

CHANNEL

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

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CommUniversity 2005
offers more than 35
courses and workshops ...
see special
pullout section

Project helps homeless people keep dry in wet Washington winter

The volunteer "Poncho Project" is supplying rain ponchos to homeless people

BY PATTI MOORE

A friend of mine, who is formerly homeless, mentioned a few months back that it would be a good idea to give rain ponchos to homeless people. I agreed with him, and I decided to find a way to do it.

A rain poncho is more useful to homeless people than most other rain gear. Ponchos come one size fits most, so sizes are not a big problem. Ponchos are large enough that a backpack or other belongings can fit underneath them in addition to a person. They can be shaken out just before one enters a building, flopped over a chair, and will then dry out in just a few minutes. The ponchos can be unsnapped so that they will lie flat to double as ground cover or a tarp. Many ponchos have good sturdy loops or grommets at the corners, making it easy to tie them in place when being used as a tarp. For a homeless person, all of this is important.

Living and sleeping outdoors in these winter months is dangerous business. Occasionally people die of hypothermia—yes, right here locally.

Many people in Tacoma and Pierce County donate warm clothing for homeless people, and unfortunately, homeless people go through the clothing very quickly. In just a few weeks, the coat I donate today may be rotting away in a gully or under a bridge. Why? Because once homeless people get caught in a downpour, they have no way to dry their things. They're cold and wet, and as soon as they can get something new (to them) and dry, the old is cast aside.

I understand why this happens, but it frustrates me to see the waste. This would happen far less frequently if homeless people had a way to keep their things dry. And if they stay dry, they will be much warmer and much more comfortable. So, there is a need for rain ponchos. (Actually, there is a need for housing, but that's a whole 'nother story.) Rain ponchos are a woefully inadequate response to the problem of homelessness, but they are much, much better than nothing.

I set a goal for myself to raise enough money to buy 200 high quality rain ponchos. I found a very good deal with Bag Depot, an online store, to purchase heavy duty black 420 denier nylon rain ponchos for only \$10 each. Normally they sell for over \$20. Many individuals and several churches made donations, and that goal was reached. In fact it was more than reached; I ordered 238 ponchos. I was amazed at the generosity of the people and of the churches.

The rain ponchos have been purchased and distributed. People are very happy with them, and those who made it possible feel very good about that. But what doesn't feel good, is to know that there are still many homeless people who didn't receive a poncho and who are still wet and cold. People who work at meal sites and shelters, and who have daily contact with homeless people, say that there is still a great need.

I know that there will always be a need. There will always be more homeless people, and there will always be more needs than I (or you) can address. But the thought that a few more people could be a little more comfortable, and that a few more people could know that we value them and that we are concerned about them—that



Patti Moore models one of the rain ponchos being provided to homeless people through her "Poncho Project."

thought makes me want to see if we could still do a little more. AND....there are still sixty of those bargain ponchos left—when they're gone, they're gone and then ponchos are going to cost much more. If we can find a way to make the lives of homeless people a little less difficult, hey, let's do it!

Contributions for rain ponchos can be sent to Nativity House, 2304 South Jefferson Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402. Nativity House phone number is (253) 779-9248. Please make checks out to Nativity House. Please write "Ponchos" on the subject line so that the money will go into the right fund.

Patti Moore is a member of Christ Episcopal Church and a volunteer with the Street Pulse newspaper, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless and the Shelter Standards Task Force.

Tacoma takes a new look at classic Frankenstein story

The Tacoma Reads Together committee recommended that Mary Shelley's classic 1818 novel—*Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*—be selected as the book all Tacoma will read in 2005.

Why *Frankenstein*? With rapid advances in biotechnology, cloning, and the genome, Shelley's novel is perhaps more relevant now than when it was first published.

Any discussion of Shelley's book leads to fascinating questions: What does it mean to be human? How do we treat those who frighten us or look different? What is the nature of beauty and ugliness? Is science value-free? Where does one draw the line or take a moral stand in medical/scientific/technological issues? And maybe more than anything, in the book *Frankenstein*, who is the monster? Among all the characters, plots, successes and failures, what is truly monstrous? Where

does one see true horror?

The allure of Shelley's book cuts across age and gender. Young readers, perhaps already engaged by the many movie versions, will discover a novel vastly different than what they imagined—a novel that challenges them to think about the nature of life and death. Older readers may rediscover a novel they read when they were younger, and in this reading view the novel through the lens of experience. Readers familiar only with the many (and sometimes lurid) movies will be surprised by the depth and breadth of the book. It was groundbreaking in its time, and is as fresh today as it was in 1818.

As described by Mary Shelley, the "demoniacal corpse" constructed and brought to life by the scientist Frankenstein hardly resembles the flat-topped automaton portrayed by Boris Karloff in the classic 1931 film.

Karloff's monster is a pop cultural icon, an image recognized around the world. But if the specifics of Shelley's prose are less familiar, her themes continue to resonate, which is why the "Frankenstein" story has never lost its grip on the public imagination. Most readers will be discovering this classic novel for the very first time.

The novel contains several themes: the scientist's responsibility for the consequences of his own actions; the fatal hubris of stepping beyond "natural" human knowledge to create new life; and the basic need for human acceptance and relationships, without which one cannot become truly human, or develop a moral sense.

Who is the monster here, Dr. Frankenstein or his creation? Why does the creature become a monster? Does Dr. Frankenstein redeem himself?

Register now for CommUniversity

Tired of rants and attacks masquerading as cultural debate? Ready for some *real* dialogue? A chance to meet interesting people, share ideas, nurture your spirit?

CommUniversity 2005 offers all of this and more, with a theme of "Dialogue and Dissent: Living in the Tension." CommUniversity classes will be held on Mar. 5-6 and Mar. 12-13 at Pacific Lutheran University.

An Opening Convocation on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 1:30 p.m., in Chris Knutzen Hall at PLU, will feature keynote speaker Rabbi Reuven Firestone, a Jewish scholar and Islamist. Rabbi Firestone's topic is "Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Dialogue and Dissent: Abraham and Covenant in Three Scriptures." Rabbi Firestone comes to CommUniversity through a special educational partnership with Temple Beth El in Tacoma.

CommUniversity is presented annually by Associated Ministries in partnership with the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University. Utilizing university faculty and other local scholars, CommUniversity offers affordable short courses and workshops with a spiritual focus.

Fees range from \$20-\$50, depending on course length. Course registration includes admission to the convocation; registration for convocation only is \$10. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to guarantee class availability. Course textbooks will be available at special CommUniversity displays at Borders stores in Tacoma, Puyallup and Federal Way and at Pacific Lutheran University during CommUniversity.

Class descriptions and registration forms are available online at www.associatedministries.org. For printed copies or additional information, call (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or email channel@associatedministries.org.

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Luther College Nordic Choir will perform at Pacific Lutheran University

The Luther College Nordic Choir, one of the top a cappella college choirs in the nation, will perform Monday, Jan. 17, 8:00 p.m. at Lagerquist Concert Hall, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma.

This concert is part of a five-state tour celebrating Weston Noble's 57-year career as conductor of the choir, and is his final tour as conductor of the Nordic Choir. Noble announced that he will retire in May 2005.

The concert performance by the 72-member Nordic Choir is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. For tickets call the PLU Community Box Office at (253) 535-7411 or visit www.luteworld.plu.edu. Tickets will also be available for sale at the door.

The concert will feature a variety of sacred works, both a cappella and accompanied selections. Highlights include Knut Nystedt's "Be Not Afraid"; Paul Christiansen's "And I Heard a Great Voice"; "Lux Aurumque" of the young American composer, Eric Whitacre; and Nordic Choir's signature piece, Tschesnokoff's "O Lord God". Avid fans of Nordic Choir will also appreciate the

addition of Lars Edlund's "Gloria" (otherwise known as the "bag dance" piece), a moving and memorable selection that features choir members in dance.

The Tacoma concert is part of the Nordic Choir's tour of the West Coast of the United States. This year's tour will culminate in three performances at the National American Choral Directors Association Convention in Los Angeles. The choir tours annually and has performed in major concert halls in the United States and Central and Eastern Europe.

Weston Noble, professor of music, is in his 57th year as director of the choir. Noble has been the recipient of numerous music educator awards including the first Outstanding Music Educator Award from the National Federation of High Schools. He has served as guest conductor for music festivals in the United States and abroad.

Luther is a selective four-year college located in northeast Iowa. The college has an enrollment of 2,600 students. The college has a long tradition of outstanding instrumental and vocal music programs.

Workshop explores effects of the 2004 election on those in healing professions

Exasperated, pained, maybe even a bit terrified by the choices made on November 2? Wondering about the impact of the election on the healing professions—especially a liberally-framed psychology, social work, medicine, law, ministry (Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Wiccan, Native American, etc.) or education practice? Struggling to contain personal feelings oscillating from outrage to sorrow? Wondering if and where such feelings ethically belong in your profession?

WPCA and Pastoral Therapy Associates are co-sponsoring a day-long seminar that will provide places for both catharsis and building transformative paradigms. Participants will seek models that avoid the traps of projective blaming, shaming, and scapegoating (of self or others) while deeply valuing and voicing the professional and spiritual worldviews that seemed to have been dismissed in this election.

"Politics, Justice, and Psyche: Living with the American Election of 2004," an interdisciplinary workshop for professionals in psychotherapy, medicine, law, education, and religion, will be presented by Terrill L. Gibson, Ph.D. on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd, Seattle.

Key aspects of the day's work will

include:

- Outlining a Jungian psychology frame to stimulate a universal vision.
- Creating a forum to facilitate learning/formation (how we transform raw feelings into learning and growth opportunities).
- Identifying what enables us to reconnect with our professional selves.
- Spending the Saturday following the inaugural connecting with like-minded interdisciplinary professionals.

Presenter Terrill L. Gibson, Ph.D., is a diplomate pastoral psychotherapist, an approved supervisor for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and a diploma Jungian analyst who practices individual and family therapy with Pastoral Therapy Associates in Tacoma. He lectures and writes widely on the basic theme of the integration of psychotherapy and spirituality. For the past fifteen years he has intentionally practiced his craft in a politically and economically alternative community.

Registration for "Politics, Justice, and Psyche: Living with the American Election of 2004" is \$75 before Jan. 1, \$85 after Jan. 1. Workshop participants may receive six hours of Continuing Education Credit in mental health. Registrations may be sent to Joanna Robinson, 514 N Ainsworth, Tacoma, WA 98403. For information, call Joanna Robinson at (253) 566-2829 ext. 2.

New library exhibition explores the story of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Designer babies? Therapeutic cloning? Walking spare part kits? Who gets to play God? Should science be value-free?

How do we treat those who frighten us or look different? What is the nature of beauty and ugliness? Where does one see true horror? What does it mean to be human?

The Tacoma Public Library invites patrons to explore these questions through a new exhibition, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, from Dec. 22, 2004 through Feb. 19, 2005 in the downtown Main Library's Handforth Gallery. Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Main Library is located at 1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

This exciting new exhibition examines the monster and the scientist whose story has become one of the most enduring myths of the Western world since Mary Shelley published her book, *Frankenstein*, in 1818 (when she was only 20). Victor Frankenstein, who wished to reveal the "secrets of nature" through his research, instead abandons his monstrous creation and suffers the consequences. The exhibition also illustrates how Frankenstein has become a symbol for public fears about groundbreaking new scientific techniques that often challenge our understanding of what is "natural." The story of Frankenstein is frequently mentioned when issues such as cloning, organ transplants, or genetically modified



Transitions: Darren Pen (l) and Associated Ministries' executive director Rev. David T. Alger take a break from transition planning. Pen, who has led Non-English-speaking outreach for Associated Ministries' Hilltop Action Coalition, will be moving his program to Safe Streets beginning in January. [See Director's Corner, page 3] He was honored by the Associated Ministries' board and staff in late December for his many contributions to the organization over the past ten years.

Public symposium will examine Norway's approach to democracy

The Wang Center for International Programs at Pacific Lutheran University will present the second in its biennial series of public symposia on issues critical to intercultural understanding and world peace in January. *Pathways to Peace: Norway's Approach to Democracy and Development* will be Jan. 12-14 at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center in downtown Tacoma and on the PLU campus.

The symposium will explore the Norwegian approach to achieving world peace through conflict resolution, economic development and relieving global poverty.

The Norway symposium, which is the first major U.S. event marking the centennial of Norway's independence, is designed to further PLU's efforts to educate for a just, healthy, sustainable and peaceful world.

Symposium participants will join scholars, business and government leaders and policy experts in conversation and study about topics including Norway's highly effective behind-the-scenes peace brokering efforts in areas such as the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Sudan. They will also consider the leadership roles Norway has played in the United Nations and NATO and discuss ensuring the conditions for peace.

Keynote and plenary speakers will include Knut Vollebæk, Norwegian ambassador to the U.S.; Svein Ludvigsen, Norwegian minister of fisheries; Tom Vraalsen,

United Nations envoy to Sudan and former Norwegian ambassador to the United States; George Russell, chairman of the Threshold Group and chairman emeritus of Russell Investment Company; and Leonard N. Iipumba, the Namibian Ambassador to the United States.

In addition to a gala banquet and celebration of the centennial of Norway's independence as a modern democracy, other events at the upcoming symposium include performances by PLU's Choir of the West and Collegium Vocale from

Hedmark University-College; African entertainment and a premiere organ composition by university organist emeritus David Dahl. Various exhibits representing Norwegian and Namibian visual arts will be displayed.

This is the Wang Center's second major symposium. China: Bridges for a New Century drew more than 700 participants from the Asian, business and academic communities in April 2003.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has committed \$25,000 to help sponsor the symposium.

Symposium registration is \$50, and meals may be purchased in addition. Registration for the PLU community and all students is free.

For more information and for online symposium registration visit www.plu.edu/wangcenter/norway or call (253) 535-7577.



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 Rev. Barlow Buescher of Lakewood Presbyterian Church. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact *The CHANNEL* at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.



Church Name: Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Location: 8601 104th Street SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

Phone: (253) 584-0900

Email: office@lakewoodpres.org **Website:** www.lakewoodpres.org

Pastors: Rev. Barlow Buescher and Rev. Mary McGonigal

Meet the Pastors: Barlow Buescher has served the Lakewood Presbyterian Church since 1990. He is employed as a part-time pastor and supplements his income as a college instructor. He teaches courses at Fort Lewis, McChord AFB, Pierce College and St. Martin's College. Having a dual vocation allows him to use each to inform the other, keeping sermons interesting and relevant. His theology is strongly reformed, but he was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and spent some time worshipping and leading in non-denominational settings. This collection of experience enables him to really help people understand their own beliefs.

Since 2003, Mary McGonigal has served as a co-pastor in the church, responsible for much of the education program and is an excellent theologian. She also receives the bulk of her income from her other job as a financial planner with Piper Jaffray. With master's degrees in Divinity and Business Administration, she brings a "real world" expertise to the leadership of the congregation.

Staff: Evelyn Kelly, clerk of session; Judy McDowell, office manager; Anne White, director of music.

Worship: Sundays – 9:15 a.m. Adult Christian Education; 10:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Education

Membership: Lakewood Presbyterian Church is a community church with about a hundred members. We are small enough that it is reasonable for all members to know one another, but large enough to offer opportunities for all members and friends to utilize their skills and talents creatively.

History: Lakewood Presbyterian Church's roots go back to the First Congregational Church of Lake City, organized in 1913. Over the years the church has been related to many denominations and was known by various names. In 1956, the congregation became affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A., and became known as the Berean Presbyterian Church. The present church building was dedicated in January 1961. The facility was expanded in 1970 and again in 1977, when the name was changed to Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

Creed/Mission: We are God's people doing God's work in our community. We believe that God created Lakewood Presbyterian to invite and include all people to participate in the worship and ministry of the church. Worship, which includes the sacraments, is central to the life of each individual. It is expressed best by fully incorporating the diversity of the community. We believe we have a responsibility to encourage and provide for life-long learning, in our individual and shared faith journeys. As Christians we are obedient to Christ, and therefore, we reach out to and serve others. We value our relationships with one another. We believe that through our experiences within the church, we grow in our ability to share God's truth in our everyday lives.

What special programs does your congregation offer? Realizing that we had been blessed with a beautiful spacious edifice that often sat unused, we decided to reach out and facilitate utilization by other community programs. Idlewild Cooperative Preschool began holding classes in the C.E. wing in 1991, followed later by a summer day camp and a latchkey program that serves neighborhood families. Habitat for Humanity, Pierce County Diversion Program and the Pierce County Fuchsia Society all use the church's space. There are two martial arts classes offered, and the church serves as a polling place.

With what other organizations is your congregation involved? We are attached to the Presbytery of Olympia, Lakewood United, Lakes Area Ministerial Association, Lakes Area Shelter Association, Habitat for Humanity, Jade Tiger and hundreds of good organizations supported through our members.

How does your faith call you to action? With gratitude to God and with malice toward none, we seek to enable our members and friends to serve God in the midst of life. We take seriously the priesthood of all believers, and seek to empower people to make significant contributions to the community through volunteerism and vocation. It is truly amazing how much impact a small church has on the greater community.

What is your biggest concern for the world/community? Our greatest concern is the growing notion of exceptionalism: the belief that God's love extends to some but not to all. It would seem many throughout the community and world believe that God is with them and against others.

What is your biggest hope for the world/community? That all will come to the knowledge of the Lord, not through fear of God's judgment, but through seeing the love of God expressed through the goodness of the church.

What is your message to the Associated Ministries community? Please continue to grow in being a voice for those others would seek to silence. Continue to give the faith community a means through which meaningful service can bring hope and life into Pierce County.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Change, change, change. As the social worker/minister that I am I have been a great advocate of change. Change brings new ideas and new solutions to trying problems. We are a growing, evolving people. What have we to fear from change? I can spout this rhetoric as well as the next person, but the truth of the matter is that some change is really difficult.

As I write today I have just finalized a decision to move Darren Pen, a ten-year veteran at Associated Ministries, over to Safe Streets. Darren works with non-English-speaking residents of our community, and funding for that outreach work has been dramatically cut. While the city has been deeply committed to this work they are facing a continuing loss of the federal funds that make this work possible. There were lots of good reasons why this should happen and the simple truth is that it is going to work out best for Darren Pen and his program, but it is so difficult for me.

Yinarro (Darren's original name) Pen came to us via the refugee resettlement process from the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia. His journey is one that parallels that of many other refugees from Southeast Asia. Still, each time I pause and remember, I am astounded by his bravery and his sheer ability to survive.

Darren has been a colleague and friend for over a decade. He has taught me so very much about the differences between his culture and mine. As the white male systems manager I would often be frustrated with Darren. Where is he? What is he doing? When will the report get in? Then I would go with him on a visit with a family, or I would attend one of his Non-English Speaking Police Citizen's Academies. I would watch him function with others and see him gently or sometimes firmly encourage others. I would see him comfort a family or motivate a teenager and I would stand in awe of his abilities to assist others.

His acts of kindness have repeatedly taught me lessons in humility and humanity. Now I have to deal with the change of Darren leaving Associated Ministries. Well, this change is not any fun at all. Yes I know it may be the best thing for Darren, his program and those whom he serves, but it isn't good for me. I will miss seeing him everyday. I will miss those casual encounters and the times we paused and shared stories.

Our loss will be a blessing to Safe Streets. We are so pleased that they are able to now include Darren as a part of their staff. When I first raised the possibility of such a move with Dr. Priscilla Lisicich, Executive Director of Safe Streets, her immediate reaction was, "This is a 'win-win situation' for our agencies and the community." Darren's work takes him to all sectors of Tacoma and beyond. Safe Streets has staff working throughout Pierce County. In addition they have some of the support systems in place that Associated Ministries would have to develop. Safe Streets is stretching to make this new arrangement work. It will cost them financially, but it is the hope of both of our agencies that this move will provide the necessary foundation to sustain the outreach work that Darren has been doing for a decade. It also might be the first step in building broader cooperation and collaboration between two agencies that are very important to the future of Pierce County.

There is so much on the horizon. There are so many changes ahead for this agency and the wider faith community. Most of it will be good, exciting and helpful. But sometimes change just hurts. We will miss having you as part of the team, dear friend. Go with God. Know that you are always a part of the family and that the doors of this building and my home swing open for you and your family.

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.

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

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

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

Setting the agenda: The 2005 legislative session

Washington Association of Churches and Associated Ministries will present 2005 legislative briefing in Tacoma

FROM THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

In January and February, the Washington Association of Churches will present legislative briefings in Tacoma, Seattle, Yakima and Spokane. With the theme of "Providing Help Creating Hope," this legislative agenda will culminate with a statewide Church Advocacy Day in Olympia on Feb. 24. People of faith are encouraged to speak up about public policies that deal with social, economic, and environmental justice. Position statements and information about how to contact elected officials will be provided at the community briefings and will also be available online at www.thewac.org.

In Pierce County, the 2005 Legislative Briefing will be held on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 602 N. Orchard, Tacoma.

As God's people, we are invited to open our eyes to God's promise to people who suffer and are in pain. Is it enough to provide immediate help for the needy in our community who suffer from hunger,

economic dislocation, homelessness and lack of health care? We are unable to stem the tide of people who call upon us for help and spiritual comfort. The problem is systemic and so we are called to be active in public policy discussion, to insist upon justice in the community and to become faith advocates for public services that address health and human welfare.

Specifically, we need to speak out for funding priorities that provide for a social service safety net, for equal access housing, for employment and health insurance for all. We must commit to support a stable and adequate state budget.

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time for everything. The time for addressing public policies is now. In verse 16 we read, "Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, wickedness was there, and in the place of righteousness, wickedness was there as well." Wickedness has certainly taken the place of jus-

tice and righteousness as we do too little to solve dilemmas created by our state public policy.

We shall seek to provide for God's people in every household of Washington state. Our help creates a condition of hope and an expectation of a future where uncompromising justice prevails. This is the calling of God's church and our mission of God.

The 2005 Legislative Briefings will provide opportunities to become familiar with important issues in our state and to gain tools as we make a mutual commitment to social, economic and environmental justice in Washington state. For information on the Jan. 27 Tacoma briefing, contact Laurie Clancy at Associated Ministries, (253) 383-3056 Ext. 119 or lauriec@associatedministries.org or Rachel Lazzar, WAC Public Policy Intern, (206)625-9790 Ext. 17 or lazzar@thewac.org.

Washington Association of Churches 2005 – 2007 State Public Policy Priorities

For complete background analysis of these legislative priorities, see the Washington Association of Churches website at www.thewac.org.

1. Fair and Equitable Tax System

We call for a fair and equitable tax system that provides sufficient revenues to meet the needs of our state including funding for human services, education, livable wages for state workers and the protection of our natural resources. Our tax system should reduce the gap between the rich and poor, promote economic security and protect our state's most vulnerable residents.

Recommendations:

- Support regular review of tax exemptions, preferences, and credits to determine if they are meeting their intended goals and promoting public good.
- Oppose repeal of the estate tax at the state level.

2. Providing support for human services in the state budget

We call for a budget that adequately funds services that meet the basic needs of our most vulnerable residents, especially low-income children and their families, the elderly and disabled.

Recommendations:

- Preserve or increase funding for vital social service programs including welfare spending, housing assistance, childcare services, mental health services, GA-U program, public health programs, health care and hunger.

3. Advocating for welfare policies that lift families out of poverty

We support welfare reform that treats people with dignity and provides equal access to benefits for all people based upon need. We recognize that successful welfare reform must provide each person with the support necessary to transition from welfare to work, and adequate support for those unable to work.

Recommendations:

- Support efforts to increase the grant level to recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and to opt out of the federal ban on providing benefits to people with drug felonies on their records.

- Increase access to child care by reducing co-pays and increasing vendor rates to providers.
- Support legislation to increase welfare recipients' access to education and training opportunities and provide funding for those opportunities by supporting \$3 million to fund the Gaining Independence Act.
- Call upon the Department of Social and Health Services and other government agencies to ensure that all those who qualify for state services are informed of and have access to the supports and programs that provide them with pathways out of poverty.

4. Promoting Economic Justice

We recognize the responsibility of government to develop and implement sound legislative and fiscal policies that provide for the economic well being of all and that provide for economic development benefiting all sectors of society including livable wages, equal access to benefits (including health and childcare) and decent working conditions.

Recommendations:

- Maintain minimum wage for all Washington workers.
- Oppose efforts to decrease workers' compensation benefits, which would disproportionately affect low-wage workers and those in more dangerous jobs who are more likely to call upon these benefits.
- Support restoration of the unemployment insurance system and repeal changes made to that system in 2003.
- Support Paid Family Leave legislation.

5. Promote Access to Health Care

We believe all residents should have access to quality and affordable health care. We support state subsidized health care programs and advocate adequate state funding to ensure that health care is available for those who need it.

Recommendations:

- Oppose premiums for people on Medicaid.
- Urge the state to mitigate the impact of redirecting immigrant families from Medicaid to the Basic Health Plan and oppose any further efforts that com-

promise health care for immigrant and refugee families.

- Support "Pay or Play legislation" to compel employers who do not provide health insurance to their employees to "play" and provide health care or "pay" a fee to the state.
- Oppose the elimination of Adult Dental Vision and Hearing on Medicaid.
- Support legislation for Mental Health parity.
- Support efforts to expand and restore the Basic Health Plan.

6. Gun Violence

We recognize that our society is experiencing increased gun violence. We support efforts to increase effective gun control and regulation. We believe this to be a matter of spiritual concern and public responsibility.

Recommendations:

- Urge churches and judicatories to encourage their legislators to draft new or additional gun control legislation.
- Support legislation to close the "gun show loophole."

7. Death Penalty

We believe human life is sacred and the death penalty undermines this value.

Recommendations:

- Urge exempting the mentally ill from death sentencing.
- Support legislation that abolishes the death penalty in Washington.

8. Promoting Environmental Policies that are Fair and Effective

We recognize that the environment is inextricably linked to the economies of our state, and to the health and well being of future generations. We support environmental legislation that is equitable to all communities, that protects the health and safety of residents and secures our state's natural resources for future generations.

Recommendations:

- Support water policy reform that balances the needs of all users.
- Support legislation that encourages the use of clean alternative fuel vehicles, clean sources of electrical power, and energy efficiency. Affirm propos-

SAVE THE DATES

2005 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005
7:00-9:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
602 N. Orchard, Tacoma

For information
call (253) 383-3056, ext. 119 or
email info@associatedministries.org

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2005 CHURCH ADVOCACY DAY

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005
Washington State Capitol
Olympia

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friend. For more information see
www.thewac.org.

als and urge the enforcement of legislation that addresses global warming. Primary focus of efforts statewide will be on passing "Clean Car Bill" which proposes stronger auto emission standards, based on CA law.

- Support proposed legislation that increases protection from pesticides and other persistent toxics, specifically, bill to ban production of toxic flame retardants (PBDEs).
- Support state allocation of revenues to ensure the enforcement of environmental protection as well as the education and health and human service needs of all Washington residents.
- Support the Energy Portfolio Standards utilities bill, which legislates that a certain percentage of power be generated by renewable methods. This will stimulate economic development and stabilize electricity prices by establishing standards for energy efficiency and new renewable energy generation to meet consumer needs by requiring all utilities in Washington have 15% of their portfolios in renewable energy sources by 2015.

9. Clergy as Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

As stewards of the safety and well being of children in our community, we support legislation to include clergy among the many other important professionals in our state who are required by law to report evidence of abuse and neglect.

Recommendations:

- We feel that legislation that includes clergy as mandatory reporters of abuse/neglect should be specific enough to provide meaningful protection for children and vulnerable adults, and to provide clear guidance to clergy as to what situations and under what circumstances they would be expected to report.
- Legislation should require clergy to serve as mandatory reporters in situations where they are engaged in a counseling/advising role outside of formal confession.
- Legislation should not oblige a clergy-person to break a sacred trust that exists during formal confession.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jan. 18-25, 2005

Reflections: A time to recognize that we are one

BY REV. DAVID T. ALGER

Over the years we have made numerous attempts to celebrate this week that is central for those of us committed to Christian unity. At best we have been moderately successful with a central service in the county. A major conflict is that this week inevitably intersects with the holiday celebrating the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This is indeed major because we must place a great deal of energy on remembering Dr. King and continuing to live out his legacy of peace and justice. A second conflict for us at Associated Ministries is that there are often local celebrations of the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity. We want to encourage these throughout the county and not introduce a conflicting date or event.

We still believe that it is very important to celebrate this week, and so we are going to try something different this year. Along with encouraging local celebrations, we especially want to invite congregations that do not have joint services with other congregations to do something special to highlight this week. The week between Jan. 18 and 25 includes Sunday, Jan. 23, which is a good opportunity to preach on Christian unity.

There are some wonderful resources online. A Google search for "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2005" provides a selection of links including a terrific site put together by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The Vatican and the World Council of Churches have agreed that resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity be jointly published and produced in the same format by Faith and Order (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Catholic Church). These include prayers and liturgical resources that can be used locally.

We encourage pastors and laity to get to know their neighbors. Relationships are at the very heart of ecumenism.

We also want to encourage congregations to live out some of the new ecumenical agreements. Churches Uniting In Christ involves a large number of denominations: African Methodist Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches. While some of these congregations have reached out to each other locally, such efforts have been very limited. Pastors and lay leaders should pick up the phone and call churches in their areas. Perhaps they could even call a further distance away and explore what might be able to be done with a congregation that is not only of a different denomination but also a different racial/ethnic group.

While it is important to do something during this week of Christian unity, we are not limited to this time. We can explore joint educational programs, youth programs, mission efforts, choir or pulpit exchanges, worship services or social events. Nearby members of other denominations can be invited to special events such as the installation of a new pastor or the celebration of an anniversary. The congregations in my hometown get together once a year and have an outdoor worship service in the town park. On several occasions infants and others were baptized at this service.

The Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have a very special relationship in the Formula of Agreement. It provides for many different ways of sharing. It is an opportunity to get

creative and find ways of celebrating our oneness in Christ. The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American also have a special arrangement in the Concordat. This relationship has been both a source of great joy and celebration as well as a source of tension for some congregations.

If your congregation has something special planned, let us know so we can share the story with others. Again, we encourage pastors and laity to get to know their neighbors. Relationships are at the very heart of ecumenism. We may not all agree with the details of some formal agreements, but we can find ways of reaching out to our neighbors. Who knows? As a result of these interactions we may find new insights that can change the face of national and international religious agreements.

To some congregations, the mere thought of reaching out to others who are quite different is unthinkable. I want to encourage you to give it a try. Over my 25 years at Associated Ministries I have worshipped in many, many ways. There is a richness in the wide diversity of the Christian family. Reach out. Stretch. Visit a Catholic parish. Go to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Go down to the corner of 9th and Market Street and experience the ecumenical vision of those dreaming of a new congregation at the site of First Baptist Church. Visit a Korean, African/American, Spanish-speaking or predominantly Caucasian congregation. If you are a Catholic, visit a Protestant congregation. Cross those lines you never thought you would and just perhaps you may experience the Good News in a fresh and helpful way. We have much, so very much, to share and learn from one another. It will take some risk to taste the reality that Christ proclaimed: We are One!

Cross those lines you never thought you would and just perhaps you may experience the Good News in a fresh and helpful way.

Reflections: It takes a village – and we are the village

BY REV. DR. DENNIS MAGNUSON

There are those who say that "It takes a village." They, whomever 'they' are, are correct. It takes a village to do a lot of things: to educate, provide health care, advocate for the poor and the vulnerable, house the homeless, raise a child and be with those who are in the final stages of life. Yes, it takes a village!

I want to zero in on one of the "village" issues: that of homelessness. When you hear that word, what comes to mind? Do you see someone disheveled shuffling down the street pushing a shopping cart? Do you see a single parent with children living in a station wagon behind the Shell station? Do you see children and others looking like they need a shower or a meal? Do you see a line of men waiting in the cold and rain for the shelter to open?

Would you be surprised to know that the homeless person might be working right next to you or sitting in the car waiting at the school pick up area for their children? The person in the store pushing the cart with you in line, standing next to you in church lifting their voice with you in praise to God, might be just that – homeless.

There are many ways to deal with this issue—long term, short term and emergency solutions. All of these take a village to bring dignity to the lives of persons in

our larger community.

About three years ago a group of interested persons in Puyallup from faith communities, city government and businesses came together to address the issue of homelessness. There was a lot of conversation and an agreement to do something – anything. Well, that is about where it stopped. The coalition that formed seemed to be like a ship without a rudder. It spent a lot of time trying to figure out what it was to do. It was the faith community, in its frustration that nothing was seemingly being done, that came together and said let's get with it!

It was from that sleeves-rolled-up attitude that all persons, according to Jesus, are our neighbors and we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves that the faith community got busy. From that meeting emerged Open Hearth Ministries.

Our group of faith community leaders began with an idea that we could provide emergency housing in a motel for a couple of days in order to get persons into the "system." We started with small offerings from our faith communities; we held an interfaith Thanksgiving service with the offering of cash going into Open Hearth and the gifts of food to the local food banks.

It was from those humble beginnings

that faith leaders around a table took off with what should have been an effort of the whole "village."

The reality is that the faith community is often the first to respond to the needs of the city, town or state. Because in our area there is not a significant 'religious' mass of any one denomination, it is important that we establish coalitions and alliances to meet community needs. It is organizations like Associated Ministries and Church Council of Greater Seattle that respond and respond quickly because Jesus said we *MUST* treat others and love others as ourselves.

I am both thankful and sad when I think of what must be done. I am thankful that the faith community is able to move fast to meet needs and sad that the rest of the "village" is unable to move as quickly. I am thankful that Associated Ministries, with its vision for people, allows us to come to the table, without regard to our "religious stripes" and get the job done!

May God continue to bless us in our attempts to meet the needs of the "village."

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Magnuson is pastor of Light of the Hill United Methodist Church in Puyallup and a member of Associated Ministries' board of directors. Open Hearth Ministries is a program of Associated Ministries.

All things are yours... you belong to Christ... and Christ, the unique foundation, belongs to God.



2005 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**All things are yours ...
you belong to Christ ...
and Christ,
the unique foundation,
belongs to God.**

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Daily Scripture Readings*

Day 1: Called to Spiritual Maturity

(1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

Hosea 2:21-23

Psalms 24

Colossians 1:25-28

John 15:1-8

Day 2: God Gives the Growth

(1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

Genesis 1:26-2:9

Psalms 104: 24-31

Romans 8:14-25

Luke 8:4-15

Day 3: Christ is the Unique Foundation

(1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

Isaiah 28:14-16

Psalms 118:16-24

Ephesians 2:19-22

Matthew 7:24-27

Day 4: You Are to Build on the Unique Foundation

(1 Corinthians 3:12-13)

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Psalms 127

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Matthew 20:1-16

Day 5: God Judges Our Efforts to Build

(1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

Genesis 4:2b-10a

Psalms 51:1-4, 9-13

Philippians 2:1-5

Matthew 25:14-30

Day 6: You Are God's Temple

(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Genesis 1:26-27

Psalms 8

1 Peter 2:9-10

Matthew 16:24-27

Day 7: Folly and Wisdom, Life in Christ

(1 Corinthians 3:18-20)

Job 32:7-33

Psalms 14:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:17-30

Matthew 10:17-25a

Day 8: You Belong to Christ

(1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

Isaiah 44:1-8

Psalms 89:1-4

Revelation 4:1-11

Mark 9:33-35

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Resource from Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, www.geii.org

Earth Stewards: Building a Sustainable Future for Our Children



By ARDINE MARTINELLI

Our Constitution borrowed heavily from the Iroquois Confederacy, but did not include this principle. I wonder how our lives might be different had this environmentally-conscious

concept been a part of our Constitution. What would the health of our planet be today if, over the past 300 years, we had taught the principle of stewardship and sustainability? The question today is "How can we meet our needs while conserving resources and preserving the environment for future generations?" Poet Gary Snyder addresses our future in his poem, "For the Children." (See box)

The "Earth Stewards" series of articles has shown ways to create a sustainable future. Whether we choose to buy food locally, use alternatives to household hazardous waste, use natural lawn care, compost or reduce and manage our waste in a conscious manner, each is a step toward a more sustainable future. In this last column, I focus on waste management and reduction.

We live in a consumer culture. Our senses are bombarded with marketing messages to buy more, with the promise that we will find happiness, youth, success, beauty or convenience from a specific product. Waste reduction is certainly about recycling our weekly waste, yet it is so much more. For me it has required a shift in attitude about how I choose to spend my money and determine what brings me peace and happiness. I began the process of simplifying my life seven years ago and am still letting go of internal and external clutter. Vicki Robin, co-author of *Your Money or Your Life*, states "The simplicity movement is about having less and being more—more quiet, more honest, more compassionate, and more real." As I began to de-clutter my external life, I received the gift of more time and space. So much energy goes into maintaining and protecting all we have accumulated, often distracting us from the peace and quiet we crave. As my outer world becomes more simplified I find I have a richer inner world.

Moving toward a more simple life has helped me become a more conscious buyer. Four years ago I downsized to a smaller home. I was shocked at all that I had accumulated over the years. My base-

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

— From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

ment was filled with appliances, tools and equipment that I used maybe once a year and some products I had only used a few times. This was a real wake-up call for me to look at my unconscious buying and using habits. Today I use the library instead of purchasing books. I look for alternatives to buying new products, such as shopping at consignment shops, renting or borrowing tools and pooling resources with friends. I recycle what I no longer use by donating clothing and household items to charities. I keep Gandhi's words in my heart, "Live simply so others may simply live." My life has become slower, gentler and richer as my outer world more often reflects my inner one.

Planned obsolescence is now a common marketing strategy for many industries, most notably clothing, home interiors, automobile design and electronics. Electronics is a great example of the dilemma we have all faced with outdated computers, printers, monitors, etc. We can donate our old electronics but they ultimately end up in our landfills. More and more outdated electronics are piling up in garages and fewer landfills are accepting them due to the large quantities of heavy metals. Tacoma's landfill currently accepts old electronics, but there are only 31 acres left of landfill in Pierce County. One hundred and fifteen acres of our landfill is capped that can never be used again. Suggestions for recycling electronics can be found at www.cityoftacoma.org/electronicrecycling. The Northwest Product Stewardship Council advocates that whoever creates a product are jointly responsible for its safe recycling/disposal costs. The City of Tacoma is currently working with the Council on an electronics take-back network with local retailers. We can support product stewardship by asking retailers if they have a recycling program for used electronics (www.productstewardship.net).

Tacoma is a beacon known for its innovative and comprehensive recycling program. We are one of the few cities that has a co-mingled recycling bin for paper, plastic, cardboard and aluminum cans. Recycling saves money since we only pay a monthly fee for our garbage can; the yard waste and recycling bins are free. We are fortunate to have the choice of a 90, 60, 30, or 20-gallon garbage can. The smaller the can you choose the smaller your utility bill, and the less impact on the landfill.

book. Members can share books.

A group of 10, including Pastor Harlan Shoop, recently completed the Voluntary Simplicity course at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The group plans to continue meeting once a month to support each other in their efforts. The Trinity Presbyterian monthly newsletter also now offers a suggestion each month for practicing Voluntary Simplicity.

If you would like to invite a Northwest Earth Institute representative to provide an Introductory Presentation on Voluntary Simplicity or to find out more about their course offerings, please contact Judy Olsen at (253) 853-7001 or judy@nwei.org. Information can also be found on the website at www.nwei.org.

However you choose to manage and reduce waste creates a healthier environment for all of us, and positively impacts future generations.

These articles were an outgrowth of my participation in the Resource Conservation Stewardship Program sponsored by the City of Tacoma. The next class will start March 1, 2005. It is fun and informative with many practical tips. You will also have a chance to volunteer in the community to build awareness regarding environmentally friendly practices. If you're interested in applying, call (253) 573-2415 or go to www.cityoftacoma.org/envirosteward. The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2005.

I hope some of the environmentally friendly practices I have shared in these columns are ones you are able to use or modify to meet your needs as you build a more sustainable future for your children and the community at large. Writing these articles has been a way for me to expand my love for all of creation. Knowing I am one with all of life, I feel a deep responsibility and commitment for my part in keeping a healthy home for all living beings, human and nonhuman. Caring for the earth is a spiritual practice for me. (I will be offering a class at CommUniversity on "Caring for Earth as a Spiritual Practice" this spring.)

For the Children

The rising hills,
The slopes of statistics
Lie before us.

The steep climb
Of everything going up
Up, as we all go down.

In the next century,
Or the one beyond that
They say
Are valleys and pastures.
We can meet there in peace
If we can make it.

To climb these coming crests
One word to you,
To you and your children,

Stay together
Learn the flowers
Go lightly

— Gary Snyder

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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Northwest Earth Institute offers courses in voluntary simplicity for congregations

By JUDY OLSEN

Does the phrase Voluntary Simplicity sound appealing after the hectic holiday season? The local chapter of the Northwest Earth Institute offers an eight-week discussion course in Voluntary Simplicity for local congregations. The course provides insights into the notion of voluntary simplicity and explores possible benefits of removing life's material and psychological distractions.

Discussion groups, ranging in size from 6 to 12 people, meet for an hour and discuss weekly readings. An NWEI mentor guides the group through the first and last sessions. The other sessions are self-facilitated according to provided discussion questions and group process guidelines. The only cost is \$15 for the course

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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

Volunteer needed to facilitate grief support

Volunteer facilitators needed...good listeners, not fixers, with the courage to examine your own grief responses as well as those of others. Training dates are Friday, Jan. 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26 and March 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. It only takes 32 hours of training and lots of love to become a support group facilitator at BRIDGES: A Center for Grieving Children. Training includes all aspects of a Family Bereavement Center, including adult, child and family grief dynamics. The training is free with a volunteer commitment of one or more years at Bridges or \$250 to attend training with no volunteer commitment. For information or registration please call the office in Tacoma at (253) 272-8266.

Exodus Housing will hold fundraiser

All are invited to join Exodus Housing for their "Big Band Bash" on Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Liberty Theater in Puyallup from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. This gala evening supports Exodus Housing's program for homeless families and victims of domestic violence. The evening will include a buffet dinner and no-host bar, silent and live auction items including an auction basket contest and live music with dancing to the "Savoy Swing Band." Tickets are \$25 per person – a great treat for your Valentine! For more information or to order tickets see www.exodushousing.org or call us at (253) 862-6808.

Interfaith justice series in Seattle

The Young Adult Interfaith Justice Series presents *Judaism and Justice: Foundations and Possibilities* with Rabbi Zari Weiss on Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the McGoldrick Commons of Hunthausen Hall, Seattle University. This event is sponsored by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center and co-sponsored by Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door; snacks and refreshments will be served. The Young Adult Interfaith Justice Series engages young adults (ages 18-40) in interfaith inquiry, fellowship and dialogue. For information visit www.ipjc.org or call (206) 223-1138.

January events at Hillside Church

All are welcome to join in meetings at Hillside Community Church, 2508 S. 39th Street, Tacoma, each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The first Sunday, Jan. 2, will be an old hymns singalong, followed by an all-church meeting. On Jan. 9, Susan Donaldson will host a session titled "Jesus on Family Values." Rev. Frances Lorenz will speak on Jan. 16 and Rev. John Alvord on Jan. 23. On Jan. 30, Rev. David Teeter will speak on "Healing after Disappointment." For more information on any of these events, please call (253) 232-8948.

Love INC hosts networking breakfasts

Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) invites Pastors, Benevolence Ministry Administrators, Elders, Deacons and other

congregational representatives to a series of local networking breakfasts. The breakfasts will offer an opportunity to learn more about the work of Love INC serving people in need throughout Pierce County. Networking breakfasts are held from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Dates and locations are:

- Wednesday, Jan. 5, Foothills United Methodist Church, 10411 234th Ave. E. The church is located in Finn Hall on the outskirts of Bonney Lake and Buckley.
- Thursday, Jan. 20, Tacoma Christian Reformed Church, 2419 72nd St. E., Tacoma.
- Tuesday, Feb. 1, Grace Baptist Church, 2507 N. Vassault St., Tacoma.

Please RSVP to Sherry Phinisey at Shephinisey@aol.com or (253) 468-6236.

Temple Beth El will host concert

On Sunday, Jan. 23 at 1:00 p.m. Loolwa Khazzoom will perform "Songs & Poems of North African and Middle Eastern Jews" at Temple Beth El, 5975 South 12th St., Tacoma. Through her programs, writings and music, Khazzoom has committed her life to inspiring greater understanding and tolerance amongst people of the world. The public is invited to attend this free concert. Temple Beth El Concerts of Jew-

ish Music are sponsored by a gift from the Reutlinger Family Fund. For more information please contact Wendy Katz at wkatz@templebethel18.org.

Sexual assault awareness training

The Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County offers a state-accredited, 33-hour basic sexual assault awareness training program. The next training dates are Thursdays, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Attendance is required all four days for certification. Training is at the SACPC office at 633 N. Mildred, Ste J, Tacoma. Cost is \$150 per person. For information call (253) 597-6424.

Encourage mentoring

January is National Mentoring Month. The Pierce County Mentoring Partnership is asking communities of faith to focus their sermons, study and action on mentoring during the month. For assistance, contact Louisa Erickson, Administrator for the Alliance for Youth of Pierce County at (253) 597-7494 or louiseae@uwpc.org.


Board Training

New board members wondering about their jobs?
 Not-so-new board members wondering too?
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 Jan 29, Feb. 12 and Feb 26; 9 a.m. to Noon

Call 253-272-5844 for a seminar schedule or visit
www.npcenter.org for the schedule and secure online registration.
 Open to all community and faith-based organizations.

Needs & Wants

POSITION AVAILABLE: CHILD CARE PROVIDER — First Baptist Church in downtown Tacoma is looking for a Child Care provider for infants thru age 5 for the Church School program, 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. each Sunday. Wage is \$12/hr. Contact the church at (253) 272-2184 or fbcnewtacoma@yahoo.com or send a resumé to 902 Market St, Tacoma, WA 98402. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M-Th.

POSITION AVAILABLE: NURSERY CARE — Grace Baptist Church seeks a nursery care provider for Sunday mornings 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; \$30/wk First Aid, CPR, WASP background check. Must be able to care for children birth-4 yrs. Please send resúms to Grace Baptist Church, 2507 North Vassault, Tacoma, 98406 and/or to gracebaptist@harbornet.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE: CHURCH SECRETARY — First Congregational Church, Tacoma's oldest congregation, is seeking a 16-hour per week secretary. Computer and office administration skills are required. People skills are a must. Full job description available upon request. The church is located at 209 South J Street in the Stadium Historical District. For information call (253) 383-3878.

POSITION AVAILABLE: RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER — Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ), a Christian network of churches working together with local agencies to help people in need in Pierce County, has an opening for a part-time paid (25 hours per week) Resource Development Manager. Love INC is seeking an experienced fundraiser with proven track

record to develop and carry out a fundraising program, soliciting major gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and corporations. The ideal candidate will have excellent interpersonal skills, written and verbal communication skills and the ability and technical knowledge to make presentations to groups and individuals. Interested candidates should send a resumé and at least four references to shephinisey@aol.com or by mail to Love INC, PMB#286, 10611 Canyon Rd. East, Puyallup, WA, 98373. No phone inquiries please.

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

AVAILABLE: OFFICE SPACE — Office space is available at First United Methodist Church, 423 MLK Jr. Way in Tacoma. For information contact Monty Smith at (253) 627-0129.

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

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Tuesday evenings in January

Temple Beth El - Tacoma

Need Information? Want to Register?
Contact Rebecca Underhill: **253-564-7101**
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William and Lottie Daniel Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community

Pierce County Happenings - January 2005

1/1 Saturday

Mason United Methodist Church in the Proctor District will hold its fifth annual **New Year's Day Labyrinth Walk** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N. Madison, Tacoma. The event is free and children are welcome. For more information call (253) 759-3539.

1/2 Sunday

Seattle Jazz Vespers will feature Quiet Fire – Andre Thomas 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.

1/2 Sunday

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

1/4-6 Tuesday-Thursday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a mid-week retreat, **Getting Your Second Wind**, from 1:00 p.m. Tuesday to 2:00 p.m. Thursday. Reserve time to revitalize your soul after the hectic holidays as you rest, ponder, and deepen your spiritual journey. A spiritual director will be available for those who wish. Participants are also welcome to join the Benedictine Sisters for Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist. Registration is \$130; with spiritual direction, \$165. Lucy Wynkoop, OSB will facilitate. Please register by Dec. 28. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

1/6 Thursday

In the Western Christian tradition, the feast of **Epiphany** commemorates the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus. The celebration marks the end of the Christmas season.

1/6 Thursday

A **public witness to abolish the death penalty** will be held from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in front of the County-City Building on Tacoma Ave. S between 9th and 11th Sts.. This display takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information call John Boylan, Criminal Justice Ministry, at (253) 502-2681.

1/6 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.

1/6 Thursday

The Charles Wright Academy Chapel Seminar Series will offer **"The Feminine Face of God"** at 7:00 p.m. This interactive seminar will explore the Divine Feminine in early Christian literature and today, examining some themes from pre-Nicene literature, focusing on images of the Blessed Virgin, Mary Magdalene, and Sophia-Wisdom. Charles Wright Academy is located at 7723 Chambers Creek Road, Tacoma. For information please contact Chaplain Alfred K. LaMotte at (253) 620-8346.

1/7 Friday

Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N. Madison, Tacoma, will host a first

Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 759-3539.

1/10 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "Understanding and Managing Depression" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Terri Card, MA, LHMC, will help participants learn strategies that anyone can use on their own. The workshop will also describe counseling options and medication management. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

1/12 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 2nd and 4th 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).

1/13 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.

1/13 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.

1/14 Friday

Deadline for February CHANNEL

1/14-16 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a weekend retreat, **Hildegard of Bingen: Discernment and the Greening Power of God**, from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 12:00 p.m. Sunday. Hildegard of Bingen used the term *viriditas* to describe the greening power of God, the animating life-force within all creation, giving it life, moisture and vitality. Drawing on Hildegard's writings and music, this retreat will explore *viriditas* as a principle for our own ongoing process of discernment. Facilitator Christine Valters Paintner has taught theology and spirituality at Seattle University, the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Registration is \$160; please register by Jan. 7. For information please call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

1/15 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day workshop, **Laugh and Live: Reclaiming Our Sense of Humor**, from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Based on the book by the same name, this program will be practical, pithy and playful, addressing topics such as health, creativity, spirituality, relationships, and humility (the key to humor). Have fun while learning how to add more joy, play and laughter to your life. Facilitator Linda Hutchinson delivers educational programs on humor, teamwork and customer service around the county. Registration is

\$50; please register by Jan. 12. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

1/16 Sunday

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

1/16-17 Sunday-Monday

The **Luther College Nordic Choir**, under the direction of Weston Noble, will present two concerts in the Seattle/Tacoma area. On Sunday at 2:00 p.m., the choir will be at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle and on Monday at 8:00 p.m. they will be at Lagerquist Concert Hall, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. For Seattle tickets call (866) 468-7623 or visit www.TicketWeb.com; for Tacoma tickets call (253) 535-7411 or visit www.luteworld.plu.edu.

1/17 Monday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Associated Ministries' office will be closed.

1/18 Tuesday

In observance of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2005**, the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University will hold a Service of the Light at 4:45 p.m. in Campion Ballroom at Seattle University. Preaching will be The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Regional Minister & President, NW Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A reception will follow the service at 6:00 p.m. For information or to RSVP, contact stm@seattleu.edu or (206) 296-6133.

1/20 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.

1/21 Friday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day workshop, **Pastoral Ministry in the None Zone**, from 9:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. What opportunities and challenges does the Pacific Northwest's religious configuration present to pastoral leaders and spiritual guides? How does having only a third of the population in religious communities and the highest percentage of people claiming no religious identity affect this work? Delve further into these questions with Patricia O'Connell Killen, primary editor of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone*. Please write a one paragraph description of your ministry. Bring pen and paper. Registration is \$50; please register by Jan. 13. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

1/21 Friday

All are welcome to join the **Dances of Universal Peace** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 206 North J St, Tacoma. Newcomers warmly welcomed. Donation of \$7-10 suggested. For more information contact Farishta Karen Lindsay at (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

1/22 Saturday

University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd, Seattle, will host a one-day workshop, **"Politics, Justice, and Psyche: Living with the American Election of 2004"** from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Presented by Terrill L. Gibson, Ph.D., this will be an interdisciplinary workshop for professionals in psychotherapy, medi-

cine, law, education, and religion. Continuing education credit is available. Registration is \$75 before Jan. 1; \$85 after Jan. 1. For information or registration please call Joanna Robinson at (253) 566-2829 ext. 2.

1/25 Tuesday

Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy hosts **Soul Care**, an open room, participatory worship and prayer service shared with friends who are living with mental illnesses. 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.

1/26 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 2nd and 4th 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).

1/27 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.

1/27 Thursday

Associated Ministries and the Washington Association of Churches will sponsor a **2005 Legislative Briefing** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 602 N. Orchard, Tacoma. For information contact Laurie Clancy at (253) 383-3056 ext. 119 or lauriec@associatedministries.org or Rachel Lazzar at (206) 625-9790 ext. 17 or lazzar@thewac.org.

1/29 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Soul Crafting: Creating Patterns for Life and Relationship**, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Ordinary days offer many chances to find the shape of Spirit in one's life. Soul Crafting participants will consider how keeping a spiritual journal and cherishing one's connections with the natural world may enhance relationship to God, self and others. Please bring writing materials, and art materials such as modeling clay or sketching pad. Facilitator Karen Mathieson, MA Pastoral Studies, professional harpist, writer and public speaker, works in therapeutic arts and spiritual care with the elderly. Registration is \$50; please register by Jan. 21. For information or registration please call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

If you have an upcoming workshop or event for *The CHANNEL* calendar, please submit it by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number. Information may be submitted via fax to (253) 383-2672 or by email to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.