

CHANNEL

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

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Newspaper gives voice to
Tacoma's homeless
population
... see page 5

Health ministries offer vital pastoral care for mind, body and spirit

Parish nursing programs growing across the South Sound region

BY JUDITH JONES

More and more South Sound congregations are recognizing health care as an important part of pastoral care. Parish health ministries and parish nursing programs are growing rapidly in numbers.

Just what *is* parish nursing, anyway? What does a parish nurse *do*?

Parish health ministries vary according to the needs of the congregation. Parish nurses may make home and hospital visits, offer information and referrals on health-related issues, conduct health education programs and provide personal assistance in health planning. Most are volunteers, health professionals who choose to share their skills and knowledge with their faith communities. They are not expected to be primary health care givers or do hands-on nursing.

Christ Lutheran Church in Lakewood is a prime example of a congregation with a flourishing parish nursing program. Parish nurses Connie Nelson, Barb Olson and Diane Chamusco have built an active health care ministry that includes educational programs, referrals, hospital visiting and a prayer shawl ministry. They also work to encourage healthy lifestyles through such events as the August CLC "Shape-Up Triathlon," which includes swimming, biking and walking/running—all in moderation, of course.

Christ Lutheran's health care ministry also has a long-standing commitment to mental health issues. Until recently, the church hosted a monthly "Soul Care" meeting in partnership with Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy.

Jean Vanberg, coordinator of Congregational Health Ministries for Franciscan Health System, says that mental health issues have always been a particular concern for parish health ministries, but singles out the program at Christ Lutheran for its depth and focus.



The parish nursing team at Lakewood's Christ Lutheran Church (L-R: Diane Chamusco, Connie Nelson and Barb Olson) is a vital part of the church's pastoral care outreach.

One of the most ambitious programs undertaken by the Christ Lutheran team was a recent series on mental health titled "When Blue is Not a Color." Using the "Freedom from Depression" workbook, participants met weekly for 12 weeks of discussion, prayer and support. The nurses are quick to point out that the program was a response to requests from the congregation. They have found that people of faith often believe that they should not be depressed and may then feel guilty about their depression.

The Christ Lutheran nurses take a holistic approach to health ministry—"mind, body and spirit," says Nelson, adding that they believe in working with both Eastern and Western medicine. They take their cues from the congregation, organizing programs around topics requested by parishioners. Examples include holistic/naturopathic medicine, elder care, nutrition, end of life issues and more. "We're still feeling our way," says Nelson.

Topics in the works for future include domestic violence and forgiveness. The Christ Lutheran team is also planning a health fair in October. Says Olson, "The lack of resources in the community means

we need to step up and help."

According to Jean Vanberg, who works with parish health programs throughout the region, some Pierce County congregations work together to provide regional offerings. In Gig Harbor, for example, several churches have collaborated ecumenically to offer health fairs and seminars. Congregational Health Ministries helps to make such collaboration possible. Started in 1994 by Sr. Margaret Whelan, Congregational Health Ministries is an ecumenical network linking health ministers and parish nurses throughout the South Puget Sound. The network now includes 53 participating congregations, with more being added each year.

Congregational Health Ministries offers guidance and support to congregations starting a health ministry, provides continuing education and networking for parish nurses and health ministers and offers parish nurse training in collaboration with Pacific Lutheran University and Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries.

If your congregation is interested in beginning a parish nursing program, contact Jean Vanberg, Congregational Health Ministries, at (253) 426-6887.

Summer time is no picnic for South Sound food banks

BY MAUREEN FIFE, PIERCE COUNTY HUNGER WALK

It's the beginning of summer and most of us are filling our calendars with dates for parties, barbecues, and picnics. Unfortunately, summer is no picnic for area food banks who struggle to have enough food to meet demand. Beth Elliott, Executive Director of FISH Food Banks of Pierce County, confirms that they are no exception. "Summer is our lowest time for food donations and cash. People are busy and many take vacations."

Hunger never takes a vacation. The

demand for emergency food does not decrease in the summer months. Low income families with children must provide two extra meals each day during the week when kids are out for summer vacation since free and reduced price breakfasts and lunches are not available. Working families must stretch their food budgets even farther.

If you would like to help, you can drop off your food or cash donations at any Pierce County Safeway Store on Friday, July 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you would like

to volunteer with FISH Food Banks or organize your own food drive, call Beth Elliott at (253) 383-3164.

You can also help to fight hunger in Pierce County by making plans now to join in the annual Pierce County Hunger Walk at Jefferson Park on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Gather your family, friends, congregation or coworkers to form a walk team. For more information contact Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056, ext. 107 or hunger@associatedministries.org.

School supplies needed for low-income families

BY LORRAINE LEE, PROJECT INTERDEPENDENCE

Though it seems graduations have just ended and summer has just begun, plans are already under way to prepare for the next school year.

Most school districts have school supply giveaways in August for low-income families. Some clothing is provided as well. However, supplies are limited per family and most children cannot fill their supply lists on these donations alone. With rising costs, more and more families struggle to pay rent, utilities and meet basic needs, their resources cannot stretch to buy school supplies. To help meet that need, Associated Ministries' Project Interdependence has begun to collect school supplies for low-income families.

World Vision has graciously donated binders, highlighters and other items through its Gifts-in-Kind program, but many other items are still needed. Items still needed include: wide-ruled and college-ruled paper, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, backpacks, assignment books, rulers, glue, tape, safety scissors and lunch bags.

Project Interdependence will distribute the supplies to families on Thursday, August 11 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Associated Ministries, 1224 South I St., Tacoma. Packages with household goods will also be distributed.

If you have questions or would like to donate, please contact Lorraine at (253) 383-3056 ext. 109. Gently used clothing and supplies are also appreciated. Donations should be received by Thursday, August 4 to allow time for sorting and preparation. Project Interdependence can also arrange to pick-up your donation. Thank you in advance for your help!

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Police, firefighters tip off for Hilltop



Members of the Tacoma Fire Department and the Tacoma Police Department go head-to-head in the first-ever "Hilltop Challenge," a benefit basketball game for the Hilltop Action Coalition. Hundreds of fans attended the match at the University of Puget Sound Fieldhouse to cheer on their favorites. And although the firefighters were victorious, the police team is already preparing for a rematch in what will become an annual event. The Hilltop Challenge was sponsored by Franciscan Health Systems, MultiCare, Vincent Hardy, The News Tribune and the University of Puget Sound. Program supporters included local merchants, unions and friends. [Photo by Gordon Conger]

Urban Grace will host discussion series on "God's Politics" by Jim Wallis

Urban Grace—the Downtown Church (formerly First Baptist Church) invites the community to join an ecumenical Christian discussion series based on *God's Politics* by Jim Wallis. The group will meet Sunday mornings, July 10 – August 28 from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at 902 Market St., Tacoma.

"I'm excited about this book because I'm a Christian," says Rev. Mike Pyburn, who will be leading the discussions. "Now I need to explain that. I think we might agree that this is as divided a nation as we have experienced in a long time, red states vs. blue states, Republican vs. Democrat, conservative vs. liberal. But where is the Christian voice in all this cacophony and political-speak? Can we say that God is neither a Republican or a Democrat? I hope so, but just how does the Christian make sense of all the religious rhetoric that is being spewed all over the visual, voice

and print media? This book study will give people of faith a more firm foundation from which to analyze the current situation in America and make a more informed decision in the future regarding political candidates and in their own life decisions."

Rev. Dr. Darrell Reeck, Methodist minister and pastor of Urban Grace, says: "this is a wonderful opportunity – perhaps unique in Tacoma – to read and discuss an important book with other Christians under the leadership of an outstanding, enthusiastic teacher. The book is a "must-read" on the challenges to Christians trying to find a way ahead in a divided nation."

Participants are expected to read the book and faithfully attend the weekly discussions. For more information call Urban Grace at (253) 272-2184; office hours are M-Th 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

New program helps at-risk families and individuals secure rental housing

Associated Ministries has developed a new program called Grand Chance to help families or individuals who face barriers such as poor credit or rental history, to find rental housing. Prospective participants may be living in a shelter or they may be on the verge of being evicted and essentially homeless.

Grand Chance helps participants by offering landlords an incentive to accept these families as tenants. Landlords are guaranteed up to \$1,000 in reasonable reimbursements, after all deposits are applied, if the tenant defaults on the lease in any way within the first six months. Landlords charge regular rental rates, deposits and screening fees and the tenant signs a typical lease. Families or individuals benefiting from Grand Chance agree to meet with a case manager once a month and participate in any recommended life skills training. Such training may teach budgeting, parenting or other needed skills.

Agencies who are partnering with Associated Ministries to assist tenants in finding permanent housing include the Pierce County Housing Authority, YWCA Women's Support Shelter, The Salvation

Army, Helping Hand House, Network-Tacoma, Lakewood Area Shelter Association, Exodus Housing, Faith Homes, Korean Women's Association, Department of Corrections, VA Homeless Women Veterans Program, WVEE and MLK Housing Authority.

As of the end of May there were four tenants placed through Grand Chance. The barriers these families and individuals face range from bad rental history, not enough work hours to pay monthly rent, and eviction due to domestic violence. In June, a working family of four was evicted after they were unable to meet a hefty rent increase. They hope to find housing with the help of Grand Chance, while they wait for their day in court to fight the eviction.

As tenants remain in good standing with their landlord beyond the initial six month period, Grand Chance can then use those dollars to help a new family or individual facing similar circumstances.

If you are interested in finding out more about Grand Chance please contact Laurie Clancy at Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056 ext. 119 or lauriecl@associatedministries.org.

Neighborhood celebrations will mark National Night Out on August 2

BY HERMAN DIERS, HILLTOP ACTION COALITION

One family can make a difference — for National Night Out — and for the world.

On August 2 the 2500 block of South "M" Street will be holding their first National Night Out block party in a long time. Why? Because Jesse and Abby Welton wanted to get acquainted with their neighbors and took the initiative to do something about it. There was no organized block group to lead the way, so conversations they had with neighbors soon developed into this block-wide event.

That was the beginning, and who knows where it will end? Many of the block groups on the Hilltop came together for the first time on National Night Out. Neighbors learned to know one another better. Trust began to develop. Before long the sociability turned into doing the important business of making their blocks safer and more attractive places to live.

As Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt the power of a small group of committed individuals to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

National Night Out itself began when small groups of residents in troubled communities turned their porch lights on as a symbolic statement that they were not about to let violence destroy their living space. The concept proved to be so powerful that what started with just a few kept growing until this August the residents on South "M" Street will be joining more than 9,000 communities across the country in this Night Out Against Crime.

The Hilltop Action Coalition coordinates the event in the Hilltop, where about 20 parties are expected to flower on August 2. "Neighboring is a hallmark of the Hilltop community," said James Collins, chair of the Hilltop Action Coalition's Board. He should know. His own block has a party every year.

The event takes on new seriousness this year because it is taking place in the wake of drug-dealing that culminated in the shooting death of a young man. It underlines the importance of continued vigilance that interrupts crime and violence before it leads to catastrophe.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Housing and Shelter Services Coordinator (HSSC)

Associated Ministries is seeking a staff member to work directly with clients, shelters and service providers. Some fund development is required. This position is stationed at the United Way of Pierce County Help Line.

Ideal candidate will have strong communication and organizational skills, proficient in MS Office and Outlook. Must be a team player, work on deadline, and be able to multi-task. Maintain and organize data base, file reports in a timely manner. Excellent phone skills, confidentiality and professionalism, a must!

Salary: \$28K-31K DOQ, full medical, partial dental, pension after one year. Send letter of inquiry, resume, and three references to Associated Ministries, 1224 South I Street, Tacoma, WA 98405. No phone calls please. Position closes July 15, 2005.

Painting Daze of Summer

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

If you are a regular reader of *The CHANNEL*, you know that since February of this year, low-income senior homeowners whose homes need painting have been applying to Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful with the hope that a volunteer crew would paint their home this summer. You would know as well that groups of all kinds have been asked to meet this great community need – from large corporations to trade unions, from churches and service clubs to high school clubs and military units.

This year's Painting Daze of Summer will begin formally on July 15 and end August 15. As you drive around the county, watch for yard signs with our logo (see above). And look on those signs to see what organization has stepped up to the plate and is making a significant contribution not only to a low-income home-

owner but also to the neighborhood and the community in general.

If you see a crew working, stop and say "thanks." Or go the second mile, ask if you can help, and then get home quickly and change into your painting clothes so that you can go back to help! Hate painting? You could go to the store and get them some fresh fruit or energy bars to spur them on. Or maybe they could use help pulling weeds or pruning bushes.

Finally, when you get home for the day, email or call us with the name of a possible crew for next year. Your congregation? Your service club? Your office? Your union? Your family and some friends? Your creativity is the limit. Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is a program of Associated Ministries. (253) 383-3056, ext 105, or paint@associatedministries.org.



Summer meals program for children in need

The Northwest Christian Leadership Conference (NWLC) & New Beings Christian Leadership Group are working to ensure that no child goes hungry because school is out. Children who rely on school breakfast and lunch during the school year may not have enough to eat during the summer. With the help of the federally-funded Summer Feeding Service Program, the NWLC is teaming up with four Pierce County churches to provide nutritious meals and activities to keep kids nourished and engaged. Meals will be pro-

vided Sunday through Friday, June 20 through August 26, at Lively Hope COGIC, 214 167th St., Spanaway; and in Tacoma at Greater Christ Temple, 1926 S. G St., (no breakfasts); Edwards Temple, 1107 S. 21st St.; and Shiloh Baptist Church, 1211 S. I St.

Breakfast is served 8:30-9:15 a.m.; lunch is served 12:15-1:00 p.m. (No lunches will be served on Sundays).

For more information call Antonio Wyatt at (425) 413-9146, email antoniowyatt31@aol.com or see www.nwlc.org.

Spotlight on Stewardship

Each month, The CHANNEL includes an article on stewardship in which the Development Office features individuals or congregations who exemplify the spirit of stewardship or focuses on ways that individuals or organizations can enhance their stewardship work. This month, Gina Breukelman, Development Director, shares information about Planned Giving through charitable bequests. If you have an idea for a future Spotlight on Stewardship topic or story, please contact Gina at (253) 383-3056 ext. 115 or ginab@associatedministries.org.

What is the use of living if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?

— Winston Churchill

In all honesty, most of us do not like planning for our own deaths. While we know that we will not live forever, we also do not want to accept the fact that our lives may be cut short. We do not want to admit that, in the relatively near future, we may no longer be able to actively work to make this world a better place.

One of the best ways you can continue to make our world and community better places after you are gone is to make a meaningful statement about what you love and cherish by creating a written estate plan in which you designate gifts to your favorite charities. Making a charitable bequest to a nonprofit organization in your written estate plan is a great way to continue being a steward after your death.

Surprisingly, over half of Americans pass on without a written estate plan. According to a 2004 Associated Press news story, only 42 percent of adults had wills. While around 70 percent of Americans give to charity each year, less than eight percent of American households continue this support by making charitable bequests in wills. Imagine the positive impact on our community if everyone made a donation to their favorite nonprofits in their wills!

Between 80-90 percent of all legacy gifts are made through will bequests. A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. Even people who aren't wealthy often have the resources to make a charitable bequest. If every adult in America made a will and included a bequest of just \$100 to a charity of their choice, billions of dollars would flow to charitable causes every year.

A bequest is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that speaks of who we are and what we hope for those we leave behind. Charitable bequests offer the tools for each of us to make a meaningful final statement about what we love, cherish, and hold dear. Whether honoring a loved one or a favorite charity, our planned gifts provide support that continues long after the reading of a last will and testament.

As you know, Associated Ministries needs financial assistance from people like you to continue our work. Much of our work is supported through monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions from individuals who show their commitment to our work by making personal contributions. **By making a bequest or other "planned gift" to Associated Ministries, you can continue to help us improve our community and can leave an important legacy that emphasizes your commitment to "building community that is humane, compassionate, and just."**

Along with leaving a legacy, a bequest to Associated Ministries may qualify your estate for a charitable deduction equal to the entire amount of the bequest. While many people choose to leave their entire estate to their children and/or grandchildren, leaving a gift to charity in your will may reduce the estate tax burden on your heirs significantly. Associated Ministries recommends consulting a tax or financial advisor to learn how giving may actually benefit your family after you're gone.

To find out more about planned giving options, Associated Ministries recommends that you contact your attorney and your tax or financial advisors. You (or your attorney or advisors) can also contact Gina Breukelman, Associated Ministries' Development Director at (253) 383-3056 ext. 115 or ginab@associatedministries.org. Each inquiry is handled confidentially and places you under no obligation. If you have included or plan to include a gift to Associated Ministries in your written estate plan, we hope you will share this information with us so that we can express our gratitude and recognize you as a Legacy Donor.

Leave A Legacy To Associated Ministries

Testamentary gifts to Associated Ministries, or other charities, can take many forms, either through a new will, or through a 'codicil,' an amendment to your existing will. When making a charitable bequest in your will, we recommend that you speak with your lawyer or your tax or financial advisors. The following are examples of bequest gifts; contact Associated Ministries' Development Office for examples of testamentary language that can be included in your will or trust, and tailored to address your specific interests:

Unrestricted Bequest: An unrestricted bequest allows your support to be used in the area of greatest need.

Restricted Bequest: A restricted bequest allows you to designate the work you wish to support with your bequest by either designating a specific program or focus area. Another possibility is to direct that your charitable bequest be added to an endowment fund. The principal of an endowment fund is retained and invested in perpetuity, and only the income is expended for the organization's benefit.

Bequest of Specific Assets: An asset bequest allows you to leave appreciated assets to charitable institutions. Assets can include stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, real estate, vehicles, art, jewelry, and other items. Gifts of assets may provide tax savings.

Residuary Bequest: Residuary Bequests are made when you intend to leave the residue portion of your assets after other terms of the will have been satisfied.

Contingency Bequest: Contingency Bequests allow you to leave a portion of your estate to a particular charity if your named beneficiary does not survive you.

Retirement Plan or Life Insurance Bequest: IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, Keoghs, and other retirement plan assets make up an increasingly large part of many estates. When left to your heirs, these assets can be subject to income, estate, and other transfer taxes. Naming Associated Ministries as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your plan assets may reduce or eliminate both income and estate taxes. Note that designating a specific dollar amount, rather than a specified percentage, will result in the inclusion of these funds in your gross estate for tax purposes.

Life insurance is another asset that many people utilize to support a favorite charity, especially when a policy no longer serves its original purpose. Such gifts often provide certain tax benefits as well.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Recently I have been reminiscing about my years in Grand Forks, North Dakota as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. It was a wonderful large congregation of more than 1,000 people. I had the opportunity to work with a great pastor who taught me a great deal.

People in North Dakota are not that different from people in other parts of the country. Sure, you have to be a little unique to endure -40 degrees in the winter and to cope with the Red River mosquitoes in the summer. People are liberal and conservative, but they are mostly independent. Never tell a North Dakotan that something can't be done. What a wonderful mixture of traits: stubborn, warm, loving, nurturing, independent...and mostly Lutheran.

I immediately struck up a friendship with a retired Air Force colonel in our congregation. Here I was, the young liberal firebrand, and he was the conservative retired soldier. The war was still an issue for us at that time. My friend the colonel suggested to me that young men facing the draft needed to know their options. We partnered together to provide information about conscientious objection status to young men who were interested. Both he and I felt this was our religious and patriotic duty to make sure that these young men knew what their alternatives were.

Today we do not have a draft, but we do have the most substantial presence of the military community in our public schools today. Under "No Child Left Behind," schools are required to make the names, addresses and phone numbers of their students available to the military. Many students and their families do not realize they can annually contact their school district and direct them not to provide information to the military. It is a legitimate option. If this was 1971 and Grand Forks, ND, the colonel and I would be making sure that all families knew about their rights. We would be contacting pastors and making sure that this information was available to all of their parishioners. We would be encouraging congregations to work with their young people.

On-campus recruiting is very enticing. Recruiters are under a great deal of pressure these days. We have all read the numbers. Enlistment rates are falling, and with the USA engaged militarily in Afghanistan and Iraq, recruiters must bring in more young men and women. Our young men and women should have the opportunity to choose to serve in the military. But we need to be very clear here. They should have the opportunity to *choose*. It should be a thoroughly informed decision. They should know their options. As the government has said so frequently, "We are a nation at war." It is even more true today that the decision to enlist is a life and death issue. Our children need to be informed. That is why we at Associated Ministries have joined with the Informed Consent Coalition. We will be working with all of the school districts in Pierce County, encouraging them to allow alternatives to be presented when the military is on campus. We will provide information about alternative service to one's country. We will also provide information about job training opportunities outside the military. We need realistic alternatives for all of our children. Not just the high achievers, but also those who get a GED or are not able to complete high school. Of course this is going to be difficult, but all of our young men and women should be afforded alternatives to military enlistment. All of our children have the right to give informed consent. We need to make sure they have all the information they need. Is this not what any responsible parent would do? Is this not what our religious institutions would want to see happen?

Grace and Peace,

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.

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NW District, Unitarian Universalist Association · Pacific Lutheran University Bookstore · Pacific Science Center · Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful Planning Committee · Paktek · Pal Craftaid · Parker Paint Company · Pepsi Bottling Group · Performance Golf Center · Clare Petrich · PLU NW & Scandinavian Gift Shop · Pomodoro Restaurant · Positive Approach Dog Training & Daycare · Poulsbo Inn & Suites · Pour at Four · Virginia & Coy Priest · Prosser Piano · Puget Sound Revels · Putting on the Ritz · Puyallup Fair · Puyallup Valley Jam Factory · QFC · Queens Closet · Cheri Rae, LMP · Rainbow International, Inc. · Ram International · Red Top Ladders · Reier Construction · Connie Robey · The Rock · Tandi Rogers · Gretchen Roosevelt & Thomas Bates · Maureen Rowe · Safeway · Pat Schafer · Seattle Mariners · Seattle Sonics · Seattle Symphony · Selden's Home Furnishings · Semiahmoo Resort · Shakabrah Coffeehouse Café · Shangri-La · Shannon Ronald Professional Organizing · Sallie E. 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Special thanks to St. Charles Borromeo Parish for their hospitality and the use of their facility.

Street Pulse turns the word on the street into dignity and action

BY KATIE VILLANO

"The life of the homeless is traumatic. This is why I write," said James Bell, who has been in and out of homelessness since 1996. "I hope to bring light to those I encounter out here everyday. I raise my pen and my voice and it will be heard."

Based on the vision that sharing stories is a powerful way to increase understanding between groups of people and inspire social and institutional change, Bell and several other homeless, formerly homeless and allied volunteers founded *Street Pulse*, Tacoma's first and only homeless newspaper.

"*Street Pulse* is a way to let homeless people and street people have a voice and speak their mind on subjects that are important to them as a whole," said John Aquino, a formerly homeless member of the *Street Pulse* staff, "*Street Pulse* offers our community a dialogue for change and an avenue for political activism surrounding issues that affect the homeless."

The monthly grassroots newspaper, based out of Nativity House, Tacoma's drop-in day center for the street and homeless community, has been produced since December of 2003. *Street Pulse* began as a newsletter-style photocopied publication with a monthly circulation of 300 copies. With the generous help of donors and Gig Harbor's Peninsula Gateway newspaper, it has expanded into a tabloid sized newspaper with a monthly circulation of 1500 copies. You'll find *Street Pulse* in coffee shops, on college campuses, in the Tacoma Public Library, at various social service agencies and homeless community hang-outs.

Every Saturday at eleven o'clock, a diverse group of writers, artists, activists and people with opinions and ideas gather from the homeless community in the Nativity House activities room to cooperate in producing *Street Pulse*. Any interested member of the community is invited to attend the meetings, and all decisions

concerning newspaper production are made by consensus.

The project has been facilitated and edited by Nativity House staff member Katie Villano since its inception. "We have striven to embody the core values of acceptance, empowerment and education in producing our newspaper," said Villano. "Looking professional is not as important to us as making sure everyone participating is empowered to contribute and allowed to produce genuine stories, articles, art and poetry concerning what is important to them."

People gain immense pride from seeing their own words printed and circulated through *Street Pulse*. "It's a privilege to see my work printed month after month," said Dave Jewett, a formerly homeless member of the *Street Pulse* staff. Along with the rest of the *Street Pulse* writers, Jewett was featured at the monthly Peace and Justice Poetry Reading at the Antique Sandwich Co. last February and has continued to read his work with the Tacoma writing community at open mike nights ever since.

In addition to being a voice for the homeless community, *Street Pulse* features informational articles submitted by various service providers around town, and articles concerning social justice by community members outside of the homeless community. *Street Pulse* also publishes a monthly listing of emergency resources for people new to the streets, as well as a community events announcement section.

Street Pulse has evolved into a springboard for political action. Staff members such as Bell, Aquino and *Street Pulse* photographer Patti Moore have inspired the homeless community to take their fate into their own hands. When *Street Pulse* realized that the Tacoma-Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless had only one homeless individual attending their



Street Pulse staff and volunteers gather in the Nativity House activities room. Top (L-R) James Bell, John Aquino, Ken Kennedy, Andrea Magee, Tom Kettler, Patti Moore, Frank Baty. Bottom (L-R) George Matthews, Katie Villano, Dave Jewett, Amy Bergstrom. Photo by Patti Moore.

monthly meeting of social service providers, Moore posted flyers, packed some snacks, and filled her van with anyone interested in attending. Today, *Street Pulse* writers sit on committees for the coalition, offering valuable and realistic insights into the coalition's proposals.

"I want people to know that the system is not working. People like me are falling through the cracks," said Bell. "There is a bureaucratic wall that people crash into and end up shattered. Our city and our service providers need to know that things must be changed."

Recently, articles printed in *Street Pulse* inspired unification within the homeless community to stand up against the six-month moratorium on building or expanding emergency and transitional housing within the city of Tacoma. The community felt outraged by the blatant discrimi-

nation and devaluation of homeless individuals that the city's actions displayed. *Street Pulse* staff and many members of the homeless community responded by showing up at City Council meetings and the Tacoma Planning Commission public meeting to show their concern for their futures and testify against the moratorium.

Through the self-expression and self-advocacy provided by *Street Pulse*, people living on the streets are actively sowing the seeds of change in Tacoma and building bridges of empathy to the community at large.

For more information about *Street Pulse* contact Nativity House at (253) 272-5266, street_pulse@yahoo.com. One-year subscriptions are available for a \$15 donation written to Nativity House with *Street Pulse* on the memo line and sent to 2304 South Jefferson Ave. Tacoma, WA 98402.

Commentary: Military recruiting – myths and realities

BY SALLIE SHAWL

Supporters of Associated Ministries would have enjoyed seeing the emails flying back and forth among several staff members last week when David sent the draft of his "Director's Corner" for comments (see page 3). There was significant concern that we not come from a place of middle-class white privilege but that we "put ourselves in the shoes of the impoverished kid and what his or her real alternatives and options are... The military offers a job and \$\$\$ now." Another person wrote, "we need a response for those who feel the military offers their only ticket to job training and security."

I have been studying this issue for several months. At first, I had the same concerns as were expressed by my Associated Ministries colleagues, and I am glad to report that for the most part my concerns have been satisfactorily answered.

Current Myth 1: The military offers a job now and training for the future: Unless a person stays in the military, the job training there is not generally useful once a person leaves. When asked if the work they did when in the military had anything to do with what they're doing now, only 12 percent of male veterans and 6 percent of female veterans surveyed made any use of skills learned in the military in their civilian jobs (Findings from a study, partially funded by the US military, conducted by Mangum and Ball, Ohio State

It is important that high school students, when considering military enlistment, hear from more people than just the military recruiters.

researchers). Vice President Dick Cheney has said, "The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight and win wars... it's not a jobs program."

The Job Corps does offer training for the future. From their website at <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>: "We will provide room and board, health care, an allowance for everyday expenses, a safe home without drugs or violence, and the best education and job training program in the nation. All you need to do is bring the desire – and make the call-1-800-733-JOBS." There are also quite a few union apprenticeship programs, some but not all with waiting lists, and some paying as much as \$14/hour to start (Google "puget sound apprenticeship" for information). Both Job Corps and the apprenticeships are for trades in the everyday civilian world.

Stephen R. Barley of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University found that "The evidence on rates of return to training and the probability of finding a job in one's chosen occupation, strongly suggests that, all else being equal, young people should look to sources of training other than the military if they wish to optimize their careers."

Current Myth 2: The military offers money for college: The current GI Bill and the GI Bill that many are familiar with are two very different animals. Under the current GI Bill, recruiters offer "up to \$70,000 for college," but only 5 percent qualify for that full amount, 65 percent receive no college funding at all, and only 15 percent receive a four-year degree. The average participant currently receives less money than a student who simply receives a Pell Grant and a Stafford Loan. They also must pay a mandatory, nonrefundable \$1,200 into the program to participate. This is NOT our parents' GI Bill; that no longer exists. For reference see Financing College Without Joining the Military at <http://www.objector.org/before-you-enlist/financingcollege.html> or download the brochure at <http://www.objector.org/Resources/financingcollege2004.pdf>

Reality – The Poverty Draft: Many are calling the current situation a "poverty draft," because military recruiters are targeting disadvantaged communities and high schools where few graduates go to college in an attempt to meet quotas through largely financial means. Some enlistment bonuses are as high as \$20,000.

(My sister has a friend who teaches in an Oakland ghetto high school, and her top student took the \$20,000 to give to his parents for a down-payment on a house.)

Bearing all of this in mind, I think it is important that high school students, when considering military enlistment, hear from more people than just the military recruiters themselves. Fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen year old students are no match for highly trained salespeople. These are our children, and they deserve as much information as possible before making such significant choices.

With all this said, I am nonetheless a bit uncomfortable about unequivocally saying that it is as easy to get situated in the civilian world as it is in the military; they're an institution that on some levels takes care of you if you don't get killed (although there's disagreement on that issue too). In the real world, life can be difficult. The point to take away from this is that what recruiters are saying these days isn't necessarily true or the whole picture. Let the buyer beware, and we have a responsibility when the "buyers" are our children who may kill or be killed as a result of this choice.

[Note: If your congregation or other group would like a speaker on this subject, possibly for adult education or Sunday school, with an optional film, email informedconsent@gmail.com or call Sallie at 253-383-3056, ext 105.]

BOOK REVIEW: Looking at the 10 Commandments in America

*Losing Moses on the Freeway:
The 10 Commandments in America*
by Chris Hedges
(Free Press, 2005)

REVIEWED BY BARBARA SCHLOTFELDT

One of the most important books on matters of conscience to come out in recent times is Chris Hedges' *Losing Moses on the Freeway: the 10 Commandments in America* (Free Press, 2005). As in his two previous books, *What Every Person Should Know About War* (2003) and *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (2003), Hedges writes with fierce honesty and a power that drives the reader to engage in an austere examination of one's own inmost truth, as well as the stark truth of the hard realities of the prevailing culture, both national and religious.

In a series of profoundly moving personal accounts – both his own and others' – Hedges uses each of the commandments as a vehicle to explore both violation of the commandment he is addressing in each chapter and the subsequent enlightenment and atonement that leads to redemption.

In the first chapter, "Mystery," the author recalls his seminary internship in a

Boston ghetto (Roxbury) which was riddled with the despair engendered by dire poverty, and the resulting violence and crime:

All this was a long time ago. It was a time I dreamed of being good. But this was the idolatry of self, the worship not of God but of my virtue. I had to learn my own complicity in oppression, my own sinfulness...

The darkness I discovered in Roxbury was my darkness, our darkness.... It is knowledge of this darkness that alone makes faith possible. The church was my fast refuge from God. In the shattering of that moral certitude I looked for forgiveness. Idols promise us power. God does not. Before God we are all powerless. We are all afraid. It is in this fear, this darkness, that I found God, even as I thought I was fleeing God I abandoned the institutions that claimed God's authority....entering "the thick darkness where God was."

In the second chapter, "Idols," Hedges writes:

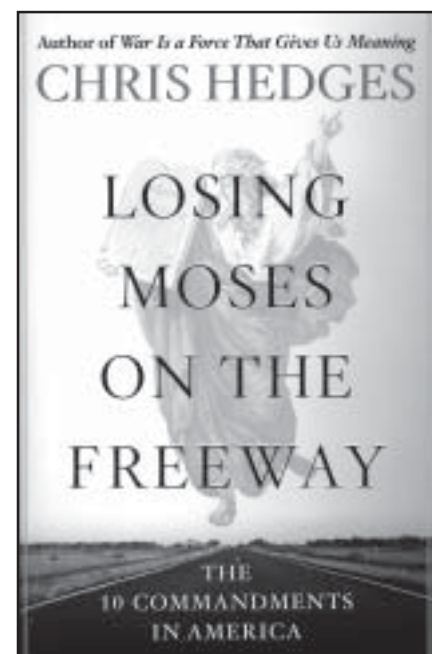
The idols of nation, race, religion, ethnicity, gender and class are idols that demand exclusive and false covenants. These covenants exalt ourselves, as long as we only define ourselves through these narrow definitions, and exclude others outside the circle. Idols are always about

self-worship...

We are joined together, Augustine wrote, as a community by our love of the same object. Human love, he wrote, is always directed either toward God or the self. There are no other choices....The commandments, when followed, keep us in the City of God. When violated they exile us to the City of Man.

Hedges concludes his book with a chapter on "Love" in which he observes. "Love is the mysterious life force that comes closest to putting us in touch with the power and majesty of God. It is the spark of divinity we carry within us. It is what we pass on to others. It is life...." Whenever the commandments have been violated, whenever love fails, he asserts: "...it is never too late to turn back. Atonement permits a new way of being. It calls us to life." And finally, he concludes: "We live, the commandments tell us, not by exalting our life but by being willing to lose it."

Hedges, the son of a Presbyterian minister, received his B.A. in literature from Colgate University and a Master of Divinity from Harvard University. After deciding against ordination (which he recounts in *Losing Moses*), he left for El Salvador where he began a career as war correspondent in various parts of the world for the next almost-20 years for *The New York*



Times, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and National Public Radio. In 2002 he received the Amnesty International Global Award for Human Rights Journalism. He now teaches in the Program for American Studies at Princeton University.

Barbara Schlotfeldt is a member of St. Leo Parish in Tacoma.

Urban Grace will host concert of contemporary sacred music July 23

Steve Zediker is returning to Tacoma to perform a "Contemporary Sacred" concert on Saturday evening, July 23. Steve says: "I'm excited to sing and play on the marvelous stage of Urban Grace Church—one of the best venues for audience and performer alike."

Steve grew up in the north end of Tacoma where he sang in the Truman Jr. High Ensemble and Wilson High School Swing Choir. He started writing music as soon as he got his first guitar at the age of 13. He will be singing and self-accompanying on guitar, keyboard, and flute.

The son of a minister, Steve grew up a person of faith and the spirit of God is present in all of his music.

As he notes on the liner of his recent CD, "Holy Places," "I was born and raised an American Baptist, worked for a time in the Catholic Church, married a Lutheran, found a home in the United Methodist Church. Beyond the labels, I try to live by the teachings and example of Christ." Steve's musical style transcends the boundaries of denominations and negotiates the tension between the secular and the sacred. In a recent interview he noted that, "If one trusts in a God who created all things, then all things are sacred."

Steve will be performing at Urban Grace, the Downtown Church at 902 Market Street, Tacoma. Urban Grace (formerly First Baptist Church) is an ecumenical church that welcomes people of all denominations. Darrell Reeck, pastor of Urban Grace, says: "Persons of all faiths and all ages are welcome to enjoy the marvelous music of Steve Zediker."

Plan to experience the movement of the

Spirit on Saturday, July 23 beginning at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation is on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$15 per person and will be collected through a free-will offering. Give what you can afford. CDs will be available for purchase at the concert. Steven will also be sharing his music during the Sunday morning worship on July 24 at Urban Grace at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (253) 272-2184 or (253) 686-1291.



Steve Zediker

Free street parking is widely available near the church. Pay parking lot at 9th and Market, NW corner is also available.

Urban Grace is handicapped-accessible from the 9th Street entryway, located between Market Street and Court D. Van transportation to and from the concert may be available in the immediate neighborhood. Please call (253) 272-2184.

Christians In Recovery Conference

August 19-20, 2005

Rainier View Christian Church
12305 Spanaway Loop Rd S
Tacoma WA 98444

Main Speakers:

Dr. Dale Ryan, Dr. Earl Henslin,
Dave Wilkinson, Steve Home

15 Workshops

Special Music by Kim Walling

Who would benefit by attending: Pastors (no charge), newcomers and old timers in recovery, lay counselors, therapists, clients.

For information
call (253) 531-0757 or
see www.rainierview.org

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IN BRIEF

Show your latest crafts at the county fair

The Pierce County Fair is seeking people to enter their crafts and products August 11-14 at the fairgrounds in Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian E. in Graham. The Fair Exhibitor Guide lists categories and is available free of charge at Pierce County, Puyallup and Tacoma libraries. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded in exhibit categories. Exhibits that include the 2005 theme of "Space Suits & Cowboy Boots" are eligible for special prizes. Entry deadline for exhibits is Aug. 8. For information contact Betty Backstrom, Pierce County Fair Manager, at (253) 847-4754.

Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop to be held July 23

Pastor Joanna Robinson and Jim Neuberger will offer a Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop on Saturday, July 23. Designed to complement pastors' premarital counseling for couples, this full-day workshop will cover 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, offering simple tools to help them flourish. The workshop is appropriate for people from any denominational background. Joanna Robinson is a pastoral counselor and Lutheran pastor. Her husband Tim Neuberger teaches middle school science and is a former youth minister. The two have been married for 13 years. For more information contact Joanna at (253) 566-2829, extension #2. Registration forms can be found online at the ELCA's Southwestern Washington Synod website, www.lutheranssw.org (click on "Opportunities," then "Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop"). Remaining workshop date for 2005 is Saturday, October 29. All workshops will be held at United Lutheran Church in Tacoma.

Looking for books

Hands Across the Water is collecting books to create libraries for third world countries. If you have books to donate or would like more information visit www.surplusbooksforcharity.org or call Tyler Hincy at (253) 984-1520.

Help for the homebound

If you or someone you know is homebound due to physical disabilities, aging, lack of transportation or recovery from a recent surgery and is in need of assistance, contact the Salvation Army's Home Bound Program to schedule a home visit. The program offers assistance with rent (families with children), utilities, food, clothing, prescriptions and advocacy. For more information contact Bridgette Washington at (253) 572-8452, ext. 128.

Blues Vespers moves to Tacoma's North End

Tacoma's monthly Blues Vespers service is now being held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 909 North J St, Tacoma. A Tacoma tradition for more than five years, Blues Vespers, held on the third Sunday of each month, offers an opportunity to hear the best of Washington's blues musicians in concert along with time for a brief reflection and prayer. Featured performers on July 17 at 5:00 p.m. will be Little Bill and the Bluenotes. A community barbecue will follow the service. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 627-8371.

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, July 14 and July 21, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturdays, July 16 and July 23, 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. Please register by July 7. For information call (253) 597-6424, ext. 16 or 13.

Looking for some summer reading?

The Tacoma Public Library's 2005 Monster Book Sale will be held July 15, 16 and 17 at Wilson High School Cafeteria, 1202 North Orchard Street, Tacoma. Find amazing books at amazing prices — enough books to keep you reading all year long. There will be 40,000 slightly used books starting at fifty cents each, along with compact discs and videos for adults and children. All proceeds support library programs for young readers. Friday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., Special Benefit Sale (\$25 admission this evening only), Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bag of Books for \$2 Sale, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information call the Tacoma Public Library at (253) 591-5666 or see www.tacomapubliclibrary.org. Volunteers are also needed — help the library prepare for its biggest fundraiser of the year while earning vouchers for free books. Volunteers are needed Saturday, July 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, July 11-14, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and during the sale itself on July 16-17. For volunteer information, please contact Marilyn Strickland at (253) 591-613 or mstrickland@tpl.lib.wa.us.

"The Yellow Brick Road" as Spiritual Journey

Come to Catherine Place, 923 South 8th Street, Tacoma on Thursday, July 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for this women's workshop. Join Dorothy and her companions on an adventure in self-discovery. Using *The Wizard of Oz* as a backdrop,

discover and explore the various parts of self that can nourish us during the spiritual journey. What brings you courage and heart? What do you long for? Who is your Toto, your witch, your wizard? Let the wonder of it all come alive! Join in a lively and enlightening exploration of the Land of Oz, as seen up close and personal. The facilitator for the day will be Eileen Hadden. Cost of \$25 includes lunch. For information or to register, please call (253) 572-3547.

Volunteers needed for downtown ecumenical congregation

Urban Grace—the Downtown Church (formerly First Baptist Church) is looking for volunteers to do a variety of tasks including presenting adult classes and seminars on a wide range of topics, a coordinator for our welcoming ministry, musicians, an event planner, and a coordinator of small groups. Your help and participation will be welcomed as Urban Grace seeks to develop a vital ecumenical Christian congregation in the heart of Tacoma. For more information contact (253) 272-2184.

Walking laps for life

Suicide is one of the nation's largest public health issues. As part of Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 4-10, 2005, the second annual Puget Sound Suicide Awareness Day event will be held at Federal Way Memorial Stadium on Sunday, Sept. 4 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The event will include a "Laps for Life" walk along with informational booths and resources, a display of "Lifekeeper" quilts and a raffle. The event is free. For more information please call (253) 838-8947, email pssad@auburnsos.com or see www.auburnsos.com/pssad.

Needs & Wants

POSITION AVAILABLE: NURSERY CAREGIVER—Grace Baptist Church in Tacoma seeks a Nursery Caregiver for Sunday mornings and other events. Must be First Aid/CPR certified. Please address inquiries to gracepastor@harboret.com or (253) 752-6643.

NEEDED: PIANO — All Saints' Episcopal Church, Tacoma, is in need of a grand piano, any size, for their sanctuary. Donation preferred, purchase possible. If you can help please contact The Rev. Robert Biever at (253) 537-2970 or (253) 759-2156.

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 — Healing Places Counseling Center, in James Center, Tacoma, has office space

available by days per week and by lease for one year or more. Shared or private; furnished or not. Lovely shared waiting room with magazines, coffee and tea service, AC. Copier, fax available for use. Kitchenette includes fridge and microwave. Collegial atmosphere with mental health/counseling professionals. Call Lynn at (253) 566-7454.

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.

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.

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Your \$5 donation is
appreciated. For registration
and information, please call
Carmen at (253) 445-1300

Pierce County Happenings - July-August 2005

7/3 Sunday

The **Whosoever Fellowship** meets for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the former Hillside Community Church off South 38th St. near the Tacoma Mall. For information, see www.WhosoeverNW.org.

7/3 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 17th St., Tacoma. For directions or more information, see the church website at www.smlutheran.org.

7/3 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.

7/4 Monday

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

7/7 Thursday

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

7/8-9 Friday-Saturday

Grace Baptist Church will hold a **Parking Lot Sale** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The church is located at 2507 N. Vassault in Tacoma. For information please call (253) 752-6643.

7/9 Saturday

In the Bahá'í tradition, this date marks the **Martyrdom of the Bab**.

7/9 Saturday

First Christian Church of Puyallup (Disciples of Christ) will hold its **Annual Parking Lot Sale** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The church is located at 623 - 9th Avenue SW in Puyallup (1 block west of the roller coaster at The Fair). Contact the church office at (253) 845-6232 to reserve your own table (\$10) or to donate treasures to the sale.

7/9 Saturday

First United Methodist Church in Tacoma will host "**Saturday Soul and Peace Pole Café**," an innovative Taizé-inspired worship at 6:00 p.m.. Following the service there will be a potluck and opportunities to buy fair trade items such as coffee, tea, and chocolate. Child care provided. First United Methodist is located at 423 MLK Jr Way in Tacoma. Parking is available in the adjacent MultiCare lots. For information contact Rev. Monty Smith or Susan Dobkins at (253) 627-0129.

7/9 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a day-long workshop, **God the Artist: We the Co-Creators** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. God is the artist of our soul. This retreat will stimulate our creative souls. We will focus on our Potter God, using clay materials. Participants will meet at The Priory Spirituality Center and drive to Walter and Renata Siegl's clay studio in Shelton. Facilitated by Lucy Wynkoop, OSB, with the Siegl's. Registration of \$55 covers clay materials. Please register by July 2. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

7/10 Sunday

The **Ecumenical Adult Study Group** at Urban Grace (formerly First Baptist Church) invites all to join them in a discussion series based on the book *God's Politics* by Jim Wallis. The group will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. through August 28 at Urban Grace, 902 Market St. Tacoma. For more information call (253) 272-2184. [See page 2.]

7/10-15 Sunday-Friday

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry will host the **2005 Summer Institute for Liturgy and Worship**. This year's theme is "Holy Week in Such a Time as This: Fresh Insights for Ancient Forces." The institute will include worship, reflection, discussions, rehearsals, hands-on visual art-making and small group conversations with Christians from around the country. For information call (206) 296-5984 or see www.seattleu.edu/theomon/summerinstitute.asp.

7/13 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 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).

7/16-17 Saturday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Pilgrimage of the Soul: A Retreat About Spiritual Formation** from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Saturday and from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sunday. Finding one's authentic self has always been a journey with few guides and even fewer maps to chart the way. The irony is that since we are each unique, we are the only ones who will ever know this territory intimately. So we are destined to be our own guides and our own mapmakers. It is not an easy task! Recognizing this, this retreat is designed to assist participants in charting their unique paths. Facilitators will be Sally M. O'Neil, R.N., PhD, a counselor and spiritual director in private practice, and Rev. Suzanne K. Seaton, MSW, a spiritual director and spiritual formation retreat leader ordained in the United Methodist Church. Registration is \$170 + \$17 for the book *Pilgrimage of the Soul*; please register by July 1. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

7/17 Sunday

The **Whosoever Fellowship** meets for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the former Hillside Community Church off South 38th St. near the Tacoma Mall. For information, please see www.WhosoeverNW.org.

7/17 Sunday

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 909 North J St., Tacoma, will host a **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Featured performers will be Little Bill and the Bluenotes. A community barbecue will follow. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 627-8371.

7/17 Sunday

The School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University will host a free lecture, "**Taking Parish Leadership to the Next Level**" by Rev. Thomas Sweetser SJ and Sr. Peg Bishop OSF from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Part of the school's Great Theologians Lecture Series, the lecture will be held in Pigott Auditorium, with a reception to follow. For information call (206) 296-5330.

7/18-21 Monday-Thursday

The PLU Institute for Clergy and Congregational Renewal will host its **Summer Conference 2005** at Pacific Lutheran University, with the theme of "The Gospel, the Church and Mission in an Age of Anxiety and Change: A New Vision for the Reign of God in the World." For more information contact the Office of Church Relations at (253) 535-7423 or crel@plu.edu.

7/21 Thursday

Health Care Providers will hold a day-long **Alzheimer's Caregivers Conference** from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at University Place Presbyterian Church, 8101 27th St. W, University Place. Lunch will be provided. There is no admission fee, but a \$5 donation would be appreciated. For registration call Carmen at (253) 445-1300. For adult day care during the conference; call Gail at Active Day, (253) 627-9990.

7/21 Thursday

Catherine Place, 923 South 8th St., Tacoma offers a one-day women's workshop, "**The Yellow Brick Road**" as **Spiritual Journey** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Facilitated by Eileen Hadden. Cost of \$25 includes lunch. To register, please call (253) 572-3547.

7/23 Saturday

Urban Grace (formerly First Baptist Church), 902 Market St, Tacoma will host a Contemporary Sacred Music Concert by Steven Zediker at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge, but a free will donation is requested. For more information please call (253) 272-2184. [See page 6.]

7/27 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). (For more information see 7/13 listing.)

7/31 Sunday

Spanaway Lutheran Church will host a contemporary outdoor worship service during the **Celebrate! Spanaway Street Fair**. The service will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the middle of the street on the corner of 162nd and Park Street in Spanaway. The Spanaway Lutheran Music Ensemble will continue to play for an hour after the service to entertain fairgoers.

8/2 Tuesday

National Night Out observances will be held across Pierce County. [See page 2.]

8/4 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. (See 7/7 listing.)

8/7 Sunday

The **Whosoever Fellowship** meets for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the former Hillside Community Church off South 38th St. near the Tacoma Mall. For information, please see www.WhosoeverNW.org.

8/7 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.

8/9 Tuesday

In Buddhism, **Dharma Day** commemorates the Buddha's first discourse following his enlightenment.

8/10 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station

(Federal Courthouse). For more information see 7/13 listing.

8/13 Saturday

First United Methodist Church in Tacoma will host "**Saturday Soul and Peace Pole Café**," an innovative Taizé-inspired worship at 6:00 p.m.. Following the service there will be a potluck and opportunities to buy fair trade items such as coffee, tea, and chocolate. Child care provided. First United Methodist is located at 423 MLK Jr Way in Tacoma. Parking is available in the adjacent MultiCare lots. For information contact Rev. Monty Smith or Susan Dobkins at (253) 627-0129.

8/15 Wednesday

Deadline for September CHANNEL

8/17 Wednesday

Personal growth specialists Bill and Judy Kelly will offer an introductory workshop on **Growing as a Couple** from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The program is designed to strengthen the bonds of a couple whether the couple is just beginning married life, considering marriage, enjoying a fulfilling relationship or undergoing a time of struggle. There is no fee for the workshop. For information and the Tacoma location call (253) 272-8943.

8/19-20 Friday-Saturday

Overcomers Outreach will hold a **Christians in Recovery Conference** at Rainier View Christian Church, 12305 Spanaway Loop Rd. S., Tacoma. For information call (253) 531-0757 or see www.rainierview.org.

8/19 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 information contact Farishta Karen Lindsay, (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

8/21 Sunday

The **Whosoever Fellowship** meets for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the former Hillside Community Church off South 38th St. near the Tacoma Mall. For information, see www.WhosoeverNW.org.

8/23-28 Tuesday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **In the Ecstasy WHAT** from 9:00 a.m. Tuesday to 12:00 p.m. Sunday. How often do we allow ourselves the leisure of being in God's presence in silence, in ecstasy? This directed retreat will give participants ample time to be with God. Each day there will be an opportunity to meet with a retreat director. Joining in community prayers is optional. Facilitated by Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB and Lucy Wynkoop, OSB. Registration is \$425; please register by Aug. 19. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

8/24 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). For more information see 7/13 listing.

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 emailed to channel@associatedministries.org or faxed to (253) 383-2672. Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.