

Celebrating 35 years: 1969-2004

CHANNEL

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

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Decision 2004:
Making informed choices
as people of faith
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Knitting a prayer to comfort people in pain

Prayer shawl ministry is growing in Pierce County congregations

BY JUDITH JONES

It seems like such a simple thing. But it becomes a powerful symbol expression of prayer, support, community, and God's love.

"It" is a prayer shawl—sometimes called a mantle, a comfort shawl or a peace shawl—hand-crafted of baby-soft yarn in a simple knit or crochet pattern. Prayer shawl ministry is probably one of the fastest-growing ministries in congregations all over the country ... and right here in Pierce County.

Nancy Haughee, parish nurse at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Puyallup, read about the shawl ministry in an issue of *The Lutheran*. In early 2002, she took the idea to her church and started a women's circle shawl ministry at Pilgrim. The group, which meets monthly to knit and crochet together, has given away more than 200 shawls to people in need of comfort—including their own pastor. Just a few weeks after the Reverend Gary Jepsen became Pilgrim's pastor last year, he underwent an emergency appendectomy. The prayer shawl presented by the ministry became a source of comfort for both the new pastor and his wife.

The Pilgrim Lutheran group distributes its shawls not only in their own congregation, but all over the country. Haughee says that she once sent a shawl to a friend in Oregon who was undergoing cancer treatment. Her friend's church now also has an active shawl ministry group.

The making of a prayer shawl becomes a spiritual practice for the knitter, who prays for the eventual recipient



Kathy Hitchcock, parish nurse at St. Leo Parish, displays one of the many shawls made by parishioners through the prayer shawl ministry. In two years, the ministry has distributed more than 100 prayer shawls.

throughout the knitting. Most groups attach a prayer card to the shawl for presentation to the recipient. Though shawls are often given in the difficult times such as death, illness, or divorce, they can also be an appropriate gift for happy occasions: birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, ordination, graduation and other rites of passage.

The shawl ministry also crosses lines of denominations and faith traditions. Nancy Haughee's sharing of her shawl ministry at a parish nurse conference led directly to the forming of shawl ministries at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Tacoma and Puyallup United Methodist Church. Other Pierce County congregations are now also forming similar groups.

Haughee and the Pilgrim Lutheran group are now also starting to make "wiggies," knitted and crocheted caps for

those who have lost their hair to chemotherapy.

The shawl ministry began in 1998 in Hartford, Connecticut. Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary, began the ministry as a result of their experience in a program of applied Feminist Spirituality. The two combined a love of knitting with their desire to express God's unconditional, comforting, mothering love to the people in their lives. Thus was born a grassroots ministry that has since reached across the world.

Persons interested in beginning a shawl ministry can find shawl patterns, prayers, suggestions and other resources at Bristow and Galo's website, www.shawlministry.com.

Mental Health Chaplaincy offers Compeer program for young people

In 1995, Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy program established an affiliate of Compeer International. Since then, Pierce County Compeer volunteers have provided companionship to over 200 adults living with mental illnesses, reducing the stigma, isolation, and loneliness that accompany these illnesses.

Encouraged by this success, and recognizing the great need for a similar program for young people with mental or emotional disorders, the Chaplaincy is expanding its Compeer program to also provide adult friendships for youth in a "Lunch Buddies" program.

Following an established Compeer model, community volunteers are matched with school age children experiencing emotional or mental health problems. The volunteers spend one lunch hour a week at their young friends' school, offering support and special attention while playing together, working on homework, or talking about the child's day.

Already a proven success in other parts of the nation, the Lunch Buddies program helps these young people build self-esteem, reduce disruptive classroom behavior, perform better academically, and feel less isolated and lonely. Volunteers from other Lunch Buddies programs report that they, too, benefit richly from being able to make a positive difference in someone's life and from seeing their young friends' personal progress in overcoming emotional and behavioral challenges.

For more information about this exciting new program in Pierce County, or to volunteer to help a young person with mental health challenges, please call the Mental Health Chaplaincy, (253) 383-5755.

Week Without Violence observance is dedicated to prevention of family violence

BY REV. DAVID T. ALGER

For the past several years Associated Ministries has sponsored a healing service during the Week Without Violence, seeking prayer and healing from all forms of violence. This year the agency is returning to the historic focus of the Week Without Violence, which is domestic or family violence.

With that emphasis on reducing family violence comes a change in the format of our observance. Instead of a single service in a central location, Associated Ministries is urging all local congregations to consider a focus on family violence in their own regular worship services, to reach many more people with this important message.

The Week Without Violence is Oct.

17-23. Associated Ministries is encouraging all congregations to conclude that week by focusing on family violence during worship services on the weekend of Oct. 22-24.

To help congregations prepare, Associated Ministries will hold four gatherings throughout Pierce County to provide clergy and lay leaders with helpful resources on this challenging issue.

- **Thursday, Oct. 7,** 12:00 p.m. at Bethany Presbyterian Church, North 41st and Verde, Tacoma
- **Tuesday, Oct. 12,** 12:00 p.m. at Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor
- **Wednesday, Oct. 13,** 10:30 a.m. at Puyallup United Methodist Church,

1919 West Pioneer Way, Puyallup
• **Thursday, Oct. 14,** 12:00 p.m. at Little Church on the Prairie, 6310 Motor Ave, Lakewood

All sessions are open to the public. The noon sessions are brown bag lunches.

At each session there will be resource materials available. These sessions will also present the new curriculum on domestic violence that has been developed locally by Faith Partners Against Family Violence (FPAFV), a new program of Associated Ministries. Rev. David T. Alger will facilitate each of these gatherings, accompanied by a member of FPAFV who is a professional in the area of preventing family violence.

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Bethany Presbyterian Church celebrates 100 years of ministry in North End

BY LINDA GAINES

"Come Celebrate the Journey" is the invitation from Bethany Presbyterian Church as they celebrate their 100th anniversary this year. The church in Tacoma's North End chose these words from a hymn by Brian Dill as the theme of their centenary observances.

On Oct. 16, 1904, the deed to property and a Sunday School building at North 41 St. and Verde was signed over to the newly formed church which chose the name Bethany. Thus began a ministry to neighborhood and beyond.

After the original wooden building was destroyed by fire, the church was rebuilt of brick in 1925. Beautiful stained glass windows from the George Mason mansion now grace the second floor of the building. These were a gift from the Weyerhaeuser family donated after Whitworth College moved to Spokane.

Bethany members provide for a food bank and the building is used for meetings

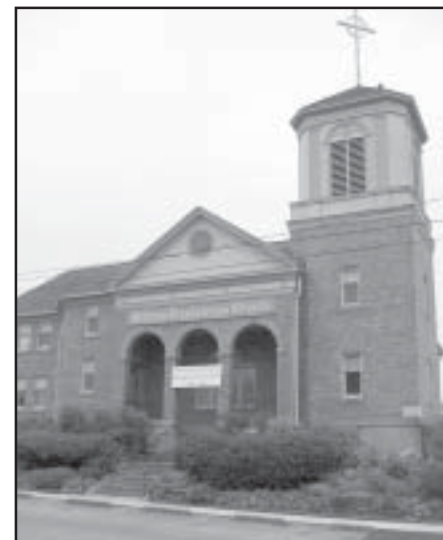
of AA and Girl Scouts. An Alternative Market is provided for the community every December. For over 25 years the church presented a melodrama for entertainment and to fund mission. Many people from Bethany have served the Presbyterian Church in regional and national offices. Ecumenism has been and is very important, particularly under the leadership of the Rev. David Alger who serves as Parish Associate.

Bethany Presbyterian has been celebrating all year with a special tea, an ice cream social, and an old-fashioned picnic but the grand culmination will take place on the weekend of Oct. 16-17. A dinner for past and present Bethany members and friends will unite old friends. Sunday morning worship service will feature a child of the church, the Rev. Jerry Van Marter. Jerry is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary and his ministry is now as Coordinator of Presby-

terian News Services for the denomination in Louisville, Kentucky. He travels the country and the world bringing news of the church to all Presbyterians. Jerry was honored by his seminary earlier this year with the Distinguished Alumni Award. His sermon is sure to combine humor and history.

All who have a connection with Bethany Presbyterian Church are especially invited to the 11:00 a.m. service on Oct. 17, and a reception following. Displays are being collected to picture the history of the church.

Bethany, currently served by the Rev. Brian Heath, has had eleven installed pastors during its 100 years. Throughout these years, many people have made the church a place to praise God and serve people. Those people past and present are honored as the Bethany church family looks to a future that will continue to seek God's call.



Bethany Presbyterian Church marks its centennial in October 2004 with a theme of "Come, celebrate the journey."

Terry Tempest Williams to deliver Pierce Lecture at University of Puget Sound

Author, naturalist and environmental activist Terry Tempest Williams, widely regarded as one of the country's most engaging and compelling speakers on issues of ethics, democracy and the environment, will speak at the University of Puget Sound's Schneebeck Concert Hall at 8:00 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11. A book signing will follow her presentation. Williams will appear as part of the series of Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs and the Arts.

Williams' lecture will include readings from her most recent work, *The Open Space of Democracy*, a collection of essays published by The Orion Society. A passionate advocate for the preservation of the American Western wilderness, Williams has been hailed by Newsweek as someone likely to make "a considerable impact on the political, economic, and environmental issues facing the western states this decade." The Utne Reader named her one of their "Utne 100 Visionaries." She recently received the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Award for Special Achievement.

Williams is perhaps best known for her book *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (Pantheon, 1991), in which she chronicles the epic rise of Great Salt Lake and the flood of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in 1983, alongside her mother's diagnosis with ovarian cancer, believed to be caused by radioactive fallout from nuclear tests in the Nevada desert in the 1950s and 1960s. The book is now regarded as a classic in American nature writing. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote: "There has never been a book like *Refuge* ... utterly original." The Kansas City Star called it: "Profoundly



Author Terry Tempest Williams

moving ... one of the most significant environmental essays of our time."

Terry Tempest Williams' other works include *Red: Patience and Passion in the Desert* (Pantheon, 2001), which traces her lifelong love of the desert, and *Leap* (Pantheon, 2000) an exploration of Hieronymus Bosch's masterpiece "The Garden of Delights." She also wrote *An Unspoken Hunger* (Pantheon, 1994); *Desert Quartet: An Erotic Landscape* (Pantheon, 1995); *Coyote's Canyon* (Gibbs M. Smith, 1989); and *Pieces of White Shell: A Journey to Navajoland* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984).

Tickets to the Williams lecture are \$8 for the general public and are available at the Wheelock Student Center Information Center. To place a credit card order or for more information, call (253) 879-3419. Tickets also will be available at the door.

New staff mark interim transition period at First Baptist Church of New Tacoma

Willie Stewart, Council President of First Baptist Church, announced the ministry of Rev. Darrell Reeck, Ph.D., beginning September 1, 2004, at First Baptist Church. Reeck, an ordained United Methodist minister, will be known as "Ecumenical Interim Minister." His previous experience includes specialized interim pastoral ministry, university teaching at University of Puget Sound, and management of a church-related financial institution.

In the next few months, the congregation will begin its transition toward becoming an ecumenical congregation. Farlisa McFall, a Roman Catholic divinity

student, will assist Reeck in worship and other ministries, effective immediately.

"This new staff marks the beginning of an important period in the life of First Baptist Church," said Stewart. "We will explore additional ministries to our very special downtown neighbors. We will also be strengthening our ecumenical partnerships."

First Baptist Church was organized in 1883. The American Baptist congregation is located at 9th and Market in downtown Tacoma. The church seeks to provide "a heart for Tacoma."

Taizé Service offered weekly at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows

Beginning in October, St. Mark's will offer a Taizé Prayer Service every Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. The name of the service comes from the Taizé community in France, where Christians from all over the world gather for daily prayer and renewal. It features a form of contemplative singing where simple refrains are repeated again and again, giving them a meditative character.

The brothers of Taizé say: "Using just a few words [the songs] express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. These songs also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God. They can continue in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others or resting. In this way prayer and daily life

are united. They allow us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts."

At each service there are also readings from scripture, followed by times of silence for prayer and reflection. If they desire, participants can kneel and light a candle at the prayer station which includes a meditation cross and hand labyrinth, a bronze sculpture of Christ by a Northwest artist, and an icon of Christ. The worship space also includes a large cross and an icon of Mary with the Christ Child that Pastor Jan Ruud of St. Mark's brought back from his recent trip to Taizé in France.

The public is invited to these weekly services. St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows is located at 6730 N. 17th Street in the north end of Tacoma. For directions to the church and information about other services, visit their website at www.smlutheran.org.

Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry returns to Tacoma in Summer 2005

Convinced that access to excellent theological education should be easier, Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry will repeat the format for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) program in Tacoma that was launched in 2003. Students take summer courses on the Seattle University campus and weekend courses at the Pacific Lutheran University campus in South Tacoma.

Mary DeForrest, who joined the first cohort in 2003, said, "I was drawn to the program after hearing so many of my colleagues throughout the Archdiocese speak so highly of their experience at Seattle University as well as the exceptional quality of the courses offered and the teaching staff. Besides growing in their knowledge of scripture, they appeared to have developed a real sense of knowing and developing their personal strengths in ministry. When STM came to Tacoma, it made all the difference so that I could juggle all my responsibilities and still enjoy the classes."

Pacific Lutheran University offers gra-

cious hospitality for the Cohort. This enables the MAPS program to offer students courses taught by STM core faculty, time for strolling and reflection, access to superb library facilities, electronic access to the extensive theological Seattle University library, and the opportunity to enhance peer learning through table discussions at a variety of restaurants and the PLU campus cafeteria.

If you are interested in this program or know someone who might be, please join us for a Tacoma MAPS Inquiry Night at one of the following locations:

- October 6, 2004, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
St. Leo Catholic Church
710 S 13th St., Tacoma
- December 2, 2004, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1601 North Street SE, Olympia
- January 14, 2005, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
PLU, University Center Room 210
12180 Park Street S., Tacoma

For more information, contact STM at (206) 296-5330 or stm@seattleu.edu.

Can't wait for the next CHANNEL?
Check out the Breaking News online at
<http://www.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 *CHANNEL* editor Judith Jones interviews Rev. Herman Hawkins, of Peace Lutheran 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: Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Location: 2106 South Cushman, Tacoma 98405

Phone: Church Office—(253) 383-1317; Community Center—(253) 383-9792

Email: revherm@peacetacoma.org

Worship Times: Sunday 8:30 and 11:30 a.m.; Education Hour 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Herman Hawkins

Meet the Pastor: Pastor Herman Hawkins was installed as Peace Lutheran Church's pastor on August 15, 2004. Peace's new pastor brings great enthusiasm and much experience with ministries in urban communities. He arrived in Tacoma from the Portland/Vancouver area after serving parishes in Broadview, Ill., Fresno, Ca., San Jose, Ca. and Portland, Ore. Originally trained in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, he completed his undergraduate work at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon and received a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Rev. Hawkins was ordained in 1986. He joined the ministerial rostrum of the



Pastor Herman Hawkins

ELCA in March of this year. Pastor Hawkins succeeds Pastor Holle Plaehn, who retired in September of 2003 after 32 years of service at Peace Lutheran.

Church Staff: Bill Hanawalt, director of Peace Community Center; Shawna Abele, administrative assistant; Fay Snead, church p.m. secretary.

History: Peace Lutheran Church was founded in 1909 as *Evangelische Lutherische Freidens Gemeinde* (Evangelical Peace Lutheran Church) by German immigrants who came to the U.S. from Russia in search of religious liberty. The current church building was completed and dedicated in 1918. In the late 1990s, Peace undertook its first capital campaign to construct the Peace Community Center, completed in 2001.

Creed/Mission: Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church is a diverse people of faith who extend God's Word in our neighborhood and larger community. We preach and teach the Gospel; we invite and welcome all people; and we serve God's children as Jesus did.

What special programs does your congregation offer? Peace Lutheran Church and Community Center host a number of programs and outreach to the Hilltop area and beyond. There is weekly Sunday School for children and adults, a Bible study group, and a yearly Vacation Bible School. We offer counseling services one day a week. We have an Angel Choir for ages 4-14, and an Adult Gospel Choir. We have after-school tutoring for elementary, middle and high school students, and we also offer a summer program called Camp Peace, for ages 5-12, through Peace Community Center. We have a pre-release ministry the first Sunday of each month at the Department of Corrections Pre-Release Facility. Peace Lutheran is involved in basket giveaways at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

With what other organizations is your congregation involved? Our church participates in 4-H, Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, the Pierce County Hunger Walk, Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, Phoenix Housing Network and World Vision's Kid-Reach. We hold a feeding program in April and October with the support of other area churches. We are involved ecumenically with Associated Ministries and the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance.

How does your faith call you to action? The love of Christ and the gospel of Jesus Christ come to each person in our Peace Lutheran congregation. We try to apply those to the special needs that we see here in our Hilltop community.

What is your biggest concern for the world/community? I see education as the biggest need in our particular community. We try to assist students and help meet the basic needs for their families. We are also dealing with the basic needs of others, such as the homeless and transient population in our midst. This puts the gospel in action for our members.

What is your biggest hope for the world/community? We hope to build upon and grow beyond what Pastor Plaehn accomplished in his many years here. We have seen transformation and we hope to continue that with opportunities to serve and worship.

What is your message to the Associated Ministries community? We want to continue to partner with the community and grow together as we form new relationships.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends, I am still coming down from a very special evening that was given to me by the staff and board of Associated Ministries.

What a wonderful way to celebrate 25 years at Associated Ministries! Sally and I had such a wonderful time. Nearly 300 people showed up for an evening of laughter and tears. Many who could not be present sent wonderful cards and emails. Still others called me or stopped by to share kind words. To all of you I simply want to say "Thank you" for making September 18 such a special day for Sally and me.

October is a very busy month for Associated Ministries. All of you know that it is Pierce County Hunger Walk time. I hope all of you will be joining in this year's walk as participants, volunteers and/or sponsors. This is a very special event that has a huge impact on local hunger services as well as providing resources to many different international hunger relief organizations.

Throughout the month, our Interreligious Round Table is hosting a series of study circles on interreligious dialogue. These give each of us a great opportunity to learn about other religious traditions. These circles will last for five or six weeks and culminate in our traditional Thanksgiving Eve Service to be held this year at First Lutheran Church.

October is also the month in which we focus on domestic violence. We are asking congregations to have a special focus on domestic violence on the weekend of Oct. 22-24. We will sponsor events at four sites around the county prior to that weekend. On Oct. 7 we will be at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, on Oct. 12 at Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, on Oct. 13 at Puyallup United Methodist Church, and on Oct. 14 at Little Church on the Prairie in Lakewood. All of these will be brown bag lunches starting at noon, with the exception of Puyallup, where we will meet at 10:30 a.m. We will bring special resources for litanies, prayers, sermons and announcements that can be used by congregations. These will also be made available electronically through Associated Ministries.

So it is a very busy month for the staff at Associated Ministries. We are also adjusting to some staff changes. Development Director Marion Sharp resigned last month to take a new position at the Humane Society. While we already miss Marion, we wish her well in her new position. We will also be announcing additional staff changes. Add to that mix that I will be out of the office for at least a month beginning in mid-October and you can see why it is a little hectic around here.

I do want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and emails. You give me strength to deal with my current health problem. I have surgery scheduled for October 18 and will be recovering at home for several weeks. Sally, Hannah and I will very much appreciate your continuing prayers during my surgery and recovery period. In the meantime Associated Ministries will be in the capable hands of deputy director Maureen Fife and the rest of the staff.

God's grace and peace be with all of you.

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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Associated Ministries • 1224 South I Street • Tacoma, WA 98405-5021

Phone: (253) 383-3056 • Fax: (253) 383-2672

E-mail: channel@associatedministries.org • www.associatedministries.org

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.

Thank you ...

to all the generous contributors and to the more than 2000 volunteers who gave so much of their time and energy during this long hot summer and painted 103 homes in Tacoma-Pierce County.



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	International Longshore & Warehouse Union, #23		Taft & Allison Family Crew
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	Kiwanis, Northwest Tacoma		Tribby Family & Friends
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	- Lincoln Ward		VFW Post 10018
	- Mt. View Ward		Washington Corrections Center for Women - Inmates
	- Soundview Ward		Wayne Mangan
	- South Hill Ward		West Tacoma Optimist Club
	- Sunset Ward		Weyerhaeuser Company
	Lee Family Crew		Womens Work Club
	Leggitt/Weems Family Crew		Yegge Family
	Lewis & Davis Family Crew		Youth Summer Mission in Lakewood
	Liberty Baptist Church		Zion Christian Fellowship
	Life Center		And dozens of volunteers who came out on their own.
	Light of the Hill United Methodist Church		
Clover Park High School NHS		McChord AFB, 62d MXS	
Corrie Black		McChord AFB, 62nd AMXS	
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Dolan Family & Friends		McChord AFB, 62d Operations Support Sq.	
East County United Methodist Churches		McChord AFB, 7th Airlift Squadron	
Eatonville United Methodist Church		Ms. Currie's Friends	
Elmore Family		Multicare Adult Rehabilitation	
Emerald Ridge High School Key Club		New Hope Fellowship Women's Group	
Emmanuel Lutheran Church		Olson Family & Friends	
Epworth LeSourd United Methodist Church		Pearson-Higgins Family Crew	
		Pemco Claim Office	
		Peninsula Neighborhood Association	
		Pierce College	
		Pierce County AIDS Foundation	
		Pierce County Superior Court Judges	
		Puyallup High School Key Club	
		Puyallup Nazarene Church	
		Rainier Pacific Bank	
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Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is a program of Associated Ministries. Co-sponsors include the Exchange Club of Tacoma, the cities of Lakewood and Tacoma, and Pierce County Housing Programs. We apologize for any errors or omission on this page. Please notify us immediately so that we can correct our records and ensure that everyone is properly acknowledged in our next brochure.

Decision 2004: Making informed choices as people of faith

National Council of Churches publishes principles for evaluating candidates

The National Council of Churches USA has released 10 principles for evaluating candidates that it hopes all persons of faith - whether liberal or conservative in their views - will study and apply in this election year.

These "Christian Principles in an Election Year" apply well-established ecumenical principles to both domestic and foreign policy issues, and address issues of war, poverty, immigration, education, health care, racial justice, distress in U.S. inner cities and rural communities, the environment and the criminal justice system. They urge domestic policies that build "communities shaped by peace and cooperation" and a foreign policy "based on cooperation and global justice."

"This is an important voice in the public conversation about where this nation should be headed," said the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, who chairs the NCC's Justice and Advocacy Commission. That multi-denominational Commission developed the principles, which then were affirmed by the NCC's Executive Committee. "The principles are not intended to be partisan, but rather to lift up common principles that have been affirmed ecumenically and that can provide guidance in this election season."

Neither are these principles meant to be exhaustive of all concerns, Dr. Kinnamon said. "There are other issues on which some Justice and Advocacy Commission members wanted to speak and that Roman Catholics and conservative evangelical Christians might add, but on which churches aren't united - among them, abortion and gay marriage. For us, the issue is how to begin a conversation in the pews. We proclaim with a bold humility that this is where we stand right now, even as we invite others into the conversation."

A number of the principles have roots in ecumenical agreements that date back more than 50 years, noted Dr. Kinnamon, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister and professor at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. For example, the first principle, "War is contrary to the will of God," was affirmed at the World Council of Churches' founding assembly in 1948. "It's not a pacifist position," he said, "but it says 'no' to crusade. It acknowledges that 'while the use of force

may, at times, be a necessity of last resort, Christ pronounces his blessing on the peacemakers."

Other principles echo such "key principles of the whole ecumenical movement" as the interrelatedness of all people, God's priority concern for the poor, the infinite worth of each person as created in the image of God, and the God-given responsibility to be stewards of God's creation, Dr. Kinnamon said.

Commented the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Edgar, a United Methodist minister and former member of the U.S. Congress who is NCC General Secretary, "Elections are an opportunity for education of voters, communities and churches around what civic responsibility is. We believe in the separation of church and state, but not in the separation of people of faith from institutions of government. We believe people of faith need to be involved in the political process, be registered, and vote with a sense of empowerment and conscience. We hope these principles will help them."

Said the Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., of Shreveport, La., Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church's Fourth District and NCC President, "We hope churches will post these principles on bulletin boards, include them in the church bulletin, and use them in Bible study groups, young people's forums and senior citizen meetings. We hope the principles will help people enter into dialogue and be 'Spirit-filled voters' who don't just get stirred up about emotional hot-button issues but also keep sight of all the other issues like racism, poverty and issues of peace and justice," Dr. Hoyt said.

The principles address not only the issues but also the conduct of campaigns, asking candidates to "refrain from using faith-based organizations and institutions for partisan gain" and urging that "the campaigns of political candidates and the coverage of the media in this election season be conducted according to principles of fairness, honesty and integrity."

See the box at left for the full text of "Christian Principles in an Election Year." A study guide to the principles for use in local congregations is available on this Web site at www.nccusa.org/electionyearprinciplesguide.html.

Christian Principles in an Election Year

Our Christian faith compels us to address the world through the lens of our relationship to God and to one another. Public discourse is enhanced as we engage civic leaders on the values and ethics affirmed by our faith. At the same time, religious liberty and the integrity of our democracy will be protected as candidates refrain from using faith-based organizations and institutions for partisan gain. We offer these ten principles to those seeking to accept the responsibility that comes with holding public office.

1. War is contrary to the will of God. While the use of violent force may, at times, be a necessity of last resort, Christ pronounces his blessing on the peacemakers. We look for political leaders who will make peace with justice a top priority and who will actively seek nonviolent solutions to conflict.

2. God calls us to live in communities shaped by peace and cooperation. We reject policies that abandon large segments of our inner city and rural populations to hopelessness. We look for political leaders who will re-build our communities and bring an end to the cycles of violence and killing.

3. God created us for each other, and thus our security depends on the well-being of our global neighbors. We look for political leaders for whom a foreign policy based on cooperation and global justice is an urgent concern.

4. God calls us to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in our society. We look for political leaders who yearn for economic justice and who will seek to reduce the growing disparity between rich and poor.

5. Each human being is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth. We look for political leaders who actively promote racial justice and equal opportunity for everyone.

6. The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good. We look for political leaders who recognize the earth's goodness, champion environmental justice, and uphold our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.

7. Christians have a biblical mandate to welcome strangers. We look for political leaders who will pursue fair immigration policies and speak out against xenophobia.

8. Those who follow Christ are called to heal the sick. We look for political leaders who will support adequate, affordable and accessible health care for all.

9. Because of the transforming power of God's grace, all humans are called to be in right relationship with each other. We look for political leaders who seek a restorative, not retributive, approach to the criminal justice system and the individuals within it.

10. Providing enriched learning environments for all of God's children is a moral imperative. We look for political leaders who will advocate for equal educational opportunity and abundant funding for children's services.

Finally, our religious tradition admonishes us not to bear false witness against our neighbor and to love our enemies. We ask that the campaigns of political candidates and the coverage of the media in this election season be conducted according to principles of fairness, honesty and integrity.

Looking for state ballot information?

The Washington Association of Churches (WAC) has published a Guide to the 2004 Washington State Initiatives. The Guide includes background, analysis, and estimated cost for each initiative, along with WAC's position.

Find the 2004 Guide to the Initiatives online at www.thewac.org.

Election Year Guidelines for Churches

Should congregations and people of faith be involved in politics? Of course, but there are challenges. Striking a balance between meeting one's civic obligation to promote civic participation as a moral responsibility and maintaining strict non-partisanship can be difficult and confusing. Here are some guidelines which may be helpful for congregations in this election season:

- Your organization may not endorse a candidate, potential candidate, third party movement, or candidate draft effort.
- You cannot focus your organization's voter registration or other election-related activities in specific target areas, including influential, crucial, or partisan districts or wards.
- You cannot coordinate your house of worship's voter registration or get-out-the-vote drives with a candidate or politi-

cal party.

- Your house of worship cannot organize groups to work for a candidate.
- Your house of worship must not use an informational issue guide or voter guide to disparage or endorse a particular candidate.
- You cannot ask a candidate to pledge support for your religious institution's position on an issue.
- Your house of worship cannot provide space for the distribution of campaign or other partisan materials on your house of worship's property.
- You cannot send communications to members of your congregation or employees suggesting to them how they should vote.

Reprinted from the August 11, 2004 edition of First Christian Church News, First Christian Church, Tacoma.

Faithful Citizenship

A Forum on Advocacy, State Ballot, and Legislative Issues

- What is Advocacy, and why do it?
- What are the statewide ballot issues, and what do they mean?
- How can we be advocates for and with our congregations and each other?

Saturday, Oct. 30 • 9:00 am to Noon

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2106 S. Cushman, Tacoma**

RSVP to Peace: 253-383-1317

Presenter: Rev. Paul Benz

Director, Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State

Sponsored by: Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State • Interfaith Association of Snohomish County • Washington Association of Churches • Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County

**For further information, contact Lutheran Public Policy
206-464-4133 or pbenz@lcsnw.org**

Earth Stewards: Caring for your lawn and garden naturally



By ARDINE MARTINELLI

As I walk my garden each morning, the word reciprocity comes to mind. I think of reciprocity as a form of balance, giving and receiving. I look at my beautiful flowers and receive such joy, and

I reflect on the seasonal life of this garden. One morning in early spring a perfectly formed daffodil greets me. Soon my garden is filled with the yellow faces surrounded by compact sturdy hyacinths - purple, blue, pink and white. All too soon the daffodils and hyacinths fade away replaced by tulips and blue bells. The garden teems with life. Tulips make way for iris, rhododendrons, and azaleas. The iris in full bloom soon fades as peonies and roses take their place. Dahlias come forth to carry the garden through autumn. I walk my garden each morning in prayerful gratitude for the beauty that surrounds me. I think of Meister Eckhart's prayer, "If the only prayer you say in your life is 'Thank you' that would suffice." The earth gives so much. It sustains us physically with water, shelter, clothing and it sustains us spiritually with the wonder and awe of its beauty and mystery.

What do I give back to the earth? How do I reciprocate earth's bounty? One step I have taken is to move toward natural lawn and garden care. This is hard at first, as the earth is also abundant with weeds and insects, many detrimental to our gardens. It comes back to reciprocity. I give back to the earth by feeding the soil when I use natural care products in my yard and garden. When soil and plant life are nurtured they grow in balance with one another. This is another form of nature's reciprocity.

We have so much data now regarding the harmful effects of pesticides—not

I walk my garden each morning in prayerful gratitude for the beauty that surrounds me. I think of Meister Eckhart's prayer, "If the only prayer you say in your life is 'Thank you' that would suffice."

only to birds, pets, and our water and sea life, but to the health of our families. A toxicologist at the Minnesota School of Medicine conducted a recent review of studies that looked at the impact of pesticides on children. His findings included: 1) Pesticide poisonings are most common in toddlers. 2) In families using professional pest control services, children are at higher risk of developing leukemia. 3) A recent laboratory study suggests a link between exposure to certain insecticides and attention deficit disorder. For more information visit <http://en.groundspring.org>.

There were a few attitude adjustments I had to make before eliminating the use of pesticides. I first needed to redefine my idea of a "perfect" lawn. My lawn is no longer the green velvet it was when I moved in two and a half years ago. I'm learning to live with a few weeds. This has been easier than I thought as I adjusted my attitude from killing harmful weeds and insects to feeding the soil and creating a healthy "ecosystem" in my yard. Here are some steps you can take to support natural lawn care:

- Aerate your lawn twice a year, spring and fall.
- Thatch once every two or three years.
- Use a mulch mower or push mower and leave the clippings on the lawn. Mow often and mow high.
- Pull the weeds. (Vinegar works for dandelions)
- Water your lawn one inch, once a week.
- Mulch the lawn after aerating with TAGRO.

The City of Tacoma offers TAGRO mix, mulch, or potting soil. It is a mixture of Tacoma biosolids, various kinds of sawdust, depending on the mix, and screened

sandy soil. It is designed to slowly release nutrients, helping to protect root systems and retain moisture in the soil. This reduces the need for watering and suppresses weed growth. TAGRO can be picked up or delivered. For more information call (253) 502-2150. Tacoma Water and the City of Tacoma partner with Lowe's and Home Depot twice a year, in April and September, to offer up to 20 percent discounts on organic slow-releasing fertilizers and composts. These products promote healthy soil, help conserve water, and keep harmful pollutants out of groundwater, lakes and streams.

My second attitude adjustment required letting go of the belief that to have a beautiful flower garden required strong doses of pesticides. My garden now flourishes with a few changes in how I care for my flowers. I incorporated my garden into my morning spiritual practice, walking it each day with deep gratitude and joy. Stephan Rechsaffen, M.D. wrote in *Time Shifting* that when you slow down, you show up. My morning walks now allow me the opportunity to spot problems as they arise and take care of them. It is a practice in mindfulness, being totally present to

my garden and the life within it. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Zen master, poet and peace advocate, said, "The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green earth in the present moment to appreciate peace and beauty that are available now...when we bring our body and mind back to the present moment, we touch what is refreshing, healing and wondrous." This is the gift my garden gives me.

The earth gives us so much, there are many ways we can give back to the earth, enriching all of our lives—the life of the planet as well as all the living beings that inhabit our world. By reducing our use of pesticides, we create a healthier environment for our family and pets, as well as for our community and the world.

In the words of the theologian and ecologist, Thomas Berry, "We have 'a moment of grace' as we enter this twenty-first century....our 'Great Work' is to enter into the saving of life on this planet. We can do this by rediscovering and putting into practice an intimate relationship with Earth and all living things...this involves the difficult task of rediscovering our positive connection to the Earth."

Ardine Martinelli received her Doctor of Ministry from the University of Creation Spirituality. Her theology is creation-centered, believing in the interconnectedness of all beings, seeing the sacred in the ordinary. She is a writer, spiritual director, and retreat leader. Ardine can be reached at ardinem@att.net.

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Needs & Wants

AVAILABLE: OFFICESPACE—Office space for lease, one-day-per-week or private room lease for a year or more. Call Healing Places Counseling Center for details and directions at (253) 564-4233.

AVAILABLE: OFFICE SPACE—Catholic Community Services' Tacoma 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. \$700.00 a month. Call (253) 383-3697.

POSITION AVAILABLE: CUSTODIAN—First Baptist Church of New Tacoma is looking for a part-time custodian (60 hrs/month) to provide building security and maintenance in exchange for a furnished apartment with phone and utilities provided. Contact the church office for an application: 902 Market St. in Tacoma or by phone at (253) 272-2184. Office hours are Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

POSITION AVAILABLE: KEYBOARDIST—Lutheran Church of Christ the King (LCCCK) seeks lead keyboardist. Responsibilities include

three hours on Sunday morning and two hours on Thursday evenings plus special services and preparation time. LCCCK uses a variety of music in its worship life: traditional Lutheran hymnody and liturgy accompanied by piano or organ, contemporary hymns and liturgies in many different styles, global music and songs led by a worship team consisting of guitars, drums, piano and vocals. Organ skills are a definite plus, but the ability to lead the other music styles is most critical. Compensation depends on skills and experience. Send resume and request for interview to LCCCK, 1710 85th Street East, Tacoma, WA 98445, or lcck.tacoma@comcast.net.

POSITION AVAILABLE: YOUTH WORKER—Westminster Presbyterian Church is looking for a paid youth worker, a second youth leader to work with our Sunday night youth program. The other youth worker is a senior at PLU. For more information contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795 or dbrown7086@aol.com.

Items for *Needs & Wants* are due by the fifteenth 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.

THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

STM Returns to Tacoma Summer 2005

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies

Come to an information session and learn all about it.

October 6, 2004

5:30pm - 7:00pm
St. Leo Catholic Church
710 S 13th Street Tacoma, WA

December 2, 2004

7:00pm - 8:30pm
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1601 North Street SE Olympia, WA

January 14, 2005

5:30pm - 7:00pm
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma
University Center Room 210



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IN BRIEF

Join Women in Black vigils for peace

Women in Black is an international network of vigils challenging militaristic solutions to conflict. Women stand in public vigil, in silence, wearing black to mourn for all victims of war. Women in Black began in 1988 in Jerusalem with Israeli and Palestinian women standing together in a call to end Israel's Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It now links women worldwide in a profound call for peace. Women in Black vigils take place in Downtown Tacoma on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse); and in Gig Harbor every Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the southwest corner of Olympic Dr. and Pt. Fosdick Dr. For more information please contact Alison Loris at (253) 572-5084 (Tacoma) or Terrie Watrin at (253) 265-2356 (Gig Harbor).

Public invited to labyrinth walk

St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church will host a labyrinth walk in honor of All Saints' Day on Saturday, Nov. 6. There will be an opening prayer at 10:00 a.m., and the labyrinth will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Bell Parish Hall. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

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Cultivate the sacred in your soul

The labyrinth is a spiritual tool, which has been used by people of many cultures and spiritual beliefs for thousands of years. The labyrinth for this event, purchased by St. Luke's in memory of Kate Monroe, is a replica of the pattern installed during the 13th century in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France. and will continue until 3:00 p.m. Please join us for this special event. The church is located at 3615 N. Gove Street. For directions, call the church office at (253) 759-3534 or visit www.stlukestacoma.org.

Women's group celebrates world community

Church Women United of Tacoma will celebrate World Community Day at their meeting on Friday, Nov. 5. The meeting will be held at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4818 Portland Ave, Tacoma. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow the meeting. For more information, please contact Elda Sulerud at (253) 383-3166.

Save the date: Homeless Awareness Week in November

The Pierce County Homeless Coalition will sponsor Homeless Awareness Week from Nov. 8-12, 2004. This year's theme is "The Road Home." Watch the November issue of *The CHANNEL* for details of events being held to raise awareness of homelessness in the Tacoma/Pierce County Area. The group will also hold a drive to collect socks, hats, gloves and personal hygiene items for donation to homeless people. For information contact Patti Spaulding at pattis@ccsw.org or (253) 471-5340 ext. 29, or contact Ellie Ottey at eottey@co.pierce.wa.gov or (253) 798-7381.

Visioning Peace Workshop offered

On Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1:00-6:00 p.m., Catherine Place will sponsor "Visioning Peace — *Peace Walk Quilt*," a creative, interfaith community experience facilitated by Mary Bryan, S.H.E.S. (Spiritual Healer and Earth Steward), LMP. This workshop is both an individual and an interactive ceremony to journey to your inner being and vision of peace. Participants of the gathered community will each create their own Soul Collage™ born of the ceremony and piece it into a quilt that will represent the community's vision of peace. The "Peace Walk Quilt" will be a gift from our inner, individual beings of peace to the outer, shared community. Come join us in this exciting and revitalizing community event. The workshop is free; donations are welcomed to help cover cost of materials and facility. The workshop will be held at the Tacoma Dominican Center, 935 Fawcett Avenue South, Tacoma. To register, please contact Catherine Place at (253) 572-3547 or cplace@catherineplace.org or Mary Bryan at (253) 475-8868.

Volunteers needed for after-school program

Do you enjoy working with children? Just a couple hours a week is enough to help make a difference in kids' lives. Westminster Presbyterian Church has an after-school program called Westminster Afterschool eXplorers (WAX) that extends the school day for Lyon Elementary School students grades 2 through 5. WAX meets on Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at 5236 East B Street, Tacoma. Volunteers are needed for homework help, outdoor/indoor play, crafts and science activities. For more information please call director Tanya Hendrix at (253) 503-7359.

Engaged Encounter weekend offered

Lutheran Engaged Encounter will hold a weekend on Oct. 8-10 at Camp Berachah in Auburn, WA. The weekend utilizes a dynamic process based on listening, writing, and dialogue to encourage the en-

gaged couple to explore mutual strength and weaknesses, goals, expectations and attitudes. A volunteer team of married couples facilitate and guide the weekend, which includes presentations and personal sharing on marriage and family issues. Couples of all faiths are encouraged to take part as they prepare for marriage. The cost of the weekend is \$190 per couple. A \$65 non-refundable deposit will reserve your place on the weekend. For information or to register call (253) 927-9232, email wibrkic@aoi.com, or see www.leeionline.org.

Career Keys offers computer job skills

Washington Women's Employment and Education (WWE) provides beginning to intermediate training in Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Outlook through the CareerKeys classes. Classes will be held on Fridays from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. throughout the month of October. For more information or to register, contact WWE at (888) 758-9933 or visit www.wwee.org.

Help feed hungry people at Empty Bowls

The annual Empty Bowls event will be held Sunday, Oct. 17, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at South Park Community Center, 4851 South Tacoma Way. For the past seven years, the MetroParks Foundation and Emergency Food Network have joined together to host this event and help fill some of the "empty bowls" in Pierce County. Pacific Northwest Potters, volunteers throughout the arts community and emergency food system, the Tacoma Weavers' Guild, local students, local restaurants and many more caring individuals work together each year to make this event a success. Come and pick out one bowl—or ten, and matching placemats, and then join us for a bowl of soup served by some of the best chefs in town. Bowls are \$10 each, placemats prices vary, and soup is served (in a separate bowl) with each purchase. For more information call EFN at (253) 584-1040.

Attention Artists and Crafters!
Sign Up NOW and until
Friday, October 15 for a booth at the
NARROWS GLEN

Holiday Bazaar, November 6th
From 9:00-3:00
Call Patti at 564-4770

TASTE OF JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Whet your appetite...in a three-session exploration. A TASTE OF JUDAISM offers a modern, Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world.

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Open to the Beginner, Jewish or Not
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Tuesday evenings in November

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Contact Rebecca Underhill: 253-564-7101
or by e-mail: frontdesk@templebethel18.org

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the nonprofit center presents *All About Boards 2004*
Governance as Leadership
the South Sound's only conference on nonprofit boards
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Thursday, November 18
For more information call 253-272-5844 or visit our website
www.npcenter.org

ASKING SAVES KIDS!

32% OF HOMES WITH CHILDREN HAVE A BIKE.
OVER 40% OF HOMES WITH CHILDREN HAVE A GUN.
MANY OF THOSE GUNS ARE LEFT UNLOCKED OR LOADED.
EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN ARE KILLED
OR SERIOUSLY INJURED BY GUNS.

ARE THERE GUNS WHERE YOUR CHILDREN PLAY?

For more information on the ASK Campaign, call: 253-798-4762
or 1-866-322-ASK. Visit: <http://www.askingsaveskids.com/>

Pierce County Happenings - October 2004

10/1 Friday

St. Patrick Church, 1001 North J Street, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 383-2783.

10/2 Saturday

New Connections is having a **fundraising rummage sale** on from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at New Heart Metropolitan Community Church, 759 S 45th Street in Tacoma. For more information, contact New Connections at (253) 572-1561 or irmagaryhouse@earthlink.net.

10/3 Sunday

Associated Ministries' will hold its annual **Pierce County Hunger Walk** at Jefferson Park in Tacoma. Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m.; walk begins at 2:00 p.m. To register, please call Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056, ext. 107 or e-mail hunger@associatedministries.org.

10/3 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will host a talk by Rev. John Alvord at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Alvord will speak on "The Priesthood of All Believers." For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

10/3 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.

10/4 Monday

St. Leo Church, 710 South 13th Street, Tacoma, will hold a **Blessing of the Animals** at 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (253) 272-5136.

10/5 Tuesday

Associated Ministries will present the annual **Human Services Resource Fair** from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at University Place Presbyterian Church, 8101 27th Street W, University Place. Clergy, church workers, volunteers and students are encouraged to attend. Registration fee of \$20 includes lunch. For information call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or e-mail channel@associatedministries.org.

10/5 Tuesday

Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda will present a lecture titled "**Seeds of Hope amid Earth's Anguish**," at 7:00 p.m. in Xavier 201 at Pacific Lutheran University. Moe-Lobeda is an expert in Christian ethics and author of *Public Church: For the Life of the World* and *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*. Her talk is this year's PLU Lutheran Heritage Lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call (253) 535-8106.

10/6 Wednesday

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, 6730 N 17th Street in Tacoma, will host "**Being Christian Today: Dietrich Bonhoeffer**" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The evening will include a multimedia presentation, devotion and guided meditation led by Marieluise and Helmut Blessing, visitors from Germany whose international teaching on Bonhoeffer has included recent appearances before Catholic audiences in Belgium and France. For more information, call (253) 752-4966 or visit www.smlutheran.org.

10/7 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 in-

formation call John Boylan, Criminal Justice Ministry, at (253) 502-2681.

10/7 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Buddhist prayer and chant**, along with a talk on Buddhism led by former Buddhist monk Mitsuyoshi Kohjima, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

10/8 Friday

In Judaism, **Simchat Torah** marks the beginning of the synagogue's annual Torah reading cycle.

10/9 Sunday

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Mason United Methodist Church will host a **Labyrinth Walk** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. to honor and remember those with breast cancer. The labyrinth is presented by MultiCare-Hospice of Tacoma (Agnes Thomsen) and by Sandy Sarr and Marian Swanson, breast cancer survivors. Mason UMC is located at 2710 No Madison (near 26th and Proctor). For more information, contact Agnes Thomsen at (253) 403-1842 or Marian Swanson at (253) 564-7217.

10/10 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will host a talk on "The Importance of Preparing for the Vote" at 1:00 p.m. For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

10/12 Tuesday

Seattle University will present "**Finding Common Ground in the Middle East**," a public discussion of peace initiatives in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, at 2:00 p.m. in Champion Ballroom. Featured speakers will be Avrum Burg, former speaker of the Israeli Knesset and senior member of the Israeli Labor Party, and Mr. Yasser Abed Raboo, Palestinian Minister of Cabinet Affairs, who headed the Palestinian Democratic Group. For information call (206) 296-5330.

10/14 Thursday

The Fort Lewis Chaplains extend an invitation to Pierce County clergy working with military families for **Clergy Day** from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for military and civilian clergy to share their mission and ministry to military personnel and their families. To allow processing of your permit to enter Ft. Lewis, please register by Oct. 7. For more information contact Chaplain Joseph at thomas.joseph1@us.army.mil, at (253) 831-0039 or at (253) 967-1721.

10/14 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Taizé prayer and music** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

10/14 Thursday

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1619 6th Ave., Tacoma, hosts a **meditative prayer service** at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Enter into a candlelit hour of quiet music, inspirational readings and prayer, and experience the presence of God for healing and encouragement. For information call (253) 272-2087 or (253) 272-8819.

10/15 Friday

Deadline for November CHANNEL

10/15 Friday

The Islamic holy month of **Ramadan** begins. During Ramadan, Muslims who are

physically able fast from food and drink from dawn until sunset.

10/15 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. Newcomers warmly welcomed. Donation of \$7-10 suggested. For more information, please contact Farishta Karen Lindsay at (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

10/15-17 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Lectio Divina: Praying with Scripture** from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Lectio Divina, praying with Scripture, can introduce us to a new awareness of God's desires for us. There will be five sessions: introduction to lectio, reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. This retreat is appropriate both for those exploring this prayer form and for those who know it well. The weekend is a good introduction to silence, with instruction in Lectio along with ample time to practice. Registration is \$145; please register by Oct. 8. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

10/16 Saturday

Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) will celebrate eight years of service in Tacoma and 25 years nationally with a **benefit concert by singer and storyteller Michael Stem** at 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1315 N Stevens St., Tacoma. Also featured will be dancer Erica Badgeley and Tacoma's own LVC Juggler, Crystal Zerfoss. Suggested donations are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, please call (253) 272-1538 or the LVC Puget Sound Office at (206) 709-8690.

10/17 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will host a talk by Bill Smitherman at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Smitherman will speak on "How Democracy Works." For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

10/17 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host a **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Music will be performed by the Henry Cooper Band, winners of the 2004 Washington Blues Society Best Blues Band Award. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

10/18 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "Violence and Harassment at Schools: Bullying and Your Child" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Laura Rambo, MA, LHMC, will help participants learn what causes and promotes bullies and victims, and what you can do if your child is involved in harassment at school. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

10/21 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host a **song circle** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

10/23 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Introduction to the Enneagram** from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This class will introduce the Enneagram of Personality Types as a tool for recogniz-

ing how our habits of thinking, feeling and acting are organized. Participants will be introduced to the nine fundamentally distinct world views that make up the Enneagram and helped to discover their own type. New and returning students will find this of benefit. Registration is \$60; please register by Oct. 15. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

10/23 Saturday

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7410 S. Jackson St., Tacoma, will hold an **Oktoberfest Musical Revue** to benefit the Jackson Street Food Bank. Tickets are \$12 per person; a light dinner is included. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 564-4402.

10/24 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will hold a special observance of United Nations Day at 1:00 p.m. For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

10/26 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.

10/28 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Native American prayer and talking circle** led by Joan Staples Baum, director of the Tahoma Indian Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

10/30 Saturday

Peace Lutheran Church, 2106 S. Cushman, Tacoma, will host **Faithful Citizenship: A Forum on Advocacy, State Ballot and Legislative Issues**, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The forum will be presented by Rev. Paul Benz of the Lutheran Public Policy Office. Please RSVP to Peace Lutheran at (253) 383-1317. For more information, contact Lutheran Public Policy at (206) 464-4133 or pbenz@lcsnw.org.

10/31 Sunday

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, will host a talk by Rev. Frances Lorenz at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Lorenz will speak on "The Soul's Intention." For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

10/31 Sunday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 S. 19th St. in Tacoma will host its **14th Annual Reformation Sunday Hymn Festival** at 3:00 p.m. The festival is a diverse program of congregational hymn singing and sacred music performed by a variety of choirs and church musicians. Admission is free and a reception follows the program. For more information call (253) 383-5515.

If you have an upcoming workshop or event for *The CHANNEL* calendar, please submit it by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Be sure to 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, and may be edited for space and clarity.