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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

online in color at www.thefigtree.org

Advocacy, action agencies unite

By Mary Stamp

After decades of working together on a common agenda for public policy, the Washington Association of Churches (WAC) and Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington (LPPO) voted on June 11 to merge and form the Faith Action Network: A Partnership for the Common Good (FAN).

The new organization brings together the two agencies' staffs and constituencies for their mission as "a statewide partnership of faith communities striving for a just and sustainable world through community building, education and courageous public action."

Both groups have been working together ecumenically, so the decision came after several years of discussion and prayerful discernment, said the Rev. Carol Jensen, former chair of the LPPO council, and the Rev. Sharon Moe, former chair of the WAC Board.

"It is good stewardship of limited resources to bring two organizations with such similar purposes together," they said.

Three members of each organization are new members of the FAN governing board, which also includes three people—one each from the Jewish,



The Rev. Paul Benz and Alice Woldt converse at the FAN office in Seattle.

African-American and Hispanic communities.

A 30-member advisory council, which includes former boards of the WAC and LPPO, will also include a diverse range of faith groups.

This summer, the WAC moved from University Temple United Methodist Church to the LPPO office at Denny Park Lutheran Church at 766 John St. in Seattle. The WAC phone number has been transferred to that office. The websites are in the process of being merged from thewac.org and lppo.org to fanwa.org.

Alice Woldt, former executive director of the WAC, and the Rev. Paul Benz, former executive director of the LPPO, will continue as full time co-directors until the end of 2011, when Alice retires. Kelly Rose is the coordinator of communication and development in Seattle and David Hacker is director of congregational relations in Yakima.

Paul said that the new organization will continue to be the state public policy office for the ELCA and will continue to reach out to include all denominations, and will make a new effort to reach

Continued on page 6

Sustainable September offers array of events

Sustainable September's Kick-off Luncheon has passed, but events in four tracks—Active Stewardship, Eco-Building, Eco-Generations and Local Food—will fill the month with opportunities for education, action and meeting with people who care about sustaining Spokane.

Event calendars are at sustainableseptemberspokane.org and downtoearthnw.com/calendar/by-type/sustainable-september.

The goal is to "build community and increase awareness so Spokane can become more environmentally and economically resilient" for individuals and businesses, says the website.

Sustainable September brings together environmental and community-building nonprofits in partnership with Community-Minded Enterprises.

The building and landscaping track will offer information on the types of materials and approaches to design that minimize impact in building and landscaping spaces. One event is the "Green and Solar Home Tour" led by the Northwest Eco-Building Guild from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 18, beginning at 32 W. Second Ave.

On Sept. 27, there is a walk in downtown Spokane to learn about three local green buildings and local food. On Sept. 25, people

can learn about building sustainable trails with the International Mountain Biking Association.

For the active stewardship track, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy plans weekly water challenges to teach about water conservation, reducing water use and water bills, and helping the Spokane River. The Spokane River Clean-Up is on Oct. 1.

Under the local food track, there will be opportunities to learn and eat, such as a Community Gardens Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 18. Speakers, classes and festivals are listed online. "Mingle at the Market" is on Sept. 24, at Main Market Coop, 44 W. Main.

For the eco-generations track, the main event is the fifth annual Main Street Fair, beginning at noon, Saturday, Sept. 10, on Main between Browne and Division. It will feature booths by nonprofits and businesses, plus musical acts and performers. After the fair, the Youth Sustainability Council hosts the Sustainable Uprising street festival, promoting sustainable living among young people.

For information, call 209-2625 or email tracil@community-minded.org.

2011-12 Resource Directory has been published, mailed

The Fig Tree's 2011-2012 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources was printed in July and mailed in August. Bulk distribution is underway.

Malcolm Haworth, directory editor, and Fig Tree staff and volunteers worked to update listings based on mailings, phone contacts and website information.

"This resource connects people in the faith, nonprofit, education, business and area communities and provides an information-and-referral resource for people in need of services," he said. "We continually hear from people how helpful it is in their daily work serving the community."

The Fig Tree continues to collaborate with the Community Colleges of Spokane Headstart/ECEAP/Early Head Start program, which previously published a directory of resources. Copies of the Resource Directory are sold in the community colleges' bookstores.

Malcolm said the directory includes a wide range of congregations and agencies so that people are aware of the diversity of services, faiths and approaches. He believes such awareness fosters dialogue and common action.

The Fig Tree, which printed 10,000 copies, will update the online information at thefigtree.org/connections.html. Support for the directory comes through ads and donations. Yvonne Lopez-Morton and Mary Stamp, who do ad sales and design, encourage agencies and businesses to include directory ads—ranging from \$125 to \$2,500—in their budgets for 2012-13.

For information, call 535-4112 or 535-1813, or email directory@thefigtree.org.

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Religion News Briefs Around the World

National Council of Churches News,
Philip Jenks, Editor, 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 800
New York, NY 10115 - 212-870-2228 - www.nccusa.org

National faith leaders arrested for protest in Congress

Frustrated that their pleas to the Administration and Congress to protect funding for the nation's most vulnerable are being ignored, nearly a dozen leaders from the faith community were arrested inside the U.S. Capitol Building on July 28.

Despite warnings from the U.S. Capitol Police, the leaders refused to end their public prayers asking the Administration and Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of the poor. Among those arrested were the Rev. Michael Livingston, former president of the National Council of Churches, now director of the NCC's poverty initiative; and Jordan Blevins, director of peace witness for the Church of the Brethren and the NCC.

"Congress is paralyzed by toxic partisan politics while people suffer," said Michael. "Our elected officials are protecting corporations and wealthy individuals while shredding the safety net for millions of the most vulnerable people in our nation and abroad. Our faith won't allow us to passively watch this travesty unfold. We've written letters, talked with and prayed for our elected officials, and prayed daily in interreligious community. Today, we 'offer our bodies as a living sacrifice' to say to Congress 'Raise revenue, protect the vulnerable and those living in poverty.'"

"We are citizens first and foremost of the realm of God," added Jordan. "Sometimes living into that reality puts us at odds with what is happening in our country. This is one of those times—when steps Congress is taking contradict our call as followers of Jesus Christ, we must take action."

"Inspired by a common spiritual conviction that God calls on all Americans to protect the vulnerable and promote the dignity of all individuals living in society," he said, "the faith community has worked alongside the U.S. government for decades to protect those struggling to overcome poverty in the U.S. and abroad. Without a sustained federal commitment to these programs, the interfaith leaders fear that their houses of worship will be unable to solely support the country's most vulnerable in their time of need."

Others arrested include Jim Winkler, general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church; Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center in Philadelphia; the Rev. Jennifer Butler, executive director of the Faith and Public Life strategy center; the Rev. Paul Sherry, director of the Washington Office of Interfaith Worker Justice; the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, director of Public Witness of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Sandy Sorenson, director of the Washington Office of the United Church of Christ; Martin Shupack, director of advocacy with Church World Service, and the Rev. Bob Edgar, president of Common Cause and a former general secretary of the NCC.

The religious leaders sang "Spirit of the Living God" and "We Shall Overcome" as they knelt and prayed in the Capitol rotunda.

As they were being arrested for not clearing the rotunda, Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) announced on the floor of the House of Representatives that religious leaders were being arrested for standing up for persons in poverty.

Recent events catalyzed an 18-month public policy campaign led by Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders to promote the common good in the economic debate. The leaders call for Congress and the Administration to exempt programs from budget cuts that assist the most at-risk families and children. The campaign has mobilized constituents and brought public statements from leaders, meetings with policymakers and prayer vigils.

"Because of the inability of Congress to work together, the good of people across the globe is being compromised," said Herbert. "Too many Congresspersons of all parties are trapped in a space where commitment to the common good is diminished for the sake of personal gain and the seduction of power. In this process, people suffer. Faith leaders cannot stand idly by and watch while the mandate of the gospel to love our neighbors is violated in the halls of Congress."

For information, see <http://www.nccendpoverty.org/budget/faithfulbudget.html>.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

One Peace, Many Paths plans Sept. events

One Peace, Many Paths, in collaboration with the Spokane Interfaith Council, will present an Interfaith Gathering at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at Unity Church on 29th and S. Bernard.

Comments of speakers from 12 faith traditions—including Baha'i, Buddhist, Catholic, Earth-Based Spirituality, Hindu, Jewish, Lutheran, Muslim, Native American, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist and Unity—will be interspersed with music and dance presentations on the theme, "Toward a Lasting Peace: Next Steps for Mother Earth and Her People."

The event commemorates the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy in New York City.

"We are coming together from many faith traditions to explore our next steps toward peace," said Joanne Broeckling, one of the organizers. "Outer appearances tell us that we are on the brink of chaos, but our spiritual traditions teach us how to draw on the deeper, universal truths of peace, love and compassion to meet the challenges of the world."

"Dire predictions about the decline of our precious Earth abound, countered increasingly by voices from many faiths reminding us of our deep connectedness and interdependence with our Earth Mother," she said.

Participants will explore how their faiths help them deal with how to treat our earth and what matters in peacemaking.

There will be an offering for sponsoring organizations and food for Second Harvest.

Other events planned as part of Pathways to Peace 2011 from Sept. 10 to 21:

- An Adventures in Peacemaking mini-camp for children from five to 11 years old will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, at Unity Church. Through music, crafts, cooperative games and skits, children will explore what it means to be a peacemaker.

- Through a Crystal Bowl Ceremony at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16, at Unity Church on S. Bernard, Joy Gruenewald will use sound waves to move participants to a place of peace deep within.

- "Sounds of Peace" will offer an experience of peace

through music, poetry, drama, indigenous sounds and video at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, at Unity Church.

- The Peace Pole Pilgrimage begins at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 18, at the Center for Spiritual Living, 33rd and S. Regal and closes with a potluck at the Unity Center of North Spokane, 4123 E. Lincoln Road.

- A ceremony for "Honoring the Nations" is at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the Center for Spiritual Living, 33rd and S. Regal.

- The date, time and location will be set for "An Evening with Geshe Phelgye" to give a presentation on Buddhist teachings and on peaceful living. The monk, who is Gonzaga University's global scholar in residence this year, is a former member of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile and is a Tibetan Buddhist peace ambassador to the Middle East Sulha Peace Talks.

Donations of dried or canned foods brought to any of the events will be distributed through Second Harvest.

For information, visit onepeacemanypaths.org.

Communities plan commemorative services to recognize impact of Sept. 11, 2001, attacks

September 11 marks the 10th anniversary of terrorist attacks on the United States that led to two wars, and fear and suspicion of neighbors. Spokane and Yakima are among the communities in Washington where there will be interfaith services to honor and remember the victims and to call for peace and reconciliation among people around the world.

The Faith Action Network is maintaining a list of commemorative services on its website at fanwa.org.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture offers a Litany Resource for interfaith gatherings to help with events.

In addition to the afternoon service of the Interfaith Council of Spokane and One Peace, Many Paths, mentioned above, the Cathedral of St. John at 127 E. 12th Ave. in Spokane will hold a community-wide evensong at 7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11.

Representatives of the police

and fire departments in Spokane and of the area military bases will participate.

Oboist Gary Plowman will play the opening Voluntary and accompany the choir in John Rutter's "The Lord Is My Shepherd" from his Requiem.

Trumpeter Larry Jess will add to the hymn singing, and premier a piece written by David Asplin for this service, "Letter to the World."

The Very Rev. Bill Ellis will preside, as well as offer the meditation. In addition, the choir will sing Howells' "O, Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem," and "The Mansions of the Lord" by Glennie-Smith/Wallace/Irwin. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis will be settings by Philip Moore of Yorkminster, and the closing blessing will be Rutter's "A Gaelic Blessing."

The Junior Choir will give a chanted version of the Lord's Prayer.

For information, call 747-4403.

Yakima plans observance

The Yakima Association of Churches and Faith Communities will hold an interfaith observance, "A Time for Wholeness and Peace," at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Millennial Plaza.

Voices from the Jewish, Islamic, Christian and other religious expressions present in the community will join together in words of hope for a world seeking wholeness and peace. Prayers, scriptures and songs expressing peace, wholeness and world community will be shared.

The service will not only remember those who died 10 years ago but also lift up soldiers and civilians who have died in the wars that have been going on since then. The observance will conclude with the Yakima Camerata Club singing, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

For information, contact David Helseth at dhelseth@englewoodchristianchurch.com.

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Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies

Take Action Against Hate 3rd Annual Awards Banquet

2011 Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awardees
Mary Stamp - The Fig Tree Editor - Individual
Partners with Families and Children Spokane - Organization

Keynote Address: Kitara McClure
multicultural director at Spokane Community College

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Globe Room - Cataldo Hall - Gonzaga University
Doors Open: 5:45 p.m. Dinner Served: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information: email hate_studies@gonzaga.edu
call 509-313-3665 or visit www.gonzaga.edu/hatestudies

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Coalition plans workshop on caring for creation and justice

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, Earth Ministry and the Franciscan Action Network are presenting a workshop for people of faith on "Care of Creation and Environmental Justice" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at St. Aloysius Parish, O'Malley Hall, 330 E. Boone in Spokane.

Representatives from those organizations will lead sessions on how to integrate care of God's creation with prayer, advocacy and practice.

For information, call 358-4273 or email scooper @ccspokane.org.

Concert assists Catholic Charities

Proceeds from a "Bluegrass in the Cathedral" concert at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., will benefit Catholic Charities of Spokane, which recently picked up responsibility for travelers' aid from SNAP. Musicians are Molly and Tenbrooks and The Panhandle Polecats.

Catholic Charities invites congregations to assist with funding. It is screening people who are referred by churches and it is managing a common pool of funds. For information, call 358-4273.

CROP hunger walks set in Oct.

Several CROP Hunger Walks have been scheduled in October.

The Mid-Columbia walk begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2 at Riverview Park in Richland. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. For information, visit www.CROPwalkonline.org/richlandwa.

Pullman, Spokane and Walla Walla are holding their walks on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Pullman's begins at 2 p.m. at the Chipman Trainhead and goes toward Palouse. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. For information, visit www.CROPwalkonline.org/pullmanwa.

The Spokane walk begins at 1:30 p.m., following registration at 12:30 p.m., at Millwood Presbyterian Church, 3223 N. Marguerite in Spokane Valley. For information, visit www.CROPwalkonline.org/spokanewa.

The Walla Walla walk begins at 2 p.m. For information, visit www.CROPwalkonline.org/wallawallawa.

The Yakima Valley CROP Hunger Walk begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, in Yakima. For information: www.CROPwalkonline.org/yakimawa.

For information on walks in the Northwest, call 888-297-2767.

'Jam for Bread' benefits Crosswalk

Jam for Bread, a benefit concert for Crosswalk, will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 9, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington. The concert features Mon Cheri, Ashe, the Spokane Area Children's Choir, and other acts from the region.

Crosswalk will use the funds raised at the concert to pay for GED test expenses for youth it serves. It has been the practice in the past for the community colleges to pay for the GED tests, but with the budget cuts, they will pay for only one \$15 test per student. There are five tests, so it costs \$75 for each student to take the array of tests. That still leaves \$60 per youth to complete the testing.

About 22 students a year earn their GED through Crosswalk.

For information, call 624-1366.

GU Hate Studies Institute announces 2011 Take Action Against Hate Award recipients

Fig Tree Editor Mary Stamp and Partners with Families and Children: Spokane will be honored at a banquet on Oct. 11

The Gonzaga University Institute for Hate Studies announced in August that it will honor Partners with Families and Children: Spokane (PFCS) and Mary Stamp, editor of The Fig Tree, at its third annual Take Action Against Hate Banquet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The featured speaker for the program at 7 p.m. is Kitara McClure, multicultural director at Spokane Community College.

PFCS and Mary are the recipients of the 2011 Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Award, which the Institute for Hate Studies presents annually to an individual and an organization in the Inland Northwest.

The award recognizes those who have committed themselves to challenging hatred wherever and however it manifests itself, said John Shuford, director of the Institute for Hate Studies.

Eva, a Holocaust survivor and long-time community educator on the Holocaust and human rights, received the first award in 2009 for her efforts to challenge hate.

Since 1988, Partners with Families and Children has provided collaborative, multi-disciplinary services to at-risk children in Spokane, bringing help, safety, justice and healing to troubled families.

In 2010, more than 2,000 children and families dealing with poverty, abuse, neglect, mental illness, barriers to health care and exposure to drugs, violence and hate found hands-on assistance at Partners, John said.

The accredited, nonprofit children's advocacy center organizes a continuum of services, including specialized care for children who have suffered physical or sexual abuse, connections to services for families with multiple needs, legal advocacy for child victims of crime, and for all of Spokane's children, prevention-focused collaborations, including the successful awareness-building initiative Our Kids: Our Business.

As founder and editor of The Fig Tree, an independent communications ministry, Mary Stamp has provided leadership to strengthen the Inland Northwest's resistance to hatred. A 1967 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism, she founded The Fig Tree in 1984 through the former Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries, initially to report on religion.

The publication shifted its mission to cover faith in action and to connect the faith and nonprofit communities to build understanding that promotes common action and hope. Mary's commitment to

integrity and truth is reflected in the courageous "peace and justice journalism" she practices, he said. She was a friend of Eva.

"We are honored to recognize this outstanding woman and this vital organization," John said.

"Our community depends upon organizations that work to prevent child abuse and address its underlying causes, and to provide support to mothers, fathers and children for maintaining healthy families. It also depends upon media that brings attention to the corrosive effects of hatred, as well as success stories in combating and overcoming it," he said.

Banquet attendees will also have an opportunity to make a gift to help establish an endowed, annual Eva Lassman Memorial Scholarship at Gonzaga University.

Eva was a member of the Institute's advisory board and received an honorary doctorate of laws from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2002. She passed away in February 2011 just shy of her 92nd birthday.

Founded in 1997 as the Institute for Action Against Hate, the Institute for Hate Studies advances the interdisciplinary field of Hate Studies and shares new theories, models, and discoveries about hate. Hate Studies consists of inquiries into the human capacity to define, and then dehumanize or demonize an "other," and the processes that inform and give expression to, or can curtail, control, or combat, that capacity.

For information, call 313-3665 or visit <https://commerce.cashnet.com/GIHS> or email againsthate@gonzaga.edu.

Faith Action Network A Partnership for the Common Good

invites you to a workshop

Making Decisions for the Common Good: Tools to Use When Advocating for Our Neighbors

Saturday, Sept. 24 - 8:30 am to 1 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church - 1832 W. Dean - Spokane

In this time of economic, political and social turmoil, people of faith have an opportunity at this event to promote civil dialogue in 'gracious space' to discuss and solve problems facing those we are called to serve: the poor and disenfranchised.

**Celebrate the formation of the Faith Action Network (FAN),
which merges the common work
of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington
and the Washington Association of Churches.**

In this workshop, FAN offers the effective experience of both groups in advocating with the state legislature and offers tools, experience and a time to connect with others to advocate for the poor.

The Agenda. Look at the state budget process, highlights of the biennial budget passed in May and the impact of cuts on the poorest Washington citizens. Talk with legislators about how they made decisions. Discuss how, by entering dialogue in gracious space, we can work together to seek justice and promote the common good. Dale Soden of Whitworth University will guide exploration of common values and ways they can lead people into decisions that foster the well-being of all.

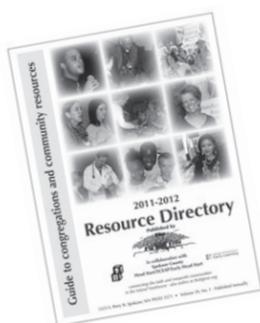
*You are cordially invited to attend. A light lunch will be provided.
Suggested donation is \$10,
but all are welcome regardless of donation.*

**For further information, please contact Lynda Maraby
483-8449 or by email at marabylm@comcast.net.**

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Resource Directory Guide to Congregations and Community Resources

connecting the faith & nonprofit communities
in the Inland Northwest



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North of Newark on S. Ivory

Domestic violence training set

A coalition of Inland Northwest faith-based groups against domestic abuse and the Abuse Recovery Ministry and Services (ARMS) are partnering to present training on "Pastors and Leadership on Domestic Violence" from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Old Country Buffet, 5504 N. Division.

The session will offer techniques to help people who have experienced abuse gain better understanding of the issues, information on safety for victims, accountability for abusers, community referrals and resources, and ways to serve church members.

Presenters are Herb Robinson, certified domestic violence counselor; Rick Schaus, director of Union Gospel Mission women's crisis shelter, and Ophelia Aruajo, director of ARMS.

For information, call 484-0600 or email Ophelia@armsonline.org.

Run-Walk raises funds to end abuse

ARMS is also helping sponsor "Stomp Out Abuse in Support of Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence," a 5K Run-Walk will be held beginning at 9:40 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Riverfront Park North Bank Shelter. For information, call 484-0600.

CAPA offers fatherhood mentoring

Catholic Charities' Childbirth and Parenting Assistance (CAPA) program in collaboration with the Inland NW Community Foundation is starting a fatherhood-mentoring project to provide men with mentors to help them to become better fathers.

The project will mentor CAPA dads in a group setting through activities and conversation on fatherhood issues. The mentors will assist in preventing child abuse and neglect, giving young fathers the tools to become confident, nurturing parents.

CAPA works with vulnerable families to provide hope and support and to change generational cycles of abuse and neglect. CAPA provides counseling, mentors, support groups, parenting classes, diapers and baby essentials.

For information, call 455-4971.

Volunteers needed to rebuild homes

The Rev. Derel Olson of Wilbur Memorial United Methodist Church in White Swan has two homes lined up that need repairs as a result of the fire and wind storm in White Swan.

David Bell of the Yakama Christian Mission has set a blitz build Sept 3 to 18.

Both are seeking the assistance of churches that can send crews for building. Derel also seeks donations for building materials.

For the blitz build, call 969-2093. For the other projects, call 654-0515.

Spokane AIDS Network needs aid

Spokane AIDS Network seeks volunteers to assist with reception, its food program and food preparation.

The network works to minimize the impact of HIV and AIDS, and to maximize the awareness about HIV and AIDS in the Inland Northwest.

For information, call 455-8993 or email cheriem@san-nw.org.

Church plans international fete

Veradale United Church of Christ in Spokane Valley will host a "Celebration of International Fashion and Food" to showcase arts, fashion and foods from many countries in honor of World Peace Day. It will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, at the church, 611 N. Progress Rd.

World Peace Day, which is on Sept. 21 this year, celebrates the hope that some day nations and peoples the world over will be free of war, hatred and violence, and that people of all races, tribes and nationalities will live in freedom and harmony.

Wherever they are, people share the same basic needs including food, clothing and shelter, said the Rev. Linda Crowe, pastor. The basic needs also constitute part of each nation's or people's heritage and culture, their identity. Clothing, food and artifacts distinguish nations, tribes and ethnic groups. The church seeks to lift up some of the commonalities among the nations and people of the world. For information, call 926-7173.

Haitian priest visits Episcopal diocese

Father Irnel Duveaux, a priest who serves several rural parishes outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is visiting three Episcopal congregations in Washington, including the Cathedral of St. John in Spokane, St. James Episcopal Church in Pullman and Christ Episcopal Church at Tacoma in September.

The congregations support St. André's School in Cazale, Haiti, which he directs and which is related to the local parish he serves.

The Cathedral of St. John, in partnership with other congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, notably St. James, Pullman, has been raising funds for teacher's salaries since 2009, when the Very Rev. Bill Ellis, dean of the cathedral, and Trish Newton, a member of the cathedral's Outreach Committee, visited the school and assessed its needs.

Financial support increased to include meals for students after the earthquake in January 2010. Trish said the clinic in Cazale has recently been overwhelmed with new cholera patients.

A retired priest, the Rev. William Tudor of Christ Episcopal Church in Tacoma, learned of the need for a sanitation system for the school during a visit in 2010. He formed "The Loo Crew" support team and began raising funds.

After meeting with supporters in Tacoma Sept. 1 to 5, Fr. Duveaux visits with Spokane Haiti Project supporters Sept. 6 to 11. He will meet with Bishop James Waggoner, speak at the Sunday Seminar at 9 a.m., Sept. 11 and participate in the 10 a.m. service.

He will also visit community gardens and Family Promise of Spokane, formerly Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane, and sightsee.

St. James in Pullman will host him for a Community Haitian supper benefit and educational program, a picnic, and an ecumenical ministers' Bible study.

For information, call Trish Newton in Spokane at 413-9463 or visit www.stjohns-cathedral.org or Nancy Collins Warner at 334-4688 in Pullman or visit www.stjamespullman.org.

Spokane hosts 1,900 Lutheran women

About 1,900 women from around the country gathered at the Spokane Convention Center this summer for the eighth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

They considered the theme, "Renew, Respond, Rejoice!"

"A Triennial Gathering offers opportunities for women of the church to escape from their busy lives and renew their spirits, respond to God's love for the world and all creation and rejoice in thanksgiving," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA.

The three-day event held July 14 to 17 included speakers, displays, workshops, learning opportunities, community service and a panel with the ELCA's presiding Bishop the Rev. Mark Hanson.

The ELCA presiding bishop addressed the business meeting and the gathering. In his 10th year as bishop, he is also a former president of the World Lutheran Federation and a member of President Obama's Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Advisory Committee.

"In-Kind" gifts were presented to support local women in the Spokane community, according to Linda. They went to Lutheran Community Services Northwest,

Lutheran World Relief and Transitions, and other local ministries. According to Linda, gifts included health kits, school kits, gift cards and even socks.

Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian Lutheran and executive director of Women Peace and Security Network Africa in Ghana, spoke July 16 about peace initiatives that she worked on throughout Libya. The documentary about her struggles was shown entitled, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" which won many awards for chronicling Leymah's work and struggles against the government of Charles Taylor and years of civil war.

Another speaker was Nora Gallagher, who is an author and preacher at Trinity Episcopal

Church in Santa Barbara, Calif.

In free time, members and visitors also explored the Spokane area.

The weekend concluded with a 5k "Run, Walk 'n Roll" on July 16 in Riverside Park, a fund raiser for "Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls," a health initiative of the Women of the ELCA.

Before the gathering, on July 14, more than 400 delegates attended the convention as the chief deliberative body of Women of the ELCA. They elected a church wide executive board and officers for the organization, acted on proposed initiatives and resolutions and adopted a budget.

For information, visit www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA.

Sept 10 - 21: One Peace, Many Paths presents Pathways to Peace 2011

Saturday, Sept. 10

Adventures in Peacemaking Mini-Camp for Children 5-11
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Unity Church - 29th & Bernard

Sunday, Sept. 11

'Toward a Lasting Peace: Next Steps for Mother Earth and Her People'
Interfaith Gathering - 3:30 pm - Unity Church - 29th & Bernard

Saturday, Sept. 17

'Sounds of Universal Peace' - 7 p.m. - Unity Church - 29th & Bernard

Sunday, Sept. 18

Peace Pole Pilgrimage - 3:30 p.m., Center for Spiritual Living 33rd & S. Regal - closes with potluck at Unity North Center - 4123 E. Lincoln

Information on all events at www.onepeacemanypaths.org



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New network launches Sept. 17 in Seattle

Faith Action Network plans fall forums in Spokane, Pasco

During the fall, the new Faith Action Network (FAN) in Washington is planning several events East of the Cascades: a forum with Spokane partners, a forum in the Tri Cities and a veterans' support training in Yakima.

For Spokane's Fall Legislative Forum, the new FAN will present an overview of the Washington state budget, revenue options and concepts of civil dialogue from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1832 W. Dean.

Under the theme "Making Decisions for the Common Good: Tools to Use when Advocating for Our Neighbors," participants will also look at how to have "gracious space" that promotes civil dialogue in congregations on critical issues.

The Fall Forum will be an opportunity for Eastern Washington constituents to celebrate the launching of the new partnership, the Faith Action Network,

which was formed in June with the merger of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington and the Washington Association of Churches.

FAN will also help The Fig Tree and other partners organize and resource the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Cathedral of St. John.

For information, call 483-8449 or email marabyln@comcast.net.

FAN is also planning a Tri-Cities Fall Forum Saturday, Nov. 12, at First Lutheran Church at 530 W. Bonneville St., in Pasco with partners in United Methodist, United Church of Christ and other churches.

The new, statewide ecumenical and interfaith organization, FAN, plans its official Launch Celebration at 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Seattle. For information, call 206-625-9790.

Rita Nakashima Brock leads events on healing the souls of warriors and on the conscience of war

In Yakima, FAN's Veterans' Support Network is partnering with the United Christian Church of Yakima's Healthfully Growing Campaign to help plan a "Homebound Warrior Soul Care Training Event," Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 and 11, at the United Christian Church, 317 S. 41st St.

The Veterans' Support Network training on "Warrior Soul Care" is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11.

The Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock, a Disciples of Christ pastor and visiting professor at the Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, Calif., director of Faith Voices for the Common Good and founding co-director of the Soul Repair Project, will lead a session on "Religious Perspectives: Report of the Truth Commission on the Conscience of War" from 1 to 3 p.m., Friday.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m., she will lead another session on "Religious Practices: Christian Compassions as Veteran Soul Care and Repair Centers" reviewing historical

Christianity's outreach to warriors and the growing contemporary (post-9/11) need for healing of morally injured warriors as they face spiritual challenges of making restitution and self forgiveness when they are brought back home to peace.

Born in Japan, Rita brings insights as daughter of a World War II and Vietnam veteran, as a college professor of religion for 20 years, as an independent scholar since 2002, and as volunteer convener of the Truth Commission on the Conscience of War.

She recently lead her denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to become the first denomination to vote to undertake the ministry of moral injury and spiritual healing in a time of war.

Her presentation will help religious and community leaders address ethical perspectives on selective conscientious objection and the progress for healing and preventing moral injuries during war. It will educate religious

communities about: 1) the development of criteria governing the moral conduct of war; 2) the growing needs of support to veterans and their families, including the healing of moral injury; 3) the importance of maintaining commitment to moral conscience in war.

The Saturday session will introduce the Faith Action Network of Washington's Veteran Support Network, working with faith communities to expand support for veterans through training workshops for clergy and laity about how to offer services and programs to meet needs of veterans.

The session at 9 a.m. is on "Clinical Concerns and Moral Injury" led by FAN and Veterans Affairs representatives. At 10:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on "Developing Healing Communities."

From 1:15 to 3 p.m., Rita will lead a session on "Joining Forces on Warrior Care."

For information, call 206-625-9790 or visit www.ucey.org.

Mormon Tabernacle organist performs at Cathedral of St. John

Richard Elliott, principal organist at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, will perform an organ concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

He participates in daily recitals on the 206-rank organ in Salt Lake City and accompanies the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in its weekly radio and TV broadcast, "Music and the Spoken Word."

As accompanist for the choir, he has performed in many of the world's great halls and has appeared on TV and radio programs and on 18 recordings and nine videos.

In 1994, he recorded his first solo CD, "In the Shadows of the Everlasting Hills," and in 2009 recorded his second CD, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit."

Before he was appointed as tab-

ernacle organist in 1991, Richard was assistant professor of organ at Brigham Young University.

He has performed as a solo recitalist in the United States and for several years was assistant organist at the John Wanamaker Department Store (now Macy's) in Philadelphia, home to the world's largest functioning pipe organ.

A fellow of the American Guild

of Organists, which is co-sponsoring the Spokane concert, he has performed at their national and regional conventions.

The Baltimore, Md., native had early musical training at the Peabody Conservatory and studied

organ at the Catholic University of America, the Curtis Institute of Music, where he received a bachelor's in music, and the Eastman School of Music, where he earned master's and doctoral degrees.

For information, call 838-4277.

Moscow group joins in Moving Planet action

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, the University of Idaho Sustainability Center and other organizations, businesses and individuals are holding a "Bike for Change" Community Bike Ride and Rally on Saturday, Sept. 24, as part of an international day of climate action called Moving Planet.

The rally will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at Latah Trailhead Park at Troy Hwy. and Carmichael Rd. There will be children's activities, interactive surveys, information about bike safety, commuting and climate change, bike mechanics, and more.

Funds will be collected for a community bike rack, said Jen

Hiebert, organizer.

At 11 a.m., there will be a group photo of people and bikes in the shape of a "350," recognizing awareness that scientists say 350 parts per million is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Given that there is more carbon dioxide than that, the goal is to reduce carbon emissions. Moving

Planet is one day to avoid using fossil fuels.

Wednesday, Sept. 28, has been set as Bike to Work/School/Campus Day. Recognition is also planned Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Moscow Farmers' Market in Friendship Square, marked by people wearing 350.org T-shirts.

For information, call 208-882-1444 or email jen@pcei.org.

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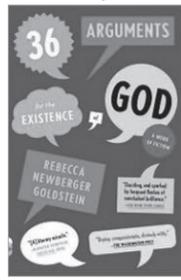
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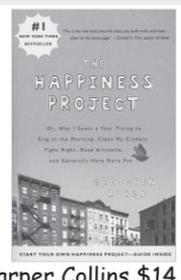


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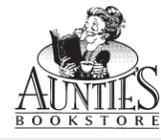
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Faith Action Network builds new energy around transforming world

Continued from page 1
out to people of all other faiths.

Paul and Alice are finding there is much work to bringing the two agencies together—from organizing programs to re-establishing a bulk nonprofit mailing permit, merging files and databases, and interviewing stakeholders.

"I think the new FAN is building new energy around the agenda that seeks to create transformation in society," said Alice. "There is also new energy around spreading the word in new ways with social media and working more at a grassroots level.

"We seek to be a more effective voice for social justice as we start the Faith Action Network. Effectiveness and stewardship are the key words behind the decision of the Washington Association of Churches and the LPPO to combine forces as organizations with similar agendas and concerns."

The LPPO celebrated its 25th anniversary five years ago. It started in the 1980s when the ELCA became one of two national churches—the Roman

Catholic being the other—to fund state public policy offices, in addition to its advocacy work in Washington, D.C. The offices are funded through the ELCA's Hunger Appeal. Efforts of Paul and the State Council have made LPPO a full-time ministry with a small staff.

"FAN will continue the commitment to raise funds for a quality staff that reaches out to congregations, individuals and community partners to build effective organizations, networks and movements that advocate on critical issues of the day," Paul asserted.

While some LPPO constituents may be concerned that the loss of the Lutheran identity, which helps the LPPO reach Lutheran congregations, Moe and Jensen assured that the FAN will continue to be the ELCA's public policy office, and the ELCA will continue to support this venture.

For some WAC constituents, there may be concern about how judicatories and ecumenical organizations find their place at the table, but bishops and judicatory leaders have been supportive of the merger, and ecumenical bodies, such as the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Associated Ministries of Pierce County, were part of the decision-making

Network includes advocacy, education and organizing

process. "FAN will continue to approach its educational and organizing work in congregations by drawing on the scriptural, theological and historical roots for advocacy within the congregations and faith traditions," said Moe and Jensen. "Faithful advocates in communities from Spokane to Port Angeles have been teaching us that education and action for the common good are more effective ecumenically and in interfaith partnership than as

individual faith communities."

The board will work on a future staffing plan and will combine the administrative functions of the two organizations. Because the LPPO exists under the Lutheran Community Services Northwest, the new organization is using the corporate status of the WAC.

FAN will continue to promote education and community-building projects and activities to build relationships among faith communities and other community groups on shared concerns, such as the Veterans Support Network and the new Mental Health Network.

Advocacy work will include training and organizing faith communities to participate in public policy advocacy and social-justice witness based on values of the constituent communities.

Another program focus will

be on cultural transformation, using the power of constituents' shared theological resources and community relationships to frame public discourse, "promote progressive values" and inspire action for justice, said Alice. It will include training, resources and organizing to support cultural engagement.

Both organizations have actively educated the faith community and state legislators on ways to reduce hunger, homelessness and poverty, increase affordable housing, reform the criminal justice system, care for the environment, promote civil and human rights, public education, a state safety net and immigration reform. Priorities on issues are established each year.

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

Paul Benz and Alice Woldt continue as leaders while structures form and staff needs are reviewed

Staffing the new Faith Action Network through 2011 are current leaders of the Lutheran Public Policy Office and Washington Association of Churches, the Rev. Paul Benz and Alice Woldt.

Paul attributes his passion for social justice to growing up the son of a small farmer engaged in grassroots organizing for economic justice and in local politics in Minnesota, and from stories of his great grandmother's role in rebelling against the U.S. treaty with the Blackfoot Indians in North Carolina.

The Lutheran Public Policy Office, where Paul has been director for 11 years, has been active advocating for farm policies for a sustainable agricultural system in this state. It has also been consistent in advocating for 10 years for restoring federal recognition of the Duwamish Tribe—taken away at the beginning of the George W. Bush administration.

His college education took him to Washington, D.C., Texas and Arkansas, before he completed his degree in religion and political science in 1979 at Seattle Pacific University. He served in 1980 on the campaign staff for Senator Warren Magnuson before going to Pacific Lutheran Theological

Seminary in Berkeley, where he earned a master of divinity degree in 1985.

His first call to a small parish in Appalachia in Kentucky introduced him to social justice issues involving disparities of wealthy and poor people, with wealth concentrated in a few hands.

His wife Linda's work in domestic violence led them to Seattle where she took a job as executive director of the King County Domestic Violence Agency and he was called to serve a Lutheran parish and to direct the LPPO 11 years ago.

Alice served 17 years on the executive staff of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, involved in administration, social justice and public policy. For two years, she was its interim executive director before leaving in 2004.

She grew up Lutheran in a South Dakota farming community and earned a bachelor's degree at South Dakota State University.

Alice, who has a master's

in public administration from Seattle University, was a teacher and organizer in Illinois before moving to Seattle in 1975. She began working with the Seattle school district, studying the impact of school cultures on neighborhoods.

In the 1980s, she became active in Plymouth Congregational UCC. In 2004, she also started to attend Trinity United Methodist Church in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle where she lives. She holds dual membership.

The WAC, Alice explained, is in place to help people address emerging needs in faith and life.

"There have been ups and downs in the ecumenical movement over the years. The movement has depended on mainline churches to survive, but in recent years mainline churches have felt less need to work ecumenically, drawing into their silos to protect their denominational structures," Alice said.

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

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Market Pressures and Ministry

Money for church buildings and leadership affects churches' ministries**Several regional leaders share reflections on the impact of economics on ministry**

The Rev. Hollis Bredeweg, a former regional minister who served as an interim minister in Spokane until this spring, recently reflected on ways monetary and market pressures affect churches' ministries.

Several bishops and regional ministers also shared comments.

While the economic shift has accentuated Inland Northwest churches' impetus to find other models than what Hollis calls "the mainline Protestant experiment with professional ministry," he said that for most small, rural churches, the model was never economically feasible.

When he began ministry in 1978 after studying at United Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, he thought church buildings and professional ministry would hinder churches' pastoral and prophetic roles.

"In the late 1960s and early 1970s, we talked of ministry as a profession, because it required the same education and responsibility as a school administrator, so salaries were based on those positions," he said, "to account for education debts, health insurance, housing, sabbaticals, vacations and pensions. The goal was to prevent pastors from burning out or retiring in poverty."

"It's tragic if churches can't do viable ministry because they are priced out of the market," he said.

In Eastern Washington and North Idaho, pastors already serve in creative ways in churches that never could afford the professional model.

As the son of a regional minister—Evangelical and Reformed, later United Church of Christ—in Indiana, he knew early about church and clergy issues.

As a pastor in Indiana, Wisconsin and Colorado, and as associate conference minister in Nebraska from 1990 to 1994 and the Pacific Northwest from 2005 to 2008, Hollis dealt with such issues. Since 1994, his wife, Sally, pursued her career, and he has worked with community programs and in interim ministry.

"In Nebraska, many of the 114 churches in small, rural towns had a hard time finding ministers because salaries were low," he said.

Hollis described early models of ministry. In his father's early years, it was a subsistence calling. Denominations supported people in seminary, so pastors started without debt, and churches could afford full-time ministers.

His father first earned about \$1,000 annually, supplemented with gifts of produce and chickens, deals at the local grocery store, selling Fuller brushes, driving a school bus and farming.

Many small towns honored Sundays, and schools held no Wednesday activities, so people could attend church events, Hollis said.

For pensions, pastors invested a small percent of their salaries at 3 percent interest, but with inflation they had no pension, he added. Some retired to church-owned retirement homes. Most never retired.

Pastors and their families lived in parsonages or manses, church-owned homes. Some retired pastors settled in small towns to serve a church in exchange for living in the parsonage.

When pastors wanted home equity, many churches sold parsonages. Half continued to own parsonages, and half offered housing allowances at 30 percent of the salary, he said.

United Church of Christ churches began to contribute 14 percent of salary and housing to national pension plans. Churches also offered health insurance, but rising costs make that harder.

When denominations cut support of seminaries, seminaries raised tuition, so graduates had debts of \$40,000 to \$60,000. Many unemployed ministers live in urban areas near seminaries.

"Supply and demand crossed paths," he said. "Fewer churches could pay salary guidelines, and few seminary graduates with debts could afford to go to small churches—unless they had a working spouse, retirement income or independent wealth. More churches are cutting to part-time salaries."

Just as raising funds to support a pastor can become a church's mission, so can raising funds to support buildings, Hollis said.

"We love our expensive, energy-inefficient buildings," he said.



The Rev. Hollis Bredeweg comments on ministry and money.

"Few small churches can grow enough to support either salaries or buildings. In today's economy, it's hard to ask people to give more to ease a church's financial pressures when members are unemployed, underemployed or aging," he said.

Hollis described some options:

In the Midwest, churches "yoked," or shared a minister, because towns were close enough for a minister to serve several. In the Inland Northwest, where communities are far apart, some churches have wider parishes, and some have ecumenical models.

More licensed lay ministers are serving churches, and denominations are offering more lay training programs.

While some seminaries offer distance-learning and online courses, there are programs in the region:

- Seattle University's ecumenical School of Theology and Ministry offers a seminary degree for Protestants and master's degrees for Catholics.

- Whitworth University has a master's in theology, a certificate in lay ministry—now online—and a diploma in lay pastoral ministry at its Weyerhaeuser Center for Faith and Learning.

houses and high urban housing costs—should more churches again own parsonages?

- Can churches pay full health care and pensions as costs rise and other employers cut benefits?

- Will more tentmaker ministries or licensed lay ministers emerge?

- Is part-time ministry possible in a 24/7 vocation?

- Can we continue to repair roofs, replace furnaces, lose heat out of single-pane windows and pay insurance for beautiful, sacred spaces?

- With pressure to retain and increase members, are pastors tempted to preach only humorous, entertaining sermons to stay employed—shying away from the faith's prophetic message?

"We need to be visionary and experimental. We need to step out of our comfort zone to find new models," he said, noting that bishops and regional church leaders in the region have been discussing models since the 1990s.

To help with building costs, some churches rent rooms for meetings, ministries and offices.

He noted universal health care would bring economic relief to churches and other businesses.

"The real bottom line is that we have a mission and ministry to do," Hollis said. "We have to develop new models so we can do our ministry."

For information, call 768-9289 or email hbredeweg@comcast.net.

Stories continue on page 8

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Economic collapse leads people of faith to re-examine the nature of money, priorities

Lutheran Bishop Martin Wells of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod said the economic collapse calls for people of faith to re-examine the nature of money and how that relates to priorities in ministry.

"When the dot.com bubble burst and Wall Street funny-money evaporated, it was because unreal, unjustified trust had been placed in the market and in future gain," Martin said. "Classical Lutheranism says 'That which you ultimately trust is really your God.

"Our economic forces and greed created a false god," he said. When our trust in that god waned because of cheating and duplicity, the market tanked. The God we worship and ultimately trust, however, does not abandon us or evaporate."

In the last two years, the synod has experienced a 20 percent decline in mission support, from the economy, aging membership and unpopular decisions, he said.



Bishop Martin Wells

Recognizing that people in these times are hurting, Martin calls the church to adjust. He suggests living and serving in ministry from a sense of gratitude instead of entitlement.

"Gratitude means we live life from the perspective of a glass half full instead of a glass half empty," he said.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Synod has in recent years supported consolidation of some churches—

in North Spokane, downtown and Spokane Valley.

"It costs less to heat one building than two," Martin said.

At the ELCA bishops' October 2011 convocation in Walla Walla, he said the focus will be on the nature of religion and the church in a changing American society.

"We live in a culture indifferent to the traditional claims of faith," he said, "in contrast with the 1950s culture, in which business leaders felt they needed to attend certain churches to make social and business contacts."

While some congregations are consolidating, the ELCA Synod is considering a new congregation in West Richland, a growing area where there is also an Islamic center and a Hindu worship center.

"We think the world is eager for historic faiths to be in conversation with one another," Martin said.

For information, call 838-9871 or visit ewaidsynod.org.

Some churches close, sell buildings to make way for new ways to serve communities, neighborhoods

The Rev. Dale Cockrum, Inland District United Methodist superintendent, said that recently three churches have closed and one sold its building.

Of the 50 churches he supervises, only 18 are served by a full-time United Methodist ordained

elder. Ordained pastors from other denominations serve three, and part-time, certified lay ministers serve other churches. Some are yoked to create full-time ministries, and some have been yoked for 50 years or more.

He said three churches closed in the last three years for different reasons:

- Farmington, where one church was located, lost so many residents that it could no longer support a church.

- Centenary United Methodist Church in East Central Spokane closed because, as the neighborhood changed, they were unable to draw new members.

- A small church with older members in Rathdrum was unable to draw younger people.

"I don't know if it's the economy or an absence of evangelical fervor, but while some churches have done well and grown, while others reached the end of their life span," Dale said.

United Methodist pastors have different levels of training. Ordained elders have master of divinity degrees and serve as pastors.

Story of ministry with Liberty Park and St. Paul United Methodist churches will appear in the October Fig Tree.

Licensed local pastors complete a five-year training program equivalent to 50 percent of a seminary degree, taking four weeks of intensive summer classes at a United Methodist or other approved seminary each year for five years.

Certified lay ministers take a week-long course and have intensive mentoring and study to prepare them to take on a church.

Dale said about 65 percent of district churches have parsonages. Others offer housing allowances.

Originally, the UMC salary scale was based on a teacher's salary, but Dale said it's now hard to compare with health insurance, housing and pension costs.

"The cost of health insurance is killing us all," he said. "A church must pay for a full-time pastor's health insurance, and pastors have to pay for insurance for their spouses and family.

"So many spouses have to work, which is a problem in our system when we move pastors,"



The Rev. Dale Cockrum

he said, noting that it's hard today for spouses to move and find other jobs.

"Health insurance has driven some smaller congregations to part-time pastors, limiting who can serve them to people in a second career, retired or with a spouse working," he said.

Building upkeep is another economic pressure, Dale said.

"With church growth spurts in the 1920s and 1950s, we have many 50-to-60-year-old and 80-to-100-year-old buildings—wonderful buildings in their time, but architecture and building use have changed," he said.

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Diocese envisioning the church for today and for the future

In reflecting on the economy and ministry, Episcopal Bishop James Waggoner, Jr., says the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane is looking at the larger question of envisioning the church for today and for the future: "What are the leadership and gifts we need and what is the role of ordained ministry?" he asks.

Recognizing that the cost of full-time priests is impossible for some congregations, he asked, "Beyond money, what are our expectations for ordained ministry and ministers? What are the expectations of ordained ministry with people who are building the body of Christ? How is leadership changing? Who can afford to go to seminary full time for three years, spending \$60,000 for three years to earn a master of divinity degree?"

"We have ongoing discussion in our Episcopal House of Bishops and among those of us in the local Octet of bishops and executives about the larger picture of the church and what we expect of ordained leaders," he said.

Jim focuses on evolving models of the church, recognizing that "we can't do business as usual." That includes looking at housing and insurance issues.

"Much is about money," he said, noting the difficulty of calling a full-time priest with a family because of the cost of health insurance, pensions and travel. Some congregations are going to half or three-quarters time clergy.

"How do we train priests and what do we train them to do? Clergy are now to be colleagues with people in a congregation," Jim said. "Church leadership is evolving. Conversations are happening. There is no universal model."

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Spokane Valley Lutheran churches consolidate to share resources for ministry

Two of three Spokane Valley Lutheran churches that have been talking for years about consolidating to bring their resources together voted in May to form Advent Lutheran Church. The charter member Sunday will be Sept. 11.

Members of Christ Lutheran, Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches have had a combined youth director for more than five years, combined worship services and Wednesday evening events during Lent.

Four years ago, members held cottage meetings, surveyed their members and made a report. A majority wanted to pool resources.

Two years ago, the economy started to tank and giving declined, and there was a decline in members after the national ELCA voted to ordain homosexual pastors.

Good Shepherd had about 95 attending worship, Holy Trinity Lutheran, about 110, and Christ Lutheran, about 200.

More than 50 years ago, the churches were started by three Lutheran branches—the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America—which merged in 1988 to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In the 1960s, ethnic-based Lutheran churches had merged to form the ALC—German, Danish and Norwegian—and LCA—German, Slovak, Icelandic, Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian.

The pastors—the Rev. Matthew Larson at Good Shepherd, who is serving as transitional minister; the Rev. David Droegemueller at Christ, who retired in September 2010, and the Rev. James Kashork who resigned from Holy Trinity in May—provided leadership and support. The church councils formed a consolidation committee in January 2010 with two members from each church and involved 50 members in five subcommittees—on evangelism and education, worship, stewardship, youth and families, and outreach.

Many members have known each other for years through synod events and participation in the three churches.

Matthew gave an overview of their process.

They began conversations on the path to consolidation, recording their assets, physical spaces, budgets, staffing, and their dreams of what they could do with what they had.

The churches held a combined worship in Oct. 2010 at Central Valley High School to hear the consolidation committee's report. In an informal poll there, a majority wanted to pursue consolidation.

The next week, the congregations each voted on: "Should we pursue consolidation?" Christ and Good Shepherd had strong majorities, but Holy Trinity did not.



The Rev. Matthew Larson stands in front of copper relief art by Spokane artist Harold Balazs in the chancel of Advent Lutheran.

A transitional committee met with an attorney in December and January. On Feb. 12, 2011, the churches held a combined service, and the transitional committee reported. In a vote on Feb. 26, there was overwhelming support in Good Shepherd and Christ Lutheran, but Holy Trinity had just over 50 percent, not the two-thirds needed to dissolve their corporation.

The churches began to worship together the second Sunday of March. Then in May, they set another vote: to dissolve Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity and merge the corporations into Christ Lutheran, keeping its corporate identity and 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the state. Good Shepherd voted to dissolve, but Holy Trinity did not have the votes. Christ Lutheran voted to change its name to Advent. Some members at Holy Trinity are already involved at Advent Lutheran.

Matthew expects that the new congregation will involve about 170 families initially.

The former Christ Lutheran building, which is the largest and includes a child-care wing, a gym, a commercial kitchen and new office-sanctuary wing, will be used for worship and education, but Advent Lutheran will retain the Good Shepherd building for community outreach. AA, Al Anon, Boy Scouts, a preschool and an Eastern Orthodox mission church are among the building users. It will be used for youth

and outreach activities. Good Shepherd also has the most property for future building options.

"So we refer to the Sullivan campus and Broadway campus of Advent Lutheran," Matthew said. "The name was chosen from a list of four not already on the list of state corporations."

In recent years, St. Paul Lutheran in Spokane merged with Emmanuel to form All Saints Lutheran. Grace Lutheran closed. Before that, Our Savior's Lutheran sold its building and members joined Messiah Lutheran.

Such changes have been driven by the cost of buildings and clergy, the decline in members and financial giving, Matthew said.

"For us, there was also a sense that if we combined, we could put our resources together to do ministry outside our doors," he said. "As safe as it seems to keep resources inside the walls, there is a real passion to reach outside the walls with the volunteer base and financial resources to do it well."

"The question of where will we be in the next 50 years has been answered: We will be here," he said.

Although the process came from and was led by the laity, it has been a change and there is a sense of loss, grief and adjusting, Matthew said.

"The focus, however, is that the three churches are about cooperating and trying new things in new ways," he said. "It has been a journey of faith, inviting

people to expand their definition of church. Many liked the social aspect of being in a small congregation where people knew everyone. Now we have become 'a corporate-sized programmatic congregation,' asking where God is leading and calling us.

"There has been struggle. Some did not agree. We prayed about it and had many conversations. We believe this is what God is calling us to be in this place," said Matthew, who can be a candidate for the position of minister after the church determines staffing needs.

The church has had two worship services since March and will have three beginning Sept. 18.

There will be an 8 a.m. chapel service with a simple liturgy and communion; a 9:15 a.m. liturgical service with the choir, and an 11 a.m. contemporary praise and communion service with music by a band. Matthew is preaching at all three. Sunday school is at 10:30 a.m. There is an interim youth director and an active youth and family committee.

Advent Lutheran continues the previous churches' support of Spokane Valley Partners and other projects.

A cradle Lutheran growing up in North Dakota, Oregon and Washington, Matthew completed a bachelor's degree in music performance in 1993 at Washington State University.

After graduating, he worked as parish assistant—youth director and intern—at First Lutheran in Sandpoint, where he married. He

completed his master of divinity at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley and was ordained in 1999.

At Berkeley, he strengthened his Lutheran theology amid the ecumenical classes and interchange of the Graduate Theological Union. He gained a sense of the value of ecumenism, which was put into practice in his first call at the Lutheran-Presbyterian parish in Potlatch, Idaho.

He also has served at the national level with the Lutheran Ecumenical Resource Network.

In 2002, Matthew served a church in Carmel, Calif., where he was part of the Monterey Peninsula Ministerial Association for two years. In 2004, he had a half-time call at a church in Grayland, Wash., before coming in 2006 as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Spokane Valley.

He continued his ecumenical commitment with the covenant between Good Shepherd, St. Mary's Catholic and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. The relationship involves combined Thanksgiving and Good Friday services, pulpit exchanges during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, progressive meals and a combined vacation Bible school. As a successor congregation, to Good Shepherd, Advent Lutheran is considering joining that covenant, Matthew said.

For information, call 928-7733 or email goodsheppastor@gmail.com. The website is at adventlutheranspokane.org.

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Women have been pastoral leaders at St. Joseph Parish for 28 years

By Mary Hazuka

Every morning, a sister from Holy Names Convent does what many women of faith do on a typical Sunday morning. She attends Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church at 1503 W. Dean Ave. in Spokane.

Holy Names Sister Irene Knopes, however, does not simply sit in one of the pews with the rest of the parish. Instead, she sits as a leader, as one of the few woman pastoral ministers in the Catholic Church. In fact, she is the only woman pastoral minister in the Spokane Diocese today.

About 28 years ago, the diocese appointed three women as parish administrators, including Holy Names Sister Carol Lee at St. Joseph Parish. In 1993, Holy Names Sister Ann Pizelo began serving in that role until Sr. Irene began in 2000.

Dominican Sr. Martina Abba, who served a year as associate parish administrator/social worker in Northport and Kettle Falls, was followed by Holy Names Sr. Carol Qualley, who served as pastor there from 1985 to 1991.

The first appointments were made in response to Vatican II and the search for emerging models of church.

"St. Joseph is the only parish that retained having a woman parish administrator," said Sr. Irene, noting that she is paid the same as a priest, has a house and utilities covered. The parish pays for a priest to come and say Mass.

"We're all called to serve each other. There are many different levels of leadership and service that come with an entity as large as the Catholic Church," Sr. Irene said.

What exactly does a pastoral minister do in the church and what sets Sr. Irene apart?

Pastoral care is the ministry of care and counseling provided for the members of the congregation and people of faith, according to Sr. Irene. Pastoral ministers are members of the parish staff who share the responsibilities of daily care of the faithful under the leadership of the pastor. She brings compassion through her life and ministry.

As a pastoral minister, she does everything a pastor would do except leading in the Sacraments. She has been part of St. Joseph's Parish community for 11 years.

According to Sr. Irene, there is no typical day in the life of a pastoral minister.

"For example, today I went to Second Harvest Food Bank for two hours from 8 to 10 a.m., driving a truck back to the West Central neighborhood," she said.

She mostly spends time with her parishioners, being there as someone to listen and talk to.

Sr. Irene uses her reflections on the mission of Jesus Christ every day for inspiration as a leader in



Holy Names Sister Irene Knopes welcomes parishioners to worship.

her community.

"I was just as important as the Pope today with the people I interacted with because I was there for them. As a pastoral minister, I lead them as someone who has lived their experience. They can relate. I was married, and my teens rebelled."

Sr. Irene grew up in Southern Idaho as a tomboy.

"My father was a share-cropper when I was growing up. I remember playing with the Mexican children whose family worked with my father, and we grew up working together. I did not know the language, but I understood the cultural background," Sr. Irene said.

That helps with the community Sr. Irene serves, where many of Spokane's Hispanics live and worship. St. Joseph's also offers a 1 p.m. Sunday Mass in Spanish. This helps her to better connect with her community.

Her family then moved to Central Idaho for her middle-through high-school years and she continued to work with her father in the hay fields, logging and working with the horses.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business management at Lewis and Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho.

In 1964, Sr. Irene was married and began rearing her two children. She worked for the Potlatch Corporation. After more than 20 years of marriage, her husband died of a heart attack at the age of 45.

She remembers someone once

telling her that losing her husband at her age was a terrible thing.

"I was too young to hang out with the senior crowd and too old to go to the bar scene with the single crowd," Sr. Irene recalls. "No, I thought. If this happens it is the best time to happen. We had raised our children together. They were 19 and 21 years old."

She saw instead that she had a great window of opportunity to change careers.

Sr. Irene yearned to study pastoral ministry at Gonzaga University and began to explore religious communities.

"Why did I decide it? Where did it come from?" she asked.

She began work towards a master's in pastoral ministry at Gonzaga University in 1998, but later used half the credits in 2008 to work towards and later earn a master of divinity degree.

She had a full schedule while working on her master's degree part-time. She continued to work for Potlatch, leaving work at 3 p.m., driving to campus for a class at 5:30 p.m., and then driving to Zips for dinner to be home by 11 p.m.

"The classes were good for the brain and for the heart. Yes, it was intellectual learning about the Scripture and the church, but the course was also a special form of prayer and it left me feeling touched," Sr. Irene said.

"When I finally felt peace with a religious community, I felt I was able to quit my other job," Sr. Irene said.

She then joined the Sisters of

the Holy Names and moved to Holy Names Convent, 2911 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

Sr. Irene joined the Sisters of the Holy Names because the convent is involved in parish education ministries. There she gained the inspiration and motivation to assume the position at St. Joseph Parish.

"A sister at Holy Names Convent recommended me for the new job at St. Joseph's Parish. I believe in being called forth by other people. I thought, well, if someone else thinks that I can and am good enough to do it, I must be," she said.

Sr. Irene said that she is not after a title, but is simply living and working as Jesus worked. Because St. Joseph's has had three women as pastoral ministers over the few years, so it wasn't a big change for the community.

"St. Joseph's is a wonderful community and a big family," said Sr. Irene. "We share meals and support each other. The relationship we have is what is most important."

She also works with the West Central Community Ministries, leaders of 10 congregations who meet monthly for spiritual support and to pool resources for people in need.

For information, call 328-4841 or email stjoeondean@gntech.net.

Mary Hazuka, a Gonzaga University communications student has been a summer intern with The Fig Tree.

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World Relief offers simulation of refugees' experiences on the way to freedom

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

The road to freedom leading to World Relief and Spokane last year for Ram Khadka started at the age of eight when he and his family fled the violence in their native Bhutan to Nepal's largest refugee camp near the Indian border.

Today Ram shares his experiences of living in the harsh Belgandi-II camp in Jhapa for 18 years with participants of World Relief's Refugee Simulation program.

Started in 2007, the program has hosted hundreds of students, church groups, educators and nonprofit organizations to help them experience and understand the challenges refugees face while waiting for entry to the United States.

"We take people out of their comfort zone during the simulation experience," said the program's coordinator Catherine Hogan-Davies, "and ask them for three hours to walk in the footsteps of a refugee and experience what they have experienced."

Participants assume the role of actual refugee families who have been resettled in Spokane by World Relief.

Catherine, Ram and staff begin the journey for participants with an orientation about World Relief before they break into four ethnic groups, each representing a different family.

Each group is given a bag and asked to take out a binder with the story of the refugee family they are representing.

"They have 30 minutes to review the information and try to memorize as much of the family background as possible," Catherine said.

After reviewing the history, participants transform into their new family roles by putting on authentic ethnic clothing. They agree to respect the clothing.

The four families then cycle through four simulation stations including a language acquisition class, a medical screening clinic, visit with immigration officials from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and a feeding station.

During the feeding station stop, students learn from Ram about the obstacles he and his family faced going to the camp, the reality of life in a refugee camp and the meager rations the family received twice a month from relief agencies based at his camp in eastern Nepal.

Ram and his family traveled for days to reach Nepal because of the conditions of the roads from the summer rainy season. He was packed into a truck with members of 11 other households.



Ram Khadka and Catherine Hogan-Davies collaborate to provide realistic experience.

It was a difficult, uncomfortable journey. Along the way a family member gave birth, and the child died.

Once they arrived and were processed at the camp, Ram discovered that each day would require survival skills to adapt to the strict, challenging conditions and requirements of camp life with thousands of others.

"I helped unload food every two weeks for my family. Each day, each person was given 400 grams of rice, 20 grams of sugar, 7 grams of salt, 25 grams of cooking oil, 40 grams of lentils and 20 grams of garbanzos," he said.

Ram said there were no fresh fruits, and vegetables were rare. When they were available, they were often rotten. The only source of protein was the delivery of garbanzo beans and lentils every two weeks as part of their rations.

Beldangi-II is the largest of seven refugee camps in Nepal. Today more than 100,000 people live in the three camps at one time. Most of the supporting Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have their offices at Beldangi-II.

Home for Ram and other camp families consisted of two rooms with bamboo walls, plastic roofs and mud floors.

"There were eight of us living in our two small rooms," he said, "We had no heat to keep us warm. It was very cold."

Ram also explained that while they did get blankets to help keep them warm at night, they were not the thick blankets destined for the camp, but replaced by officials in Nepal with thinner blankets.

Wire fences surrounded the camp and leaving the camp

was prohibited. He and others risked discipline and their lives to leave the camp at night to gather firewood in the nearby forest. Women were especially vulnerable and were often assaulted outside the camp, he said.

At Ram's and other stations in the simulation, participants are questioned and scored to earn a "ticket to freedom."

"Of course, the actual process is much more intimidating than our simulation," Catherine said. "It can take months and sometimes years for refugees to complete the process."

"Participants in our simulation events at World Relief have their eyes opened to a different vision of the world and how many challenges stand in the way of freedom," she said.

The last simulation was held in early June for a group of Whitworth University students. Typical groups range from 24 to 26 people to ensure an effective personal experience, she explained.

Feedback from the students reflected what they felt and learned.

In her evaluation, one student wrote: "The discomfort we experienced is only a fraction of the true fear and confusion which refugees experience for a miniscule possibility of being accepted to the United States."

The students' comments also recognized that the plight of refugees does not end just when they come to America.

They realize that Americans should be patient and accepting of refugees because they do not know of the refugees' past experiences.

World Relief is the only evangelical agency authorized

to resettle refugees in the United States and is the humanitarian, disaster relief, community/economic development and refugee/immigrant services arm of the National Association of Evangelicals with 23 other U.S. offices.

Catherine and other World Relief staff welcome new refugees, help them adjust to their new environment, find jobs, learn English and assist in acquiring citizenship.

Ram is one of more than 6,000 refugees that have been resettled in the Inland Northwest through World Relief.

With each refugee she meets, Catherine, who assumed her current role of refugee simulation coordinator and ESL (English as a Second Language) coordinator this past March, recognizes "the incredible barriers" they have faced to arrive at World Relief's door.

She is passionate about helping each one remove remaining barriers and helping them begin their new journey in the United States.

Catherine's commitment to resettling refugees comes from a long professional history of empowering people.

She met her husband when they were both teaching at a language school in Istanbul, Turkey.

They moved to Knoxville, Tenn., in 2001 and she worked for four years at a refugee

assistance agency.

When they moved to Spokane in 2008, Catherine volunteered at World Relief and then became their ESL coordinator and director of their elder program. She also volunteered at the Women's and Children's Free Restaurant.

She left World Relief to work for a year and a half at Community Colleges of Spokane's Institute for Extended Learning as an ESL teacher and then returned to World Relief in 2011.

"The bridge is language and it is for this reason that teaching ESL and training volunteers to tutor ESL to refugees is my passion," she said.

"This work is a calling and gives me the opportunity through my work to connect closely with people like Ram," she said.

Catherine, who attends First Presbyterian in Spokane, said her commitment is based on the desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and help those less fortunate and less able to help themselves, regardless of race, religion or background.

Refugees are required to repay their transportation costs eventually to make if possible for other refugees to come to the United States she explained.

"Ram and others want to be successful here," Catherine said.

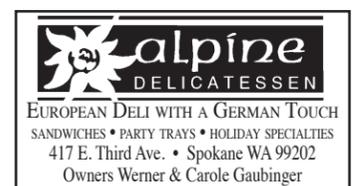
Today Ram is employed, has married another refugee from Bhutan and they are expecting their first child.

He is also attending Spokane Falls Community College in pursuit of a degree to help him work in the computer technology field.

He also said that he finds comfort and support from members of the Faith Bible Church in the Spokane Valley.

"Compared to life in Bhutan and at the refugee camp, I feel I am living like a king," Ram said.

For information, call 484-9829 or email hogan-davies@wr.org.



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Strokes of paintbrush or other creative arts enhance spiritual healing

By Mary Hazuka

Providing medical care is just one step on the long road to recovery. Providing space for creativity and a safe community to heal, and relieving stress through creative outlets are other steps.

The Providence Center for Spiritual Healing at Sacred Heart Medical Center seeks to help heal patients through art and has committed itself to creating and nurturing a program that integrates art into the healing processes.

The center integrates faith and health, providing the Inland Northwest with a service that not only fosters a creative environment but also encourages the autonomy of its patients.

The Arts in Healing program, founded with grants, philanthropic work and donations, brings the arts to patients and staff, providing art for families and friends of patients at the hospital.

Started a year ago, the program brings healing, enrichment and wellness to patients.

Ann Walker, a Spokane native and the program coordinator, brings skills in psychology and art therapy to patients she encounters everyday.

"I always loved art growing up, and it was a part of my life through high school. Art is more than just something that is pretty or something that looks good. It expresses who you are more than what you can say. Art is healing," Ann said.

As full-time Arts in Healing program coordinator, she has dreams for the program's future.

Art allows an escape from the stress of disease, pain and hospital living, she said.

Ann explained that it is a "remarkable drug," alleviating the pressure and stress patients undergo. It allows patients to escape from the pain and usual routine of hospital care to heal, thrive and express themselves, which in the ultimate scheme of things, is the deepest healing that may be needed.

"It is positive to see the patients feeling emotionally better. It goes with the theory on the mind, body and spirit connection. This is an important part in the process of people getting better," she said.



Ann Walker beside the center's meditation garden.

She explained that the mind-body-spirit connection looks at the whole person rather than separating out the emotional and spiritual from the physical. With that in mind, the program offers patients, family members and staff a way to tap into their emotional and spiritual selves in order to improve their physical health as well.

"Research has shown that when a person participates in some creative endeavor, there are positive physiological effects: blood pressure lowers, heart rate slows and chemicals that promote well-being are released in the brain. This is similar to the deep relaxation that is often experienced in the body during prayer or meditation," she said.

After graduating from Mead High School, Ann graduated from Whitworth University in 1999 with a bachelor's in psychology and went on to earn a master's degree in art therapy at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.

"I consider myself spiritual and resonate with mystics from various faith traditions such as Meister Eckhart, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Avila or Sufi mystics Rumi and Hafiz.

"The mystics speak of a deeply personal connection with the divine, the infinite worth

of all people, joy and delight in creation, paying attention in the present moment, the importance of stillness and silence and interconnectedness with all beings. Also, they speak of compassion, honor and respect for self and others. These are values I hope to bring to my time with the patients," Ann said.

She was hired under Chaplain Ann Hirst, who led fund raising and collects funds from grants and donations, and helped create and coordinate the art healing programs at Sacred Heart, at the Providence Center for Faith and Healing in the building where the Sisters of Providence once lived.

The arts program has received several grants, including a Livestrong Foundation grant to hire a part-time artist in the children's hospital, and one from Susan G. Komen for the Cure to help fund programs for adult radiation oncologist patients.

"The art projects we offer are open-ended, meaning patients choose what to do," said Ann. "Every day they usually have little choice about what to do in a hospital, so being able to choose the projects they want to do is empowering."

Ann wheels around a black cart full of paints, brushes, glue and more. Alongside she carries a pile of canvases that sit in the

corner of her office. She lets patients choose and create on their own whim.

She witnessed the impact of art on patients with a man who could no longer use his hands. When others came in to talk to him and discussed his past career as a graphic designer, it brought him to tears. Ann helped remind him of his creative passions in a way that allowed him to reconnect and take his mind off hospital life, even for just a moment.

A six-year-old girl had so many tubes and monitors hooked up to her, she seemed to be "tethered to the bed," said Ann. After completing the art projects that included painting, making pipe-cleaner animals, bracelets and a mask, the little girl asked if she could take them home. When she heard "yes," she said, "This is the best day of my life."

Collaborative murals, which line the hospital walls of the Faith and Healing Center, are a testament to the work done by patients. More pieces are slowly making their way to the main hospital corridors.

Colorful murals are some of Ann's favorites, as different patients and family members play off each other. "Each adds their own element as it all comes together as one art piece," said Ann.

Participants may paint, draw, or add any piece that speaks to them at that time, and as a whole, the mural paints a picture of the community. It reflects the unspoken bond patients share in the healing process.

"Art helps people express their emotions. Often children have trouble expressing non-verbals, and they can't express fully what they want. Art helps them feel better because they are not

stuck," Ann said.

She also mentioned that patients actually need less pain medication because their minds are off the daily doses of pills and enduring pain. There are many physical effects as well as emotional.

One project for the future is to put together a mosaic on the outside of the building, in which patients each contribute one piece as it comes together as a whole.

"Now that we have the visual arts, we are hoping to expand and add drama and music as well," she said.

Ann also wishes to build a volunteer base because most of the staff are part-time. Volunteers would have fulfilling work and could help the program to continue to grow.

Next spring the National Arts Foundation will be hosting an all-employee art show at Sacred Heart, working with the Providence Arts Program.

The center includes the Meditation Garden, a peaceful place brimming with greenery, flowing waterfalls, walking paths, and places to sit and absorb the peace and beauty. It is open through a gate on the north side on Eighth Ave.

Other healing activities at the center include prayer from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Tuesdays, healing yoga by Radha Yoga and tai chi. Music services include sounds for the soul that provide a healing environment for visitors and hospitalized patients, as well as seasonal music such as carolers during the Christmas season.

For information, call 474-3008 or visit <http://www2.providence.org/spokane>.

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For further information, contact Michelle Pace
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Costa Rican campus helps globalize Whitworth's student body

By Mary Stamp

Amid the biodiversity of Costa Rica's rainforest, Whitworth University's new overseas program immerses students in Latin American language, history, culture, ecology, human rights and public policy issues.

About 30 students a semester will work with orphans, immigrants, squatters and families, and will build Habitat for Humanity homes, plant trees and do other service projects.

The Costa Rica Center is Whitworth's first international study center designed to increase cross-cultural learning and be a life-changing program, said Lindy Scott, director of the Costa Rica Center and professor of Spanish.

The program includes service learning, home stays and experience in a country that has political stability, no standing army, universal health care and an emphasis on eco-tourism, he said.

Lindy said that while the United States debates what programs the federal government should fund or cut, Whitworth students can learn about another government system, which does not spend money on a military.

In the Latin American setting, students can also experience tensions between economic development, environmental conservation and global inequities, he added.

While some Americans have become suspicious of people from other nations since Sept. 11, 2001, he finds more interest among U.S. youth to know "about the world by living and serving side-by-side with international neighbors."

The center brings professors from various departments—sociology, art, English, journalism, political science, Spanish and eventually math, business and education—to teach a semester.

"A cultural-immersion study program means speaking the language, learning about the history and customs, playing the sports and appreciating the yearnings in the hearts of people in another country," Lindy said. "Overseas study is valuable for learning about and loving our neighbors as we overcome our ethnocentrism."

Lindy and Michael LeRoy, vice president for academic affairs, dean of faculty and political science professor at Whitworth, began envisioning the program when both taught at Wheaton College.

They wanted a semester abroad that would help students understand the world, gain proficiency in a language and lay the groundwork for becoming loving neighbors.

Lindy said Costa Rica was chosen because it is a "green" country with high standards for recycling, reforestation, sustainable construction, water purification, and creation care through conscientious efforts to preserve its biodiversity.



Lindy Scott develops international study center model.

From the 1960s to 1980s, forests were cut down for pastures for beef for the U.S. fast-food industry. Now the focus is on reforestation of native pines and other trees for habitat for native birds and animals. Costa Rica seeks to draw tourists to small lodges where they can appreciate the beauty of the land, do athletic activities, and learn about the native plants and animals.

About 98 percent of the food grown at eco-lodges is organic, using compost to treat the earth sustainably.

In that setting, Whitworth is committed to being a good neighbor as it turns a former French-Belgian restaurant and hotel on a 27-acre site, purchased in 2009, into two classrooms, offices, a dining hall and a dorm for 30 students. It uses solar energy to heat water, and it composts and recycles from meals to fertilize trees, a vegetable garden and the beginnings of a fruit orchard.

Whitworth's "Core 350" required course helps students understand how western policies have had influence there, Lindy said, as students consider immigration, free-trade and treaties from a Latin American perspective.

"Will we be good or bad citizens of the world?" he asked.

A sociology professor may look at immigration from rural areas to cities, and from Nicaragua, Panama and Colombia to Costa Rica, while at the same time contemplating how immigrants to the United States are treated.

"We are beginning to come alongside our Costa Rican neighbors

to address Costa Rica's problem with child prostitution and some poverty," he said.

Lindy, who grew up Presbyterian, met his wife Dinorah—a Brazilian who also teaches Spanish at Whitworth and in Costa Rica—at an international Interservice conference in Peru while he was teaching and working with Interservice Christian Fellowship in Mexico City.

After completing a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1973, he earned a master's in New Testament and a master of divinity at Trinity Seminary, an Evangelical Free Church seminary in Chicago in 1976. Before and after doctoral studies in church and society in 1991 at Northwestern University, he taught 16 years at various universities and seminaries in Mexico.

Then he taught at Wheaton near Chicago, where he led 12 overseas academic programs in Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Cuba.

Lindy said his international experiences and 32-year marriage have deepened his passion for cross-cultural immersion.

"I have fallen in love with Latin America and the people," he said.

"Christians in North America talk about love and are exhorted to love, but don't always know how to love. We want students to love people by learning about their history, fears, struggles and commitments. In the United States, we think we are the best," he said. "We have much to share and much to learn."

Building his relationship with his wife, he visited her home, met her family and learned about her

history. So when they disagree, Lindy said, he doesn't assume he's right and she's wrong. He realizes she may have a different cultural perspective.

"Spouses need to be humble," he said, indicating that people of different nations also need to be humble.

Lindy hopes students in Spokane will become compassionate about students, immigrants and visitors from other countries.

"We can learn from them," he said. "We can welcome and accept them. Education is a relational experience. Correction is also a relational experience.

"Knowing Dinorah loves me, she can correct me, and I accept it. Without love, I might feel judged and resist it," he said. "Similarly, if my students know I love them, I can correct them, and they will be more teachable, open to constructive criticism.

"That was Jesus' teaching style. He could tell his disciples tough things, but they knew he loved them," Lindy said. "That's how Whitworth strives to educate students' hearts and minds."

Students living with host families in Costa Rica will learn their language so they can be good guests, come to know and love them, and learn about their families, lives and how U.S. policies affect them, he said.

"We are all human beings created by God, so our laws should reflect concern for human life," he said.

"Whitworth students and faculty learn to talk about controversial topics and about what they believe with humility to find common ground on immigration and other issues. The church contributes to debates, content and tone, hopefully contributing creative options. To find common ground, we need to listen to each other," Lindy added.

If about 30 students go in the fall, 40 in January and 30 in the spring, that's nearly 100 students who return to Whitworth's Spokane campus for two more years to help internationalize the 2,700 students in Spokane, along with about 270 international students on campus.

Lindy believes that if 300 to 400 students and professors on campus at a given time have experienced a semester in Costa Rica or gone overseas for a January term in China, Peru, British Isles, Europe, Russia, Africa, South Africa, and have participated in similar off-campus centers in East Africa, China and Europe—campus life will change.

"Today, the North American church has much to give and to receive," said Lindy, who is now Mennonite because of that church's commitment to social justice and simple living. "If the church is universal, we need to be exposed to voices around the world. Whitworth can be a bridge for understanding.

For information, call 777-4837 or email lsconfig@whitworth.edu.

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We've got to be carefully taught to hate and fear, to love and respect

The words from a musical come to mind as the school year begins, as we sort memories of 10 years ago and since Sept. 11, and as we joined in Spokane's Unity in the Community celebration of diversity.

What do these have in common? The song in "South Pacific" tells us "you've got to be carefully taught ... to hate and fear. You've got to be taught from year to year. It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear. You've got to be carefully taught."

As our children and grandchildren return to school, what are they being taught beyond the three R's about life, culture, diversity, respect, community service and world affairs? What do we teach in our homes and faith communities? What do we teach in our media, especially as we see replayed images of skyscrapers collapsing?

During this time of remembrance, what will we be remembering? What have we been carefully taught by seeing again and again and again the images of planes hitting the World Trade Center in New York City. The twin towers collapsed into rubble once, but we saw it over and over. What did that

do to our psyches and ability to reason? The constant replaying oversimplifies an event.

Despite images of police, firefighters and everyday citizens helping brothers and sisters in that calamity, we remember the simplistic, iconic, media-fed images that fed fear, hate, revenge and war. Our country and innocent civilians were attacked and killed. While about 3,000 died that day, our response has been to go far beyond the biblical minimum of "an eye for an eye." We don't have a clear record of the hundreds of thousands of civilians killed far away from us, nor of the millions injured in the crossfire, nor of the damage to infrastructures and cultures, let alone the deaths and injuries to soldiers.

Jesus' teaching to love enemies has not had repeated press space. What might our response have been if we followed that teaching?

In the post 9/11 years, we've been carefully taught. We know to beware of repeated images used as propaganda to incite fear and hate, to form enemy images to "justify" war. We have been in endless,

deficit-building war against terrorists tied to a religion and a region.

We have been carefully taught as a nation to fear and hate. So we lashed out for revenge—at Afghanistan for harboring terrorist training and at Iraq for maybe having weapons of mass destruction—that somehow we were told were connected.

How easily hate- and fear-fed revenge can be diverted to unrelated destruction. How easily hate and fear can divert our attention from those who profit from the war—through noncompetitive government contracts and assured tax breaks. Have repeated reminders of the tragedy helped blind us to awareness that the sacrifice has not been shared evenly.

Faiths teach us the ways of peace in hope that such a horrific event will not catapult us into violence. Faiths also connect us globally, making us aware of the plight of the common people, who receive little media coverage beyond natural disasters.

Our faiths remind us of the need to build understanding across borders, cultures and religions.

Locally, Unity in the Community is an informative, inspiring way to challenge prejudice. Pictures of diverse people playing, conversing and learning in Riverfront Park need no narration.

From its roots with Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church's multicultural festival in East Central Spokane's Liberty Park, the annual event has grown as Community-Minded Enterprises and AHANA, the African American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American business association, has taken the neighborhood event to Riverfront Park where an estimated 16,000 people celebrated the the Inland's growing diversity last month.

Simply by mingling with people, engaging in conversations at booths of nonprofits and cultural organizations, people have a positive way to overcome hate and fear that might lead to conflict.

Unity in the Community is a proactive, people-to-people way to be carefully taught to set aside fear and hate to overcome racism, intolerance and bigotry.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Loud voices holding sway for greed are not the majority of Americans

Fads, trends, celebrities, silly seasons and isms come and go, and right now we seem to have a rise in the philosophy of greed—at least in volume in the political sphere.

It's not too surprising that Russian-American screenwriter, novelist, philosopher and playwright Ayn Rand (1905 to 1982) and her writings are receiving another 15 minutes of fame in this era of greed. It's interesting to note that her name, Ayn, rhymes with "mine."

Her philosophy, which she called Objectivism—which assumes that knowledge and values are based on an objective reality rather than opinions—and her teachings such as "rational selfishness" have been part of pop culture for about 50 years.

In a recent article in Sojourners magazine, novelist and journalism professor Danny Duncan Collum described it as a pop philosophy that justifies the "upper class"

being wealthy and selfish.

What is surprising now is the number of high-level policy makers who have become her adherents.

Alan Greenspan has admitted that he is a devoted fan. As chair of the Federal Reserve Board, he repeatedly assured us that the financial markets would adjust themselves. How could they, when they were being manipulated and undermined by the greedy?

For a time, Rep. Ron Paul, who is running for President, was Ayn Rand's only quoter recorded in the Congressional Record. His son, Sen. Rand Paul, has found her thinking worthy of being included in Senate hearings.

Rep. Paul Ryan, chair of the House Budget Committee, has said that her writings are the reason he first ran for public office. He distributes her books to his staff.

Her writings have never been taken

seriously by scholars in either philosophy or economics.

According to Collum, "The mainstreaming of Rand is, in large part, the work of one man, John Allison IV, recently retired CEO of the giant national bank holding company, BB&T."

As a condition of employment, he required top management of BB&T to read her polemic novel, *Atlas Shrugged*.

Now, in his position at the BB&T Foundation, he awards grants to colleges and universities to develop courses or endowed chairs which require the teaching of Objectivism.

These grants, often for \$1 million or \$2 million, have been given to at least 25 institutions, including Duke, four locations of the University of North Carolina, the University of Louisville, the University of Texas at Austin, and Guilford College, which was founded by the Quakers.

In Randland, there is no social safety net, social contract or common good. Those who have made it to the top deserve to be there, and the usual rules do not apply to them.

It's a peculiar form of exceptionalism that regards anyone who believes that anyone who is helped by a safety net is a "moocher."

Responsible opinion polls, such as those conducted by Pew Research and the Gallup Poll, consistently show that a significant majority of Americans opposes balancing the budget on the backs of the poor and middle class, and the majority believes that increased funds are necessary if we are to make our way out of our current economic situation.

All major faiths emphasize concern for the poor. So why are these Ayn Rand devotees driving the debate?

Nancy Minard - Editorial Team

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and look back upon the decade since, it is possible to criticize our response to that terrorist attack.

In a recent edition of *The Atlantic*, James Bennet has written, "It's easy not to imagine how wiser American leadership might have produced a less damaging decade."

I suppose it is important and even good that we do this, because if we cannot second-guess our leaders, if we cannot have an honest and even at times searing public critique of our national policies, then we are not a free people after all, and our society is not what it claims to be.

One thing that cannot be second-guessed is the dedication and courage of the people, mostly members of the New York City police and fire departments, who rushed into the inferno in an effort to save as many people as they could. Many of them never returned.

To borrow a phrase from Abraham Lincoln, by their sacrifice they hallowed ground zero "far beyond our poor power to add or subtract." We are forever indebted to these people, living and dead, not just for their actions, but also for their example.

In order to learn and perhaps even change from what we learn, it is important also to note that this horrible day was marked by two sets of people who sacrificed their lives willingly. The contrast between those two sets of people could not be more marked and therefore could not be more instructive.

On the one hand, there were those police and firemen as well as some bystanders

who gave themselves trying to save lives, trying to minimize the damage, trying to maintain some sort of order and even hope in the midst of sudden terrible change.

These were people who for a brief moment abandoned any thought of self and risked their lives for the sake of comforting and caring for those who had been injured and for the families of those who had been killed.

On the other hand, there were the people who turned those planes into guided missiles and destroyed both towers of the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon, and did it during business hours in order to maximize the slaughter. Regardless of anything they might have said beforehand or anything that those who commissioned them to inflict this horror did say about them afterward, these were people whose god was death and whose creed was violence. They did not become violent because they believed God is violent. They believed God is violent because they were violent.

We desperately need to understand this. People—whether they be Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus or whatever—who believe in violence will inevitably project that image of a violent god upon the cosmos and will give their lives in service to that idol of their own creating.

The vast majority of them will not ever actually become murderers themselves, but they will speak of violence as though it were God's will, and they will hope violence is visited upon their enemies sooner

rather than later.

These people live all over the world, even, as we have discovered, in Norway. The difficult truth to accept is that we will not defeat this idol of violence and death by calling upon God to do to them what they have done to us. As attractive as that is, and it is remarkably attractive, the only thing such a reaction does is to declare by implication that we too believe in violence, and our only disagreement is over who should be the targets.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, let us ponder which image of God is more in keeping with what we see in Christ: the image of God projected by those who sacrificed their lives in order to kill others and destroy the lives of those who survived, or those who sacrificed themselves trying to save others and preserve as much life, and as much hope as they possibly could. This is not merely an academic exercise. The future of humanity likely depends upon the answer.

The Very Rev. Bill Ellis – Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John

Something about these days begs reflection.

The Ponderosa, a 200-foot progenitor of trees on the South Hill of Spokane, has been diagnosed with a festering canker 30 feet above the front lawn. It's an old wound, which still weeps and labors to repair itself, the dogged persistence of Life! To cut it down would be a loss for Life; to leave it up may be a threat to life.

In the back, closer to my feet, the Rhododendron, a magnificent plant, was crushed mightily just two winters ago by falling ice and wood. Broken, awkward, it now glistens in the slant light of already late-summer, showing Life for next spring in modest buds. Amazing! It is being healed.

We traverse between life and Life, the failures of life and the hope of new Life.

This is where we minister: between life on the one hand so miserable and so impossible, and Life, on the other hand, so sure, so confident, Promised! Rhododendron buds and Resurrection!

The song from the funeral is still and always, "I know that My Redeemer Lives." If Jesus lives and calls me to his new Life, then the future unfolds without Final Fear.

We enter a new fall, a time between life and Life, trying to make room to remember the lessons of rest, trying not to be overtaken by the carne, mere life, remembering the life where God was, is and is to come. This life is where we are summoned to *be*, to work, to do our Good News calling, this carne life; life plus promise equals Life!

The ponderosa needs a community's reflection before any rash steps. We will do what we can do. The rhododendron needs fertilizer, humus, more carne, more investment in promise!

So there's work to be done and we're the leaders.

The Rev. Martin Wells, Bishop - Eastern Washington Idaho Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Retreats help grieving families

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center is offering two programs to help grieving families and those in ministry face the loss of loved ones through suicide.

"Beauty from Ashes: Transforming Loss," a suicide bereavement retreat, will be held Friday to Sunday, Sept. 23 to 25. Led by Anne Cronin Tyson and C. Karen Covey Moore, the retreat uses prayer, reflection, journaling and sharing to help participants remember their loved ones, reframe their experience with hope, refocus anguish and integrate pain with joy and move forward with faith.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, Anne and Karen will present a related workshop, "Suicide Bereavement: What Do I Say?" for pastors, counselors, youth leaders, spiritual directors, teachers and others who minister to families during times of loss.

The workshop will provide the participants with tools to guide those who have experienced loss of a loved one through suicide.

For information, call 448-1224 or visit www.ihrc.net.

Turner Lectures set Oct. 10 to 12

The 2011 Turner Memorial Lecture Series will feature philosopher-theologian John D. Caputo leading a presentation on "What Would Jesus Deconstruct? Postmodernism Meets the Church," Monday to Wednesday, Oct. 10 to 12, at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima.

John brings philosophical questions to bear on religion and theology while inviting philosophers to think about the narratives in Scripture. The writer-scholar held endowed chairs in philosophy and religion at Syracuse University and Villanova University before his recent retirement. He presents ideas of academic scholarship to wider audiences and the "Emergent Church."

"The result of crossing the wires—between philosophy and theology, the academy and the pews—brings us closer to what is going on in religion and theology," he said, describing what he means by "deconstruction."

For information, call 253-893-7202 or visit www.disciplesnw.org.



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Calendar of Events

- Sept 3-17 • **White Swan Blitz Build** on a home damaged February wind and firestorm, 654-0515
- Sept 6-11 • **Fr. Irnel DuVeaux**, Spokane Haiti Project Visit, Cathedral of St. John, 413-9463
- Sept 7, 21 • **Death Penalty Abolition Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 8 • **Fig Tree Board Meeting/Volunteer Recognition BBQ**, Highland Park United Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield, 11 a.m., 535-1813
- Sept 9 • **African Children's Choir**, Calvary Chapel of Spokane, 511 W. Hastings Rd., 7 p.m., 467-2860
- Sept 10 • **Main Street Festival**, Sustainable September, Main St. between Browne and Division, 8 p.m. to midnight, 209-2625
- **"Breaking Arab and Muslim Stereotypes"**, interactive, multi-media display, 35 W. Main lobby, noon to 6 p.m., 838-7870
- **Sustainable Uprising Festival**, Main St. between Browne and Division, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Prayer meeting to mourn the loss of life**, lament the rule of violence in the last decade and pray for peace in the decade to come, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 8 p.m.
- Sept 10, 11 • **Veterans Support Network Workshop and Rita Nakashima Brock**, United Christian Church, 317 S 41st St., Yakima, 105 p.m., Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 206-625-9790
- Sept 10 & 17 • **Spokane Alliance Leadership Institute**, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1832 W. Dean, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 532-1688
- Sept 10, 17, 24 • **Saturday at the Farm**, 10425 Andrus Road, Cheney, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 216-9273, peachlocal.com
- Sept 10-21 • **Pathways to Peace** activities, onepeacemanypaths.org
- Sept 11 • **African Children's Choir**, Life Center, 1202 N Government Way 9 and 11:15 a.m., 327-4422
- **Sacred Space, Sacred Song**, St. John Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave., 4 p.m., 838-4277
- **Evensong 9/11 Remembrance**, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave, 7 p.m., 838-4277
- Sept 14 • **African Children's Choir**, Northview Bible Church, 13521 N. Mill Rd., 7 p.m., 466-1770
- Sept 14-16 • **"Sharing the Vision of a Hunger Free Washington,"** Washington Food Coalition Annual Conference, Wenatchee Convention Center, 121 N. Wenatchee Ave., 522-4411
- Sept 15 • **Pastors and Leaders Training on Domestic Violence**, Abuse Recovery Ministry and Services, Old Country Buffet, 5504 N Division, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Sept 16-17 • **Women of Faith "Over the Top" Conference**, Spokane Arena, 325-SEAT
- Sept 17 • **Faith Action Network Launch Celebration** in Seattle, University Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 16th Ave. NE, 5 p.m., 206-625-9790
- Sept 18 • **Green and Solar Home and Landscape Tour**, 32 W. Second, Ste 200, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., ecobuilding.org/events/Spokane-green-and-solar-home-tour
- Sept 19-22 • **Holden Symposium**, "Radically Incarnate: God, World and Church," Karen Bloomquist of Lutheran World Federation, and Dan Peterson of Seattle University's Matteo Ricci College, holdenvillage.org
- Sept 20 • **Community Building Day with Odyssey World International** Education Services and Whitworth University clothing and supply give away, 227 E. Sprague, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 747-0714
- Sept 22 • **Benefit Walk-Along**, Corbin Park, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., 327-1584
- Sept 23-25 • **Writing Retreat**, "Writing as a Spiritual Practice, N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene, 208-689-3489
- Sept 23-25 • **Beauty from Ashes: Transforming Loss**, Suicide Bereavement Retreat, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- Sept 24 • **Out of the Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk**, Mission Park, 1200 E. Mission, 10 a.m. to noon, jmneal@afsp.org
- **Fall Legislative Forum**, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1832 W. Dean, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 483-8449
- Sept 25 • **Juan Melendez**, innocent man who spent 10 years on death row, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m.
- Sept 26 • **Juan Melendez**, Gonzaga University Law School Barbieri Courtroom, 721 N. Cincinnati, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept 28 • **"Suicide Bereavement: What Do I Say?"** Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd, 448-1224
- Sept 29-Oct 1 • **Greek Dinner**, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, 1703 N Washington, holyltrinityspokane.org
- Sept 30 • **Bluegrass in the Cathedral**, Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 358-4273
- Oct 2 • **Mid-Columbia CROP Walk**, Richland
- Oct 5 • **Fig Tree Distribution**, St. Mark's Luthersn, 316 W 24th, 9 a.m.
- Oct 6 • **Fig Tree Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 1 p.m.
- Oct 8 • **Community Speak-Out and March on the Costs of War**
- Oct 9 • **CROP Walks, Pullman, Spokane and Walla Walla**
- **"Jam with Bread" Concert**, Westminster United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 624-1366

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Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations celebrates 30 years

By Kaye Hult

Thirty years ago this past February, eight people gathered at First Christian Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to determine how to counter the hate crimes that had cropped up in and around Kootenai County. That night, they formed the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCTFHR).

Recently, Tony Stewart, one of the founding members, reflected upon the task force's history.

Richard Butler purchased land above Hayden Lake in 1973. At that time, fewer than one percent of the residents of Coeur d'Alene and the area surrounding it were non-white. Butler created the Aryan Nations and the Church of Jesus Christ – Christian. He quietly recruited people to join him in these organizations, set up to tout white supremacy.

Toward the end of 1980, he and his compatriots began a campaign to harass people they wanted to leave the Inland Northwest. In particular, they victimized a Jewish restaurant owner in Hayden and a bi-racial family in Coeur d'Alene.

Tony said Dina Tanners, a community activist called together the early February meeting in response to these hate crimes.

Accordingly, she has been dubbed the mother of the task force. Others involved from the beginning include Kootenai County Under-Sheriff Larry Broadbent and realtor Marshall Mend. Fr. Bill Wassmuth, then priest of St. Pius X Catholic Church, and attorney Norm Gissel came on a few years later in 1984. Of these early participants, Tony and Norm continue to be active on the board.

"The task force is both reactive and proactive," Tony said. "It reacts to hate crimes. We have learned that we can't be silent when these things take place."

He said the group is proactive in supporting legislation and activities that promote acceptance of diversity.

For example, during the 1980s, the task force joined forces with the North Idaho College Board of Trustees to dedicate 3,200 feet of the beach at North Idaho College to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Historically, it had been a tribal gathering place.

Jeanne Givens, a tribe member, played an instrumental role in bringing this about. Then governor of Idaho, Cecil Andrus, assisted in the dedication on July 18, 1987. The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council named the beach "Yap-Keehn-Um" (The Gathering Place).

Tony described the task force as intentional in how it approaches its work.

Twenty-one people serve on its board. Only nine of the seats are open. The task force has designated the remaining 12 seats to represent the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Jewish and African American communities; local governments in Kootenai County; the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce; religious, law enforcement, gay-lesbian-bisexual-transvestite groups; the North Idaho College Human Equality Club and the education communities. All on the task force volunteer their time.

"We decided a long time ago that we support three great demo-

cratic principles: freedom, equality and justice. We will work in two arenas: to support victims of hate crimes or harassment, and to oppose discrimination," he said.

"To carry out this work, we have determined never to remain silent. We can find no examples in history where silence has solved problems. Also, we will never engage in confrontation. We will follow the manner of Martin Luther King Jr. of doing something of our own elsewhere," he said.

"It's all about control," Tony said. "Who determines it? We can let them control our behavior, or we can control it."

Tony told of how, in 1998, Butler organized a march down Coeur d'Alene's Sherman Avenue. He wanted the task force to come and heckle him and his supporters. He labeled them as cowards when they refused to do so.

Instead, Tony arranged to give a speech at the Magnuson Club. He outlined the task force's Lemons to Lemonade project. He invited people to pledge money per minute of the walk.

Tony humorously pointed out that Butler had three responses

to this project. If he decided not to march, the task force would not receive any funds to promote diversity programs in the public schools. If his march was short, the task force would raise a little money. What Tony really wanted was for Butler to march slowly, because the longer he walked, the more the project would receive. The march lasted 27 minutes.

Of funds they raised, donors designated \$10,000 to several human rights organizations. The task force divided the remaining \$24,000 for three grants for public school teachers to use programs and materials on diversity.

By announcing each award at a separate time over several months, they garnered more publicity for the task force.

When asked what made him so dedicated to the work of the task force, Tony looked back to when he was a young boy growing up in the South. "I've always been so offended when people were treated in an unjust way," he said. His whole family was saddened by hate activity.

He identified one incident that has stayed with him.

While visiting relatives elsewhere, his family heard an African-American woman with a magnificent voice sing in church. His parents invited her to their church, but when they told the church elders of their invitation, the elders rejected it. They did not want an African American to share worship with them.

Tony considers this one of the foundational incidents that formed his perceptions about discrimination.

The task force has helped other human rights groups form, both nearby and throughout the country. It has taken an instrumental role in anti-discrimination legislation over the past 30 years.

It has joined hands with other human rights organizations to accomplish greater deeds than it could do on its own.

It has fought for the rights of many people in the courts.

On its website at idahohumanrights.org, the task force lists 42 items of involvement in their stand for human rights.

Recently, an editorial in a local newspaper suggested that the work of the task force was done.

Tony replied with a lengthy rebuttal, saying that its work will never be done.

"It's like saying there will be no more victims," he said. "We've made much progress. There are also setbacks. More than one victim has said to me, 'You are our only avenue!'"

"The work is humbling," he reflected. "We've been empowered by the citizenry. We've been imaginative, and bold at times. We have much responsibility. We feel humble and grateful for the support we receive," he said.

"There's incredible satisfaction to be involved with this," Tony continued. "At the top of the list is the destruction of the Aryan Nations compound and turning the land into a peace park. The task force has been much more appreciated for that than anything."

For information, call 208-765-3932 or email tony.steward@roadrunner.com.

Kaye Hult, a retired United Church of Christ pastor living in Coeur d'Alene, volunteers with The Fig Tree



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This fall, The Ministry Institute (TMI) at Gonzaga University will offer **TWO** seminar series

Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ,

much-beloved professor emeritus at Gonzaga University, and leader of retreats around the globe, will present two lectures this fall. These will be videotaped as part of TMI's efforts to honor the legacy of Fr. Nigro and to acknowledge how he has touched the hearts of students, retreatants and so many other friends.



The seminars will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end by 1 p.m.. They will include Fr. Nigro's talk, Mass, lunch and time for reflection.

Thursday, October 6 – "The Philosophy of God"

Thursday, November 3 – "The Philosophy of Man"

Join us for this unique opportunity for learning and prayer!

To make reservations or for more information,

contact Shonna Bartlett, Program Director.

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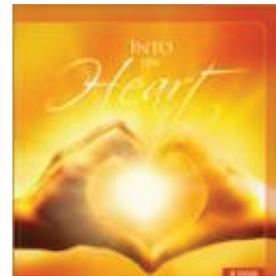
Taizé is a form of prayer rooted in song, silence and readings, often from scripture. A Taizé prayer service includes simple, repetitive chants and times of meditative silence. The Ministry Institute adds poetry to prayers and Scriptures.

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September 10 Wisdom in the Old Testament –

Dr. Linda Schearing – Chant and psalmody

October 8

Mysticism in the Life of St. Francis –

Dr. John Downey – The art and prayer of St. Francis

November 12

Theological Reflection –

Sr. Mary Garvin – Spiritual Exercises for our daily lives

Seminars begin at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation, usually by a Gonzaga professor, followed by a related prayer experience, time for sharing, and suggestions for incorporating prayer practices into our daily lives.

Seminars will end with lunch together.

For more information,
contact Shonna Bartlett

Program Director at TMI: (509) 313-5765
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