

CHANNEL

Celebrating 35 years: 1969-2004

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

February 2004

www.associatedministries.org

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Consider Pierce County private schools ... see page 4

University of Puget Sound will host CommUniversity 2004: "Let Justice Roll Down"

Annual adult education program offers affordable, ecumenical short courses and workshops

With a theme of "Let Justice Roll Down," CommUniversity 2004 will offer a wide range of short courses and workshops at the University of Puget Sound on Feb. 28-29 and Mar. 6-7. Classes encompass topics in arts and humanities, theology and religious studies, spirituality and prayer, public policy and social justice, and biblical studies.

The 30 classes offered this year include studies in world religions, religion in public culture, ethics, and faith and film. Workshops will offer experience in healing touch, body theology and meditation. Participants can enjoy a blues concert, discuss the latest Tacoma Reads Together selection (see page 2) or receive garden tips from an expert in Northwest gardens. A highlight will be an interfaith panel discussion of justice issues.

As its featured keynote speaker, CommUniversity will welcome Dr. Mary E. Hunt. She will present the convocation address, "Ethics for the Rest of Us," on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10:00 a.m. in Kilworth Chapel at the University of Puget Sound.

Dr. Hunt, a feminist theologian, is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, Maryland. A Roman Catholic active in the women-church movement, she lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to liberation issues.

She is the co-editor, with Patricia Beattie Jung and Radhika Balakrishnan, of *Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives from the World's Religions*. Her book *Fierce Tenderness: A Feminist Theology of Friendship*, was awarded the Crossroad Women's Studies Prize for 1990. She edited *From Woman-Pain to Woman-Vision: Writings in Feminist Theology* by Anne McGrew Bennett. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, America, Concilium, Conscience, The Witness, and Open Hands*. She has also contributed chapters to such books as *Ecofeminism and the Sacred* (ed. Carol Adams) and *Sexuality and the Sacred* (ed. James Nelson and Sandra Longfellow) and *Feminist Theological Ethics* (ed. Lois Daly).

Mary Hunt is a member of the Society for Christian Ethics and the American Academy of Religion where she co-chaired the Women and Religion Section. She is an advisor to the Women's Ordination Conference and a part of the Clergy Advisory Committee of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Dr. Hunt received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She also received her Masters in Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and her Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. Her undergraduate degree in Theology and Philosophy is from Marquette University.

Admission to Dr. Hunt's convocation address is free to registered CommUniversity participants; \$10 to the general public.

CommUniversity is sponsored by As-



Roman Catholic ethicist and theologian Dr. Mary E. Hunt will present the Opening Convocation lecture, "Ethics for the Rest of Us" for CommUniversity 2004 on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10:00 a.m. in Kilworth Chapel.

sociated Ministries in partnership with the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University. For information about CommUniversity classes or registration, call (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or e-mail channel@associatedministries.org. Registration brochures are also available at Tacoma Public Libraries and Pierce County libraries, at Borders bookstores in Tacoma, Puyallup and Federal Way, and online at www.associatedministries.org.

COMMUNIVERSITY

Applications now available

Who says there's no such thing as...

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

A free lunch? Or a free ANYTHING, for that matter? Well, we are here to say that there IS something that is totally free. No strings attached.

It's the exterior house painting done by Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful volunteers each summer. And applications for that free paint job are now available. In order to be eligible for this program, applicants must be low-income, either senior OR disabled, and live in their own home anywhere in Tacoma/Pierce County.

This summer will be the 20th anniversary of the program, and it is anticipated that approximately 100 homes will be painted. Volunteer crews come from churches, service clubs, unions, busi-

nesses, schools, local military bases, etc. Last year, enough crews came forward to paint 115 homes.

Twenty-two of those homes were painted by family and/or friends of the homeowner. When a homeowner doesn't have the financial ability to buy the paint but has people to do the work, Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is happy to supply the primer and paint. As a matter of fact, a homeowner who has volunteers of his or her own is *more likely* to be selected.

The number of homes that are selected is limited only by the number of volunteer crews; the crew-recruitment mantra of the program is: We will paint as many houses

as we have crews. So when a person comes to us with their own crew, we are delighted.

Individuals may request applications for themselves and for others as well. Perhaps there is a house you drive past frequently that you are wondering about because it's been slowly but surely deteriorating; we encourage you to send us the address, and we'll send a letter asking if they'd like to apply.

The houses will be painted this summer throughout July and August.

For applications, call (253) 383-3056, ext 106, or visit www.paintbeautiful.org. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2004.



Associated Ministries seeks nominees for 2004 Ecumenical Service Award

BY MAUREEN FIFE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Our community has been blessed with many dedicated and compassionate people who make Pierce County a place worth living in. We would like to recognize them with the 2004 Ecumenical Service Award. Do you know of a deserving young person, adult or group? The Board of Directors of Associated Ministries is seeking nominations for the 2004 Ecumenical Service Awards. Nominations may be submitted by any person, congregation, organization, or agency.

The award recognizes individuals of all ages, groups, congregations, or agencies who have significantly improved the quality of life in our region. The quality we recognize is best described by the Hebrew word, *shalom*. The word is often simply translated as peace, but that does not do justice to the fullness of *shalom*. *Shalom* conveys a sense of health and wholeness within individuals and groups. More than just the absence of violence, it denotes the presence of justice. Those whom we seek to recognize are actively engaged in the pursuit of God's *shalom*.

The board will accept nominations through March 10, 2004. To make a nomination, simply send a letter with the nominee's name and the reason for your choice. Please note that there is a special youth category to recognize those 21 years and younger, and that people from all faith communities are eligible. Mail nominations to Ecumenical Service Awards, Associated Ministries, 1224 South I St., Tacoma, WA, 98405 or email to hunger@associatedministries.org.

The awards will be presented at Associated Ministries' annual Spring Celebration Dinner and Auction on the evening of Saturday, April 17, 2004 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Social Hall in Tacoma.

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Local community provided generous holiday help for families in need



Project Interdependence

Project Interdependence director Valorie Crout (r) assists parents in choosing donated holiday gifts for their families. More than 40 families were helped by sponsors during the Christmas holidays.

BY VALORIE CROUT AND LORRAINE LEE, PROJECT INTERDEPENDENCE

You came through again! Each year, the generous outpouring of support from community members astounds us. During the Christmas season, individuals from local congregations, businesses and organizations came forward contributing toys, food, Christmas trees and many other items on children's "wish lists." Thanks to these extraordinary giving spirits, 31 families were adopted for the holidays. In addition, 10 more families with a total of 34 children received holiday help for the holidays from various donors.

We would like to share some of the very moving thank-yous we received from these families. A Sumner couple wrote: "My husband had lost his job a few months ago and I am on disability. The household income is just barely enough to cover our living expenses. We thank you with all our hearts. It was hurting us so much to see our son excited about Christmas and we did not know how we would be able to put anything under the tree for him. Thank you again. God bless!"

A single mother from Tacoma wrote: "This Christmas I found myself in a really hard place—homeless, carless, and on maternity leave from work with no source of income. This toy drive has insured my

children will have something nice under the tree. God bless all of you who have helped out. I appreciate it and thank you much."

Project Interdependence would like to extend special thanks to:

Associated Ministries staff
Pastor Barksdale & friends
Bellarmine Preparatory School
Phyllis Bjorkman
Creator Lutheran Church
Denise Drevdahl
Gen Farmer & family
Joe Foss & family
Vicky Gawlik & family
Janice Laakso
Jim LeGro
Meadow Park Nine
Pierce County Central Labor Council
AFL-CIO
Coy Priest
Resurrection Lutheran Church
St. Leo's Parish Youth Group
Shoes for the Children
Skyline Presbyterian Church
Kelly Staze & family
University of Puget Sound—Students of
Occupational Therapy Association
World Vision

ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES'

Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Skyline Presbyterian Church, 6301 Westgate Blvd N., Tacoma
Please join the Associated Ministries board and staff for a light lunch and meeting, where we will honor outstanding volunteers and stewards, welcome new board members and celebrate accomplishments of the past year.

For information or reservations, contact Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056 ext. 107 or maureenf@associatedministries.org.

Standing up for peace: Anniversary Vigil

BY SALLIE SHAWL, UNITED FOR PEACE OF PIERCE COUNTY

At dusk on Sunday, Feb. 15, you can help make something extraordinary happen on the Tacoma waterfront.

It's been almost one year since more than 10 million people in over 600 cities world-wide demonstrated against the Bush administration's plans for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It was the largest protest for peace in world history. Again this year, people from all walks of life in our community and around the world will stand together for peace.

Locally, people will gather at 5:00 p.m. on Ruston Way at Jack Hyde Park (on the waterfront at the bottom of McCarver Street, directly below the Spar Tavern). Bring a sign if you wish, candles in a jar or paper cup (to protect the flame from the wind) as well as a flashlight,

People around the planet will come together in their town's courthouse square, or on a busy downtown intersection, or in front of a church building, or in front of the local Army recruiting office, or in front of the White House in Washington, D.C.

Yet they will all have one thing in common: they all want peace.

People will take a stand for peace during this international solidarity event. Their expressions may vary. Some may hold hands, some may stand in silence, some may burst into song. Some may hold placards that say: "End the Occupation: Bring the Troops Home Now!" Some signs may say: "Healthcare Not Warfare," others may say "Bread and Schools, Not Bombs and Bullets." And some will declare, "Defend International law!" Most will hold lit candles. All will be saying "Peace!"

Vigils and other events are already being planned in Washington, DC; Bloomington, Indiana; Deerfield, Massachusetts; Des Moines, Iowa; Austin, San Antonio, Houston & Dallas, Texas; Boulder, Colorado; Palo Alto, California; Columbus, Ohio; Tallahassee, Florida; London, England and other cities yet to be announced.

This local gathering is being sponsored by United for Peace of Pierce County. For further information, visit www.ufppc.org or call (253) 238-2292.

Tacoma Reads Together 2004 Event Schedule

In February and March 2004, as part of the 3rd annual Tacoma Reads Together event, Tacoma residents are invited to read Julia Alvarez' *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and to take part in one or more of the community discussions and events that will consider the important issues raised by the book.

Community Conversations

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m., Olympic Room, Main Library
Is Living the American Dream an American Nightmare?

Panelists include Jonathan Raban, preeminent social historian and best selling author of *Waxwing* and *Hunting Mr. Heartbreak: A Journey Across America*, Darius Khaleghi, Deputy Commissioner, Washington State Commission on Human Rights; Don Rennegarbe, Executive Director, Tacoma Community House; and Alfonso Montoya, Executive Director, Centro Latino-SER. Moderator: Ross Reynolds, host of KUOW's "The Conversation."

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m., Wheelock Student Center, University of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner St.

Teens, Culture & Relationships

Panelists include Dr. Pepper Schwartz, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington and popular author, columnist and commentator on relationships and sexuality; Jennifer Allen, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington; Joy Eckwood, Youth Program Coordinator, Generation YW, Tacoma YWCA; and others. Co-sponsored by the University of Puget Sound.

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., Moore Library

Community Conversation & Mayor's Reception ***Alien in America***

Tacoma's teens and their families talk about their experiences living in what Julia Alvarez describes as 'a hyphenated world.' How do they balance their family's needs for maintaining traditions and their own needs for discovering their own voice in a new country. How do their immigrant mothers and fathers adjust to the different values and mores of U.S. youth? How does the immigrant experience today differ from that of a generation ago?

Moderator: Kathleen Merryman, columnist, *The News Tribune*

Book Discussions at the Library

Cascade Room, Main Library	Wednesday, Feb. 18, 12:10 p.m.
Swasey Library	Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Anna Lemon Wheelock Library	Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m.

Book Discussions in the Community

Starbucks, UW Tacoma, 1701 Pacific Ave.,	Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m.
King's Books, 218 St. Helen's Ave.	Sunday, Feb. 22, 2:00 p.m.
University of Puget Sound	Sunday, Feb. 29, 2:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Ms. Jane Brazell

Sponsored by Associated Ministries' CommUniversity. Registration required. Information: www.associatedministries.org or 253-383-3056, ext. 120.

Centro Latino-SER, 1208 South 10th St. Tuesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish & English discussion of Julia Alvarez's novel

Starbucks, So. 56th and So. Tacoma Way Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Starbucks, Old Town, 2112 North 30th St. Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings and Special Events

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:00 p.m., Olympic Room, Main Library

Film: *El Norte* (1984)

The powerful story of a brother and sister who must leave their village in Guatemala after their family is killed by militiamen and make the journey to "El Norte," the land of their hopes. They discover, however, that America presents hardships of its own, particularly for immigrants who are non-white. The film tells a universal story about family, refugees on the run and the way cultures perceive each other.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 4:00 p.m., Swan Creek Library & Literacy Center

Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., King's Books, 218 St. Helen's Ave.

Film: *Anatomy of a Spring Roll*

"Food is everyone's first language," says Paul Kwan, the Vietnamese-born immigrant who fashioned this film out of the rich sensory memories of his childhood. He tells his story of finding a new life in America while maintaining his cultural connection through cooking, eating and sharing the rich and varied food of his native land. Discussion follows.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m.

Film: *My American Girls: A Dominican Story*

A vivid portrayal of a year in the life of the Ortiz family — hard working Dominican immigrants who live frugally in Brooklyn and dream of retiring one day in their native country. Their American-born daughters have different ideas and aspirations. These bittersweet contradictions form the core of the film as we watch the family sort out the rewards and the costs of pursuing the American dream. Discussion follows.

Saturday, Feb. 28, various times & locations

La Causa / The Cause, Living Voices Theater

10:30 a.m., Anna Lemon Wheelock Library

1:00 p.m., Centro Latino-SER (Spanish language) 1208 South 10th St.

3:30 p.m., Moore Library

La Causa / The Cause is the story of Marta Hernandez, the daughter of Mexican American migrant workers, and her life changing involvement in the Farm workers Movement led by Cesar Chavez in the 1960's and 70's. *La Causa / The Cause* is not only a story of Mexican Americans but all Latino and immigrant Americans east and west. Living Voices combines live performance with video and audio to create a evocative and powerful historical story.

Thursday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Olympic Room, Main Library

Film: *Mississippi Masala*

An Indian family, expelled from Uganda under the reign of dictator Amin, moves to the U.S. As the daughter, Mina, grows up she finds herself caught in a curious cultural twist and considers herself a mix "masala." *Mississippi Masala* eloquently captures the feelings of an exile's life, with all the hope and sorrow of dislocation.

Stewards in the Spotlight

Each month, *The CHANNEL* features individuals, congregations and organizations who truly exemplify the spirit of stewardship in their day-to-day lives and work. The January *CHANNEL* article about the grant that Associated Ministries received from Hillside Community Church erroneously stated that the Church had disbanded. In an effort to paint a true picture of the current life of Hillside Community Church, Marion Sharp interviewed Suzanne Alcorn, member of Hillside Community Church, and retired pastor, David Teeter. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact *The CHANNEL* at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.



Church Name: Hillside Community Church

Location: 2508 South 39th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409

Phone: (253) 230-8948

Pastor: After the retirement of David Teeter as minister in spring of 2003, no minister has been called. Instead, each Sunday the church hosts speakers on various topics.

Staff: Program Director, Kent Alcorn; Treasurer, Bert Robison

Worship: Every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The church invites anyone who is interested to attend.

History: The church began in 1955 when Rev. Dr. Harold Bass, a Methodist minister, after experience as a missionary in Korea, found no other church willing to have a minister who was speaking out against the Korean War. The church was incorporated under the name of "The Church for Today," and initially met at the Odd Fellows Hall in downtown Tacoma.

The church purchased land at its present S. 39 Street location in 1957; the church building was completed in 1958. In 1961, the church changed its name to "Hillside Community Church." Dr. Bass pastored the church until his death in 1982. He was followed by Rev. Milton Andrews, another minister from the Methodist tradition, until his retirement in 1992.

David Teeter pastored the church from February 1993 through April 2003. He and his wife, Willow, had previously served as missionaries in Israel and Palestine, and David had been on the pastoral staff of People's Church in Tacoma (now Covenant Celebration Church). Reverend Teeter retired in the spring of 2003 and the church has elected to remain without a minister. This new mode of operation leaves the church more funds for good works and for speaker stipends.

Creed/Mission: We believe in the way of reverence for God and love for people that Jesus, and all great prophets have advanced. We recognize all acts of human compassion as inspired by God. We are prepared to extend hands of fellowship to those of any tradition who reach to know God better and to love people more.

What special programs does your congregation offer? We arrange for special guests and quality speakers on a variety of topics, ranging from biblical views of peacemaking, and perspectives of various religions, to poetry for change, the Women of Iraq, the history and current undertakings of the Audubon Society, and a therapist on depression. On the second Sunday of the month we hold a Fellowship Of Reconciliation (FOR) meeting and host an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. The scheduled speaker for Feb. 8 is Larry Seaquist, a former US Navy warship captain and Pentagon strategist, whose essays appear regularly in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

With what other organizations is your congregation involved? We work closely with the Society of Friends (Quakers), which meets at the same location, and many of us are involved with peacemaking groups such as the FOR.

How does your faith call you to action? We are a faith group that is not dogmatic. We are called to listen to our inner voice, accept all people (without titles), and to work for peace.

What is your biggest concern for the world/ community? We wish that we all could work together for justice which brings peace.

What is your biggest hope for the world/ community? We hope that we all begin to see each other as very special.

What is your message to the Associated Ministries community? Keep up the good work – you are headed in the right direction.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



This year of 2004 is a year for me and for all of us at Associated Ministries to pause and reflect a bit. I am beginning my 25th year as executive director of this wonderful institution. Under the name Associated Ministries we are celebrating 35 years of service as an ecumenical agency. Our actual roots go back another 33 years as the Tacoma Council of Churches.

I never dreamed that I would be in one place working for the same institution for so long. When I originally looked at Associated Ministries and Bruce Foreman's extended tenure as the Metropolitan Minister I was amazed that someone could serve in such a position for almost a decade. When I arrived I met the likes of Bill Cate at the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Loren Arnett of the Washington Association of Churches. They were old pros when I arrived and they continued to serve for many more years. As the years went by, each of my precious moments with those two men gave me a deeper appreciation for ecumenism. Each year my love for the people of Pierce County grew. Their commitment to work together — living out in their small way the vision of Christ that we are one — constantly energized me. New people joined in the ministry vastly enriching the work that was coordinated by Janet Leng and me. When Janet left I was confident we would continue for she had helped to build this agency into one that could not only cope with her loss, but also grow. And grow it did.

We now have an exciting and dynamic staff. We have a talented and committed board of directors and thousands of people who participate with us as volunteers and donors. This year as we are remembering, we will feature stories about the history of Associated Ministries, but those stories will be located among others about what we are doing now. We cannot ever be content to rest on past achievements. We cannot sit back and simply say to ourselves, "Well done." We cannot dwell on past accomplishments or failures. We must press forward. I have become very fond of that part of our mission statement that refers to "building community that is humane, compassionate and just." We cannot do anything other than move forward with a mission like that. We live in a world that is crying out to know and experience the love of God. The economic disparities, the continuing realities of discrimination and the horrors of war and violence demand action from those who know that God has a better vision for this world.

A long time ago I realized something that has guided my life ever since. Though I had a personal faith, my God was incessantly calling me into relationships with others. My faith was personal, yet corporate. I could not escape the truth that God was constantly calling me into community. The God I had come to know was a God who placed great faith in people. This God whom I had come to know through Jesus Christ was a God who loved humanity and believed that we could find a way to be a people that lived out lives of justice, compassion, mercy and love. While I sometimes get attached to the romantic notion that one person can make a difference by himself or herself, I know, and I believe all those great ones we revere also knew, that it is only as we enter into relationships, only as we become part of community, that we find that opportunity and that power to make a difference for the good.

Today I give thanks for so very many who have gifted me by sharing their lives with me. Today I pray for a future where we will continue to come together and find new ways to live into God's vision for creation. Thanks be to God and thanks be to all of God's servants seeking to find the Way.

Rev. David T. Alger
Executive Director, Associated Ministries

P.S. I must take a moment to apologize to my wonderful friends at Hillside Community Church. In the last *CHANNEL* as we celebrated the fact that we were awarded a \$45,000 grant from this congregation, we mistakenly reported that they had officially disbanded. This wonderful witnessing community continues to exist and to meet in the facility that they sold to the Tacoma Friends Meeting. For information about their ongoing work see *Stewards in the Spotlight* on this page.



Associated Ministries is a Christian organization representing more than 200 congregations, religious groups, and interfaith partners in Tacoma-Pierce County. We are compelled by our faith to build community that is humane, compassionate and just.

CHANNEL

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Rev. David T. Alger - Executive Director

Maureen Fife - Deputy Director

Judith Jones - Editor

The Channel is Pierce County's only ecumenical and interfaith newspaper, reaching more than 10,000 people each month.

Readers are invited to submit news items, letters, articles, opinion pieces and photographs of interest to the faith communities of Tacoma/Pierce County. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Materials may be submitted via mail, fax, e-mail or delivery, but must include a contact name and phone number or e-mail address. Submissions will be published at the discretion of the editor, and may be edited for space and clarity. Submissions will not be returned but may be kept on file for future use. Photos will be returned upon request.

For advertising information, contact Dorothy Moe at (253) 460-1443 or Judith Jones at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.

Tax Time: A note from the Development Office

As tax time approaches, please accept again our thanks to you for your donations to Associated Ministries in 2003.

Our standard practice has been to send receipts for each gift as it is received. However, if you would like a cumulative/year-end donation receipt, please call our office at (253) 383-3056, ext. 115 or email development@associatedministries.org. We are more than happy to help.

Marion Sharp, Development Director

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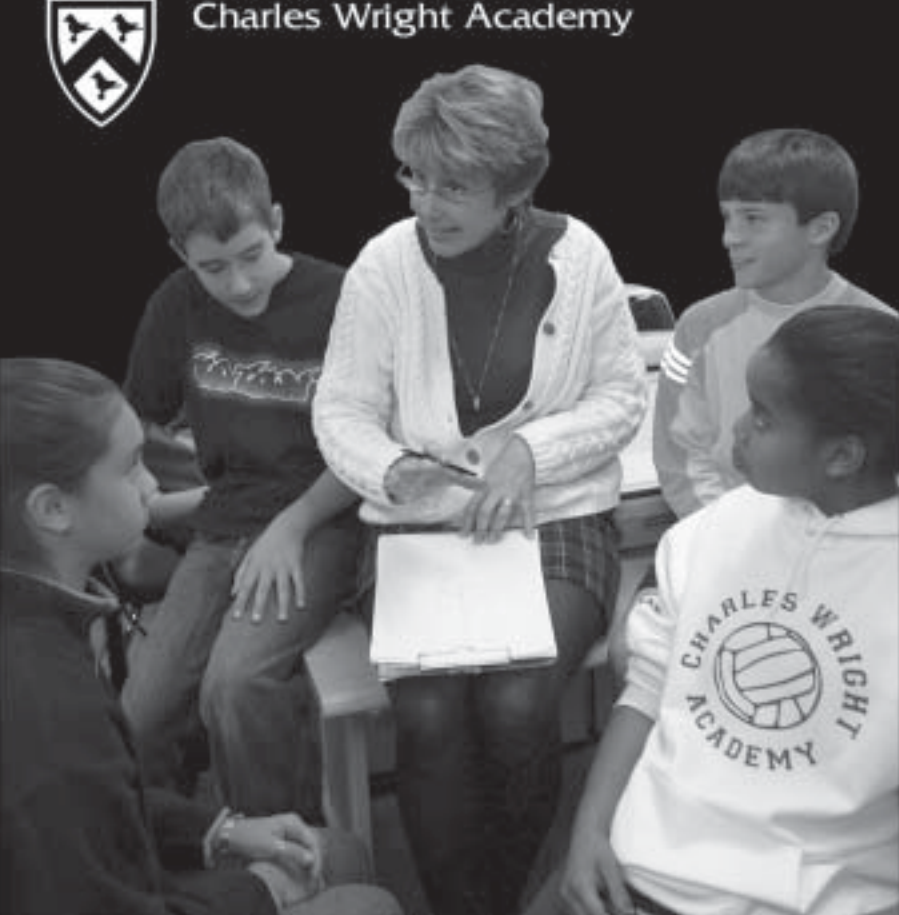
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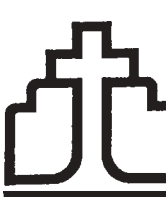
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Reflections: Consider the issue that dare not speak its name

BY VINCE HART

For a very long time, "homosexuality" was identified only as "the love that dare not speak its name." Until the middle of the 19th century, it did not even have a more formal or scientific designation. For almost another century it remained a carefully hidden "vice," actively condemned whenever it was discovered. In 1969, the event commonly known as "Stonewall" occurred in New York City and changed all that. It brought the significant presence of homosexual persons abruptly and permanently into the public eye. With a strange irony, the "Stonewall" event has confronted the church with what I have come to call "the issue which dare not speak its name." As the Church in the United States and around the world has sought to respond to the no-longer-hidden presence of a substantive minority of homosexual persons in society, it has had to face, though very reluctantly, an unresolved and intense conflict among Christians with regard to the nature of the Bible and of its authority in the present era.

Ever since 1969 there have been intense debates within the many communions of the Christian Church and in American society at large concerning homosexual persons, practices, and relationships. Once the closet was thrown open and both homosexuals and their treatment in so-called "Christian" societies were exposed to view, the churches in particular have been embroiled in controversy. At the heart of the controversy, I am deeply convinced, is a profound difference of understanding of *what* the Bible is and of the *character and function* of its authority.

COMMUNIVERSITY 2004

Course No. 30:

By What Authority: Jesus and Holy Scripture, Then and Now

Meets Saturday, Feb. 28, 1:00-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 29, 2:00-4:30 p.m. & Sunday, Mar. 7, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40 before Feb. 13, \$45 after Feb. 13

To oversimplify, there are those who believe that the Bible, being "the Word of God," has all the characteristics of God's own self. Although it is a collection of documents written and assembled by human agents, it has been endowed, these persons believe, with the eternal infallibility of the divine One. On the other hand, many others believe that the existing texts of the Bible, while both inspired and inspiring, are not in themselves without any error, or misunderstanding, or time-limited relevance, with regard to God's present truth and will. Therefore, in seeking to apply "the authority of the Bible, or "the word of God," to the hypersensitive issue of homosexuality (which has abruptly and graphically thrown the whole issue of human sexual behavior into the public arena), these two understandings of the Bible as a source of moral guidance sanctioned by God, have found themselves on a collision course.

Why this strange resistance?

What I find very strange and deeply troubling is the intense resistance of so many, on various sides of the controversy, to discuss and explore this underlying conflict. Open discussion of sexual issues is not only acceptable now, but even flaunted, as all sides speak very

explicitly of matters which once dared not be mentioned, especially "in Church!" Yet there is intense resistance to talking about *the Bible* in equally explicit ways.

For more than a decade I have tried to urge and to open this discussion among my clergy colleagues in the United Methodist Church. I have tried to engage an examination of people's *functional* "doctrine of Holy Scripture" which allows them to make "adjustments" to clear and frequent biblical declarations and mandates with regard to cosmology or slavery, for instance, while at the same time requiring that there be a rigid adherence to the traditional interpretation of five or six scattered references to what is now understood to be "homosexual practice." But it is discussion of this basic issue which seems to meet a great deal of resistance today among those who are most passionate about the "authority" of the Bible as "the Word of God." What do such people fear? What do they think would be the consequence of a careful yet respectful analysis of the Bible's actual contents, a probing look at the evidence of its process of development and transmission (including diverse translations) across the centuries, an honest evaluation of whether the qualities attributed to the

Bible are truly appropriate and congruent with the Bible's actual contents?

How do we understand the authority of the Bible?

There is one more dimension of this "issue that dare not speak its name." It is the authority of ancient texts in relation to the authority of the Living Christ. How are we to understand the authority of the Bible, ancient documents from a very different time, and the authority of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church? Is it not possible that the One who lives and reigns in the contemporary world might not agree with *some* of the statements found in the Bible; is it not possible that the Living Lord might have something new to say in new circumstances? A careful reading of the Bible reveals real changes in what is understood to be the will of God in changing times. Is it right to insist that *nothing* written in the Bible two to three thousand years ago can or should be changed now? Is such an insistence not, in effect, a "gag" being placed upon the Lord of the Church, as though Jesus Christ is being forbidden to say anything new on vital matters?

At the center of this issue is the question: *how* do we discern God's will today? That is the question which cries out for open, honest, and thorough discussion. One opportunity to enter into that discussion will be at CommUniversity 2004, where I will be offering a course titled *By What Authority: Jesus and the Holy Scriptures, Then and Now*. Join the discussion!

The Rev. Vince Hart is a retired United Methodist clergyman and chair of the CommUniversity 2004 Planning Committee.

Reflections: Are we the people God calls us to be? How then do we pray?

BY DR. PETER J. ZOGRAFOS

I invite you to join with me to examine ways that the communal prayer can reconnect us to spiritual companionship, after all we are Christians together, not apart.

Intercessory prayers in our worship have the potential to make us a holy, welcoming, and inclusive people. Prayer as hospitality and mercy calls us to heal the wounded and alienated in our own communities. The Gospel impels faith communities to look inward and outward and to reach beyond limited perceptions of who merits the good news and who is welcome. We must reach out to all those who are marginalized: gays and lesbians, divorced and separated persons, persons with disabilities, the stranger among us, the abandoned, and the homeless.

Who are we as a community?

Becoming, welcoming, and inclusivity are the hallmarks of the Christian community's home between the present and the promised future. Becoming, welcoming, and inclusivity are the characteristics of the "now and not yet" of the kingdom. Becoming, welcoming, and inclusivity are rooted in and spring from hospitality. Jesus' ministry was first about a hospitality that honored the dignity of all. Can Christian communities become anything less than hospitable, welcoming, and inclusive? I believe that it is only from this place of welcoming that our faith can do justice. An inclusive community more clearly points to the obligations of a priestly people to work for social justice and recaptures the practice of journey through the faith with another sojourner.

As a "feel good" society we never

COMMUNIVERSITY 2004

Course No. 27:

Christians Together: Exploring Intercessory Prayer

Meets Saturday, Feb. 28, 1:00-3:30 p.m. & Sunday, Feb. 29, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$30 before Feb. 13, \$35 after Feb. 13

seem to want to acknowledge the other side of the "good life," the painful things, and that is often mirrored in our prayer. But the individual members of the Body of Christ must ask the tough questions of our culture and our religious shortcomings. How do I contribute to injustice in the world by my decisions? How is sin active in my own life? Am I aware that every decision I make is a moral decision? How have my preconceived ideas about others prevented me from seeing, knowing, and loving them? Who is missing from our assembly? Who have we excluded from the Table? These questions have the power to open the meaning of sin, especially exclusion, to the community so that not only can sin begin to be thought of differently, but also so that the community can begin to form their prayers differently. Faith that does justice requires a direct correspondence between the public worship of the church and the prayerful consciousness of the local church community. And with consciousness raised we become more attentive and intentionally welcoming and inclusive.

What happens in our worship?

Worship is not where we go to avoid the world, retreat from the mundane, or

recoil from life. Worship is where we bring our shattered dreams of crushed lives, our lamentations of loss, our sorrows, and the pain of a broken world. Worship is where we also bring our joys and hopes knowing that all is transformed. Intercessions clearly connect worship and life. Through the intercessions the community exercises its priestly role to name what we have done, what we have failed to do, and what God has done for us. It is in the intercessions that our lives are shared with the community of all believers present and far away, and far removed.

The importance of naming

When we name someone, we give them a place in our consciousness. Conversely, to fail to name someone makes them invisible, in other words, not present to us. When we name something, we recognize its importance. To fail to name a thing evil or sinful makes it more ugly, more rampant, and more deadly. To name someone in liturgy is to give them a place in our assembly and a claim to our care and concern. To name something evil or sinful gives us an opportunity for conversion.

In this workshop, we will work together to provide a guide for congregations that

will restore the hopeful and prayerful anticipation that was present at that first gathering in the Upper Room, where everyone was welcomed. We will reflect upon three questions of inclusion: 1) Are we the people God calls us to be? 2) Who is not at the Table? 3) Does our current practice of intercessory prayer help the reign of God? The goal is to assist in the creation of welcoming and inclusive prayers for the transformation of the community in becoming a holy people: a church whose faith does justice.

This workshop will encourage church communities to be aware of the importance of church as a welcoming place through intercessory prayer. It will urge congregations to study and reflect on the lectionary readings for the Sunday celebration, to acknowledge the brokenness of not only their own community, but also the world, and to pay attention to who is absent and whose voice has not been heard before they live out in prayerful proclamation their baptismal duty to pray as the Body of Christ. Join me, as together we are challenged to go beyond our own limits of inclusion and justice-making.

Dr. Peter J. Zografos, liturgical theologian and adjunct professor of theology, previously a lay ecclesial minister in the Roman Catholic tradition, HIV educator, peer-counselor, and Pastoral Associate at Old Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Barry University in Miami and has a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University.

Want to learn more? For information about these or other CommUniversity classes, call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or email channel@associatedministries.org.

Reflections: Creation Spirituality embraces richness of many traditions

By ARDINE MARTINELLI

Creation Spirituality brought me home to my roots—my Christian faith tradition. At the age of six, I turned my back on Christianity. A tragic accident took my parent's first-born child, when he was only 18 months old. I knew my brother Jimmy was in heaven with God, until my six-year-old neighbor informed me of limbo and told me that unless you're baptized you can't go to heaven. I ran home in tears telling my mother that Jimmy was not in heaven. Although she held me and assured me all of God's children were with God; a part of me closed off that day. Through tears, I told her "My God is not a mean God." Large chunks of my spirit continued to close off as I experienced religious bigotry as a child raised in an interfaith family during the fifties. I witnessed both my Protestant extended family and my Catholic extended family shoot derogatory arrows at the faith of one or the other of my parents. It was easy for me to turn my back on organized religion. I became a spiritual wanderer, dipping into different faith traditions but never finding a home.

My path home started when I read *Original Blessing* by Matthew Fox, founder of the University of Creation Spirituality. Here was a theology that embraced the goodness of all creation including humans. It was like a dark, cold part of me cracked open. I recognized the wisdom I carried as a six-year-old, and I felt alive with possibilities. So much of what I believed, and knew to be true for me, was being articulated in a theology of goodness and oneness of all creation. It provided me with a different worldview of Christianity. This new worldview offered me the gift of exploring my relationship with God. It was

time to put away my childhood images and air out the stuffy box of doctrines. I was now free to explore the mystery of God. Creation Spirituality's core values derive from an integration of Western spirituality, the ancient wisdom of indigenous cultures, mystical traditions of all faiths, and the emerging universe story that marries science and religion.

Like indigenous cultures and mystical traditions, Creation Spirituality honors the living, sacred Earth and recognizes our interconnectedness and interdependence. We are panentheistic—"God is in everything and everything is in God." As we experience our oneness with all living beings, human and non-human, compassion is birthed. Mystical traditions around the world contain teaching stories about direct experiences with the Divine. We honor these traditions by celebrating the artist, mystic, and prophet in each person. The very essence of mysticism is to trust our own experience.

Creation Spirituality believes that science and religion have much to learn from each other, and can give each other support as the mysteries of life continue to be explored. The emerging universe story—the-15-billion year

story shows us our place in the universe. Today's physics is leading the way and is finding that matter not only expands but also is intrinsically energetic; the universe is an adaptive organism moving toward co-creativity. Its ability to self-or-

ganize constantly sends messages that create the whole. We are co-creators with this vibrant, mysterious, organic universe.

Finding a theology that embraces the feminine was like water for my soul. Creation Spirituality not only honors the femi-

Creation Spirituality's core values derive from an integration of Western spirituality, the ancient wisdom of indigenous cultures, mystical traditions of all faiths, and the emerging universe story that marries science and religion.

COMMUNIVERSITY 2004
Course No. 26:
Creation Spirituality
 Meets Saturday, Feb. 28, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$20 before Feb. 13, \$25 after Feb. 13

nine but believes we must return to her values if we are to heal the violence and hate so prevalent in our world today. These values see the intrinsic worth of all creation. They draw us beyond ourselves into the preservation of the whole universe. The sacred feminine is about relationship, responsibility, partnership, and accountability for all of life, and seeks the integration of the masculine and feminine. We need both mother/father God to guide us in healing ourselves and our world.

All of these values: original blessing, oneness of all creation, the emerging universe story, and honoring the feminine are encompassed in the core value of inclusiveness. No one is excluded in the theology of Creation Spirituality. All faith traditions are honored; believing there is one mountain with many different paths to the top. It is the diversity that enriches our world, and we need the deep wisdom of these various traditions as we tackle the many challenges facing our world today.

Creation Spirituality is comprised of four paths. A full spiritual life encompasses all four. These include: The Via Positiva—the path of awe, wonder, joy, and gratitude; The Via Negativa—the path of darkness, silence, sorrow, and letting go; The Via Creativa—the path of renewal, rebirth, and creative expression; and The Via Transformativa—the path of compassionate action, justice making, and

celebration. The journey is not linear, moving from one path to the next. For me it has been a dance, letting the awe and wonder I experience light the times of darkness. My creative energy emerges from the dance of my pain and joy. We journey through these paths throughout our lives, deepening our understanding and compassion for ourselves and others—opening our hearts to our right action in the world.

Creation Spirituality is not another religion, but rather an expansion of the richness of many traditions. Its purpose is to reinvent worship and work—to see the sacred in the ordinary. It is about integrating our head and heart and bringing both

to our work, our worship, our lives. For too long we have separated the mind from the heart, often honoring the logic of the mind and denigrating the emotions of the heart. Reinventing our institutions requires heart work—

bringing music, dance, art, and joy back into our everyday experience, trusting our inner wisdom. Our world hungers for goodness, for the sacred. It is important to build the capacity of awe and wonder in our lives—to find ways to become dazzled by the miracles surrounding us. Abraham Heschel says, "Our humanity will not destroy itself by too little information, but from too little appreciation." Matthew Fox urged the UCS graduates of 2003 to "fall in love at least three times a day." I invite each of you to practice the art of falling in love at least three times a day—become dazzled by this magnificent world.

Ardine Martinelli received her Doctor of Ministry from the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland. She is a spiritual director and retreat leader. She will be teaching a class on Creation Spirituality at CommUniversity.

Our world hungers for goodness, for the sacred. It is important to build the capacity of awe and wonder in our lives—to find ways to become dazzled by the miracles surrounding us.

March and rally to support Leonard Peltier will be held in Tacoma Feb. 7

By SALLIE SHAWL

Leonard Peltier is a Native American who has been in jail for 28 years, having been convicted of killing two FBI agents in 1975. However, there are many people, including a former Congressman and FBI agent, as well as a former Bureau of Indian Affairs official, who think he should have a new trial. Amnesty International says that a retrial at this late date is unrealistic and that he should be released.

In Tacoma on Feb. 7, there will be a rally and march in support of Leonard Peltier. The gathering begins at Portland Park at 10:30 a.m. (Portland Ave & So 35th); the march to the Federal Building (former Union Station at 1717 Pacific Ave) begins shortly after noon, and the rally at the Federal Building begins around 1:00 p.m. (People attending Democratic Caucuses that morning are urged to go directly to Portland Park from the caucus.)

Regarding this case, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, "I have been reading in Leonard Peltier's book, and about an hour ago I spoke with him He is a remarkable person and the depth of his spirituality shows I would hope that the campaign to have him freed will succeed. I certainly support it very passionately because it is a blot on the judicial system of this country that ought to be corrected as quickly as possible."

The Honorable Don Edwards has written, "As a former Congressman from California for over thirty years, a former FBI

agent and a citizen committed to justice, I wish to speak out strongly against the FBI's efforts in opposing the clemency appeal of Leonard Peltier. I served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights in the U.S. House of Representatives ... I took a personal interest in Mr. Peltier's case and became convinced that he never received a fair trial."

The Amnesty International website states: "Amnesty International considers Leonard Peltier to be a political prisoner whose avenues of redress have long been exhausted.... Amnesty International recognizes that a retrial is no longer a feasible option and believes that Leonard Peltier should be immediately and unconditionally released."

The U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit, in a ruling on Nov. 4, 2003 stated: "Much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and in its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed."


The Leonard Peltier Support Group asks "that all people of good will and believers in social justice please join us on Feb. 7 and march and rally with us for justice for Leonard Peltier."

For further information, write to Tacoma-lpseg@ojibwe.us or call (253) 383-3056, x105.

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IN BRIEF

Workshop features "Five Gifts for an Abundant Life"

Use the five gifts of gratitude, forgiveness, intentions, tithing and surrender to change your life. Facilitated by Tim Schubert, RSc.P. and ministerial student, this workshop based on the book by Diane Harmony, will be held on eight Tuesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 206 North J St., Tacoma, starting Feb. 3. Cost is \$55, including the book. For information call (253) 383-3151.

Asia Pacific New Year Celebration in Tacoma

All are invited to the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's 6th Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration is Saturday, Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, 2727 East D Street, Tacoma. This one-day annual celebration event draws 7,000 to 10,000 people from the surrounding Puget Sound region. Experience the Asia Pacific cultures through their arts, music, dance and foods. In this

year of the Monkey in the Chinese Zodiac, the featured community will be the Chinese heritage Americans with ties from Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. In addition to on-going stage performances by the Chinese and other Asia Pacific communities, there will be more than 50 arts and crafts vendors with cultural artifacts, community information booths, and Asia Pacific food vendors. For further information, please call or email Asia Pacific Cultural Center at (253) 383-3900 or apccusa@qwest.net.

Like to sing? Join in shapenote singing

All are welcome to join in shapenote singing at the 13th Annual Pacific NW Sacred Harp Convention. The Convention will be held at Sunset Hill Community Club, 3003 NW 66th St, Seattle on Feb. 14 & 15 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. each day. Admission is free; a free will offering will be collected each day. No experience is necessary; singers and listeners are welcome. Shapenote music dates from American colonial times and is characterized by fervent a cappella

singing of four-part dispersed harmony. Potluck dinner on the grounds is at noon. Songs are taken from *The Sacred Harp* (1991 Denson edition); loaner copies will be available both days. Books and recordings will be for sale. For information or directions, contact Karen Willard at (360) 897-9545, hallock@mindspring.com or David Wright at (206) 324-2067 bolvanger@aol.com.

Concert will benefit ACLU and United for Peace

Folk duo Steve and Kristi Nebel will perform in a concert to benefit United for Peace of Pierce County and the Pierce County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Tom Rawson, a Seattle musician, will open the show. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Washington State History Museum, 1919 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. For directions, visit <http://www.wshs.org/wshm/index.htm#directions> or call (253) 272-3500. For further information about the concert, call (253) 573-1504.

Free urban studies classes offered at UWT

The City of Tacoma and the University of Washington, Tacoma Urban Studies program are offering free public educa-

tional sessions from 6:45-9:00 p.m. through March 8. Remaining dates and topics are: Feb. 2, Social issues and discrimination; Feb. 9, Public safety; Feb. 18, Public infrastructure; Feb. 23, Urban education; Mar. 1, Economic development; and Mar. 8, Urban futures. No registration necessary. Participants can attend any or all of the sessions. The sessions are held in the Keystone Auditorium on the UW Tacoma campus. For more information visit the website at www.tacoma.washington.edu/urban_studies/winter_2004_Urb_Gov_schedule.htm.

Blood donors of all types urgently needed

Cascade Regional Blood Services is experiencing a critical shortage of all blood types. Area hospitals continue to experience unusually high demand with more traumas and surgeries. All donors are urgently needed to donate blood or to schedule an appointment by contacting Cascade Regional Blood Services in phone or person at one of the following Pierce County locations: 220 South I Street in Tacoma—(253) 383-2553, 205 15th Ave. in Puyallup—(253) 841-4236, and 33505 13th Pl. South in Federal Way—(253) 945-7974. Donors can also check www.cascadebloodcenters.org for office hours or bloodmobiles in your area.

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DISCRIMINATION

Don't be fooled by friendly landlords or rental agents. Housing discrimination isn't always obvious. Know your rights
If you suspect unfair housing practices, contact:

The Fair Housing Center of South Puget Sound
253-274-9523 or 888-766-8800
fhcps@ix.netcom.com

FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW!!

Needs & Wants

NEEDED: OFFICE SPACE — Northwest Pastoral Counseling is seeking a therapy room for a satellite office. If you can help, call Phil Prudhomme at (253) 566-7457.

POSITION AVAILABLE: PROGRAM ASSISTANT — Associated Ministries' Project Interdependence is seeking a part-time, temporary program assistant to fill in for maternity leave. Pays \$11/hr. with some benefits. Must be able to work with low-income families, have strong data entry skills, and pass background check. Experience and degree in human services field preferred. Training with current staff will begin on April 1. (Closing date for this position is March 5.) Send cover letter and resumé to Associated Ministries, Attn: Valorie Crout, 1224 S. I Street, Tacoma, 98405 or email to pip@associatedministries.org. For more information, please contact Valorie at (253) 383-3056 ext. 108.

POSITION AVAILABLE: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — The Church Council of Greater Seattle is a not-for-profit organization that works for compassion, reconciliation, justice and peace, with diverse peoples and faith communities. The Director of Administration and Finance will oversee the organization's accounting and financial reporting, contracts, grants, payroll and human resources functions. This person will also direct budgeting, technology, information systems and office services. S/he will manage the accounting office, front office staff, the computer network and other related consultants. This is a full-time exempt position reporting to

the Executive Director. For more information, call (206) 525-1213 or visit <http://www.churchcouncilseattle.org/>.

POSITION AVAILABLE: DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS — REACH MINISTRIES, which extends compassionate care toward those living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses, is seeking a director of programs. Position will oversee development and implementation of REACH programs, assist in identifying potential funding sources and coordinate fundraising events. Successful applicant will be a follower of Christ with the following qualifications: ability to organize and prioritize multiple projects and meet deadlines; excellent organizational skills and computer skills; ability to recruit and successfully work with volunteers from a variety of backgrounds; willingness to obtain knowledge of HIV/AIDS, embrace the outcast in our society, and be sensitive to the issues facing children and family members. Salary is based on an hourly wage for 32 hours/week, or as needed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If interested, please send a resumé and cover letter to REACH Ministries, 419 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA 98405 or email reachchildren@earthlink.net.

Items for Needs & Wants are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Each must include a contact name and phone number. Fax information to (253) 383-2672 or email to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits.

Can't wait for the next CHANNEL?
Check out the Breaking News online at

<http://www.associatedministries.org>

Pierce County Happenings - February 2004

2/1 Sunday

Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry will host a lecture by Sr. Mary C. Boys, SNJM, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Pigott Auditorium on the Seattle University campus. A reception will follow. Sr. Boys' topic will be "**The Passion of Jesus Christ and Jewish-Christian Relations.**" This lecture, part of the Great Theologians Series, is funded by the Shemanski Trust. Dr. Mary C. Boys is the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary; she is also adjunct faculty for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Teachers College, Columbia University. For more information contact the School of Theology and Ministry at (206) 296-5330 or see www.seattleu.edu/theomin.

2/1 Sunday

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, will host a **Community Compline Service**, directed by Dr. Richard Nance and sung by Men's Compline Choir, at 9:00 p.m. For information call (253) 588-6621.

2/5 Thursday

Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry will host a lecture by Dr. Choan-Seng Song, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Pigott Auditorium on the Seattle University campus. A reception will follow. Dr. Song's topic will be "**God Loves Stories: Theology and Practice of Doing Theology with Stories.**" This lecture, part of the Great Theologians Series, is partially funded by the Lilly Endowment. For more information contact the School of Theology and Ministry at (206) 296-5330 or see www.seattleu.edu/theomin.

2/5 Thursday

A **public witness to abolish the death penalty** will be held from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in front of the County-City Building on Tacoma Ave. S between 9th and 11th. This display takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information call John Boylan, Criminal Justice Ministry, at (253) 627-2720.

2/5 Thursday

The University of Puget Sound will host "**Making Peace in a Time of War,**" a free public lecture by Jim Winkler, the General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, at 7:30 p.m. in Kilworth Chapel, North 18th St. and Puget Sound Ave. in Tacoma. For more information about Winkler or the lecture, visit www.ups.edu/news/releases/2003-04/winkler.shtml.

2/6 Friday

Area clergy and lay leaders are invited to a **breakfast with Jim Winkler** to discuss the role of the Church in addressing national and global justice issues at 8:00 a.m. in the Parlor at Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 North Madison in Tacoma. The breakfast is sponsored by the Center for Spirituality & Justice at the University of Puget Sound and Associated Ministries. Cost is \$8.00. Space is limited; please make reservations by Feb. 2. For information or reservations contact Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056 ext. 119 or ginab@associatedministries.org.

2/6 Friday

St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1123 North J Street, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 383-2783.

2/7 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-

day program, **Welcoming Prayer Practice**, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Welcoming is a companion practice to Centering Prayer. It teaches a prayerful way of letting go of upsetting emotions, feelings, thoughts, and commentaries that arise in daily living. Previous instruction on centering prayer or other meditation practice highly recommended. Registration is \$50; please register by Jan. 31. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/8 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will host a talk by Larry Seaquist, a former US Navy warship captain and Pentagon strategist, at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Seaquist, whose essays appear regularly in the Christian Science Monitor, will speak on "**The Journey Toward a Culture of Peace: A Military Officer's Education in Peacebuilding by Citizens Around the World.**" For more information, please call (253) 230-8948.

2/9 Monday

The **Winter Theological Symposium** will be held from 4:00-9:00 p.m. in the Columbia Center at Pacific Lutheran University. Martha Stortz, professor of ethics and pastoral care at PLTS and Fred Gaiser, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, will speak on the topic, "A Conversation about the Gospel, the Church, and Human Sexuality." The lectures will also be offered online as live streaming video via LUTECAST. For information contact Evelyn Rau at (253) 535-7423 or crel@plu.edu, or see www.plu.edu/~crel.

2/9 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "How to Eliminate Negative Thinking" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Troy Christensen, MA, LMHC, will help participants focus on learning to turn off or ignore the negative scripts that seem to pop up automatically in interpreting life situations. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

2/9 Monday

The Unitarian Universalist Church, 1115 South 56th St., Tacoma will host a program titled "**Trying to Better Understand Fundamentalism**" at 7:00 p.m. There will be an audio tape presentation of a talk by social analyst Chip Berlet which played recently on the Alternative Radio Network. A discussion period will follow. This program is open to the public.

2/11 Wednesday

St. Leo Parish will host **Christianity in Dialogue with Islam** at 7:00 p.m. in the Alberta Canada Room at Catholic Community Services, 1323 South Yakima Ave in Tacoma. The featured speaker will be Paul Ingram, professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University. Admission is free; for information call (253) 272-5136.

2/13 Friday

Deadline for March CHANNEL

2/14 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the second of six classes in its 2004 **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Seattle University. The topic will be "Islam," presented by Jeff Siddiqui, in Wyckoff Auditorium, Engineering Bldg. Classes are \$120 for the series; \$25 per class. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email eisengn@aol.com.

2/15 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host a **Blues**

Vespers service at 5:00 p.m. Featured performer will be Henry Cooper. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

2/15 Sunday

The **5th Annual Valentine's Benefit Concert** for the Diabetes Association of Pierce County will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary Baker Russell Music Center's Lagerquist Hall at Pacific Lutheran University. Dave Knutson and Carol Baque will sing Broadway favorites accompanied by the Joe Baque Quartet. Free-will donations from the concert and CD sales will benefit the Diabetes Association of Pierce County. For information call (253) 531-0313.

2/16 Monday

President's Day - Associated Ministries' office will be closed.

2/17-19 Tuesday-Thursday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a midweek retreat, **Prayer Tools: Practice of Colloquy**, from 1:00 p.m. Tuesday to 2:00 p.m. Thursday. Christ wants us to dialogue with him on a regular basis. Gabrielle Bossis shares her practice of colloquy by speaking, thinking and being with Christ. Registration is \$150; \$185 with spiritual direction. Please register by Feb. 12. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/18 Wednesday

Associated Ministries' annual meeting and membership luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Skyline Presbyterian Church, 6301 Westgate Blvd N. in Tacoma. For information or to make reservations, please contact Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056 ext. 107 or maureenf@associatedministries.org.

2/20 Friday

All are welcome to join the **Dances of Universal Peace** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 206 North J St, Tacoma. Learn simple dances using sacred chants celebrating many of the world's religious traditions. No previous experience necessary—newcomers always welcome. Movements and music will all be taught. Suggested donation \$7-10. For more information contact Farishta Karen Lindsay at (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

2/20-22 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a **Silent Centering Prayer Retreat** from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. There will be shared periods of group centering prayer while keeping intentional quiet at this weekend retreat. The time includes intensive sittings and walks, with light meals taken in silence. The schedule allows opportunities to join the Benedictine Sisters in praying the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist. Note: At least two months of daily practice is recommended for those considering these weekends. Registration is \$160. Please register by Feb. 13. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/21 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day program, **Healing Touch: Reclaiming Healing as a Gift of the Spirit**, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Healing Touch is an energy-based approach to healing which is found in settings ranging from hospitals and clinics to parish lay ministry programs. Course includes: a brief overview of the history of healing in Christianity; experiential activities, self-healing meditations and a basic healing sequence that can be used to help friends and family. Partici-

pants are encouraged to bring a picture of a loved one for the healing altar. Facilitator Kim Carter, M.A., CHTP, has a Master's in Pastoral Studies from Seattle University and is a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner in private practice in Gig Harbor. Registration is \$50. Please register by Feb. 13. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or e-mail spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/21 Saturday

There will be an **open house potluck dinner** at Guadalupe House, 1417 S. G Street, at 6:00 p.m. The Guadalupe Hospitality House has been a community home for those needing shelter for 14 years, and is also a place for hot showers and phone use from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on weekdays. Please come to meet the staff, learn more about this house, and find ways in which you might want to support this effort to help individuals living in poverty. For reservations and further information, please call Nancy Farrell at (253) 573-2840.

2/24 Tuesday

Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy hosts **Soul Care**, an open room, participatory worship and prayer service shared with friends who are living with mental illnesses. Now meets every fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 8211 112th Street SW, Lakewood. For information call (253) 383-5755.

2/27-29 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a weekend retreat, **Leading Ladies: Transformational Leaders**, from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. With facilitator Lucy Wynkoop, OSB, participants will explore what transformational leadership means, using Jeanne Porter's **Transformational Biblical Images for Women's Leadership** as the basis for these models: midwife, Puah and Shiphrah; choreographer, Miriam; weaver, Deborah; and intercessor, Esther. Books may be ordered through The Priory Store. Registration is \$160. Please register by Feb. 20. For information or registration please call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/28-29 Saturday-Sunday

Associated Ministries will present **CommUniversity 2004** at the University of Puget Sound. Convocation address by Dr. Mary E. Hunt will be held in Kilworth Chapel at 10:00 a.m.; classes will be held from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Saturday and from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Sunday. (See story on page 1.) For information please call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or e-mail channel@associatedministries.org.

2/28 Saturday

Fr. Robert J. Egan, S. J., will speak on "**Forming our Consciences: An interior conversation,**" at St. Leo Parish at 7:00 p.m. The talk will be held in the Alberta Canada Room in the Tahoma Building, 1323 S. Yakima Ave. There will be a free will offering. For information please call (253) 272-5136.

If you have an upcoming workshop or event for *The CHANNEL* calendar, please submit it by the fifteenth of the month prior to publication. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number. Information may be submitted via fax to (253) 383-2672 or by e-mail to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.