

# CHANNEL

*Building community that is humane, compassionate and just*

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

April 2005

[www.associatedministries.org](http://www.associatedministries.org)

Vol. 36, No. 4

Make plans now for  
summer camps and retreats  
... see pages 4-5

## Awards will recognize outstanding local leaders in ecumenical service and ministry

*Recipients will be honored at Associated Ministries' annual Spring Celebration*

BY JUDITH JONES

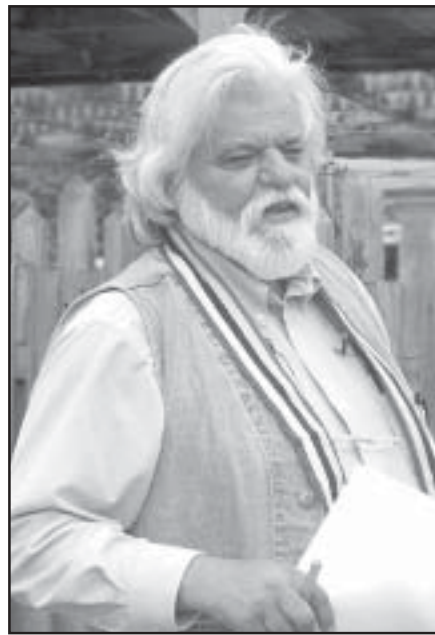
A beloved Eastside pastor, a longtime peace and justice advocate, and a diverse group of food bank volunteers—what do they have in common? Each exemplifies the spirit of God's *shalom*—a vision of peace, health, wholeness and justice with which they work to make our community a better place—and each will be honored with Associated Ministries' 2005 Ecumenical Service Award.

Rev. Ron Vignec has been pastor of Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission. Throughout that time he has worked tirelessly to support and nurture his very diverse flock amid the challenges of poverty, drugs and violence.

Longtime Salishan resident Norma Levington, herself a past Ecumenical Service Award recipient, has known "Pastor Ron" for 18 years. "There's no one like Ron," she says. "His whole life is peace and justice. He gets in your life and changes it; he finds the positives."

Pastor Ron was nominated by ELCA Southwest Synod Bishop Ron Hofstad, who said: "Pastor Vignec has been one of the most faithful and diligent inner-city pastors in this synod. He is a fine pastor who has always had a broad ecumenical vision of the church."

Ron himself claims that he has been



Pastor Ron Vignec of Salishan Lutheran Mission (l) and Tom Karlin of the Tacoma Catholic Worker community (r) will be honored with 2005 Ecumenical Service Awards on April 23 at Associated Ministries' annual Spring Celebration Dinner and Auction.

"ecumenical since birth." The son of a French Catholic father and a Russian/Greek Orthodox mother, he was raised by American Norwegian Lutherans, worked as a youth worker in the Methodist Church and at Salishan shares space with a Cambodian Episcopal congregation.

Former ELCA bishop Rev. David Wold said Ron Vignec "has mined and refined the assets of Salishan, not merely through perseverance and sheer willpower, but through the Holy Spirit and God's grace. No one knows or loves that community more than Ron Vignec. As an instrument



for peace, hope and renewal of people, he has few peers. His theological foundations and convictions are etched in the streets and in the lives of people that others have disregarded, discounted or forgotten. He truly believes God is in the city for good."

Thomas V. (Tom) Karlin is a member of the Tacoma Catholic Worker community along with his wife Laura. Tom was nominated by Maggie Kelly, who wrote: "If you honor Tom with a service award, you will be honoring a life being lived in pur-

*Continued on page 2*

## Downtown Tacoma's new ecumenical congregation will launch April 10

Sunday, April 10 will mark a turning point in the long and distinguished history of downtown Tacoma's First Baptist Church. After years of deliberation and planning, the congregation will launch its new mission as the ecumenical community church of downtown Tacoma. [See pastor's reflection page 6.]

Over the years the once extensive membership of First Baptist had dwindled. But the remaining members have found opportunity for renewal in a fresh commitment to the people of their neighborhood—not only those in poverty and need, but also their neighbors in Tacoma's newly revitalized downtown: the arts community, businesses and the student community.

The congregation invites all to join with them in the day's festivities, during which they will officially adopt and reveal a new name to reflect its new identity and mission.

The celebration will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a gospel concert, featuring electric troubadour Serni Solidarios, jazz harmonica virtuoso Jay Mabin, vocal bassist Dewey Parker and winner of "Seattle's best singer" Tili Donaldson. A worship service will follow at 3:00 p.m. with preacher Dr. Leslie Braxton, Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle.

First Baptist Church is located at 902 Market St. For more information call the church at (253) 272-2184 or email [fbnewtacoma@yahoo.com](mailto:fbnewtacoma@yahoo.com).

## Jim Wallis brings "God's Politics" to Tacoma April 11

Evangelical Christian leader Jim Wallis will be speaking in Tacoma at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11 at St. Leo Catholic Church, 710 South 13<sup>th</sup> St. He will discuss topics from his best-selling book, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*.

A *Washington Post* review described *God's Politics* as "an important political book and an important spiritual book," noting that although religious conservatives may be eager to do battle with those they perceive as pushing a liberal or secular agenda, "Wallis poses a more substantial threat—a battle not between religion and secularism but between two different visions of faith."

Jim Wallis is a speaker, author, activist, and international commentator on ethics and public life. Wallis was a founder of

Sojourners - Christians for justice and peace - more than 30 years ago and continues to serve as the editor of *Sojourners* magazine, covering faith, politics and culture. In 1995, Wallis was instrumental in forming Call to Renewal, a national federation of churches, denominations, and faith-based organizations from across the theological and political spectrum working to overcome poverty.

In the last several years, Wallis has led more than 250 town meetings, bringing together pastors, civic and business leaders, and elected officials in the cause of social justice and moral politics. Under Wallis' leadership, Call to Renewal has hosted annual Roundtables on Poverty for national religious leaders and successful National Summits. Endorsed initially by a broad cross-section of Christian leaders, Call To Renewal's Covenant and Campaign to Overcome Poverty now has tens of thousands of supporters around the United States.

Jim Wallis was raised in a Midwest evangelical family. As a teenager, his questioning of the racial segregation in his church and community led him to the

black churches and neighborhoods of inner-city Detroit. He spent his student years involved in the civil rights and anti-war movements. While at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, Wallis and several other students started a small magazine and community with a Christian commitment to social justice which has now grown into Sojourners whose combined print and electronic media have a readership of more than 100,000 people.

In 1979, *Time* magazine named Wallis one of the "50 Faces for America's Future." His books include *Faith Works*, *The Soul of Politics: A Practical and Prophetic Vision for Change* and *Who Speaks for God? A New Politics of Compassion, Community, and Civility*.

Jim Wallis' Tacoma visit is being sponsored by Associated Ministries, Northwest Leadership Foundation and World Vision.

Admission to the lecture is free; the presentation will be followed by a book-signing and copies of *God's Politics* will be available for purchase onsite. For information call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 119.



Jim Wallis

Inside . . . . .	Page
April Happenings .....	8
Camps & Conference Centers .	4-5
Director's Corner .....	3
Earth Day 2005 .....	4-5
Eyes Wide Open Exhibit .....	6
In Brief .....	7
Needs & Wants .....	7
Open Hearth Ministries .....	2
Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful ....	2
Pastoring Ecumenically .....	6
Stewards in the Spotlight .....	3
What's cooking at FISH? .....	2

## Awards ... Continued from page 1

suit of justice, in a peaceful, healthy way—a life lived ‘in pursuit of God’s *shalom*.’”

Kelly noted that Tom Karlin has never lost sight of the lessons of his youth on a Kansas farm: “the concept of living in harmony with nature, of the dignity of hard work, of the value of cooperative community living.” Tom carried those lessons with him through a variety of life experiences: the Navy, a Trappist monastery and a Jesuit volunteer term in Alaska.

Tom and his first wife Ida raised their family on a farm in Eatonville, which became the base for a Christian peace group. Tom continued his work for peace even after Ida’s untimely death in 1994.

Associated Ministries’ executive director Rev. David Alger describes Tom Karlin as “a very unassuming man with huge spiritual integrity and always very committed to peacemaking.” In addition to Tacoma Catholic Worker, Tom is actively involved in Pax Christi, Veterans for Peace, SOA Watch Northwest, and Conscientious Objector Support.

Tom’s Worker colleague Rev. Bill Bichsel describes him as the “tireless and at times hidden workhorse behind all of our Catholic Worker activities. Tom is deeply committed to dialogue and to forming relationships—he is so much the voice of compassion, justice and dialogue.” Bichsel adds that Tom and Laura’s presence has helped the Catholic Worker community to become more welcoming and to extend itself more to the homeless people they serve.

This year’s third Ecumenical Service Award will honor, as a group, the volunteer coordinators of Pierce County’s 24 FISH Food Banks. FISH executive director Beth Elliott, in making the nomination, wrote: “It is impossible to single out one coordinator, as all are equally passionate about making sure that individuals in need have food on their tables. These coordinators volunteer an average of 20-30 hours a week to make sure that the thousands of individuals who need food and emergency

services referrals are well served.”

Many of these dedicated individuals have volunteered at FISH for 10 years or more; some have been with FISH since its beginnings in 1980. The coordinators are: Bill Amblad—Lakewood FISH, Ursula Bannister—Mason United Methodist Church, Shelley and Sherry Barksdale—South Tacoma FISH, Claudia Blake—Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Nancy Caughlan—Fircrest Presbyterian Church, Phyllis and Jack Conlon—Grace Baptist Church, Bernie Cooper—Bethany Presbyterian Church, Ken Crisp—Fife FISH, Dorothy Davis—Southeast FISH, Kathy Froese—Bread Box, Jane Hansen—St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Mary Jansson—Graham/South Hill FISH, Kathy and Dick Johnson—Skyline Presbyterian Church, Rose and Nick Lovelless—Roy FISH, Kathryn McCluskey—Redeemer Lutheran Church, Alice Sigman—Sumner FISH, Lib Stewart—University Place Presbyterian FISH, Steve Stuart—Spanaway FISH, Rick Thompson—Old Town FISH, Ed and Cindy Wolfer—Jackson Street FISH, Ann Yost—Edgewood FISH.

Based upon the Old Testament understanding of the Hebrew word *shalom*, the Ecumenical Service Award is presented to people who are engaged in the promotion of peace in the broadest sense, the desire for fullness of life for all people and a vision of health, wholeness and justice. Each year, the Associated Ministries Board of Directors reviews nominations made by representatives of the Pierce County faith communities and chooses award recipients.

The recipients of the 2005 Ecumenical Service Awards will be honored at Associated Ministries’ Spring Celebration dinner and auction at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Tacoma. If you are interested in joining us as we celebrate these extraordinary individuals and their service to our community, please call (253) 383-3056 ext. 115 or email ginab@associatedministries.org.

## Open Hearth Ministries continues to grow, serving homeless families

BY FIFI PETERSEN

Open Hearth began its ministry in February of 2003, with the goal of responding to the immediate needs of homeless families in Puyallup. Because most of the emergency help available when families find themselves on the street is located in Tacoma, a group of churches in the Puyallup/South Hill area decided to address the problems locally. Several motels in Puyallup and Sumner agreed to accept Open Hearth families for stays from two nights up to two weeks. The newly-formed Open Hearth Ministries was adopted as a program of Associated Ministries in 2003.

Open Hearth has a dedicated cell phone number handled by volunteer screeners to take the calls that come in and to make arrangements for placing a family. When a family is placed, volunteer caseworkers meet with them within 24 hours to acquaint them with available resources in the area and help them form a plan to secure longer-term housing.

When families are placed in a motel, we offer them a hospitality basket with some food, toiletries, family games and activities for small children. Often the families have nothing and the baskets help sustain them for a few days while they are looking for resources and a path to change. Early in our ministry, various churches volunteered and supplied the baskets which are delivered at the time of the first visit by a caseworker. Immanuel Lutheran Church has recently received a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to purchase items needed for the baskets. Amy Schweim and a group of volunteers from

Immanuel have collected the items and assembled a supply of baskets.

Since Open Hearth Ministries was introduced by Associated Ministries in the September 2003 issue of *The CHANNEL*, the membership of churches has grown and our ability to serve families in need has expanded. Support for Open Hearth comes from continued contributions from faith communities, offerings from the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at Holy Disciples Catholic Church, grants from FEMA and Weyerhaeuser Corporation and money from SHB 2060. We plan to approach various service groups to engage them in the ministry, as well as find other sources to support our work, realizing that we have to be diligent stewards of the money that we do have.

Open Hearth Ministries does have several needs that we hope to address. Right now we have only one active caseworker to meet with families and help connect them with necessary resources. If you are interested in becoming a caseworker and are willing to receive training in Open Hearth’s policies and procedures, please contact Fifi Petersen at (253) 770-7974 or Sister Pat Michalek at St. Francis House, (253) 848-3618.

For more information or to get involved with Open Hearth Ministries, contact Fifi Petersen at (253) 770-7974. People of all faith communities are always welcome to join us and help address the very real problem of homelessness in Puyallup.

*Fifi Petersen is Chairperson of Open Hearth Ministries and a member of Light of the Hill United Methodist Church.*



Dorothy Davis (l), volunteer coordinator of SE FISH Food Bank, offers guidance to a young volunteer. The FISH volunteer food bank coordinators will be honored as a group with a 2005 Ecumenical Service Award.

## What’s cooking at FISH?



BY BETH ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR, FISH FOOD BANKS

During the next six months when you walk into the Southeast, Graham or University Place FISH Food Banks you will notice a wonderful aroma coming from the kitchen.

As the volunteers begin to show up for work they quickly ask, “What is that wonderful smell?”

Thanks to a generous grant from the Milgard Family Foundation and in cooperation with the WSU Pierce County Extension Nutrition Faculty we are providing food samples, recipes, and nutritional information to our customers to help them provide a variety of nutritious meals for themselves and their families at little or no cost. We adopted Costco’s style of food sampling. We prepare food that is available in the food bags for individuals to taste.

For the first month we are making lentil soup. With the aroma of the garlic, onion and tomatoes simmering one quickly develops an appetite and is drawn to the cooking pot for a taste. Each month we will feature a different food item to prepare. A different recipe, food samples and nutri-

tion information will be distributed on a regular basis and all the ingredients needed to prepare the new recipe will be in the bag.

As the series of articles that appeared in *The News Tribune* regarding obesity, nutrition and fitness recently pointed out, roughly 60 percent of American adults are overweight or obese; about 16 percent of our children are overweight or at risk of being overweight. These statistics are staggering.

FISH Food Banks cares about the health and well being of our customers. We always strive to provide food bags with ingredients that are nutritionally balanced. It is our hope we can entice individuals to prepare a larger variety of inexpensive, delicious and healthy nutritious meals.

If you would like to try our latest recipe and learn how we serve our community please join us for lunch on Tuesday, April 19 at the Southeast FISH Food Bank or Thursday, April 21 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, home of the Old Town FISH Food Bank from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please bring a friend and RSVP by April 12, 2005 to FISH at (253) 383-3164.

## Volunteer crews needed for the 2005 paint season

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

My friend Gretchen Roosevelt volunteered with Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful for the first time last summer. She lives less than two blocks from a home that was being painted, and I called and asked her to help because there was a jungle around the house that needed major pruning. Since she is an accomplished gardener, she seemed a natural for the task.

Not only did she say “yes” to the challenge; she is now a walking commercial for the program:

“I met Bill [the crew coordinator]. I wouldn’t have met him otherwise, and he’s an amazing man. He is one more person who has crossed into my life and made me realize how amazing people are. That enriches me and gives me hope for people in the world.”

She also said that it was a great project in terms of feeling a part of the community.

“I go by the house almost every day when I walk the dogs, and I smile. Everyday, I smile. Not just for what I did, but I know what happened at this house: people were in need, and other people came out and helped them. This community helped them, and that gives me pride of neighborhood.”

Dick Driscoll, first-time crew coordinator of the West Tacoma Optimist Club Crew, said that “when you step back from a freshly painted house, you get a real sense of accomplishment.”

He continued, “From the club’s standpoint, it brings members together. Everyone got a sense that they accomplished something worthwhile together. A couple of my guys had never done anything like that before, and for weeks after, they would say, ‘I really enjoyed it.’”

He finished by saying, “...and our homeowner really benefited from our effort.”

Crews are needed for this summer. Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful organizes these crews to paint the homes of low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women throughout Tacoma and Pierce County. The painting takes place from mid-June to mid-August, and we will paint as many houses as we have crews. Will you join us?

For further information, visit us at [www.paintbeautiful.org](http://www.paintbeautiful.org) or call us at (253) 383-3056, ext 106.



# 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 Gina Breukelman interviews Pastor Kim Latterell of Creator Lutheran Church in Sumner. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact The CHANNEL at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.

## Congregation Name: Creator Lutheran Church

**Location:** 16702 South Tapps Drive East, Sumner, WA 98390

**Phone:** 253-862-7700

**Meet the Pastor:** Kim Latterell has been the Pastor at Creator since November, 2002. Prior to moving to Washington, Pastor Latterell was senior pastor at Zion Lutheran in Loveland, CO for 19 years. He was campus pastor at Luther College and University of Regina for six years.



Pastor Kim Latterell

### Staff:

Youth Director: Terri Heckroth  
 Music Director: Michael Powell  
 Accompanist: Connie Ross  
 Office Ministry Coordinators: Sue Gibson, Julie Ehle  
 Bookkeeper: Gayle McKenna  
 Custodians: Don and Kathy Couture  
 Church Life Coordinator: Virginia Winger  
 Nursery Attendant: Patty Clifton  
 Preschool Director: Marilyn Kelley  
 Preschool Teachers: Margaret Moore, Andrea DeDominces, Gayle McKenna

**Worship:** Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. – Traditional Music; 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Music

**Number of Members:** 672

**History:** Creator was founded as a Mission Church in 1979 to spread the Good News to the growing communities around Lake Tapps. Creator dedicated its current building in 1984. To accommodate the growing youth ministries program, a full time youth director was added in the mid-1990s and a new wing was completed in 1999.

**Mission Statement:** Creator Lutheran Church is an open, welcoming Christian community, joyfully worshipping God, nurturing spiritual growth, and serving all of God's creation.

### What special programs does your congregation offer?

Music Ministries: Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Worship Team (Contemporary Music)  
 Youth Ministries: Confirmation, Youth groups, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, High School Bible Study, Mission Trips  
 Creator Preschool  
 Small Group Ministries: Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Couples' Bible Study, Older Wiser Lutherans' Bible Study.  
 Adult Education: Coffee Talk Thursday, Coffee Talk Sunday  
 Drama Ministry  
 Softball

**With what other organizations is your congregation involved?** Creator is involved with Exodus Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Peace Lutheran Free Dinner Program, Lutheran Alliance for Affordable Housing, Auburn Pregnancy Aid, Lutheran Community Services, Sumner Family Services and Lutheran World Relief.

**How does your faith call you to action?** Paul speaks of "faith active in love." Jesus speaks of "justice for the least among us." James speaks of "faith in need of action to be true faith."

**What is your biggest concern for the world/community?** My concern for the world and community are peace, justice for all, the international swing to the right (conservative), loss of community, loss of human rights and loss of freedom.

**What is your biggest hope for the world/community?** My biggest hope for the world and community is that the following will be addressed: environmental needs, the growing disparity between rich and poor, the record deficit and preemptive actions towards war.

**What is your message to the Associated Ministries community?** Continue to help us all by moving us to be of earthly good to the most vulnerable in our society.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

What follows is a unique Director's Corner in that it is addressed to a specific group. As the Executive Director of Associated Ministries I have been deeply involved with the Tacoma Police Department for many years. Most recently I have served on the Police Accountability Working Group, a committee of the Tacoma Human Rights Commission. We have carefully drafted a recommendation that is being presented to the Tacoma City Council. For this recommendation to be implemented it not only needs to be approved by the City Council, but it also needs to be agreed to in the current negotiations going on between Local 6 and the City of Tacoma.

You should also understand that this process began before the Brame murder/suicide. The issue arose out of community concern regarding the processing of citizens' complaints against the TPD and its officers.

### Open Letter to Local 6 of the Tacoma Police Department

Many of us in the community have worked closely with you for many years. You will remember the shooting death of Mr. Burley quite a few years ago. It was a horrible tragedy. After that we worked with you. A special committee was appointed by the mayor. I served on that committee. We brought in the Top Cop from the Police Foundation to consult with us. The result was a restructuring of the use of lethal force policy and ultimately a much closer working relationship between the community and the department.

Under Chief Fjetland citizens were added to the shooting review panels. I sat in on the first such panel. Several times since then officers have commented to me that they have appreciated the citizens' perspective at those hearings. It was not too far into Chief Fjetland's tenure that the department changed its standard issue to the nine millimeter. If we had not done a lot of ground work with the community, there would have been great resistance to this decision. Instead, it hardly caused a ripple in the pool of public opinion. The department was more open than it had ever been.

Soon the Community Oriented Policing Program was introduced. Once again the citizens came to the support of the TPD. We have worked closely with our local sectors. Together we have confronted the rise of gang violence. Together we have made a difference. Community groups have given special recognitions to police officers. The Hilltop Action Coalition was recognized nationally by the FBI and received the Director's Award.

We have been at your side. Together we have made great progress. Now there is one further step that must be taken. Citizens have been working for over a year on a Citizen's Oversight Board. We have consulted fully with a representative of the TPD. We have revised our proposal numerous times, addressing issues of particular concern to the TPD. We now have a solid proposal that will serve both the community and the TPD very well. We know there is strong support in Local 26. We now need yours. It is time for you to step up and affirm the work of the people you serve. It is time once again for you to trust the people who have supported you. This is a fair proposal and it will help to build the trust in the department that has suffered as a result of the Brame murder/suicide.

Together we can continue to build the Tacoma Police Department into one of the finest in the nation. We will support you and your families. We want to always see that you are well compensated and fairly treated. At the same time, when problems do occur, we need to cast the light of day on them and resolve them.

I urge you to do what is right. Go on record now and support the citizen oversight recommendation that is coming from the Human Rights Commission to the City Council.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David T. Alger  
 Executive Director, Associated Ministries

## Bag Dude says: SAVE THE DATE!

Plan now to be part of the  
**2005 Pierce County Hunger Walk**  
 on **Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005.**

The 2005 event will mark the 25th year that Associated Ministries has sponsored a walk to fight hunger in Pierce County. You won't want to miss this special anniversary celebration!



**Plan now to be part of the West Coast's largest walk for hunger.**

For information call (253) 383-3056, ext. 107  
 or see [www.hungerwalk.com](http://www.hungerwalk.com)



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

Channel is published ten times each year (monthly except June and August) by:

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

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

E-mail: [channel@associatedministries.org](mailto:channel@associatedministries.org) • [www.associatedministries.org](http://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.

# Camps, Conference and Retreat Centers

Plan your next retreat at

## **Camp Burton**

**Vashon Island**  
or

## **Cascade Meadows**

**Leavenworth**

*American Baptist Church Camps*

### **CAMP BURTON**

- Facilities for 10 to 200
- Lovely waterfront, wooded areas
- Variety of meeting rooms
- Multiple beds per room
- Delicious food service OR do your own cooking (13 people)

**206-463-2512**

Fax: 206-463-6738

Email: cburtonwa@aol.com

www.campburton.com

### **CASCADE MEADOWS**

- Close to Stevens Pass ski area
- Facilities for 25-60 people
- Beautiful mountain setting
- Multiple bed housing
- Do your own cooking

*Call for a free brochure*

**206-463-2512**

Fax: 206-463-6738

Email: casmeadows@aol.com

www.cascademeadows.org

Where can you enjoy  
a beautiful view of Puget Sound  
and the Olympic Mountains  
from your retreat  
or convention room?



## **DUMAS BAY CENTRE**

in Federal Way

- 12 acres of carefully manicured grounds
- Spectacular views
- Serene, secluded environment
- Four large meeting/banquet rooms available
- Overnight accommodations for up to 90 guests

For rental information or reservations,  
please call the Dumas Bay Centre at ...



**(253) 835-2000**

www.dumasbaycentre.com



**17 Miles North of Hoquiam**  
(10 miles to nearby beaches)

Serving 15-160 in various  
accommodations  
ranging from Rustic to Deluxe  
RV and Tent spaces available

*Multi-purpose meeting rooms  
Warm, comfortable ambiance,  
including fireplaces and  
hospitality centers*

Hiking, outdoor Cathedral,  
campfire, paddle boats, canoes,  
volleyball, river floats, large  
playing fields and equipment.  
Indoor gym/meeting hall.  
18-hole miniature golf course.

**Call: (360) 289-3444**

**"Are you ready for a Vacation with God?"**

Call The Priory Spirituality Center and ask  
about retreats, programs and room rentals.



The Priory Spirituality Center

500 College St NE

Lacey WA 98516

360 438-2595

Spiritualityctr@stplacid.org/www.stplacid.org

## **Celebrating Earth Day 2005: Ecumenical event invites all to join in working and praying for the healing of God's creation**

BY TANYA MARCOVNA BARNETT, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, EARTH MINISTRY

For too long, we, our Christian brothers and sisters, and many people of good will have relegated care and justice for the Earth to the periphery of our concerns. This is not a competing "program alternative," one "issue" among many. In this most critical moment in Earth's history, we are convinced that the central moral imperative of our time is the care for Earth as God's creation.<sup>1</sup>

In an effort to help move "care and justice for the Earth" to a central place of moral concern, a group of Washington state ecumenical Christian organizations will host "Working and Praying for the Healing of God's Creation" on Sunday, April 24, 2005. This ecumenical Earth Day event will be the first of its kind in Washington state – an event that matches the rising need to protect God's creation from an ever-advancing tide of ecological abuse. Sponsoring organizations include: Church Council of Greater Seattle, Earth Ministry, Georgetown Gospel Chapel, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington, and the Washington Association of Churches.

The event will begin with an intergenerational, "hands-on" restoration event along the banks of the Duwamish River – sacred land for the Duwamish people; home for South Park and Georgetown communities; habitat for

salmon, osprey, and countless creatures; and, now, a listed Superfund site (one of the country's most toxic, contaminated areas). After their own worship services, church members from throughout the region will roll up their sleeves to help protect crucial habitat along Hamm Creek – the largest parcel of "undeveloped" land in this industrial core along the Duwamish River. Since 1999, Earth Ministry and other volunteers' restoration efforts have helped to heal this habitat and allow salmon to return to this creek. On April 24, we will join together to continue bringing healing prayers and acts to this site.

After this time, participants will gather at Georgetown Gospel Chapel at 3:00 p.m. for an ecumenical worship service – a time of celebration for God's creation, lament for its "groaning" (Romans 8:22), and affirming our commitment to its care. The Chapel, recently featured in *The Washington Post* ("The Greening of Evangelicals," www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1491-2005Feb5.html), is one of Earth Ministry's "Greening Congregations" and the first congregation in the country to receive the Environmental Protection Agency's "EnergyStar" award. The Chapel provides a place in which to bridge the theological, political, and cultural divisions that prevent us from fully engaging in the Christian call to care for

creation. The worship experience, facilitated by congregational leaders from our region, is also intended to be a "model" service for those who wish to host a creation-caring worship service in their own congregations.

Following the service, the Chapel's Pastor Leroy Hedman will host tours of the church and grounds. In addition, community groups will host discussions that will equip participants with practical resources for caring for God's creation on a daily basis.

The "Open Letter" quoted above concludes, "In Christ's name and for Christ's glory, we call out with broken yet hopeful hearts: join us in restoring God's Earth – the greatest healing work and moral assignment of our time." We too hope that you will join us, on April 24, for all or part of these events of restorative action and prayer. For more information, please contact Earth Ministry at (206) 632-2426 or emoffice@earthministry.org or see www.earthministry.org.

<sup>1</sup> From "God's Earth Is Sacred: An Open Letter to Church and Society in the United States," released by the National Council of Churches on Feb. 14, 2005. Earth Ministry played a key role in helping to draft this statement, which may be found at [www.nccusa.org/news/14.02.05theologicalstatement.html](http://www.nccusa.org/news/14.02.05theologicalstatement.html)

### **Ecumenical Celebration of Earth Day 2005**

**What:** "Working and Praying for the Healing of God's Creation," Washington state's first ecumenical Earth Day event

**When:** Sunday, April 24

**Where:** Hamm Creek: "Hands-on" estuarine restoration and reflection (*RSVP requested*); Georgetown Gospel Chapel, ecumenical worship service

**All are welcome for all or part of the day.**

12:00-12:30 p.m. - Meet at Hamm Creek for prayer and hands-on restoration work

2:30 p.m. - Finish work and head to Georgetown Gospel Chapel


2:45-3:00 p.m. - Gather at Chapel for fellowship and refreshments

3:30 p.m. - Ecumenical worship service

4:45 p.m. - More fellowship, tour of the chapel highlighting Earth-friendly practices, resource sharing

**For information and to RSVP for the estuarine restoration contact:**  
**Earth Ministry**  
**(206) 632-2426**  
**emoffice@earthministry.org**  
**www.earthministry.org**

# Offer Summer Opportunities for All Ages




**Warm Beach Christian Camps and Conference Center**  
*The Perfect Place for Your Next Retreat!*

Home of *The Lights of Christmas*  
Quality Programs for All Ages  
High Adventure Challenge Course  
Conference Facilities for up to 1000  
Hosting over 350 churches, schools, government and non-profit groups per year

20800 Marine Dr Stanwood WA 98292  
360-652-7575  
800-228-6724

**Call for a FREE Information Packet, Video, Retreat Planners Guide.**

**WarmBeach.Com**



**The Palisades**  
ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT & FAITH FORMATION CENTER  
IN FEDERAL WAY, WA

**Do You Seek a Place of Peace, Privacy and Prayer?**

**Far-A-Way**  
ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT HOUSE  
NEAR LONGBRANCH, WA - ON KEY PENINSULA

**Contact us at:**  
4700 SW Dash Point Road #100  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
(206) 748-7991 - Seattle  
(253) 927-9621 - Tacoma  
(206) 382-3482 - Fax  
Palisades@SeattleArch.org

- TWO BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OVERLOOKING THE PUGET SOUND
- TWO PEACEFUL SETTINGS FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER
- PATHS THROUGH THE WOODS OR TO THE BEACH
- CLEAN, COMFORTABLE, AFFORDABLE ROOMS
- TWO LOCATIONS CLOSE TO BOTH SEATTLE AND TACOMA

We offer comfortable overnight guest rooms/meeting areas perfect for:

- Group & Individual Retreats • Workshops
- Formation Experiences • Staff Training

www.SeattleArch.org/Palisades  
www.SeattleArch.org/FarAWay

Come to summer camp at

**CAMP BURTON** or **CASCADE MEADOWS**  
Vashon Island Leavenworth  
www.campburton.com www.cascademeadows.org

**CAMP BURTON**

- Age group camps
- Jr. Hi. through Sr. Hi.
- Sail Camps
- Family Camp

**CASCADE MEADOWS**

- Age group camps
- 4th grade through Sr. Hi.
- With adventure theme

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH CAMPS**  
Call for brochures  
**206-463-2512**  
Both camps accredited by the American Camp Association

**HUSTON**  
Camp and Conference Center  
An Episcopal Conference Center



Accommodations up to 100  
Lovely facilities  
Ideal for group seminars

**Call Bill Tubbs**  
(360) 793-0441  
www.huston.org  
Gold Bar, WA 98251

*Your Advertising could fill this space next month!*

**Call Dorothy Moe at 253-460-1443 for ad rates and more information**

## Celebrating Earth Day 2005: Saving sacred oceans and seas

"And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place' . . . and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:9-10).

Earth Day Sunday is April 24, 2005. In preparation, the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program has published congregational resources on this year's theme: *Sacred Oceans and Seas*.

The introduction reminds us that "The oceans, teeming with sea life, vibrant coral communities, and vast beauty, are part of God's treasured creation. When God created the oceans, God declared them "good." We receive the oceans' bounty on our tables and experience the ocean's beauty as we participate in recreational activities. As God's stewards, we are called not only to enjoy the oceans, but also to care for them as a sacred gift from God. Because we are people of God, we are to maintain the bounty of the oceans' waters and the integrity of oceanic systems that contain beauty and support an abundance of life."

The living oceans cover more than 70 percent of the planet, include mountains taller than Mount Everest and canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon. They contain 97 percent of all living matter.

The world's diverse and fragile marine ecosystems have an enormous impact on the earth's human population. Oceans help to determine global weather patterns, serve as the Earth's "lungs," produce food and contribute to tourism and recreational opportunities.

Marine ecosystems around the world are being threatened by coastal development, pollution, overfishing, tourism, and a host of other human endeavors. These activities have led to the decline of ocean wildlife and the near collapse of ocean ecosystems. For generations the living oceans have been exploited as a resource, not honored as one of God's gifts. We have consumed without regard, dumped what we no longer needed, and physically altered the marine environment. We all share the responsibility to be good stewards of God's oceans for current and future generations.

The list at right, adapted from the NCC Eco-Justice resource guide, suggests things that individuals, families and congregations can do to help protect our oceans and seas. For additional resources, including a bulletin insert, sermon notes, study questions and activities for youth groups or Sunday School, see the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program website at [www.ncccojustice.org](http://www.ncccojustice.org) or call (202) 544-2350, ext. 27.

For additional background or resources, see the following web links:

The United States Commission on Ocean Policy: [www.oceancommission.gov](http://www.oceancommission.gov)

The Ocean Conservancy: [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)

Pew Ocean Commission Report: [www.pewoceans.org](http://www.pewoceans.org)

World Wildlife Fund: [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

### Take Action to Protect God's Oceans and Seas

#### • Recycle or dispose of trash properly.

Every year, millions of pounds of trash degrade habitat and can strangle, poison, or otherwise harm ocean wildlife. As one example, we improperly dispose of 161 million gallons of used motor oil—more than the Exxon Valdez spill—every year. Carefully disposing of motor oil will help keep ocean waters clean.

#### • Reduce your energy consumption.

Air pollution particles created from power plants and automobiles fall into the ocean in raindrops, polluting the water with excess nitrogen and contaminating fish with toxic mercury. The carbon dioxide emitted because of our energy use also causes global warming and rising ocean temperatures. Electricity is the largest source of carbon emissions in the United States. By replacing four standard bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) in your home or house of worship, you can prevent the emission of 5,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and reduce your electricity bill by more than \$100 over the life of those bulbs.

#### • Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Runoff from lawns, farms, streets, parking lots, and construction sites is a major source of ocean pollution. This runoff—containing silt, nitrogen, and phosphorous—robs ocean waters of light and oxygen. Eliminate the need for pesticides and fertilizers by practicing conservation landscaping at home, work, and church.

#### • Enjoy Responsible Recreation.

Ocean lovers spend a lot of time on, in, and under the water—swimming, boating, fishing, diving, and enjoying the beach. These activities are often the most direct contact we have with ocean life, so how you engage in them determines whether your impact is negative or positive.

- Retrieve all fishing line, lures, and gear—even if tangled or broken. Fishing gear can entangle and injure sea birds, turtles, dolphins, manatees—even divers and swimmers.
- Drive your boat as though life depended on it. It does. Damaging wake can tear up plants and erode shoreline, and slashing boat propellers injure countless sea turtles, dolphins, manatees, and whales every year.
- On trips to the beach, carry out whatever you carry in. Wildlife can ingest or become entangled in trash left behind.
- When snorkeling and diving, don't touch or attempt to collect coral or other marine organisms. Instead, take only pictures and leave only bubbles.

# Reflections: What is it like to pastor a transforming congregation?



By Rev. Darrell Reeck, Ph.D.

Like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon?

Or like a phoenix rising from the ashes?

Or rebirth to new life?

Which of those images best responds to the question: what's it like to minister to and in an urban ecumenical congregation? Or is there an even more apt image?

At First Baptist Church downtown, more than 30 active participants trace back through three or four generations to the days of mega church status. Many older members could hardly wait to regale me with memories of joy they experienced in the 1930s and 1940s when 900 would pack the sanctuary for uplifting Sunday services. At its peak, First Baptist had over 2300 members.

In 1980 the diminished congregation made a decision to stay at 902 Market Street, where they had been for almost 100 years, instead of moving to the suburbs. They committed themselves to ministry downtown. As late as August 2004, the decision seemed to have been made in vain. The attendance had dropped as low as 35 at the Sunday worship service by that time.

During my first visit to the site in June

2004, Rev. David Alger, as a member of the Church off Broadway steering committee, and Willie Stewart, as president of the congregation, related the congregation's vision of the future. The remaining remnant had seen the downtown ever-changing around them. They had witnessed the growth of the arts community, the arrival of new businesses, the building of University of Washington-Tacoma, and many other signs of urban resurgence. Because First Baptist had decided to remain at 9<sup>th</sup> and Market 25 years ago, they now enjoyed a prime location for outreach to the renewed downtown.

Through study and prayer, the congregation arrived at a daring plan. In the future, they would serve as a base of outreach for Tacoma's ecumenical community. In fact, outreach was already well advanced in the form of a Sunday morning breakfast and worship for the hungry of the city. But they envisioned an expanded ministry to other publics: the arts, the educational, and the business groups.

They decided to start anew as an ecumenical congregation. They made decisions to facilitate this. They called me as a United Methodist to develop a congregation with an ecumenical flavor; what a sign of openness! They have focused on a new name that will provide a welcoming feel, omitting the "Baptist" label. They agreed to admit members of other denominations under a dual membership provision.

Since acting on these decisions there is an air of purpose and accomplishment.

Attendance at worship has doubled from its 2004 low point. Pledged giving

has increased by over 25 percent.

The Wednesday evening Bible study, paced and prodded by the exquisitely informed lay scholar Jean Baird, has rebuilt itself.

The Sunday adult class has feasted on offerings by Catholic author Dr. Phil Verhalen and Lutheran pastor Dr. Eugene Wiegman.

The Breakfast for the Hungry serves as a platform of urban outreach for Grace Baptist Church, Peninsula Baptist Church, and many individual volunteers, one of whom drives from Centralia for the privilege of serving.

About a dozen ecumenical volunteers—Methodist, Pentecostal, Lutheran and Episcopalian—have already joined us in the quest to serve the city. And to complete the vision, we anticipate many more such volunteers in outreach.

I led a men's Bible study a few weeks ago. We read from Genesis that God asked Abraham and Sarah to leave the metropolis of the known world and go off into the desert. I asked each man to say, in his own words, what Abraham's call might mean for First Baptist Church. One man, Dr. Ray Frederick, said: "I think we're called to stay right here on Market Street. This is our 'desert.'"

Now we issue an invitation and a call. To those who feel a call to advance the Kingdom of God in downtown Tacoma, we say: come and join us. We offer you a place for ministry that goes beyond what you or your congregation can achieve alone. Our goal is to undergird the downtown community with a healthy spirituality. Our purpose is to add buoyancy and

life to the ecumenical community through providing common mission and ministry, and to meet the spiritual and social needs of many of Tacoma's most needy. To stay and serve, not knowing precisely where, when or how God will lead us: that's the spirit of Tacoma's new ecumenical church. Perhaps the "Call to Stay Put" is the best of all images to convey what it's like to be part of the ministry at Tacoma's new ecumenical congregation.

*The Reverend Darrell Reeck, Ph.D., has been serving for the past year as minister to the congregation at First Baptist Church as it makes the transition to its new ecumenical church and mission.*

## Volunteers Needed

Here are just a few of the volunteer roles available in the new ecumenical congregation:

- Restaurant manager
- Musicians: singers, instrumentalists, keyboardists
- Program planner
- Grant writer
- Marketer
- Teacher for young adult group
- Youth outreach minister
- Woodwork painter

If interested in applying for a volunteer position, please call (253) 272-2184.

## Traveling memorial exhibition illustrates the human cost of war

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will bring its traveling memorial exhibition *Eyes Wide Open: The Human Cost of War* to Tacoma, Washington as part of its nationwide tour honoring fallen U.S. military personnel and Iraqi civilians. This highly praised exhibit will be at the University of Washington, Tacoma Campus on April 12 and 13. *Eyes Wide Open* has been traveling the country since January 2004.

Through this traveling memorial, organizers of *Eyes Wide Open* seek to honor American soldiers fighting in the War in Iraq and to raise awareness of the high human cost of war. This exhibit is free and open to the public from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on April 12 and 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on April 13.

"As the wife of a soldier who is serving in Iraq, I feel deeply for the families left behind, whether temporarily, as I have been, or permanently, as these empty boots remind us," says Stacy Bannerman, wife of Washington State Army National Guard soldier completing his one-year tour-of-duty in Iraq, after having been stop-losses since June of 2004. "It is one thing to hear about the cost of war; it is something else completely to see it, and allow ourselves to feel it."

To date, 32 Washington and 27 Oregon soldiers are among those memorialized in the *Eyes Wide Open* exhibit.

"Seeing the expanse of boots, along with everyday women's, men's and children's shoes, also enables those of us who have not directly lost loved ones in this war to reconnect with our grief, and to ask fundamental questions about the nature of war," said Susan Segall, Pacific Northwest Regional Director for AFSC.

AFSC, an international social justice organization, created *Eyes Wide Open* to

memorialize the lives lost in the war in Iraq. Key features of the exhibit include:

- More than 1,400 pairs of boots honoring U.S. military casualties;
- A 32-foot "wall" of names and incidents of Iraqi civilian deaths;
- 1,000 pairs of shoes memorializing a small fraction of the numerous Iraqi civilians who have been killed in the conflict; and
- An interior multimedia display which explores the history, cost and consequences of the war through slide shows, photos and exhibits.

"...the human cost of the Iraq War grows every day," says Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of AFSC. "How many more boots will be standing at silent attention before this war ends, before Iraqis and American soldiers are out of harm's way?"


The exhibit was conceptualized by Mike McConnell, regional director of the AFSC Chicago chapter. He felt the human face of the war was not being shown to the public. "It's very important that people realize the full cost of the Iraq war," says McConnell. "I didn't want the deaths to just become a statistic."

The organizer of the exhibit is the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. Since 1917, AFSC has championed the dignity and worth of every individual, the sanctity of human life, and humanity's collective responsibility to promote peace.

**Harbor View Manor**  
**A 62+ Retirement Community**  
 Fantastic Mountain and Water Views  
 Computer Lab with Free Internet  
 Dining Room • Covered Parking Available  
 Cable, Utilities and Maintenance Included in Rent

 **253-272-5552** 

919 South Fawcett, Tacoma, WA 98402



**Craig Nesson**  
 Professor of Contextual Theology,  
 Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Elizabeth Conde-Frazier**  
 Professor of Religious Education,  
 Claremont School of Theology

**Kathlyn Breazeale**  
 Assistant Professor of Religion,  
 Pacific Lutheran University

*A transformational training event for clergy and congregational leaders*

The PLU Institute for Clergy and Congregational Renewal

## SUMMER CONFERENCE 2005

*"The Gospel, the Church, and Mission in an Age of Anxiety and Change: A New Vision for the Reign of God in the World"*

**JULY 18-21, 2005**  
**PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**  
**TACOMA, WASHINGTON**

ALSO Two Leadership Tracks to choose from:  
 Leading a Congregation Through Anxiety and Change 101  
 and  
 Healthy Leaders (Advanced Family Systems Theory) 201

Go-sponsored by Lutheran Educational Network and Support (LENS)

# IN BRIEF

## Grief and Loss Support Group starts April 20

MultiCare Hospice of Tacoma will offer an eight-week grief and loss support group, beginning Wednesday, April 20 (6:00-8:00 p.m.) and ending June 8. The group is open to the general public, and is meant to support people emotionally while providing education about the natural grieving process. It will also focus on developing coping methods while integrating the loss and remembering the loved ones throughout the eight-week experience. If you are an adult grieving the death of a loved one and would like to find out more about this support group, please call bereavement counselor Kathryn McBride, MA, at (253) 459-8388.

## Parish nurse training offered at PLU

Pacific Lutheran University Continuing Nursing Education will present a Basic Preparation Course for Parish Nurses Tuesday-Thursday, April 26-28, and Wednesday-Thursday, May 25-26. Classes will be held from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Parish nursing offers new and meaningful opportunities to care for people in a unique and significant way. The parish nurse roles of health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention focus on the whole person, holding the spiritual dimensions to be central to the practice. This five-day experience-based program consists of presentations, small group experiences, interactive work and play, meditation and creative worship. It has been designed to help the parish nurse learn to model health as well as to promote health and healing. In cooperation with Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries, PLU offers the nationally endorsed curriculum from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. For more information or registration call (253) 535-7683 or see

www.plu.edu/~ccnl/courses/parish2.html. For information about scholarships for the course contact Jean Vanberg in Congregational Health at St Joseph Medical Center, (253) 426-6887.

## April events at Hillside Community Church

Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, hosts a talk/service each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The schedule for April is as follows: 4/3 Rev. John Alvord offers an Easter season reflection, "Whom do you seek?"; 4/10 "Didgeridoo Da Didgeri Day;" 4/17 Bernie Meyer speaks on "A Visit From Gandhi;" 4/24 an update on hurricane recovery in Haiti reported by a doctor from the Dominican Republic. For more information, please call (253) 232-8948.

## Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop

Pastor Joanna Robinson and her husband Tim Neuberger will offer a Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop on Saturday, April 23. Workshops will also be offered for engaged and recently married couples, as well as those considering whether to marry, on the following Saturdays in 2005: June 11, July 23, and Oct. 29. All workshops will be held at United Lutheran Church in Tacoma. Designed to complement pastors' premarital counseling for couples, this full-day workshop covers such topics as communication, conflict resolution, couple spirituality, families of origin, sexuality, caring for each other, and marital growth and development—all within a framework of Christian faith. Using a variety of teaching tools, film clips, exercises, and discussion, the presenters help couples explore their relationships in creative ways. The workshop is appropriate for people from

any denominational background. Joanna Robinson is a pastoral counselor and Lutheran pastor. She does therapy with individuals, couples, families and groups. Tim Neuberger is a teacher and former youth minister; he served as Director of Youth Ministries at Peninsula Lutheran Church for six years. Joanna and Tim have been married for 13 years. For further information or registration contact Joanna at (253) 566-2829, ext. 2. Registration forms are available for download from www.lutheranssw.org (click on "Opportunities," then "Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop.")

## Dine out for life

Did you know you can do good by eating well? Plan now to dine out to help fight AIDS in Pierce County. On Thursday, April 28, the Pierce County AIDS Foundation will hold its annual "Dining Out for Life" event. Plan to patronize one of the 45 participating Pierce County area restaurants. Most will donate 25 percent of the day's gross sales to the Pierce County AIDS Foundation, which has provided services to more than 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in its 18 years of service to the community. Dining Out for Life Ambassadors will serve as hosts at each restaurant. For a complete list of participating restaurants call the AIDS Foundation at (253) 383-2565 or see www.piercecountyaid.org.

## God's Politics book study group

First United Methodist and St. Leo Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a study group on Jim Wallis' new book, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*. The group will meet at First United Methodist Church, 423 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, on three Thursdays: April 28, May 12 and May 26 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. To register, or for more information, please contact Mary Bradford at (253) 272-5136, ext. 102 or at socialministry@stleoparish.org.

## Save the Date: Spring Rummage Sale

St. Joseph-St. John Episcopal Church will hold its spring rummage and plant sale Friday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 11111 Military Rd. SW, Lakewood. Proceeds will benefit the church's youth programs. Call (253) 584-6143 for information.

## TV special spotlights interfaith youth education project

*Children of Abraham* is a new CBS television special produced in cooperation with the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Southern Baptist Broadcast Group. The program offers a visit to the interfaith Children of Abraham Project, in the Detroit area, whose purpose is to educate Jews, Christians and Muslims about their common ancestry, encouraging joint efforts for tolerance, peace and civic betterment. The project includes watching and responding to a play in which teenage actors, some who helped write the dialogue, act out scenes from the Biblical story. Scheduled air date is Sunday, April 17; check your local TV listings for time and channel.

### Calling all CHANNEL readers:

- Read a good book lately?
- Seen a great movie recently?
- What is your film club watching?
- What is your book group reading?

Share your latest reviews and book or film suggestions in the May/June issue of the CHANNEL.

Send submissions to channel@associatedministries.org.

**Deadline: Friday, April 15, 2005**

## Needs & Wants

**POSITION AVAILABLE: ADMINISTRATOR** — Tacoma First United Methodist Church is seeking a Church Administrator. This is a part time (2/3-3/4) position beginning April 15. Salary is negotiable. Please send resumes and inquiry to Mary Jane Ewing, Ministry Skills Team: 423 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA, 98405; phone (253) 627-0129.

**POSITION AVAILABLE: HANDBELL DIRECTOR** — Puyallup United Methodist Church is seeking a skilled and experienced person to direct an advanced, five-octave choir. The choir rehearses weekly and plays for worship approx. once each month. The successful applicant will have a heart for Christian worship and team ministry. S/he will have the skill and experience to move the current choir forward and to draw new ringers into a growing music ministry. Contact Rev. Janet Leonard at revjanetL@juno.com or (253) 845-0547.

**POSITION AVAILABLE: KEYBOARDIST** — Puyallup United Methodist Church has a growing contemporary worship service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. The music team needs a piano/keyboard player with a sense of Christian worship and understanding of the liturgical seasons and themes and a cooperative spirit. Contact Rev. Janet Leonard at revjanetL@juno.com or (253) 845-0547.

**POSITION SOUGHT: CHURCH SECRETARY** — Energetic Church Secretary seeking supplemental income opportunity. Three years church experience and 10 years general office and bookkeeping experience. Currently available weekdays after 1:00 p.m. If you have a need for part time office or bookkeeping assistance, please call Michelle at (253) 219-4084.

**AVAILABLE: OFFICE SPACE** — Community of Hope at Hope Lutheran Church is seeking partnerships with non-profit organizations that provide relevant service to the South Tacoma community. The church has recently renovated office spaces now available for rent at \$1.50/sq. ft. Community of Hope is located at 7209 South Puget Sound Avenue, one block off of South Tacoma Way on 72nd Street. For more information please contact Jonathan Sansgaard at (253) 472-9697.

**AVAILABLE: PIANO** — FREE older model upright piano. You haul. If interested, call Grace Baptist Church at (253) 752-6643.

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.

## YOGA CLASSES

*Discover harmony in body, breath & mind*

Classes & private sessions with **NAJEEA LESLIE, LMP**  
Over 10 years experience

**(253) 274-0137**

*New Student Special*

**Tacoma Learning Center**

Early education for children ages 0-3 who have varying abilities. Children and their families receive:

- Co-operative preschool for infants & toddlers
- Specialized services for children with special needs
- Parent education and support

**NOW ENROLLING**  
For more information please call (253) 565-4887

A program of Child & Family Guidance Center  
We strengthen families.

what a day looks like as part of a healthy diet

morning	counts as 1	counts as 1	counts as 1
mid day	counts as 2	counts as 1	counts as 1
evening	counts as 2	counts as 1	counts as 1

Eating 5 to 9 servings of vegetables and fruit everyday is one of the easiest things you can do for your health.

For more information call **253-798-3548**  
tpchd.org

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Healthy. Safe. Active.

# Pierce County Happenings - April 2005

## 4/1 Friday

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 909 North J Street, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 627-8371.

## 4/2 Saturday

The public is invited to join the Emergency Food Network's **Mother Earth Farm** in celebrating the beginning of spring from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Teams of drivers and plow horses will plow the fields and L'Arche will hold a plant sale. Bring a dish to share for potluck, your camera and the whole family. To get to Mother Earth Farm, follow Highway 410 to the second Sumner exit (Valley Ave/Orting Hwy 162), turn right (toward Orting) at the light and continue 1.9 miles past Alderton and Spooner Farms. Mother Earth Farm will be on the right. For more information, contact the Emergency Food Network at (253) 584-1040 or see [www.efoodnet.org](http://www.efoodnet.org).

## 4/3 Sunday

Daylight Savings Time begins.

## 4/3 Sunday

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows hosts a **Taizé prayer service** every Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. All are invited. St. Mark's is located at 6730 North 17<sup>th</sup> St., Tacoma. For directions or more information, see the church website at [www.smlutheran.org](http://www.smlutheran.org).

## 4/3 Sunday

**Seattle Jazz Vespers** will feature the Brian Kirk Quartet at 6:00 p.m. at Seattle First Baptist Church on First Hill at the corner of Seneca and Harvard streets. Jazz Vespers are free and open to the public on the first Sunday of each month. A free-will offering will be taken. For information call (206) 325-6051 or see [www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org).

## 4/3 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.

## 4/7 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This display takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information call John Boylan, Criminal Justice Ministry, at (253) 502-2681.

## 4/7 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Buddhist prayer and chant**, along with a talk on Buddhism led by Buddhist monk Senji Kanaeda of the Nipponzan Myohoji order, 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.

## 4/7 Thursday

The School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University will present a free lecture in its **Great Theologians Series**. Rev. Michael Raschko, Bertch Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology, will deliver the Robert and Mary Bertch Professorship Inaugural Lecture, "The Power of the Holy Spirit Will Come Upon You," at 7:00 p.m. in Pigott Auditorium at Seattle University. A reception will follow. For information call (206) 296-5330 or see [www.seattleu.edu/theomin](http://www.seattleu.edu/theomin).

## 4/9 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the fourth of six classes in its

2005 **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Seattle University. The topic will be "Wicca," presented by Rev. Rosa Redtail, in Schafer Auditorium, Lemieux Library. Classes are \$120 for the series; \$25 per class. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email [eisengn@aol.com](mailto:eisengn@aol.com).

## 4/10 Sunday

All are invited to join in a **community celebration of downtown Tacoma's new ecumenical congregation** in the former First Baptist Church, 902 Market St. The celebration will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a gospel concert, followed at 3:00 p.m. by a worship service with preacher Dr. Leslie Braxton, Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle. The service will mark the official launch of the new ecumenical congregation. For more information call the church at (253) 272-2184 or email [fbcnewtacoma@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcnewtacoma@yahoo.com).

## 4/11 Monday

Associated Ministries, Northwest Leadership Foundation and World Vision will host "**An Evening with Jim Wallis**" at 7:00 p.m. at St. Leo Church, 710 S. 13th St., Tacoma. Jim Wallis is the founder and director of Sojourners, Christians for Justice and Peace and the convener of Call to Renewal, a faith-inspired movement to overcome poverty. Wallis will be discussing topics from his new book, *God's Politics*. The evening will include a book-signing; books will be available for purchase. Admission is free; for information call (253) 383-3056, ext. 119.

## 4/11 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "Art Expression as a Tool for Healing" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Lee Cobert, LICSW, will discuss the creative process and its role in transformative healing. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

## 4/12-13 Tuesday-Wednesday

The American Friends Service Committee's **Eyes Wide Open** exhibit will be displayed at the University of Washington Tacoma Campus from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. The exhibit began in January of 2004 with 504 pairs of combat boots representing the American casualties in the Iraq war. Today it contains 1,400+ pairs of boots with the names and home states of American casualties, a field of shoes and wall of remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict. For further information about the American Friends Service Committee and the Eyes Wide Open project see <http://afsc.org/eyes/>.

## 4/13 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). 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 vigils take place in Downtown Tacoma on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Vigils are also held 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).

## 4/14 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.

## 4/14 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host a **Pax Christi prayer service** 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.

## 4/14 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.

## 4/15 Friday

**Deadline for May/June CHANNEL**

## 4/15-17 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a weekend retreat, **Contemplation: Clear Eye, Clear Mind, Open Heart**, from 7:15 p.m. Friday to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. It is out of the contemplative heart that we see differently, hear differently, know differently, experience differently. Contemplation invites us into an inner silence, a heart formed and shaped by God's Spirit. This time of silent contemplative experience draws wisdom and practice from the meditation traditions of western spirituality. There will also be opportunity for optional dialogues on "Nurturing a Contemplative Heart," "The Practice of Sitting Meditation," and other topics as raised by the group/individual. Please bring a small cushion for back support. Presenters Kay Kukowski and Miguel Perez Gibson are certified by Father Thomas Keating's Contemplative Outreach to teach Centering Prayer. Registration is \$170. Please register by April 8. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email [spiritualityctr@stplacid.org](mailto:spiritualityctr@stplacid.org).

## 4/15 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, (253) 396-9656 or [tacomadup@yahoo.com](mailto:tacomadup@yahoo.com).

## 4/16 Saturday

The Nativity House 2005 **Beggars' Banquet and Auction** will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Tacoma Elks Club, 1965 South Union, Tacoma. This is a 25th Anniversary Gala celebrating 25 years of service to the homeless people of Tacoma. Tickets are \$25 per person. For reservations, call (253) 265-2290.

## 4/16 Saturday

**L'Arche Tahoma Hope** will hold its annual fundraising auction from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at the Temple Theatre, Landmark Convention Center, 47 St. Helens Avenue, Tacoma. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, silent auction and a live auction hosted by Pat Cashman. For information please contact Leslie or Angie at (253) 535-3178.

## 4/17 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54<sup>th</sup> and B Street, Tacoma, will host the **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

## 4/22 Friday

Earth Day

## 4/22-23 Friday-Saturday

*Uprising of Hope*, the **Northwest Catholic Women's Convocation III**, will be held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle. Along with exhibits and 40 workshops, the event will include special prayer and ritual. Plenary session speakers will be Bernice Johnson Reagon, Ph.D., Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ Ph.D. and Edwina Gateley. The Convocation is sponsored by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region XV. For information call (206) 223-1138 or see [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org).

## 4/23 Saturday

Associated Ministries' **Spring Celebration Dinner and Auction** will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish, 7112 South 12th St., Tacoma. The evening will honor the recipients of the Ecumenical Service Awards. Social and silent auction bidding begin at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. Reservations are \$40 per person. For more information call (253) 383-3056, ext. 115 or email [ginab@associatedministries.org](mailto:ginab@associatedministries.org).

## 4/23 Saturday

The Jewish holiday of Pesah, or **Passover**, begins at sundown. Passover, celebrated for eight days, commemorates the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

## 4/24 Sunday

In the Eastern Christian tradition, **Palm Sunday** commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

## 4/26 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 112<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Lakewood. For information call (253) 383-5755.

## 4/27 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). (See 4/13 listing.)

## 4/28 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 5:00 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.

## 4/28 Thursday

In the Eastern Christian tradition, **Holy Thursday** celebrates Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper.

## 4/29 Friday

In the Eastern Christian tradition, **Holy Friday** commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

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](mailto:channel@associatedministries.org). Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.