

Monthly newspaper covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

DATED MATERIALS

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE WA
Permit No. 1044

Community keeps its elders

By Mary Stamp

Garfield took its liability of losing older people and turned it into an asset by establishing an assisted-living facility with 16 units in the center of town.

Even though older residents did not want to leave Garfield, where they had lived most of their lives, many left because they needed assisted living.

With a Community Development Grant and passage of a bond levy, the community of 650 and surrounding area of 1,000 raised \$1.5 million for the hospital district to develop the LaDow Assisted Living Center.

Most apartments are now filled and the median age of residents is 89.

The center has created nine jobs.

"That's a significant number of jobs," said the Rev. King Rockhill, now retired as both director of Rural Ministries Resources (RMR) and pastor of the Garfield and Farmington United Methodist Churches.

His successor in those roles is the Rev. Joel Aosved.

King is still chair of the Hospital District Board, which he founded in 1976 to provide an ambulance for the surrounding area.

In the early 1980s, the hospital district established a clinic in Garfield, to be served by medical staff from the Whitman Medical Group in Colfax. The current doctor, who

Continued on page 4



Ruth Palmer, who has lived in Farmington since she was three years old, was one of the first residents to move into the assisted-living center in nearby Garfield. She had favored building it, but didn't think that she would live there.

Newsletters net new story ideas

An appeal for congregations to send newsletters and for communities to find contact people is bearing fruit in this issue of The Fig Tree—helping turn words to flesh.

The Benton City United Methodist Church began sending their newsletter as a result of fall phonathon calls and a postcard sent by three Gonzaga University service-learning students.

A newsletter story on the church youth group's 30-Hour Famine drew the editor's attention and interest in pursuing a deeper story.

Editor Mary Stamp called youth leader Julie Clouse and learned more details. Julie sent emails with students' comments, some photos and some additional information, rounding out a story.

This semester, The Fig Tree is working with two other Gonzaga service-learning students—Sarah Kline, who is assisting with calls to churches as part of the Rural-Urban Outreach Project, and Troy Murray, who will help upgrade the design of the current website as The Fig Tree works to develop the Interactive Website Project.

"Gathering Fig Tree stories is a process of learning how people are renewed in their journey into deeper understandings of faith by encounters with people who, living their faith, make their faith more alive to themselves and others," said Mary.

For information, call 535-1813.

South African will visit in June

Based on his experience in South Africa, former Methodist Bishop Peter Storey will explore how media can cut a nation off from the impact of its foreign policies and will reflect on the church-state struggle in America in events The Fig Tree will sponsor on Friday, June 3.

The Fig Tree will hold its second annual fund-raising breakfast at 7:30 a.m., a noon lunch and a 6 p.m. dinner and lecture.

Peter, who has a bachelor's degree from Rhodes University, an LLD from Albion College and a doctor of divinity from Ohio Wesleyan University, is teaching on Christian ministry for spring semester at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

After ordination in the 1960s, he developed downtown ministries in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

While in Cape Town he was Nelson Mandela's prison chap-

lain on Robben Island. As a bishop in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, he served the Johannesburg/Soweto area.

In these positions and as president of the South African Council of Churches, working closely with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he helped give leadership to the church's anti-apartheid struggle.

Peter also played key roles in peacemaking structures in South Africa, and President Mandela appointed him to help select the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

For nine years, he edited the Methodist newspaper, *Dimension*. He has written many publications and was a weekly columnist for South Africa's Sunday Independent, a national newspaper.

The Fig Tree seeks volunteers to help with planning, hosting a table at the breakfast, underwriting and promoting the events.

For information, call 535-1813.

For Prosser, Grandview and Sunnyside

Friendly competition motivates walkers

Prosser and Grandview will gather for their combined spring CROP Walk at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 19. They will walk from Palacios Park outside Grandview on a pathway 6.2 miles to the City Park in Prosser. The communities last did a walk in the fall of 2003, in conjunction with Sunnyside.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and a 10-K run may precede the walk for those interested. Boy Scouts and Explorer Posts are handling logistics, said the Rev. Gary Wolfer of the United Methodist Church in Prosser.

There will be Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Disciples of Christ church members from both towns, as well as scouts, students and families from the community.

"Our goal is to have 100 walkers," he said. "The first time we had about 40. Better promotion and involvement of youth should make the difference."

Part of the impetus came from the Boy Scouts who wanted to do something in response to the tsunami. The churches had begun talking about doing another CROP Walk and the Scouts wanted to join in.

An incentive for the boys beyond their interest,

there is an effort in March to "do a good turn for America." Gary said. "Ten rather than 25 percent of the money raised will go to the local food bank, because organizers decided to do more to assist with tsunami relief efforts."

For information, call 786-1097.

The Sunnyside CROP Walk will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 23, starting at Chief Kamiakin Elementary School in Sunnyside.

Grandview-Prosser and Sunnyside have set friendly inter-community challenges to encourage recruitment and fund raising.

The Sunnyside Ministerial Association decided to move it to spring so more people could be involved than can participate in the fall during harvest. They also hope to recruit 100 participants in the walk.

"It's community rivalry for a good cause," said Katie Haney, pastor of the Presbyterian Church and president of the ministerial association. "It's particularly relevant this year because of the need for development assistance after the tsunami. Area churches have held other fund raisers and have prepared health kits."

For information, call 837-4314.

Information
on the Spokane
CROP Walk
is on page 3

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

Ecumenical News International, PO Box 2100
 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
 Fax: +41-22 788 7244 Email: eni@eni.ch

Children are victims of asylum politics

London (ENI). Bob Reitemeier and staff at one of Britain's largest children's societies know the misery of refugee children who don't know where they are. "We've talked to children who had no idea they were in Britain," said Bob, executive of the Children's Society, which is linked to the Church of England. "There's nothing in the centers for children to say they are in Britain. It's not humane."

WCC steers safe course on sexuality debate

Geneva (ENI). Sex and religion can be an explosive mix, but those expecting fireworks when the World Council of Churches Central Committee took up the topic of human sexuality were disappointed. What was dubbed an "ecumenical conversation," one Orthodox leader described as "a small step in demonstrating that we can have safer, non-threatening dialogue."

Dresden remembers bombing 60 years ago

Bielefeld (ENI). Dresden marked the 60th anniversary of the World War II allied firebombing, in which about 35,000 civilians died and the city center was reduced to rubble. At a memorial service at the Church of Our Lady, clergy from Coventry Cathedral in England presented a cross, made from medieval nails rescued from the cathedral roof after German bombs destroyed it in 1940. "We will work together for peace in the future," said the Rev. John Irvine, dean of the cathedral, as he presented the cross to Dresden's Lutheran Bishop Jochen Bohl in the crypt of the Frauenkirche.

Greek church caught in allegations

Athens (ENI). Orthodox Christian leaders in Greece said an attack against the church is behind a series of allegations against senior clerics. "A climate is being created by those who engage in revelations of scandals that are sometimes true and sometimes concocted," said Archbishop Christodoulos. "What purpose does this daily dragging through the mud serve?" The church is in turmoil because of accusations that an alleged trial-fixing ring of judges and church leaders helped criminals.

Kenyan priest urges caution about grades

Nairobi (ENI). Some church leaders and education groups in Kenya warn that stressing examination results to gauge pupils' ability erodes benefits of free primary school education introduced in 2003. "There is more emphasis on good grades at the expense of other skills in life," said the Rev. Emmanuel Ngugi, priest at the Roman Catholic Holy Family Basilica in Nairobi. The criticisms follow the announcement in January by the education ministry that 340,000 of the 650,000 pupils will not find places in secondary school.

Former Protestant institute to train imams

Amsterdam (ENI). A former bastion of Protestant theology in the Netherlands has become the country's first institute of higher education granted government funds to train imams. The Free University of Amsterdam will receive \$1.95 million from the education ministry to help fund a master's degree. "The course is to prepare them to work in careers that require theological formation, such as pastoral care in the armed forces, the health sector, judicial institutions and mosques," the university said.

Mandela calls for end to 'prison of poverty'

London (ENI). Nelson Mandela, a famous former prisoner, calls on leaders of the developed world to free millions in poorer countries, "trapped in the prison of poverty." The 86-year-old former South African president addressed a rally in London's Trafalgar Square called by the Make Poverty History campaign. "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural," he said. "It is man-made and can be eradicated by human actions."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Pastor helps clergy deal with domestic violence

Considering domestic violence the number one public health problem and greatest single cause of injury for U.S. women, the Rev. Al Miles believes clergy have a role in ending it. He will bring this message to four events Tuesday and Wednesday, March 15 and 16, in Spokane.

He challenges churches that send victims back into violent relationships.

Since 1993, he has been ethics consultant and coordinator of the ministry department with Pacific Health Ministry at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu. He speaks nationally to clergy, lay leaders and professionals on ending domestic violence and teen dating abuse.

The Interfaith Council's Circle of Caring is sponsoring a conference, "Ending Domestic Violence: Why the Entire Community Must Be Involved."

An ordained Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) pastor, Al is author of books on what pastors and lay people need to know about domestic violence.

His latest book deals with ending violence in teen dating relationships.

Following a 6:30 p.m. reception Tuesday at the Berachah Church, which meets at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2 W. 3rd Ave., Al will talk on "Taboo Issues of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 314 S. Spruce, with a break for lunch at 11:45 a.m., as part of the Spokane City Forum at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

His presentation at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, will be on "Ending Violence in Teen Dating Relationships."

"Churches can be instrumental in helping stop abuse and violence. We can provide comfort and safety to victimized women and their children, hold abusive Christian men accountable for the crime of domestic violence, and we can refer both victimized women and abusive men worship-

ing in our congregations to service providers in our communities for additional expert support," Al said.

Although a small percentage of men are abused by their partners, he said research shows that 85 percent of victims and survivors of domestic violence are women, and more than 90 percent of perpetrators of violence are men.

In pulpits and pews, there are men of every faith, he said, who may "beat, cuss, rape, stalk, strangle or violate their wives and girlfriends," Al said. "Some Christian women and children live, not in God's grace and peace, but under the constant horror of being tortured emotionally, physically, psychologically and sexually by males calling themselves 'men of God.'"

"Christian clergy can confront the misuse of religious beliefs, teachings, traditions and texts by men who perpetrate domestic violence," he said. "Love and respect are virtues that need to be at the center of every interaction."

For information, call 329-1410.

Speaker lists factors for community health

Alan Durning, founder of the Northwest Environment Watch (NEW), will speak at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, at the Spokane City Council Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls, on key trends in the "Cascadia Scorecard."

The scorecard is NEW's project to track long-term health of the region through seven key trends—health, economy, population, energy, sprawl, forests and pollution.

His talk will emphasize energy issues.

NEW's research focuses on identifying reforms to redirect business-as-usual to sustainable ends, such as through compact urban development, pay-by-the-mile car insurance or taxing things that are bad for the environment.

The March 9 event, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church and the American Planning Association, will also feature

a Sustainability Fair to encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will help make the culture more sustainable.

For example, a representative of Avista will be present to sign people up for wind power.

The fair is also planned as part of the celebration of Earth Day 2005 on April 23, at Riverfront Park.

For information, see www.northwestwatch.org/spokane.

Mentoring helps children of imprisoned parents

The Rev. Wilson Goode, a military, government, church, civic, social action and neighborhood leader, will be in Spokane on Monday, March 7, to meet with civic and faith leaders, prison officials and women inmates.

He speaks at the Ridpath Hotel at a 7 a.m. breakfast, a 9 a.m. press conference and a 10 a.m. training for people mentoring children of prisoners. At 11:45 a.m., he will be at the Spokane Club, followed by an afternoon prison visit.

He is collaborating with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Spokane, Educational Service District 101, the Department of Corrections, and Health and Human Services on the national Amachi faith-based mentoring program for children of prisoners.

Wilson at the age of 14 in the 1940s saw his father in jail and decided not to follow in his footsteps. He broke the family cycle with the help of a couple who mentored him. From that experience, he later founded Amachi.

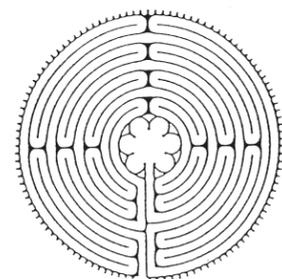
Lucinda Kay of KXLY, African-American motivational speaker Dennis Mitchell and native American Agnes Broncheau will

share their stories and how mentors made a difference for them.

Wilson has also helped to create more livable communities by building housing and organizing intervention programs in education, employment and economic development. In 1983, he became the first African American to be elected mayor of Philadelphia.

For information, call 328-8312.

Lenten Labyrinth Opportunities



The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on the corner of 12th Ave. & Grand Blvd. offers the following opportunities to experience the labyrinth during the Lenten season:

Open labyrinth walks, Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Now through March 17

Women's Dream Quest
 In honor of International Women's Week
 Friday, March 11 - Saturday, March 12

This is an opportunity to spend the night in the sacred space of the Cathedral. The evening includes small & large group activities, singing, healing, art, and labyrinth walking. Facilitated by Judith Tripp, MA, MFT of San Francisco. \$50 fee

Journey into Holy Week
 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, March 18
 A light supper will be served, followed by a meditation and walking the labyrinth. Free will offering joyfully accepted.

For more information, contact the Cathedral office at (509) 838-4277 or Karen Robbins at robbins.k@worldnet.att.net

The Fig Tree is reader supported BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

- \$15, \$25, \$50, \$150, \$1,500
- \$50 for bulk order of 15

SEND TO
 The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.
Deadlines:
 COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
 It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
Editorial Team
 Editor/Photographer - Mary Stamp
 Sr. Bernadine Casey, Nancy Minard
Project Coordinators
 Jim CastroLang - Interactive Website
 Mark Baetzhold - Urban-Rural Outreach
Fig Tree Board
 Sr. Bernadine Casey, John Coleman
 Campbell, Jo Hendricks,
 Deidre Jacobson, Mary Mackay,
 Hugh Magee, Carl Milton, Nancy Minard,
 Roger Ross, Mary Stamp,
 Marilyn Stedman, Edie Volosing
 © 2005
 (509) 535-1813

CROP Walk recruiters will meet on March 3

The Spokane CROP WALK Recruiters Training is at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 3, at Mission Community Presbyterian Church, 2103 E. Mission. Church World Service/CROP regional director Lynn Magnuson from Seattle will be the speaker.

The Spokane CROP Walk registration and entertainment begin at noon, Sunday, April 24. The walk starts at 1:15 p.m., at Martin Centre at Gonzaga University and proceeds through Riverfront Park and along the Centennial Trail.

Planning meetings are at 7 p.m., Thursdays, March 10 and 24, at Manito United Methodist Church, 3220 S. Grand.

Organizers will distribute CROP Walk fliers at the Bloomsday Training on Saturday, March 12, at Holy Family Hospital. In addition, Arby's restaurants use placemats with the CROP Walk story and information on participation.

Because April is Hunger Awareness Month, Bonnie Churchwell said that CROP walkers will again be asked to bring canned goods for local food outlets.

One-fourth of funds raised are shared with local hunger relief organizations. The rest of the funds support the relief and development work of Church World Service—or the global relief organization a walker designates.

For information, call 326-5656.

Congress on Race deals with intercultural literacy

The 2005 Congress on Race Relations will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, at the Spokane Community College Lair Center, 1810 N. Greene.

Lee Gardenswartz and Anita Rowe, both of Gardenswartz & Rowe in Los Angeles, and psychologist Jorge Cherbosque, co-director of the Staff and Faculty Counseling Center at the University of California in Los Angeles, will give a presentation on "Intercultural Literacy: A Critical Component of Emotional Intelligence and Diversity for Building a More Harmonious Community."

There will be break-out sessions on "Yours, Mine and Ours: Moving Beyond Culture Clash to Resolve Differences," "Is the Glass of Water Half Full or Half Empty? Managing Your Frustration With Differences," and "Melting the Ice: Tools for Building Connections Across Differences."

Local presenters Daniel Distelhorst and Raymond Reyes will lead a session on "The Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity," and Gordon Watanabe and Esther Louie will lead a session on "Personal Leadership: The Art of Crossing Cultures."

The event is sponsored by the Spokane Task Force on Race Relations, which was created in 1996 after hate mail was sent to African-American students in Gonzaga University's School of Law. The Congress is designed to open dialogue on race relations and build better understanding among area residents.

For information, call 623-2050.

Council adopts consensus decision-making

By Walt Wiltschek
WCC Press Release

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has adopted a consensus decision-making model to strengthen the participation and commitment of member churches.

The former president of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Rev. D'Arcy Wood, said his church began as a merger of three denominations in 1977, and "within 10 years, there was some dissatisfaction with our rules for making decisions."

He said they addressed how to include people and work together, and how to make decisions that reflect the church's diversity.

They turned to the Friends (Quakers), who have a tradition of using consensus, to some U.S. churches, and to Australia's aboriginal people, who do not use a parliamentary style.

The Uniting Church adopted the consensus model in 1994. D'Arcy said modifications continue. For example, the aboriginal model wasn't bound by agendas and tight schedules. The model required an education process.

At first, D'Arcy was skeptical whether the process could work with large groups like synods and national conferences, but it has.

When the WCC began looking at its decision-making process, it took note of this approach as it sought ways to make the Orthodox voice heard in its decisions.

The parliamentary system can result in a significant minority voice being on the "losing" side.

Some WCC committees had been using consensus. Others began trying it. In February, the Central Committee adopted

a proposal to make consensus the rule of conduct for WCC proceedings.

"Some member churches have found in their own lives that making decisions by consensus better reflects the nature of the church described in the New Testament," said WCC general secretary, the Rev. Samuel Kobia. "Other member churches argue that the WCC can bear witness today in a world marked by conflicts, tensions and war not only by its programs, but also by the way it does business."

The new way of doing business would take some adjustment, learning by doing.

Kobia assured the body that concerns raised had been addressed, and that "security valves" were put in the process to prevent a "paralysis" of business. For example, if consensus cannot be reached, but participants feel the urgency of business requires moving forward, a business item can shift to a vote if 85 percent approve. Such items as elections, fi-

nances and constitutional changes will still be done by vote.

Eden Grace of the Religious Society of Friends - Friends United Meeting, urged participants to be flexible in trying the model.

"Listen to each and respond to each other in a spirit of open listening," she said. "We don't just accumulate more messages in favor than against. We build a common mind. It's a much more dialogical approach."

Committee members were coached not to immediately rebut another speaker's opinion and not to say again what another speaker had already said. The goal of consensus is to build on the wisdom and insight each speaker offers to work toward a common mind, "seeking the mind of Christ."

Anne Glynn-Mackoul, an Orthodox U.S. lawyer and central committee member who helped draft the rule, noted that "a common mind does not necessarily mean unanimity. It can mean most are in agreement and others allow the decision to go forward."

CROP Hunger Walk '05

SUNDAY, April 24



Noon - entertainment & registration
Martin Centre-Gonzaga University
1:15 p.m. - Walk
on Centennial Trail

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR HUNGER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Sign up sponsors now for a 10-K or 2-mile walk

TO REGISTER CALL 326-5656



A project of
Church World Service
& the Interfaith Council
of the Inland Northwest

Easter Sunrise Service

Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest
with Fairmount Memorial Association

6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
March 27, 2005



Celebrate the
Surprise of Easter

WITH

Cristy Bristow - Country Homes Christian
The Rev. Nancy Goodwin - Millwood Presbyterian
The Rev. Lauri Strait - Opportunity Christian
Carol Williams - Mission Community Presbyterian

CELEBRATION OF DRAMA, SCRIPTURE, SONG AND POETRY



at the Lofty Cross of Inspiration

Greenwood
Memorial Terrace
211 N. Government Way
For information, call 329-1410
email info@interfaithnw.org

78th Annual NOVENA OF GRACE

In Honor of St. Francis Xavier

Sat., March 5 - Sun., March 13

This year's theme is

'Healer of Souls'

Presenters:

Rev. Leon Kapfer, S.J. Rev. Craig Boly, S.J.



Novena Services:

12:15 pm Prayer Service (starts 12:30 pm both Sundays)
3:30 pm Benediction Service
5:15 pm Mass Service

Signing for hearing impaired Mon-Fri @ 3:30 pm/Sat & Sun @ first service
Saturday, March 12th Anointing of the Sick at all services

PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS WELCOME

In keeping with the Lenten journey, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available starting 45 minutes before each Novena service

St. Aloysius Church

Boone & Astor Spokane, WA 323-5896

Assisted-living center in Garfield sparks community relationships

Continued from page 1

lives in St. John, serves both Garfield and St. John. There are also physicians' assistants.

"We have run through about every model there is for rural health," King said.

The assisted-living center was six years in planning. It opened in March 2004.

In May 2002, the hospital board posted a meeting announcement in the post offices at Garfield and Farmington to gather people to consider running a bond levy to build the center. One woman stood in the post office recruiting people to come. Seventy people showed up.

Within an hour they agreed to put the levy on the September ballot. It passed by a vote of 68 percent. They contracted with an architect.

Meanwhile, they negotiated with the LaDow Grange, which previously stood on the site of the center. It was used as a gym for the old high school. Grangers were at first reluctant to sell the old Grange hall, named for a nearby butte, but agreed to sell it in January 2002.

After Grange members decided in 15 minutes to sell, everyone was on board, Joel said.

Construction began in the spring of 2003.

Brick wainscot on the exterior of the new center is from the Grange. The mantle above the fireplace is a beam from an old grain elevator. Photos on inside walls capture Grange and other area history.

Members of the hospital board visited similar facilities in three other communities—Odessa, Chewelah and Wilbur—where they gathered ideas and advice.

They decided to have 16 studio apartments of 450-square feet, because the other communities thought they had under-built. Sixteen is the maximum for an assisted-living center to be a boarding house rather than a health-care facility.

People bring their own furniture and decorations. The rooms have bay windows, which make them look larger. Radiant floor heat reduces drafts. There is a common laundry room and one Jacuzzi step-in bathtub.

To live there, a person must be able to move from the bed to a walker to a wheel chair alone. For health care, residents may go to a nursing home when they need skilled nursing or physical therapy, so they can have enough strength and mobility to return.

There is no resident nurse, but there is staff in the facility all day all week. A nurse is on staff to



The Rev. Joel Aosved

help with handling medicines and routine health care.

The board decided to build in the center of Garfield, so residents could be part of the community.

The facility is within one block of three churches, across from the bank, a block from the grocery store, and beside the clinic and post office. Residents can just walk out the door and down the street using their walkers.

It's also where people and families come to do errands in town, so they stop in and say hi, King said.

"One little boy just came to see his great-grandmother while his mother shopped," he said.

"There is constant interaction with people who come frequently, rather than people living several hours away and being alone, waiting for visits once a week."

With the café now closed, people can drop into the center to use the phone. Someone is always there, so it is a local 911 center.

They observe what they call "the code of the door." If the door to an apartment is closed, it means the resident does not want to be disturbed. If it is open a crack, it means to knock and check if the person wants a visit. If the door is open, it means to come on in.

The residents are a mix of local-area people from Garfield, Farmington, Palouse, Albion, Pullman,

Spokane and one from Whidbey Island who has roots in Garfield.

"It keeps people connected to the geographic area and to family. Some came back, having attended high school there 60 years ago," he said.

The church, as the church, was not involved, but individuals in churches took leadership roles in developing the project.

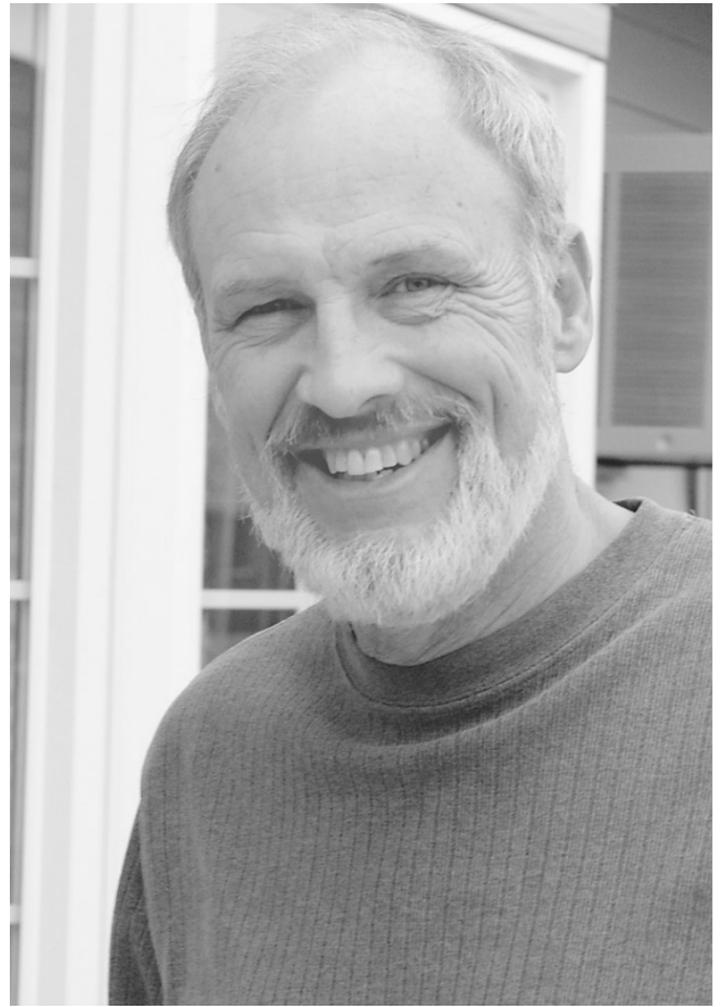
In its first 10 months, it has operated at a loss for only two months. Joel attributes that to community ownership.

The primary issue in ministry has been how to help elders in the church and community transition from being able to drive to not being able to drive, from being able to live at home to not being able to live at home.

A widow living alone on a farmstead used to live under a shadow of fear: What if she fell? What if the lifeline did not work? Would anyone come? The new residence has lifted that shadow.

"The pastor helps in that process," Joel said. "Now, when they give up living in their homes, they do not need to give up living near their friends or in the community that has been their whole world. They can just become townies."

Joel said nutrition makes a difference. There is an open central kitchen and a dining room with four tables of four. Residents have



The Rev. King Rockhill

microwaves, small refrigerators and sinks in their small kitchens, but most eat all meals together.

"Often people deteriorate physically and mentally if they lack nutrition and stimulation from interaction with each other over puzzles, jokes and telling stories," he said, impressed by the camaraderie among residents.

Thursday mornings, they hold a Bible study at the center. Residents are able to go to the one of

three churches within a block of the center.

"People here are looking to the future. They have plans for what they will do next week, so they are not focused on the past," King said. "They plan to go have their hair fixed, to visit family, to join in community events."

For information, call 208-875-1578 or email arockhil@pullman.com.

Related article on next page

Does your congregation send your newsletter to The Fig Tree?

Send it to: The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

**RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM:
WORKING ACROSS CULTURES**

**8th Annual
Community
Congress on
Race Relations**

Wednesday, March 30

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - The Lair
Spokane Community College
1810 N. Greene St.



Presenting

Lee Gardenswartz, Anita Rowe & Jorge Cherbosque
"Intercultural Literacy: Critical Component of Emotional Intelligence"
"Diversity for Building a More Harmonious Community"

For information and to register, contact: 623-2050
or www.RaceRelationsSpokane.com

FREE EVENT
OPEN TO PUBLIC

presented by the
Spokane Task Force on
Race Relations

PaperPlus

125 S. Arthur
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-0229
(800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE

Now serving the interment and memorialization needs of our Catholic /Christian community in two locations

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY
7200 North Wall
467-5496

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
17825 East Trent
891-6420

Pre-arrangement plans available for all interment and memorialization needs — including ground burial space, garden crypts, lawn crypts, cremation niches, monuments and memorials.

Indoor mausoleum crypts now available at pre-construction discount prices.

Please call or stop by our offices for further information or visit our website at www.cathcem.org

Rural roots make ministry in Garfield seem like 'coming home'

The Rev. Joel Aosved, who became director of Rural Ministries Resources (RMR) in July 2004, said that increasingly "rural church people realize that the strength of the church is related to the strength of the community."

A graduate of seminary at Boston University in 1998, he served United Methodist churches in Grangeville, Nez Perce and Whitebird before moving to the new ministry in Garfield.

The son of a Methodist pastor, he was born in Arlington, but also lived in Coeur d'Alene and Walla Walla. With ancestors buried in the Avon cemetery and cousins in Colfax and Pullman, he feels like the move was "coming home" for him, as well as for his wife, Laura, who grew up in Walla Walla.

"Grangeville, Nez Perce and Whitebird were adept at converting me to rural ministry," he said, commenting that rural pay is often low and demands on a pastor's time are high and conflicted. "In the rural area, you can see the horizon. You can also judge if you are meeting needs, because there are many direct needs."

For example, when a transient needing shoes came through Grangeville, Joel went to the lo-

cal store selling shoes and met the need directly.

RMR pays Joel's salary. Three churches contract with RMR for pastoral services. In addition to Garfield and Farmington, which Joel serves, Elmore contracts for the services of Kathy Kramer, who has been program coordinator of RMR for 18 years. She completed the lay pastoral leadership training for LimPop—Limited and Declining Population—churches.

RMR funding comes from the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Annual Conference, the Alaska-Northwest Presbyterian Church Synod and the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Local congregations also donate.

"RMR provides support services to familial churches—some in rural areas and some in urban areas," said the Rev. King Rockhill, who continues involvement with RMR as treasurer and mentor for Joel.

For many years, King focused on recruiting, training and supervising lay people to serve in pastoral leadership.

RMR also holds educational forums on sustainability of life in small communities, which is



Garfield's assisted-living facility is in center of town, accessible to three churches, the clinic, local businesses and stores, and people who come to town to do errands.

integral to the sustainability and health of churches. The issues these events address include housing, health care, criminal justice, domestic violence and economics.

"Teen pregnancy, gun violence and drug abuse are down in all

areas but rural areas," said Joel. "Resources to deal with these problems are up in all areas but rural areas."

He added that, although the percentage of rural population has

declined since 1940, the number of people living in rural America is more than ever before.

For information, call 635-1248 or email jlime@garfield-wa.com.

Rural series covers health, housing

Health care and housing are themes of a two-part workshop for rural leaders on Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, in Garfield as part of the "Conversations on Sustainability" series offered by Rural Ministries Resources (RMR).

The Area Health Education Center is a co-sponsor of the event.

The Friday program will focus on rural health care issues such as emergency and urgent care; preventive care and diverse care; long-term care; traditional and alternative re-

sponse models, and healthy communities.

Saturday's focus on housing issues includes low-income housing, senior housing, the spectrum of response possibilities to particular needs.

Funding and organizational issues will be considered in both sessions.

There will be conversation groups so participants can network with persons of similar interests.

For information, call 635-1248 or 208-875-1578 or email jlime@garfield-wa.com.

Judy Gorman gives benefit concert

Singer, songwriter, guitarist Judy Gorman, whose music encompasses folk, blues, jazz and gospel music, will perform a benefit concert for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 31, at Unity Church, 29th and Bernard.

She has recently released "The Rising of Us All," 18 songs about peace and justice, work and women, struggle and celebration.

In addition to touring throughout the United States and Europe

full time as a musician, she lectures on the "Multicultural History of Women and Music: Finding Our Own Voice."

Judy, who has a bachelor's degree in literature and a master's degree in art history, has also taught English in Chinatown, assisted in oral surgery, worked for an art museum, done construction work and community organizing, and produced radio programs. Her home town is New York City.

For information, call 838-7870.



1016 N. Superior
Spokane WA 99202
(509) 483-6495
Fax: 483-1541
stjosephfamilycenter.org

Spiritual Direction: Sharing Your Soul's Unfolding Story

Celeste Crine, OSF, MA & Elaine Thaden, OSF, MA

Spiritual direction is an opportunity to talk with another person about your spiritual life and the questions you have on how to form or deepen a relationship with your God.

Please call for your free initial interview

Celebrating the Celtic Spirit!

Jane Comerford, CSJ, MA

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year by learning more about the Celtic spiritual tradition. Join us for a presentation on Celtic spirituality and enjoy Irish coffee, soda bread, music and Celtic inspiration.

Thursday, March 16 7-9:30 pm
Fee: \$15

64th Annual Kosher Dinner

A Feast for the Senses: Music, Food & Fun

Temple Beth Shalom

South Perry & 30th

FOR TICKETS, CALL (509) 623-0372

\$12 adults, \$6 children 11 and under • www.pginc.com

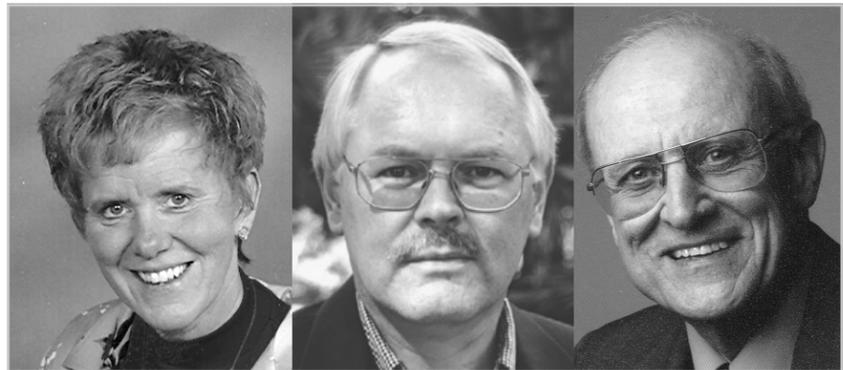
Menu

Assorted Appetizers
Roast Brisket of Beef
Potato Knishes
Carrot Tzimma
Halla (Egg Bread)
Mediterranean Spiced Apples
Apricot Kuchen

Sunday March 13

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tickets also available at Huppins HiFi, Pawn 1 (Valley & N. Division) and Manito Ship & Copy



Spiritual Depth and Effective Ministry Summer in the City

June 27 - July 29, 2005

A Vacation in Learning

Explore the summer offerings at the School of Theology and Ministry, designed to fit your schedule. Spend a part or all of the summer with us.

Explore one-week and two-week courses, a weeklong institute and a Great Theologians Lecture. Whether you are ordained, lay, an educator, or a person seeking deeper spiritual understanding, STM has a program where you can exchange ideas with top theologians and your peers.

- Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
- Master of Arts in Transforming Spirituality
- Master of Divinity

Among the 2005 faculty are: (left to right) Peg Bishop, OSF; Ron Rolheiser, OMI; Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ

www.seattleu.edu/theomin



Where education means more.

State ecumenism organizes churches for a prophetic role

As the Washington Association of Churches (WAC) prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary in June, it has taken steps to become what it believes a state ecumenical organization should be today.

"We have made some major changes in its programs," said the Rev. John Boonstra, executive minister since 1989.

Early years focused on ecumenical dialogue and a variety of programs, consultations and projects of the faith community, but after years of building a sense of the common ground for common action, the WAC is now emphasizing two strategies:

1) It is becoming a progressive, prophetic faith-based public policy education and action network.

2) It is linking member churches with other sectors in the state, including labor, education, environmental and tribal communities with shared concerns.

John said that for today's world, a state ecumenical organization needs "to develop a strong, credible, effective, influential, progressive and prophetic faith-based public policy advocacy network."

While some denominations have their own public policy advocacy networks, it is important to speak with a common voice and as a voice of the faith community that contrasts with voices in the religious right, he said.

"In the last election season, the prophetic, progressive faith-based voice was almost unheard. 'Moral values' were defined in a limited way," John said. "We need to create a sense of urgency to have an ecumenical organization with the capacity to make a difference."



The Rev. John Boonstra

The WAC board realized there are likely 30,000 church people who support reform of tax structures, better health care provisions for state residents, increased support of welfare and addressing environmental issues.

So the board decided to connect with those people and amplify their voices on state public policy, organizing congregation by congregation and district by district to be that voice.

As it has done every year, the

WAC helped organize four legislative briefings throughout the state in January and February, and an Advocacy Day on Feb. 24.

In January, the WAC hired Alice Woldt as public policy advocate to educate and organize people in congregations throughout the state to write letters, make phone calls, send emails and go on visits to legislators. Previously the WAC had one lobbyist in Olympia, trying to speak on behalf of church people.

"We will now organize people, so when there is need to bring pressure about a bill before the legislature, we have the capacity to generate letters from many," John said. "To augment that work, we have invested in electronic advocacy capacity."

The Faith Advocacy Network (FAN), formerly the Ecumenical Legislative Advocacy Network, uses software that allows people to sign up, so messages are targeted to their legislators or members of Congress.

The program offers sample letters on issues, which members of the network may revise and send. The WAC knows only the number of letters sent, not what is said.

"With the \$2 billion state budget deficit and the huge federal budget crisis, this is timely," John said.

Meanwhile, local ecumenical agencies can tie people in and can work on city and county public policies.

"We had much discussion about what terms to use to describe our advocacy as an ecumenical community. We chose to describe it as prophetic, because it is from our faith-based traditions. 'Prophetic' means we are committed to social transformation that produces greater democracy and economic and social justice. 'Prophetic' also means speaking the truth to power," he said.

"Our core interest is in our communal soul, taking on the teachings and policies of our churches," he said. "We seek to help churches come alive by building their capacity to influence state and public policy based on statements they have developed over the years on the issues."

John said that along with the public policy actions, the WAC will offer resources to link the

message of why faith compels people to take particular stands.

"The name of the game today is to frame issues. We need to be more creative in how we do our theological framing, how the prophetic social change agenda connects to our faith and religious teachings," he said.

As a nonprofit organization, the WAC may not endorse or work for any political candidates. Its public policy advocacy comes as education, informing people of issues, implications and actions.

"People are free to use the network if they agree or disagree. Our goal is to build greater civic involvement," he said.

Through building links among churches and other community sectors, the WAC seeks to encourage church people to act in partnership to strengthen their public policy efforts.

The WAC is also collaborating with other local inter-religious partners, giving them access to the network for local and county issues, so they will also use the WAC for their state and federal policy network.

Including federal issues—such as Social Security and the federal budget—is also new for the WAC.

Through the National Inter-religious Staff Community, the WAC works with other state ecumenical agencies and with national communion public policy staff to facilitate advocacy on national issues. John met in December in Washington, D.C., with 100 people from 27 state ecumenical organizations and denominational public policy programs to address the interconnection of federal cuts with cuts in funding to states.

For information, call (206) 625-9790.

Novena prayers, homilies address healing

"Healer of Souls" is the theme Father Craig Boly, S.J., and Father Leon Kapfer, S.J., will address in the 2005 Novena of Grace, nine days of prayer and worship from Saturday, March 5 to Sunday, March 13, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone.

The time of prayer began in 1615 in Goa, India, when Francis Xavier cured a boy crippled from birth.

The Novena of Grace includes three daily services—12:15, 3:30 and 5:15 p.m., except for Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

Father Craig, who entered the Jesuit Novitiate in 1962 out of high school, has taught in high school. After his ordination in 1974, he entered prison chaplaincy, taught at Gonzaga Prep and at Gonzaga University, and recently was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Seattle.

He has master's degrees in English and counseling psychology and a doctoral degree in systematic theology. His books include *The Road to Lonergan's Method in Theology* and *Jesuits in Profile*.

Father Lee, who grew up in St. Patrick's parish in Spokane and graduated from Gonzaga Prep before entering the Society of Jesus in 1940, has taught at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma and Gonzaga Prep. He ministered at the Jesuit Zambia mission for 10 years and then worked in the Jesuits' mission office in Portland, promoting funding for foreign outreach ministry.

He served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Seattle, beginning in 1989. His focus is liturgical and pastoral ministry.

For information, call 323-5896.

Action Recycling

911 E. Marietta

TOP PRICES
HONEST WEIGHT

aluminum
brass
copper
stainless
newspapers

483-4094

Retreat from the World

Immaculate Heart
Retreat Center

A Peaceful Place to Pray and Ponder

6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.
Spokane, WA 99223

448-1224

Church, nonprofit and business groups may use our facilities for lunch and dinner meetings, one-day, weekend or week-long retreats. We offer:

- Conference rooms
- Conference tools
- Excellent food
- Quiet atmosphere
- Beautiful grounds
- 20 minutes from downtown



Habitat for
Humanity
-Spokane

Eight homes currently
under construction.

Volunteers
& Sponsors
Needed!

Call
534-2552, ext. 21
for information

The 30th Annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry



My Peace I Give You:
Embracing the Ministry of Shalom

July 11-15, 2005

SPEAKERS

John Perkins • Jin S. Kim • John Huffman • Ray Bakke
Amy Sherman • William P. Robinson • Terry McGonigal

Visit www.whitworth.edu/wim or contact
Toni Sutherland at 509.777.4345 or
tsutherland@whitworth.edu.

Professor instills commitment to truth in aspiring journalists

Responsible for teaching a new generation of media producers, Steve Blewett likens journalists to prophets: Both are to speak and write the truth.

He seeks to instill a commitment to truth that rises above just doing a job, because he considers journalists among the most influential professionals in a society. They interpret political, economic, social, cultural and life events that affect people and influence their choices.

As professor of journalism and director of the journalism program at Eastern Washington University (EWU), he considers what he teaches and how he teaches related to his faith values. He can talk about the same truths and values in both secular and faith terms.

"As Christians, we cannot separate our everyday lives from what the Word of God calls us to be," said Steve, who describes himself as a born-again Catholic convert.

In class, he urges students to set standards and be accountable for the worldview they present to readers, viewers, listeners and browsers.

Steve, whose degrees are from EWU, believes most journalists have strong values and want to do right. By the benchmark of Christ, he calls journalism that avoids hard truths and accepts easy, fun, sensational stories "peep-show journalism."

If media producers say they report what the people want, he challenges: "What are our views as consumers of media and committed Christians?"

"Media," he notes, is plural, be they network TV news, radio talk shows, investigative magazines or discussion shows "specializing in conflict and acrimony."

Print media include major dailies like the *New York Times*, which "seeks to be the public record for the universe," he said, local midsize dailies, small dailies, weeklies and specialty press like *The Journal of Business*, *La Prensa* or *The Fig Tree*.

"How media affect our worldviews depends on both our media choices and choices by media. Mixing entertainment and news can confuse. Journalists whose first question is, 'Will it sell?' usually focus on character over economic, health and world issues," Steve said. "Then the mob sets the tone."

Media have a gatekeeper role in deciding who has a voice, what is appropriate to say and what is important to cover.

"Individuals or groups that limit

or lend authenticity to voices control who can speak and who is excluded. Those choices influence worldviews," he said.

"In contrast to the British sense of 'loyal opposition,' it's curious that in the United States, which values individualism, people are unwilling to stand out or allow debate with different voices. It takes courage to stand out," said Steve, who was a reporter and editor for four years with *The Spokesman-Review* and in public relations 15 years with Washington Water Power.

"People need their voices to be heard to be powerful," he said.

Steve then discussed how time, money and effort influence media decisions about news:

- Some reporters, pressured to produce new content, recycle one event or conflict, because it's easier than looking at other issues germane to readers. So, despite "a hunger for meaningful religious stories," he said that some consider covering those stories risky and expensive.

- Some reporters learn about their "beat" on the job. "Hopefully, they do not do too much damage while they learn," he commented. By hiring young people to save money, midsize dailies may miss stories.

- Some reporters may not invest what it takes to dig up the last bit of information. Media are responsible to keep citizens in a democratic society informed and must probe for the information. They have the same access to public records that citizens have, but are to take the time to find and discern what is relevant.

- Some media assume they are providing "what consumers want" and assume that consumers want "to be spoon-fed."

Steve then suggested that media reporting should be "liberal" in terms of being generous, tolerant, broadminded and progressive, and writing should be "conservative" in terms of being cautious, fair, accurate, thorough and clear.

"While objectivity was once a hallmark for journalists, most realize human bias enters. It is a reporter's responsibility to approach the job so his or her bias does not influence," he said, "but objectivity should not turn people into objects. People have feelings and values. They seek meaning. It's not appropriate to strip out all connections of meaning."

"We make value choices about who covers what story, how it is covered, what the cost is, how large the headline is and how many quotes to use. They may be based on professional standards,



Steve Blewett

but are not objective," he said.

Whether people are liberal or conservative, he finds people today disappointed about how political, media, religious, legal, economic and social systems work.

Continuous news coverage, repeating the same event—such as the planes crashing into the World Trade Center—reinforces the feeling that media are not addressing problems people see, he said.

Media mergers into mega-corporations also have a troubling effect, he said.

Given the trend to consolidation, Steve considers internet "the single most important cultural development since the Gutenberg press."

"The internet throws access open to anyone with a connected computer. Corporations no longer control who says what. Anyone can do a web page and decide

what to put on it," he said.

To give students perspective, Steve shows them newspapers from the 1800s when political parties supported the press instead of advertisers. Party press did not help people understand varying points of view. An historical overview reveals other periods of sensationalism.

"As an idealist, I believe there is goodness today. Our first responsibility is to do good to others. I'm also a realist, aware that the poor will always be with us and that those who do good may be persecuted. Still, we should do good, because there are consequences for doing nothing," he said.

Steve believes media can be more responsible if they 1) provide consistent follow-up stories, 2) report on consequences of actions, 3) describe the context, 4) give a sense of perspective and

5) follow developments in issues rather than just reporting crises.

His commitment to truth arises from both his media experience and personal experience.

Although active in United Methodist youth fellowship, choir and church camps while growing up in Salem, Ore., he became disillusioned with church after high school in 1960. While working at Sacred Heart Hospital and attending Eastern Washington State College, he met his wife, Judy, a Catholic, whose faith commitment led him to investigate Catholicism and to meet Jesuits open to arguing about faith issues and willing to admit if they did not know answers to tough questions.

"I became a Catholic, but not a serious one. I didn't let my religious affiliation interfere with what I did, until I had to face the consequences of some poor life choices and unresolved issues from my childhood," he said.

"Two years of counseling, retreats at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center and the unfailing support of my wife helped me turn my life around and come to a moment in which my anger suddenly dissipated, and I felt God's love for me and felt God asking me to accept Christ," he said.

"That completed my healing, revealing the profound truth that we are all loved and lovable. We can't earn or manufacture it. We can only accept it or not accept it," Steve said.

"I had been adept at talking my way out of consequences for my acts. Since then, I have come to accept my responsibility as part of an awareness that we all need to be accountable. When we live in truth, it is better for us and for our relationships," Steve said.

"We can't separate who we are from what we do, so I bring up religion as it is appropriate. I cannot delete the influence of religion on society, civic life or anywhere," he said.

His faith experience, he said, has ingrained the value of truth in personal relationships and furthered his commitment to the pursuit of truth in news reporting.

For information, call 623-4347.

Spokane Children's Theatre presents

The Great Cross Country Race
(The Hare and The Tortoise)

By Alan Broadhurst
Directed by Buddy Todd & Angela Snyder
All performances at
Spokane Civic Theatre
1020 N. Howard
April 11, 12 & 13 at 7 p.m.
April 16 & 23 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
April 24 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

For tickets, call 328-4886 or see our website at www.spokanechildrenstheatre.org
\$6 children \$7 adults

Interfaith Council - Circle of Caring
hosts nationally known speaker, writer, activist

The Rev. Al Miles

Ending Domestic Violence:
Why the Entire Community Must Be Involved

March 15 - 6:30 p.m. - Reception and Talk
Berachah Church at St. John's Lutheran Church - 2 W. 3rd Ave. - Community Gospel Choir

March 16 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Workshop
Emmanuel Lutheran Church - 314 S. Spruce - registration required - lunch at City Forum

March 16 - 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. - Spokane City Forum
First Presbyterian Church - 318 S. Cedar
To register for lunch, call 777-1555 - Walk-ins welcome to hear speaker

March 16 - 7:30 p.m. - Lecture on Teen Dating Violence
Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ - 411 S. Washington

For all events, call 329-1410
www.interfaithnw.org

INTERFAITH COUNCIL
Creating Justice, Celebrating Differences

Youth from small towns discover God while building homes

Students in church youth groups in Davenport, Reardan and Wilbur may compete in school sports but, working through ecumenical community groups, they recruited 45 youth in 2004 to build a house in Mexico. Plans are underway for the 2005 trip.

The experience has changed participants' lives and their communities' culture.

In organizing such mission trips for 15 years, the Rev. Ted Broadway of the Presbyterian Church in Davenport has found short-term mission experiences "click" into place an understanding of the power of living faith.

"They expose us to God without cultural trappings, helping us see God at work in other cultures and giving us experiences of what it means to serve," he said.

It's both at home and abroad

Aware there is "poverty in our own backyard" as well as abroad, he believes response is not an either at home or abroad matter. It's a both/and matter.

Churches and youth can express caring in their own communities and around the world. The accessibility of Mexico makes it popular.

Ted works with Amor Ministries in San Diego. Year-round, Amor arranges for mission teams to build 11- by 22-foot, two-room homes in the outskirts of Baja, south of San Diego; Ciudad south of El Paso, and Puerto Penasco, south of Lukeville, Ariz.

Participants in two-week trips—including travel and orientation—learn about hope in the form of a concrete floor, four walls and a roof, as well as in the exchange of "giving more than you can and getting more than you can," part of the Amor slogan. Building a house in a week without power tools or skilled labor, they feel a sense of accomplishment.

'Amor' means love

Amor—"love" in Spanish—works with Mexican churches to create cross-cultural understanding and immersion experiences to help people understand poverty while building homes.

The program is an outreach to families. They do not need to be saved or attend church to receive a home, Ted said, believing that "the faith-based love of builders who are Christian speaks clearly" to them.

Having grown up in different states, the Middle East and Europe as his father moved in the Army, Ted values international experiences. After high school in Southern California, he earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies at the University of California in Santa Barbara and a master's of divinity at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena.

During 13 years of ministry in Southern Oregon, he connected with Amor. He has been at Davenport nearly three years.

The church, which called him to "shake up" the congregation, now draws more than 80 at worship, rather than 30. More than numbers, Ted finds "the Spirit is moving, and people are changing."

When he first came to Davenport, he saw a "teachable moment." A poster on one wall said, "If you want to get close to the Lord, give to missions." He changed it to: "Go on missions."

At first the idea of a youth trip seemed intimidating, but high school youth were responsive in 2003. In 2004, Reardan and Wilbur church youth joined the team, and Heather Drehobl, former youth leader at Davenport and now youth minister at Community Presbyterian Church in Post Falls, is recruiting youth from there for the 2005 trip.

Youth return changed

Ted described changes in youth from the trips:

- Many become Christians—those in the church and friends who go.
- Many begin to own and deepen their faith—praying, reading Scripture and attending worship.
- Many feel more grateful for what they have and more aware of the brothers and sisters in the church around the world. That changes their outlook about the world.
- Through service, fulfillment comes in different degrees to different people.
- Youth become more sensitive to issues of poverty and race.
- Some want to study Spanish.
- Trips can change the school culture, increasing appreciation of the value of education and improving students' work ethic.
- Some have gone on to do short-term mission experiences or enter ministry.

Davenport youth raised \$625 each last year by "selling stock" in the trip. When they returned, they held a "shareholders dinner" with a slide presentation and testimonies.

Reardan youth prepared

Organizers of Reardan First Presbyterian Church's Mexico mission trip last summer applied the local school sports approach of requiring participants' to attend training and fund raising regularly.

"If a volleyball coach can say that anyone who misses a practice cannot play, we decided we could require attendance," said Lori Ward, who helped with preparations but did not go. Two of her children did go.

"Finding time for church



Youth gave the house keys to a mother they built a house for, and then Traci Linstrum of Davenport embraced her.

youth activities has been hard since schools stopped holding Wednesday afternoons and evenings free for church activities. After harvest, sports consume 20 hours a week," she said.

One group brings cohesion

To build on the cohesion among youth, who are all friends at school, Reardan has a community youth group for the Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists and Catholics.

The Presbyterian pastor, the Rev. Bill Ward, said changes in priorities are part of the "angst" of small community churches, which are no longer the pillars of the small community social culture. Schools now have that role.

He believes that, because the church set expectations for participants, they have been especially animated and articulate about their experience. At a fall Friday Youth Prayer Breakfast, those who went to Mexico described their experiences with ease.

The church and the community raised funds for more than two

years to send 11 youth and adults along with 14 from Davenport, 11 from the Wilbur area as part of a group of 103.

For Reardan youth, whose previous mission trips were to

lead vacation Bible schools in Washtuchna and other communities, this was their first experience abroad.

"They returned surprised that

Continued on next page

Make a phone call. Make a difference.

Donate your unwanted vehicle and help provide health and human care services right here in our community. It's hassle free. We will even arrange towing if needed.*

Call today for details.

Participating Local Agencies

- American Red Cross
- Cancer Patient Care
- E. WA Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center
- Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center
- United Way of Spokane County
- YFA Connections
- Camp Fire, Inland NW Council
- Children's Home Society of Washington
- Excelsior Youth Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank of the Inland NW
- Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP)
- VNA Home Health Care Services
- YMCA of the Inland NW



928-1900

www.cars4charity.org

* Cars do not have to be drivable, but they must be complete.

Randall Simon Piano Tuning

892-0053 • 499-1153

\$75 base rate

(greater Spokane Area)



Healing the Body...
CHRIST CLINIC
Healing the Soul...

Medical care for the uninsured

2709 W. Boone • Spokane, WA • 99201
(509) 325-0393 • FAX (509) 325-7209

Teens learn about economic and social conditions that create poverty

Continued from previous page
people who had so little could be so happy," said Lori.

In Mexico, the group drove past empty condo developments in Tijuana. After the North America Free Trade Agreement, companies built these condos, expecting to hire 25 million people. More came, but after Sept. 11, there were fewer jobs.

Many Mexican families spent all they had to go there, so they now live in shacks, cars and drainage pipes. One family of seven lived in a tent patched with duct tape, she said.

The team stayed in a tent city.

Groups built nine homes

Supervised by adults, groups of 12 youth built each unit. The group built nine dwellings. Some Mexican families built with the teens, and some were working. A mother of seven stayed at home with her four pre-school children, Lori reported.

Amor purchases the land, prepares it and cedes it to families. Part of the funds youth raise provides materials. Youth pour a concrete floor, put up wood frames, cover chicken wire with a stucco exterior and spread tar on the roof, Lori explained.

When the Reardan group passed the key to the mother of seven, she cried as she repeatedly opened and closed the door with the keys.

On Sunday after church, families shared their limited food and embraced the youth.

Students who knew Spanish used it, but many Mexicans under 30 speak English fluently.

The Reardan group now knows teens from neighboring communities and southern Oregon and experienced the empowerment of being in a large group.

Wilbur youth empowered

Nine youth and two adults from Community Presbyterian in Wilbur and nearby churches and communities found the Amor experience empowering, said Becky Sheffels, youth leader and mother of one participant.

"My son, Corbin, had a strong faith before going. Putting his faith into action by building with his hands, he came back charged with educating and helping serve others," she said.

"We interacted with Mexicans, seeing people with amazing joy even though they had little of what we consider basic necessities," said Becky.

In worship, Americans found they knew many of the songs the Mexican Christians sang.

"We realize that we serve the same God although we live in different cultures," she said. "We go on a mission trip to help people and our lives are changed by the people and by God."

They shared with their church and community a report in slides, music and personal stories.

"Youth are eager to reach out to others. They realize they can do something here, too. They now see past themselves," said Becky, who plans to go again with her son and husband. She hopes the Wilbur group for 2005 will be 12.

The Wilbur team included a student from Creston, two from the Catholic Church, two from the Lutheran Church and four from the Presbyterian Church. All are together in the community youth group.

While church youth activities compete with school sports in Wilbur, there are no games Wednesday evenings, so from a third to half of 80 students at the high school attend each week.

"We offer a biblical message tied to everyday life. We open and end with prayer. We have ice-breaking, relationship-building activities and discussion," Becky said.

One annual project is to buy gloves, hats, toothbrushes, shampoo and other items to make 20 boxes for homeless teens at Crosswalk in Spokane. The group carols and gives cards to the elderly, gives cookies to shut-ins, goes bowling and visits the local nursing home.

Becky said it takes time for teens to move from the understanding that God loves them to putting their faith into action.

More will go in 2005

More youth will join 2005 trip. For 2005, students are raising \$675 each to participate.

Ted said that the Davenport group could be as large as 30, plus 12 from Reardan, 12 from Wilbur, 16 from Post Falls and 10 from Sunset Presbyterian Church in Portland.

They will again join First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Ore. He expects the total number to be about 175, and the total budget to be about \$100,000.

This summer's team, which will be in Mexico six of their eight-day trip, will seek to build at least 12 houses. This year, area participants will fly to San Diego.

"Again, we expect to see lives changed—Mexican lives and our own," said Ted.

For information, call 725-1802, 796-2142 or 647-5402.

Photo at the right — Corbin Sheffels of Wilbur and Tenessa Adams of Davenport work together to build the frame for one house.

Below — Two Mexican boys now have a new home and some new friends. The chicken-wire structure behind them shows how it serves as the base for the stucco exterior.

Photos courtesy of Ted Broadway and Bill Ward



The Fig Tree welcomes donations of time and money as seeds for its communication ministry - see page 2.

Warm yourself and those in financial need

Craven's Coffee, together with Avista Utilities, introduces a special coffee blend called Share the Warmth with a portion of each purchase going to Project Share, a community funded organization that helps families in need pay their energy bills. So, whenever you warm up with a cup of this smoky mixture of light and dark roasts, you're helping someone else stay warm, too.

Share the Warmth Blend coffee is available at all Tidyman's, Rosauer's and Yoke's grocery stores.

You can also make donations to Project Share on your energy bill. Donate on your monthly statement by indicating a write-in contribution of \$2, \$5, \$10 or more. The pledge will then appear on your monthly statement as a reminder.

Your donation or monthly pledge helps local families stay warm. A little each month goes a long way.

Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington

1222 N Post www.altcew.org

Promoting wellbeing, independence, dignity & choice for Seniors and others needing long-term care

For information, assistance & case management, call

Spokane - Elder Services	458-7450
Stevens/Pend Oreille - Rural Resources Community Action	(800) 873-5889
Whitman - Council on Aging & Human Services	(800) 809-3351
Northern Ferry - Ferry County Community Services	(509) 755-0912

Orthodox mission experience inspires priest to live simply

By Deidre Jacobson

A love for missionary work inspired Father Gregory Horton of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Christian Church in Post Falls to travel with his wife, Cynthia, Alan Sanger from St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Edmonton, Canada, and six others to Rubale, Tanzania, in August 2004.

They spent 21 days teaching fundamentals of Orthodox faith and Christian life skills.

In return, they were immersed in the simple living of the village people they taught.

"There is so much meaning on the simplest level," said Father Gregory. "It was a miracle for me, the divine spark of simple apostolic Christianity at its best."

Challenged by the mission spirit to enter ministry, to come to North Idaho and then to go to Tanzania, he is now looking for new mission challenges.

Growing up Roman Catholic in Newark, N.J., Gregory had the goal of serving in the priesthood. He attended St. Vincent College, majoring in music with the intention of going to seminary upon graduation. A personal and theological crisis led him first to join the Air Force and play tuba in the Air Force band, rather than entering the priesthood.

After he left the Air Force, he and Cynthia married and journeyed for several years, working in resorts. In Miami Beach, they decided they could not be happy without their faith, so they went to the library to search for a church.

"We researched in the Encyclopedia of Religions, found the Orthodox Church and searched one out. A Russian priest took us under his wing, and I decided to attend seminary," Gregory said.

He spent three years at St. Tikhon Seminary in Northeast Pennsylvania, graduating with master's degrees in music and divinity. He served briefly as a deacon, then petitioned the bishop to be ordained and was assigned to a parish in Catsauqua, Pa.

His yearning for mission service sent him back to the diocese after seven years with a request for work in "virgin territory." He was sent to Couer d'Alene, Idaho,



Cynthia and Gregory Horton stand behind a group of Tanzanian youth they taught.

Photos courtesy of Father Gregory Horton

in 1996 and began serving a few families, starting the first Orthodox Church in that area.

The fledging church met in a realtor's office. It has grown to a congregation of 200 with a building and home on a 13-acre compound. Recently the church has started an offshoot in Spokane Valley.

Father Gregory's love of mission eventually led him to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center with the request to serve outside the United States.

He and Cynthia were accepted for the mission-team trip to teach the elements of Orthodox Christianity to youth at Camp Rubale.

Later, Bishop Jeronymos of the Diocese of Bukoba changed the assignment to teaching adults. The group taught 120 young adults, including 13 women.

While many flights were cancelled because of hurricanes, the team arrived safely in the village, which has no running water, paved roads or electricity. Seven of their 16 bags arrived with them.

The rural village people they

served were poor, earning an average income of \$2.50 per week, in contrast with city people who may earn \$2.50 per day.

The young adults greeted the team with enthusiasm, Father Gregory said.

The missionaries instructed in two small buildings with a translator at each session. Students shared a few desks and chairs, many sitting on straw mats. They had traveled to the camp from throughout the vast Bukoba Diocese of Western Tanzania. Each person had been personally invited and would be a teacher in his or her own village.

"There are few priests and deacons serving a large area," Father Gregory said. "Some priests lead six to eight churches. Worship in the area is often held outside. At some point, a congregation may build a mud hut to serve as a church."

After the sessions, students served food, performed skits, danced and sang for the team to thank them for coming.

At the end of the visit, the mission team donated Bibles—those they had used for the training—to the villagers, who broke into spontaneous dancing and cheering.

"It was incredible serving at the altar with priests from other countries, speaking different languages, yet sharing the divine occurrence," Father Gregory said.

"At one point, they gave us a goat, the equivalent of an expensive car in our culture. They led us on a procession, singing and dancing as we traveled down the dirt road to be presented this gift," he said.

As a mother of four children,

Cynthia was hesitant about the trip at first, but quickly found her niche on arrival in Tanzania.

Reared Roman Catholic in Southwest Pennsylvania, she met Gregory in college, where she was a music major and flutist.

While her third child was ill with bacterial meningitis, she was inspired by the skill of technicians who discovered and treated her son's illness.

She returned to school to earn a degree in medical technology, and began working in hospitals and private labs.

Now she teaches music at Holy Family Catholic School, conducts church choirs and plays flute with the Couer d'Alene symphony, North Idaho College Orchestra and chamber groups.

In Tanzania, Cynthia's teaching focused on three subjects: HIV and AIDS education, the role of a priest's wife, and marriage, chastity and prayer. The students' kindness, love and the simplicity of their lives inspired her.

"We gave them hope. For people who have nothing, the belief in a glorious afterlife is a wonderful gift. They were glowing with love and hope. I came home with the desire to live more simply," said Cynthia.

"In Tanzania, they waste nothing. We make trash. They make no trash. I especially came to appreciate the value of water. They have no clean water, and much of their illness and death relates to the quality of the water. Since we are so blessed, we should be a blessing to others. I came home wondering how I can help others."

Alan applied to Orthodox Christian Mission Center to join a mission trip after many years of thinking he should go, but feeling no strong pull.

Growing up in a Protestant church in the United Kingdom, he moved to Canada in 1969, met his wife and converted to the Orthodox Church. He is a youth leader and president of his parish.

He had three choices for mission, and Tanzania was his third choice, "but when they called, I accepted in 30 seconds and thought, yes, this feels right. The grace of God entered in and told me it was right. While getting ready, many things came up to discourage me, but I remained on course. I thought, 'Your will, Lord, let it be,'" Alan said.

When he arrived in Rubale, he was impressed by the welcome.

"The people are gentle and peaceful. They greeted us as brothers and sisters. They, who have nothing, were generously giving us gifts, a few eggs, a papaya or a banana.

"They taught us that when you shut your mind to external stimuli and your cravings, God will speak to you," said Alan.

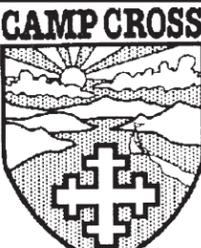
"Every night the children came around playing games. We had crayons and pictures for them to color. They were delighted, having never seen crayons before."

Father Gregory said he has become convinced that "I am not suited for our culture. I loved living simply."

For information call 208-773-2876.



Tanzanian Orthodox lead worship.



A Great Place to Be!
 FOR MEETINGS • RETREATS
 • EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS •
 ON LAKE COEUR D'ALENE
 Contact Camp Cross at
 245 E. 13th Ave.
 Spokane, WA 99202
 (509) 624-3191

10% off all non-deli items
When you bring this ad
 Juicers • Distillers • Dehydrators
 Health & Recipe Books,
 Videos and Tapes
 Hallelujah Acres Products
 Dehydrated Juices & more
Lilac Juice N Smoothie Co.
 6208 N. Division - Spokane
 483-2633
 GOOD THRU MARCH 2005

**Certificate
in Lay Ministry**

Begins September 10, 2005

This year-long program is designed to help train, equip and support lay men and women to serve more effectively in paid and unpaid leadership positions in the church. Topics include

- Biblical Foundations and Ministry
- The Bible and Ministry
- Theology and Ministry
- Church History and Ministry
- Spirituality and Ministry
- Christian Leadership and Ministry
- Management and Administration of ministry
- Conflict Management and Ministry
- Pastoral Care and Ministry
- Discipleship and Ministry

One Saturday a month for 10 months
September - June



WHITWORTH

To register or to request additional information,
please contact Michelle Seefried
at (509) 777-3275 or mseefried@whitworth.edu
www.whitworth.edu/faithcenter

State senator reviews number and influence of women leaders

Women leaders help shape the world at home and abroad, Washington State Senate majority leader Lisa Brown recently told a gathering of the United Nations Association.

She reflected on the number of women leaders worldwide, barriers women face, actions of women in power and the role of grassroots organizations.

For 20 years, Lisa taught economics and women's studies at Eastern Washington University. She now teaches organizational leadership at Gonzaga University. Since 1992, when she was first elected as a representative to the Washington State House from the third district in Spokane, she has taught part time. She was recently re-elected as senator.

"Perhaps there are more women in politics in Washington because we have a part-time, low-paid citizen legislature," she noted.

Among the states, Washington has the highest percentage of women in elected offices—14 percent, she said, and 42 percent of the members of the State Senate are women.

Lisa entered state politics out of her involvement in education and grassroots organizations, like the Central America Solidarity Association. Faculty colleagues, grassroots groups and local women in politics encouraged her to run in 1991. Friends and family have helped her, by providing emotional and material support and by helping take care of her house, car, yard and son.

"I maintain connections with the grassroots organizations that support me. I appreciate the role activist groups play in defining issues," said Lisa, who helps groups understand what is possible and makes sure their views—along with views of other citizen advocates—are represented.

After undergraduate work at the University of Illinois and graduate studies in economics at the University of Colorado in Boulder, she came to Spokane to visit friends involved in grassroots political and environmental groups, and decided to stay.

"I'm clear that my Catholic upbringing played a major part in my interest in politics. I was inspired by the Catholic doctrine about God's option for the poor. That led to my involvement with issues in Central America," said Lisa, who is now involved in the Unitarian Universalist Church, which shares those emphases.

"Everyone who pays taxes is entitled to an equal share," she quoted from a 1851 Declaration of Women's Rights, opening her reflections on the involvement of women in politics.

Percentage of women still low

Statistics about the involvement of women came from the Center for Women and Politics at Rutgers:

- About 95 percent of countries have granted women the right to



State Senator Lisa Brown

vote and hold office.

- About 12 percent of those in parliaments are women: 35 percent in Scandinavian countries, 11 percent in Europe, 11 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 10 percent in Asia and 3.4 percent in Arab countries.

- In 14 countries, women are more than 30 percent of those in parliaments.

- Sweden, Norway, Iceland, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have women heading their parliaments.

- There are 17 women heads of state.

- Women's organizations that fought apartheid in South Africa petitioned, rallied and won a ruling guaranteeing that 30 percent of the seats in the parliament would be for women.

- Argentina's parliament has a law against quotas, but all parties elect women, so they are 30 percent.

- About 95 percent of women in Norway, which has a woman president, took a day off for a mass demonstration to show the role of women there.

- In France, women from 10 parties, ranging from the left to the right, wrote a manifesto saying women should have more elected offices. Now women are 25 to 45 percent of city councils.

"The United States ranks 60th with women making up 14 percent of those in Congress. There are 24 women governors. Governor Locke is the first Asian American governor," Lisa said. "Our elected officials are not as representative of the women and people of color in our society as in other countries."

"Since 1776, there have been 12,000 people in Congress. Only 1.8 percent of them have been women. Today, there is just one woman of color in Congress, Evelyn Holmes Norton."

Barriers discourage women

"Rules of the game affect the role of women," Lisa said. "So does party politics."

For example, the U.S. electoral system with the majority winner taking all of a state's electoral votes is one barrier.

One reason Washington has more women is that political parties are weaker, she said.

Lisa first won a seat in the legislature with no party support. Later, with party support, she won every precinct.

Another barrier is how society views the division of labor for men and women. Alfred Lord Tennyson said in the 1800s that men were for the field and sword, and women were for the hearth and needle. In his view, men were to command and women were to obey.

"Such a division of labor places men in the public realm and women in the private realm," she said. "Combine that with the demands of a political career, and it's hard for women with children. Most women enter politics after their children are grown."

Gender expectations influence how masculine and feminine traits translate into leadership and public office.

"Increasingly men are showing their softer side," she observed, "but it's still easier for a manly

man to be elected than a girly girl. Women need to be another Joan of Arc or Mother Teresa to be elected.

"In office, women walk a tightrope. They cannot go 'too far' or they face problems," she said.

Beyond the gender expectations, there are barriers of dealing with media emphases and generating popular appeal. Media usually cover personal characteristics of women—hair, hemlines and husbands—but Lisa finds more women journalists cover personal characteristics of both men and women. Men journalists tend to think more of men, she said.

For example, the Washington Times referred to Nancy Pelosi in a headline in the 1990s as the "Democrats' new prom queen," Lisa said.

Does gender influence power?

Reflecting on whether women change power structures or power changes women in office, Lisa suggests asking the same of men: "Does a person's gender change power structures, or does power change a person of either gender?"

"Women tend to have a more collaborative style," she noted.

Lisa also clarified that "women's issues" are not just about equality, but also about children, education, health care, medical leave, child support enforcement and the full range of other issues.

A 1995 University of Florida study on policy issues found that men linked with women's grassroots advocacy organizations were more likely to support women's policy issues.

"We need grassroots organizations to hold women and men accountable," Lisa said.

"Women tend to make policy changes that make institutions more family friendly," she added.

According to the United Nations, women lead in conflict resolution and in promoting peace and security. They look to the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, for equal representation of women in peacekeeping forces and an increased role of women in non-governmental organizations.

"We need to understand that what we do in Spokane is international. The United Nations Association is important for promoting international rights for women," she said.

Knowing that the United States is the only industrialized country that has not ratified the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Lisa has worked for two years to have the Washington State Legislature consider legislation asking Congress to ratify the treaty.

"The most important thing we can do worldwide is to educate women. With education, birth rates and infant death rates decline and the Gross Domestic Product rises. We need to support education worldwide," she said.

No reason for complacency

While women may be in top leadership roles in Washington state, Lisa finds no reason for complacency.

"Legislators, including women, can be overwhelmed by the money interests," she said, adding that most lobbyists are men.

Lisa also said that it is often hard for legislators to hear the voices of the faith community among the lobbyists.

"Some legislators readily listen to the faith community because they share their values," she added.

Advocates for low-income people, environmental protection and women's issues, organized by the Children's Alliance and faith groups, continue to "chip away on important social issues, connecting political leaders with grassroots organizations," she said.

"Grassroots organizations can keep politicians accountable," said Lisa.

Committed to reaching out to children and youth to empower them to enter politics, Lisa often visits schools in her district—where 50 percent of children are on free or reduced-cost lunches—to hear their concerns, to inspire them to continue their education and to encourage them to consider public service.

For information, call 360-786-1999.

At Liberty Lake, WA

ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS

Owned/Operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Gary Hamm, Mgr.
(509) 255-6122

• CAMPS • RETREATS •
• CONFERENCES •
— LODGING FOR 90 —

Susan Burford
Certified Public Accountant

TAX PREPARATION
for
Individuals & Businesses

Clergy Taxes a Specialty

5322 S. Pittsburg
Spokane
448-6624

1 Weekend + 2 Students

= Lifelong Friends & Tons of Fun!

Give your family the gift of an international experience by hosting two Mukogawa Fort Wright students from Japan for one weekend. Students participate in whatever the Host Family usually does on a weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience a cross-cultural exchange while sharing hospitality and friendship.

The next opportunity to host two students for a weekend is:
March 4-6, March 11-13, March 18-20 or March 25-27

If you would like to share your family with our students, please call **(509) 328-2971, ext. 212** or visit www.mfwi.org/hostfamily/


Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute

Council informs people about holocaust in Darfur, Sudan

Recognizing that there is a low consciousness and there is confusion among Americans on the plight of people in Darfur in western Sudan, Pat Moseley, director, and Abi Weaver, both of the Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross, joined Elliot Fabric and Kateri Caron, both of Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest, to describe the humanitarian crisis there at the recent legislative conference.

Roots of the conflict

Elliot, who is from the local Jewish community, reviewed roots of the conflict since Sudanese independence from Britain in 1956. The North and South fought for years, until the recent peace accord, which does not include the crisis in Darfur.

The government in the North fought "rebels" in the South who wanted power and autonomy. The land in the South is fertile. In the North, land is arid.

In a 1983 coup, the government imposed Islamic law, so the conflict has religious and ethnic dimensions.

Since 1956, more than 2 million Sudanese have died and 4 million have been displaced by wars—20 percent of the world's displaced people, Elliot said.

"Since the 1970s, land has been over-harvested, trees have been cut for firewood, drought has spread the desert and there has been conflict over water.

"Local tribal courts formerly used to settle conflicts in traditional ways were dismantled," he said. "People began to self-identify as Arabs and non-Arabs.

"The ethnicities that were previously dissipated by inter-marriage, trade and business re-emerged. Arabs tend to be and nomadic herders of cattle and camels. Non-Arabs tend to be farmers and ranchers."

Arabs are mostly Muslim, and non-Arabs, Christian or animist.

Elliot said oil is also a factor. Wells now produce 500,000 barrels a day.

Government kills thousands

"The current holocaust in Darfur was triggered in February 2003 when the rebel Sudanese Liberation Movement Army (SLMA) killed 100 government soldiers. That became an excuse for the government to crush tribal people in Darfur, torching villages, raping women and kill-



Abi Weaver and Pat Moseley of the Inland Northwest American Red Cross report on conditions in Darfur, Sudan, and in displaced person and refugee camps helping people who lost their homes.

ing people."

The government has let Arab tribes in the Janjawid—men on horses—militia kill thousands."

The Justice and Equality Movement aligned with the SLMA. In March 2003, the government sought to crush the revolt by dropping old cars and trucks as bombs and then unleashing Janjawid to rout and torch villages and to maim, rape and murder people.

"The government says there is no holocaust, but has delayed relief efforts, citing logistics in the rainy season," Elliot said.

The United Nations has called the government to disarm the Janjawid and apprehend perpetrators of atrocities. In January, Kofi Annan said atrocities continue as people leave camps for water and firewood, but he did not label it genocide, as the U.S. House of Representatives did in July 2004.

Aid workers are at risk

Pat said the International Red Cross and about 60 humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work in Darfur despite dangers.

Volunteers work under the guidelines of the International Red Cross for response to disasters.

The Red Cross and the faith community work with local partners to deliver food and shelter, and deal with the stress and

trauma, she said.

"The crisis in Sudan was the largest relief operation until the tsunami," said Pat, who met with colleagues about it in the early 1980s.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is responsible to assure that war prisoners and conflict victims are treated according to the Geneva Convention, she said.

Photos show conditions

Abi showed photos of ransacked villages, refugees in camps and relief operations.

"Often we only put a bandaid on a situation. We can't resolve the problems, because we are not a government agency," she said.

Aid agencies set up three camps in Darfur, housing a million people. About 100,000 fled to camps in Chad.

In camps, families have food, shelter, blankets, water, latrines, clothes, housing supplies and health care, Abi said.

Unable to plant crops in the rainy season, people forage in the wild for food and wood. When they leave the camp, women are raped, and men are killed. To replace wood for heat and cooking, the Red Cross hopes to bring solar energy to the area.

"Daily life is unbearable. Aid agencies provide only so much," Abi said. "In rural areas, aid workers discourage people from going to camps by providing seeds and tools, so they can grow food."

Red Cross assists people

Camp hospitals care for the sick, wounded, maimed and malnourished. They provide artificial limbs and vaccines.

In war areas where families are

separated, the Red Cross has tracing services to reunite them.

It also encourages the use of local resources for small enterprises, such as weaving, because people cannot earn a living from normal jobs.

Pat said much work is funded by private donations, but in major relief efforts, the Red Cross also channels government funds.

"When we set up a camp, our goal is to close it so people can go back to their own communities," Pat said.

Council responds to call

On July 14, 2004, the Committee of Conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Jewish Federation called the situation in Darfur "a genocide emergency." They have urged people of faith to join in interfaith gatherings to raise issues to U. S. officials.

The Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest responded, agreeing to join efforts and create efforts to call for an end to the killing, to alert people in this region and to write to U.S. officials to urge them to work to end the genocide.

"It's one thing to sit in a room and receive facts about genocide and another thing experience it," said Kateri, who was born at the end of the Holocaust that killed half the Jewish people. "We have lived through genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, Yugoslavia and now Sudan.

Genocide is complex issue

Kateri lived in Guatemala during the genocide there.

"Fear was so thick you could touch it. You did not know whom to trust. The government forced village men into the military and into genocidal acts.

"They were not monsters. They had the same desires we have," said Kateri, telling of attending a Mass with military people she knew had committed atrocities—wiping out villagers and dismembering a pregnant woman and cutting her baby out. "The men walked into worship with their wives and children. They looked like good family members. It made me realize that every human being has choices and is capable of doing genocide.

"Often people have only the choice of murdering or being killed. It's not the simple matter of bad guys and good guys," she said. "Fear leads to genocide. When we fear an enemy, we stop thinking of them as human beings."

Speaking out can stop it

Kateri urges people to act as individuals and churches: "We can write media to ask for more news about the genocide in Darfur. In Guatemala, the genocide stopped when enough people in the world said to stop. The government was shamed into action," she said.

"Much in the world rises and falls on what we do with our military and money. We need to talk to and write to our government leaders and ask them to end the genocide," Kateri said.

For example, she said that state and local officials can divest funds in corporations doing business with the Sudanese government—as was done to help end apartheid in South Africa.

For information, call 329-1410 or 326-3330.

Council sponsors March 19 event: 'Voices to End the Violence in Darfur'

As part of a nationwide "100 Hours of Conscience: Voices to End the Violence in Darfur," the Interfaith Council is sponsoring a gathering at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 19, at SGI Buddhist Temple, 8019 W. Sunset Hwy.

The council's advocacy coordinator Beth Poteet said the event will be an opportunity for faith groups to pray and act to urge the United States to take leadership to end genocide in Darfur.

For information, call 329-1410.

Delicious Humor
St. Ann's Church in Spokane still sells indulgences—confections known as **Jubilate Indulgences** succulent chocolates made by *Spokandy* & sold at *Kaufer's Religious Supplies* Profits support S.P.E.A.R. after-school homework project of Grace Lutheran Church.
TO ORDER, CALL 326-7070 of (800) 873-7375

Aunt Bea's Antiques
We specialize in **Estate Sales**
Always buying **fine antiques**
5005 N. Market
Spokane, WA, 99207
(509) 487-9278

Global Folk Art
Spokane's Source for Unique Fairly Traded Gifts & Imports
DID YOU KNOW?
• we are nonprofit and volunteer-run ?
• 15-35 % of our price goes to artisans?
• buying here helps end social injustice at the root of poverty?
SHOPPING AT GLOBAL FOLK ART MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
Open Mon-Sat 10:30-5:30 - Sun noon-5
35 W Main - Spokane
838-0664

Don A. Barlow, EdD
Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Grief & Loss Support Groups • Men's Issues Groups
535-7466

Find your "Point of Inspiration" at
N-SID-SEN
Camp & Conference Center
Year-round facility—270 acres & 4,800 feet of waterfront on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.
• Open for non-profit groups from 16 to 160
• Two retreat lodges with all facilities
• Fourteen cabins with baths down the trail
• Lakeside chapel
• Open-air pavilion for worship, dance or programs
• Sheltered cove for swimming and boat moorage
• Excellent food service, served family style
• Canoes and sailboats available
• Hiking trails
• Adventure challenge course
• Volleyball, basketball and horseshoes
Call 1-800-448-3489 to reserve your date for retreats, seminars, workshops or fellowship! Come and catch the spirit!

People of faith are called to be the conscience of a nation

An African-American theology professor recommends that Americans of faith apply "ashé," a concept of the Uruba people in West Africa as they speak for the destitute and marginalized of their land.

Ashé refers to the power to make things happen, to change what is to what ought to be based on "moral intelligence and spiritual clarity," the Rev. Flora Wilson Bridges told people gathered for the recent Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

As a pastor and intellectual focused on racial and gender justice, she ties justice to spirituality as she teaches theology at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. That was also the theme of her recent book, *Resurrection Song*.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School and Vanderbilt, she is an ordained minister in the National Baptist Church and pastor at Madrona Presbyterian Church in Seattle.

As one who advocates decreasing social distance, she came to the Northwest from the Deep South.

Citing the call in Proverbs 31:8 for believers to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, to speak for the rights of all who are destitute, she said: "As people of faith, we are called to be the conscience of a nation—to make our views known to address the crisis of the soul of the nation."

Having recently visited Vietnam and South Africa, Flora now observes that "even in our poverty we are affluent" and that "there is something sterile, cold, even uncaring about us as a people."

People of faith who lobby should know that they are lobbying for "the soul of the nation to be more compassionate, kind and just," she said. "Some have been at it for many years. Some gains were made in the 1960s and 1970s, but now we need to lobby for those accomplishments."

"When we look at valuing families, we address the crisis of the soul of our

affluent nation: We do not always take good care of the poor."

Flora grew up in Bainbridge, Ga., three hours south of Atlanta, where the poor had no social welfare programs. African American housewives were required by the city to work as domestics in homes of white families, rather than to be in their own homes with their own families. So she comes from many generations of maids who worked in white women's kitchens and homes.

"I do not idealize poverty or suffering. My mother was born in 1926, when white people would go to church in the morning and bring families for an afternoon picnic to watch them lynch a black person," she said.

In the midst of affluence and consumption—with our cars, work, access to education and many things that should make life worthwhile—she finds a basic sadness.

As a pastor and professor, she sees a nihilism among young people from 17 to 22, a sense that they will not live long, so why should they do anything. In her 25 years of ministry, she has also ministered to three generations of people on crack—a grandma, a mother and a daughter.

"Black youth are the fodder of the criminal justice system. Prisons have become a cottage industry, a new form of slavery to provide free labor by men and women," she said.

Some African-American youth seek to be sports figures or to be rap stars. Some have opted out of established ways to survive in American culture. They see the country's "double-talk," Flora said.

By that, she means that the country hurts people, and then liberals make up for the messes that have been created.

"God lobbies us to look at motives behind what we do," she said.

Flora advised those who would advocate for justice not to burn out, be disappointed or embittered about what the



The Rev. Flora Wilson Bridges

state or nation does to create true moral values, but to look to their spiritual roots to inform them.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, Mohandas Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Fannie Lou Hamer demonstrated ashé, she said.

"They saw with spiritual clarity and did not lose voice as they faced amazing pressures," she said. "The world is better because they lived."

"Jesus said people of faith are to be the light of the world and to be salt that does not lose its saltiness," she said, describing the essence of ashé.

Ashé requires that people prepare themselves, identify with and listen to those who suffer, to sacrifice themselves and to respond to God's call, Flora explained.

"As advocates for justice and valuing family—the entire earth—we need to prepare ourselves. We need to fight evil, so we need to be informed, just as King studied and earned degrees. We must prepare ourselves to give our lives for the good of the nation. Mother Te-

resa studied for years in a convent until she was prepared to step out. Gandhi studied in England and became an attorney."

Identifying with those who suffered and hurt, King chose to sit where the oppressed sat, she said, following his story in particular.

"We are not effective if we are isolated in intellectual religion, in class, racial or gender sameness," Flora said.

King could have worked in comfort. He was from an elite family. He could have stayed in the North, but went back to Georgia. He was pained that 11 a.m. Sunday was the most segregated hour.

"He divested himself of privilege. You can't have ashé and go to a cold-hearted government dressed in privilege. King, Romero and Gandhi all had to give up privilege to be effective.

"You do that when God calls," she said. "One must answer when the call comes. You do not know when the call will come. It comes quietly. For example, one day Gandhi decided not to move from a moving first-class train car. He allowed himself to be thrown off.

"If we are to have ashé and define justice, we know the answer to what ails us comes from the oppressed. We will not solve what hurts women, people of color, gays, people in prisons, native Americans—those who hurt and are disadvantaged and oppressed—without ashé.

"We are called to develop moral intelligence, to identify with the hurt, to divest ourselves of privilege, to listen to the voices of the oppressed and answer God's call," she said.

"Then we can lobby the soul of the nation in spiritual crisis, ready to push the government to where it ought to be," said Flora, believing people today can regain lost policies that make the world compassionate, if "they will sit together and march together."

For information, email fwb@seattleu.edu.

Coeur d'Alene, Spokane prepare for 35th Earth Day

Plans are underway in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene for celebrations of Earth Day's 35th anniversary on Saturday, April 23.

The Earth Day Fair at the Harding Family Center in Coeur d'Alene will feature booths engaging people with activities, eye-catching displays or free gifts that educate them about environmental issues, said organizer Karen Lamb.

Plans include bluebird or bat-box building, aquifer models, plaster animal tracks, animal pelts to feel, samples of environmentally friendly products, a thrift-store fashion show, and arts and crafts projects with re-used materials.

For information, call 208-667-4595.

The Spokane Earth Day at Riverfront Park in Spokane will also feature educational booths.

Plans are underway to do the Procession of the Species as in previous years.

Organizers invite Spokane students to submit posters by March 25 on the 2005 theme, "Our Choices Make a World of Difference," related to sustainability, the Spokane River, forests, wildlife, community, pollution, energy, health, population, transportation or recycling. Posters will be displayed at downtown locations.

The Procession of the Species will again be part of the Earth Day

celebration in Spokane. It begins at noon at Riverfront Park.

Those joining in the procession create masks and costumes that express the species, especially endangered ones, that they learn about as they discover the human relationship to the natural world, said Matthew Phillipy, coordinator.

For information, call 534-2854.

Mater Dei Ministry Institute in Spokane

Desire lay ministry?
religious life? priesthood?
DISCERN & PREPARE WHILE
EARNING A UNIVERSITY DEGREE
(800) 645-5347

Donations keep The Fig Tree growing.

The Episcopal Cathedral of St. John and the Gonzaga University Department of Religious Studies present



Rev. Margaret Guenther

May 6-7, 2005

7:30 p.m. Friday
Presentation

Exploring Your Spirituality

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday Workshop
New Thresholds: The Joys and Challenges of Mid-Life Spirituality

Margaret Guenther, who lectures internationally and is author of numerous books and articles on spiritual direction for people in their mature years glimpsing their mortality, is associate rector for spiritual formation at St. Columbia's Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C. She is also professor emerita of ascetical theology and retired director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at the General Theological Seminary in New York

St. John's Cathedral - 127 E. 12th Ave.

For registration information and forms, contact Gail Jennings at 509-323-6782 or email jennings@gonzaga.edu

Honored Provider



- National Network
- National Portability
- 100% Service Guarantee
- 24-Hour Compassion Help-Line

Peace • Trust • Respect

Providing quality funeral, cemetery & cremation services with care, compassion and dignity

Funeral Homes

- Ball & Dodd Funeral Homes**
West 5100 Wellesley, Spokane 509 328-5620
- Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes**
1306 North Monroe St., Spokane 509 327-6666
- Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes**
1306 North Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-9700
- Thornhill Valley Chapel**
1400 South Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-2211

Pre-arrangement Plans Available
www.dignitymemorial.com www.BestHalf.com
www.spokanefuneralhomes.com

Fig Tree storytelling involves listening, understanding and acting

We often speak of The Fig Tree's role being one of informing, inspiring and involving people.

In recent weeks, we have heard others talking about similar trilogies: 1) learning, acting and reflecting; 2) listening, living, loving; 3) enlightening, encouraging, empowering, or the church's role of 4) teaching, calling and sending.

Stories have power because they inform us of the interrelation of faith and life, thought and action, praise and power, words and flesh.

Recently we have been spending much time telling The Fig Tree story and how we want to extend our storytelling throughout the Inland Northwest network of communities and throughout the Northwest on the web.

We dream of building the capacity to do more than interviews for print about how people and pastors perceive and act on ministry issues in their congregations, communities and organizations. We envision developing the capacity to take a team of students, editorial/video staff and freelancers to communities to do documentaries on ministry issues and responses.

We would incorporate stories of people's lives and faith journeys, placing them in their particular place, time and circumstances and how they live faithfully where they are in their local-to-global context.

We find much creativity among ordinary people as they seek to make their faith meaningful to themselves and influential in society. People are drawn into new or renewed faith by their encounters with

people who live their faith.

The Fig Tree shares stories about people, their encounters with God, and with each other—people on the margins, people around the world and people next door.

They come from varied faith perspectives, in which new encounters bring bursts of faith into their lives.

Some believe because of upbringing and tradition. Some believe because they have analyzed facts, find materialism lacking and truth about more than facts. Some rediscover truth in biblical stories anew as they intersect with their lives and with stories of others.

As people articulate ways faith is real to them, especially as part of their own stories of life and action, their insights become viable and valuable for others—both to gain

vicariously and to join them in common action.

We hope stories we share exemplify ways to see and encounter the divine in the everyday.

We believe stories and witnesses of love, care, compassion, justice, peace can be more powerful motivators.

Now we seek to transpose our storytelling approach in creative ways in the media venue provided by the internet, which will allow audio and video presentations, as well as print, photographic and graphic. It will allow for email invitations to people based on their interests and will allow for avenues of immediate contacts to be made with individuals, groups and programs we cover.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Is the United States' oil-fueled way of life its raison d'être?

In his two-volume *Democracy in America*, late-1830s French author and philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville eloquently praised the new struggling republic. In his travels of the expanse of our country, he thought that at last, here was a nation that had "got it right," except for the slavery issue on which he sided with the Union.

The new nation with its democratic focus had an exemplary government system and a simple God-fearing way of life—a blueprint for other struggling countries.

However, as the 19th century progressed, de Tocqueville became saddened and a little disenchanted as we continued to move into the territories and increase our military accordingly: "Americans are fast becoming anxious gamblers," he wrote.

He loved America, but saw some troubling problems in our psyche. The simple goodness and pride in the basic principles of our founders—of democracy and freedom—our Bill of Rights and Constitutional guidelines, were often in juxtaposition with the ever-accelerating quest for power.

In 1980, the fears of this prophet were

realized, and a policy for the U.S. participation in national and foreign affairs was established. The Carter Doctrine became a defining point for U.S. policy of military and industrial supremacy.

It is strange that President Jimmy Carter, a peacemaker, should be credited with this document. He had been campaigning for election on a conservative theme and pursuit for alternate sources of energy to replace our increasing oil dependency.

In the 1970s the U.S. experienced a crippling shock to its Middle East oil supply by actions of the oil cartel nations—OPEC—which controlled exports from that region. We were importing about up to 40 percent of our oil from the Mid-East at that time. Today, it is nearly 56 percent.

Congress passed and President Carter reluctantly signed what has become known as the Carter Doctrine, which says, if necessary, "the military would not be ruled out in securing and maintaining the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf."

All his successors signed on. The word "oil" was seldom mentioned and never in

conjunction with "blood"—in terms of military action. Public opinion assumed that, by this measure, our way of life would be assured.

During the Reagan years, there was a surge of patriotic fervor for military supremacy. It was accompanied by phenomenal industrial growth, deficit budgets and an unprecedented reduction of taxes. We reversed course, at least with the deficit, somewhat during the Clinton years, but the tragedy of 9/11 intensified the military thrust, particularly as we addressed the threat of terrorism.

Saddam Hussein, the tyrant of Baghdad, became a likely target, considered a leader of a terrorist nation and said to be harboring weapons of mass destruction. None were found after more than a year of diligent search. We have continued our occupancy of Iraq and our quasi-control of Iraqi oil.

It is important for us to know how we arrived where we are in Iraq and the Middle East. For 25 years, we have engaged in a type of hypocrisy in the area.

We have called the Middle East war by

many names. It is a war for democracy, to celebrate patriotism after 9/11, to destroy global terrorism, and to end the intolerance of Islamic Jihad.

Never have we talked of it in the context of "blood for oil for freedom" or to insure our way of life.

Is the price too great? We mourn almost 1,500 troops dead, thousands injured, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians sacrificed. We shake our heads at U.S. budgets with \$2 to \$3 trillion annual deficits adding to the national debt and at the loss of respect for our country in the world family of nations.

Yes, the price is too great! The country, however, is still divided—war or peace?

We in the faith community give pause as we reflect on the last 25 years, and seek God's truth about our nation's policies and our own compromising choices as Americans.

John 4:24 tells us that "God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

Jo Hendricks - Contributing editor

Newsletter Excerpts

Sounding Board

Reflections

Growth of an aging congregation calls for being intentionally geared to creating an atmosphere of welcome for newer, younger people. The buzz word for this is "radical welcome."

The concept requires retraining clergy, ushers, greeters, staff and all members.

Much of it is simply being sensitive to the needs of new people who actively seek a church home, as well as to anyone who enters our buildings at any point. We must meet people where they are, physically, culturally and personally.

The ancient monastic Rule of St. Benedict states it succinctly: "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ." Old assumptions about the nature and type of person that make desirable members must be discarded. We are in the 21st century.

Dean Mart Craft
Cathedral of St. John

On Dec. 26 at Bennington Lake reserve in Walla Walla, there was not a ripple. Who would have guessed that half a world away, the earth was breaking apart, spilling walls of water everywhere? Although half a world away, it was in our living rooms, cars and schools. It was hard to imagine what we could do about it.

An epiphany came while I was cleaning the counter, grumbling about change left there. And another when I sat in my car, seeing change strewn on the passenger's seat. My mother, a child of the Depression, often scolded me as she picked up change I left around saying, "Someday you might need this."

On the corner of a playground at Woodruff Elementary School stands a monument

of a penny. It is a reminder of the difference a handful of change can make. A math teacher wanted to help students understand what a million of something looked like. At the same time, the town needed a hospital. The Million Penny Parade was launched.

People began sending pennies and the school gym became a bank vault. We built a hospital. The project changed the lives and hearts of students and the community.

Fifty years later, it inspired the Change of Heart fund for tsunami relief. I smile when I now think of people cleaning out drawers, pockets, purses and cars to bring change that made a difference! Thanks to all who helped raise \$2,000 in two weeks. I am sure it has touched God's heart.

The Rev. Ann Frerks
Emmanuel Lutheran - Cheney

How long is our benevolent attention span? How long is our compassion sustained, our concern prolonged? These questions have been on my mind as I think about our response to the tsunami and the enormous need left in its wake.

Our challenge is if we can respond over time and love the long haul because the needs that come with rebuilding communities and lives following this unprecedented disaster will take years. The media move on and images that focus our attention on Southeast Asia will be redirected. There is need everywhere and many things are worthy of our attention, but sometimes I wonder if we have a bit of benevolent Attention Deficit Disorder.

When we worship and celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks for God's faithfulness and lengthy attention span, God's love for the long haul.

Can we commit to loving one another as God has loved us? With God's help, we can.

The Rev. Beth Jarrett - St. Mark's Lutheran

Lent is a time to rediscover, reenergize and rededicate our holiness. The disciplines of Lent are prayer, study, reflection, repentance, charity and service. The well-known "giving up" discipline serves the Lenten agenda by removing distractions, wasteful and trivial pursuits, and downright sinful behaviors that draw our time and energy away from Jesus' commandment: "Follow me!"

The Rev. Jan Griffin
All Saints Episcopal - Richland

To insist on having enemies and targets for weapons of medium destruction is to abdicate a compassionate approach to problems that are always exacerbated by war and preparations for war.

Contemplating the devastation of the Sumatra earthquake and subsequent tsunamis, one can hardly imagine a greater horror than a violent shaking of earth and the sea gone berserk. It's no wonder that so many died and entire nations are in distress.

We, however, bear responsibility for a worse disaster and an avoidable one. The loss of life, still being calculated in Sri Lanka and Thailand, will not surpass that of our war in Iraq. The terror, misery, poverty and grief produced by unstoppable walls of water pale only in comparison to humanity's ultimate disaster: war.

Rusty Nelson - Handful of Salt
Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

The world has changed dramatically in my lifetime. The place of the

church in our culture is radically different than in the 1950s and 1960s. The way we communicate is different. The increase in information and knowledge is overwhelming. The speed as which we live is more rapid. Many people have not attended church in any regular form or fashion.

So we can no longer fool ourselves by thinking we can stay the same and that people will respond the way they used to. The direction of the wind in our culture has changed. The challenge is for us to be faithful to the mission and ministry of Christ and the church in the cultural context in which we find ourselves.

Many local congregations in the United States are facing this situation. We need congregational transformation to figure how to adjust our sails while not losing our identity. The focus is on mission and ministry—service to others.

The Rev. David Helseth
Englewood Christian - Yakima

Letter to the editor:

I have provided some of the training to people at Whitman Hospital in past years. We always try to communicate with rural hospitals that non-certified chaplains are not preferred.

Institutional chaplaincy is a board-certified profession with strict standards, rigorous graduate education and on-going continuing education requirements.

Hospitals would not use non-licensed personnel to provide nursing care or respiratory therapy, and we encourage them to value spiritual care as much and hire certified professionals.

Julianne Dickelman
Sacred Heart chaplain and educator

Guatemalan meal features speakers

The Inland Northwest Presbytery's Guatemala Task Force will serve a Guatemalan dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, March 4, at Manito Presbyterian Church, 401 E. 30th Ave.

After the meal, Gabby and Scott Dannemiller, who recently spent a year among the Mayan people with Young Adult Volunteers, will give a multi-media presentation through original music, stories and images.

For information, call 924-4148.

Teen-Aid plans curricula training

National Teen-Aid, Inc., director LeAnna Benn will lead training sessions for teachers on "Abstinence until Marriage" March 8 to 11 at Teen-Aid, Inc., 723 E. Jackson.

The junior high curriculum, "Me, My World, My Future," is the focus of sessions from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday.

The senior high curriculum, "Sexuality, Commitment and Family," will be the topic Thursday and Friday.

The program teaches communication skills related to goal setting, decision making, refusal skills, friendship development and communication principles, said Joan Allen of Teen-Aid.

Teen-Aid, Inc., is a nonprofit founded to reduce out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and related consequences. For information, call 800-357-2868.

CARE coordinator speaks to group

Christina Santos, western regional field coordinator for the CARE Action Network in Seattle, will speak to Spokane's United Nations Association on "After the Camera Leaves: Post Tsunami Rehabilitation," at 7 p.m., Monday, March 14, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr.

The CARE Action Network works nationally to raise awareness of policies that help eradicate poverty in the world, particularly in developing nations.

For information, call 624-3608.

Women celebrate international day

Under the theme, "The Struggle and the Hope," several area organizations are celebrating International Women's Day from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at the Spokane Women's Club, 1428 W. 9th Ave.

There will be music and displays by various organizations about their work related to international efforts to promote the rights of women and to work to end violence and discrimination against women.

Monica Walters of the YWCA, Jet Tilley of Planned Parenthood, V. Ann Smith and Mary Jane McCoy of NAACP and Links will speak on issues of concern to women, including the sex trade, trafficking of women and the United Nation's Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, also known as CEDAW.

For information, call 326-1190.

March shows discuss labyrinth and children's faith lives

The Fig Tree Show in March will be broadcast at 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, on Comcast channel 14.

March 1 and 15, the show features editor Mary Stamp interviewing Karen Robbins, who

facilitates the labyrinth prayer and meditation experiences at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John in Spokane.

March 8 and 22, Deidre Jacobson interviews Elizabeth White, a member of Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Church and a Montessori preschool teacher, who has written a book about children's spirituality called *Walking in Wonder*.

From 6 to 8 p.m., on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8 and

9, six Fig Tree volunteers and staff, who participated in training during February, will learn to do specific parts of producing the show, and then will produce one show.

For information, call 535-1813.

Calendar of Events

- To March 17** • Open Labyrinth Walks, Cathedral of St. John, 12 E 127th Ave., 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- March 3** • "What I Wish My Christian Friends Knew about Judaism," Robert Schoen, Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main, 7:30 p.m.
- Recruitment Meeting, Spokane CROP Walk, p. 3
- March 3, 17** • PeaceWorks, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- March 4** • World Day of Prayer, "Let Our Light Shine," Church Women United, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pullman, 9:30 a.m. - written by Christian women from Poland.
- Fiesta de Guatemala, Manito Presbyterian, p. 15
- Women's Leadership Conference, "Celebrating Our Impact," the Lair at Spokane Community College, 7:30
- March 5** • Scott Kirby, Rag-time Pianist, Annual Buffet-Auction for The Common Ministry at WSU, Pullman Presbyterian Church, 1630 NE Stadium Way, 7 p.m.
- March 5-13** • Novena of Grace, St. Aloysius Parish, p. 7
- March 7** • Big Brothers Big Sisters program on Amachi training, p. 2
- Fig Tree Peter Storey Event Planning, Highland Park United Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield, 4 p.m.
- March 8** • International Women's Day, Spokane Women's Club, p. 15
- VOICES, Salem Lutheran 1428 W. Broadway, 5:30 p.m.
- March 8-11** • Teacher Training in "Abstinence until Marriage," p. 15
- March 9** • Alan Durning, "Cascadia Scorecard," p. 2
- March 10** • Great Decisions Lecture, "Russia," William T. Robinson, international lawyer from Seattle, Robinson Theatre, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth College, 7:30 p.m.
- March 10, 24** • CROP Walk Planning, 7 p.m., p. 3
- Fig Tree Interactive Website Planning, 7 p.m. - call 535-1813
- March 11** • Spirit of St. Patrick Benefit for St. Margaret's Shelter, Mukogawa Commons, 6 p.m. - call 358-4254.
- March 13** • Kosher Dinner, Temple Beth Shalom, p. 5 - call 623-0372
- March 14** • Spokane Citizens for a Living Wage, 35 W. Main, 5 p.m.
- "After Cameras Leave: Post Tsunami Rehabilitation," p. 15
- Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit, "What 21st Century Leaders Can Learn from 16th Century Jesuits," Globe Room, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m.
- March 15-16** • Circle of Caring Domestic Violence events, p. 2
- March 16** • The Bent Over Woman, Clare House at St. Joseph Family Center, 1016 N. Superior, 7 p.m. - call 483-6495
- Spokane City Forum, First Presbyterian, 318 South Cedar, 11:45 a.m. - call 777-1555
- March 17** • PeaceWorks, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- Catholic Charities' Good Works in Action Tour of House of Charity, St. Margaret's Shelter and St. Anne's Children and Family Center, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - call 358-4250.
- "Can a Darwinist Seek Scientific Truth?" Barbieri Courtroom at Gonzaga School of Law, 7 p.m.
- March 19** • 100 Hours of Conscience to End Genocide in Darfur, p. 11
- Global Observation and Protests on 2nd anniversary of the war against Iraq, Gondola Meadow, Riverfront Park, 7 p.m.
- Prosser-Grandview CROP Walk - 786-1097, p. 1
- March 22** • Great Decisions Lecture, "The Widening Poverty Gap," Oltmann Siemens of the International Finance Corporation in Washington, D.C., Robinson Theatre, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m.
- March 24** • 25th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Romero in El Salvador
- Easter Sunrise Service, p. 3
- March 28** • Spokane Citizens for a Living Wage, 35 W. Main, 5 p.m.
- March 29** • Whitworth Choir spring concert, "Music for the Seasons of the Church," St. Augustine, 428 W. 19th Ave., 7:30 p.m.
- March 30** • Take Back the Night March and Rally, Globe Room at Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga, 7 p.m.
- Congress on Race Relations, p. 3
- March 30 -April 1** • Human Rights Conference, University of Idaho, featuring Raymond Reyes, the Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr., and Linda Kavelin Popov - call 888-8-UIDANHO, info@uidaho
- March 31** • Singer-songwriter Judy Gorman, Benefit Concert, p. 5
- Great Decisions Lecture, "The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict after Arafat," Raja S. Tanas, professor of sociology at Whitworth, Robinson Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- Catholicism for a New Millennium Series, "Religion and Politics: A Catholic Moral Analysis" Charles E. Curran, professor of human values at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Cataldo Hall 7:30 p.m. - call 323-6715
- April 6** • Fig Tree distribution, St. Mark Lutheran, 24th & Grand, 9 a.m.
- April 7** • Fig Tree Board, 3220 S Grand Blvd., 1 p.m.
- Mondays** • PEACH Safe Food Orientation - call 455-2552
- Tues-Sats** • Habitat for Humanity work days - call 534-2552
- Tuesdays** • The Fig Tree Show, Comcast channel 14, 8:30 p.m.
- Sign vigils to end occupation of Iraq and bring the troops home, Mission and Hamilton, 4:30-5:30 p.m. - call 838-7870.
- Weds/Suns** • Through April 4: Season for Peace and Nonviolence, Unity Church of Truth, 29th & Bernard.
- Fridays** • Colville Peace Vigil, 675-4554.
- 1st Sats** • Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship Union
- 2nd Sats** • Sacred Harp Shape-Note Singers, 2929 Waterford Dr., 7 p.m.
- Stevens County Fellowship of Reconciliation, First Congregational, Colville, 6:30 p.m. - call 738-4962

VOLVO • TOYOTA • DATSUN

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221

David Crum, DMin Pastoral Family Psychotherapy

Fellow, American Association of Pastoral Counselors
State Licensed Mental Health Counselor

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT:

Veradale United Church of Christ - 611 N. Progress - Spokane Valley
St. Mark's Lutheran - 24th & S. Grand - Spokane

443-1096 www.pastoralfamilypsychotherapy.com

Shalom Book Club

Exploring a Christ-Centered Approach to Urban Ministry and Community Development

Meets 4th Monday monthly @ 6:30 p.m. • Cost is \$15
Lutheran Book Parlor (1414 W. Broadway) • 328-6527

Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act Read Reflect Act

"Reneighoring" West Central

The Jubilee Community exists to provide affordable, co-operative rental and owner-occupied living for singles to families in Spokane's historic West Central neighborhood
"Come celebrate community, simplified living, and working for social justice."



Lease a lifestyle, don't rent housing!

Jubilee Community & Housing Ministries
509.328.4540 jubileecommunity@hotmail.com



Hillyard Florist

FULL SERVICE FLOWER SHOP

4915 N. MARKET
Spokane, WA
489-5001

TWINLOW CAMP & RETREAT CENTER New Conference Center Features



- sleeping for 30 - 10 private rooms
- 5,000 sq. ft. of living space
- sink, shower & toilet in each room
- linen service & laundry facilities
- 30 x 21 meeting rooms - each floor
- 8 lake view rooms, 2 handicapped
- snack kitchen, deck

To schedule use,
Call 208-687-1146

We don't just
break the news.

We put it back together.

Don't just get the news. Understand it. NPR News and Spokane Public Radio go beyond the headlines so you know why things happen. Our coverage isn't just current, it's complete. Tune in to KPBX 91.1 or KSFC 91.9 FM, and catch both on the web at kpbx.org.



Neighboring youth groups do a 30-Hour Famine for hunger, tsunami aid

With tsunami victims in mind, 23 teens and adults from the Benton City United Methodist Church recently participated in a 30-Hour Famine to raise funds for World Vision, which will go for tsunami relief and to feed hungry children.

In the 30 hours, participants did service projects that required energy.

They went to older people in the congregation and neighborhood and raked leaves left from the fall, chopped firewood and did other yard work. Some also shopped in a grocery store for food for the food bank.

They helped clean out the storage shed for the church's preschool, put away Christmas costumes and spent three hours cutting out 100 paper dolls, which they sold for \$1 each—representing the \$1 a day it takes to feed one child for one day, said Julie Close, one of the youth leaders.

Several said they felt "weak-legged" by the time they finished their project, she said.

Andy Wangler, a member of the Rock UMC group in Selah, noted: "When we were allowed to eat again, we were served what a starving victim would get: a bowl of UN-IMIX."

That is a nutritional meal World Vision devised to feed starving people. It consists of three parts of maize, four parts of beans, one part of oil, one part of powdered milk and one part of sugar.

"We didn't tell them they would eat that, so it had more impact," Julie said. "It's hard to imagine partaking of this mix, but most of the teens and leaders tried it.

"People in many poor countries line up to be fed this meal and they feel lucky," she continued. "This was an eye-opener for us."

"We also learned that the most precious gift—like gold to many in the world—is clean water. Many have no access to clean water or have to walk miles for it," added Julie, who started the Pathfinders youth group three years ago as her three sons were in or entering junior or senior high.

The youth gathered the last Friday evening of January, ate pizza and reviewed the rules before staying overnight at the church. At 5 a.m., some arose for breakfast, but those who slept until 6 a.m. when the fast began, had nothing to eat.

Saturday evening, the youth wanted to play games after devo-

tions, but leaders wanted them to realize that each day—by midnight—29,000 children die of hunger. So the youth and leaders each took 1,500 steps, to total 29,000, to help them gain a concept of that number.

"That also helped youth become aware of how privileged they are and that some people do not have a roof and three meals but only have one meal a day," she said.

Last year the youth at Benton City UMC joined youth at Grandview in a 30-Hour Famine.

This year, youth from United Methodist churches in Selah and Riverview in Pasco joined in the Benton City famine. Next year they will choose another community to host it, with the goal of having it be a district-wide event.

The famine raised \$1,098, which Julie said is enough to feed 21 children for a year. World Vision matches every \$360 raised, so they could feed six more children, Julie said.

"The 30-Hour Famine has impact not only on the youth but also on the congregation, helping them realize that the youth do have compassion for others, Julie said.

"I thought helping people who couldn't help themselves was rewarding and I felt good raising funds to feed starving kids in the world, because I was saving lives. That was what this was all about," said Zack Clouse, one of Julie's sons.

A Selah youth, Holly Ray, found it meaningful to be part of a group of seven moving wood for an elderly woman: "She appreciated it so much. It was touching the way she reacted to us doing that for her." Even though the group lacked energy, she said, it was "great to know we had helped someone other than ourselves and that she appreciated it."

Another Benton City youth, Courtnie Howell, noted that when she first heard about the project she considered it "another chal-

lenge from God." The experience made her better appreciate what she has and made her want to help others in the world.

When her mother took her out to eat after the famine ended she remembers thinking: "Great! Food! Thank God! I'm starving!" Then she thought of the children who think the same when they do have some food or clean water.

The week after they did the famine, the youth raised \$800 through a Sunday evening luau.

From 10 to 25 youth attend Pathfinders Sunday evenings, Julie said.

For information call 587-3319.



Courtnie Howell, Andy Wangler, Kristin Yates, Holly Ray and Josh Suratt crammed in a car during the 30 Hour Famine.

'I was saving lives.'

Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

The Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry is a non-credit program designed to help train, equip, and support lay men and women to serve more effectively as lay pastors and in other lay pastoral positions.

Program Format

The Diploma program consists of:

- Completion of eight required foundational courses in four, week-long modules of study (Monday - Friday) each summer on the Whitworth campus over two successive summers (two weeks each summer);
- Completion of two additional educational experiences between each summer of study;
- Pre-class reading assignments (and/or other assignments) to be completed prior to each week of study;
- Post-class papers or projects to be carried out in one's local ministry context.

The eight required foundational courses are:

- Survey of the Old Testament
- Survey of the New Testament
- Church History
- Introduction to Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Christian Theology
- Worship and the Sacraments
- Church Administration & Polity
- Preaching Principles and Practice

Program Schedule

Summer morning courses meet from 9 a.m.-noon, and afternoon courses meet from 2-5 p.m. Students can take all four modules or can pick and choose those modules (or parts of modules) that most interest them. Because of the pre-class reading required for each summer session, the *deadline for applying for the Diploma program is May 1, 2005.*

Summer Courses 2005

June 13-17	Survey of the Old Testament Christian Theology Administration and Church Polity Pastoral Care and Counseling
June 20-24	Survey of the New Testament Church History Preaching Principles and Practice Worship and the Sacraments

Program Faculty

The faculty for the Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry consists of Whitworth College faculty and staff and other qualified instructors from the community.

Program Costs

Tuition for each course is \$250. Room and board on campus is about \$250 per week (Sunday evening - Friday evening). Books and materials are extra.



WHITWORTH

For more information, contact Michelle Seefried
Whitworth College
(509) 777-3275 mseeffried@whitworth.edu
www.whitworth.edu/faithcenter

Rockwood Retirement Communities are dedicated to the lifelong vitality and well-being of the whole person.

Enhance your Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Intellectual Life in a comfortable custom home or apartment, with assisted living and skilled nursing available.

Rockwood South 2903 E. 25th Avenue
Rockwood at Hawthorne 101 E. Hawthorne Rd.



Have you tried
Bishop's Blend Coffee?

- Fair traded • Organic
- Shade grown
- Choice of blends

Your purchase helps to meet needs worldwide

EPISCOPAL
Relief and Development

For individual or group orders:
(800) 334-7626 (ext. 5129)
www.er-d.org