

What will be the real "values question" in the November election?
 ... see page 4

New center brings fresh hope to youth in Hilltop

Oasis of Hope Center is a dream come true for congregation and pastor

The mood was jubilant as about 200 people gathered in Tacoma's Hilltop on the last weekend in April to celebrate the grand opening of the Oasis of Hope Center.

The new youth center has been a long-time dream of the congregation of Greater Christ Temple Church and of their pastor, Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery.

The \$3.2 million, 20,000 square foot facility on South G Street, the largest privately-funded building of its kind on the Hilltop, is designed to be a spiritual, educational and recreational resource for the area's young people. The multipurpose center houses classrooms, a computer lab, an exercise room, daycare center, bookstore, library, dining room, a commercial-grade kitchen and a gymnasium/auditorium which can seat up to 600 for worship and 400 for banquets.

The focal point of the auditorium is a mural painted by Tacoma artist Mary Mann to represent the words of Isaiah 41:18: "I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I

will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs."

The verse speaks of Bishop Montgomery's vision for the center. It started in the '60s with the idea of a daycare, "where kids could play awhile and pray awhile." Over the years that vision has expanded to include mentoring, job training and placement to help youth learn essential life skills and job skills.

The center's programs will integrate spiritual formation with preparation for eventual careers. In the youth activity room, for instance, a small store not only sells refreshments but also offers the youth a chance to learn retail skills.

Bishop Montgomery hopes to have community volunteers from various professions come forward to teach and to serve as mentors. What he wants for the center, he says, is to demonstrate "practical Christianity."

At the dedication, executive director Daniel Montgomery said his goal is to teach young people respect for God, themselves, their parents, senior citizens and the law.

The center is open to all. There will be no charge for Oasis of Hope programs, though there will be a suggested donation.



The Oasis of Hope Center, above, will offer spiritual formation along with education and recreation for area young people. Below, Josiah Fiveash sings at the dedication of the center. Behind him are Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery of Greater Christ Temple Church in Tacoma and Bishop Henry L. Johnson of Bethesda Apostolic Temple in Fresno, Calif.

The center is seeking volunteers as well as donations of funds and equipment. Books for the library, especially dealing with trades and home economics, are welcome. Equipment for the computer lab is also needed.

For more information about the Oasis of Hope Center see the church website at www.greaterchristtemple.org. To volunteer or to donate call the center at (253) 383-0077.



Looking for a few good paint crews

By SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

Two hundred eighty five low-income senior and disabled men and women have applied for free house painting this summer with Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful. We hope to paint around 100 homes, and we'll need around 100 crews. That may sound like a tall order, but step by step we expect to make it.

We need a "Yes!" from lots of groups to the challenge of putting together a volunteer crew. What about your church? It could be headed up by the youth group, the young adults, a women's or men's group, or the missions-social action-outreach committee. Or what about your service club? Or your office? Creatively, several crews have been organized by a group of friends (one of which painted with us for 10 years). We've even had crews from soccer clubs and a rugby team. Can you think of a group you know that might consider painting this summer?

Here's what two of last year's crew coordinators said of their experience:

She walked around saying, "Oh my God, it's just beautiful. It's SO pretty." And she cried when we left... The neighbor across the street who harasses her all the time came over and said, "It's so beautiful!" The mailman said "How am I ever going to know what block I'm on now!" [The eyesore had become a landmark!] Marty Kogle, Tacoma Goodwill
It turned out great and she loves it. She

was telling me that her niece brought her home from church this past Sunday and when the niece stopped the car, Mercidee couldn't figure out why she had stopped. Turns out the house looked so nice that Mercidee didn't recognize it! Bob Casey, Eisenhower & Carlson, PLLC

Who would you be helping? Maybe Ralph: he's 83 years old with a City of Tacoma pension; he's active on his Neighborhood Council and is unusually pleasant and positive on the phone. It could be Geneva (70), whose home we painted in 1992 when she was disabled rather than a senior, and who we remember with fondness (she gave great hugs!). Or it could be Karen (52), who has social security disability income due to a nervous breakdown and subsequent inability to work (though she's tried several times but it has resulted in relapses). Or it could be Aldo (82) who fought in WWII and was wounded in France. These are just a few examples of the many people who have applied this year.

Thus far, we've heard from the following groups, saying they want to form a crew:

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Allen AME Church Brotherhood, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sorority, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pierce County, Central Baptist Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Clover Park High School National Honor Society,

Emerald Ridge High School Key Club, First Lutheran Church, Heritage Bank, LDS Eatonville Ward/2nd Branch, LDS Soundview Ward, Light of the Hill United Methodist Church, Lions-Key Peninsula, Mason United Methodist Church, McChord AFB 446 AMXS, New Hope Fellowship Women's Group, Peninsula Neighborhood Association, Pierce County Superior Court Judges, Rainier Pacific Bank, Retina & Macula Specialists, Rotary-Tacoma Narrows, RSM McGladrey, Inc., St. Charles Borromeo, Temple Beth El, Trinity Church of Pierce County, US Postal Service-Tacoma Processing & Distribution Center, VA American Lake Primary Care, VFW Post 10018, Washington Architectural Hardware, and West Tacoma Optimist Club.

Is your group listed here? If not, give us a call: we'll answer any questions you have and send information. There won't be a June issue of The CHANNEL, so this is your last reminder ... call us today!

Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, a program of Associated Ministries, is in its 20th year of organizing volunteers to paint the homes of low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women in our community. For further information, call (253) 383-3056, ext. 106, or visit us online at www.paintbeautiful.org.



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Project Interdependence: People coming together to serve those in need

By LORRAINE LEE, PROJECT INTERDEPENDENCE

So many of us are blessed with the love and support of loved ones. Think about a time when a sibling or a friend spent numerous hours encouraging you, while truly listening to your story. What a powerful impact these people have made in our lives! Many of the families who participate with the Project Interdependence Program (PIP) do not have this support. Project Interdependence matches low-income families transitioning from welfare to work with volunteers from the community (primarily from congregations) who provide this much-needed support.

Many of the volunteers involved with PIP over the years have developed valued relationships with members of their congregation in addition to making a difference in someone's life. Members of First Presbyterian Church, Puyallup have served many families in need through PIP. Bob Bruce, one team member describes his experience, "PIP has given me an opportunity to experience a sense of personal worth and value, something missed when one moves from meaningful work to retirement. I've discovered that one should never retire, in the sense that everything revolves around "me." PIP has helped me relate to members of our team in ways that were not possible through our everyday contacts at church.



I truly value our experiences and believe we have made a positive contribution."

Project Interdependence staff seeks individuals willing to work with a family in Tacoma. "Sarah," a single mother of three small children, hopes to work with a team of people that will help sustain her through the stresses of life's transitions. Sarah presently works part-time as a prep-specialist; however, her long-term goal is to become a certified nurse. PIP staff are currently assisting Sarah with the necessary steps to reach her goals. Mostly, however, staff provide a support system for Sarah and her family to help stabilize them through the difficult obstacles that many low-income families seem to face (such as being unable to

make the rent payment after becoming ill and missing a few days of work and being

preoccupied with the thought of where to find beds for the children to sleep on at night). Sarah has overcome many obstacles on her journey to self-sufficiency. Without the support of others, these barriers may very well have prevented her success. Project Interdependence provides the kind of support families need to help overcome obstacles while attempting to become self-sufficient. If you are interested in helping to create a support system for Sarah and her family, please contact Valorie Crout at (253)383-3056 ext. 108.

HFJ Community Services plans multicultural "Celebration of Community"

by Sue Bernstein

HFJ Community Services, the non-profit arm of Holy Family Episcopal Church, will host "A Celebration of Community: Joining Hands to Support Successful Community-Based Programs," an intergenerational, multicultural evening of sharing, stories, and music on Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. The location is 1427 E. 40th Street, Tacoma.

Please join Sue Bernstein, Deputy Mayor Bill Evans, Tacoma City Councilmember Rick Talbert, Rev. Ron Vignec, and Tacoma youth, adults, and families for a very special evening as we look at unique community assets, share stories, and explore opportunities for participation and support of successful, significant community-driven programs such as the:

- Salishan Family Garden Project in Swan Creek Park (featured in the *News Tribune* 10/03)
- The 4-H Wagoneers Service Learning Project with the Tacoma Farmers Market
- Eastside 4-H Business & Service Projects (honey company and specialty herb vinegars)
- The Southeast Asian Parent Advocacy Network – working together for children's school success
- Parent/Family Learning Center – resources, computers, conversational English, and homework help
- "Understanding the Public School System," a series of practical, "hands-on" classes designed for SE Asian parents, yet adaptable for any parent group

HFJCS recently became the sponsor of the Salishan Family Garden Project in Swan Creek Park, the 4-H Wagoneers/Tacoma Farmers Market Project, and the Eastside 4-H Club Business & Service Learning Projects, so that these important programs, established a number of years ago through Washington State University,

will be able to continue. The focus of this evening will be to support these programs.

Since 1997, HFJ Community Services has been serving the Eastside community by providing educational and social service programs to assist ethnic, minority, and low-income youth and families in gaining knowledge, skills, and experiences to become self-determining and fully participatory members in American society.

Over the years our programs have included: after-school programs, homework assistance, school advocacy, mentoring, parent education, literacy projects, arts & cultural exploration, youth employment & workforce preparation, service learning, and environmental projects. We offer high quality programs and services that honor different cultures and experiences as we work in partnership with youth, parents, grandparents, families, and the community. With our community-oriented organizational style and educational focus, we have a special role, a niche, in providing multi-ethnic services, collaborating with others who have a similar mission.

Perhaps you are looking for an "international experience" without leaving the comforts of home. A variety of opportunities are available for individuals, families, and groups to learn about different cultures and backgrounds while also engaging in meaningful service. You'll find an inclusive, cooperative learning environment in which each person, regardless of age, is recognized as having gifts to share in a mutual learning/serving format. It may even change your life!

Don't miss this special occasion to learn first hand about these opportunities for support and/or service. For more information about this evening or about any of the programs, please contact Sue Bernstein, HFJ Community Services, (253) 472-7264, P.O. Box 111839, Tacoma, WA 98411, or sue.b@prodigy.net.



Project Interdependence team members from First Presbyterian Church, Puyallup, celebrate a one-year match with their PIP family.

News from FISH Food Banks

What's New With FISH?

FISH Food Banks of Pierce County has a new executive director, Beth Elliott. Beth comes to FISH from the American Red Cross Mount Rainier Chapter where she was the Support Services Director for nine years. The skills and enthusiasm she brings to FISH will provide greater efficiencies in food distribution and will build stronger collaborations among food banks and food bank supporters. Her ultimate goal is to ensure that food banks have an adequate supply of food and that all individuals needing food can easily access the food banks. Last year, FISH provided food to over 186,000 individuals in Pierce County.



Beth Elliott

FISH teams up with Goodwill

During the months of June and July FISH Food Banks of Pierce County and Goodwill Industries are teaming up to ensure that food banks have enough food to give out to those in need.

The summer months are "lean" months for food banks in general. Traditionally,

food banks receive less donated food during the months of June, July and August yet we serve the same number of individuals each month throughout the year. FISH Food Banks gives groceries to an average of 15,500 individuals each month.

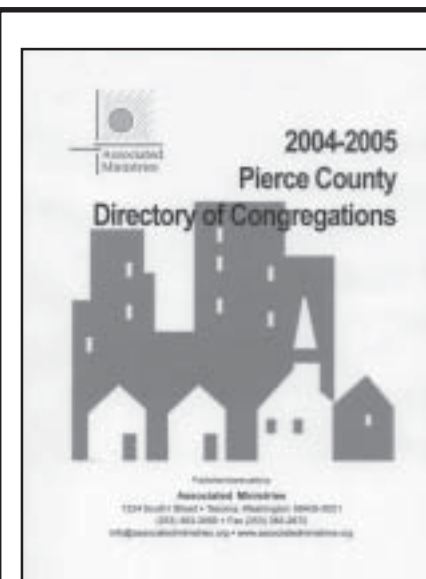
The next time you go to the store why not put an extra can of tuna, soup, green beans, fruit and a jar of peanut butter in your basket and drop it off at your nearest Goodwill Industries retail store in the FISH Food Bank donation bin. FISH will pick up the bins on a regular basis and deliver the food to each of its 23 food bank locations. Goodwill will be accepting food donations in the following locations:

38th Street (actually 3121 S. Cedar, Tacoma)

1415 72nd Street E, Tacoma
14918 Pacific Ave S, Spanaway

What's needed?

FISH needs a new location for a food bank. Currently one of FISH's food banks is located at the Trinity Presbyterian Church. Trinity was very kind enough to let FISH utilize their church on a temporary basis, one and a half years ago, and now a larger location is needed. If anyone knows of a location with about 1,000 square feet from South 25th to North 25th and from Yakima to the Sound please give FISH Central a call at (253) 383-3164.



PIERCE COUNTY DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS

Available May 1

Order your copy now!

Published biannually by Associated Ministries, the Pierce County Directory of Congregations presents churches by denomination and by community, with addresses, contact information and service times. Listings are also provided for chaplains, denominational offices, judicatories, schools, camps and retreat centers. Single copy price is \$15; postage and handling \$3.50.

To order, call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056
or email info@associatedministries.org.

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. This month Marion Sharp spotlights East Side Christian Church in Tacoma. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact The CHANNEL at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.



Church Name: East Side Christian Church

Location: 5816 McKinley Avenue Tacoma, WA 98404

Phone: (253) 474-8281

Pastor: Rev. Byron Singleton

Meet the pastor: Byron Singleton has been pastor at East Side Christian Church in July 2002. He and his family came to Tacoma in July 2000 to lead a new church start, Amazing Grace Christian Church. He and his wife, Brandi, have four children: Brittany, Brandin, Breanna and Benjamin.

Byron earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Southwestern College of Christian Ministries in Bethany, OK and his Master of Divinity degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. He has also trained at the School of Urban Ministry in Atlanta, GA and at the New School of Urban Ministry in Queens, NY. While in NY, Byron interned for a new church in Brooklyn. He has pastored congregations in Freedom, OK; Louisville, KY; and in Houston, TX.

Byron is currently completing a residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, working with mental health and addiction patients. He plans to become a Board Certified Chaplain and to earn a D. Min. in Pastoral Counseling.

Staff: Rev. Marc Masters, Minister of Pastoral Care; Gary Bosley, Chairperson, Christian Education; Rev. Griselda Rivera, Pastor of Hispanic Ministry (Comunidad Cristiana); Esther Drinkwine & Norm Seidel, Musicians; Nanette Coffey, Administrative Assistant

Sunday Worship: Contemporary Worship - 8:45 a.m., Sunday School - 10:00 a.m., Traditional Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Number of members: 105

History: East Side Christian Church began with an adult Sunday School class in 1948, and was chartered as a congregation in November of that year. The group met in the McKinley Hill Royal Neighbors Hall, and the founding pastor was Claire Dammerell.

The land at 5816 McKinley was purchased in 1950, and construction began almost immediately. Members did all of the work, using lumber, plumbing fixtures, doors and windows from the recently dismantled Whitman School. The current Fellowship Hall was a multipurpose facility, used for classes, worship, and everything else. In the '50s and '60s, East Side flourished with growing families, as did many other churches. The new sanctuary was built and dedicated in 1962.

Then turmoil and change hit society. Church participation dropped off everywhere, including East Side. We credit the members who continued to worship, serve, and give sacrificially through those difficult and sometimes discouraging years. They maintained a presence on McKinley Hill, supported missions, helped in the founding of the local FISH Food Banks, provided neighborhood daycare and took care of each other. Without their steadiness and faithfulness, East Side Christian Church would have ceased to exist.

A fire on Ash Wednesday, 1991, turned out to be an opportunity to improve the sanctuary, overcome adversity, and to grow in ministry. We have become diversified in every way while growing, and that helps us to connect with a wonderful variety of new friends and visitors. We eagerly seek the next steps in our congregational ministry as we evolve into a multicultural church. We are improving our property so that we can welcome new people and accommodate our expanding work. Presently, we have a new church start (Hispanic ethnicity) nesting in our church.

Creed/Mission: A church reaching... Reaching up to God through worship, Reaching out to our neighbors through vital ministry, Reaching in to believers to build community, Reaching hearts through teaching to make disciples. (Credit to Nanette Coffey)

What special programs does your congregation offer? Prayer/Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays; Mid-week Worship, 7:00 p.m. Thursdays; Children's Ministry, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sundays; Hispanic Ministry, 5:00 p.m. Sundays

With what other organizations is your congregation involved? Church World Service Blanket program and local food pantry ministry.

How does your faith call you to action? Summer Evangelism Outreach and Youth Mentoring Program.

What is your biggest concern for the world/community? We have three main concerns: 1) our country's involvement in Iraq & Afghanistan and its result, 2) supporting our soldiers and 3) children at risk in our community.

What is your biggest hope for the world/community? To bring people to saving knowledge of Christ and to eradicate injustice by developing understanding for differences among people.

What is your message to the Associated Ministries community? Continue helping different faith traditions bridge the gap so communication is strengthened and relationships are built.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



This past month I had the honor of representing Associated Ministries at the 120th anniversary celebration of First Baptist Church in Tacoma.

One of their members had put together an amazing historical exhibit that took up all the space in their large parlor. What fun it was journeying through the life of this congregation that is located at the very heart of Tacoma.

During the service we spent time remembering and visioning. Stories were shared by members. City Manager Jim Walton reflected on the importance of this congregation as the only one located downtown. Shiloh Baptist sent some of its members and one of its choirs to join in the celebration. It was a wonderful morning of music, prayers, visioning and celebration.

This congregation once had well over 1000 members. Its huge sanctuary was routinely filled to overflowing. Today the membership is dramatically down, but the energy is up and the vision is exciting. Even with small numbers the congregation is reaching out right now and serving the city. The foundation for the future has been laid.

Several months ago I wrote the following in response to a steering committee conversation reflecting on our common vision for this new congregation. Though it is not an official document the committee felt it captured the essence of their vision.

A Fresh Wind is Blowing

The core of Tacoma is home to First Baptist Church. This church family along with individuals from a variety of other denominations is giving birth to a new congregation. We believe that the redevelopment of Tacoma's City Center will be incomplete without the vital presence of a progressive Christian Church. This church will welcome all people. It will build upon the rich heritages of the cooperating denominations. From that rich base this new family will carefully and prayerfully grow. We will listen to the voices of the people of the center of the city, seeking to learn from them and enter into partnership with them. We will be guided by a vision of a new and exciting life of word and sacrament as well as an active outreach to the diverse population of the center of the city. Our new family of faith will reach out to and embrace the arts, local government, businesses, institutions of higher learning and the diverse residential community. We will provide rich experiences for worship and education, service and advocacy, and spiritual growth and development. Our new faith family will be a vibrant witness for Christ in the heart of Tacoma.

Over the last two years a group of people from seven different denominations (Presbyterian, United Methodist, UCC, ELCA, American Baptist, Disciples of Christ and most recently Episcopalian) have been working on the plan for transforming First Baptist Church into the ecumenical congregation, The Church Off Broadway.

We are entering into a critical stage and are searching for people who are willing to be a part of this new congregation. The Church Off Broadway is about to be born. Right now we are looking for both new members and for individuals who might be commissioned by their congregations to spend one or two years with us in building the foundation for this new congregation. If you are interested give me a call.

This vision is both daring and essential. Our city deserves and must have a vital downtown congregation. This is what the Church Off Broadway will be.

Rev. David T. Alger
Executive Director
Associated Ministries



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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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.

Reflections: What will be the real "values question" in November?



BY JIM WALLIS

A month ago, I wrote that unless people of faith insist that the biblical imperatives for social justice, the God who lifts up the poor, and the Jesus who said "blessed are the peacemakers" were brought into

the political debate, the "values questions" and "moral issues" in this year's election will be restricted to the Ten Commandments in public courthouses, marriage amendments, prayer in schools, and abortion.

Events have moved fast in the weeks since. A decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court to permit same-sex marriage and the mayor of San Francisco beginning to issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples has brought that issue to the front pages. In response, President Bush announced his support for a constitutional amendment to ban such marriages. It has suddenly become the "moral" and "values" issue in the

An overwhelming majority of voters said that in deciding their vote for president, they would rather hear a candidate's plan for fighting poverty than a candidate's position on gay marriage.

media.

But in a new national poll, an overwhelming percentage of voters see it another way. A poll commissioned by The Alliance to End Hunger and Call to Renewal was conducted last week by a leading bipartisan polling group. Those polled were asked: "The question of values is sure to be important to many voters this November. As you decide your vote for president of the United States, which of the following would be more important to you: hearing a candidate's position on gay marriage or hearing a candidate's plan for fighting poverty?"

Those polled were a representative sample of likely voters – Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, and diverse in racial and faith background. In the poll, an overwhelming majority of voters said that in deciding their vote for president, they would rather hear a candidate's plan for fighting poverty (78 percent) than a candidate's position on

gay marriage (15 percent). The polling also showed that even in the midst of budget belt-tightening voters want Congress to strengthen anti-hunger programs. Traveling around the country as I do, I was hopeful about the result of the poll, but I didn't expect that 78% would see poverty as such an important values question.

Apparently, 12 million children still living in poverty is indeed a moral issue for most Americans. And apparently, the pundits are misreading and misrepresenting the people about what the most important moral issues really are. "Hunger and poverty are on the rise in our country and this poll confirms that voters want to hear more from political leaders about real solutions to these serious problems," said Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and a founding member of the Alliance to End Hunger.

We must show that people of faith are united in believing that 35 million people

living in poverty is a moral and religious issue that our political debate must address. We must articulate the moral issues of social justice, or others will define the values questions in much more narrow ways. The poll tells me that people are ready to hear another view. We have to make sure that they do. That is the mission of Sojourners and Call to Renewal this year - to insist that issues of poverty and hunger, war and peace, and the environment are moral issues that politicians running for office and the media covering the campaigns must recognize. Help us. Get involved. Go to <http://www.sojo.net> and <http://www.calltorenewal.org> for more information.

*The poll was commissioned by The Alliance to End Hunger and Call to Renewal and conducted by Tom Freedman, Bill Knapp, and Jim McLaughlin. Jim McLaughlin is a leading Republican pollster who works extensively with Republicans in Congress. Tom Freedman is a leading Democratic consultant and worked on the 1996 presidential campaign.

Jim Wallis is editor-in-chief of Sojourners. This article originally appeared in SojoMail, March 4, 2004.

Source: Sojourners 2004 (c) <http://www.sojo.net>

Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care offers free workshops on helping seniors obtain affordable prescriptions

BY BOB RILER, PIERCE COUNTY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

Cost often puts prescription drugs out of reach for older adults. Lack of prescription drug insurance also poses a tremendous obstacle to getting needed medications.

The latest guidelines say that patients who have had coronary artery disease or are at high risk for it should be receiving statin therapy (e.g., Lipitor, Zocor, or Pravochol). Those categories total 36 million Americans, but only 13 million are actually getting the drugs. Cost – \$2 to \$3 a day for life – is often the barrier.

In response to this growing problem, Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care offers two free workshops to help lower-income seniors and others with their pharmaceutical needs. "Pharmacy Connections" surveys a wide range of options that currently exists for seniors to lower the overall cost of their prescription drugs. Topics include pharmacy price compari-

sons, pharmaceutical assistance programs, purchasing drugs from Canadian and Internet pharmacies, FDA advisories, and related issues.

"Pharmacy Education" introduces a variety of techniques to enable older adults to be safe and wise consumers of prescription and over-the-counter medications. The workshop looks at doctor shopping, drug interactions, generic drugs, talking with a physician or pharmacist, and emergency preparedness.

"There is no reason an older adult should go without their prescribed medication, especially seniors without prescription drug insurance coverage and lower income seniors," said Sally Nixon, coordinator of Aging and Long Term Care. "There are a variety of tools available to connect them with free or lower-priced drugs."

Prescription drug prices vary widely. The price of 90 Lipitor 20mg ranges from \$159.33 to \$362.85. Twenty-eight Nexium 40mg can vary between \$54.40 and \$132. One hundred Celebrex 100mg runs between \$62.50 and \$178.

Today 38 percent of seniors do not have prescription drug insurance coverage. Seniors without prescription drug insurance consistently fail to have their prescriptions filled or skip doses to extend their prescriptions. Neither of those two options is acceptable. "We know that obtaining needed prescriptions is a major challenge for a large number of older adults in Pierce County. We also know that misuse of prescriptions by seniors, particularly taking less than the recommended dosages to extend their medications, is harmful to their health," Nixon said.


While Medicare reform looms on the

horizon, seniors need practical help now, she says.

"Pharmacy Connections" and "Pharmacy Education" workshops are available at no cost for neighborhood groups, senior centers, faith communities, retirement facilities, civic organizations and other groups.

"Brown bag" events involving area pharmacists volunteering their time also are available. They help review prescriptions, supplements, and over-the-counter medications that seniors are taking. These free events are scheduled as a follow-up for participants in the "Pharmacy Connections" and "Pharmacy Education" presentations.

Groups interested in arranging for presentations should contact Bob Riler of Aging and Long Term Care at (253) 798-7384.



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Churches lead renewed push for health care coverage in Washington state

The Washington Association of Churches is the lead religious organization in the state for a national effort called *Cover the Uninsured Week*. The issue requires a new and deeper level of concern, care and commitment to assure that all Americans have health care coverage. Cover the Uninsured Week will draw attention to the needs of our nation's nearly 44 million people—half a million in Washington alone—who are living without health care coverage.

The religious community has long been both an advocate and provider of care and comfort for people in need. Faith communities have a deep concern for the wholeness and well-being of all—in mind, body and spirit. This care and concern has been broad and deep: praying for the sick and dying, visiting those who are hospitalized or home-bound, founding hospitals and speaking out for health care for all.

The Rev. Tom Quigley, acting executive minister of the Washington Association of Churches (WAC), said, "This national effort is the largest ever on behalf of the uninsured. We're urging all faith communities in our state to join with us to call attention to this critical issue."

Cover the Uninsured Week: A Call to All to Care for All

Last year's Cover the Uninsured Week efforts helped raise awareness about the struggles of millions of Americans who lack health care coverage through a week-long series of national and local events in communities across the country. This year, with more and more people at risk of becoming uninsured, the WAC is renewing its efforts as part of this call for care.

Nearly 44 million Americans, almost half a million in Washington state alone, have no health coverage. Rising health care costs are making it difficult for individuals, businesses and state governments to purchase health care coverage, putting even more people at risk.

"The arbitrary attack of disease or unexpected injury for an innocent person

with no health care coverage has far more impact than you might imagine," said Quigley, "Men, women and children who don't have coverage live sicker and die younger because they are forced to go without the medical care they need. They are less likely to receive preventive care, such as annual checkups and tests that could indicate serious illnesses. Because of that, many treatable illnesses, such as diabetes and cancer, are not discovered until it's far too late."

Being uninsured is not solely a problem for people who are unemployed. In fact, eight out of 10 uninsured Americans are in working families. Their jobs do not provide health coverage or they cannot afford the premiums. These are people who cannot afford private health insurance on their own and are not eligible for public programs such as Medicaid.

More than 8.5 million children are uninsured. That's more than the combined number of children in first and second grades in the nation's public schools. During the most crucial years of brain and body development, uninsured children lack consistent access to health care when they are sick and preventive care to keep them healthy.

Undiagnosed and untreated illnesses and conditions, such as ear infections, eyesight problems and asthma, hinder children's ability to learn in school. The call for care by Cover the Uninsured and the WAC says now is the time for Americans from every walk of life to come together to call for care for the uninsured.

First, Dare to Care

There are many ways to participate. Cover the Uninsured Week has prepared an interfaith guide for use in discussions

and reflections. Find materials online at www.CovertheUninsuredWeek.org or contact Jackie O'Ryan at (206) 352-8528 or jackieoryan@msn.com. Think about how you are called to respond to the needs of people who are uninsured and remember them in your time of prayer.

Second, Reach Out with Care

The Washington Association of Churches asks everyone to explore opportunities to join with other members of the faith communities working on health and social concerns and those who may be interested in organizing activities around Cover the Uninsured Week. Events are being planned in many communities, involving business owners, union members, doctors, nurses, hospitals, members of the faith community, students and people from all walks of life and every point of view. At the website, www.CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org, you can find the latest information on scheduled events. You can also download or order a copy of an Issues Guide which explains why this is a problem that affects all of us and summarizes approaches to solutions.

Third, Speak Out for Care

The issue of the uninsured is too often misunderstood. It's important to share information about who is uninsured and why, how this problem affects every one of us and to urge community conversations until solutions are found. Raise the concern in your place of work, on radio call-in shows, in letters to the editor of the local paper, and by talking with those who have a role to play in finding a solution.

For more information about community events for Cover the Uninsured Week, contact Jackie O'Ryan at jackieoryan@msn.com

Cover the Uninsured Week Events in Tacoma

Tuesday May 11 Small Business Seminar

11:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tacoma Sheraton
1320 Broadway, Tacoma

At a breakfast sponsored by the Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Pierce County, policy officials, brokers and human resource specialists will discuss the rules and regulations for small businesses providing health insurance to employees in Washington state.

Wednesday May 12 Health and Enrollment Fair and Panel Discussion

Noon—1:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

1:00—8:00 p.m. Health Fair
Evergreen State College, Tacoma
12106th Ave, Tacoma

A panel including State Senator Rosa Franklin, Dr. Helena Gayle of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Dr. Maxine Hayes of the Washington State Department of Health will discuss the health disparities among minority communities, specifically focusing on the African American community. A health fair, open to all students and Hilltop community members, will follow the discussion. Free health screenings, information on where to obtain free health care, and information about health insurance enrollment will be available.

Find a complete list of local and national scheduled events, along with additional information about health coverage in America, at www.CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org.

Tacoma/Pierce County

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Building our 100th house in partnership
with 100 congregations

Announcing: ***Building on Faith 2004***

This year we will be building four homes (three in Tacoma and one on the Key Peninsula) from September 1-25. *(We will not be working over the Labor Day weekend, nor on Sundays.)*

One of these homes will be the 100th home that Habitat for Humanity has built in Tacoma/Pierce County. This is a very exciting milestone for our County.

For the community, four more families will be moving into simple, decent, affordable housing.

For the congregations, this is a great opportunity to team build, to meet new people from other congregations from around the region, and to put faith into action!

All congregations are invited to join in this project by providing construction volunteers, financial contributions, prayer support, food providers, daily devotions, or other support volunteers.

Call the Habitat office at 253-627-5626 today to see how your congregation can be involved in this exciting opportunity!

Evergreen and UW sponsor conference on social and economic justice

The Labor Center at The Evergreen State College and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington will co-sponsor a conference, "From Chaos to Community: Strategies for Social and Economic Justice," Friday night, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, at the First United Methodist Church, 423 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma. The conference is open to the public.

The Reverend Leslie Braxton, minister of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Seattle, will give Friday's keynote address. On Saturday morning, a panel of regional activists will discuss the topic of "Building Coalitions: What We're Good At, What Challenges We Face." The panel will be followed by break-out groups in which participants will share their experiences and reflect on issues raised by the panelists.

Workshop topics will be "Immigration and Labor," "Labor and Environmental Justice," "Electoral Politics: Overcoming Wedge Issues," "Creative Organizing," "Organizing for Peace and Justice: Communities of Faith," and "Organizing for Universal Health Care." The workshops will be offered in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. There will be time in the afternoon to hear reports from the workshop sessions and an open mic session where participants can voice their concerns about coalition building. The day will conclude with a demonstration of

community/labor solidarity.

The conference is designed for trade union leaders, union members, community activists, environmentalists, religious leaders, church members, immigrant workers and their advocates, students, and citizens interested in electoral politics.

The conference has many origins, including the growing recognition by unions of the need to reach out in new ways to potential allies. "Coalition efforts like the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride from the fall of 2003 acknowledge the importance of innovation and collaboration in building a movement that can challenge the growing inequalities and feelings of powerlessness that millions of people have," according to Peter Kardas, director of the Labor Education and Research Center at The Evergreen State College. "Coalition work is hard, but it holds promise for people and organizations to overcome their isolation and work with others who naturally should be their allies."

The registration fee for Friday evening only is \$5 to \$10 sliding scale, and for Friday and Saturday, or Saturday only, is \$15. Lunch on Saturday is included in the registration.

For more information, contact Peter Kardas at (360) 867-6526 or kardasp@evergreen.edu, or Sarah Laslett at (206) 543-7946 or pcls@u.washington.edu.

Reflections: Where do we meet the God of our expectations?



BY FR. RON ROLHEISER

“When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always.”

Mohandas K. Gandhi wrote those words and they can be helpful in difficult times. We live in difficult times. We’ve only to watch the news on any given evening. If there’s an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving God who’s Lord of this universe, his presence isn’t very evident on the evening news. There’s violence all over the planet, fueled on every side by self-righteous ideologies that sanction hatred, by self-interest that lets community fend for itself, and by a socially-approved greed that lets the poor fend for themselves.

It’s fair and reflective to wonder: Where is the resurrection in all of this? Why is God seemingly so inactive? Where is the vindication of Easter Sunday?

These are important questions, even if they aren’t particularly deep or new. They were the questions used to taunt Jesus on the cross: “If you’re the Son of God, come down off that cross! If you’re God, prove

it! Act now!” Then and now, it seems, we’ve never figured out why salvation can’t work like a normal movie where, at the end, a morally superior violence kills off all that’s bad.

Except God doesn’t work like a Hollywood movie and never has. For centuries they prayed for a messiah, a superman, to come and display a power and a glory that would simply overpower evil, but what they got was a helpless baby lying in the straw. And when that baby grew up they wanted him to overthrow the Roman Empire and instead he let himself be crucified. We haven’t changed much in what we expect of God.

But God, as revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus, doesn’t meet our expectations even as he infinitely exceeds

We’ve never figured out why salvation can’t work like a normal movie where, at the end, a morally superior violence kills off all that’s bad.

them. What the resurrection teaches is that God doesn’t forcibly intervene to stop pain and death. Instead, he redeems the pain and vindicates the death. God rids the world of evil not by using force to blot

out, but by vindicating what’s good in the eyes of evil so that eventually the good is all that’s left. Evil has to forever “look upon the one whom it has pierced!” until it understands what it has done and lets itself be transformed. How does this work?

What the resurrection of Jesus reveals is that there’s a deep moral structure to the universe, that the contours of the universe are love and goodness and truth

and that this structure, anchored at its center by Ultimate love and power, is non-negotiable: You live life its way or it simply won’t come out right. More importantly, the reverse is also true: If you respect the structure and live life its way, what’s good and true and loving will eventually triumph, always, despite everything. If this is true, and it is, then we don’t have to escape pain and death to achieve victory, we’ve only to remain faithful, good, and true inside of them. However, part of what’s revealed here is that we need a great patience, a patience called hope. God’s day will come, but God, it seems, is not in any hurry.

Good and truth will always triumph, but this triumph must be waited for, not because God wants us to endure pain as some kind of test, but because God, unlike ourselves, doesn’t use coercion or violence to achieve an aim. God uses only love, truth, beauty and goodness and God uses these by, structurally and non-negotiably, embedding them into the universe itself, like a giant moral immune system that, eventually, always brings the body back to health. God doesn’t need to intervene like a super hero at the end of a Hollywood movie and use a morally superior violence to kill the bad people so that the good are spared pain and death. God lets the universe right itself the way a body does when it is attacked by a virus. The immune system eventually does its

work, even if, in the short term, there are pain and death. But always, in the end, the universe rights itself.

Simply put: Whenever we do anything wrong, anything at all, it won’t turn out right. It can’t. The structure of the universe won’t receive it and it comes back to us, one way or the other. Conversely, whenever we do something right, anything that’s true, good, loving or beautiful, the universe vindicates that. It judges our every act and its judgment allows no exceptions.

Perhaps that judgment doesn’t seem to be immediate; it can seem a long time in coming and thus, for a time, we can be confused and ask the question: “Why doesn’t God, truth and goodness, come down off the cross?” But, eventually, as Gandhi says, always, without a single exception, evil is shamed and good triumphs. The resurrection works.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher and award-winning author. He currently serves in Toronto and Rome as the general councilor for Canada for his religious order, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Father Rolheiser is also an adjunct faculty member of the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. He can be contacted at info@ronrolheiser.com.

The preceding column is published with permission from The Catholic Northwest Progress, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Alternatives to War: Considering "The Illusion of Overwhelming Force"

BY SALLIE SHAWL



Robert P. Ericksen

Continuing the series, “Seeking Alternatives to War,” People for Peace, Justice & Healing will present Robert P. Ericksen, Holocaust scholar, on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tacoma Public Library’s Main Branch. He will speak on “The Illusion of Overwhelming Force.”

Ericksen is Professor of History at PLU, where he has taught since 1999. He graduated from PLU in 1967, received a Masters’ degree and received his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics and

Political Science, London University, 1980. He is the author of “Theologians under Hitler: Gerhard Kittel, Paul Althaus, Emanuel Hirsch” (1985) and editor (with Susannah Heschel) of “Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust” (1999). He is also a poet. Steve D. Martin and Michael Pinner are now at work on an hour-long PBS documentary that features Ericksen’s work.

The talk will be historical in nature but will directly address current US policy in Iraq. In particular, Professor Ericksen will address the question of “overwhelming force” in WW II, in the Vietnam War and in the War on Terror.

This event, co-sponsored by United for Peace of Pierce County, will be in the Olympic Room at the Main Branch of the Tacoma Public Library, corner of South 11th and Tacoma Avenue South. For further information, call (253) 238-2292.

REMINDER:

The next issue of The CHANNEL will be dated July-August 2004.

Deadline is June 15.

For breaking news, see www.associatedministries.org

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Among the 2004 faculty are: (top to bottom) Ron Rolheiser, OMI; Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Ph.D.; Richard Rohr, OFM

Your ad could fill this space next issue!
Call Dorothy Moe at 253-460-1443
for ad rates and more information

REACH Ministries presents: Phil Keaggy in Concert

May 15, 2004 • Doors open 6:30 p.m., Concert 7:30 p.m.
Life Center, 1717 S. Union Ave., Tacoma

Advance tickets available for a donation of \$20 (general admission) or \$35 (reserved seating) through Life Center (253) 756-5300

\$25 donation at the door (general admission)
VISA/MasterCard accepted

For more information please visit
www.REACHMinistries.org or www.life-center.org

A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the children of REACH Ministries.

IN BRIEF

Emmanuel Lutheran Church offers lay school of theology

"My Favorite Heretics: Who They Are and Why They Keep Coming Back," is the title of an upcoming Lay School of Theology class to be held June 13-15 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma. The class will be led by Steve Paulson, professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. The first class, on Sunday, June 13, meets from 2:00-5:00 p.m. On Monday and Tuesday (June 14 and 15), the class will be offered twice daily: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and again from 6:30-9:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and the public is welcome. For more information, please call Emmanuel Lutheran Church at (253) 752-3571.

Homeless community publishes newspaper

Street Pulse is a new monthly street newspaper written by members of the homeless community in Tacoma, their advocates, and their friends. The paper

contains news of significance to the homeless community, poems, art work, and lists of resources. *Street Pulse* is given out free of charge to anyone who wants a copy. Copies are available from *Street Pulse* staff or at Nativity House. Organizations can receive *Street Pulse* in the mail for a donation of \$10 to pay for the printing and mailing costs. Subscription requests and further information are available from *Street Pulse*, c/o Nativity House, 2304 South Jefferson Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 272-5266.

Centro Latino will hold Cinco de Mayo Benefit Luncheon

Centro Latino will host its third annual Cinco de Mayo benefit luncheon on Wednesday, May 5 at Best Western Fife Hotel & Conference Center, 5700 Pacific Highway E in Fife. Keynote speaker Dr. Samuel Betances, an international expert on the topic of diversity, is a sociologist, educator, and professor of 20 years who has taught race relations, the U.S. Latino

experience, church and society, education and reform, and gender issues. Funds raised at the luncheon will support adult and youth education programs at Centro Latino. For more information contact Sue Schaeffer at (253) 572-7717, ext. 105.

New counseling center holds open house

Healing Places Counseling Center, a new not-for-profit counseling group, will host an open house on Sunday, May 16 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Lynn Cheshire, M.Ed., LMHC, Paula L. K. Hoyt, M.Ed., LMHC and Fred Wegener, M.Div., M.S., LMFT have taken their years of experience as therapists at Northwest Pastoral Counseling and have birthed a Healing Place for people who seek wholeness. They invite all who wish to join them in celebrating the birth of Healing Places Counseling Center. Healing Places is located at 1614 South Mildred, Suite B, Tacoma, in the James White Building. Please call for directions: (253) 564-4233.

PLU will offer basic parish nursing course

Pacific Lutheran University Continuing Nursing Education will offer Basic Preparation Course for Parish Nurses on Tuesday-Thursday, June 22-24 and Tuesday-Wednesday, July 20-21, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at PLU. Parish nursing offers new and meaningful opportunities to care for people in a unique and significant way. The parish nurse focuses on the whole person, holding the spiritual dimensions to be central to the practice.

This course is a five-day experience-based program that consists of presentations, small group experiences, interactive work and play, meditation and creative worship. Pacific Lutheran University in cooperation with Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries of Portland, Oregon offers the nationally endorsed curriculum from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. For more information or registration call (253) 535-7683 or visit www.plu.edu/~ccnl/courses/parish2.html. Franciscan Health System is offering full scholarships for this Basic Parish Nurse Class. For scholarship information please contact Jean Vanberg, Coordinator for Congregational Health Ministry, at (253) 426-6887 or (253) 851-7275.

Learn about local programs for youth

Executive directors of four local social service agencies will present a panel discussion titled "The Good News About Youth" at 6:00 p.m. on May 5 at the Wheelock Center on the campus of the University of Puget Sound. Speakers include Ernie Cathcart, Children's Home Society; Alfonso Montoya, Centro Latino; Lua Pritchard, Korean Women's Association; and Gary Yazwa, Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound. Each speaker will describe what their youth programs are doing in their local communities and how they are impacting the lives of the entire community. A question and answer session will follow. This event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Sue Schaeffer at (253) 572-7717, ext. 105.

Needs & Wants

POSITION AVAILABLE: CAMPUS MINISTER — Thurston County Ministries in Higher Education (TCMHE), serving students, faculty and staff at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, announces a full-time, nine-month position as Campus Minister. This ministry is supported by the regional associations of seven denominations (American Baptist, Disciples, Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, Episcopal USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church), along with their local congregations and Olympia Friends Meeting. See www.TCMHE.org for information. For an application packet, leave a voice mail with name, mailing address, email and phone at TCMHE, (360) 350-4627. Application review will begin on May 15, 2004; review process will continue until the position is filled.

POSITION AVAILABLE: DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR — L'Arche Tahoma Hope, a faith-based community that provides homes and work for people with developmental disabilities, seeks a Community Development Coordinator. Position is 0.5 FTE and salary is based on experience. For an application packet, contact (253) 535-3178 or TahomaHope@larchethc.org. For more information about L'Arche see www.larchethc.org. Position open until filled.

POSITION AVAILABLE: ASSOC. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity is seeking an Associate Executive Director, a salaried full time position. This person will manage the resource (fund) development process for our rapidly growing affiliate. The position will also involve nurturing relationships with faith, government, business, and community leaders throughout Pierce County. Start date around July 1, 2004, salary based on experience. Please call Mike Madden, E.D. at (253) 627-5626 for a complete job description.

POSITION AVAILABLE: PASTOR — Small, mainline interdenominational church on the beautiful Key Peninsula seeks a pastor for two days a week. One of the last remaining pioneer churches in Western Washington, looking hopefully toward the future. For information,

please contact John Petersen, Longbranch Community Church, at (253) 884-3502 or retlenhawk@aol.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE: CAREGIVER — Family seeks fulltime caregiver for homebound woman in Fircrest to assist with care, housework, etc. Experienced, mature, compassionate. For more information call (253) 906-8906 or (253) 460-5636.

AVAILABLE: OFFICE SPACE — Office space for lease, one-day-per-week or private room lease for a year or more. For details call Healing Places Counseling Center at (253) 564-4233.

AVAILABLE: OFFICE SPACE — Catholic Community Services' Tahoma Center has small office space to rent or lease to nonprofit. 514 total square feet includes one enclosed office or conference room and 388 square feet of open office space. Wired for computers and telephone. Full service lease includes utilities, janitorial, walk-in reception and security. ADA compliant and includes private parking. Located at 1323 South Yakima Ave., Tacoma. \$700.00 a month. For information call (253) 383-3697.

NEEDED: CHURCH BUILDING — Greater Love Church, a congregation of 150 is looking for a church to purchase with at least 7,000 sq. ft. and room to grow. Also looking for pianist/organist for Wednesday and Sunday services. Pay based on experience. If interested please contact Dave Davis at (253) 376-5497 or (253) 759-9789.

NEEDED: CHURCH FURNISHINGS — Radical Faith Christian Center in Yelm is a young congregation in need of the following: speakers or large amps for main service area; a Hammond B3 or C3 organ (also looking for the leslie for the organ); copier machine (large); drum set; chairs (any individual and stacking style); tall filing cabinet. If you can help please contact Pastor Glenn Shepherd Sr. at (360) 455.4307.

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



Meet the Funders!!

Plan now to attend the

Grantmakers' Roundtable

Thursday, June 3, 8 to 10:30 a.m.; The Inn at Gig Harbor
Call 253-272-5844 or visit www.npcenter.org for more information and secure, online registration. Open to all community and faith-based organizations.

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SAVING LIVES: PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM TOBACCO

May 20-22, 2004

The Cross Cultural Collaboration of Pierce County invites members of multicultural communities to attend a FREE conference that focuses on reducing health disparities and creating a community where young people reject tobacco and everybody can quit.

- May 20th — Landmark Ctr., 6-9 p.m.: FREE Dinner, WA Attorney General, entertainment
- May 21st — LaQuinta Inn, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.: Stan Glantz and African-American, Asian Pacific Islander, GLBTQ, Latino/Hispanic, Low-Income, & Native American Workshops
- May 22nd — Eastside Boys & Girls Club, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Youth Forum and Carnival

For more information on the conference and to register call
253-798-4709



Pierce County Happenings - May-June 2004

5/2 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.

5/6 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.

5/7 Friday

Church Women United will celebrate **May Friendship Day** at First Lutheran Church, 524 South I St, Tacoma. Meeting and program will begin at 10:00 a.m.; a salad potluck will follow. For more information please contact Elda Sulerud at (253) 383-3166.

5/7-8 Friday-Saturday

St. Joseph-St. John Episcopal Church is holding its **spring rummage and plant sale** from 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday. The church is located at 11111 Military Rd. SW., Lakewood. For directions or other information please call (253) 584-6143.

5/7 Friday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th St., Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 383-5515.

5/8 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Spirituality and Sexuality for Men: Building Blocks for Better Communication with Your Partner**, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Registration is \$50; please register by May 1. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

5/8 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the fifth 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 "Ananda Church of Self-Realization," presented by Terry and Padma McGilloway, of Ananda Community, 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.

5/9 Sunday

Mother's Day

5/10 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "The Biochemistry of Addiction" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Richard D. Lake, MS, LMHC, will focus on the underlying biochemical contributions that lead to predispositions towards addiction, and explore some of the treatment options for addictions. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

5/11 Tuesday

The Salvation Army's Joyful Noise Day Care, 1110 S Puget Sound, Tacoma, will hold an **Open House** at 6:30 p.m. This event is free. For information contact Belinda Carter at (253) 752-1661 or belinda_carter@usw.salvationarmy.org.

5/12 Wednesday

The Salvation Army will hold its **5th Annual Loaves and Fishes Luncheon** at

the Landmark Convention Center at 11:30 a.m. This event is free, but a request for a donation will be made at the end of the program. For reservations, please contact Lynne Coles at (253) 572-8452 ext 111 or lyndell_coles@usw.salvationarmy.org.

5/14 Friday

The Salvation Army, 1521 6th Ave., Tacoma, will hold a **Housing Fair** from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For information please contact Piccola Davis at (253) 627-3980 or piccola_davis@usw.salvationarmy.org

5/14 Friday

The 2004 Grace Lutheran Church **SDG (Soli Deo Gloria) Concert Series** continues at 7:30 p.m. with a organ concert featuring Les Martin of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The church is located at 6202 S. Tyler St. Tacoma. Admission is free; donation requested. For more information please contact Grace Lutheran Church at (253) 472-7105.

5/14-16 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a **Silent Centering Prayer Retreat** from 7:30 p.m. Friday-2:00 p.m. Sunday. Note: At least two months of daily practice is recommended for those considering this weekend. Registration is \$160; please register by May 7. For information or registration please call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

5/15 Saturday

The Salvation Army will hold a **Spring Clean-up** at the Emergency Family Lodge, 1521 6th Ave., Tacoma, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. For information please contact Karen Swanson at (253) 761-3220 or kcs@bratrud.com.

5/15 Saturday

St. Joseph-St. John Episcopal Church, 11111 Military Rd. SW., Lakewood, will hold a community **Open House** for its new Fellowship Hall, offices, kitchen and education rooms from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All are welcome to visit for building tours and other special events. For directions or information please call (253) 584-6143.

5/16 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host a **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Featured performers will be the Alice Stuart Band. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

5/19 Wednesday

The Tacoma Community House Refugee & Immigrant Family Program's ESL students will share crafts, information, traditional songs and dances from their native countries at the 2nd annual **International Culture Day**. The festivities will be held at the Eastside Neighborhood Center, 1720 44th St E., from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information please contact Kristine at (253) 471-5306 or email rifpvalerie@yahoo.com.

5/20 Thursday

In the Christian tradition, **Ascension** marks the commemoration of Jesus's ascension into heaven forty days after Easter.

5/21 Friday

Hilltop Health Ministries and the YMCA to host the Daryl and the Diptones 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Landmark Convention Center from 7:00-11:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Hilltop Health Ministries Counseling and Advocacy Project for at-risk youth and the YMCA's Pete Pilkey Scholarship for youth. Tickets are \$35 each; all purchases are tax deductible. Space is limited. For information or reservations please call (253) 627-4264.

5/21 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. The May dances will honor the Divine Feminine and the gift of our own mothers. Participants may bring an image of their mother and/or the goddess in their lives; they will be used to create an altar. Dances honoring feminine images of the Divine from many cultures will be taught and danced. Newcomers warmly welcomed. Donation of \$7-10 suggested. For more information contact Farishta Karen Lindsay, (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

5/23 Sunday

St. Joseph-St. John Episcopal Church, 11111 Military Road SW, Lakewood, will hold the formal dedication of its new Fellowship Hall, offices, kitchen and education rooms. Diocesan Bishop Vincent Warner will be the celebrant at the 3:00 p.m. Eucharist. Everyone is welcome. For directions please call (253) 584-6143.

5/25-26 Friday-Saturday

In Judaism, **Shavuot** commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Israelites. The observance begins at sundown the previous day.

5/25 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. The group 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.

5/28-31 Friday-Monday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **God the Artist: We the Co-Creators**, from 7:30 p.m. Friday-11:00 a.m. Monday. The retreat will include prayerful reflections on one's art and blessing of hands and utensils. Participants may bring their own materials in any media they wish (art, poetry, etc.) for use on Sunday and Monday; on Saturday the group will work at a clay studio. Registration of \$220 includes clay materials; please register by May 21. For information or registration please call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

5/30 Sunday

In Christianity, **Pentecost** commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples following his ascension. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter and marks the conclusion of the Easter season.

5/31 Monday

Associated Ministries' office will be closed in observance of **Memorial Day**.

6/3 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.

6/4 Friday

Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 North Madison St., Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 759-3539.

6/5 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day workshop, **Stability, Chaos and Newness in the Psalms**, from 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Registration is \$50; please register by May 28. For information or registration

call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

6/6 Sunday

Peace Community Center, 2106 South Cushman Ave., Tacoma, will host a **Gospel Celebration Concert** at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature guest choirs and the Peace Lutheran Gospel Choir under the direction of Dorothy White. For further information, please contact Carol Watson at (253) 572-8156 or cmkwatson@juno.com.

6/12 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the last class in its 2004 **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Seattle University. The topic will be "Shamanism," presented by Mary Blankenship of Wiracocha Institute, in Wyckoff Auditorium, Engineering Bldg. Admission is \$25 per class. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email eisengn@aol.com.

6/12 Saturday

All are welcome to join the Tacoma Dominican Community for "**Women at the Well: Living Water and the Rain of God**," from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The presenter will be Dr. Loretta Jancoski, Coordinator of Seattle University Assessment Planning and the Director of the Center for Water and Ethics. The event will be held at the Tacoma Dominican Center, 935 Fawcett Ave S., Tacoma. For more information call (253) 272-9688.

6/12 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **The Prayer and Grace of Icons** from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Registration is \$50; please register by June 4. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

6/15 Tuesday

Deadline for July-August CHANNEL

6/20 Sunday

Father's Day

6/20 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host a **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Featured performers will be Mark Riley and Doug Skoog and the Blues Alliance. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

6/22 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.

6/25-27 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a weekend retreat, **The Sacred Art of Seeing**, from 7:30 p.m. Friday-2:00 p.m. Sunday, facilitated by Joyce Roach, O.P. Registration is \$170; please register by June 18. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

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 email to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.