

CHANNEL

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

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www.associatedministries.org

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Check out Pierce County preschools ... see page 4

Associated Ministries honors outstanding volunteers at annual membership meeting

Annual luncheon gathering celebrates volunteers and accomplishments of agency's 35th year

Associated Ministries held its 36th Annual Meeting and Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Tacoma. Approximately 76 people attended the meeting, representing 38 member congregations in Pierce County.

Incoming board president Rev. Arne Bergland welcomed the assembled guests and opened the meeting with prayer.

The meeting's highlight was the presentation of special awards to the agency's outstanding volunteers of 2004. The programs of Associated Ministries chose to recognize a volunteer or volunteer group that made a significant impact on the individuals and families the program served during 2004. The volunteers honored included: Mountain View Lutheran Church (the Pierce County Hunger Walk), paint crew coordinators Tim Loy of Central Baptist Church and Bill Farmer of Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful), Dorothy Moe (Communications and Education Office), Sister Patricia Michalek (Open Hearth Ministries), Shelby Scherer (Mental Health Chaplaincy), Irene Suprunowski (Community Connection for Military Families), Kate Stirling (Project Interdependence), Steve McColm (Hilltop Action Coalition) and Christ Episcopal Church (Development Office). Additionally, Associated Ministries honored Cliff and Twila VanWinkle for their support of the core operations of the agency through stewardship and service. Each of the honorees received a glass paperweight made by the Hilltop Artists in Residence at Jason Lee Middle School.

Several of the honorees recounted stories of how they came to be involved with Associated Ministries. Chris Ray, Hunger Walk team coordinator for Mountain View Lutheran Church, described the church team's goal for 2004: celebrating Mountain View's centennial by recruiting one hundred walkers who would raise \$100 each for hunger relief. The team surpassed all expectations by not only reaching their ambitious goal, but far exceeding it with over 140 walkers who raised a team total in excess of \$10,000. Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful volunteers Bill Farmer and Alex Hill of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tacoma regaled the assembly with their performance of an original song dedicated to (and inspired by) their summer 2004 painting experience. Sister Pat Michalek described the



Above: Sister Pat Michalek addresses the gathering in accepting her award from Lisa Cech on behalf of Open Hearth Ministries.

Right: Bill Farmer (l) and Alex Hill provided a highlight with their rendition of an original song dedicated to their Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful project.

Below Right: Long time Associated Ministries volunteer Dorothy Moe (l) was honored for her contributions to the Communications and Education Office, while Irene Suprunowski was recognized for her work with Community Connection for Military Families.

challenges faced by the Puyallup churches that formed Open Hearth Ministries as a response to the growing homeless population in their part of the county. Shelby Scherer told of her experiences as a long time volunteer for the Mental Health Chaplaincy, meeting with persons living with mental illness.

A brief business meeting followed the awards presentation. Action items included membership approval of the 2005 operating budget and the election and installation of new board members and officers. New Associated Ministries board members include: Rev. Warren Freeman from Allen A.M.E. Church in Tacoma, Gordon Aleshire from Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, Rev. Adam Harmon from First Christian Church in Tacoma, Ken Swanson from Mountain View Lutheran Church in Edgewood and Rev. Cathy Kernen from Grace Baptist Church in Tacoma. Re-elected to the board were: Rev. Gregory Christopher from Shiloh Baptist Church in Tacoma, Rev. Katherine Glenn from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tacoma and Rev. Dennis Magnuson from Light of the Hill United Methodist Church in Puyallup.

New officers installed for 2005 are: President Rev. Arne Bergland (Spanaway



Lutheran Church), Vice-President Kate Amundson (Visitation Catholic Church, Tacoma), Secretary Connie Robey (First Christian Church, Sumner) and Treasurer Jeff Cunningham (St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church in Tacoma).

Newly installed board president Rev. Arne Bergland acknowledged the agency's history and accomplishments of the past year – Associated Ministries' 35th anniversary – and challenged those gathered to continue putting their faith into action, following the prescription of the prophet Micah to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” [Ed. Note: See reflection, p. 5]

In conclusion, David Alger and President Arne Bergland recognized outgoing board members Karen Davey, Dennis Fulton, Cliff and Twila Van Winkle, Rev. John Williams and Rev. David Wold for their generous service to the work of Associated Ministries.

FISH Food Banks of Pierce County returns to its roots

By BETH ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR, FISH FOOD BANKS

We are thrilled to announce that on January 3, 2005 FISH Food Banks of Pierce County moved its administrative office back to Associated Ministries. FISH (Friends in Service to Him) began as a program of Associated Ministries in the early 1970s. As the organization grew we formed our own non-profit organization in 1982. In 2001 we moved to a new location but we were never far from “home.”



In 2004 many changes took place in our administrative office to become more efficient and effective in providing food to those in need. As an organization that has been strongly associated with Associated Ministries we felt it was important to get back to our roots. The staff at Associated Ministries welcomed us with open arms! We returned to a freshly-painted office and more importantly to a warm, friendly and compassionate environment where people are focused on helping others in need.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all of our “partners in faith” for your continuing support in helping FISH provide food to those in need. With your support we provided food to over 255,000 individuals in 2004 – a most sincere thanks from the FISH Food Banks Board of Directors, staff members and hundreds of volunteers.

Contact FISH Food Banks of Pierce County at (253) 383-3164.

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Volunteer paint crews needed – "The Good Stuff We Do"

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

Are you one of those people who thinks, "I should do that sometime" whenever you hear about some volunteer project? You're right: it *would* be a good thing to do. It's an incredible experience both from the perspective of the volunteer and from the perspective of the person who's being helped.

Homeowners whose homes we've painted, and the volunteers who have done it, can say it better than anyone:

It makes me feel good that there are people like you. God must be watching.

– Marjorie Bachmeier, homeowner

This is the good stuff we do. – Donna

Costi, volunteer

When we showed up she considered it a miracle, and told us so. – Joel & Bonnie Massey – Marine View Presbyterian Church coordinators

The volunteers worked so very hard they deserve a great big applause. – Gwendolyn Ann Stuefen, homeowner

The best thing about the program is giving a helping hand to a member of our community. Sometimes the interaction with the homeowner is as important as painting their home. – Mark del Rosario-Hughes Panagiotu, P.S. crew coordinator
Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful orga-

nizes crews each year to paint the homes of low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women throughout our community. Now is the time to begin thinking of forming a crew for this summer. It could come from your congregation or your office or your service club or maybe a group of friends.

Summer may seem far off, but it is never too early for a congregation to begin the conversation about forming a crew; we have learned that it may take time for a group to make this decision, so if you would like your congregation to paint a home this summer, NOW is the time to



bring it up with your missions or outreach committee.

A full crew adopts a house and generally consists of 15-20 people. A partial crew (generally 4-8 people) is matched with a full crew and helps them with their project. The houses are assigned in mid-June, and each crew makes up a schedule that is convenient for their members, finishing up by mid-August (or anytime before then).

Help bring a miracle to someone this summer. For further information, visit www.paintbeautiful.org or call (253) 383-3056, ext 105.

Community Conversations: Food and Farming in the South Sound

BY SUE BERNSTEIN, EASTSIDE 4-H

We often take the availability of food for granted. But there are a number of reasons why a local food supply is so important. So local farmers and food suppliers invite the public to join them for a series of community conversation evenings about the food supply here in the South Sound. These evenings offer a rare opportunity to talk with local farmers and discover what's grown in our area, where to find it, and why it's important to support our local agricultural community.

The meetings will take place from 7:00-

8:30 p.m. at the Pierce County Library Admin. Building, 3005 112th Street E. (112th & Waller Road in Tacoma).

Upcoming conversation topics are "Buying Locally Grown Food: Why is it Important? What's the Difference?" (Monday, March 14) and "How to Buy Direct from Local Farmers: Locations & Tips for Shopping at Farm Stands and Farmers Markets" (Monday, April 11).

For more information contact Sue Bernstein, (253) 472-7264, or sue.b@prodigy.net.

Gathering celebrates spirit of women

More than 2,000 women will gather at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle April 22-23 for a weekend of education, inspiration, and empowerment at the third Northwest Catholic Women's Convocation. Theme of the gathering is "Uprising of Hope."

"Affirmed in their gifts, we want women to inspire, nurture and embody hope for our church and our world," says Sister Linda Haydock of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center in Seattle. "The convocation is an opportunity for women to gather for prayer, education, and inspiration in order to return to their own communities to be women of hope and a transforming presence for our world, church and Earth."

Although the sponsors are Catholic, all women of faith are welcome and encouraged to join the gathering.

The event is sponsored by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (Region XV). Together, the two groups represent 16 communities of women and men religious in collaboration with lay leadership.

Women attending the convocation will explore and celebrate spirituality, justice and Earth ethics through workshops, prayer, rituals, and small group discussion. The 40 workshop topics range from eco-justice, diversity and leadership to prayer and the prophetic.

Keynote speakers include Bernice Johnson Reagon Ph.D., singer, historian, activist and founder of the internationally renowned a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock; Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ Ph.D., author and Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University; and Edwina Gateley, internationally known poet, author, and advocate for marginalized women.

Reagon, Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, will open the conference on Friday with a presentation *In Search of the Spiritual Community*: "Where is that place, in these times, where the union of spirit and matter is celebrated, nurtured and cherished?"

On Saturday morning, Johnson, author of "She Who Is," "Truly Our Sister: A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints," will speak on *So Much is in Bud: How Can We Tire of Hope?* She will discuss weaving together feminist, liberation and ecological theologies.

Edwina Gateley will draw from her own experience in urban ministry in her Saturday afternoon talk: *Birthing the Vision*. Gateley is founder of Genesis House in Chicago, a hospitality house for women on the margins.

Cost of the event is \$120 after March 1 and includes Saturday lunch. Scholarships are available.

For more information, call (206) 223-1138 or see the website: www.ipjc.org.

Associated Ministries seeks nominations for 2005 Ecumenical Service Award

The Board of Directors of Associated Ministries is seeking nominations for the 2005 Ecumenical Service Awards. Nominations may be submitted by any person, congregation, organization, or agency.

The award recognizes individuals of all ages, groups, congregations, or agencies who have significantly improved the quality of life in our region. The board will accept nominations through March 8, 2005. To make a nomination, simply send a letter with the nominee's name and the reason for your choice. People from all faith communities are eligible. Mail nominations to Ecumenical Service Awards, Associated Ministries, 1224 South I St., Tacoma, WA, 98405 or email to maureenf@associatedministries.org.

The awards will be presented at Associated Ministries' annual Spring Celebration Dinner and Auction on the evening of Saturday, April 23, 2005 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Social Hall in Tacoma.

Apply now for free house painting – Deadline is April 1

Perhaps while driving around town you've noticed a house that is going from bad to worse, and you've wondered what's going on. We're looking for homes for volunteers to paint *for free* this summer; maybe we can match our volunteers with one or more of the homes you've been watching deteriorate. Just send us the address, and we'll check if the home is owner-occupied; if it is, we'll send an application along with a letter explaining eligibility guidelines. The recipient can choose to return it or not (and once returned, we'll have to decide whether or not they are truly eligible), but at least you will have done what you can to possibly improve their situation and the neighborhood. Volunteers do the painting with paint that has been donated or purchased with donations, so there is absolutely no cost whatsoever to the homeowner. The application deadline is April 1, so call today. Call us at (253) 383-3056, ext 105, or send info to paint@associatedministries.org.

– Sallie Shawl

Temple Beth El will host evening of comedy

One Arab. One Jew. One Stage. Two Very Funny Guys: Sunday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. An evening of non-political laughter starring Rabbi Bob Alper and Ahmed Ahmed. The world's only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy, Rabbi Bob Alper performs all across North America, London, and even at The Hollywood Improv. He has been seen on Showtime, *Good Morning America*, and *Extra*. Egyptian-born, California-raised, Ahmed Ahmed was a guest on ABC's *The View*, was the subject of a front-page Wall Street Journal article, and appears in a current episode of *JAG* on CBS. He has been seen on Comedy Central, and headlines regularly at comedy clubs across the country. Ticket: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the



Ahmed Ahmed and Rabbi Bob Alper

door. Student and Seniors: \$18 in advance; \$25 at the door. Adult and children 11 and over are welcome. For more information or reservations please contact Temple Beth El (253) 564-7101 or frontdesk@templebethel18.org.

Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is March 6-12, 2005. This year will mark Allen A.M.E. Church's 16th year recognizing this annual event sponsored by the Balm in Gilead. This church joins thousands of churches across the nation observing the Black Church Week of Prayer in an effort to increase awareness to help stop the transmission of HIV/AIDS and provide compassion for people affected by the disease.

Events during the week include a special AIDS service on Sunday, March 6 at 11:00 a.m. worship, a revival service on Friday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton of Seattle, and a special Prayer Luncheon (no cost) on Saturday, March 12 at 12:00 p.m. with keynote speaker Pastor Dr. Lisa Bolman-Macklin.

All are invited to join the Allen A.M.E. congregation this week to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Nationally, AIDS is the leading cause of death for black people ages 25 to 44. One in 160 black women tests positive. One in 50 black men is positive. Black children comprise 58 percent of pediatric

AIDS cases. Globally, an estimated 22 million sub-Saharan Africans live with HIV or AIDS, representing over two-thirds of the world's HIV positive people. More than 12 million have already died in this region.

Rev. Warren Freeman, pastor of Allen A.M.E. Church, says that black churches have the power and responsibility to change the course of the AIDS epidemic in the Black community. "Our goal is to provide prayer, leadership, compassion and information to help the families in our congregation and community who are facing HIV/AIDS. Prayer and action are needed to help our local, national and global brothers and sisters, and this year we pray for hope and healing."

Allen A.M.E. Church is located at 1223 Martin Luther King Way in Tacoma. For more information about the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS or to be involved, contact Lynda Thomas at (253) 460-1552.

This Black Church Week of Prayer is sponsored and supported by Allen Renaissance, Inc. and Pierce County AIDS Foundation.

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 Cliff and Twila VanWinkle. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact *The CHANNEL* at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.



Cliff and Twila VanWinkle have been faithful supporters of Associated Ministries.

Churches are usually featured in this column as stewards, but this issue profiles a couple who have been long-time stewards of Associated Ministries and of our community.

Cliff and Twila VanWinkle joined the Associated Ministries Board of Directors in November 1998 upon receiving an assignment from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.). As representatives of the Mormon faith, the couple joined the board as Affiliate members and have faithfully served the agency for the past six and a half years.

Cliff and Twila are long-time residents of Pierce County and have been active members of the Mountain View Ward of the Tacoma South Stake of the L.D.S. church for many years. Twila joined the ward as a young child and Cliff joined in 1972. The couple met when Twila, as a member of the ward's women's group, began secretly delivering homemade breads to Cliff's mailbox after his first wife died of leukemia. Later, Cliff and Twila began dating and were married "for time and eternity" 31 years ago in Oakland, Calif. They now have seven children, 22 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Cliff and Twila have accepted many service assignments from the L.D.S. church. Cliff served as a Bishop for six years and was recently assigned to a new role as the leader of the High Priest Group. Twila has been president of the young women's program and has been active in the Relief Society. She currently serves as Music Director for the Relief Society. Cliff and Twila also volunteered to do humanitarian service for the church and taught English to elementary school teachers in Bangkok, Thailand in 1997-1998.

It was after they returned from Thailand that the couple received the assignment to represent the L.D.S. church on the Associated Ministries Board of Directors. Initially, the couple said they were hesitant about the assignment because they knew little about the organization and were unsure about what their role would be. Now, however, the couple says that they have become good friends with the board and staff.

"Now, all the time we talk about how wonderful Associated Ministries is with our church," Cliff said. "We appreciate the staff, David and members of the board so much. We've made good friends and we love them dearly."

Over the past six and a half years, the couple has witnessed significant growth and change within the agency. They said that the changes they've witnessed include new staff members, increased numbers of board members, a higher level of activism from the board, and the development of new and successful programs such as Project Interdependence and Community Connection for Military Families.

"It's actually fun to be there and to witness all of these great things going on," Twila said. "I am really impressed with the camaraderie among everyone. It's amazing how much the agency oversees and does."

Cliff and Twila commented that the welcoming attitude and openness of the board of directors and staff toward members of different denominations and faiths was one aspect of the agency that both surprised and pleased them. "We're all daughters and sons of God – no matter what faith we are," Twila stated.

When asked "How does your faith call you to action?," Cliff and Twila replied that they want to be like our Savior and possess his qualities of faith, hope and charity. They stated that they are motivated by the promise of eternal life and believe that to be resurrected one has to do good works.

"Faith without works is dead," Twila said. "We believe in Christ and try to follow his example and his charity... The world is really corrupt. There are lots of things going on that are horrible. I don't want that to affect me so that I can't be a productive and happy person and make the world better."

When asked what were his biggest concerns and hopes for the world and our community, Cliff replied that he hopes the world can find peace. He also stated that he hopes that there will be growth in ecumenism and interfaith works so that the faith community can come together with greater solidarity to support each other and the larger community.

Cliff and Twila's service on the Associated Ministries Board of Directors helped broaden the agency's ever-widening ecumenical and interfaith table. Rev. David Alger stated that "Cliff and Twila represent what is great about the L.D.S. Church. They actively, passionately and humbly do the work and service that God calls them to do."

Associated Ministries is thankful that Cliff and Twila served on the board of directors for the past six and a half years. The board and staff are saddened that, because of Cliff's new appointment as High Priest Group Leader, they will no longer represent the L.D.S. Church on the Associated Ministries Board of Directors. They will, however, continue to serve on the agency's Program Committee and to volunteer their time and energy with the organization.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Try very hard to avoid seeming too political. Advocates within the religious community often seem like they are simply Democrats or Republicans.

When Associated Ministries, the Washington Association of Churches or the Church Council of Greater Seattle advocate in Olympia, it is hard to differentiate us from many of the secular lobbyists. It is high time that we spend more time working through the critical issues before us and then be willing to take our positions to the legislature. We must be willing to articulate our positions in the language of our faith. All too often our presentations lack the necessary theological rationale.

Although I have not read Jim Wallis' new book, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, I am very excited about it. The political right has hijacked Christianity. The left or even moderate Christian community is struggling with how to talk about themselves. Do we call ourselves "Progressive Christians," "Prophetic Christians," or what? The political and religious right has also hijacked morality. They define the issues that one discusses under the rubric of morality. To make matters so much worse, the media has bought this agenda 100 percent. In a recent interview with Beliefnet Jim Wallis says the following in response to the question, "What values did people vote on?"

It's funny—a flawed exit poll has shaped a national conversation. I call it flawed because one choice was moral values. The others were about issues like Iraq and terrorism and then the economy, health care, jobs. But if I was a religious voter who cared about the war, I would have checked Iraq, and it would have been a moral value. If I were a Catholic coordinator of a food pantry, I would have checked the closest thing I could find to poverty, which would have been jobs or health care or the economy.

So if you take the issues like war and terrorism and group them as values, that was about 33% as opposed to 22% for moral values. If the economy, health care, and jobs are all values, it was about the same. A Zogby poll about a week later confirmed that intuition. It asked, "What was the biggest moral issue in your voting?" Forty-two percent said the war in Iraq. Then they said, what's the greatest moral crisis in America today? Something like 33% said greed and materialism. And 31% said poverty and economic jobs. So that's 64% saying that poverty, greed, materialism, and justice are the greatest moral crises in America today. I found that very encouraging. And abortion was less than 20%—16% in fact—and gay marriage about 12%. It showed there's a broader, deeper, richer conversation to be had here. It's not just one value or two values; there are a lot more fundamental moral values that need to shape our political direction.

Isn't it time that we who follow Christ and our brothers and sisters of other faith traditions begin to simply speak the truth to power? We cannot allow politicians, be they Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or whatever, to simply sell us their political agendas. When they wrap their politics in religion we must stand up and say, "NO!" God is not a Republican or a Democrat. We should never allow the self-righteousness of those who claim that God is on their side to go unchallenged. President Lincoln was right when he said we must carefully weigh the issues and reach a decision. Then we must pray we are on God's side.

Mr. Wallis and those who were interviewed in the Zogby poll were right on target. Poverty is the most pressing moral issue of our day. We must talk about greed and materialism. The war in Iraq is costing billions of dollars and thousands of lives. I would add that we have allowed our government to define terrorism and how it must be addressed. It is time to ask ourselves the hard questions.

Let me give you another example. Just how many of our clergy have been asked to perform same sex unions or marriages? I do not know the answer, but I imagine it is very few. Recently this question was posed by a leading Baptist minister to a national gathering of Baptist clergy. He asked them to raise their hands if they had ever been asked to perform a same sex marriage. None raised their hands. He then asked why this has become such a major issue for them. Why has gay marriage become such a threat to marriage?

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Associated Ministries is a Christian organization representing more than 200 congregations, religious groups, and interfaith partners in Tacoma-Pierce County. We are compelled by our faith to build community that is humane, compassionate and just.

CHANNEL

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

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

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

Give your child a great start with these Early Childhood Educational Options

HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START & ECEAP PROGRAMS IN PIERCE COUNTY

Serving over 2200 families at over 50 sites in Pierce County

What are Head Start and ECEAP?

Head Start and ECEAP are programs that offer a comprehensive, FREE pre-school experience to eligible children. In addition to the educational services each child receives, programs also provide hot meals and snacks and comprehensive health screenings. In many areas transportation is also provided. The programs also offer many other FREE family support services to enrolled families including information and referrals to community resources, opportunities for parent groups and classes, employment programs and job support. Early Head Start programs for pregnant women and their children, birth to 3, are located at select sites in Pierce County.

Who is Eligible?

Families receiving TANF grants and children in foster care are eligible, as are many parents with limited incomes who are working or in school. The majority of children enrolled in Head Start and ECEAP are 4 years old by August 31; however, younger children can be enrolled on a space-available basis. Early Head Start serves children from birth to 3 years of age.

How to Apply?

Programs welcome applications year-round and most programs start enrolling for the upcoming year in the early spring. You can phone the Head Start, Early Head Start or ECEAP center nearest you for more information.

Pierce County Head Start and ECEAP programs

Bates Technical College (in Fife, Puyallup & Tacoma)	(E) 253-680-7324† (E) 253-840-3257	Clover Park Tech. College	(H) 253-589-5721† Or 253-589-5531	Pierce County Community Services	(H/E) 253-798-7379 or 1-800-562-0336 x 7379
Bethel School District	(H) 253-683-7950 (E) 253-683-5852 (E) 253-683-5250 (E) 253-683-8950	First Place for Children Parkland	(H) 253-531-2009† (H) 253-841-4115†	(serving Buckley, Carbonado, Dieringer, Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup, Sumner-Bonney Lake, University Place)	
Chief Leschi School	(E) 253-445-6000, x3050 or 3182	Puyallup	(H) 253-531-2009†	Spanaway Hugs, Tugs, Luvs, Inc.	(H) 253-846-7206†
Clover Park School District	(E) 253-583-5155 (H) 253-583-5147	Franklin Pierce School District	(H) 253-535-8825	Steilacoom School District	(E) 253-983-2565
		Metropolitan Development Council (serving Tacoma)	(E) 253-593-6641†	Sunrise Early Education Center (serving Tacoma)	(E) 253-383-7741†
		Midland Kiddie Korral	(H) 253-531-1902†	Tacoma School District	(E) 253-571-1870
		Peninsula School District	(E) 253-265-8839	Tacoma Community College	(E) 253-566-5180†

Early Head Start programs for pregnant women and their children, Birth to 3, are located at these sites in Pierce County. For information about Early Head Start call 253-926-6815, ext. 5000.

Bethel School District	Elk Plain	253-846-9278	Peninsula School District	Henderson Bay	253-858-5582
	Challenger	253-683-6808	Tacoma School District	Oakland	253-571-2511
Clover Park School District	Oakwood	253-583-5345			or 253-571-6517
	Tillicum	253-583-5376			or 253-926-6815, x 5034



400 SW 152nd St., Burien, WA 98166
Information: 253-596-6917

Tacoma Public Schools HEAD START PROGRAM

HEAD START is a free preschool program for low income families living within the Tacoma School District boundaries.

Head Start offers:

- Early childhood Education
- Parent Involvement
- Parent Training & Education
- Health & Social Services
- Services for children with special needs



HEAD START is a program that provides high quality preschool learning experiences and also offers nutritional, medical, dental and family services to children and their families.

No transportation will be available due to lack of funding.

A full day option is now available at First Place for Children at the Downtown location. For full day enrollment information call: (253) 572-0905.

We will be enrolling for the 2005-2006 School year for children born between September 1, 2000-March 31, 2002.

For registration information call: 571-1948

Metropolitan Development Council
Early Childhood Center
2021 S 19th St. - Tacoma, WA 98418

Free ECEAP Preschool
(transportation provided for qualifying 3 1/2 and 4 year olds)

NOW ENROLLING FOR:

- Evening Care
- Infant Care
- Toddler Care
- Preschool Care
- School-Age Care

593-6641

Tacoma Learning Center

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

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

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

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

Bates Technical College Cooperative Preschools

Serving families with children 2-5 years of age

An education program for parents and children:

“Parents and children learning together”

19 sites located in
Bonney Lake, Burien,
Federal Way, Gig Harbor,
Key Peninsula, Puyallup,
Fife/Milton, University Place,
Tacoma

For information call
Bates Technical College
680-7500

St. Mark's Preschool
Come Celebrate God's Gift of Children!
Learning, growing, and sharing in God's love is at the heart of St. Mark's Preschool philosophy.

Serving Tacoma families for over 15 years
Now enrolling for fall 2005
6730 N. 17th
253-752-4929

Preschool - 7th Grade Enrollment
March 21 - April 1, 2005

Bryant

- **Childrens House (Preschool/Kindergarten) 8:55-3:00**
* Preschool - Title I and Tuition based openings
* Kindergarten - all day
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Tacoma Public Schools

Reflection: Challenged to respond to injustice and brokenness

BY REV. ARNE BERGLAND

The congregations that form Associated Ministries have a 36 year history of ministry with the people of Pierce County. It is amazing to look back and see the many accomplishments of this organization. But if you do, make it a quick look because there is so much more to do in the days ahead.

The board of Associated Ministries is a wonderfully diverse cross section of the faith communities of Pierce County. It is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to be a part of this group of faithful people who so energetically and enthusiastically seek to put their faith into action. It is an equal privilege to be a small part of the ministry that our staff is about day in and day out in Pierce County. The mission statement at Associated Ministries is, "Congregations working together to build community that is humane, compassionate and just." In the name of our Lord we strive to be that community, that Church that God calls us to be.

A few weeks ago in worship many of the faith communities in Pierce County read these words from the prophet Micah: "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" These simple

Join us as we strive together to respond to God's call in this place and this time and to be a voice for justice and compassion.

words lay before us a challenge. Those who recognize the injustice and brokenness that is all about us are called to respond.

Instead of reciting the cold and startling statistics of hunger and poverty, not only in the world, but in our country and even our county, I would share with you a story.

Last year in an address about poverty in America and the working poor given to the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Dr. J. Larry Brown recalled the true story of Danny Holley. "Twelve years old, Danny Holley died in 1984. He lived on an army base in California with his mother and siblings, while his father served overseas. The Holley family didn't have enough to eat, and the children would go to bed hungry despite the mother's job and their best efforts. One afternoon, Mrs. Holley came home from work to find that Danny had hanged himself. Beside his body was a note on the kitchen table that read: 'Dear Mom, I love you, and hope that you won't be angry with me. But I figured that it

would help a lot if there was one less mouth to feed.'" Perhaps Danny's death was unusual, but tragically his hunger and his poverty, even in this the wealthiest culture in history, are not unusual. Micah would say that God calls us to respond.

The tragic death in Lakewood this week of a young woman burned to death by her boyfriend illustrates the specter of domestic violence with which we live. The hundreds, even thousands of families here in Pierce County who live separated from their loved ones who are deployed remind us of our need to reach out and care for one another. The concern of many that we have deployed our troops to an immoral war as well as those who are convicted that we have taken necessary action gives rise to our need for faithful prayer and careful conversation about those things that make for peace. We live with forty million Americans who lack adequate health care and great concerns regarding the safety net of Social Security protecting those too old or unable to work. All of

these issues and concerns give rise to the need for the Church's voice calling the world to compassion and justice. Micah would say that God calls us to respond.

We will respond, because our response is what we have to bring before God. Associated Ministries has always been willing to work for justice and compassion. It has been an organization that has challenged each of us to do what is right. It has been an organization that has striven to bring people together to discuss and work for solutions. We have not always agreed and we have not always succeeded but we have been faithful to the call to walk humbly, to do justice and love kindness. Lastly it has been an organization that has been willing to roll up its sleeves and get to work. There is still much to do.

In this year ahead I challenge you to join us as we strive together to respond to God's call in this place and this time and to be a voice for justice and compassion.

Peace be with you,
Rev. Arne Bergland

The Reverend Arne Bergland, pastor of Spanaway Lutheran Church, is the new president of the Associated Ministries' board of directors. This reflection is taken from his remarks at the Feb. 16 annual meeting of the Associated Ministries membership.

Reflection: Funding for public mental health services is vitally needed

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE C. BRADLEY

This year the Mental Health Chaplaincy celebrates 13 years as a program of Associated Ministries, offering an inter-faith ministry of presence to companion individuals and families affected by mental illnesses. Since its inception, staff and volunteers have provided spiritual and friendship support to hundreds of individuals and families living with mental illnesses in Pierce County.

We have seen many formerly isolated and suffering people find new hope for their recovery as they meet with each other in spiritual support groups, develop new friendships, and discover that they are valued and they are not alone.

Social stigma is as much a cause of suffering for people with mental illnesses as the often debilitating symptoms of these brain disorders themselves. Fighting stigma, one mission of the Mental Health Chaplaincy is advocacy and education. We seek to dispel myths and misunderstandings surrounding mental illnesses and to spread the message that recovery can and does happen.

The myths and misconceptions are many and pervasive. In ignorance many people believe that mental illnesses are caused by poor parenting, or that individuals with these brain disorders are just lazy, bad or lacking character. Another

myth is that once a person is affected by mental illness the symptoms only get worse and there is no hope for recovery.

The myths, along with the stigma that perpetuates them, are dangerous. An old adage reminds us that we tend to fear what we don't understand. This applies to our responses toward people with mental illnesses, some of whom may speak incoherently or act in unusual ways at times. Myths fuel our fears and further victimize these people by alienation and injustice.

The present crisis in public mental health funding is one such type of injustice. People with serious mental illnesses do not get far on the road to recovery without services offered by mental health professionals and mental health centers.

People living with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other severe anxiety disorders are already among the most disenfranchised and stigmatized members of our communities. Not only do they live daily with the symptoms of their illnesses, they are being driven to suffer even more from budget cuts eliminating services that improve their safety, well-being and chances for recovery. Some examples of these vital services include adequate housing, crisis services, case management, hospital beds,

transportation, newer medications and vocational rehabilitation.

These mental health services and treatments are not a luxury for those with severe mental illnesses – they are a crucial part of the recovery process.

Who are the people being hurt most by these cutbacks? They are sons and daughters, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and friends. One in five families is affected by mental illnesses which strike regardless of age, gender, nationality, or socio-economic status.

What are we thinking? Why are we allowing this outrageous injustice against our neighbors with mental illnesses? Are our leaders in Olympia and other capitals making budget decisions motivated by prejudice, ignorance, myths and fear? What other reasons are there to explain the inexplicable behavior of drastically cutting funding that helps some of our most vulnerable citizens toward becoming healthy and productive members of our communities?

What might the future be like if this crisis is resolved, adequate funding is restored, and individuals with mental illnesses are offered the treatments they need? The resounding message is that recovery from mental illnesses is possible

and that those once disenfranchised and discarded can become productive members of our communities. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) reports that 80% of individuals with bipolar disorder and 65% with major depression respond rapidly to treatment; 60% of those with schizophrenia experience reduction in their symptoms and move further along the recovery process. When symptoms are manageable or absent, people with the most severe mental illnesses can go to college or vocational rehabilitation classes, recover their gifts or learn new skills, enter the workforce and work at meaningful and productive jobs.

What kind of communities are we to deny our neighbors with mental illnesses these opportunities?

For most, recovery from a mental illness is a process aided by proper medication, a strong personal support system, and hope. We deny the crucial element of hope when funding cuts appear to perpetuate the lie that people with serious mental illness are hopeless. Let's work to eradicate this injustice.

Chaplain Julie C. Bradley is director of Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy.

Continued from page 3

The real serious threats to marriage are infidelity, financial stress, poor decision-making, domestic violence and poor communication skills. That's where we in the faith community need to be spending our time. Over half of the existing marriages end in divorce. Should we not be spending more time on this problem?

Let's get real and face the real problems that we have before us. Right here in Pierce County we must address the problems mentioned above. We must deal with our high rates of family violence. Come with me to the next Moment of Blessing and you will begin to feel as I do

that far too many of us are being murdered...far too many of us are using weapons to solve our conflicts. The list can go on and on. It is time to put aside political differences and get real about the real problems we have before us. I can't help but feel that God is getting a little tired of waiting for you and for me.



Rev. David T. Alger
Executive Director
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Reflection: Raising spiritual children, raising a spiritual self

By TANDI K. ROGERS

I became a minister at age 7. Lying on my back next to Gramma doing the same, staring up at the clouds pointing out shapes to each other. The lilac tree yonder intoxicated us with her heavy blooms. The world seemed perfect as was the time to share my longings with my Gramma.

"Gramma? Can a heart burst?"

"Yes, why?"

"Gramma, I'm afraid my heart is going to burst sometimes. Sometimes it's too full with love. And sometimes it's too full with sadness."

"Mmm..." She reached out and squeezed my hand in empathy. "So, what are you going to do with that?"

She often asked that in her patient wisdom.

"I think I'm going to be a minister."

I said it not quite convinced, as the only ministers I knew were male and Christian and I wasn't really either. They had The Answer and I knew there were many. They saved people from their pulpit. I felt called to heal with my actions and my love.

Think back to the adults in your life who nurtured and respected your spiritual growth as child.

"I think I'm going to be a minister."

"What makes you think you aren't a minister now?"

The sound of the gulls overhead was drowned out by my paradigm shift. The deep, deep breath of spring air I took in cut through the lilac drunkenness and the colors all around us intensified.

A minister was born.

Think back to the adults in your life who nurtured and respected your spiritual growth as child. Not just in a mentoring capacity, but the adults who saw you as a whole, spiritual peer, merely in a different phase of our experiential development. Now that you are an adult, how are you raising yourself up by raising up the children in your life?

I was blessed to have my grandparents

who asked me a lot of questions growing up, about my ideas relating to God. About how to heal the world. About how to love. And they would listen respectfully. They would cheer me on as I tried to find my own way to live out my values with intention and courage. And I would learn as they also learned to live out loud in each new phase of life. I learned from their life stories, mistakes and successes. And I learned to trust my place in that larger journey of wisdom passed down through generations.

"What does God look like?" Gramma asked.

"No... I like 'what does God smell like?' better," I said, already conjuring up my response.

"Okay."

"Like fresh fallen snow in a forest." We both sat with that for a while.

"Yes!"

My grandmother used to say, "You're wiser than I was at your age. That's evolution working. Jesus is smiling."

I find myself telling my children the same thing, "Thank you for sharing your ideas and heart. You're wiser than I was at your age." And I believe that down in my bones. That's evolution working. Jesus is smiling.

I don't know if my sons, Quinn and Owen, have a pivotal moment when they became ministers, or if that is a title they would choose themselves. I'll have to ask. But I do know they have been my ministers since the day they were each born. Such blessings!

Tandi Rogers is a program consultant with the Pacific NW District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She will be teaching a class at CommUniversity 2005 titled "Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality."

For further reading ...

(Reviews excerpted from Amazon.com)

Mimi Doe, Marsha Fayfield Walch: *10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting: Nurturing Your Child's Soul* (Perennial, 1998)

This mother-daughter team offers practical advice for parents who wish to bring more spirituality into their parenting as well as their children's day-to-day lives. Each chapter is devoted to one of the 10 principles of spiritual parenting and includes ruminations as well as specific suggestions.

Mimi Doe: *Busy but Balanced: Practical and Inspirational Ways to Create a Calmer, Closer Family* (St. Martin's Press, 2001)

The ideas in *Busy but Balanced* are for the people who need them the most—those of us out in the world putting our longings, goals, and ideas into action and balancing that with creating a nourishing home and deeply connecting with our children. It's not about giving up desire but instead creating a right relationship with all aspects of ourselves and our world.

Dale Salwak: *Faith in the Family: Honoring and Strengthening Home and Spirit* (New World Library, 2001)

A celebration of the ties that bind and a refreshing look at how much families have to offer children and adults alike. Dr. Salwak successfully combines captivating storytelling with spiritual insight to create part history, part story, and part advice for reaping the rewards of family life. His advice throughout the book is firmly grounded in Judeo-Christian traditions and yet presents a wide range of other teachings on family and kinship, including the insights of other great writers.

Vimala McClure: *The Path of Parenting: Twelve Principles to Guide Your Journey* (New World Library, 1999)

The definition of "family" — not to mention family structures and values — is changing with lightning speed. As we enter a new millennium, adults are seeking new meaning to guide them in their role as parents. This book offers 12 principles based on t'ai chi to make the experience both satisfying and enlightening.

Vimala McClure, Lao-Tzu Tao Te Ching: *The Tao of Motherhood* (New World Library, 1997)

The Tao of Motherhood is ideal for mothers who long to blend their spirituality into parenting. These brief essays draw upon the ancient teachings of Lao Tzu, reminding mothers of the fundamental truths that prevail when every other piece of parenting advice fails. Because the passages are brief, the book is accessible at any harried moment. It is also applicable to every stage of motherhood—from tending to infants to the mothering of adult children.

Lee Lozowick: *Conscious Parenting* (Hohm Press, 1996)

Anyone who cares for children needs to attend to the essential message of this book: that the first two years are the most crucial time in a child's education and development, and that children learn to be healthy and "whole" by living with healthy, whole adults.

Hugh and Gayle Prather: *Spiritual Parenting: A Guide to Understanding and Nurturing the Heart of Your Child* (Three Rivers Press, 1997)

In their characteristically warm style, the Prathers offer a book of principles and practices that parents can use to understand and nurture their children at home, at school, and in the world. While a belief in God isn't necessary to understand and apply this approach, parents are encouraged to learn how to focus on the spiritual aspects of child care amid the bewildering everyday complexities of guiding children toward adulthood. With humor and realism, the Prathers tell stories and anecdotes about their own children and the children of families they have counseled to help today's parents break through conflicting ideas, emotions, and impasses.

On the Web

www.spiritualparenting.com

Spiritual Retreat for Parents on the Web "where you can find information and support in raising kind, honorable children who remain connected to their spirits and their families. You'll find ideas to create a more soulful connection with your family and a life that honors your values and most treasured priorities."

<http://www.uua.org/families/>

My religion has a Family Matters Task Force to support the spiritual growth of families. You might check to see if your denomination has such resources, too.

—TKR

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IN BRIEF

Yoga classes for women

Catherine Place, a spiritual renewal/personal growth center for women, is offering Anusara-influenced Yoga classes. Anusara Yoga is a system of Hatha Yoga founded by John Friend that is spiritually inspiring and deeply rooted in knowledge of inner and outer body alignment. The instructor, Crystal Stephens, has studied Siddha Yoga Meditation and Ausara Yoga with Behnje Masson. Her understanding and experience creates a classroom environment that is safe and supportive as well as inspiring. Classes are offered by donation on Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. Enrollment is continuous and classes will be on-going. Please bring your own mat. Catherine Place is located at 923 South 8th St. in Tacoma. For information or to register, please call (253) 572-3547 or email Crystal at cry_stal78@hotmail.com or Catherine Place at cplace@catherineplace.org.

Centro Latino offers language exchange

Centro Latino now offers a language class called "Charlas" every Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The language exchange program offers native Hispanic speaking individuals an opportunity to

practice their English through conversational exercises in Spanish and English. All levels are welcome to attend. Volunteers from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Puget Sound – native speaking English students studying Spanish – lead the classes. Centro Latino is located in Tacoma's Hilltop. For more information please contact Sue Schaeffer at (253) 572-7717, ext. 105.

Bread for the World offers book on hunger

Hunger for the Word: Lectionary Reflections on Food and Justice, edited by Larry Hollar, is a new resource offered by Bread for the World. This book provides concise and provocative weekly lectionary-based reflections on Scripture written by pastors, laypersons and professors who are Bread for the World members, activists and staff. Their insights incorporate experiences from hunger and justice ministries throughout our nation and world that can stimulate your connections with Scripture and help enable powerful preaching and Bible study. *Hunger for the Word* is published by The Liturgical Press. (240 pages, \$19.95.) To order, call 1-800-82-BREAD or e-mail publications@bread.org.

Cultivating lovingkindness and compassion

On Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Catherine Place hosts teachings from various spiritual traditions with meditation instruction from the Buddhist Tradition. Each session includes inspiration and instruction on Lovingkindness and Compassion as spiritual practices and a guided meditation session. You are welcome to come from time to time or to attend of all the sessions which are offered by donation. Jude Rozhon is the instructor. Catherine Place is located at 923 South 8th St. in Tacoma. For more information contact Jude at (253) 756-1139 or Catherine Place at (253) 572-3547 or cplace@catherineplace.org.

Marriage checklist class offered

Central Lutheran Church will host a four-week series of classes called "The Marriage Checklist" from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday evenings: April 1, 8, 15, 22. Taught by marriage and family therapist Pastor Ron Fandrick, the classes will explore the foundation and patterns of marriage. The course is suited for married couples or those considering marriage.

Fee is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. Central Lutheran Church is located at 409 N. Tacoma Ave., Tacoma. For more information call (253) 383-5528.

World Day of Prayer

Church Women United will celebrate World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4 at United Church in University Place, located at 3912 Grandview Drive. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.; a coffee hour will follow the program.

Changes to Medicare

Big changes have already taken place in Medicare and greater changes are coming in 2006. Pierce County Senior Information and Assistance will present a free one-hour briefing for area professionals working with Medicare-eligible clients. Suitable for case managers, service providers, discharge planners and social workers, the briefing will be presented at 9:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23 at the Soundview Plaza Conference Room, 3602 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. For more information call (253) 798-7384.

Did You Know . . .

Two out of three apartment renters prefer living in smoke-free housing?
(Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Tenant Survey, March 2003)

For more information on smoke-free housing call:
253 798-4727

If you are renting, ask for smoke-free living!

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

Needs & Wants

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

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

AVAILABLE: OFFICESPACE—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 of-

fice spaces now available for rent at \$1.50/sq. ft. Community of Hope is located at 7209 South Puget Sound Avenue, one block off of South Tacoma Way on 72nd Street. For more information please contact Jonathan Sansgaard at (253) 472-9697.

AVAILABLE: CHURCH PEWS—Deliverance Bible Church has five 12 foot wood pews, two modesty rails and one Hammond organ to donate. You haul. If interested call (253) 219-0767.

AVAILABLE: CHURCH PEWS—Bethany Presbyterian Church has 9-10 old oak pews, 10-12 feet in length, available free. You haul. If interested call the church at (253) 752-3123.

AVAILABLE: PIANO—A console, full-keyboard Wurlitzer is available for donation to a church to be used for the Lord's work. The piano is. It is a light oak color and is in beautiful condition. If interested, call Carol Baarsma at (253) 988-9069.

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.

Blues Vespers and The Randy Oxford Band presents

with **Blues a Feeling**

March 13th ~ 1-6pm at the Swiss

A benefit for World Vision's relief efforts for the victims of the South Asian Tsunami, with a \$10 minimum suggested donation

Featuring Butterbean with special guest Jerry Miller, The Randy Oxford Band, Doug Skoog and the Blues Alliance, Paul Green and Straight Shot with Mark Riley

...and later on, at The Spar Little Bill and the Blue Notes 7-10pm, free event, donations accepted

Over 21 please For more information contact Rev. Dave at 253-472-4795

The Swiss is at 1904 S Jefferson in Downtown Tacoma
The Spar is at 2123 N 50th in Old Town Tacoma

Pierce County Happenings - March 2005

3/3 Thursday

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

3/3 Thursday

Former BBC reporter Yvonne Ridley and University of Louisville Professor Riffat Hassan will speak on **"Women and Islam"** at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Puget Sound Schneebeck Concert Hall. The lecture is the latest in the university's series of Swope Lectures on Ethics, Religion, Faith, and Values. A reception and book signing will follow the lecture in Wyatt Hall Atrium. These events are free and open to the public.

3/3 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.

3/4 Friday

St. Leo Church, 710 South 13th Street, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 272-5136.

3/4-6 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a **Beginners' Silent Retreat** from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Registration is \$150 without spiritual direction; with spiritual direction \$185. Please register by Feb. 26. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

3/5-6 Saturday-Sunday

Associated Ministries will present **CommUniversity 2005** at Pacific Lutheran University. Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday and from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information or registration please contact (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or channel@associatedministries.org.

3/5 Saturday

The new Tacoma / Pierce County **Progressive Roundtable** — a relationship-building forum for progressives — will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Carpenters Hall, 1322 S. Fawcett in Tacoma. For information call (253) 351-0511 or contact progressiveroundtable@yahoo.com.

3/6 Sunday

Temple Beth El, 5975 South 12th St., Tacoma, will present an evening of **stand-up comedy with Rabbi Bob Alper and Ahmed Ahmed** at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Students and seniors, \$18 in advance, \$25 at the door. For information or tickets call (253) 564-7101.

3/6 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.

3/6 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.

3/7 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "What Makes a Marriage Happy and Long-Lasting?" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Mark McNeil, MA, LHMC, will offer an overview of key strategies that successful couples use for improving communication and sustaining intimacy. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

3/8 Tuesday

Pacific Lutheran University's annual Schnackenberg Lecture will present **author Philip Short** to speak on his recent book "Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare" in Chris Knutzen Hall at 7:00 p.m. The lecture is free to the public. For information, call the Wang Center for International Programs at (253) 535-7577, the Department of History at (253) 535-7595 or see www.plu.edu/wangcenter.

3/9 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).

3/10 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.

3/10 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.

3/12-13 Saturday-Sunday

Associated Ministries will present **CommUniversity 2005** at Pacific Lutheran University. Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday and from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Sunday. For information or registration contact (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or channel@associatedministries.org.

3/12 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **'Praying with Scripture: Images of God and Self in Psalm 139'** from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants will explore images of God and self using lectio, art, poetry, yoga, story, and music. Registration is \$50; please register by March 4. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

3/12 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the third of six classes in its 2005 **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Seattle University. The topic will be "Sikhism," presented by Sujot Kaur,

in Wyckoff Auditorium, Engineering Bldg. Classes are \$120 for the series; \$25 per class. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email eisengn@aol.com.

3/12 Saturday

New Heart Metropolitan Community Church will host **Marsha Stevens in concert** at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at 759 South 45th St., Tacoma. For more information call (253) 472-0277.

3/13 Sunday

New Heart Metropolitan Community Church will dedicate its new church building at 11:00 a.m., with **Rev. Elder Troy Perry**, founder of Metropolitan Community Church. An open discussion with Rev. Perry will be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. The church is located at 759 South 45th St., Tacoma. Please RSVP to robertabooth7@aol.com.

3/13 Sunday

Blues Vespers and the Randy Oxford Band will present **"Blues with a Feeling,"** a benefit concert for South Asian tsunami relief, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the Swiss, 1904 S. Jefferson in downtown Tacoma. Featured artists will be Butterbean with special guest Jerry Miller, The Randy Oxford Band, Doug Skoop and the Blues Alliance, Paul Green and Straight Shot with Mark Riley. Suggested donation is \$10. For information call (253) 472-4795.

3/15 Tuesday

Deadline for April CHANNEL

3/15 Tuesday

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry will hold an **Inquiry Night** from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Associated Ministries, 1224 South I St, Tacoma. Prospective students and others interested in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies program to be offered in Tacoma are invited to attend. For more information call (206) 296-5330 or (800) 578-3118, or see www.seattleu.edu/theomin.

3/17 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.

3/18 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, (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

3/19 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day retreat, **Entering the Mystery of Holy Week: Passion and Resurrection Spirituality**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Prepare ourselves for the graces this week has to offer by entering deeply into the paschal mystery and exploring what passion and resurrection spirituality means for us. Registration is \$50; please register by March 11. For information call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

3/20 Sunday

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

3/20 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host the **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Fea-

tured musicians will be the Randy Oxford Band. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

3/22 Tuesday

Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy hosts **Soul Care**, an open room, participatory worship and prayer service shared with friends who are living with mental illnesses. Now meets every fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 8211 112th Street SW, Lakewood. For information call (253) 383-5755.

3/23 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). (See 3/9 listing.)

3/24 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.

3/24 Thursday

In Western Christianity, **Holy Thursday**, or Maundy Thursday, celebrates Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper.

3/24-27 Thursday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Journey to Easter: Triduum Retreat**, from 3:00 p.m. Thursday to 12:00 p.m. Sunday. Registration is \$165 without spiritual direction; \$190 with spiritual direction. Please register by March 22. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

3/25 Friday

In the Western Christian traditions, **Good Friday** commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

3/25 Friday

St. Leo Parish will host the Hilltop **Neighborhood Stations of the Cross** with a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero. Those wishing to participate should meet at 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot of St. Leo Church, 710 South 13th St., Tacoma. For more information call Mary Bradford at (253) 272-5136 ext. 102.

3/25 Friday

The annual **Puyallup Good Friday Walk** will begin at 4:00 p.m. at 3rd St. SW and W. Pioneer in Puyallup. Presenters are Rabbi Mark Glickman and Joanne Staples Baum. Betsy Beckman will portray Christ's Passion through movement. Sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church, All Saints Catholic Church, First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church. For information call Bobbie Beaudreau at (253) 845-7521 ext. 109.

3/27 Sunday

Celebrated as **Easter Sunday** in the Western tradition, this is the day on which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It begins the fifty-day Easter season which culminates in Pentecost.

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