



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

Mary Stamp, editor
editor@pncuccnews.org

325 N. 125th St. - Seattle WA 98133 • (206) 725-8383 or (800) 954-8777

April-May 2011

PNC work camps help transform New Orleans

Need for rebuilding continues but funds are running out.

While the need for post-Hurricane-Katrina-rebuilding continues in New Orleans, the UCC is running out of money to do more, said Randy Crowe, PNC work camp coordinator since 2005, on returning from a Feb. 27 to March 5 camp with 14 from PNC.

“There’s an incredible amount of work done and the spirit has returned to New Orleans,” he said.

On each trip, Crowe has taken teams to the lower 9th Ward to see destruction next to progress in rebuilding homes. This time, there were 100 new houses, in contrast to 15 last year. He met a member of Beecher Memorial UCC, the oldest UCC black church, who told of moving into her new house.

Continued on Page 4



Mary Charles, the Rev. Linda Crowe of Veradale, the Rev. Esther Pfifer of Eltopia, Amy Demaree of Helena, Mont., and the Rev. Dee Eisenhower of Bainbridge Island.

Photo Courtesy of Jim Spraker

Annual Meeting is time for connections, reflection

Gathering Friday and Saturday, April 29 to 30 at University Congregational UCC in Seattle, delegates, visitors and participants in the 2011 Conference Annual Meeting will consider the theme “Connections – Reflections – Directions.”

Held for the first time in years in a church rather than a hotel-convention-center, the PNC Annual Meeting should save funds.

The strong emphasis on youth and young adults is already evident in the

promotion through “Come to Annual Meeting” videos online at the conference website, pncucc.org, and spread online.

Margaret Iribarra and Kimbris Bond of the Youth and Young Adult Task Force of Education Ministries prepared the video clips.

The featured speaker will be the Rev. Da Vita McCallister, the Connecticut UCC Conference’s

associate minister for youth and young adult ministries. She will spend some special time in workshops just for youth,

in addition to preaching at the 7:30 p.m. worship on Friday, and giving the keynote address at 8:30 a.m., Saturday.

A mother, ordained minister, entrepreneur, philanthropist, writer and advocate for youth and young adults, she invites people to explore their call to ministry and to share in transforming the world. In the Connecticut Conference, she equips youth workers to build multicultural, multiracial youth leadership.

There are options to stay in hotels and also money-saving options for those who prefer to connect with the church family in the Seattle area and stay in the home of a church member. The conference is seeking people to offer their homes. Youth in grades nine through 12

Continued on Page 8

**In an online video:
PNC vice-moderator
Brandon Duran says: Come
to Annual Meeting
to meet people from
around the conference
engaged in changing their
communities and the world!**

Conference 'body' immersed in new life

Conference Comments



By the Rev.
Kristine Zakarison
Conference
Moderator



**Seeds
of PNC
life
springing
up
throughout
conference
settings.**



Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" tells of a child who *became* the first object he looked upon each day—the object became part of him for the day or for years—lilacs, grass, morning glories, white and red clover, the phoebe bird's song, lambs, foals, calves, fish, water plants and more.

Whitman describes all the elements the child notices that become a part of him—animals, friends, the natural world, family, his thoughts and feelings, his barely understood yearnings—the rhythm of his life. In paying attention to the little details, the child becomes not only aware of, but also immersed in the Sacred Now of the world, an immediate experience of God.

As we pray or immerse ourselves in the life of our congregations and conference, we look, feel and notice deeply; we speak and listen to God, and, gradually, we change ourselves, and God changes us. Like the child in Whitman's poem, we become, over time, something new.

Jesus told of a sower. Some seed fell on the path. Birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. When the sun rose, it was scorched and withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up, choked it and it produced no grain. Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up, grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear" (Mark 4: 3-9).

We are both sower and the ground waiting to be sown. We go through our lives casting seeds in both intended and unintended places. Are we aware of the seeds we have sown? Through our words, actions, interactions and lifestyle, can we be aware of seeds we sow? Likewise, we are the soil that is constantly sown with all kinds of seeds we receive or don't receive.

Sometimes good seeds hit parched, spent soil and can't yield much. We have good intentions, but we can't seem to follow through. Other times, seeds we'd prefer not to cultivate seem to hit the richest pay dirt of all—perhaps seeds of anger, apathy or self-absorption—to become weeds that choke out everything else in sight.

I have a teacher who says, "Attention is a gift we give to that which we intend to cultivate." Through our attention and action, what kind of seeds are we sowing? What kinds of seeds have been sown within us? As the body of Christ, we go to the wounded place. We look with a deep, loving gaze at our beautiful, fragile planet, crying out for our concern. We place our attention in those places and moments, in which God cries

along with us for compassionate engagement or a fresh start. We begin again to sow, cultivate and tend, so wild, abundant life, filled with grace, can be born anew in our midst.

In my year as conference moderator, I have seen many seeds sown and begin to grow, aware that the body consists of many members.

Perhaps the greatest gift of being moderator is getting to know members of this wonderful body and be a part of helping that body work together. Our Annual Meeting theme, "Connections, Reflections, Directions" is an apt description of not only how the physical body works but also how our body has sought to work in the past year.

A healthy physical body is one in which all "parts" are in the feedback loop. The sensory awareness and communication among members is strong, and so when there is stimulus to the body, it is disseminated and there is a response. Through efficiency of neural and other physiological networks, the body reflects information to the entire system. When a direction is taken—whether a taking a single step to open our mind, heart and spirit to prayer, or extending our hand to help another—the entire body has come together in a wondrous interactive engagement.

I see our conference body working together to be a connected, reflective, responsive body, able to take initiative and direction through engaging and communicating with one another.

We have taken a significant step toward this goal in assessing our communications and technology patterns and structures, understanding how individuals, local churches, committees and the conference communicate. Consultant Kathleen Hosfeld is helping us establish technology standards to communicate more effectively and do ministry together—not only to spread the word about our work but also to create ways we can be a body better able to connect and reflect with one another and venture in exciting new directions.

This past year, the conference stabilized its budget and is planning with clarity for the future. We voted to support the partnership of our Conference, Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center, and the national UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to create an Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs as a national resource.

It is an exciting time to be part of Conference work, thanks to astute, energetic, visionary leadership of Conference Minister, the Rev. Michael Denton, board leadership, staff and all who contribute to building up of the body of each church, community, the conference, the United Church of Christ and ultimately the body of Christ.

PNC recruits young adults to meet with Korean young adults

As part of the continuing partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of South Korea (PROK), a delegation of about 10 Korean young adults will visit the Pacific Northwest Conference between July 20 and 30.

In alternate years, a delegation visits and learns about the life and mission outreach of the churches in the PNC and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Global Ministries Committee of the UCC and Disciples is recruiting PNC young adults who have a passion about global issues to share in hosting and in discussions with the delegation.

The PROK encourages dialogue, engagement, diversity and reconciliation. It has been a prophetic voice for democratization, human rights and reunification, protesting against military dictatorship government. They took the initiative of sending humanitarian food

aid as well as funds, equipment and machinery to North Korea, said the Rev. Terry Teigen, a UCC pastor and recent delegate.

They have an active and enduring commitment to ecumenism and are participating members of the National Council of Churches in Korea and the World Council of Churches. They were the first Presbyterian Church denomination to ordain women as elders in 1956 and ministers in 1974, believing God calls both women and men to ministry.

While maintaining its commitment to peace and justice, the PROK is responding to the needs of a changing South Korea that is continuing its journey of democratization. The PROK continues to take a lead in asking how to be a Christian in today's world, Teigen said.

The idea of a young adult exchange emerged from discussion and dialogue that were part of a UCC/DOC trip to

South Korea last May.

Interests of the young adults include discussing the meaning of "faith" in the U.S. and South Korean cultures, especially as it relates with issues of morality, justice and peace. Churches in those countries, as well as in the wider global community, are wrestling with those issues, he said.

Participants will also explore key concerns of young adults in the life of the church. The time together will encourage relationship building. Sightseeing will help the guests gain a sense of U.S. culture and history, and "what life is like" in the Pacific Northwest. The delegates and hosts will also visit mission and ministry efforts going on in local churches and in the region.

Organizers include the Rev. Ed Evans, UCC/DOC Global Ministries Committee, 360-683-4704, and Teigen, 206-933-6757.

Transitions announced

Martha Baldwin is the new conference treasurer, succeeding Kathy Youde, who died in November.

Bruce Harrington in Seattle and **Jerry Leggett** in Hawaii are retiring.

Everett UCC gains recognition

Everett UCC was among six winners out of 150 UCC churches entering the "Imagine What's Possible" contest for imagining a possibility and working to make the dream possible. Its story in the September PNC News at pncuccnews/sept10pnc/091410everettucc.html will be shared at General Synod on July 2 in Tampa, Fla. Everett went from no pastor, no money, poor communication and a broken spirit into a vital, growing and serving congregation that connects to the PNC.

Lecture planned for May 15

John Thatamanil, assistant professor of theology at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, will give a lecture on "Eucharist Upstairs, Yoga Downstairs: Multiple Religious Participation as Problem and Promise," at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 15, at University Congregational UCC in Seattle. For information, call 206-524-6255 ext. 3447 or email lectureseries@universityucc.org.

Earth Ministry encourages Lenten Carbon Fast

Earth Ministry, a partner with the Environment Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs has encouraged a Lenten Carbon Fast. It has provided a Caring for Creation: Prayer and Action Guide that encourages considering how much carbon dioxide one is putting into the environment and how that changes the climate of God's creation. Most greenhouse gases are from burning fossil fuels for generating electricity and transportation. Guides for each week of Lent are available at earthministry.org or by calling 206-632-2426.

PNC begins Stringfellow Society

Kevin Raymond, an attorney who attends Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle, said members of the conference who work in the legal field—attorneys, legal assistants, paralegals and law students—held their first quarterly gathering on April 8.

His goal is to establish a chapter of the Stringfellow Society in the region.

"The society will help us explore ways we can better connect our faith and our

work," said Raymond.

The Stringfellow Society will be a fellowship that reads and discusses books, hears from speakers, and provides mutual support among legal professionals who are people of faith.

Don Clark, a national UCC attorney, was guest speaker for the first meeting. He shared his story and discussed the book, *My People Is the Enemy*, by William Stringfellow, an Anglican lawyer who moved to Harlem to offer

free legal services to the African-American and Hispanic communities during the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Stringfellow made the connection of faith and his legal work a ministry.

"We talk in the UCC about the priesthood of all believers, which means we are all called to ministry. We do not need to be ordained," said Raymond. "Where our faith intersects with our work is where we find our ministry."

He encourages architects, engineers, teachers, doctors, homemakers and others to consider similar collegial fellowships.

For information, call 206-351-5717 or email kraymond@comcast.net.

Conference News Briefs

Work campers continue work from previous group

Continued from page 1

She had lived in Northern Louisiana, Tennessee and Georgia before returning to the neighborhood where she had lived all her life. Her mother, whose house was nearby, died before returning. This woman, as many others, had been victimized by a contractor she paid. He did part of the job and skipped with her money.

Most new homes in her neighborhood were part of Brad Pitt's Make It Right program, built five to eight feet off the ground on raised foundations using LEED building standards for energy conservation. All had solar panels.

Jim Spraker of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle met a man who was selling energy back into the grid, giving him income.

The house Randy worked on had had two contractors. One did a poor job, and the other did not finish it after a torch he used to put in air conditioning burned off the roof. The homeowner had been out of town and returned to find the plumbing pipes and electrical wiring stripped for copper.

"She had run out of money," Crowe said. "Stories of such people touch our team members.

"In debriefing every year, people express their gratitude for the opportunity to share their abundance with those who do not have much. It's important for adults to have the opportunity to serve and to give out of their faith. Every trip I'm surprised at the depth of feelings stirred in the people," he said.

In the debriefing this year, several expressed interest in going again. Randy, managing director of N-Sid-Sen, will look into options for next year. One may be to help rebuild Beecher Memorial UCC.

After Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Randy first went



Three generations of the Crowe family were among the 14 on the recent work team: Randy and Linda, their daughter Amy Clark and grandson, Randy Hummel.

Photo courtesy of Jim Spraker

in January 2006, before the UCC Disaster Recovery Office was set up. The first team helped Little Farms UCC repair their roof, Sunday school and sanctuary siding and sheet rock from wind damage and rains. They also helped with homes of four Little Farms and Central UCC members.

The second trip in October 2006 involved 40 people. Other trips were in February 2008, 2009 and 2010 with 14 to 20 people. The Rev. Bobbi Virta of Ferndale UCC is taking her fourth group April 2 to 9. She first went with the group of 40.

The first two trips, the ecumenical disaster recovery oversight committee was starting to bring together nonprofits. People applied for assistance through member groups like the UCC. The committee screened based on need and cost of materials.

The Red Cross and the Salvation Army have provided much of the funding. Volunteer groups have come in weekly. When Crowe has brought a group, he has told the UCC Disaster Recovery Office the number of people and their skills, so they are matched with projects.

This year, they worked on a UCC project. Last year, they worked on a Seventh Day Adventist project.

UCC funding ends in 2012 and the Disaster Relief Office at Little Farms UCC will close, as will other offices.

"It's phenomenal how the faiths have worked together," Crowe said.

He estimates that the UCC has helped rebuild 50 houses.

About 15 faith groups and Habitat for Humanity have been helping.

The four UCC churches in New Orleans modified their buildings to house the work camps. They added showers in restrooms and set up bunk beds in Sunday school rooms.

Crowe's team included his wife, the Rev. Linda Crowe, pastor at Veradale UCC; their daughter and grandson, Amy Clark and Randy Hummel; Ed and Jen Philiyaw of St. Paul's UCC; Jim Spraker of Plymouth UCC in Seattle; Dee Eisenhauer, Don and Madelyn Fox, and Joan Platt of Bainbridge Island; Esther Pfeifer of Eltopia, and Amy Demaree and Dick Weaver of Helena, Mont.

Of Veradale UCC's 100 members 13 have participated work camps over the years.

Commenting that there is still much to be done, Spraker said New Orleans is about 70 percent recovered.

"It's still a tough go," he said. "I worked with a woman who was barely making it.

We made a difference in her life by helping make three rooms livable. We also made a difference for Little Farms UCC, which has survived and has new life."

The work this year was primarily cleaning up and painting.

"The people are resilient, leaving their homes and living in chaos for six years. They have an ability to stay with it and survive in the midst of chaos. They see the recovery. It's difficult to lose one's home and things, and try to put things back together," he said.

"I learned how repressive poverty is. People at the bottom of the economic ladder have a hard time, compounded by this kind of tragedy," Jim said.

Linda Crowe said she worked on the home of Mary Charles, a Southern Baptist in East New Orleans, who was delighted to have pastors helping paint trim and clean up her house.

She was surprised that the UCC has women pastors.

Telling of the loss of her house, her husband and four of her six children, Mary Charles talked about "what it takes to get through hard times," Linda said. "She told me: 'I don't ask the Lord for strength or for things. If I didn't have strength, I would not have made it through.

"Dealing with so much loss helped her put things back together," Linda said. "We put a vase, lace tablecloth and fine classes on the table to make it look nice.

"I enjoy visiting with the people," she added. "It was special for our family to have three generations participating in the work camp.

Mission trips have brought people together from across the region, strengthening the Conference."

For information, call 208-689-3489.

Conference has resources to help churches choose curricula

By Lorna Kropp
Pacific Northwest
Conference
Partner in Education
Since 1999



The PNC's three Partners in Education – Gale Peterson, Lorna Kropp and Don Schmidt – are trained by the national UCC to help local churches with their education ministries. They inform persons in teaching ministries of resources published by and curricula developed by the UCC. They offer workshops to help churches plan and provide effective education programs.

Between March and June is the time for a church to ask the question: Are the resources we are currently using still meeting our needs or should we explore other resources?

First, note the term “resources” instead of “curriculum.” Purchasing materials for classes of children and youth and adults is one part of curriculum. The people who lead and engage others those materials are part of the curriculum, too, as are the setting, the excitement and the support from the whole church. Therefore purchasing resources that fit and resonate with teachers, students, parents, and pastor is important.

There are both people and web references available to help churches with decision-making. The conference has three Partners in Education who can consult with church decision-makers. They can answer questions in person, on the phone or by email. They meet with church planning committees. They help find samples of curriculum resources to read and review. They can point a committee to questions to ask about resources.

Gale Peterson, Kirkland UCC Christian educator, has used and led workshops on “Seasons of the Spirit.” She has served many years with the Conference Educational Ministries, particularly camping ministries.

Donald Schmidt, pastor at Admiral Congregational UCC in Seattle, has led workshops on “Seasons of the Spirit” and is also on the editorial team for “Faith Practices.”

Lorna Kropp, member at Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane, Lorna has been a Partner in on the East Side for many years. She has experience with the various curricula as an educator, and teacher librarian.

The three options the UCC



Story of lost things in inter-generational class at Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane. Photo courtesy of Lorna Kropp

promotes are:

- Seasons of the Spirit is organized around the lectionary. This can be a good choice for churches whose pastor uses the lectionary in planning weekly worship and preaching. There are resources in the SOS that can enable a whole church education program to be coordinated. (www.seasonsonline.ca/)

- “Gather Round” is a curriculum organized around significant Bible stories, seasonally arranged. For churches whose worship is more theme or issue related, focusing on important and whole stories of people and events may be a better fit. (www.gatherround.org/)

- “Faith Practices” is a set of resources organized around practicing and living Christian faith. This year, four practices have been written and published, and an additional four will be written in 2011-2012, for a total of eight choices.

The resources for each faith practice contain learning and reflection activities, Scripture and worship resources for six to nine weeks, for retreats or other settings. They provide flexibility for congregational planning. (www.ucc.org/education/practices/)

The 2010-11 practices are on forming community: giving and receiving hospitality; being stewards and living stewardship; centering life: keeping sabbath, and living creatively:

playing and living joyfully.

The ucc.org website has several articles to download to help a planning committee. They are on the Partners in Education page under the heading, “Planning the Church’s Education Ministry” (www.ucc.org/education/partners/).

One I find helpful is “Questions to ask when selecting curriculum and resources.”

Five groups of questions help a committee read and compare the resources include: What image of God is portrayed? How is Jesus pictured? What concepts about the Bible are assumed? How does the curriculum help students think and act upon the concepts of love, acceptance, forgiveness, inclusiveness, faithfulness and reconciliation?

The UCC education resources page also lists other options to review.

One is the new children’s curriculum from “The Center for Progressive Christianity” called, “A Joyful Path.” (www.tpc.org/template/page.cfm?page_id=115)

The eight points of Progressive Christianity is an interesting adult discussion resource as well. (<http://www.tpc.org/about/8points.cfm>)

Taking advantage of the resources the conference has to help churches plan a vital program of learning, worship and service helps churches focus energy for decision making.

Horizon House celebrates 50th year May to September

From May 19 through September, Horizon House will celebrate its 50th anniversary as the first senior retirement community in downtown Seattle, said Bob Anderson, who has been its CEO for 12 years.

There will be a Celebration of Art to recognize the first signing of the contract to purchase the Baldwin Apartments, at 900 University St., in 1961.

Since then, there were additions to two towers in 1983 and 1984, and a new section in 2007, so the facility now houses 550 seniors.

Known as a community that sees the arts as important, the May 19 event will unveil major paintings by four Northwest artists, which Horizon House is adding to its collection. Other art will be on display on the walls of the promenade, a walkway in the facility.

Sunday, May 1, as part of the PNC Annual Meeting in Seattle, there will be an open house and tour of Horizon House.

Sept. 15 to 17 will be three days of celebrating the only UCC-sponsored retirement community in the Northwest.

Since January, a committee of residents has been writing a history of the community that will look at the past, present and future of Horizon House, which was organized through Plymouth Congregational UCC and the conference.

The moving forces behind its development were Plymouth's former senior pastor Martin Goslin; former conference minister Archie Hook, and two UCC leaders, Myrtle Edwards, former Seattle City Council member, and Charles Norman, former director of the YMCA.

They wanted to create a suitable alternative for people wanting to retire in Seattle, said Joan Carufel, director of community relations for 18 years at Horizon House.



Molly Cone and Ann Sandstrom, Horizon House residents, head a committee to produce a book containing 50 years of Horizon House history.
Photo courtesy of Horizon House

"It was started to serve seniors who were diverse financially and socially," she said.

Anderson said the idea grew beyond just being a residence to providing health care and food services.

"We're the oldest retirement center in downtown Seattle, but we continue to renew ourselves by upgrading our buildings and living out our mission as a dynamic, diverse community of seniors," he said. "We serve seniors who continue to reach out to serve the broader community."

For example, Horizon House is the primary sponsor for the Northwest Center for Creative Aging, now in its third year as a collaborative venture drawing together nonprofit agencies, services and organizations.

"It is established to help seniors share with each other

how they find meaning in their lives," he said, adding that part of the role is to facilitate conversations, offer workshops and provide training on topics that connect seniors with seniors on that theme.

Recently the Three Amigos, a Protestant pastor, Jewish rabbi and Muslim imam, presented a program on "The Spirituality of Aging."

The University of Washington offers three different classes each quarter at Horizon House, and Seattle University brings one lecturer and offers one campus experience each quarter through their partnership agreement with Horizon House, said Carufel.

"Over the years, there has been an increase in interest in retirement communities," Anderson said. "Our supported living model combines assisted living and nursing care.

"Another pioneering program is our geriatric medical clinic open seven days a week, staffed by a nurse practitioner who oversees all aspects of medical care for residents," he added.

Anderson said the focus on wellness is a major part of the trend in retirement living, so the facilities provide fitness, personal training and aquatics. The health care incorporates acupuncture, tai chi, yoga and massage therapy.

Over her years of marketing, Carufel has seen people wanting to live in community where they will continue to learn, grow and participate in community.

Residents are able to make choices from room color and layout to events they want to participate in, she said.

"As a nonprofit, we are committed that no one should have to leave our community because of inability to pay," Anderson said. "With an endowment with a balance of \$7.2 million, we spend more than \$400,000 a year to support residents who have exhausted their resources, there is fund raising that anchors our mission of neighbors helping neighbors residents."

Horizon House is open to people of all economic levels. The lowest entry fee starts under \$30,000 and monthly fees are about \$1,400. An Entrance Assistance Fund subsidizes up to half the entrance fee.

"Our role is to support our residents in realizing their goals in life. People have goals at any age, however modest the goals are," Anderson said, telling of a 95-year-old resident who played piano for the supportive living residents in the afternoon and played bridge in the evening before she died.

For information, call 206-382-3601 or email joanc@horizonhouse.org, 206-382-3281 or boba@horizonhouse.org.

PNC camps announce 2011 directors and dates

The 2011 PNC summer camp programs will explore the theme, "Got Spirit? Seeing God in the Everyday!"

The Outdoor Ministries Task Force and the camp directors began preparations for the camp season in January at an annual "training."

"It was an opportunity for the amazing individuals who lead our camping programs in the summer to share ideas, discuss challenges they encounter and come up with ideas for how to approach those challenges," said Sharon Linton of the Outdoor Ministries Task Force.

"Each year this is an invigorating way for all of those involved in running our camping programs to learn from one another and strengthen the programs year after year," she said.

"Another important aspect of the time together is talking about recruiting counselors to staff the camps," she added.

Counselors are recruited from around the conference and can be from ages 21 to 91.

More important than age they must have an interest in working with children and

youth campers on their faith journey, said Sharon.

Those interested in helping with summer camp programs are invited to email Linton at linton13@gmail.com.

N-Sid-Sen camps and retreats with dates and directors are: the Women's Retreat, May 20 to 22, with Linda Crowe at Veradale and Lynn Nelson of Colfax;

- Work Camp, June 12 to 18;
- Kids, June 26 to 29, with Doris Northrup and Trudy Lambert of Veradale UCC;
- Intermediate Camp, July 10 to 16 with Bob Watrous of Shalom Richland and Kim Schulz of Tekoa;
- Senior High Aqua Camp, July 17 to 23, Lyn Stulz, Plymouth Seattle, and Sam Yeaw, Newport;
- Family Camp I, July 31 to August 6, with Meredith Peterson from Kirkland and Ryan Lambert of Corvallis, Ore.;
- Junior High Aqua Camp, August 7 to 13 with Dana Sprenkle and John Hubbe of Shalom in Richland, and
- Family Camp II, August 14 to 20, with Donald Schmidt at Admiral in Seattle.



Full body "Rock, Paper, Scissors" at a directors training at Bellevue First. Photo courtesy of Sharon Linton

Pilgrim Firs Camps are Work Camp, May 27 to 30; Spiritual Renewal (GLBTQ), June 3 to 5; the PNC Leadership Retreat, June 17 to 19, and Young Adult Retreat, June 24 to 26;

- Senior High Camp, July 3 to 9 with Andrew Shanafelt and Jenna Veatch;
- Junior High Camp, July 10 to 16 with Mark Boyd of United Churches in Olympia;
- Intermediate Camp, July 17 to 23 with Stephen Haddon of Tolt UCC in Carnation;
- Kids Camp, July 24 to 27 with

Kaila Russell of Tolt and Katie Lloyd of Northshore in Woodenville, and

- Family Camp, Aug. 21 to 25.

Kids Camps are for children entering second, third and fourth grades; Intermediate Camps, for those entering fifth and sixth grades; Junior High Aqua Camp, for those entering seventh, eighth and ninth grades, and Senior High Aqua Camp, for those entering 10th, 11th, 12th grades and youth just graduating high school.

For information, visit www.pncucc.org.

Outdoor Ministries appeals for clergy to participate in camps

By Tamara Roberts

The Outdoor Ministries Task Force on which I serve is calling for pastors to come to camp.

It is the best job in the world. Each Summer, I make my way across the mountains to Camp N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene, where I spend a week singing and dancing, working and playing, worshipping and deepening my faith in community with the campers and staff of Senior High Aqua Camp.

I watch teens strengthen friendships, grow their skills and confidence, and take time to listen for God in their lives. Every year I am amazed and grateful to witness all that a week can be.

I read a study undertaken by the Jew-

ish Federation in which they were trying to figure out what factors brought Jew to congregational life as adults.

The single biggest—and only clear—factor is whether the individual went to camp as a child or youth. Reading that study confirmed what I knew intuitively: there is no better place for discovering genuine loving community, one's true self and the Holy than at camp.

While many fabulous and faithful lay people make camp a wonderful place for the young people of our conference, many of them admit they feel out of their depth when it comes to talking about God.

As camp chaplain, I bring my gifts for theological reflection to a week of

finding God in the beauty all around us, among us and within us.

I get to be with a camp full of teenagers, inviting and cajoling, inspiring and befriending, always listening deeply to my fellow campers and for the still speaking God.

Every session of camp at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs would be enriched by clergy coming alongside directors and counselors, bringing their gifts and skills to the mix.

For information on becoming part of the PNCUCC Outdoor Ministries contact Sharon Linton, task force chair, at linton13@comcast.net or the camp managers at randy@n-sid-sen.org or deeg@pilgrimfirs.org.

Workshops will cover wide spectrum of ministries

Continued from page 1
and their leaders will be housed together in Seattle area UCC churches.

In addition to worship on Friday and Saturday evenings, delegates will visit churches throughout the Seattle area on Sunday. The Friday worship, which will explore diversity, will include music by the Total Experience Gospel Choir. Conference Minister Mike Denton will preach at the Saturday evening worship with music including massed choirs, a brass quintet and renowned organist Douglas Cleveland.

Evening worship services will be at University Presbyterian Church. There will be a Saturday morning devotion at University Congregational.

Workshop sessions will be

held on Friday afternoon.

The first session includes workshops with the keynote speaker and on the Moses Project, a partnership of Vancouver UCC and the Children's Alliance; on multifaith living with campus minister Matt Smith; on art quilts illustrating stories of world travel by retired oncology nurse Mary Maxwell; on the "Our Whole Lives" curricula on sexuality and faith by Amy Johnson; on Interplay as a life and spirit practice by Deanna Murray of Prospect in Seattle; on "Closet Activism" with Jeaneane Hill of University Congregational UCC; for church treasurers with PNC treasurer Martha Baldwin and PNC accounting manager Michelle Johanson, and on "Food Faith and Justice" by the Chris-

tian Life and Service in Action Committee (CLSA).

In the second session, workshops are on "Around the World in 80 Minutes" with Ed Evans and Peter Lin of PNC's Global Ministries Committee; "Faith, Climate and Coal" by Brooks Berndt with LeeAnne Beres and Jessie Dye of Earth Ministry; on "Death Penalty: Who Would Jesus Execute?" by Yvonne Wilhelmsen of the CLSA Committee and Stefanie Anderson of the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; on "Generational Conflict and New Technologies" with journalist David Domke of the University of Washington Communication Department; on conflict resolution in ministry with Sophie Morse of Keystone in Seattle; on science

and faith with Kendal Bond a Seattle high school teacher, and on "Justice LED (Leaders Engaging and Developing) with members of CLSA.

PNC churches are invited to use the comma graphic for the UCC Still Speaking campaign and fill it with images, text and other content to express what inspires the churches connections, reflections and directions. These visual pieces will be used as signs and symbols of the richness of the conference. They are to be mailed by April 14 to Heidi Blythe at University Congregational UCC, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98105.

Annual Meeting will officially close on Saturday.

For information, call 206-725-8383.

Annual Meeting will consider budget, name, ONA items

The Annual Meeting 2011 in Seattle will consider two items and a resolution.

The items are the Conference budget and changing the name of the Conference's Christian Life, Service and Action (CLSA) Committee to Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

Rich Gamble, chair of the CLSA committee and pastor of Keystone UCC, said the name change comes from the "evolution of the committee" from a broad mandate to a focus on promotion of social justice.

"We are organizing to provide training around issues of justice and organizing participants into a broader community of people committed to doing the work of justice," he said. "That includes providing resources to those interested in learning more about justice and evangelizing about the central role of social justice in our identity as members of the United Church of Christ."

One way the committee does it is through offering workshops at annual meetings, plus assisting congregations in doing their own social justice training events.

For information, call 206-632-6021.

A resolution proposed by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the UCC Coalition for LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender) Concerns calls for the Pacific Northwest Conference to adopt a policy of



Marcia McLaughlin of the Coalition of LGBT Concerns.

being Open and Affirming.

Marcia McLaughlin of Richmond Beach UCC in Shoreline said that the PNC has been living as if it were open and affirming. She believes it's now time to switch from living into that policy to affirming that the Conference is welcoming.

"We hope it will encourage churches that have not yet discussed it to discuss it,"

she said. "For churches that have taken the stand, it's time to see how they are living into it.

"As I said at Annual Meeting last year, churches need to look at whom they are neglecting or have closed their hearts to," she continued. "For me, it's a wider issue, because I work at the Church of Mary Magdalene in Seattle with homeless women, and my heart is with them."

In some churches, older people may want younger members, but not be open to changes that would draw young people, McLaughlin commented. Some congregations may need to look at openness to people living with mental illness, alcoholism or addictions. She has seen openness come with votes to be open and affirming.

"We are not saying congregations that have not acted on it, must do it, but are just encouraging them," she said.

About half the PNC churches—with 75 percent of the conference members—are open and affirming. Sixteen of the 39 national UCC conferences have adopted such a resolution, she said.

"Jesus teaches us to love one another, and Paul teaches us to speak the truth in love," said McLaughlin calling for thoughtful, prayerful dialogue on this issue.

For information, call 206-228-4354 or email marciamclaughlin@msn.com.