ago when the Whitworth Auxiliary began planning how to raise funds to mark their centennial, Joyce suggested making a cookbook. She co-edited it with the auxiliary's vice president Barbara Filo.

The 272-page self-published cookbook will raise about \$6,000. Already 400 of the 550 "Tasty Treasures" cookbooks printed have been sold.

Divider pages for the sections of different types of recipes are color photo pages with historic campus pictures from Whitworth archives.

Recipe pages are in a three-ring notebook format, so pages can be taken out when they are used.

"We decided to include recipes that are 'tried and true,' recipes the women used successfully with their families or in entertaining," she said.

"Food is nurturing. I have memories of sitting at my grandmother's table, and feeling included and val-



Joyce Miller helps raise funds for Whitworth Auxiliary centennial.

ued. My mother was a good cook. I love to create with food, then sit and eat it around a table with a tablecloth," Joyce said. "I like to use cooking as a way to connect with people."

Names of recipe contributors are listed at the back, "so it's relational," she said.

The Whitworth Auxiliary started in September 1915, 25 years after Sumner Academy, which started in Sumner, Wash., near Tacoma, incorporated as Whitworth College in 1890.

It moved in 1899 to Tacoma and then in 1914 to a tract of land north of Country Homes in Spokane.

Joyce said the auxiliary first sought to make the residence hall lounges a comfortable home away from home, so they bought furnishings, pianos and drapes.

The auxiliary 1) contributes to the Student Life Fund, 2) still refurbishes the lounges, 3) gives to the President's Discretionary Fund to help students with emergency needs and 4) provides funds so international students can travel during campus holidays.

It has also started the Whitworth Auxiliary Endowment Scholarship Fund, raising \$25,000 in three

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Archbishop Blase Cupich will continue work for immigration reform in Chicago

Pope Francis named Bishop Blase Joseph Cupich of the Spokane Diocese as archbishop of Chicago, succeeding Cardinal Francis Eugene George, OMI.

Bishop Cupich, who served in Spokane since 2010, received word in a phone call when he was in Munich on the way home from a meeting in Ukraine.

He will travel between Spokane and Chicago before his installation on Nov. 18, remaining in full authority as bishop of Spokane until then. A diocesan administrator will be named, because the process of choosing his successor

may take nine months to a year.

About 2.3 million Catholics live in the Archdiocese of Chicago, the third largest archdiocese in the country. There are 90,000 parishioners in the Spokane diocese. Bishop Cupich will have a staff of 300 there, in contrast with 12 in Spokane.

In Chicago, he will continue to improve his Spanish, because 44 percent of the parishioners are Hispanic. He has appreciated working in this region with Hispanics who "work hard so their families can survive."

He believes immigration reform

to give legal status will address complaints some people raise.

"Immigrants do work others would not do. They pay taxes and contribute to the common good," Bishop Cupich said. "Growers want immigration reform so they can have a secure labor force."

In Chicago, he will look for ways to work as partners with labor, business, government and faith leaders to "address serious problems," such as immigration reform, which he said has been held hostage by partisanship. He seeks to bring people together in dialogue on such issues.

"I will miss the generosity of people here to the poor," he said, "and the social bonds across faith and ideological perspectives as people work together for the common good."

During his four years in Spokane, he has supported the works of Catholic Charities in serving the poor and vulnerable, often volunteering to serve coffee at the House of Charity, said Anna Marie Byrd, Catholic Charities Spokane development director.

Continued on page 4

Bridging cultures is part of giving humanitarian aid

As part of the Opus Prize process at Gonzaga University, a Sept. 16 panel of Gonzaga faculty led reflections on "Bridging Cultures: Intercultural Competence, Authentic Empathy and the Challenge of Accompaniment."

Along with inspiring students by the example of humanitarians who help change lives, the Opus Prize process helps the campus and wider community consider how people help other people, and the need to bridge cultures to meet people where they are.

In introducing panelists, Rebecca Marquis, assistant professor in modern languages at Gonzaga, said the endeavor of humanitarian aid to change lives is more complex than it seems.

"Whenever we leave our home and travel to another place to work with others, we cross a bridge of cultural values, beliefs, practices and rules," she said. "The crossing can be beautiful as we look out at the new views, but it can be difficult to integrate ourselves into the newness."

Using the bridge metaphor, she pointed out the importance of having the bridge anchored well, so each is dependent on the other and equally important.

She asked the speakers to look at how to build a solid footing for the cultural bridge that allows for supporting others and being supported.

"What is our role in international humanitarian work that asks us to interact with people who are culturally different?" she asked.

Speakers addressed dynamics of global ties and bridging cultures as humanitarians reach out to serve people.

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Numbers of hungry decline, more efforts needed

Church World Service staff and supporters cheered news in September that the number of hungry people globally had declined by more than 100 million in the last decade and twice that number since 1990. The annual report of the three United Nations food agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Program (WFP), however, contains a cautionary note.

At least one in nine people, some 805 million people in the world, still lack access to a stable food supply and go to bed hungry.

"We are encouraged by the positive trends, but the report highlights the need to continue and redouble efforts to fight hunger in the parts of the world still facing serious problems," said the Rev. John McCullough, CWS president and CEO.

Overall, the report, "State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2014," confirms positive trends. In announcing the findings, UN agencies said the reduction in hunger means that the UN's Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of undernourished people by half by 2015 is possible "if appropriate and immediate efforts are stepped up."

"This is proof we can win the war against hunger and should inspire countries to move forward with the assistance as needed," José Graziano da Silva, Kanayo Nwanze and Ertharin Cousin, the respective heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP, wrote in the report.

John added that despite progress in many areas, "chronic malnutrition remains a serious problem" globally. It "does not draw the attention an emergency famine receives," but its effects can be "as serious and debilitating."

Indigenous peoples have role in climate change

Indigenous peoples have a role in the struggle against climate change, said indigenous faith leaders in a Sept. 23 panel at the Interfaith Summit on Climate Change in the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City, hosted by the World Council of Churches and Religions for Peace. As they gathered, the UN General Assembly was holding the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples at its headquarters across the street.

"It's the first time we've had a high-level conference at the UN on indigenous peoples," said Tore Johnsen, general secretary of the Sami Church Council in Norway. "This is a space where politics and spirituality come together in a powerful way.

"Indigenous people are important climate witnesses," Tore said. "Living close to the natural environment, indigenous people have said for a long time that change is going on."

The Rev. Tafue Lusama from Tuvalu, a small island nation made up of islands and atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, knows the effects of climate change well: "Our lands can no longer sustain us because traditionally we depend on the underground water table for our plantations. Salt water has intruded into the fresh water table, so we can no longer plant. The sea no longer supplies us with adequate protein, and rising sea levels mean the low-lying islands are in danger of being lost beneath the waves. We cannot migrate and say we are from Tuvalu if our country has vanished."

Indigenous communities are known for overcoming adversity, said Priestess Beatriz Schulthess of the Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council and member of the Kolla Nation in northern Argentina. "When you overcome adversity you come out much stronger, but resilience is not just a matter of individuals. It is a matter for all people on this planet."

Tore said individuals and communities need to promote "reconciliation between people and the natural world," adding that "part of indigenous resilience is to resist ideologies that compartmentalize reality" to make "the earth an object and a resource for our development. There will be no peace as long as we are waging war against the earth."

Beatriz appreciated messages of hope and love shared: "Nature needs our love. Mother Earth needs our love, too."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Advocacy awareness events are planned

The Faith Action Network (FAN) of Washington, Parish Social Ministries of Catholic Charities and The Fig Tree have set the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference in 2015 for Saturday, Jan. 31, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave.

This fall, FAN is holding 15 regional geographic cluster meetings for its 82 advocating faith

communities.

In Eastern Washington, one was held in Leavenworth.

The Spokane Cluster meets from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

People interested in helping plan the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference will meet at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 4, at Salem,

right after the cluster meeting to decide on speakers, workshops and themes.

FAN is also organizing Candidate Forums to educate voters during the fall election season.

For information on the FAN events, call 206-625-9790. For information on the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, call 535-4112 or 216-6090.

Neighborhood Harvest Health Fest is Oct. 31

The South Perry Learning Center-Neighborhood Networks, the NAACP and African-Americans Reach and Teach Health Ministry are collaborating with community agencies and congregations to host a Harvest Health Fest from 3 to 6 p.m., followed by Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, Oct. 31. The event includes music and children's activities.

Bethel African American Episcopal Church, Martin Luther King Jr Family Outreach Center, the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, Grant School, the Spokane Regional Health, CHAS Clinic, Molina, Avista and other partners will share information to bring awareness about health and safety through booths at the Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Rich-

ard Allen Ct., said Betsy Williams of the South Perry Learning Center-Neighborhood Networks.

The NAACP will also have a station to receive ballots.

For Trunk-or-Treat, people they recruit will park their cars along Richard Allen Ct., Newark and Ivory between the center and Grant School to give out treats.

For information, call 535-6913.

Former Secretary of State speaks in Spokane

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will speak for Whitworth University's fall President's Leadership Forum, at noon, Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Spokane Convention Center.

From 2005 to 2009, she was Secretary of State under President George W. Bush. She was the second woman and first African-American woman in the position. She was also the first woman

National Security Advisor.

The biannual President's Leadership Forum draws national leaders to provide insight on contemporary issues.

As provost of Stanford University from 1993 to 1999, she was responsible for a \$1.5 billion annual budget. She is now Denning professor in global business and the economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; the

Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution, and a professor of political science at Stanford University.

Her books include *No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington* and *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*.

For information, call 777-4974 or visit whitworth.edu/leadershipforum.

PJALS plans protest to challenge speaker

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane plans to protest outside Spokane Convention Center on Thursday, Oct. 9, to challenge the legacy of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is speaking at Whitworth's Fall Leadership Forum.

"We will challenge her record of misleading the country to go to war in Iraq. That resulted in 875,000 disability claims of veterans, 2.8 million people displaced and 150,000 deaths, including 13,000 American troops," said Liz Moore, director of PJALS.

"We are also protesting because she approved torture in the name of our country. It has impact on the individuals tortured and on our role in the world," she added.

Liz said that members of PJALS

have expressed their concerns to Whitworth staff, professors, alumni and sponsors.

Those protesting will meet outside the Community Building at 35 W. Main at 11 a.m. and

march to the Spokane Convention Center, where they will communicate their concerns through signs, chants, leaflets and street theater.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit pjals.org.



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Family Promise plans Cardboard Box City

Family Promise of North Idaho will hold its annual Cardboard Box City event Friday, Oct. 3, at Fernan Elementary School. Groups of youth under 18 are to be accompanied by parents or guardians. In addition to raising awareness about challenges of homeless families, participants raise support for Family Promise of North Idaho by collecting "rent" in the form of pledges from friends, family and neighbors. For information, call 208-777-4190 or visit familypromiseni.org.

Turner Lectures are Oct 6 to 8 in Yakima

The Turner Memorial Lectures will explore "The Past and Future Church: From the Ends of the Earth to Our Doorstep" from 1 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima. Speakers are the Rev. Michael Kinamon, past general secretary of the National Council of Churches and visiting professor of ecumenical collaboration in interreligious dialogue at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, and the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, author of *The Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope*. For information, call 253-893-7202 or email nwrcc@disciplesnw.org.

50th Annual Convention set for Episcopal Diocese

The 50th Annual Episcopal Diocese of Spokane Convention will be Friday to Sunday, Oct. 17 to 19 at the Marcus Whitman Hotel, 6 W. Rose St. in Walla Walla. It will include celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walla Walla.

Speakers are the Rev. Marianne Wells Borg, who served Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Ore., and the Rev. Jarmo Tarkki, theology instructor at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. For information, call 624-3191 or email malloryw@spokanediocese.org.

Immaculate Heart announces October schedule

Five October events are planned at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.:

- For Coffee and Contemplation, an ecumenical spiritual discussion, Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ, will speak on "Our Unconditionally Loving God" from 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15.
- Sister Mary Eucharista, SMMC, will lead a Day of Prayer on the Angels, "Protectors, Friends, Guardians, Guides," from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22.
- Father Patrick Baraza, formerly of Kenya, will speak at a dinner on "Islam II: Islam, Arabia and the World," from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday Oct. 28.
- Yakima Diocese Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, SJ, is the keynote speaker at 9:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, for IHRC's annual "Hope, Peace, and Healing" fund-raising event, "Let the Spirit Work in You: The Power of Retreat Ministry."

Fr. Joachim Hien will speak on trauma of and hope for wounded warriors for a Vietnam Veterans Day of Prayer on "Walking Wounded with the Resurrected Christ" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5. As one of the "boat people" seeking refuge in the U.S., he saw the ravages of the Vietnam War on his people and the soldiers. For information, call 448-1224 or visit ihrc.net.

Nonprofit event explores organizational health

"Flow: Carving Pathways for Greater Good" is the theme for the fourth annual Inland Northwest Nonprofit Conference on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Lincoln Center, 316 N. Lincoln St. in Spokane.

Erica Mills of the University of Washington and Seattle University, will speak at 7:45 a.m. on "Using Words to Change the World." Bob Maurer, director of behavioral sciences for Family Medicine Spokane and the University of Washington School of Medicine faculty, will speak at lunch on "One Small Step Can Change Your Life." A Wednesday, Oct. 22, pre-conference workshop will discuss "What You Need to Know to Run a Nonprofit."

The event will explore how to "navigate the rapids" to organizational health and growth through workshops on: telling the nonprofit's story to diverse audiences, giving nonprofit leaders tools and helping nonprofits achieve their goals.

For information call 253-330-8850 or visit inwconference.org.

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'Amen, Amen' exhibit opens at Jundt

An exhibition "Amen, Amen: Religion and Southern Self-Taught Artists in the Mullis Collection" features more than 100 paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics created by self-taught artists from the American South.

It opens Oct. 4 with a reception from 4 to 9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2, at Gonzaga University's Jundt Art Museum. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Saturday through Jan. 10, 2015.

Organized by the Jundt Art Museum, the exhibition will be in both the Jundt Galleries and Arcade Gallery. It is part of the Fall Visual Arts Tour and "Create Spokane," October's celebration of local arts and culture.

The reception includes a musical performance on "Amen, Amen" themes, sung by the Gonzaga University Chamber Chorus, directed by Timothy Westerhaus, at 7 p.m. in the Jundt Galleries.

"Amen, Amen" is a survey of selected objects from a private collection in Atlanta with religious or spiritual images. The objects are borrowed from the collection of Carl and Marian Mullis.

Paul Manoguerra, director/curator of the Jundt Art Museum,

said, "The Southern artists in 'Amen, Amen' felt compelled, for visionary or didactic reasons, to create religious imagery."

"Amen, Amen!" includes some painted angels and devils by Georgia self-taught artist R. A. Miller, a regional celebrity who once decorated his farm with hundreds of whirligigs and other works.

The sight of his property caught the attention of the Athens, Ga.-based rock group R.E.M., which in 1984, with filmmaker Jim Herbert, chose Miller's home as the setting for their "Left of Reckoning" music video.

The exhibition also contains examples of Southern face jugs, ceramics in the form of devils.

"Amen, Amen!" deals with the Christian fervor and conviction of the artists. Their stories and visions present personally meaningful and often edifying conceptions to give the viewer a sense of God's plan, Paul said.

Objects with religious themes created by Southerners un-

schooled in the art world and its academic institutions represent an essential part of the shared American visual heritage, he said.

"Amen, Amen" shows the artists' attempts to investigate the nature of sin and suffering, the conflict of good and evil, and mysterious workings of the supernatural and divine in the world.

The collector, Carl Mullis, was born in Lancaster, S.C., and received a bachelor's in economics from Yale University and a law degree from Emory University Law School.

He was an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice before entering private practice in Atlanta. In 1994, he started collecting the works of self-taught artists.

An exhibition tour with Paul begins at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 10. The Jundt Art Museum invites school, community, and church groups to schedule staff- or docent-led tours of "Amen, Amen."

For information call 313-6613 or email kaiser@gonzaga.edu.

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9 am-1 pm, Saturday, Oct. 25

611 N. Progress - Spokane Valley

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For information call (509) 747-2640 or visit www.spokanefolklore.org

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Nov. 8 and 9

Saturday - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday - 11 noon to 5 p.m.

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Saturday, Nov. 8

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Come for breakfast, stay for lunch

Raffle prizes, White Elephant gifts

Visit all four churches!!!

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4th & G St • 9 am - 3 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

639 Elm St • 9 am - 3 pm

Cheney United Church of Christ

423 N 6th St • 9 am - 2 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

635 C St • 9 am - 2 pm

FALL FESTIVAL BAZAAR

Saturday, Oct. 25

9 am - 3 pm

lefse, bean soup mix, plants,

baked goods, crafts,

Grannie's Attic & more

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Spokane

Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!

Cheney United Methodist Church

crafts, baked goods and a gift

shop designed for children

Saturday, Nov. 8 • 9 am-3 pm

4th & G St. - Cheney WA

Cheney United Church of Christ Bazaar

Saturday, Nov 8

9 am - 2 pm • 11 am - 1 pm lunch

Crafts, Silent Auction, Raffle

423 N. 6th - Cheney

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon

Saturday, Nov 8 • 9 am -3 pm

Crafts, Baked Goods, Raffle Basket,

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Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran

639 Elm Street

Matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial

St. Paul's Episcopal Bazaar

Saturday, Nov 8

9 am - 3 pm • 625 C St. - Cheney

Christmas block quilt raffle • crafts

baked goods • gently used collectibles

Bazaar & Bake Sale

St. Mark's Lutheran

316 E. 24th Ave.

Grand Blvd. & 24th

9 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Nov. 1

Coffee bar, bake sale, quality seconds and crafts

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Sat. Nov. 8 - 9 am-3 pm

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at 12th & Grand

9:30 am - 3 pm

Saturday, Nov. 15

Lunch Available

11:30 am to 1 pm

Raffles

Food & Crafts

Visit to El Salvador had impact on personal decisions, volunteering

Continued from page 1
years, including funds from the cookbook.

"We are dedicated to Whitworth's mission to educate for mind and heart," Joyce said.

The auxiliary has two fundraising events each year.

One is a Fall Lunch Program and Bazaar at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

The second is the Spring Tea and Style Show in April at Whitworth Presbyterian Church.

Each event raises about \$7,000, which goes for its four projects.

At monthly meetings on campus, the auxiliary invites students from the International Club and different departments to speak. Joyce enjoys the camaraderie of women her age and older.

The auxiliary now has 50 active members, up from 45, and 20 sustaining members. Many are alumni, but that is not required.

Once all members were Presbyterian, but as the college/university has become more ecumenical, auxiliary membership has, too.

"We also pray for students and for the university," she said. "We relate to people in many churches and involve students in those churches," said Joyce, who has been a member for 10 years.

Since joining, she has attended

such Whitworth activities as basketball games, musical performances and theatre productions.

After graduating from North Central High School in Spokane, she earned a bachelor's degree at Whitworth in 1960—the first in her family to graduate from college—and a master's in applied behavioral science there in 1982.

"I value education and enjoy children. I believe education expands your mind and your social experience. College years are formative years," she said. "I admire those who taught me at Whitworth. They had an impact on my life. Teaching is not just imparting rote information, but helps us be critical thinkers and realize there is more to life than having a job and making money."

Joyce taught junior high math and science for a while, and then became a marriage and family therapist. She practiced at Samaritan Counseling Center, Daybreak and Marycliff Center. She retired in 1995, when her husband, Galen, retired from teaching.

Beyond Whitworth, she said she and Galen also had their minds and hearts opened by participating in Covenant United Methodist Church's now 25-year-old sister church ministry. They relate with a small Lutheran church in El Paisnal, El Salvador,

20 miles outside of San Salvador.

"We have helped provide scholarships for children, books, supplies and uniforms," said Joyce.

In 1998, she and Galen went to El Salvador for 10 days as part of a team of 12. Teams go every other year. Galen went two other times.

"Before we went, we had a big house at Priest Lake. We began going there 37 years ago, because we love the outdoors—swimming, hiking, kayaking and snowshoeing," she said. "When we returned, we asked how we could continue to live in such a big house when we know people living in dirt-floor houses without electricity or running water."

Two years later, they sold that house and built a smaller house, which was one-third the size.

"We have become more minimalist, rather than heavy consumers," she added. "Aware that people built houses of corrugated cardboard, we began to recycle."

"Our visit had an emotional impact," she said. "Our church's goal is to have an enduring relationship, not to learn what we can do, do it and walk away. We continue to be connected."

Covenant UMC funds a teacher in El Salvador to teach guitar, computer skills and English to divert teens from gangs by helping them find entertainment and jobs, so they can rise out of poverty.

While visiting, Joyce saw the impact of the people's faith in the midst of war and death, in spite of 96 percent of the people being poor and four percent wealthy, and in spite of a lack of many conveniences.

"I came back changed—more grateful. It's amazing that the people have such hope, faith and trust in God," she said. "It has had an impact on our involvements."

Four years ago, Joyce and Galen moved to Kendall Yards west of Monroe St. above the Spokane River. They went with a commitment to live in and serve the West Central neighborhood. Close to that neighborhood and downtown, they are aware of the homeless,

the poor and people who live on a survival level in Spokane.

Last year, Joyce helped serve Wednesday meals at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, sitting at tables and talking with the people to understand their lives and stories.

She has also been volunteering for a year at Our Place Community Ministries.

Other Kendall Yards residents share her commitment to be part of the West Central neighborhood, rather than live there and be isolated from their neighbors and their needs.

When Joyce learns of a need, she tells her book club and posts it on the Nextdoor Kendall Yards, part of the national Nextdoor free private social network used by 42,000 neighborhoods.

For information, call 499-2327 or email joycemiller443@hotmail.com.

Bishop moves in November

Continued from page 1

"He has moved our diocese to financial stability, paid debts, managed a difficult sex abuse crisis and subsequent bankruptcy, while focusing on the Gospel message to serve the poor, promoting Catholic education and healing the church," she said.

The grandson of Croatian immigrants, he grew up as one of nine children in Omaha, Neb. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and did further studies at the Gregorian University in Rome and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Omaha in 1975, and ordained as a bishop in 1998 to serve the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.

With the U.S. Conference of



Archbishop Blase Cupich

Catholic Bishops, he chairs the Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and has shared in work on young people, Native Americans, sexual abuse, liturgy and more.

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Words of church's long-term plan come off pages and into church's life

By Kaye Hult

St. Luke's Episcopal Church's congregational survey and five-year congregational development strategic plan are already coming off paper as the Coeur d'Alene congregation has enhanced a family worship service, increased participation and found new ways to serve the community.

Their five goals for enlivening the congregation are typical: enhance spiritual development, increase weekly attendance, build up to a \$300,000 budget, have a visible presence in Coeur d'Alene and improve the building for congregational and community use.

In the survey, they found that 71 percent of members were 65 years or older; 95 percent, 56 or older, and 66 percent were women.

"We decided to focus on active, vital adults 55 and older, and their families and friends," said Dave Parkinson, who moved to Coeur d'Alene in 2008 and began attending St. Luke's.

"I saw it as a congregation of vital people with gray hair," he said. "I asked the rector, Fr. Pat Bell, how we would be viable in five to 10 years given the composition of our congregation."

Fr. Pat had been thinking the same thing. Aware that Dave, a cradle Episcopalian, had been a leader in 10 congregations since his 20s and that he had experience in various aspects of church leadership, Fr. Pat and he began creating the program.

Dave brought organizing skills from starting and operating two businesses. He started a consulting engineering firm in San Diego in 1972 and sold it 15 years later. He later bought three branch lines of major freight railroads, which he sold in 2002 to a company consolidating small railroad lines.

Members first resisted volunteering for the development committee, said Dave, so Georgianne Jessen joined the committee as "taskmaster" and recruiter.

Because there is a major time commitment, those recruited had to commit to stay for five years, and they have.

Like Dave, Georgianne's goal is to see an organization succeed.

She began as a nurse in the burn unit of an Oklahoma hospital. Her organizational skills led to more responsibilities until she became the first woman executive of a hospital in Tulsa, then CEO of Providence Health Systems in Southern California.

"I am goal-motivated, vocal and directed," said Georgianne, "I love to see people grow and succeed, so when I walk away, I leave a going concern."

The development committee created a marketing task force to



Georgianne Jessen and Dave Parkinson share organizing skills.

sell the project to the congregation and a communications committee to keep the congregation and community informed.

Now two-and-a-half years into the process, Dave said, "We are ahead on our goals. We constantly ask: Are we increasing attendance? Are we meeting the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our congregation?"

Many newcomers are visiting the church, and "the church is more energized and more welcoming than before," he said.

"If there's a project to be done, we do it with the understanding that any committee dissolves once the project is completed," he said.

Fr. Pat and Dave attended two intensive one-week sessions at the College for Congregational Development, offered by the Diocese of Olympia, one in 2010 and another in 2011.

As a planning consultant, they hired the Rev. Vann Anderson, a retired Methodist minister from Kansas. He came to Coeur d'Alene three times in 2011 and helped them develop a strategic plan that respects the many interests and groups in the parish.

According to their plan, they will "gather, transform and send our members into the world to practice their faith and discipleship as servants for Christ," and they will be guided by "prayer, respect, hospitality and service."

The congregation set and voted on objectives for each goal. That became the church's five-year plan, which began in 2012. Every member and group in St. Luke's is invited to participate. The development committee continually evaluates progress.

Dave said their mission is: "to build and grow a mature congregation full of vitality, well being and spiritual growth, and to attract the intellectually curious who seek understanding about life's ultimate meaning and purpose."

As part of their goal for spiritual development, St. Luke's has sought to expand a service, called The Well, at 9:15 a.m., Sundays in

the Parish Hall. Regular services are at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, and at 8 a.m. and 10:30 p.m., Sundays.

The creator of The Well, Glenda Emsall, is in training at St. Luke's to be a deacon. She will be ordained at the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane's Convention Oct. 17 to 19 in Walla Walla.

The Well is a relaxed service, for families with small children. About 20 now attend.

Overall attendance has also grown. Now 130 to 150 people attend worship each weekend.

As part of the goal to improve visibility in the community with outreach and service, the Rev. Jane Feerer, a priest at St. Luke's who moved to Coeur d'Alene in 2010 after retiring in Chicago, has created a raised-bed community garden beside the church.

It is open to the neighborhood, and neighbors are helping. Participants agree to give 10 percent of their harvest to Second Harvest to share at area food banks.

The church joined with Hospice of North Idaho to offer "Conversations on Death." The first time, in October 2013, about 90 attended, and the second time, about 75 came.

The church development committee also evaluates the impact of each program on the community:

The church hosts the Family Promise of North Idaho Day Center and offers space for Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

Members participate in Adopt-a-Highway and pick up trash on a section of I-90 twice a year.

The men's group offers community dinners.

The church holds a Blue Christmas service during Advent.

Its Prayer Shawl Ministry touches lives within the congregation and beyond the church doors.

The congregation's outreach and social justice ministries include Blankets for Change, Habitat for Humanity, KIVA (global microfinance) Loans, Reverse Offering, St. Luke's Blood Bank Account, St. Luke's Jubilee Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul and

Trinity Group Homes.

Pastoral care programs include Eucharistic visitors, healing ministry, Omega Guild, pastoral visitors, a prayer chain, the Prayer Shawl ministry and Stephen Ministry.

St. Luke's created a Parish Council that meets quarterly with committee heads, who report on what they are doing to keep communication open.

Recently, Dave gathered a committee of five people to focus on planned giving over the next year.

This summer, they kicked off their program, asking people to consider, "What is your legacy?" The church will offer two one-hour estate-planning seminars, led by Marc Wallace, an attorney and church member. One session is at 10 a.m. and the other at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28.

The planned giving project has two goals: to help people create a plan for their estates and to invite some to include a gift to the church in that plan. Funds will be used to maintain the church's 125-year-old facilities and as seed money for new programs.

Dave and Georgianne have both seen the church grow and change, and become more accepting and inclusive of others.

Another change is that people are more willing to ask individuals with particular skill sets to use

them, Dave said.

When Fr. Pat was ill in the summer, lay leaders kept things going until he returned.

Both Dave and Georgianne believe the congregation has gained focus, and members are more willing to step in to help.

"We are also looking at needs of our older members and considering programs to benefit them that will also benefit older people in the community," they said.

"The church is making decisions to ensure the church's vitality increases in the coming years," they said.

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New Hope Resource Center has resources in place to help in disaster

When New Hope Resource Center began in a two-room mobile building beside Colbert Presbyterian Church, 4211 E. Colbert Rd., organizers intended that it would serve the poor in North Spokane north of Hawthorne Ave., and rural poor in North Spokane County, except Deer Park, which is served by The Green House.

Now, along with responding to individuals with emergency needs, it is coordinating the long-term disaster response following the July 23 windstorm damage to Riverside Mobile Home Park in Chatteroy.

Since New Hope started, more apartment buildings have been built in its service area, but about 90 percent of the people in its service area live in mobile homes; 75 percent earn 30 percent or less of the median family income, and 99 percent earn 60 percent or less of the median family income, said Janeen Leachman, the part-time as executive director.

New Hope is now housed rent-free in a new 3,500-square-foot building beside the church. The pastor, the Rev. Eric Peterson, said that the center should have that building, because "God wants us to give our best to those in need."

The building houses a clothing bank, household items and furniture. There are two showers, a washer and dryer, a kitchen and a workroom, now being used to store furniture, including nine stoves from a special donation.

New Hope has space for SNAP to use during the heating season and a Department of Social and Health Services computer people can use to apply for services.

"We bring services closer to people in rural communities in North Spokane County," she said.

From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursdays, the center is open to help people by providing vouchers for utility bills, gasoline, car repairs, rent and prescriptions. People can also access "the little things" needed every day, such as baby formula, toiletries, school supplies, emergency food or firewood.

The center coordinates the work of volunteers to help the elderly, disabled and people with special needs with chores, home repairs, yard work and transportation.

"It's a monstrous job to bring in the donations and sort through them to decide what to display, what to give to other organizations like the YWCA's Our Sisters' Closet, and what items to resell on consignment at Plato's Closet and an antique shop," said Janeen, noting that the consignment sales bring in \$300 a month to cover a family's power bill.

As the only paid staff, she



Janeen Leachman coordinates ongoing and emergency response.

works part-time and coordinates the work of 135 volunteers, "who put in countless hours."

Sixteen churches and a Spokane County Community Development Block Grant support the work along with numerous individuals and businesses in the area.

Supporting churches are Chatteroy Community, Christian Life, Colbert Chapel, Colbert Presbyterian, Country Church of the Open Bible, Covenant United Methodist, Crossover Church, Crosswind Church of the Assemblies of God, Green Bluff Community United Methodist, New Creation Fellowship, Northview Bible, Peaceful Valley, St. Joseph Catholic, Timberview Christian Fellowship, Turning Point Open Bible and Whitworth Presbyterian churches.

Emergency food is available at the North County Food Pantry in Elk at the Country Church of the Open Bible, 40015A N. Collins

Rd., which operates under New Hope Resource Center. The pantry, which is for people in 99003, 99009 and 99156, is open from noon to 3 p.m., Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays and from 6 to 8 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays.

Janeen, who also works in her husband's ophthalmology office, earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1984 at Western Washington University. She lived in Texas while her husband was in the army. There she earned a master's in business administration in 1989 and worked for USAA until her second child was born.

In 2001, after 20 years away, the Mead High School graduate and her family moved to Spokane. "I learned to do social work by osmosis," Janeen said, "because I wanted to help people directly and have impact on people's lives. "It's sad to hear people's sto-

ries, but it's rewarding to relieve even just one stressor," she said. "It can lighten a heavy burden to take off the straw that would break the camel's back."

Janeen, who attends Colbert Presbyterian Church, said she is sustained by faith, as she sees God answers prayers for things people did not even know they needed.

For example, a mother came into the office for help. A volunteer offered her a block of cheese and a box of crackers. That simple offer brought the woman to tears, because just the day before her daughter had been asking for those two things at the grocery store, and they did not have the money to buy them.

New Hope also provides spiritual resources, including donated Bibles and Christian books, Daily Bread devotional, fliers from supporting churches, and personal prayer with staff when requested.

That was the infrastructure in place on the Thursday morning after the windstorm. When she came that morning, she did not know what had happened five miles away at the Riverside Mobile Home Park. Power was on at New Hope. When she learned what happened, she knew New Hope had resources to help.

She tried calling the mobile home park manager, but could not reach her, so she and a representative from SNAP homeless services went to put up information cards on the park's message board and visit with people.

"Power was out because underground power lines were pulled up with the roots of trees that toppled," Janeen said.

Within a week the Riverside Long Term Recovery Organization formed under New Hope's nonprofit status.

Janeen has used her social work skills to listen to people and learn about their needs.

"This size of this disaster is new to us," she said.

"Many Riverside residents were uninsured. For those with insurance, the insurance covered

temporary housing, repairs, storage and power.

"There were 20 Red Cross workers the first night, 12 the second night and no one by the third night. There were big holes in many mobile homes," she said.

Janeen has been amazed at how people and churches have met needs—from food to generators to storage units. For more than two weeks, seven area churches provided evening meals.

When their belongings were finally in storage, the residents were able to focus on where to live and what repairs they need.

Beds soaked by rain had to be replaced. Catholic Charities and the Latter-day Saints have helped with replacing beds and furniture.

Many homes are totaled. Others need repairs. A retired contractor working with the Riverside Long Term Recovery Organization is helping rebuild homes for those with no insurance, she said.

SNAP's Rapid Rehousing program, the Salvation Army and New Hope have helped house people. Rural Resources and Community Frameworks are helping people find reasonably-priced mobile homes and are helping with down payments.

Janeen expects to be coordinating resources to help people at Riverside for a year or more.

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Disaster response includes neighbors, congregations and community

North Spokane County churches responded quickly to provide funds, meals and recovery assistance for the families hurt and traumatized when more than 300 trees fell on the Riverside Village Mobile Home Park during a windstorm on July 23 in Chattaroy.

"Scores of big trees fell on trailers, but no one was hurt," said John Yoder, who retired in June after 35 years of teaching political science at Whitworth University. He is one of several recently retired people who were readily available to help.

Coordinated through New Hope Resource Center, a long-range disaster recovery committee, the Riverside Long Term Recovery Organization, formed with people from churches, the community, the Red Cross and North Spokane County. John, a member of Whitworth Presbyterian Church and Brad Beal, a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, are co-chairs. Janeen Leachman, director of New Hope, is serving as the caseworker.

Brad, who recently retired as administrator at Mead High School, brings logistical experience from work with the National Guard Disaster Relief.

"The very first responders," John noted, "were the people in the mobile home park, where 40 of 170 units were damaged. Two residents set up a camp kitchen while the power was out, and the people pooled their food."

"Residents took responsibility. It was remarkable what the



Windstorm toppled trees and damaged mobile homes.

Photo courtesy of New Hope

people did for themselves. I'm impressed with their initiative and resilience," said John, who has seen similar resilience, organizing and sharing by poor people when he took Whitworth students to Africa. "People who do not have many resources are willing to share them with others in need."

Park manager Sandy McCoin relocated some residents to other units and helped counsel many people. Several residents were so afraid of the possibility of trees falling in another storm they left the park, he said.

Immediately after the disaster Janet Yoder, who is active at New Hope Resource Center, helped organize churches to provide meals. Many people remarked that it was good to see the Catholic, Presbyterian, LDS and nondenomina-

tional churches in the area work together to provide meals for two weeks at the park.

On Aug. 30, at a final dinner at the Riverside Community Center, church volunteers provided not only food but also entertainment.

"Some provided music, and one group showed the movie, 'Frozen,' on a big outdoor screen. It was a way to say the surrounding community cares about the people experiencing the trauma," he said.

John was also impressed with the quick response of the churches and community, and how important it is to have an organization such as New Hope to draw on the resources of many people, churches and service groups, as well as vetted volunteers to bring together resources and mobilize people to fix roofs, make minor repairs and

connect with the county planning commission.

"I'm impressed by the good will of so many people in churches, government and civic groups, working together to help people address the varied financial issues they face," he said.

The immediate needs were for funds to rent storage units, to buy tarps to cover the mobile homes and to meet other emergency needs. Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church sent a grant request on the Friday after the windstorm to the Presbyterian Church USA. By Monday, the national office had delivered \$5,000. "To me, that response reinforces why our denominations are important," John said.

"The mobile home park houses many low-income seniors and disabled people. Some units were in poor condition before the storm," said John. "The long-range recovery committee helped people move possessions to storage units."

Once they had the storage units, the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Colbert came with pickups and helped move furniture and belongings.

John Keith, a retired industrial arts teacher at Mead High School began doing repairs.

Jim Palmer, Sr., organized an effort by the nearby Latter-day Saints church to bring generators to provide power during the two-week power outage.

As the Riverside Long Term Recovery Organization has

worked, they found that half of the units destroyed were owner occupied and half were rented. Few have any insurance or enough insurance to cover the loss. Some homes have little value. There are costs to moving the homeowners and renters. The SBA can provide loans for a few who are eligible, John reported. The committee works with those who cannot obtain loans.

For the first two months, the disaster relief committee, which was organized with the help of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), met weekly at Colbert Presbyterian Church to assess needs and legal requirements.

"We quickly realized there are no one-size-fits-all solutions," said John.

In response to individual needs, the committee has arranged to repair some mobile homes; house one woman in a hotel while SNAP helped her relocate; replace a car windshield; assist with arrangements to remove trees and send debris at no charge to a pulp mill, and receive donations of money, furniture and household items.

In the process of the disaster work, John said he has seen how people show Christ's love to each other.

"While churches may debate theology and the Bible, and many see Christians arguing, this is an example of Christians cooperating and working together," he said.

For information, call 466-1627 or email johnyoder@whitworth.edu.

Catholic Charities engages in three post-fire recovery efforts in Brewster

With immediate post-fire needs in the Methow Valley, which burned for several weeks this summer, met by the Red Cross and other first responders, Catholic Charities of the Spokane Diocese is ready to respond to long-term unmet needs, said Scott Cooper, director of parish social ministries with Catholic Charities.

Bishop Blase Cupich asked for a collection, which has raised approximately \$60,000 so far.

"Our presence in the area is through the Brewster Food Bank," said Scott, who has been in Brewster to connect with the people.

"After first responders left, people are still struggling with the loss of their homes," he said. "There were no half-burned homes. People suffered complete losses, yet the house next door may have been left untouched because of the way the wind blew. About 30 percent of the homes that were lost were uninsured."

President Barack Obama did not sign a disaster declaration,

limiting funds available.

Scott said Catholic Charities has a three-part response:

1) It operates the Brewster Food Bank, which by the end of August began to see new people.

"We are keeping an eye on the food bank. As they began seeing more people, there has been more local support, which is addressing the need so far," he said. "We expect that may shift."

2) It is working with a local furniture store to buy beds, so those who were burned out and have temporary housing have places to sleep.

3) It is looking long-term at

the need to develop affordable housing resources in Okanogan County, where there was not enough affordable housing available even before the fire.

"In Pateros, a portion of the residences and community burned to the ground the night of July 17 and on July 18 the fire circled back," Scott said.

"Communities with little housing stock lost housing," he said. "Some farm-worker temporary housing for seasonal workers at orchards was lost."

Some people who lost their homes still have jobs there, but there are few vacancies in rentals,

he said, so some are doubling up with friends and family.

Some found housing 25 miles or farther away in Omak, Chelan or Wenatchee, adding the cost of commuting.

Catholic Charities is also talking with Okanogan County Community Action Council to be part of the conversations on developing affordable housing as a long-

term way to stabilize families.

When Scott visited the Methow Valley on Aug. 5, the fire was 80 percent contained. It did not go out until rains came the second week of August, and then caused flooding because the ground cover was burned off, he said.

On Aug. 5, he saw many volunteer groups helping families.

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FAN's co-director brings experience with issues congregations address

As co-director of the Faith Action Network (FAN) of Washington since February, Elise DeGooyer continues years of faith-based commitment to social justice.

"I appreciate the breadth and interconnection of issues we address through FAN. I value the ability of the interfaith community to do more than anyone can do alone," she said in a recent interview.

At FAN, Elise is responsible for administration, finance and development. Co-director Paul Benz's responsibilities are program and policy.

At regional summits last spring, she met people around the state, heard from partners and learned about issues that matter to them.

Recently, for example, FAN celebrated that the State Legislature passed SB-5173 to allow two unpaid holidays for faith or conscience. The Islamic community, whose children had unexcused absences for their holy days, proposed the bill, and FAN supported it.

FAN is also part of a diverse movement of faith communities supporting Initiative 594, which says that anyone acquiring firearms in Washington State must pass a background check, no matter where they obtain the gun.

"We support it because gun violence is up 150 percent this year," Elise said, noting that the effort includes having faith leaders and faith communities endorse the initiative, volunteer and invite educational speakers.

Through the election, the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church is funding a part-time position at FAN for Stacy Anderson of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle. She is organizing the faith community on Initiative 594.

"People are concerned about the environment, so we connect people of faith on those issues, plus on wage theft, economic justice, criminal justice, hunger and poverty," she said. "There is also concern this year about economic inequality and the death penalty."

Elise, who grew up Catholic in Yakima, earned a degree in 1983 at Gonzaga University in journalism and religious studies. She joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and worked a year with homeless people in Washington, D.C.

"I saw the connection of faith, politics and services as I watched more homeless people emerge under policies of the administration at that time," she said.

Her connection of faith and social justice also had roots in experiences with Gonzaga's campus ministry, its social justice committee and weekends serving meals at the House of Charity.



Elise DeGooyer brings background of advocacy.

"That experience, in particular, opened me to the lives of homeless men," she said.

"While I was at Gonzaga, the assassination of El Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero and the murder of four Catholic sisters also politicized my understanding of faith with justice and my belief we are called to embrace that."

As a student, she joined a protest at Riverfront Park on behalf of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Guatemala, women who sought information on family members who had disappeared.

"Then I went to Seattle to work in human services, running a food bank at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the Central District. From that ministry, I learned about people who faced emergencies, needed food and slept on the church campus," said Elise.

She participated in the Central American activism at St. Mary's, a multicultural parish that drew many Latinos through the sanctuary movement.

After two years there, she was involved in several church urban ministries, including helping start Sojourner Place, a Sisters of Providence shelter-to-transitional-housing program.

At Maryknoll School of Theology in N.Y., she earned a master's degree in liberation theology and cross-cultural ministry in 1991.

Elise worked with the University of Washington's School

of Social Work for 12 years on a research team, looking at HIV and AIDS prevention for women.

When the world changed after 9-11, she had a young child and wanted to act.

Elise started Seattle's Women in Black Thursday vigils for peace before the war in Iraq. She was involved with that effort until three years ago. At the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 75 women would stand in the downtown shopping core as a spiritual witness when it was unpatriotic to speak of peace, she said.

For more than three years, Elise worked in administration and development with the Church of Mary Magdalene, an ecumenical ministry with a day center and services for homeless women.

As program manager for children's nutrition at Northwest Harvest, she worked on state hunger and food issues. The nutrition program provided food in backpacks to 10 school districts. Children took the backpacks home to supplement their meals during vacations.

Now the backpack program has expanded to Spokane in eight schools of highest need.

With Northwest Harvest, she developed advocacy initiatives with a statewide focus group, talking with people who come to food banks to find out what more they need in order to have enough food for their families.

"We used comments to form our legislative agenda. For six years, we took individuals and groups to Olympia," said Elise, who has a post-master's degree in pastoral leadership at Seattle University. "We published reports of groups, sharing data and highlighting stories."

This fall, Elise has been organizing regional geographic cluster meetings for FAN's advocating faith communities.

These gatherings are an opportunity for members of the advocating faith communities to meet with neighbors, update each other on their advocacy efforts and learn new ways to come together to improve lives.

The Faith Action Network also has services of two interns. They are Amber Dickson from the one-year United Church of Christ Justice Leadership Program, and Gretchen Brown, a two-year organizing intern through the General Board of Global Ministries Fellows Program of the United Methodist Church.

Amber grew up in Western Washington and attended Seattle

Pacific University, graduating with a degree in psychology. Gretchen, who grew up in North Carolina, is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University with a bachelor's in history and a concentration in religious studies.

For information, call 206-625-9790, email degooyer@fanwa.org or visit fanwa.org.

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Condoleezza Rice served as the 66th U.S. Secretary of State, under President George W. Bush. She was the second woman and first African-American woman to hold the position. Rice was also the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor. She is currently the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution; and a professor of political science at Stanford University. She is also the founding partner of RiceHadleyGates LLC, an international strategic consulting firm.

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Speakers tell of cultural collisions, deeper questions, human dignity

Continued from page 1

“How is intercultural competence critical in the search for social justice?” Rebecca asked.

Josh Armstrong, director of Gonzaga’s comprehensive leadership program, is interested in developing intercultural competencies, global leadership, service learning, servant leadership, an ethic of accompaniment and experiential education that is transformational. For eight summers, he has directed Gonzaga’s study abroad program in Zambezi, Zambia, which, he said, “always changes my life.”

James Hunter, associate professor of teaching English as a second language at Gonzaga for 17 years, is director of Gonzaga’s master’s in teaching English as a second language. He has taught at Mukogawa Women’s University in Nishinomiya, Japan, at Abu Dhabi Women’s College in United Arab Emirates, and in Catalonia and the United Kingdom. His travels include Hong Kong, Malaysia, Algeria, Ireland, China, Japan, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Thailand and more.

Joy Milos, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet from the Albany, N.Y., Province, is the Flannery professor in religious studies. She has taught study abroad programs in Florence and London, and for several years took Gonzaga student groups on Habitat for Humanity International builds in rural Central Mexico. She tries to broaden students’ cultural horizons and build their commitment to social justice.

Before taking students to Zambia, Josh interviews 30 to 40 students who want to make a difference in Africa.

“We are looking for people who will go to accompany people there, to honor people in their culture,” he said. “We do not seek students who want to serve a charity, but want to come in mutual reciprocity; not to come to build homes, but to spend time in the community, and learn who the people are and what they want.”

Recently two engineering students spent five days asking people how they generate heat. Then they helped them build brick stoves for their homes.

“There are power dynamics when students of privilege encounter people in need,” he said. “There are cultural collisions if they miss each other.”

In Zambia, people ask about a person’s family and build relationship before setting about a task.

One example of a “cultural collision” occurred when Josh introduced students to the Luvale mukanda ceremony, an annual initiation ritual for eight-to-12-



Participants at the Opus Forum are challenged on cultural bridges. Photo courtesy of Gonzaga University

year-old boys being initiated into survival skills and sexual roles.

As Gonzaga students participated in dances and observed the Makishi masked dancers, they began to view the experience critically from their own cultural lens.

They questioned whether the dances instilled oppression of women and if the sexuality of the dances contributed to HIV and AIDS. However, the cultural mentors from the Zambezi community believed this ceremony was at the heart of their cultural beliefs.

Josh told of another experience. He loves going on a morning run. In the summer, he ran along the Zambezi River, enjoying the beauty of the African savannah. He came to a swampy area and stopped, trying to decide if he should go back.

A man in an oxcart came, trudged into the big puddle, came back, picked Josh up and dropped him on dry land.

“The man noticed my need,” said Josh. “He practiced accompaniment.”

“I want students to know themselves when they go to Zambia, so they can learn about others and another culture,” he said.

He believes it’s important to develop an intercultural capacity to read people, understand their needs, be clear on their intentions, suspend judgment, give the benefit of the doubt, seek cultural mentors who will tell them if they do something that offends.

“Students need to see an individual as an individual, not think all people are alike,” Josh said.

James feels privileged to work with international students and to live in an intercultural community every day. When he was growing up, his British father moved the family from London to Hong Kong to Malaysia. James started life immersed in different cultures. In third grade, he was in a French school. Then he was in a Benedictine school in England.

“To do social justice work, we need to leave our cultures. Just to travel is not enough,” he said. “We need to travel with open minds.”

This summer, after 17 years in the United States, James, whose

wife is American, became a U.S. citizen.

James said developing cultural competence entails awareness of one’s cultural rules and awareness that “we view experiences of others through our own worldview.”

After traveling or living abroad, he said, people start to understand different perspectives and begin to see through the eyes of others.

At first, international students experience “cultural dissonance,” or discomfort, and feel like two-year-olds. To understand other people and cultures, students need to be immersed in a language. Then they can ask deeper questions and seek deeper interactions.

“It takes two years in another country and language to make friends,” he said. “It takes hard work to gain multiple perspectives and understand problems in another culture. The more empathy we have the better prepared we are to do social justice work.”

James listed some ways to bridge the cultural gap: study abroad, learn languages, cultural immersion and personal interaction with people from different cultures. He also suggests that can happen through home stays, meeting refugees in Spokane or ESL conversation circles on campus with international students.

Joy told of a photo story in Life magazine 25 years ago. Two women in their 80s were watching as a squalid housing project in South Chicago was being demolished. Both had lived there all their lives.

With tears in her eyes, one said, “It’s the end of my life. My memories good and bad are in the building.”

The other said, “Thanks be to God. I’m out of that rat trap. I’ve waited a lifetime to be free.”

When students enter another culture, Joy asks them to be aware of the “baggage” they bring, like the women, that they look at the same reality with different values.

Joy listed three Gonzaga values that invite growth in intercultural encounters:

• **Awareness is the main** element of spiritual and personal growth. “If I am not aware, I am not

reaching out, stretching and growing. How aware are we of our own culture and values that make us who we are?” she asked. “If we are in a dominant culture, we may assume everyone looks at life as we do. Are we aware of our biases, where they come from and how we act them out?”

• **Every person has an inherent** dignity and value.

Gonzaga’s Catholic social teaching seeks to foster commitment to human dignity that assumes each person is made in the image and likeness of God, said Joy, pointing out that this assump-

tion is a counter-cultural stance.

Many in the society and world perceive some people as “the other.” What voices or behaviors say some do not deserve to be treated as human beings? she asked. “Do we ever challenge our opinions of other people or cultures?”

• **Growth is about being open** to be transformed.

“We are all confronted with choices that have made us be who we are, ‘Aha’ moments when we look at ourselves and others differently,” said Joy, noting that the transformation Jesuit education seeks to instill is not once in a lifetime, but is to happen in all areas of life over and over.

The hope is for education to open people to the world, to be aware of oppression and injustice, and to ask, “What will I do about it?”

“Accompaniment is presence with and for the other,” she said.

Joy believes that both exposure to diversity and global engagement transform people “to discover a bigger world within and around us.”

For information, call 313-6095.



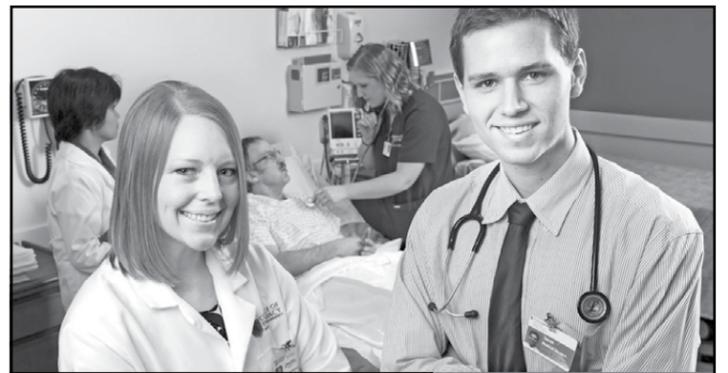
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Beyond more 'violence-justifies-violence' action, treaty scrutinizes arms trade

Enemy images again fill air waves, print-ed pages and online media. Those "evil" terrorists use violence, and some believe they only understand violence.

What if they are savvy, and seek to bankrupt "coalition" nations that are now bombing them with weapons that bring profit to the military-industrial complex. Who makes the terrorists' weapons?

Can we afford to feed the insatiable war machine that eats up resources, and does not enhance our economy or people's lives?

Is violence the only way to deal with "evil" people? What will our violence bring? Will it bring more pockets of hate that explode into more terrorist violence—abroad and maybe at home.

Does violence weaken or strengthen terrorists? Does it justify them in their marketing appeals?

Do coalition bombs escalate terror? Air strikes, like terrorists, kill innocent people.

These actions draw media attention. They fit definitions of news, filling a habit of many media to cover such exciting things as violence and terror.

What is going on behind the scenes to divert people from the violence-begets-violence-begets-more-violence cycle? Is violence always the only solution? Is it really a solution?

Extremists touting their faiths cower behind violence against anyone who does not fit their mold of faith. All faiths come away used, diminished and discredited. Is one faith "good" and justified to use violence against another purely "evil" faith? That's contrary to the tenets of our faiths.

Meanwhile, not reaching headline news, is a report that eight more governments

ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in late September meetings at the United Nations. With 53 nations ratifying the treaty, it will go into effect by the end of 2014.

News of the armed conflicts reminds us that armed violence batters human life and dignity, said the Rev. Olav Fyske Tviet, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He suggests that "controlling the arms trade is a requirement for stopping the terror and violence in the world today."

The WCC has been among church and civil advocates for the Arms Trade Treaty for four years. The focus has been on Africa, which suffers from the illicit arms trade. By signing the ATT, states commit to regulate all transfers of conventional arms and components; ban exports of arms when there is a substantial risk of war crimes,

genocide or attacks against civilians; assess risks related to human rights violations, terrorism, organized crime or gender-based violence, and avoid arms shipments being diverted from the authorized user.

A Conflict Armament Research report shows that in Iraq and Syria, weapons made in the U.S. and China are being used by ISIS. There is increasing scrutiny of who is supplying the weapons fueling current armed conflicts. Who is supplying U.S.-made weapons? Why? Is bottom line the only consideration?

As people of faith, we are called to sustain life. The WCC's Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace calls us to join in a sacred journey to justice and peace, "a quest to renew our faiths through healing a world filled with conflict, injustice and pain." Will we?

Mary Stamp - Editor

Negative attitudes toward labor, lax enforcement leave workers unprotected

A book or website of devotional writings can often give us hard things to think about, but it doesn't usually give us hard data on a pressing issue.

"The Power of a Pay Stub" was Sept. 3 commentary in the Stillspeaking United Church of Christ daily devotional by the Rev. Lillian Daniel, a pastor in Glen Ellyn, Ill. It is based on James 5:4. It was footnoted with links to studies about wage theft.

"A recent study of low-paid workers found that 57 percent do not get a pay stub," Lillian began. Without a pay stub a worker does not know any facts about his/her work week: if the number of hours worked is reported accurately, if the pay rate was the one agreed to, what taxes were paid and what other deductions were taken.

She used the first half of James 5:4. Here is the whole verse: "Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts." (NRSV)

Because employers are required to keep records of how wages are calculated, why wouldn't they want to give their workers pay stubs? Without a pay stub, the worker can't prove he has been shortchanged.

One link leads to the website of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University in New Orleans. They cite a study,

"Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers." It gives an idea of the scope of the crime of wage theft. The study involved interviews with more than 4,300 low-wage workers in New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

The findings come from the workers' previous week of work.

Here is a part of their summary:

- 76 percent who worked overtime were not paid the legally required time and a half;
- 69 percent were not given meal breaks;
- 70 percent were not paid at all for extra work done outside of their regular shifts;
- 89 percent of in-home child care workers did not receive the minimum wage;
- 69 percent did not receive their full pay;
- 43 percent experienced illegal retaliation following complaints;
- 30 percent of tipped workers were not paid the tipped-worker's minimum wage;
- 26 percent of low-wage workers were paid less than minimum wage, and
- only 6 percent of injured workers received coverage for medical expenses.

In her book, *Wage Theft in America*, Kim Bobo pointed out that wage theft is committed by:

- not paying minimum wage,
- not paying time-and-a-half for overtime,
- forcing employees to work "off the clock,"

• not giving employees their final paychecks,

• not letting injured employees file worker's compensation claims,

• misclassifying employees as "independent contractors" to avoid paying minimum wage, overtime and Social Security, and

• not paying employees at all!

Why is this happening?

In 2005, the report of a 1975 to 2004 study by the Brennan Center for Justice cited "dramatic stagnation or decline in enforcement resources and activities by the Department of Labor and its Wage and Hour Division." During that period, the number of workers covered by wage-and-hour laws grew by 55 percent, and the number of covered establishments grew by 112 percent.

In July 2008, a representative of the Government Accountability Office testified before a House of Representatives committee about failure of the Wage and Hour Division to investigate complaints.

An undercover study, revealed in March 2009, reported "sluggish response times, a poor complaint intake process and failed conciliation attempts, among other problems." The undercover study had been requested by the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The problem has grown, just as the in-

equalities in our society, negative attitudes toward organized labor, lax enforcement of laws and cuts in Labor Department personnel have grown.

Why has it taken us so long to become aware of it?

A growing number of workers are losing 15 percent of their income through wage theft. No wonder so many employed people need food stamps.

What kind of books are these employers keeping? Employees are tax deductions, so are they recording the shorted wages or are they keeping two sets of books? Both are illegal. Isn't it a matter for the Department of Justice?

It is a matter on the agenda of the Faith Action Network of Washington as a concern of many faith communities.

The Jesuit Institute newsletter report on the study opened with Deut. 24:14-15: "You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers . . . You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt." Would people doing this feel guilt? Is the bottom line the only thing they see?

There's more information on the study at unprotectedworkers.org.

Nancy Minard - Contributing editor

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

There is a Jewish tradition that at Creation, God's light filled a cup, but that light was so strong that the cup shattered into fragments and scattered throughout all creation. The role of the righteous person is to bring the shards together and restore the cup. It is the work of shalom: God's peace, which is the light in the cup. That would make you and I the "oseh shalom," the peacemaker.

As we watch and listen to the happenings of the world around us; as we realize that events in our neighborhood and halfway around the world impact us, we begin to question how we might be oseh shalom.

Let us remember that even now the light and love of God shines in the darkness and calls us to wholeness. Let us be the ones who work toward God's dream. Let us pay attention to all that is happening and to all that it is happening to.

Let us never be too busy that we miss the opportunities to be oseh shalom in this moment now!

**From Greg Skinner
Country Homes Christian Church**

Ministry requires a team. Luther built the Reformation on the conviction that we are priests to one another. He understood that we can't be our own priests. We need others who will mediate God's grace

to us. As United Methodists, we've chosen to be in connection with others rather than go it alone, even though sometimes it seems easier to go it alone.

We know that in a system with no connection and no accountability, there are grave dangers—huge risks of self-deception, possibilities for falling away from our high calling. When we are part of a team with solid spiritual connections and with caring accountability, we can do good ministry.

Ministry is not a job for lone rangers. I subscribe to Paul's understanding of the church as the body of Christ. If we as pastors try to do everything in the church, the church will wither and die. In every church I've served, I've been able to identify, recruit and equip people who would share ministry—visitation ministry, teaching ministry and administration.

It's great to be on a church staff with other pastors and paid professionals. There is sharing of ideas and energy that comes from doing ministry with others.

Even in the smallest church, we can find and recruit and train leaders who will share our passion for ministry and together we can do far more than one person can alone.

We can find people for our team who will make up for our shortcomings, who can do parts of ministry, frankly, better than we can.

Ministers are multi-talented people, but there's a downside. People who could potentially help our ministries really take off are cut off from doing that thing that would give them joy and help them fulfill their part of the purpose of the church.

**The Rev. Dale Cockrum
Inland Steeples - Inland District
United Methodist Church**

Are we shying away from the flesh too much these days. Part of what the incarnation means to me is that God is found in human contact. There is a lot of conversation these days about how much time our culture spends with technology. Katie and I become sidetracked by our phones, our iPad and our computers. Oh, I am sure God can be present in and through those devices, but it is not in quite the same way as God being truly present when the space between people begins to disappear.

Pediatricians recommend that children play video games, watch television or use social media no more than two hours a day. We are aware that our children are connecting more through social media and less through face-to-face contact. Is this a problem? Time will tell, but I believe there is something important about the incarnational work we have as Christians.

Ministry works best when there are fewer

things between us and the other person: fewer devices, fewer distractions and fewer interruptions. Oh yes, God can be present wherever God chooses to be present, but in church and other places, we can come face-to-face with one another and offer a different interaction. It is God in the flesh.

A friend told how her 20 something son gets together with friends and they all put their phones in the middle. The first person to use the phone, whether for texting, checking the web or taking a phone call, gets to pay the bill. I love the advantages of technology, but a face-to-face action with my neighbor, family and friends still brings something different to the table. There is so much to distract that I wonder how many times we miss God in our neighbor because of the various kinds of distance technology brings.

Some questions and challenges: What if we left our cell phones at home on Sunday morning? Can we take a technology Sabbath for a few hours with our children on Sunday or another day, and replace that time with face-to-face time? Can we give up the efficient from time-to-time for the sake of experiencing God in the flesh in our neighbor or in the then "disappearing space" between you and another.

**The Rev. Eric Dull
St. Mark's Lutheran**

Calendar of Events

- Oct 1**
 - **YWCA Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon**, Hattie Kauffman, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., ywcaspokane.org
 - **"Nonviolence in Action: Peacekeeping for Successful Protests,"** 35 W Main, 5:30 p.m., food, 6 p.m. training, 838-7870
- Oct 2**
 - **The Fig Tree Benefit Planning and Board Meeting**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon - benefit, 1 p.m. - board, 535-4112
 - **Laugh for the Cure**, Susan G. Komen Eastern Washington Affiliate, comedian Shaun Jones and Drew Barth, Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., 6 to 10 p.m., komeneasternwashington.org
 - **"Being Religious Interreligiously,"** John Borelli of Georgetown University, Gonzaga Law School Barbieri Courtroom, 7 p.m.,
- Oct 3**
 - **Family Promise of North Idaho** Cardboard Box City, Fernan Elementary School, 521 N. 21st, Coeur d'Alene, 208-777-4190
 - **Partnering for Progress Benefit Auction and Dinner**, "Into Africa Auction, Seth Okuma, P4P Kenya project administrator, Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley, 5:30 p.m., 720-8404, intoafricaauction.org
- Oct 3-4**
 - **West Central Festival of the Arts**, "The Stories We Tell," Salem Lutheran, 360-204-1311, facebook.com/westcentralarts
- Oct 4**
 - **Oktoberfest-style Fundraiser**, Central Lutheran, 512 S. Bernard, proceeds for local food banks and soup kitchens, 2 p.m., www.clspokane.org
 - **Faith Action Network Spokane Cluster**, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 1:30 p.m., 206-625-9790
 - **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference Planning**, Salem Lutheran, 3:30 p.m., 535-4112
- Oct 5**
 - **Main Market Co-op Harvest Party**, 44 W. Main, noon to 6 p.m.
- Oct 6-8**
 - **Turner Lectures 2014**, Englewood Christian Church, Yakima, 253-893-7202, nwrc@disciplesnw.org
- Oct 7, 28**
 - **Opus Night Forums**, Wulff Auditorium at Jepson Center, Gonzaga, 7 p.m.
- Nov 4**
 - **Spokane Police Accountability & Reform Coalition**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 8**
 - **Veterans for Peace**, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 8, 22**
 - **Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 9**
 - **Transitions' Annual People Who Care**, "The Pursuit of Justice," Red Lion Hotel at the Park, breakfast at 7:30 a.m., lunch at noon, 328-6702, info@help4women.org
 - **Whitworth University's President's Leadership Forum**, Condoleezza Rice, Spokane Convention Center, noon, 777-4974, iaevents@whitworth.edu
 - **Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane**, Protest of Condoleezza Rice, 35 W. Main, 11 a.m., 838-7870, pjals.org
 - **World Relief's Annual Benefit Show**, DoubleTree Hotel, 6 p.m., 321-1879, afunnell@wr.org
- Oct 9, 23**
 - **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee**, 35 W. Main, 3 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 11**
 - **Empty Bowls Fundraiser Auction** for West Central Episcopal Mission, St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave., 5:30 p.m., 954-9638, carrieci@live.com
- Oct 12**
 - **Northwest Coalition for Human Rights Annual Meeting**, Nursing Building, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., nwchr.wordpress.com
 - **Bishop's Brunch**, formerly the Poor Man's Meal, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 358-4254, catholiccharitiesspokane.org
- Oct 13-15**
 - **Spokane Regional Leaders Prayer Summit**, Ross Point Camp and Conference Center, Post Falls, (509) 270-1457, jfos@comcast.net
- Oct 15**
 - **Forum on Police Accountability** on the Militarization of Police and Body Cameras, ACLU, Center for Justice, PJALS, 6 p.m.
- Oct 15**
 - **Interfaith Service for Opus Prize**, Gonzaga University Chapel, College Hall, 5 p.m.
- Oct 16**
 - **Inland Northwest Workers with Disabilities Job Fair**, Comfort Inn, 923 E. 3rd Ave., 9 a.m. to noon, 532-3175, levans@esd.wa.edu
 - **Peace & Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
 - **Opus Prize Award Ceremony**, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 7 p.m., complimentary tickets: gonzaga.edu/opusprize
- Oct 17-19**
 - **"Grounded in Faith, Growing Our Future,"** 50th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, the Marcus Whitman Hotel, 6 W. Rose St., Walla Walla, 624-3191
 - **Holden Village on the Road**, Ellensburg, program@holdenvillage.org, holdenvillage.org
- Oct 18**
 - **Animal Blessings by Buddhist Monk Geshe-La Phelgye**, founder of the Universal Compassion Foundation, Corbin Park, 10 to 11 a.m., lori@barkcanoe.com
 - **Universal Compassion Foundation Buddhist Studies and Meditation**, 122 W. Euclid, 6:30 p.m., fhh2o@hotmail.com
- Oct 19**
 - **"Take Back Your Life Expo,"** A Celebration of Life for Domestic Violence Survivors, Community Resource Fair, Lincoln Center, 316 N. Lincoln St., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - **Male Ensemble Northwest Concert**, St. Stephen's Episcopal, 5720 S. Perry, 2 p.m., 448-2255
- Oct 20**
 - **NAACP**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, 7 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- Oct 21**
 - **"Citizen Koch,"** documentary screening and panel discussion, proceeds to Meals on Wheels Spokane, The Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 6 p.m., 993-5785
- Oct 22**
 - **Public Hearing on Spokane River Flow**, Center Place Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 6 p.m., open house, 7 p.m., public hearing, 209-2899, naiads.wordpress.com, celp.org
- Oct 23**
 - **"Flow: Carving Pathways for Greater Good**, Inland Northwest Nonprofit Conference, Lincoln Center, 316 N. Lincoln St., 253-330-8850, inwconference.org
- Oct 24**
 - **Spokane Human Rights Award Breakfast**, Spokane City Hall, Chase Gallery, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, 8 a.m., 625-6966, eracoshr@spokanecity.org
- Oct 25**
 - **"Fall Compost Fair and Leaf Festival,"** John A. Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6800, solidwaste.org
- Oct 26**
 - **"Feast with Friends,"** Futurewise Benefit, Central Food, 1335 W Summit Pkwy, 6 p.m.
- Oct 28**
 - **"Planning: The Key to Survival** for the Dementia Caregiver," Hayden Public Library, 8385 N. Government Way, Hayden, Idaho, Alzheimer's Association-Inland Northwest Chapter, 2 to 4 p.m., 208-666-2996
 - **Estate Planning Seminar**, attorney Marc Wallace, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 501 E. Wallace, Coeur d'Alene, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., 208-664-5533 or stlukesca.org
- Oct 29**
 - **The Fig Tree Delivery and Mailing**, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Oct 31**
 - **Hope House Celebrity Fashion Show**, Volunteers of America, DoubleTree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct., noon to 2 p.m., 524-2378, kdale@voaspokane.org
 - **Harvest Health Fest**, South Perry Learning Center Neighborhood Network, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 3 to 6 p.m., 535-6913
- Nov 5**
 - **The Fig Tree Benefit Planning and Board Meeting**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon - benefit, 1 p.m. - board, 535-4112

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Friday, Saturday, Sunday
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The Community Building 35 W. Main, Spokane
 (Downtown between Browne & Division)

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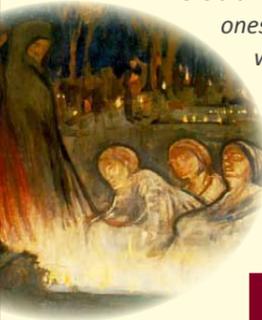
All Souls: Remembering the Faithful Departed

October 31 - November 2, 2014

This is a unique opportunity to honor your own loved ones in both a monastic and artistic setting as we examine the history and tradition of All Souls' Day. Conductor Michael Murphy will unlock the mysteries of Brahms' German Requiem before its presentation by the Palouse Choral Society in the historic and acoustically-acclaimed Monastery chapel. Concert included.

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Spirit Center retreats at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID
 208-962-2000, spirit-center@stgertrudes.org



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 October 23, 2014 Lincoln Center / Spokane, Washington
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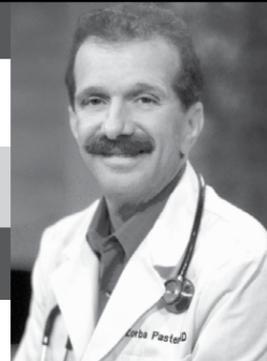
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Activists, faith community, politicians join multi-generational march

While more than 400,000—according to the Sierra Club—marched in New York City and people marched by hundreds to 10s of thousands in 2,500 communities around the world, about 150 gathered at Cowley Park in Spokane and marched to Martin Luther King Way beside the railroad tracks where oil trains pass each day.

Signs expressed concerns about the future for children, the military's contribution to pollution, the need for solar and wind energy, the challenge of coal export trains and more.

Participants included children to seniors. They included people of faith, such as St. Aloysius Catholic Church's Creation Care team. They also included political candidates, such as Joe Pakootas, who is running for the Congress.



Spokane marchers join global People's Climate March.



By Connie Wardle of the Presbyterian Record in Canada for the World Council of Churches

As hundreds of thousands of people flooded through the streets of New York City on Sept. 21 in a march for action on climate change, 30 faith leaders representing nine religions signed a statement calling for concrete actions to curb carbon emissions.

The document was the centerpiece of an interfaith conference jointly hosted by the World Council of Churches (WCC), a body with 345 churches representing about 560 million Christians worldwide, and Religions for Peace, an interfaith coalition with members in more than 70 countries. Signers are from 21 countries on six continents.

“When in January I listened to the general secretary of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, calling the world's heads of state for a summit on climate change, I thought we also have to get together as leaders of faith communities to

offer our contributions,” said Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, the WCC general secretary. Large changes require conviction, which, he said, can be found in the “beliefs, rituals, symbols, sacred texts and prayers of faith that give meaning and direction for a large portion of the world's population.”

The statement, titled “Climate, Faith and Hope: Faith Traditions Together for a Common Future” was presented to the deputy-secretary general of the UN, Jan Eliasson, before the UN climate summit that began Sept. 23.

It calls on “all states to work constructively towards a far-reaching global climate agreement in Paris in 2015,” which will be “ambitious enough to keep temperature from rising well below 2° Celsius; fair enough to distribute the burden in an equitable way, and legally binding enough to guarantee that effective national climate policies to curb emissions are well funded and fully implemented.”

As faith leaders from many

of the world's religions, “if we change, everything changes. So we have to commit ourselves,” said Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, founder of the Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values in The Hague, the Netherlands. “The march is visible. What we are doing here is visible. The march and documents together make an impression.”

For some signers in the Pacific and elsewhere, climate change is threatening to inundate the countries they call home as sea levels rise.

In face of the crisis affecting the world, people of faith must speak out in hope, becoming a moral voice that speaks “to our deepest convictions and commitments as human beings,” said the WCC general secretary. “I say it is immoral not to speak of hope in this time.”

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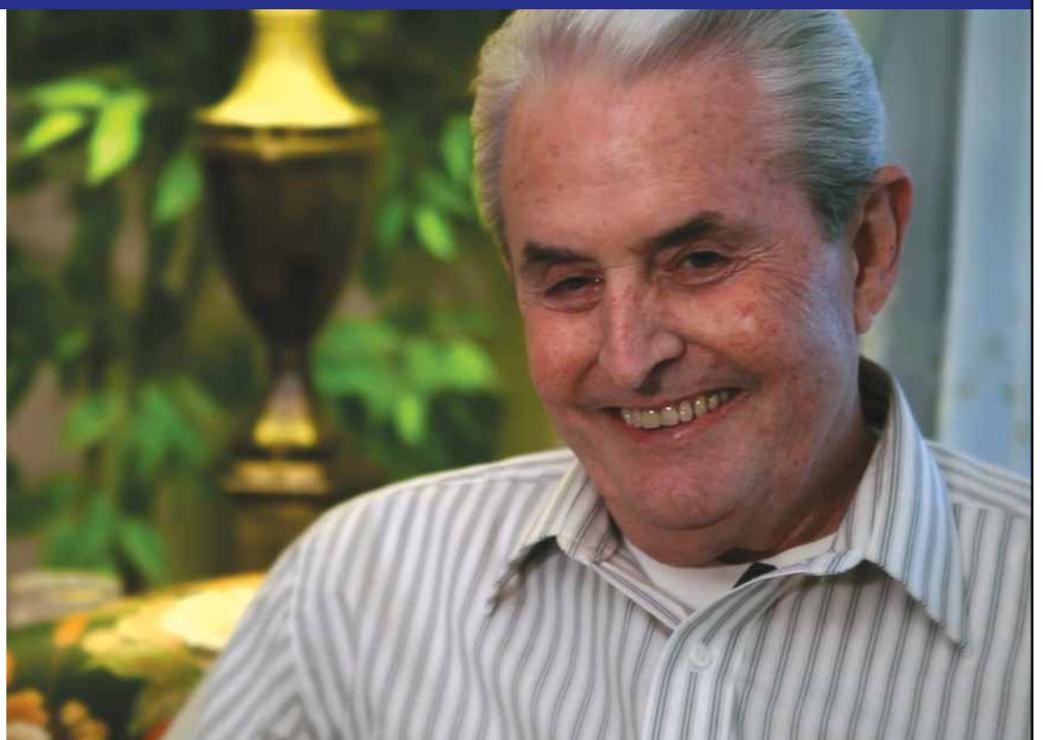
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