

# CHANNEL

*Building community that is humane, compassionate and just*

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

May-June 2005

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

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May is  
Mental Health Month  
... see page 5

## Calling all volunteers – crews are needed for summer house painting

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

The deadline has come and gone for low-income seniors to return their applications for free house painting by Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful volunteers this summer. At press time, the number of eligible applications received is 237! That's 237 low-income homeowners who are either senior or disabled who, due to fixed incomes, no longer have the funds to maintain their homes. Just imagine that, and I think you'll agree: Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful volunteers provide an amazing service.

*Imagine:* You have lived in your home for many years. You love gardening and have spent many hours on many weekends over the years weeding, pruning, cutting the lawn, planting bulbs ... And now? Your arthritis, or your knees, or your heart won't allow you to do that work anymore, and the condition of your yard now embarrasses you.

*Imagine:* You've lived in your home for many years. You're a handyman, and you built the addition in the back yourself. You've always painted your home whenever it was beginning to need it: you've been the proud homeowner of the best-kept home on your block. But now you are 82, and the doctor has told you to stay off ladders due to balance issues (not to mention brittle bones); the house needs painting, but your social security check is too small for you to save enough to hire a painter.

Calling all volunteers! Calling all volunteers! We need you. *These homeowners need you.*

Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful organizes volunteer crews to paint around 100



Volunteers from McChord Air Force Base work on their summer 2004 paint project.

homes each summer. The homes belong to low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women. Since we began in 1985, we have painted 1,479 homes, so this summer we will pass the 1500 mark. We paint homes all over the county: from Key Center and Gig Harbor to Buckley and Eatonville and Lakewood; and we paint in every neighborhood of Tacoma: North End, South End, Highland Hills, Oakland, East Side, etc. Crews come from churches, service clubs, businesses, schools, unions, the military bases, and individuals who come out on their own.

If you put together a crew, one more homeowner will get her or his home painted. It's as simple as that: we will paint as many homes as we have crews.



So what are you waiting for? Call a few friends from your congregation or service club or office: talk about putting together a crew for this summer. Each crew has 2-4 co-coordinators to divvy up the organizing that needs to be done: find those coordinators, and you will be well on your way toward making one more homeowner very happy this summer.

You could be the answer to someone's prayers. What a gift!

For more information, please call us at (253) 383-3056, ext 105 or visit us at [www.paintbeautiful.org](http://www.paintbeautiful.org).

## South African religious leader will speak on the ongoing struggle for peace with justice

The Washington Association of Churches and Saint Mark's Cathedral will welcome Rev. Dr. Peter Storey on Sunday, June 5. Rev. Dr. Peter Storey, a South African pastor active in peace and justice work, is a visiting professor at Duke University Divinity School and author of the book: *With God in the Crucible: Preaching Costly Discipleship*.



Rev. Dr. Peter Storey

Committed to world peace making, Rev. Peter Storey stood witness to the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela as his personal chaplain. As an ecumenical leader, he worked with Bishop Desmond Tutu to steer the South Africa Council of Churches with leadership during the most controversial and embattled era of South Africa's anti-apartheid revolution. After the fall of apartheid, he initiated the transformation of the Methodist Church for its mission in the new South Africa.

He founded the International Methodist Order of Peacemakers and is currently a leader in the global peace and reconciliation movement. Rev. Dr. Storey recently took leave from President Nelson Mandela's Committee for Truth and Reconciliation to reside in the United States for an 18-month sabbatical.

The evening program is a benefit for the Washington Association of Churches' Faith Advocacy Fund. Tickets to the evening supper are \$35 or \$65 for two tickets. Music of South Africa will be featured. Space is limited, so early reservations are encouraged.

The Sunday supper will be held in Bloedell Hall at 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle. Reservations can be made online at [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org) (site of the new Faith Advocacy Network) or by calling the W.A.C. at (206) 625-9790 ext 25.

## NCC hails end to consumer boycott of Taco Bell

On learning of the end of the three-year consumer boycott of Taco Bell, National Council of Churches USA General Secretary Bob Edgar called the announcement "really, really good news."

In a joint announcement, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, which had called the boycott and enlisted the support of the NCC and many other groups, and Taco Bell confirmed their agreement to work together to address the wages and working conditions of farmworkers in the Florida tomato industry.

Said the Rev. Dr. Edgar, "This is especially good news on the heels of the disappointing vote in the U.S. Senate not to raise the minimum wage. It's good news for another set of workers who have been exploited, and for the religious community, which has been so active in the boycott."

Taco Bell announced that it will fund a penny per pound "pass-through" with its suppliers of Florida tomatoes, and will undertake joint efforts with the CIW on several fronts to improve working conditions in Florida's tomato fields. For its part, the CIW agreed to end its three-year boycott of Taco Bell, saying that the agreement "sets a new standard of social responsibility for the fast-food industry."

Representatives from the Carter Center assisted the discussions and resolution between the two organizations. "I commend the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for their principled leadership in this very important campaign. I am pleased Taco Bell has taken a leadership role to help reform working conditions for Florida farmworkers and has committed to use its power to effect positive human rights change. I now call on others in the industry to follow Taco Bell's lead to help the tomato farmworkers," said former President Jimmy Carter.

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## Lutheran churches and organizations launch affordable housing partnership

With the help of a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, several Pierce County Lutheran Churches and organizations are coming together to form a new housing effort, the Lutheran Alliance for Affordable Housing (LAAH).

LAAH is a partnership of Pierce County Lutheran individuals, congregations, institutions, and agencies whose mission and ministry is to provide safe, affordable housing. LAAH is still in its beginning stages as an organization, but recently received a grant of \$100,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to establish the organization and to help fund its initial work.

Some of the partners of LAAH include Mountain View Lutheran Church of Edgewood, Creator Lutheran Church of Sumner, Christ Lutheran Church of Lakewood, Redeemer Lutheran Church of Fircrest, Trinity Lutheran Church of Parkland, Good Samaritan Hospital, Pacific Lutheran University, Lutheran Community Services, Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity, and local chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

With its mission "to provide safe, clean, affordable housing for families and persons in need in Pierce County," the new partnership hopes to foster a vibrant Lutheran presence throughout the county, to galvanize community sup-

port and leverage resources to eliminate substandard housing, and to educate not only Lutherans but also the community-at-large on the county's pressing need for transitional and affordable housing.

Initial efforts will focus on the communities of East Pierce County. With its initial grant funding, LAAH is seeking a half-time director to promote its work of LAAH and to build relationships with Lutheran congregations and other organizations that concentrate on housing issues. The grant will also allow LAAH to begin building homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and to explore other areas of housing need such as emergency housing and transitional housing.

Resumes are being accepted for the director position. This individual serves as administrator, networker and spokesperson. The director reports to the LAAH Board of Directors. For consideration, submit resume and cover letter to [tkehm-goins@mtviewlutheran.org](mailto:tkehm-goins@mtviewlutheran.org) or by mail to Attn: Troy Kehm-Goins, Mt. View Lutheran Church, 3505 - 122nd Avenue East, Edgewood WA 98372. For a detailed job description or for additional information about LAAH, please email or call the Mt. View Church Office at (253) 863-5171.

## Senior Information and Assistance offers monthly e-newsletter

Senior Information and Assistance offers a free e-newsletter focusing on the needs and resources of older adults and individuals with disabilities in Pierce County. The service is provided free and emailed on the first day of each month.

The newsletter is specifically targeted to individuals who work in the senior services network in Pierce County. Topics include services and programs offering new or revised assistance to seniors, their families, caregivers, and other adults in the community with various needs. A calendar of upcoming events, conferences, and networking opportunities is also included.

To subscribe to the newsletter, call

(253) 798-7384 or send an email to [briler@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:briler@co.pierce.wa.us). The newsletter is only available by email. Senior Information and Assistance is a telephone helpline service of Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care. The service helps callers connect with local programs and services that enable individuals to remain secure and independent in their own homes.

Callers may reach Senior I&A weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by dialing (253) 798-7384 or 1-800-562-0332. Callers can remain anonymous if they so choose. There is no cost for this service. Senior I&A also provides an Internet web service at [www.PierceSeniorInfo.org](http://www.PierceSeniorInfo.org).

## Evergreen's Tacoma campus will host community resource fair May 21

The Evergreen State College Tacoma campus will hold a free community resource fair on Saturday, May 21 from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Tacoma Evergreen Campus, 1210 6th Ave., Tacoma. "Strategies for Renewing and Restoring Community" is an annual resource fair created by Tacoma Evergreen State College students, Tacoma Community College Bridge Program, the

Evergreen State College/Gates Foundation Girls Math, Science and Engineering program and the Intel Computer Clubhouse. These groups have joined to answer the question "How do we improve our community?" The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Roy Tatum at (253) 680-3006.

### Calling all CHANNEL readers:

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

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

Send submissions to [channel@associatedministries.org](mailto:channel@associatedministries.org).

**Deadline: Wednesday, June 15, 2005**

## Local activist returns from Central America with news of hope and concern

Fr. Bill Bichsel, S.J. and Nick Leider interview Tom Karlin on El Salvador

In March 2005 Tom Karlin, a member of St. Leo's Church and Tacoma Catholic Worker, was part of a local delegation to El Salvador sponsored by the Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America ([www.fssca.net](http://www.fssca.net)). As part of the Romero Memorial Tree Project, Tom and family members planted mangroves to honor donors' loved ones and to commemorate the life of Archbishop Romero, who was assassinated in 1980.

On Tom's return, Tacoma Catholic Worker members Nick Leider and Fr. Bill Bichsel, S.J. met with him to discuss how to shine the light of faith on issues of justice for workers.

*Q: Many of us know El Salvador as a small Central American country ravaged by war and poverty, entangled with U.S. foreign policy. How are Salvadorans keeping hope alive?*

*A: Our trip to El Salvador marked the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Oscar Romero. To honor the memory of this man of peace and nonviolence, delegations from all over the world came to southern El Salvador to begin a tree-planting project of over a million trees throughout the country, starting in the Zone of Peace region.*

I think it is important to reflect on what Romero said shortly before he was assassinated. "If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people...my hope is that my blood will be like a seed of liberty." Romero was a prophet. He walked with his people; he suffered with them and died with them. He also said, "As a Christian, I don't believe in death without resurrection." It was palpably evident to us that the poor multitudes derive hope from the example and memory and sense of presence of Romero in their life's daily struggles.

On the day of the massive rally in San Salvador, April 2, we stood in the midst of a multitude—tens of thousands—in front of a giant, newly painted canvas mural 60 feet wide and 90 feet tall, hanging between the Cathedral towers. The people were chanting "¡Se siente, se siente, Romero está presente!" ("We feel it, we feel it, Romero is present!") Indeed, we felt it with them. Such a sense of solidarity!



This 90-foot tall mural of Oscar Romero adorns the cathedral in San Salvador during an April 2 rally. (Photo courtesy of Tom Karlin)

It became clear to me that hope and resurrection are not realities to be experienced only at some future time, but are in the here and now. The memory and life of Romero is alive in the people, and his witness has the effect of Salvadorans resiliently innovating projects to build a better future such as the Zone of Peace.

We toured the Zone, where 35,000 low-income farmers and fishers, through grassroots representative organizing, develop self-sustaining agriculture, reforestation, and reconciliation. Former guerillas and army members, among others, work together to form business collectives and to teach nonviolence as an organizing principle of community life. The Coordinadora has organized many other projects such as women's co-ops and the reintegration of deported Los Angeles gang members.

*Q: What are the current and future challenges of El Salvador?*

*A: The impact of large multi-national corporations on this small country is visibly shocking. These companies heavily pollute the land with deadly pesticides and toxic waste; glut markets with cheap imports that prevent local businesses and collectives from developing a sustainable economy; and proliferate sweatshops known as "Maquilas" that rely on the repressive hand of the military to prevent workers from organizing for economic justice and democracy.*

*Continued on page 4*



A transformational training event for clergy and congregational leaders  
The PLU Institute for Clergy and Congregational Renewal

# SUMMER CONFERENCE 2005

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

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

ALSO two leadership tracks to choose from:  
Leading a Congregation Through Anxiety and Change 101  
and  
Healthy Leaders (Advanced Family Systems Theory) 201

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

# Stewards in the Spotlight

Each month, *The CHANNEL* features individuals, congregations and organizations who truly exemplify the spirit of stewardship in their day-to-day lives and work. This month Gina Breukelman interviews Pastor Ron Vignec of Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact *The CHANNEL* at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.

## Name: Salishan/Eastside Lutheran Mission

**Location:** 1742 E. 40th (off Portland Ave). We share space and partner with a Cambodian congregation, Holy Family of Jesus Episcopal Church.

**Mailing Address:** 504 E. 123st St. Tacoma, WA 98445

**Phone:** (253) 472-6797

**Meet the Pastor:** Pastor Ron Pierre Vignec wore many hats – janitor, confirmation teacher, church council president – when he served at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York, at the age of 25. (He even lived in a small room in the old church.) He married Nancy Olson, from Mercer Island, and they both taught at Eltingville Lutheran School on Staten Island, N.Y. Pastor Ron's first parish call was Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia from 1978-1980. He served in campus ministry at Pacific Lutheran University from 1980-1985, and has been pastor at Salishan since 1985.



*Pastor Ron Vignec of Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission leads a Moment of Blessing service in eastern Pierce County.*

### Staff:

Music: Nancy Vignec

Readers: They are exceptional, each chosen as we gather.

Custodian: Sarin Chin from HFJEC

Coordinator of Events: Norma Levingston

Leaders in the Community: The many.

Pastor of Holy Family of Jesus Episcopal Church: Sam Lee

Community Partner at Holy Family of Jesus Community Services: Sue Bernstein

**Worship:** Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mission and 11:00 a.m. Holy Family of Jesus Episcopal Church (HFJEC). Pastor Ron leads HFJEC on the first Sunday of the month

**History:** We have no members by our Constitution, only participants, all who are encouraged to lead and work in the community using their God-given gifts. The Mission was started by Lutherans in 1985, after spending one year visiting and talking with community leaders and existing ministries, then asking the question "Would a Lutheran presence be welcome on the Eastside?" The response was "Yes – if you come and work with us!" The Salishan/Eastside we were concentrating on was East 56th down to I5, from Grandview to McKinley Ave. – a very diverse ethnic/racially "gifted" population in a low income area. We have no church home of our own but have had five different locations in which we were graciously received.

**Creed/Mission:** Sharing our life in Christ in the community.

**What special programs does your congregation offer?** We have no programs. The Eastside community is the program. Leadership from the indigenous folks has been our gift to and with the community.

**With what other organizations is your congregation involved?** We work with Associated Ministries-especially Moments of Blessing, C4RJ- Citizens for Responsible Justice, EFN- Emergency Food Network, generous to the many, us included, Northwest Leadership Foundation and Dave Hillis, Pacific Lutheran University students and faculty, World Vision, area work at the Portland Ave. Center. We work closely with local Tacoma public schools. A grant provided by World Vision has enabled us to work with Lawrence Stone and "Big Homies," a comprehensive youth/family/community ministry, the last four years.

**How does your faith call you to action?** Our faith calls us to Stay Awake and Pay Attention.

**What is your biggest concern for the world/ community?** Stay awake and pay attention.

**What is your biggest hope for the world/ community?** Stay awake and pay attention to all stuck in the "...valley of the shadow of death..." and to know "you are with me" and need not live in fear.

**What is your message to the Associated Ministries community?** My message to Associated Ministries is Stay Awake and Pay Attention and Give Thanks, as you have these many years.

*Additional Note from Pastor Ron: I have done "community guided trips" for many years to help people see the gifts of the Eastside of Tacoma. These are informal, best time is M-Th, mornings. You are invited. Call Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission at (253) 472-6797.*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



On April 23 Associated Ministries had our Annual Spring Celebration. As most of you know, this is our big fundraiser of the year.

There were about 400 people in attendance. As I looked around that room a feeling of great joy enveloped me. Now one might think that I was overwhelmed by all the folks who had spent \$40 on a ticket and were now busy placing bids on various items on the silent auction tables. While I was pleased to see all the activity and was hopeful we would raise a substantial amount of money, the feelings I was having were coming from something else.

I looked and saw old and new friends. I saw people that I had yet to meet. Everywhere I looked I saw people who were doing wonderful work in our community. Let me give you some examples. There were two tables filled with people who have been active in peacemaking. Another table was filled with small business leaders and developers who have been essential to the redevelopment of the Proctor District. Over to my left, somewhat appropriately was the Catholic Worker Community, and just to their left was Father Bill Bichsel. Scattered among the crowd were current and former board members, as well as several former staff members. There were environmental activists and neighborhood organizers. Washington Association of Churches' director John Boonstra and his wife Vicky caught my eye. Local pastors and lay leaders were everywhere. Donors and volunteers filled tables. My eyes were often drawn to those who would be receiving the Ecumenical Service Awards: Food Bank Coordinators from FISH, Tom Karlin of Tacoma Catholic Worker and Ron Vignec of Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission. Then there were the staff members of Associated Ministries moving through the crowd. And I thought to myself, "Isn't life wonderful!"

In the midst of all the hard work of trying to do the best one can do with the limited resources we have, is it not good to pause and say, "Thank you Lord for your special servants who give their lives for others?" I see them volunteering, working at their jobs, protesting, serving, giving, sharing, and doing all sorts of wonderful things to make life better for others. I can choose to focus solely on the problems of our day or I can choose not to avoid those realities, but see those within the human family who reflect the divine in the way they go about living.

So I stood there for a long moment, enveloped by such great joy and pleasure as I looked around me and I quietly thanked God for the blessing that these people and so many more like them are to the rest of God's family. When I get down or feel overwhelmed I see those faces that reflect the love and justice of God.

It was a wonderful moment, and at the same time we raised a heck of a lot of money needed to do the work we do. Speaking of that work, it is time to get back to it.

Thanks be to God for the gift of others who live with a vision of building community that is humane, compassionate and just. Thanks be to God for those moments when we remember, reflect and cherish one another.

Rev. David T. Alger  
Executive Director  
Associated Ministries



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

## CHANNEL

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

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Rev. David T. Alger - Executive Director

Maureen Fife - Deputy Director

Judith Jones - Editor

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

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

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

## You can help save a life – donate blood

Cascade Regional Blood Services has a critical need for O-Positive blood. If you have not donated in the past 56 days please call 1-877-24BLOOD for an appointment or walk in to a blood center.

To find a blood drive near you see Cascade Regional Blood Services' website at [cascadebloodcenter.org](http://cascadebloodcenter.org).

Pierce County and South King County locations include the following:

Tacoma: 220 South I St.

Federal Way: 33505 13th Pl. S.

Puyallup: 205 15th Ave. SE.

# Moments of Blessing offer life and hope in the wake of violence

[Ed. Note: For more than five years, Associated Ministries has conducted Moments of Blessing at sites where homicide has occurred. In an article originally written for Ecudialogue, executive director Rev. David Alger describes the history and workings of this important ministry.]

BY REV. DAVID T. ALGER

The late 1990s were a very difficult time in Pierce County, Washington. The homicide rate was very high. The Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, home to our agency, Associated Ministries, was especially rough. Drive-by shootings were the norm. Gangs were flourishing. As the local ecumenical council for Tacoma/Pierce County, we were looking for ways to help heal the violence in our neighborhood and community.

In 1998 I took note of a program operated by the local council of churches in Indianapolis. Their city had a very high homicide rate. I was fascinated by representatives going to the sites where homicide had occurred. They went there to pray and to "reclaim" the sites. We consulted with the staff in Indianapolis, and with their blessing took their idea and created a similar program.

A Lutheran clergyman on our staff commented that it sounded to him as though we were going to be having "Moments of Blessing." The name took hold.

Now when we receive word that a homicide has occurred, we work with local law enforcement to obtain the pertinent information and then schedule a Moment of Blessing. We use flyers, email and the local newspaper to inform neighbors, local churches and the general public about the time and location of the service.

Because the Pacific Northwest is not one of the most religious parts of the country, we feel it is important to be very clear about who we are, and so we request participating clergy to vest for the occasion.

At each Moment of Blessing we mark the site with prayer poles. These poles carry red ribbons bearing the name of each person who has been killed since we began the Moments of Blessing. Sadly, the poles have been filled with ribbons. Our single original prayer pole is now one of four such poles.

When we gather we brief the crowd on what is going to happen. We ask those present to participate in the liturgy. We place a small bowl of water exactly where the individual died. We draw close to one another and the worship leader begins:

*Grace and Peace to all of you in the name of our loving God.*

*We come together at this place and at this time in grief, acknowledging the tragic loss of (name of the victim), confessing that this tragedy is in part a failure to create a safe community that is humane, compassionate, and just...*

We share readings from the scriptures, and then offer those gathered an opportunity to reflect. These are often powerful moments when friends and families speak. At other times no family or friends are present but the sharing is equally poignant. As the sharing comes to an end there is a litany and sometimes a song. Then the one or two people who have been assigned the priestly role of doing the blessing take the bowl of water. Using a small branch or greenery they sprinkle water on the site and on those of us gathered together. The liturgist recites the following:



Rev. David Alger leads a Moment of Blessing service in Tacoma's Hilltop.

*We come together this day to reclaim this space of death as a place of life...this place where violence occurred we are reclaiming as a place of life...this place that causes us fear, anger, and pain, we are reclaiming as a place of hope and community.*

*Come, Spirit, to this place. As we sprinkle this water, come Spirit, and redeem this space and people from the violence and death that has occurred here. Return it as a safe place, a place of community, a place of life, a place of hope. Amen.*

We close with a charge and benediction, but people rarely disperse very quickly. We stay together as community a while longer. Words of comfort are shared.

These are times when we connect as community. These are times when the

Church is visible in a very special way. Just a few weeks ago I stood in the cold rain with about twenty people outside a tavern on a county road near Mount Rainier. Men and women had put down their drinks and come outside to join us as we remembered one of their friends. One man stood a little off to the side. He was smoking a cigarette. As the group dispersed he came up to me and said "God bless you for doing this." I saw in his eyes how important it was to him that we had gathered there. I thanked him and then I thanked God for making this ministry possible.

*All are welcome to attend Moment of Blessing services. If you would like to receive email notification of Moments of Blessing in Pierce County, please contact Laurie Clancy at Associated Ministries, lauriec@associatedministries.org or (253) 383-3056, ext. 119.*

## Throughout El Salvador, signs of hope and causes for concern

Continued from page 2

The Salvadoran ARENA party continues to use strategies prevalent in the brutal dictatorship that assassinated Archbishop Romero. That regime relied on military leaders trained by the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. Multi-national corporations know about this repression and flock to exploit poverty wages and low environmental standards. Now ARENA and these corporations are collaborating to push through CAFTA.

**Q: What is CAFTA?**

**A:** CAFTA stands for Central American Free Trade Agreement. First of all, we have to ask ourselves what does "Free Trade" mean. It certainly does not mean fair trade for the Salvadoran people. It does mean "Free Access" to exploit Central American resources and cheap labor and inadequate environmental protection.

Do you remember NAFTA? CAFTA is the extension of NAFTA to Central America. CAFTA would further give rights to multi-national corporations to pollute, glut markets, and create sweatshops in El Salvador. Practically every Salvadoran we spoke to, from peasant to city worker to faith and community leaders, raised the specter of CAFTA as the most dangerous threat to El Salvador.

Salvadorans saw the impact of NAFTA on Mexico, devastating that economy. We see the impact on Mexico here in Pierce County and in the U.S overall with the immigration of millions of Mexicans—peasants forced off their farms by cheap corn dumping, and unemployed city workers leaving to look for a better life than the sweatshop Maquilas.

**Q: What can we do about CAFTA?**

**A:** Besides working to stop CAFTA, we must ask ourselves who are the corporations pushing CAFTA, and how do they get the money and power to purchase such tremendous influence over the U.S. administration and a large portion of Congress. If I hold stock in any corporation that exploits, it is safe to say I am part of the problem. Let's look at ways we can be part of the solution.

In our presentations, we will make available information on Socially Responsible Corporations for investment and also show ways to support NGO's (non-governmental organizations) through outright grants or giving no-interest loans to organizations that help build zones of peace at home and abroad.

Salvadorans want us to recruit our elected leaders to stop CAFTA. Our own local U.S. Rep. Adam Smith is the most decisive leader in America on the CAFTA issue. Smith is currently being heavily lobbied by corporate interests. He also needs to hear from us, his constituents, our deep concern about the effect those corporate interests are having on the common people both here and abroad.

**Q: What was the most striking aspect of your visit?**

**A:** The day before we left, we had the privilege to be part of a discussion with community leaders from several Central American countries. The topic of discussion was about the tragic past, the hopeful present, and the uncertain and fearful future.

Despite innovative projects such as the Zone of Peace, some economists say

that both income inequality and concentration of wealth appear to have increased since the civil war ended in 1992. Salvadorans and others are deeply concerned about CAFTA. One of the community leaders speaking to us, a Panamanian priest, closed his remarks by saying, "CAFTA is a project of death." I felt a tremendous sense of responsibility to bring this message back to my neighbors in U.S. Rep. Adam Smith's district.

We must stand by the people who survived war, massacres, torture and abandonment. Romero wrote, "The full liberation of the Salvadoran people, not to

mention personal conversions, demands a thorough change in the social, political and economic system." You and I can help by addressing how American foreign policy and lifestyle impact our Third World neighbors, especially in this decision time for Central America.

*Tom Karlin and his traveling companions will be reporting back to some local congregations, especially during the spring months as Congress prepares to vote on CAFTA. If your organization would like a presentation, please contact Tom at (253) 627-2857.*

If your family has been touched  
by Alzheimer's Disease  
**THERE IS HELP!**

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# May is National Mental Health Month



## Reflection: Calling for renewed dialogue between psychology and religion

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE C. BRADLEY

Recently, I re-read Sigmund Freud's small book, *The Future of an Illusion*. First published in 1927, this volume records Freud's beliefs that "religion is comparable to a childhood neurosis," that God is an illusion, and that the strength of religious ideas lies solely in the strength of the "oldest, strongest and most urgent wishes of mankind." The book is really a masterpiece of atheistic reasoning in its pitting of the knowledge derived through science against the "neurotic wish-fulfilling" nature of religious beliefs.

I hadn't read Freud since I was an undergraduate at a Jesuit university studying for my degrees in psychology and philosophy. In the 20-plus years that have elapsed since that time, though, I've done a great deal of reflecting on the impact of Freud's position and the resulting impasse between psychology and spirituality.

Historically, many of the world's religions have demonized mental illnesses and those living with their symptoms. And, largely due to Freud, psychology has long pathologized spiritual and religious beliefs. This has resulted in a seemingly irresolvable conflict between these two ways of making sense of human experience.

As someone who is in recovery from schizophrenia and who is also a professional mental health chaplain, I have a foot in both the domain of psychology and of spirituality. I see much good in both worlds and many ways the two can inform each other to the benefit of both.

*Religion can be a meaningful, sustaining source of encouragement that improves the quality of life in non-pathological ways for those with mental illnesses.*

Psychology has important learnings to offer to religion and spirituality. The most significant of these is that mental illnesses are biochemical brain disorders, not the effects of moral deficiency, or of insufficient faith or inadequate prayer. Neuropsychologists are researching the causes of brain disorders such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, depression and severe anxiety. These scientists are examining the effects of heredity, genetics and pre-natal illnesses on the emergence of mental illnesses. Other researchers are developing treatments for the symptoms and investigating cures for these disorders. Modern psychology can inform traditional religious beliefs that mental illnesses are not demon-possession but rather they are brain disorders.

Medical psychology offers efficacious treatments for brain disorders that work for many people. Psychotropic medications can relieve the symptoms of mental illnesses, allowing people who are otherwise severely disabled to function mean-

ingfully in society. The testimonies of individuals who have regained a quality life through these medications can inform religious believers that these illnesses are not the results of sin or lack of faith. God works through the medications to bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer.

In turn, faith communities and spirituality can inform modern psychology in several ways. Many people in recovery from major mental illnesses have found hope, direction, and new life in their spiritual and religious beliefs. Contrary to Freud's belief, religion can be a meaningful, sustaining source of encouragement that improves the quality of life in non-pathological ways for those with mental illnesses.

Faith communities, spiritual practices and rituals offer structure for life events

*Faith communities, spiritual practices and rituals offer structure for life events and life cycles.*

and life cycles. Without some structure all of us flounder in chaos, but spiritual practices and faith communities provide opportunities for sharing love and compassion, thanksgiving, grief support, forgiveness, worship and fellowship. These are vital to many with mental illnesses who are so often isolated and alone and who have experienced many significant losses.

Spirituality counters despair as individuals find hope for eternal life or enlightenment; or through believing that God has a plan, God loves me, and God is with me in this suffering. Many with mental illnesses also find meaning through identifying their pain and loss with Christ's suffering, or through learning from Buddhism that desire is the cause of all suffering. Spiritual teachings can provide new direction and opportunities for people with mental illnesses to use their gifts in service of others in advocacy or through affirmation and prayer. This leads to a more meaningful life, increased self-esteem, and an overall reduction in prejudice and stigma against those who live with biochemical brain disorders.

In summary, I hope to see greater dialogue between psychology and religion in years to come. Both dimensions of human experience have much to offer to each other and to the greater good of humanity as a whole. May Sigmund Freud's pejorative and myopic vision be overruled by open-minded sharing of ideas from both domains. May people with mental illnesses, and all of us, gain a better quality of healing and life through the dialogue.

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

### What's YOUR Mental Health IQ?

This is Mental Health Month ... how well do you know these basic mental health questions? Challenge yourself ... you may be surprised!

- 1.) Regular exercise can greatly reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety disorders. True / False
- 2.) Treatment success rates for disorders such as depression surpass those for other medical conditions like heart disease. True / False
- 3.) People who have schizophrenia don't usually recover from the disorder. True / False
- 4.) Work-related stress can double a person's risk of dying from heart disease. True / False
- 5.) The number of hours a person works causes more stress at work than the office environment. True / False
- 6.) Workplace stress causes about 1 million U.S. employees to miss work each day. True / False
- 7.) Depression is a normal part of aging. True / False
- 8.) People who have mental disorders are more dangerous than people in the general population. True / False
- 9.) About every two hours, a young person kills himself or herself. True / False
- 10.) One in five Americans experiences a mental health disorder in any given year, but only one-third seek care due to the stigma and misperceptions surrounding mental disorders and their treatment. True / False

Answers below

- 1.) True! In fact, a recent study showed that about 60 percent of people with such disorders significantly reduced their symptoms with regular exercise.
- 2.) True! In fact, the treatment success rate for depression is more than 80 percent, whereas the rate for heart disease is 45-50 percent.
- 3.) This common myth is actually false. Up to two-thirds of people who are diagnosed with schizophrenia actually recover significantly—and some completely—from the disorder.
- 4.) This sad fact is true. Find tips on how to handle stress at work and at home at [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).
- 5.) This is false. A recent study shows that job environment has a far greater impact on stress at the office than the number of hours workers put in. A positive work environment can go a long way to relieve stress and increase productivity.
- 6.) True. Again, see [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org) for useful tips on how to handle stress at work and at home.
- 7.) False. Depression is not a normal part of the aging process that we need to "grin and bear." Older people who have symptoms of depression should address the issue with their physician.
- 8.) False! This common distortion gets perpetuated by the rare incidents that make the headlines. Statistics show, however, that people who have mental disorders are no more likely to be dangerous than people without such disorders.
- 9.) Sadly, this is true. Three million teenagers have either considered or attempted suicide in the past year—but only one-fifth of kids who need mental health services actually receive them.
- 10.) This is true. Unfortunately, people often let shame or a belief that they can "handle it on their own" keep them from getting care. The truth is, mental illnesses are real, common and treatable. No one should let stigma stand in the way of getting care that can lead to a happier, healthier, more productive life.

For more information, contact your local Mental Health Association or the National Mental Health Association at 800-969-NMHA (6642), or visit [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).

Quiz reprinted from National Mental Health Association (NMHA) website at [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).

### Points to Remember

- MIND Your Health—Mental health and physical health go hand in hand.
- Caring for your mind, as well as your body, is good for your overall health and key to your success at home, at work and at school.
- Mental health problems are real, common and treatable.
- Mental health problems, including depression and anxiety disorders, are as treatable as many physical illnesses.
- Spiritual practice can help you maintain good mental health.
- A strong sense of spirituality can be an important factor in a person's recovery from mental illness.

**Remember that the next CHANNEL will be dated July/August 2005**

Can't wait? Check out the News Flashes online at <http://www.associatedministries.org>.

# BOOK REVIEW: Anne Lamott offers reflections on faith at mid-life

*Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*  
by Anne Lamott  
(Riverhead Books, 2005)

REVIEWED BY SHANNON O'DONNELL

"On my forty-ninth birthday, I decided that all of life was hopeless, and I would eat myself to death." So begins Anne Lamott's latest book, *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*. Sometimes an act of faith begins with such a declaration. It is just that personal. For Lamott, faith comes down to that personal struggle but does not rest until it takes on the peace movement, loving the unlovable, being a Mother, addictions, and hundreds of other subjects, all seen with sight made truer by faith. Lamott traced her journey to faith in her previous book, *Traveling Mercies: Thoughts on Faith*. This new book picks up the story, the many stories, about growing in faith, about being a partner with God in changing the world and one life. She has an exuberant love of life that leaves room for noticing that all is not well with the world, that people do suffer, that God has some answering to do, that both peace and justice may take a very long time in coming.

The essays in *Plan B*, many of them published online previously at Salon.com, deal with the years after 2001 as the country launched into a war and millions around the world marched for peace. Lamott joins a number of other people of faith to articu-

late the hunger for a way different from brute force. In this, readers who felt shoved out of the political process in the last round of elections may find a friend and compatriot. "What is there to do in such difficult, violent times?" she asks and then begins her simple list which includes praying for "the willingness to really forgive someone today...even though I do not expect it to go well."

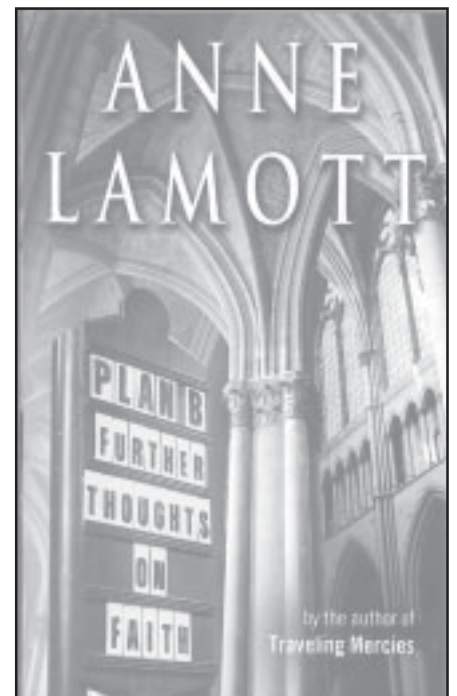
Lamott's faith-vision has grown since her last book. She is grounded in her church community, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, California, a community that loved her when she could not love herself, who accepted her, even when the "Jesus-y stuff" was too much for her, who continue to challenge her and themselves in living out the fullness of the life promised by Christ. Many people of that congregation inhabit her stories, give her a framework for discovering the immensity of God's love and provide a wellspring of hope that her own small actions will have an effect on the world. She has many friends, inside and outside that church, and shares the light she has seen in them.

Many people first met Anne Lamott in her book *Operating Instructions*. It chronicled her first year as a parent, in-

cluding the days she thought she was insane for ever thinking parenting might be something she could do. Her son Sam is a teenager now and some of the essays in *Plan B* are about their growing relationship. She is a thoughtful mother, bewildered at times, unafraid to ask for help from friends, and genuinely convinced that, in spite of the mistakes, honesty is still the best road to raising a child. She writes about Sam with affection and frustration, and yields to his desire for a private life. The essay "Diamond Heart" is available on Salon.com.

Lamott also shares her ambivalent relationship with her parents, both dead now, with frankness that may have some readers reacting, "I've thought that, but I'd never said it out loud!" She struggles with her body and old addictions and new relationships and says what she thinks, even when it is uncomfortable or embarrassing. Past fifty now, she says, "Age has given me what I was looking for my entire life—it has given me me."

This book is more than one woman's reflection on her life. On every page is the author's voice, "Hey, what do you think? How does this affect you? What made you sit up and pay attention today?" The questions she raises and juggles and sees



through a brilliant kaleidoscope always go back to primary questions: Who are we in this world and how should we act because we are here?

Lamott takes her faith seriously in examining life and never loses her sense of humor. In the end, she is full of hope and hasn't yet eaten herself to death.

Shannon O'Donnell is a pastoral minister and writer. She serves as the Catholic chaplain at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton.

## Catherine Place will be first stop for book signing by local author

On Saturday, May 14, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., Catherine Place will host a book signing party for Patrice D. Edwards' new release *Bullets of Light: Precious...Powerful...Women*. Wisdom, in the Bible, is given a feminine personality. *Bullets of Light* affirms this gift of wisdom, denotes its eternal truths, illuminates its feminine characteristics, and provides practical instruction for obtaining and using this gift. It also supplies inspirational ideas and strategy for spiritual journeying and for tapping into the potency in human feminine understanding.

Patrice Edwards is a Christian ecumenical minister and founder of Wisdom's Light, a spiritual coaching practice in Federal Way. She strives to "help you get from who you are, to who you are meant to

be." Patrice works with clients to explore topics like "What is my unique role in life?" "How do I realize my dreams?" "How can I design a life that is authentic and practical?"

The afternoon will include readings, appreciation gifts, and a time for Q&A with the author.

Catherine Place, led by Sister Peg Murphy, is a ministry of the Dominican Sisters and Associates, providing opportunities for spiritual renewal and empowerment for women. Catherine Place is located at 923 So. 8th St. in Tacoma. For more information call (253) 572-3547 or email [cplace@catherineplace.org](mailto:cplace@catherineplace.org). To learn more about Wisdom's Light, see [www.preciousandpowerful.com](http://www.preciousandpowerful.com).

## Documentary portrays support group for bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families

"If we who have paid the highest price possible can talk to each other, then anybody can." - Roni Hirshenzon, co-founder of *The Parents Circle*

Roni Hirshenzon is a 60-year-old Israeli man who has suffered as much as any parent can imagine. Both of his sons are dead—each having died at age 19 as a direct result of violence stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Putting anger and despair aside, Roni co-founded *The Parents Circle*, a support group for Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost children in the conflict. He and Palestinian Ghazi Briegieth—who lost his brother—work together to connect with bereaved parents in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Their worldwide message is simple: No more death.

Produced and edited by Seattle-based filmmakers Ellen Frick and Gretchen Burger, the one-hour documentary *Another Side of Peace* follows Roni's efforts to come to terms with the deaths of his sons and his efforts to achieve reconciliation and promote peace. "The film is

neither pro-Israeli nor pro-Palestinian; it's pro-peace," says Frick, who also directed the film.

*Another Side of Peace* will have its world broadcast premiere Thursday, May 19, at 10:00 p.m. on KCTS Television. KCTS will repeat the documentary on Monday, May 23 at 2:00 a.m.

*Another Side of Peace* is both tragic and hopeful. The documentary captures Roni's first-time visits to the places where each of his two sons died and also follows him as he slips into the West Bank, where he meets with a newly bereaved Palestinian family and invites them to join a *Parents Circle* seminar at the end of the week. A member of the Palestinian family agrees to attend the seminar and crosses the border into Israel without a permit. Receiving support from the circle of Israelis and Palestinians, he says, "Together we are stronger than the storm, the storm of the killing and the storm of the pain."

Additional information about *Another Side of Peace* is available at [anothersideofpeace.org](http://anothersideofpeace.org).

Support good taste by eating at a non-smoking restaurant on Smoke-Free Sunday! For a location near you, visit [www.SecondhandSmokesYou.com](http://www.SecondhandSmokesYou.com)

Did you know?:

- Less than 20% of Washington residents smoke
- 38,000 non-smokers die every year from secondhand smoke
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# IN BRIEF

## Blues Vespers is moving

After more than five years, Tacoma's monthly Blues Vespers service is moving from its original home at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Beginning in June 2005, the service will be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 909 North J St, Tacoma. The first Blues Vespers at Immanuel Presbyterian will be held June 19 at 5:00 p.m. with special performers Paul Green and Straight Shot featuring Mark Reilly. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 627-8371.

## Conversations with Gordon Kaufman

University Baptist Church in Seattle will host a special Pentecost series with theologian Gordon Kaufman from May 15-17. Gordon D. Kaufman is Professor of Theology Emeritus at Harvard Divinity School and author of the new book, *In the Beginning... Creativity*. In this radical recasting of religious thinking, renowned theologian Kaufman demonstrates how thinking of God as creativity illuminates our understanding of the creation of the universe, the cosmic evolutionary process and human symbolic creativity. Kaufman investigates what it would mean to think of God in new ways, to live with faith in this God, and to cooperate with the divine in meeting our most pressing global challenges. All are invited to attend this series of conversations on what it means to think about God today: Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. Gordon Kaufman preaching about "Mystery and God" followed by light lunch, book signing and conversation; Monday, May 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Conversation with Gordon Kaufman

on "Today's Evolutionary/Ecological World and the Theological Structure of Christian Faith," Tuesday, May 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Conversation with Gordon Kaufman on "A Christian View of Creativity: Creativity as God." All events will be held at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Registrations are encouraged and donations are welcomed. For more information call Rev. Tim Phillips, pastor, at (206) 632-5188 or email info@ubcseattle.org.

## Grief and Loss Support Group starts June 2

MultiCare Hospice of Tacoma will offer an eight-week bereavement support group, beginning Thursday, June 2 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.) and ending July 21. The group is open to the general public, and is meant to support people emotionally while providing education about the natural grieving process. It will also focus on developing coping methods while integrating the loss and remembering the loved ones throughout the eight-week experience. If you are an adult grieving the death of a loved one and would like to find out more about this support group, please call Kathryn McBride, MA, bereavement counselor at (253) 459-8388.

## Gateways kicks off annual campaign

Gateways for Youth & Families, a local provider of non-profit social services for youth and families, will kick off its 2005 Annual Campaign Fund Drive with a special event at the Gateways Bingo Hall in Lakewood on Thursday, May 5 at 12:00 p.m. The address is 11605 Bridgeport Way

SW in Lakewood. The featured speaker will be *News Tribune* columnist Kathleen Merryman. All are welcome to this free event, which will offer free food, door prizes and special performances. Also available will be items produced locally by the youth of the Dan Quinn Project from the Jessie Dyslin Boys Ranch. Products include potting benches, ceramic inlaid tables, bird houses and other handmade crafts, as well as live tulip plants. All products are crafted by the youth in Gateways programs and will be available at a special campaign kick-off discount. For more information contact Malcolm Russell at (253) 383-4361.

## Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop to be held June 11

Pastor Joanna Robinson and Jim Neuberger will offer a Marriage Preparation/Exploration Workshop on Saturday, June 11. 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 dates for 2005 are Saturday, July 23 and Saturday, October 29. All workshops will be held at United Lutheran in Tacoma.

## Spiritual Life Institute welcomes renowned peace activists

Internationally known peace activists Jim & Shelley Douglass will be the primary speakers at the annual Spiritual Life Institute, June 20-24 at St. Martin's College in Lacey. The theme of the 2005 institute is *The Living, Transforming Truth: The Spiritual Journey of Nonviolence, Peace and Justice Today*. Registration is required for daytime sessions, but all evening sessions of the Spiritual Life Institute are free and open to the public. Evening sessions are held from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Norman Worthington Conference Center at St. Martin's College, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey. The scheduled topics for the evening series are: Tues., June 21 Jim Douglass presents "JFK, Thomas Merton, and the Unspeakable." On Wed., June 22 Shelley Douglass presents "What is Truth? Choices in John's Gospel and Today" and on Thurs., June 23 members of St. Martin's faculty present "Conversation Partners: Creatively and Critically Engaging the Vision of Shelley and Jim Douglass from the Perspective of Various Disciplines." For more information contact David Suter and Angie Gross at sli@stmartin.edu or (360) 438-4564.

## Car care clinic offered in Tacoma

First Lutheran Church in Tacoma will host a car care clinic on Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the church parking lot, across from Wright Park at South 6th Ave. and I St. The clinic will feature expert mechanics Jerry Peterson and Fred Hirons. Learn the basics of car maintenance and what to look for when shopping for a used car. The clinic is being offered free of charge. A free-will offering will be collected for the First Lutheran Youth Group. For more information call First Lutheran Church at (253) 272-1538 or Julie at (253) 209-5523.

## Needs & Wants

**POSITION AVAILABLE: NURSERY ATTENDANT** — St. Joseph-St. John Episcopal Church in Lakewood is seeking a nursery attendant for Sundays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. \$20/week. Contact the church at (253) 921-7966.

**POSITION AVAILABLE: MUSIC DIRECTOR** — Urban Grace—The Downtown Church (formerly First Baptist Church) seeks a part-time music director. The successful candidate will be a skilled musician able to direct the music program, including a choir, and play instruments (keyboard, including hopefully the organ) during worship services. She/he will be responsible to the pastor and will lead instrumental and vocal musicians and promote the spiritual life of the community through a music ministry. For a full description of the skills and responsibilities of this position, contact Farishta at Urban Grace, (253) 272-2184.

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

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

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

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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Space is limited. Call 253-272-5844 for details or visit www.npccenter.org for secure online registration. Open to all community and faith-based organizations.

# Pierce County Happenings - May-June 2005

## 5/1 Sunday

**Pascha** in the Eastern Christian tradition celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## 5/1 Sunday

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

## 5/1 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.

## 5/5 Thursday

**Ascension**, in the Western Christian tradition, marks the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

## 5/5 Thursday

In the United States, this date marks the **National Day of Prayer**.

## 5/5 Thursday

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

## 5/5 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Buddhist prayer and chant** 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.

## 5/6 Friday

In Judaism, **Yom HaShoah** honors the memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

## 5/6 Friday

The annual **Law Enforcement Memorial Service** will be held at 1:30 p.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church, 12115 Park Ave. S., Parkland. Law enforcement professionals and community members will honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty. For information please call Chaplain Bill Bowlby at (253) 573-2355.

## 5/6 Friday

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Tacoma, 1115 South 56th Street, Tacoma, will host **Linking Peace and Workplace Justice Movements** from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Led by Jobs with Justice, this interactive dialogue will explore war's impact on workers and identify local struggles where diverse communities have found common ground. Light refreshments will precede the workshop at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (253) 228-7389.

## 5/6 Friday

Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N. Madison, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 759-3539.

## 5/8 Sunday

### Mother's Day

## 5/9 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "Depression in Older Adults" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Jeff Tingelstad, MA, LMHC, will discuss the biological, psychological and social causes of depression along

with current treatment strategies. Admission is free and reservations are not necessary. For information call (253) 581-7020.

## 5/11 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). Women in Black is an international network of vigils challenging militaristic solutions to conflict. Women stand in public vigil, in silence, wearing black to mourn for all victims of war. Women in Black vigils take place in Downtown Tacoma on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Vigils are also held in Gig Harbor every Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the southwest corner of Olympic Dr. and Pt. Fosdick Dr. For more information please contact Alison Loris at (253) 572-5084 (Tacoma) or Terrie Watrin at (253) 265-2356 (Gig Harbor).

## 5/12 Thursday

Phoenix Housing Network (PHN) will hold its annual **Spring Fundraiser Breakfast** from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at University Place Presbyterian Church, 8101 27th St. W in Tacoma. Proceeds benefit PHN's new youth counseling initiative. Featured speaker will be Lyle Quasim. For more information, call (253) 471-5340.

## 5/12 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.

## 5/12 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.

## 5/13-15 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a **Silent Centering Prayer Retreat** from 7:15 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Intended for those with at least a couple of months of daily practice of centering prayer, this retreat offers a short sample of the grand monastic silence. Spiritual direction and healing touch are available for an additional fee by prior appointment. Registration is \$170. Please register by May 6. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

## 5/14 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington's **World Religions series** will offer "Islam" from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Wyckoff Auditorium, Engineering Building at Seattle University. The presenters will be Imam Irshad Mahli and Mahbulul Alam Ali. Class fee is \$25. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email eisengn@aol.com.

## 5/14 Saturday

From 1:00-4:00 p.m., Catherine Place will host a **book signing party** for Patrice D. Edwards' new release *Bullets of Light: Precious...Powerful...Women*. Catherine Place is located at 923 So. 8th Street, (corner of S. 8th & J) in Tacoma. For information call (253) 572-3547 or email cplace@catherineplace.org.

## 5/14 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.

## 5/15 Sunday

**Pentecost** in the Western Christian tradition commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus following his ascension. It comes fifty days after Easter and marks the end of the Easter season.

## 5/19 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.

## 5/20 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](mailto:tacomadup@yahoo.com).

## 5/25 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 5/11 listing.

## 5/26 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, 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; use the back door. For information call (253) 627-4347.

## 5/30 Monday

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

## 6/2 Thursday

A **public witness to abolish the death penalty** will be held from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in front of the County-City Building on Tacoma Ave. S between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. (See 5/5 listing.)

## 6/2 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Buddhist prayer and chant** 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 please call (253) 627-4347.

## 6/5 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.

## 6/8 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 5/11 listing.

## 6/9 Thursday

**Ascension**, in the Eastern Christian tradition, marks the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

## 6/9 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.

## 6/9 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.

## 6/11 Saturday

Seattle University will host the Interfaith Council of Washington's **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Wyckoff Auditorium in the Engineering Building. The topic will be "Bahá'í," presented by Rich Ater. Class fee is \$25. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email [eisengn@aol.com](mailto:eisengn@aol.com).

## 6/11 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Living Into the Fullness of Our Calling** from 9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Facilitator Christine Valters Paintner, Ph.D. is a spiritual director, teacher, writer, retreat and workshop leader who especially loves to use the arts and creative process in her work. Registration is \$50. Please register by June 3. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

## 6/15 Wednesday

**Deadline for July/August CHANNEL**

## 6/16 Thursday

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

## 6/19 Sunday

**Pentecost** in the Eastern Christian tradition commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus following his ascension. It comes fifty days after Pascha (Easter).

## 6/19 Sunday

### Father's Day

## 6/19 Sunday

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 909 North J St., Tacoma, will host the **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. Featured performers will be Paul Green and Straight Shot featuring Mark Reilly. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 627-8371.

## 6/22 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 5/11 listing.

## 6/23 Thursday

In Judaism, **Shavuot** commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Israelites.

## 6/23 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, 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; use the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

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