



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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Facebook photos keep people attuned to camp

Photos of N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs keep campers thinking about camps

Once he changed from a photo of his wild jump into Lake Coeur d'Alene, N-Sid-Sen managing director Mark Boyd has been using Facebook to keep up year-round visibility of camp and the new camp dog, Sage.

"I'm sharing camp in the different seasons," he said. "It's a testimony to the fact that social networks can work if used correctly."

Mark has three Facebook sites, a personal one and two for N-Sid-Sen. One of the camp sites, "N-Sid-Sen, we love it that we do," is a group with 373 members. There is also a closed N-Sid-Sen group for the directors.

"Most of the posts are aimed to camps that are coming up," he said.

Mark is starting to use video. That
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N-Sid-Sen managing director Mark Boyd uses beauty of winter sunset to remind people on Facebook and N-Sid-Sen offers inspiration in all seasons. Photos courtesy of Mark Boyd

Annual Meeting is a 'Welcome Home' time

The poster for PNC's 2014 Annual Meeting has open doors, representing the theme, "Welcome Home," expressing that Annual Meeting is a "home," a coming together of the Pacific Northwest UCC family, said Andrea (Andy) CastroLang, planning committee chair.

During the April 25 to 27 weekend, there will be many songs about coming home when delegates meet at University Congregational UCC in Seattle.

"The idea behind the theme is that, while the UCC has many who were born into the UCC, it is also home to many exiles, refugees from other churches, coming together as a family of choice," she said.

"Annual Meeting is like a home-coming. We share meals. We laugh. We

talk. We argue theology. We consider issues. We have deep conversations," she said.

While Annual Meeting involves work, she emphasized that it's about being together to strengthen ties and to renew ties, to see people and re-connect to tighten bonds of friendship.

"We want people to take time for relationships that matter," Andy said.

Part of that will be for people in Seattle to open their homes.

"Some find the expense of a hotel room prohibitive, but because we are meeting at a church, not a convention center, participants can stay in homes of

other UCC members," she said.

The last time Annual Meeting was in Seattle and homes were offered, few stayed in homes. People can fill our their registration forms about what they need so they can be matched with host homes. People staying in homes can carpool to save parking congestion.

Members of University Congregational UCC, wearing bright colored T-shirts, will be on hand to guide Annual Meeting attendees.

Closing worship will be held there. Conference Minister Mike Denton will be the preacher for the Friday evening worship.

**Annual Meeting
will be held
April 25 to 27
in Seattle.**

Despite low ratings, churches will serve

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

**Somewhere
in all
of this
is our call
to do
what we
most do.**

It doesn't take much to read, hear or see a lot of information about the decline of the church; particularly churches in denominations like ours that has been considered to be part of what used to be called the "mainline church."

The demographic and statistical information is, indeed, pretty stark. Membership is down. Our financial health is poor. The average age of our members keeps creeping higher and higher and more youth and young adults are making it clearer and clearer that church is not something they want to be affiliated with.

According to the most recent Gallup poll, only 47 percent of American's believe that clergy are honest or ethical, the lowest rating since this poll started in 1977. The signs are not good.

I have to read this stuff because part of my role is to know it and share it. We can't have an honest conversation about what we might do together without knowing more about who we are, how other perceive us, and the times we're in.

But there are days... Reading all of this bad news is hard. It gets to me particularly in these darker, wet late winter days. I'd be lying if I said that there weren't days I wanted to just set all churchiness aside. I can't honestly say that there are moments I'm not embarrassed to be affiliated with the church.

Just knowing the fact that 53 percent of the strangers I walk by on the street consider me—based on my profession alone—to be dishonest and unethical makes me want to curl up in a ball somewhere.

I stay in this work, however, because what I read just doesn't match up with all of what I see.

I see churches working hard to feed their neighbors and welcome those some have considered unworthy of welcome.

I work with engaged youth and young adults who have high expectations and high hopes for their church and their world.

I sit with churches that are persistently continuing to be community in the midst of towns with less and less people.

I talk with clergy who are looking for help with discerning what is the right and ethical thing

to do in their own ministry and what to do when they realize they've made a mistake.

I have felt the prayers of people who have lifted up both my particular role and me as a person.

I have seen a deeply-centered, quiet vitality this is hard to describe to those who don't have the opportunity to experience it.

Somewhere in all of this is our call to what we most do.

I don't think church being church is actually the biggest issue as much as church trying to be something else than its called to be. We are not a business with a service we're selling. We are representatives of God's unconditional love.

We are not institutions called to be in power; we're called to speak a powerful message that will actually be rejected by many.

We're not a club that has privileges that come with membership. We're called to be communities that figure out how to best serve God and God's people.

We're not called to be popular. We're called to speak truth with love even if that means we become unpopular.

We're not seeking out professions. We're following our calling.

And, yes, this all will sometimes be manipulated by some and misused by others and, yes, we will need systems to help us do the work.

We will need to make sure that the systems we create serve our calling instead of our primary task becoming serving the systems, themselves. This will not be easy work but it may be good work.

And, if we do all these things? There's a good chance that the words "decline" and "church" will still be in many sentences together.

Our finances will still be a challenge. Youth and young adults probably won't come rushing back to the church. But, we will be church.

We will be church.

Transitions announced

Deanna Kay Murray is the new pastoral care associate for First Congregational Church UCC in Bellingham.

Roger Lynn resigned as transitional pastor at Veradale UCC to serve as transitional pastor at First Congregational UCC in Hillsboro, Ore.

Linda Kroll, a speech pathologist who was in Spokane from 1970 to 1978, and in Suquamish from 1978 to 2000, died Jan. 19, in Forest Grove. She was active in Westminster UCC and Suquamish UCC, which her husband, the Rev. Dick Kroll served before going to the UCC in Forest Grove in 2000. While he served in the church there, died in Forest Grove. She taught at Gonzaga and had a private practice in Suquamish.

Chris Hayward will be the new pastor at Greenacres Christian Church.

Dan Stern resigned after 14 years as pastor at Broadview Community UCC in Seattle.

Western Regional Youth Event registration opens

Registration is underway for the Western Regional Youth Event which the PNC is hosting for youth in grades seven to 12 June 29 to July 3 at Seattle University.

Speakers on the conference theme based on John 20:19-22 and Luke 9:1 to 6, "The Great Commission," are **J.Kwest**, Julian DeShazier and Hoan Do.

Participants will engage in workshops, conversations, worship, service projects and play, looking at "Deepening Faith," "Got Faith - Now What?" and "Pilgrims, Not Tourists." Organizers Tara Barber and Susan Andresen said there will be a fund raiser at Annual Meeting.

For information, call 425-213-9335 or email barbertara@hotmail.com or susan_andresen@hotmail.com.

Broadview launches campaign

Broadview Community UCC has launched a Warmth of the Spirit capital campaign to raise \$16,000 to replace its furnace and install energy and cost-saving measures as part of their covenant to be earth friendly and support environmental responsibility. They will purchase a 95 percent efficient furnace and insulate the church to reduce their gas use 33 percent.

Young Adult Interns applying

Young adults, ages 21 to 30, may apply for the 2014-2015 team of social justice volunteers in Seattle until March 15. The year of service runs from late August 2014 through early August 2015, said Lauren Cannon of the PNC Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

For information, contact Rich Gamble at 206-632-60212 or email rich.gamble@keystoneSeattle.org.

Prospect shows justice films

Prospect Congregational UCC launched its new Social Justice Movie Series with a showing of the documentary on climate change, "Chasing Ice," on Feb. 21 at the church. That film was offered in conjunction with Interfaith Power and Light's National Preach-In on Climate Change, which was Sunday, Feb. 16.

For information, call 206-322-6030 or visit www.prospectSeattle.org.

OWL elementary training set

The Christian Education Board of First Congregational Church in Bellingham is hosting Our Whole Lives (OWL) Trainings Elementary for facilitators of the elementary sexuality education program. It will be held from 6 p.m., Friday, March 14, through 5 p.m., Sunday, March 16.

For information, call 360-734-3720 or email sharry@fcb.net.

Clergy Retreat is March 23-25

"Equipping our Ministries of the Word" is the theme for the retreat for authorized ministers in the PNC March 23 to 15 at Pilgrim Firs. Participants will consider language as a tool of ministers, who not only preach and teach, but also blog, tweet, email, text, write church newsletters, committee reports and craft words for liturgies and times of life passages.

The retreat leader is the Rev. Rachel Hackenberg, minister for the Committee on Ministry Resources and Conference Support in the UCC national offices. She will include conversations on words of Holy Week, for ministerial profiles and more.

For information, call barbertara@hotmail.com or visit www.pilgrimfirs.org.

Festival of Preaching planned

Congregational Leadership Northwest has invited 12 preachers to address "Preaching in a Post-Modern World" at the 2014 Festival of Preaching Northwest from Monday, April 28 to Thursday, May 1, at First United Methodist Church of Seattle, 180 Denny Way, Seattle.

The speakers are Debbie Blue of the House of Mercy, Anna Carter Florence of Columbia Seminary; Scott Kisker of Wesleyan Seminary; independent theologian Tony Jones; young Disciples of Christ leader Jose Morales; Heidi Neumark, Lutheran pastor and author; Rodger Nishioka of Columbia Seminary; Fleming Rutledge, Episcopal teacher and author; Melissa Skelton, of the Congregation for Congregational Development and pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal in Seattle; Will Willimon of Duke, and Jim Forbes, pastor emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York City.

Four pre-festival workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Monday with Willimon or Carter Florence on the craft of preaching, and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., with Nishioka or Skelton on the "post-modern" landscape. UCC co-sponsors include Plymouth and University Congregational UCC churches in Seattle.

For information, visit <http://www.festivalofpreachingnw.org>.

June Lecture Series set

The Lecture Series of University Congregational UCC presents "The Dream of God: A World of Justice and Nonviolence" June 19 to 21, at University Congregational UCC, 4515 16th Ave., NE., in Seattle.

Featured speakers are Marcus Borg, biblical and Jesus scholar; Joan Chittister, writer, lecturer and executive director of Benetvision, and John Dominic Crossan, professor emeritus in religious studies at DePaul University and co-chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996.

For information, call 206-524-6255, ext. 3447 or email lectureseries@universityucc.org.

Pipe Organ Encounter Plus planned during July in Seattle

The Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is planning an educational Pipe Organ Encounter for people with intermediate piano skills and planing the church organ with little or no organ training. It will be held July 13 to 17.

For information, visit www.agoSeattle.com and click on 2014 POE+

Conference News Briefs

Plymouth UCC shows 'Inequality for All'

Plymouth UCC and All Pilgrims churches will show the documentary, "Inequality for All," at 1:30 p.m. after a 12:30 p.m. lunch on Sunday, March 30, at Plymouth in Seattle.

In the film, Robert Reich, professor, author and member of the Clinton cabinet, explains how the consolidation of wealth by a few threatens the American work force and the foundation of democracy. He explains how economic inequality affects everyone.

Jenn Hagedorn, social justice liaison at Plymouth, said the film is being shown as an educational event related to the resolution being presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting on the living wage.

She is working with Briana Frenchmore, one of three 2013-2014 Justice Leadership Young Adult interns, who is serving with the Church Council of Greater Seattle, assisting with its living wage ministry.

"I hope we will generate more interest and collaboration among UCC congregations on the issue of economic inequities," she said.

Jenn, who grew up in Northshore UCC in Woodinville, was a justice leadership young adult intern with the CCGS last year, working with Plymouth, as Briana is this year. Jenn is now also working on a master's degree in public health in studies at the Univer-



Briana Frenchmore and Jenn Hagedorn at a hearing in Seattle.

Photo courtesy of Jenn Hagedorn

sity of Washington.

After showing the documentary, there will be a panel discussion with Nick Hanauer, a venture capitalist in Seattle, Conference Minister Mike Denton and Jaime Marwaha, organize with Unite HERE Local 8.

Plymouth has signed the CCGS's Living Wage Principles, which are the basis for a resolution on the living wage being proposed by the Justice Witness Ministry Committee for Annual Meeting.

Plymouth has also formed a Living Wage Ministry Team, which first met Feb. 9.

That team, Jenn said, seeks to be a resource for other UCC congregations that want to adopt living wage principles or

start living wage ministries.

Two components of the ministry are 1) to discern how Plymouth will be accountable and work for systemic change, and 2) to offer education on how faith informs this work.

"We are discerning where our energy will go," she said.

Briana, who is working on the living wage, economic justice and immigration campaigns with the CCGS encourages people of faith to advocate for these issues.

She said the CCGS is starting a Living Wage Banner Campaign, asking churches to put up an outside banner that says, "Living Wage?" to encourage discussion in congregations and with the community.

In global studies at Pacific

Lutheran University, Briana's focus was on social justice and development.

"This is a real life application of theories and critiques I studied in the context of changing Seattle's policies," she said.

"A living wage has many implications for low-wage people and their families," she said. "I believe the faith community has a role in advocating for a living wage to create a more livable community, in which people would not need charitable assistance but be able to lead lives of dignity with access to healthful food, child care, affordable housing, education and transportation."

Briana sees intersections of the living wage with racial and gender inequities, because more of the low-wage workers are women, immigrant women and women of color.

At Plymouth, she is also working with a member seeking to find companions for unaccompanied immigrant minors.

With the CCGS, she is helping coordinate efforts related to a February through April Fast for Immigrant Families, urging members of congregations to speak with members of Congress about immigration.

For information, call 206-525-1213 ext. 106 or 206-265-2834, or email b.frenchmore@thechurchcouncil.org or jenniferlin44@hotmail.com.

Speakers offer insights on unity, religious community

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Christena Cleveland

Christena Cleveland, a social psychologist with a passion for overcoming cultural divisions in groups, recently wrote *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden*

Forces that Keep Us Apart. She is on the pastoral preaching team at her church and a volunteer with Young Life in Minneapolis.

Lillian Daniel, who is the author of *When Spiritual But Not Religious Is*



Lillian Daniel

Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church, will be the Sunday morning preacher. The senior minister of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Ill., since 2004, she believes religious community matters.

Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be catered at University Congregational and the Saturday evening banquet will

be at First Presbyterian Church. Meals are included in the registration fee.

Andy said there is a Justice and Witness Ministries resolution on the living wage.

Arlene Hobson at the conference office is preparing the list of the workshops.

For information, call 206-725-8383 or email pncucc@gmail.com.

Cheney UCC installs high-tech projection system

Replacing seasonal banners that once hung on the wall behind the pulpit at Cheney UCC is a 540-pound, half-inch thick glass screen, mounted in a new wall, located to receive images back-projected from behind the new wall. A 220-pound mirror mounted at a 45-degree angle reflects the images onto the screen.

For a year since the Rev. David Krueger-Duncan came last February to serve Cheney UCC three-fourths time, he has projected text and images on a pull-up screen at the center of the chancel as he has preached his sermons.

After serving a UCC church in Argusville, N.D., from 1996 to 2001, he began preaching with slides while serving Northwest Community Church, a new congregation in Las Vegas, Nev., from 2001 to 2011.

That church had a 3,300 lumen VGA quality projector and various screens as the church grew. Cheney's new projector has HDTV quality with a 7,800 lumen projector.

David and 15 men in the Cheney UCC, plus Cheney Glass, combined their construction skills to frame the wall to hold the screen and to move the screen with sensitive optical coating on one side through the church doors at an angle and lift it into place with come-along hand winches.

Both in Las Vegas and while serving as interim at First Congregational UCC in Elkhart, Ind., before coming to Cheney, he found that use of images helped people increase their retention of his sermons.

"People who like a preached sermon are not wowed, but those who were bored by the spoken word alone like it," David said.

"Teachers know that if they present information in more than one media, more information will be retained," he said. "That's true with a sermon, too.

"It allows me to preach

without notes, because the notes are on the screen, and I can see them in the laptop on the front pew. I preach from below the chancel steps, rather than in the pulpit, so I see the current slide and the one that's coming up, rather than running my finger down the side of the text. I am able to have eye contact with people in the congregation. I can move around and I'm closer to people," he said.

It's not an easier way to prepare sermons, he said. Sermon preparation begins Sunday. He writes the sermon, distills paragraphs to phrases for slides and then finds relevant images.

The congregation voted unanimously at its annual meeting last July to do the project.

Now that the \$33,000 projection system has been installed and was first used during Advent in time for the children's Christmas program, David said that he and the church have used it for more than the sermon.

While many assume such a screen is designed to attract younger, multi-media-minded people, it has provided a "quantum step forward" in visual and audio quality, which can mean retention of people in older generations for longer as eyesight and hearing fails, he said.

"We wanted the image to be large enough so words would be easy to read from the back pew and far enough away from the front pew so people there would not look up at an awkward angle," David said.

So the church consulted with Dave Stewart, audio-visual systems designer at Eastern Washington University, who figured the engineering details to set up the system.

It eliminates people struggling to read print in hymn books and bulletins.

Use of Telecoil audio technology provides clarity of sound that is better for people with hearing aids, David said. It amplifies the sound going



Cheney UCC's projection system was ready for use by Christmas.

into the microphone and transmits it directly to a person's hearing aid, which can be set as a radio receptor.

"It eliminates static and distortions fall out, so people do not hear a baby crying next to them, but hear the sound transmitted," he said. "It is concert-grade sound without someone sitting at a control panel."

People can also use a personal speaker in a receiver in a loose bolo tie they can hang around their necks.

In addition, the overall sound is clearer.

With the new system, the church will be able to do movies and TV programs for the church and community.

For example, the church was considering how to make the campus safer for its preschool and Sunday school.

They learned Cheney has a resource person available. On Feb. 17, Tim Walters, EWU's police chief and director of public safety, presented a program for people from schools and other churches on how to make school and church buildings safer. His training includes a 15-minute video.

David told of other "ministry values" of the system. For example, the screen is used throughout worship to project the call to worship, responsive readings, prayers, Scriptures and hymns. That means the order of worship in the bulletin is

just one page, saving paper.

"I no longer look out and see 60 to 80 heads tilting down, but see people with chins up, singing hymns. There is a larger sound," David said.

Slides shown before worship tell about the local and wider church.

For several months, he has been showing slides with text and images from the ucc.org website about "UCC Firsts."

"It's important for the congregation to realize that the UCC has distinctions in areas of justice and equality. We show slides to uplift our history of living values before they were popular," David said.

Among the UCC Firsts, are an early stand against slavery; participation in integrated anti-slavery societies; ordination of women and African-American pastors.

A 1959 UCC Office of Communication lawsuit challenged a TV news blackout in the South on the civil rights movement. A federal court ruled airwaves are public, not private property.

Another slide tells of the UCC standing in solidarity with Cesar Chavez's efforts for farm workers in California.

David said that the projection system keeps people engaged and educated.

For information, call 509-235-4193 or email dkruegerd@gmail.com.

Invites members for Apple Day and Lamb Day

Catherine Foote introduces urban congregation to lambs

By connecting children and adults with the land, fruit trees and livestock on her Whidbey Island farm, Catherine Foote can interpret biblical stories and ideas with lived experience beyond what words can communicate.

As one of the three-member pastoral team at University Congregational UCC in Seattle, fall and spring visits by members to her farm relate with her tasks of pastoral care, social justice ministries and preaching.

After she bought the farm in 2002, she began inviting members of the urban congregation to connect with rural life through Apple Day in early November and Lamb Day in late April or early May.

From 10 to 70 members from ages one to 90 have come to pick apples and press cider. They drink some cider and each take a quart home. Children and youth climb two of her eight trees to pick apples. They run the apple grinder to press the apples.

Last fall, Catherine was sick, but members ran the day. She awoke to find two gallons of cider in her refrigerator, the trees picked and a thank-you note.

When she started at University Congregational in 2001, she knew she wanted an experience of rural living, rather than living in the city.

She knows that people in city congregations share her longing for a rural connection.

"I can also help provide the experience with my livestock—a flock of seven chickens and several sheep," she said.

Every Sunday, Catherine brings a six to 12 eggs to use in Dutch baby pancakes members cook and serve for a church breakfast. People know the first ones are made with her fresh eggs.

In the spring, members



Catherine Foote introduces children to lambs in the spring.

Photo courtesy of Catherine Foote

come for Lamb Day, which is more popular than Apple Day.

Catherine structures the lambing so it does not conflict with Easter.

Last year, there were eight lambs. The female lambs grow up to produce more lambs. She sells the male lambs for meat. Catherine also shears the sheep and gives wool for people to make things.

The lambs are Romney sheep, a breed from the marshlands of England that do well in wet weather, she said.

Children come to hold and pet lambs.

After coming to several Lamb Days, one family now teaches children how to catch and hold the lambs.

One year, she hatched baby chicks, and one 10-year-old child, Maxine Patterson, took one home. Now 14, she has her own backyard flock in Seattle.

Another family connected with a farm and had their children join 4-H. They adopted two lambs, raised them and

won ribbons.

"I watch as city children connect with livestock," Catherine said. "They relate with livestock in a different way than pets."

Growing up in the city of Long Beach, Calif., Catherine was always drawn to farm life.

She attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., earning a master's degree in 1978 and a doctoral degree in theology in 1982. She also has a master's in counseling and psychology from Santa Clara University.

In 1992, she was ordained in the United Church of Christ.

When she served First Congregational UCC Church in San Jose for 10 years in the 1990s, she had a border collie sheep dog and took it to a nearby farm to learn how to work sheep.

When she went to Cottage Grove, Ore., to work two years as a therapist at a center for disturbed children, she had a small plot of land and lambs.

Now living on a farm on

Whidbey Island and serving University Congregational UCC, she said she is able "to connect in a more real way with all of life. I can see the circle of life. On the farm, I am responsible for the birth of animals, the life of animals and the death of animals."

Working on the farm with animals does not make her a vegetarian, but makes her realize how sacred all food, including meat, is.

"I know what it costs to have meat to eat," Catherine said. "I have no illusions when I go to a grocery store."

"I'm more aware of what my presence on the planet means," she said. "I'm aware of the sacred earth. I'm aware of what I owe the planet, and what my life costs. I am more in touch with all of life."

Catherine believes people of faith are called to know what it means to be creatures on the planet. She says rural experience helps people connect with the rural background of much Scripture.

"It connects me with the Book of Nature, the book that tells us of God in nature," she said.

"As I read about sheep and shepherds in the Bible, I'm a city girl whose life has been tempered by 15 years of raising sheep," Catherine commented.

Throughout history, she pointed out, people have tried to put into words experiences of knowing God in nature.

What is sometimes hard for her to put in words, she shares through inviting the congregation to Apple Day and Lamb Day, times they can share her experience of knowing a piece of land and creatures other than human beings, so "they know what it is to be creatures of the Creator."

For information, call 206-524-2322 or email cfoote@universityucc.org.

Build relationships in Pacific Northwest before going *Couple from Portland to serve in Mozambique*

The Global Ministries Committee of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC and the Disciples of Christ Northwest Region hosted Kim and Erik Free, members of First Christian Church in Portland, Ore., for visits in at churches in Richland, Veradale, Spokane, Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma.

They are preparing to leave in March for a four-year term as mission partners in Mozambique with the national Global Ministries. Given limited funds in both the UCC and DOC for Global Ministries, they invited partnerships and pledges toward the \$50,000 it will cost for their term.

The Frees will serve with the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM), which has struggled as a Portuguese colony with imperialism, racism, poverty and civil war.

From 1905 to 1930 the American Board for Foreign Missions sent missionaries, but stopped during the Great Depression for lack of funds and lost contact.

The Congregational Church in Mozambique was a founding member of the Council of Churches. In 1950, it became the United Church of Christ Mozambique. Most projects have had indigenous funding.

The Portuguese left in 1975, destroying much of the infrastructure, buildings, bridges and wells. They had not educated the people, so rebuilding has been hard. With a power vacuum when they left, there was a civil war that killed a generation of people, Kim said.

After it ended in 1991, a Global Ministries representative came to a meeting of the UCCM and Council of Churches in Maputu, offering to help.

"You are already here, the representative was told," Kim said. "We are going to help rebuild our relationship on a long-term basis."



Kim and Erik Free spoke at North Hill Christian in Spokane and Veradale UCC.

Mozambiquans want to do projects themselves. They want schools and education for preachers. The majority of people are under 14 and have a short life expectancy, she said.

Despite the suffering, Kim and Erik have been impressed with videos of people in church dancing and singing.

"People are full of joy as they prepare for communion," Kim said. "In four years, I will come back and teach you to have the joy they have. I hope to learn from them.

"Mozambique began rebuilding after the civil war ended in 1991," she said. "It is one of the world's least developed countries with a high rate of HIV and AIDs. The UCCM works in rural communities where there is no safety net other than churches and non-governmental organizations."

In 2012, the Frees, who met at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Ore., served as volunteers with Global Ministries, teaching English in China for three weeks.

Kim, who grew up on a farm, has experience in nursing and EMT work. The pastor at the Assembly of God Church

she attended as a child had served as a missionary in the Philippines and stirred her interest in mission work.

She will train churches and communities in health care and preventative care. She will also work with women and girls on empowerment projects.

Erik, who grew up in a Silverton, Ore., DOC church, has experience in youth ministry and hospital chaplaincy. He believes his eclectic career path that gives him experience with cows, driving tractors, drilling wells and electronics, will be useful for the varied tasks needed in Mozambique.

He will train youth and elders in the community in agricultural skills and will serve as a local church pastor as needed by the UCCM.

He led youth mission trips to Mexico and New Orleans, before the couple went to YaAn, China.

"We knew we would work together and be immersed in a different culture," he said. "We will be living off the grid in self-sufficient communities."

Erik said mission is different today.

"We go to work as partners,

reaffirming relationships," he said. "Previously, mission was about saving people, but now the Gospel is already there.

He appreciates Global Ministries' partnership mentality of mission partners going where they are invited "to be a critical presence, to form relationships and to 'do life' with the people," he said.

Understanding the culture is critical for any project, such as digging wells, Erik said.

With the water table at 110 meters, wells have been hand dug as a big hole, that makes contamination a danger. It takes a crew many days.

"Gender roles are rigid, so men dig wells and women carry water," Erik said. "We hope to introduce a well drilling system that takes two men three days a hole the size of a coffee can and will less likely contaminate the water.

The Frees hope to help people in the PNC and DOC-NW will connect with them through the Global Ministries website, so they will learn about projects and ways they can be involved.

For information, visit [http:// globalministries.org/af-rica/missionaries.html](http://globalministries.org/af-rica/missionaries.html).

Camps announce directors for summer camp season

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was slowed because the signal bounces across the lake on microwave to a cabin and then to the Stillwater Lodge. Each time it bounces the signal loses half the strength.

Mark is planning to move the receiver closer to Stillwater and hardwire it from there.

“We have to wait until the snow is gone,” he said.

In mid-February the registration for the Midwinter Youth



N-Sid-Sen's new camp dog, Sage, is excited to welcome campers to camp. Photos courtesy of Mark Boyd

ing a Peace Garden. A volunteer leader is now working on a design and some members from University Place will be work on it the first week of March.

Deeg added a small porch and front yard raised bed in front of the managers residence that he hopes to have up and producing in the next few weeks.

For information, visit www.n-sid-sen.org or www.pilgrimfirs.org.

2014 N-Sid-Sen camp and retreat schedule:

Junior & Senior High Midwinter Retreat
March 7 to 9

Women's Retreat
May 16 to 18
Lynn Nelson & Kaye Hult

Work Camp
June 16 to 21

Young Adult Camp
June 22 to 22
Max Aquino & Chris Walters

Kid's Camp
July 6 to 9
Trudy Lambert & Gail Peterson

Intermediate Camp
July 6 to 12
Kim Schulz & Bob Watrous

Senior High Aqua Camp
July 13 to 19
Lynne tultz & Tony Kliment

Family Camp #1
July 27 to Aug. 2
Amy Johnson & Ryan Lambert

Junior High Aqua Camp
Aug. 3 to 9
John Hubbe & Dana Sprengle

Family Camp #2
Aug. 10 to 16
Andy CastroLang & Jan Shannon

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

Retreat in March was about the same—with the distraction of snow sports. He is pleased that half of those coming are returnees and half are new. He expects that there will be 30, which is more than came in 2013.

Pilgrim Firs counselors and campers will come from the West Side, just as East Side counselors and campers went to Mid-winter retreats at Pilgrim Firs in January.

“We are seeking to do more cross camp events,” he said.

N-Sid-Sen's camp dog Sage, a golden lab, is 12 weeks old and loves people, Mark said. She hears a voice and runs to the person. She loves being a camp dog.

“When we first came, we were asked if we would have a camp dog,” he said. “We wanted a dog that would be good with children, and love water, so we chose a lab.

“A dog helps kids who need time adjusting to camp and will play with a dog. Sage gives the unconditional welcome we all need,” he said.

Even though she is a greet-

er, she does not go into any buildings, because some people are not comfortable with dogs and some are allergic, he said.

Mark admits he has taken advantage of Sage's endearing looks with photos posted on Facebook.

He has also taken advantage of some of the many sunsets, Stillwater at night in the snow and the welcome sign. He is also including inspirational quotes.

“It's important for people to see that camp is comfortable, warm and inviting in the winter,” he said of a photo of lights along the snowy train to Stillwater Lodge. “It says we are open all year. People can come to sled and snow shoe.”

The directors are finalized and the brochure will be out soon.

Deeg Nelson, managing director at Pilgrim Firs, said that Pilgrim Firs also uses Facebook as a communication platform.

“Kristen Almgren, co-chair of the Outdoor Ministries Team, does an amazing job taking the lead on that,” he said.

Work is underway on mak-

2014 Pilgrim Firs camp and retreat schedule

PNC-UCC Leadership Retreat
May 16 to 18

Spiritual Renewal LGBTQ Retreat
May 30 to June 1

Work Camp June 11-15

The summer schedule is:

Kids Camp
June 29 to July 2
Katy Lloyd & TBA

Intermediate Camp
June 29 to July 3
Jen and Chris Walters

Senior High Camp
July 6 to 12
Kristen Almgren & Andrew Conley-Holcom

Junior High Camp
July 13 to 19
Rich Porter

Family Camp
Aug. 7 to 11
TBA

For information, call 360-876-2031 or visit pilgrimfirs.org.