

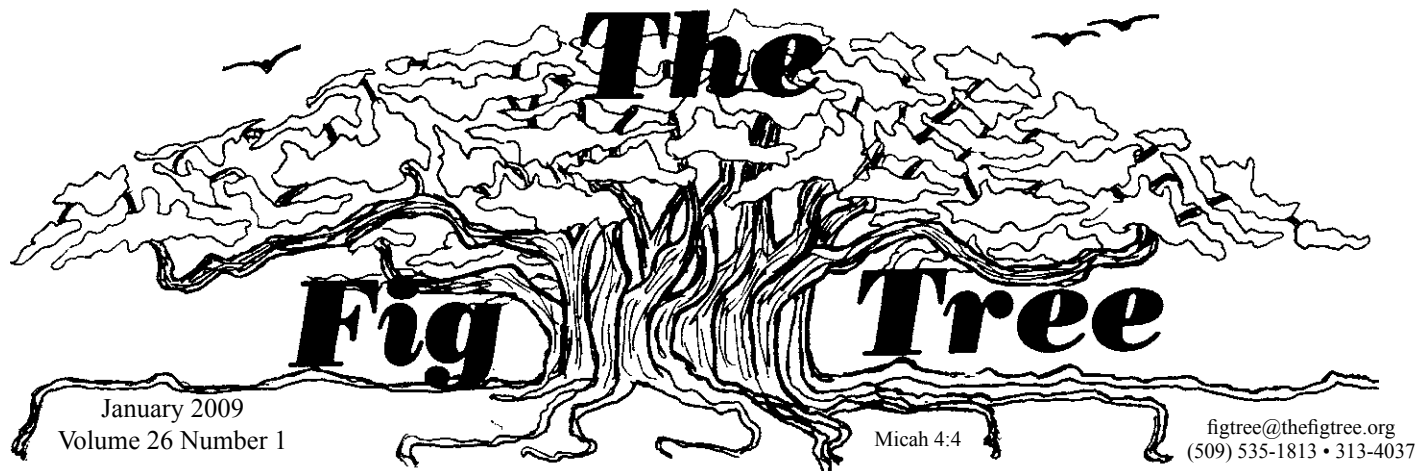
STORIES INSIDE

Wallace Williams passes on mentoring he received - p. 4

Metaline Falls pastor is also the mayor - p. 6

Juliet Sinisterra lowers her ecological footprint - p. 7

Our Place keeps up with rising need - p. 12



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

online in color at www.thefigtree.org

Volunteer advances human rights

By Mary Stamp

Yvonne Lopez Morton's name embodies the multicultural heritage that motivates her commitment to human rights, volunteerism, justice, faith and peace.

This daughter of a French war bride and a Hispanic veteran from New Mexico said that, because she looks like her French mother and has a Hispanic last name, some people question her ethnicity.

Born in Northern New Mexico and growing up in Albuquerque, Yvonne said her community and family were a blend of cultures. Her four siblings look Hispanic and most of her friends were Hispanic, strengthening that identity.

The heritages in her genes and life experiences made it a natural fit when Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Yvonne in October 2007 to serve on the Washington State Human Rights Commission. Previously, Yvonne served six years on the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Those involvements and her many volunteer activities embody efforts to celebrate and educate people about diversity, and to challenge discrimination, prejudice, injustice and war.



Yvonne Lopez Morton

She relishes opportunities to draw the community together to showcase diverse cultures and address challenges for marginalized people.

After coming to Spokane in 1984, she worked in communications with Inland Power and Light and at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, before working with the Spokane Public School's Safe Healthy Students Initiative the last four years.

In addition to work, saying "yes" to volunteer opportunities keeps her active.

She serves on the Spokane County Civil Service Commission and on boards, advisory boards or councils of United Way, the Women Helping Women, the Hispanic Business Professional Association, Leadership Spokane, the Washington Latino/a Education Achievement Program, Washington State University, Washington Business Week and Eastern Washington University Women's Studies.

Other community involvements include Rotary 21, Fig Tree events, Spokane Symphony Associates, Spokane Public Relations Council, Northwest Lands Council,

Continued on page 9

Listening to colleagues at Lambeth brought more unity than legislating

Episcopal Bishop Jim Wagoner and his spouse, Gloria, appreciated that the Lambeth Conference last summer was a time of listening rather than win-lose legislating.

By listening, they said they gained many helpful insights into the lives of people in different areas and made connections with people from around the globe during their first Lambeth Conference. It was held from July 16 to Aug. 3 in Canterbury, England.

The nearly 700 Anglican bishops and more than 500 spouses, representing 38 provinces in 134 countries, dispelled misperceptions and myths, said Jim, who is in his eighth year as Bishop of the Diocese of Spokane.

Most of the 135 U.S. Episcopal bishops attended Lambeth, despite disagreement over ordination of women and gays. For 120 U.S. bishops, including him, it was their first Lambeth Conference.

"Many expected few U.S. bishops would come," he said. "It was positive that so many came despite disagreements."

"We have to be responsible to each other. We do not live in isolation. What we decide in the church and do in our daily lives affects others," Jim said. "We tend to live as though, if we don't see what's happening, it does not matter."

At the Lambeth Conference, he and Gloria met and learned of people who live in communities that are often threatened by invading

terrorists who think nothing of maiming or torturing people.

Jim realizes both from Lambeth and from diocesan outreach that small amounts of money can make a difference.

For example, a congregation of 14 in Dayton sent \$300 to support an African program for feeding babies.

Another congregation has a bike ride to raise money for clean water overseas.

A local group has discovered an invention to clean village water.

Jim believes more people would do more if they knew practical ways to help.

"Young people around the world don't want to know what we believe," he said. "They want to know what we are doing."

In that spirit, bishops at Lambeth chose not to adopt some common standard across the Anglican communion that would exclude some. In listening to and respecting their differences, they moved each other to deepened commitment and actions appropriate in their unique settings.

Continued on page 5

'Gospel in the Cathedral' is set for Sunday, Jan. 11

The Episcopal Cathedral of St. John is sponsoring a "Gospel in the Cathedral" concert to raise funds for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center.

It will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11, at the cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

In 2003, the last Gospel Concert at the cathedral had attracted a capacity crowd that filled standing room as well as seats, said organizer Rich Relyea.

"This year's concert will be three times as entertaining and inspiring as the last Gospel Concert, because it features three gospel groups instead of one," he said.

The groups are the Spokane Community Gospel Mass Choir, featuring Sharon Cowan; the Montana Trombone Chorale, and the Bethel B.A.S.I.C. Gospel Choir, featuring Elisha Mitchell.

Through directing the Spokane Community Gospel Mass Choir, Sharon seeks to share the message of God's love. She is also equity and community outreach services director at Community Colleges of Spokane, where she promotes unity and justice. She seeks to educate, enlighten and empower people to speak up when they encounter prejudice, racism and cultural insensitivity.

Elisha, who is choir director at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Spokane, is also a composer, recording artist, inspirational speaker, teacher, volunteer and missionary. She has produced several CDs of her music.

The Montana Trombone Chorale is an ensemble of six trombonists who have performed together for 16 years. They

Continued on page 11

The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

DATED MATERIALS

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE WA
Permit No. 1044

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches and Ecumenical News International, PO Box 2100 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111 Fax: +41-22 788 7244

Christian-Muslim dialogue criticizes media

Tehran, Iran (WCC) - Equal participation and shared responsibility in society are the basis of peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims, said six Christian and 15 Muslim participants at a recent inter-religious symposium in Tehran, Iran. They highlighted the value of learning from each other's faith and criticized media irresponsibility in distorting the image, demeaning the symbols or offending followers of any religion.

The Tehran-based Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and the World Council of Churches (WCC) jointly convened the December symposium on "Religion and Peaceful Coexistence."

A joint communiqué summarizes eight points of agreement on co-existence between Christians and Muslims in Iran, and the value of spreading dialogue beyond scholars and spiritual leaders so more people learn about each other's faith. It said that peaceful coexistence "includes recognizing and respecting one another's religious and civil rights, and taking a common stand whenever the rights of religious communities are violated."

Pacific Islanders appeal for solidarity

At the recent United Nations Advocacy Week of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Christians from Pacific islands appealed for global solidarity on climate change, a question of life and death in their communities. The Rev. Asora Amosa, a Samoan-born pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, spoke of the threat: "If icebergs break off and float past the south coast of New Zealand, we wonder what is coming next." Addressing more than 100 representatives from churches and organizations defending people and nature, he said it is time to take action together: "We realize the time for blame has gone."

The Rev. Baranite Kirata from Kiribati, one of the three Pacific island states that will lose territory to the rising sea level in the near future, explained what it means to know that not only will his people become refugees but also the place they call home will disappear under the rising waters.

People there are losing homes and livelihoods as floods are more frequent and fish are fewer. Diseases and extreme heat threaten their health. Rising salt water kills roots of trees and pollutes wells, and rainfall, the second source of drinking water, becomes scarce. For Pacific churches, the issue is theological, ethical and spiritual, not just political and economic. They feel their place in God's creation is at stake. Those whose houses on the coast have been destroyed move inland, but that's not a lasting solution. "Soon we may fight each other over land, food, water," Baranite said.

Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi, general secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), who has received many requests to relocate churches to higher ground, said Pacific churches have action plans and conservation activities, and cooperate with partners in the North to raise awareness. He proposes the "polluter pays" principle, based on calculating each country's greenhouse gas emissions and gross domestic product.

Another action is to promote renewable energy over non-permanent solutions like carbon capture or nuclear power, he said. He also called for research into the cultural, legal and economic implications of a nation's sovereign territory disappearing.

Elias Crisostomo Abramides of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Buenos Aires and South America affirmed the WCC's role as a voice for ethical and justice issues on climate protection.

The Rev. Jorge Domingues, a Brazilian United Methodist, called on Christians in the financial markets to adopt a shareholder advocacy policy to press companies on climate change. He said churches need to consider their own carbon footprints.

With a mixture of realism and optimism, Baranite explained that "it is now too late to do something for Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, but together, we are the world, and it is not too late to do something for us all."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Ecumenical worship service planned Jan. 25

The Washington Association of Churches (WAC) is promoting worship services in Spokane, Seattle and around the state to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as part of its efforts to deepen ecumenical relationships by reflection, dialogue, worship, prayer and fellowship, said Alice Woldt, transitional director of the association.

In Spokane, the WAC's Eastern Washington liaison Malcolm Haworth has arranged a service at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 25, at St.

Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone Ave.

The WAC is distributing a model service, developed by Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

Other resources on the 2009 focus on reconciliation are available from the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Garrison, N.Y., which prepares resources each year.

In 1966, the Faith and Order

Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Council for Promoting Christian Unity began establishing a common international text for worldwide use. The 2009 text is Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a and the theme is "That They May Become One in Your Hand."

The service was first observed in 1908 in a Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church outside New York City.

For information, call 216-6090 or (206) 625-9790.

Martin Luther King Day events announced

The 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration will include a service at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at Emmanuel Family Life Center adjacent to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 645 S. Newark.

Prior to the celebration, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will officially open the center.

Among the presenters at the

service will be Rabbi Jack Izakson of Temple Beth Shalom, the Rev. Steve Dublinski of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, and the Rev. Jimmy Pierce of Unspeakable Joy Church.

Sharon Cowan will lead the Spokane Community Mass Gospel Choir.

The theme will be "Advancing the Dream."

At 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 19,

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day events will begin with a rally at the INB Performing Arts Center, followed by the Unity March through downtown Spokane to River Park Square.

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Resource Fair will be held there from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at River Park Square.

For information, call 455-8722 or 838-6581.

Dan Baumgarten speaks at City Forum

The January Spokane City Forum features a presentation on "Building Economic Resilience and Community Sustainability" by Dan Baumgarten, executive director of Community-Minded Enterprises, at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

How do global financial crisis, climate change and oil depletion affect Spokane? What is Spokane's responsibility to prepare for and prevent them? Dan asks these questions in addressing how a community-first orientation can

bring renewal and hope in the face of challenges of the 21st century.

Dan has been the director of Community-Minded Enterprises, formerly the Health Improvement Partnership (HIP), for 10 years.

It is a growing alliance of citizens, organizations and businesses dedicated to enhancing community wellbeing and sustainability. Dan worked with medical and health-care entities to create HIP, building it from one to more than 35 employees in 12 years.

Community-Minded Enterprises has expanded from East-

ern Washington to communities throughout the Northwest and internationally.

For information, call 777-1555 or email info@spokanecityforum.org.

Fig Tree plans writers' training

The Fig Tree is planning a training session for writers for contributing feature articles to the newspaper and website from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, in Unity House, 709 E. Desmet, at Gonzaga University.

For information, call 535-1813.

Alliance plans Winter Assembly

The Spokane Alliance's Winter Assembly on "Quality Jobs for a Healthy Environment" will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 Fort Wright Dr.

The alliance's 2009 initiatives include mandating 15 percent apprentice use for four-year public university construction; asking Spokane Public Schools to require a proportion of local trade apprentice programs to include local graduates; building a highly

skilled local workforce for green building, and including SustainableWorks on lists submitted to President-elect Barack Obama and local organizations.

The assembly will address local interests related to the environmental crisis, economic meltdown, job creation and opportunities for low-income and marginalized people.

For information, call 532-1688.



The Center for Organizational Reform
Serving those who lead & support others

We help groups that are stuck.

509-879-9235
www.corhome.org

The Fig Tree is reader supported BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

- \$16, \$26, \$54, \$150, \$1,500
- \$52 for bulk order of 15

SEND TO

The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editorial Team
Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Mary Mackay, Nancy Minard, Sara Weaver

Coordinators & Contract
Malcolm Haworth - Directory Editor
Anna Martin - Outreach Coordinator
Lorna Kropp - Website Developer
Mark Westbrook - Directory Advertising
Kathy Olson - Directory Ad Design

Fig Tree Board
Steve Blewett, John Coleman Campbell, Virginia de Leon, Bill Ellis, Deidre Jacobson, Mary Mackay, Nancy Minard, Joyce O'Connor Magee, Roger Ross, Mary Stamp, Marilyn Stedman, Edie Volosing, Happy Watkins
Emeritus: Jo Hendricks, Carl Milton

© 2009
(509) 535-1813
Email: figtree@thefigtree.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Fig Tree seeks a MULTI-TASKING JOURNALIST

- Share in editing, writing, research, layout, photography, marketing, fund raising and ad sales for newspaper, website, videos and directory.
- Nurture relationships with constituents, write grants, other tasks.
- Assist with database entry, clerical tasks, and monthly mailings.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Written and oral communication, degree in journalism preferred.
- Independent, entrepreneurial, self-motivated, creative and resourceful individual who relates well as part of a team.
- Interest in ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Word, data, design, photo, video and web computer skills.

Please send resume and cover letter to:

The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane, WA 99202
email: figtree@thefigtree.org or call 535-1813

Detailed job description at www.thefigtree.org/job.html

Convention sales manager urges faith groups to invite national events

Brenda Dodd sells Spokane as the venue for conferences and conventions.

As convention sales manager for the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors' Bureau, she hopes to add more local, regional and national religious gatherings to Spokane's events calendar.

"Local people play a major part in bringing conferences to Spokane," she said.

So Brenda is reaching out to find people willing to help plan local arrangements and invite their organizations' events.

Some events are in a single hotel under one roof with hotels such as the Red Lion Inn at the Park, the Davenport, the Double Tree and Mirabeau Park serving as venues. Other events house people in the hotels and use the space at the Spokane Convention Center and the Spokane Arena.

"Spokane is a great city for the religious organization market," Brenda said. "It's a safe, friendly, affordable, walkable city. People don't need to rent a car, but can be shuttled from the airport downtown."

"Downtown there are cultural events, fine cuisine and a family-oriented park," she said. "Plus, there are 260 days of sunshine, contrary to the perception of people in other parts of the country that it rains often."

Airlines make Spokane accessible for a reasonable cost, she added.

Spokane has hosted and will host such events as Women of Faith, Healing Rooms, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America National Triennial Convention and the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

"Local congregations and non-profits gain recognition when their regional and national gathering are held here," said Brenda, who grew up in Carnation, Wash., and worked in the hospitality business in Hawaii and Seattle before moving to Spokane 17 years ago.

She worked with several local hotels before joining the staff of the Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

She loves Spokane and has a passion to share it with others.

"We have what the religious market needs for conferences," she said.

Brenda plans to meet with some religious leaders to discuss ways to make the community an inviting location for their events.

"Local leaders play a major part in drawing attention to Spokane as a convenient, affordable location," she said, impressed with

the extent to which some local people go to promote Spokane as a venue, such as what happened with the national ice skating championships.

When event planners come to check out Spokane, Brenda coordinates their airfares, hotel rooms and complimentary events to introduce the area's assets.

If local leaders want to bring

an event, she said they can save many phone calls by contacting her. It's her role to find the venues to match their needs.

For information, call 624-1341.

Become a 2009 Fig Tree Sponsor

ATTENTION FAITH COMMUNITY!

come and join in the **Martin Luther King Day Commemoration, March & Rally**

'Advancing the Dream'

4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18

Emmanuel Family Life Center - 631 S. Richard Allen Ct.

10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 19

INB Performing Arts Center - Rally and March to River Park Square
Resource Fair: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - River Park Square

For information, call 455-8722

Jesuit priest from El Salvador to speak

Dean Brackley, S.J., will speak for the 2009 Catholicism and the New Millennium Lecture at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 2, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

His recent book, "The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola," will be included in his lecture, said organizer Tim Clancy, SJ, of the Gonzaga University religious studies department.

Dean is professor of theology and ethics at the University of Central America (UCA) in El Salvador.

When six Jesuit priests and two others at UCA were martyred by the army in 1989, the leader of the Jesuits sent out a call for volunteers to replace them.

Dean was one of the many who made themselves available, and was selected to be sent to serve in El Salvador.

He has written extensively on Jesuit spirituality and on the Jesuit mission in higher education. He also serves on the board of trustees at the Jesuit University of San Francisco.

For information, call 313-6701.

Cross-country skiing benefits free restaurant

The Women's and Children's Free Restaurant will hold its fourth annual Women's Souper Bowl cross-country skiing and snowshoe benefit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 1, at the Selkirk Lodge at Mount Spokane.

Participants need to rent or bring their own skis or snowshoes and donate to participate.

The event opens with a timed, women's-only races for both skate-style and classic-style cross-country skiers.

There will be guided snowshoe tours. Cross-country ski tours are self guided.

The benefit includes a hot soup lunch and drawings for prizes such as massages, coffee, wine, gift certificates and gear at 12:15 p.m.

A chartered bus will leave at 8 a.m. from Mountain Gear at 2002 N. Division and will also pick up passengers at Mt. Spokane High School at 8:30 a.m. It will return at 1 p.m.

The Women's and Children's Free Restaurant serves dinner from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and lunch from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Fridays, at St. Paul United Methodist Church,

1620 N. Monroe.

From 1 to 3 p.m., Fridays, it offers a Fresh Market Take Out.

The program, which serves nutritious meals in a safe, supportive environment for women and children in need, raises money and holds food drives to supply the food, said Marlene Alford, executive director.

For information, call 324-1995.

Sustainable Community:

Advocacy for Equity and the Environment in an Economic Crisis

Eastern Washington Legislative Conference

Saturday, Feb. 14 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Episcopal Cathedral of St. John
127 E 12th Ave. - Spokane

- **Motivational stories** from local and leaders
- **Policy Briefings** on state & federal legislation
- **Workshops** on homelessness and families, living wage, green economy and more

For more information, contact
The Washington Association of Churches
(206) 625-9790 or woldt@thewac.org
Malcolm Haworth - Eastern Washington liaison
216-6090 or haworthmd@yahoo.com

Registration: \$12 students / \$15 adults (includes lunch)
Send to: The WAC, c/o Haworth, 1323 S. Perry, Spokane, WA 99202
\$20 at the door

FAIR TRADE
EARTH FRIENDLY
LOCAL

GLOBAL IMPORTS
WITH VISION

35 west main
www.kizurispokane.com

Find your "Point of Inspiration" at

N-SID-SEN

Camp & Conference Center


Year-round facility—270 acres & 4,800 feet of waterfront on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

- Open for non-profit groups from 16 to 160
- Two retreat lodges with all facilities
- Fourteen cabins with baths down the trail
- Lakeside chapel
- Open-air pavilion for worship, dance or programs
- Sheltered cove for swimming and boat moorage
- Excellent food service, served family style
- Canoes and sailboats available
- Hiking trails
- Adventure challenge course
- Volleyball, basketball and horseshoes

Call 1-800-448-3489 to reserve your date for retreats, seminars, workshops or fellowship! Come and catch the spirit!

SAVE THE DATE • HOST A TABLE

2009 Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast



Stories Empower:
Peace Journalism

Wednesday, March 11

Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University
Buffet begins 7:15 a.m. • Program is 7:30- 8:30 a.m.

**Stories Empower:
Peace Journalism**

Celebrate our 25th year
by donating to
The Fig Tree Deepening our Roots Campaign to:

- build our capacity
- connect diverse people
- promote action
- learn about people living faith

**TO R.S.V.P. or HOST A TABLE
CALL 535-1813 OR 313-4037**

Life mentors inspire a life of mentoring young people

By Virginia de Leon

Throughout his life, Spokane educator Wallace Williams has turned to two sources for inspiration: his mother and his faith.

"My mom went to church, and I grew up in the church," said Wallace, who was Rogers High School's principal for 17 years and is now the director of outreach for Washington State University.

"My faith life was an extension of my mother, who made sure I grew up with biblical principles. Because of her, I focus my life on my belief in Christ," he said. "I thank God every day for putting her in my life."

Throughout his career, he has sought to share that inspiration and motivation with youth and students he has worked with in Spokane schools and now at Washington State University.

Wallace, who is 58 and the father of two grown children, is committed to working with youth and young adults to promote equal opportunities for all children, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

"My hope for students is that they can become whatever they want to be, that they can overcome the hurdles and obstacles in the way," he said. "My hope is that they will be able to do something they are passionate about. If we can find our passion, our potential has no limits. My hope is that these young people will find their passion."

The oldest of seven children, Wallace grew up in a single-parent household in Bakersfield, Calif. To make ends meet and to support her family, his mother, Oletha, always worked two jobs. She earned a living by working as an assistant nurse's aide at a hospital, working at a car wash, cleaning houses and creating crafts she would sell.

Her example taught Wallace to be resilient, work hard and lead "a quality life" every single day.

On Sundays, she took her children to a Baptist church, where they found a support network among congregation members.

To help his mother, Wallace started earning money as a teen by working in agriculture, harvesting fruit, packing produce in potato sheds and other farm labor jobs.

Although he had a few high school teachers who sat down with him and told him he was gifted, he didn't know many people in Bakersfield who went to college. No one told him to sign up for college preparatory classes in high school. Having no role models at the time, he didn't quite grasp the significance of higher education.

He played sports from an early age and his athletic abilities and prowess, as well as his performance on the high school football team, soon caught the attention of coaches and recruiters from colleges and universities across the country.

When he was 19 and attending a junior college near his home, Wallace received scholarship offers from Stanford, the University of Colorado and other schools. He chose Washington State University because of Jim Sweeney, the Cougar head coach from 1968 to 1975. Jim traveled several times to Bakersfield and had dinner in Wallace's home.

Until his first visit to Pullman in



Wallace Williams

January 1969, he had never seen snow. Along with John Hook, a teammate from Bakersfield Junior College and now principal at Mt. Spokane High School, Wallace experienced winter in full force as snow fell on and covered the rolling hills of the Palouse.

He didn't know much about WSU, but trusted Jim and his mother's instincts. So he moved to Pullman. Although he had never experienced the rural atmosphere of Eastern Washington, he immediately felt at home.

"I worked with a great coaching staff and had this support system wrapped around me," said Wallace. "I was excited about the educational experience. I felt camaraderie with the whole WSU community."

He was the first person in his family to go to a four-year university. In addition to his success in academics, he became the offensive lineman of a close-knit football team that won more games in 1970 and 1971 than teams of previous years.

During those years, he found his calling as an educator.

"There are key influences in life that help create a vision of what we might want to be," said Wallace, reflecting on his career. "We start to see ourselves through these role models and mentors."

"Most of the people who were influential in my life were coaches

and teachers. That's why I decided to major in education," he said.

After earning a teaching certificate for secondary education and a bachelor's degree in history and physical education, he earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from WSU.

For three years after college, Wallace played professional football in the fall and worked as a regional guidance counselor for Spokane Public Schools the rest of the year. He played for the San Diego Chargers during the exhibition season and was traded to the Portland Storms and also helped establish the World Football League.

"Sports enhanced my life. It was exciting and provided opportunities for me to shape myself in positive ways," he said, "but my mom and faith saved me while growing up amid negative influences of Bakersfield."

The World Football League came to an end after two years. Wallace yearned to work in schools full-time. He discovered more inspiration from young people in classrooms than from his experience as a professional athlete.

"The motivation to this day for me is seeing kids and young adults become successful," he said, "seeing them reaching and creating a vision of whatever their life aspirations are and being motivated

to achieve, aspire and accomplish their dreams."

Wallace was a counselor at Lewis and Clark High School for three years and served as Spokane Public Schools dean of students for two years. After earning his administrative credentials from Whitworth University, he was an assistant principal for 12 years and then worked at Rogers High School for 17 years.

During his tenure at Spokane Public Schools, he was able to relate to the struggles of young people, especially students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Students at Rogers were no different than other youth at other high schools, he stressed, but some lacked resources in terms of time and money. Because some came from single-parent homes and their parents worked one or maybe two jobs, some of the students didn't have the kind of support that was visible at other large high schools.

"I grew up in a similar environment," he said, recalling his home life and his years at Bakersfield's South High School.

"All the years I played sports, my mom couldn't come to games. She had to work or she had to be home with my younger brothers and sisters. I saw myself in some of the students at Rogers. I grew up like them," he said.

After working at Rogers, Wallace spent a year examining drop-out rates for Spokane Public Schools. He then met Michael Tate, vice president of WSU's Office of Equity and Diversity, who asked him to use his experience and expertise as the university's outreach director.

During his two years in that role, his goal has been to increase WSU's visibility in Spokane, especially in the minority community, and to create a support network to encourage young

people to go to college.

Wallace developed a program called POMP – Place of Most Potential. He recruited eight volunteers to work with 80 youth and their parents. The students, who are in the seventh- through 12th grades, meet with the volunteers and him at least once a month so they can talk about their goals and what they need to do now to prepare for college. Students from most of the area's middle and high schools take part in this effort to create "a college-going culture," Wallace said.

"The more people they have in their lives to motivate them and talk to them, the more successful they will be," he said. "College for them is not an option, it's an expectation."

Wallace has garnered support from area churches, especially the African-American congregations, as well as local businesses including Wendle Ford, Avista and the Spokane Teachers Credit Union.

POMP also receives support from John Fraire, WSU's vice president for enrollment management. With the help of the companies and organizations, students have been able to visit the WSU campus in Pullman and learn more about college life.

Wallace's efforts to help youth and promote diversity also have been supported by his church, Calvary Baptist, the congregation that he and his wife, Adrian, have belonged to for 20 years.

He has been recognized with numerous awards including the YWCA's Carl Maxey Racial Justice Award, which honors an individual every year for exemplifying the ideals of the late Spokane attorney.

The award he received in 2005 meant the world to Wallace, who as a young football player considered Carl Maxey a mentor and role model.

For information, call 358-7522.

Catholicism for a New Millennium
A Gonzaga Series on the Church in the 21st Century presents

Dean Brackley, SJ
The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times
Monday, Feb 2 - 7:30 p.m.
Cataldo Hall - Gonzaga University

Dean Brackley has been professor of theology and ethics at the University of Central America in El Salvador since 1989, going to replace Jesuit priests who were martyred by the army. He has written extensively on Jesuit spirituality and mission in higher education. His latest book is *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola*.

The talk and series are free and open to the public.
For more information, contact Tim Clancy SJ
(509)323-6701 or clancy@gonzaga.edu

THE 2009
Northwest Bach Festival
GUNTHER SCHULLER,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 • 8PM
Harpichord and Piano Recital performed by Mark Kroll
Music of Scarlatti, J.S. Bach, and Hummel
Pre-concert talk by Dr. Jane Ellsworth of Eastern Washington University at 7:30
Marie Antoinette Room at The Davenport Hotel • 10 S. Post Street in Spokane
General Admission Tickets \$25 (\$15 for students)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 • 8PM
Festival Organ Recital performed by James David Christie
The Bach Continuum
Music of Schütz, J.S. Bach and Max Reger
Pre-concert talk by Dr. Jane Ellsworth at 7:30pm
St. Augustine Church • 428 W. 19th Ave. at Bernard in Spokane
\$10 Suggested Donation at the Door

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 • 8PM
Chamber Music
Music of Rebel, Corrette, Bach and Haydn featuring
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Pre-concert talk by Gunther Schuller at 7:30pm
St. John's Cathedral • 127 E. 12th Avenue at Grand Boulevard in Spokane
General Admission Tickets \$25 (\$15 for students)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 • 8PM
Gunther Schuller conducts
The Bach Festival Orchestra and Chorus with
Janet Brown, soprano and Krista River, mezzo
Rockland Osgood, tenor and Donald Wilkinson, baritone
Music of Heinrich Schütz, Bach Cantatas BWV 98 and BWV 99 with
W.A. Mozart's Solemn Vespers, K. 339
Pre-concert talk by Gunther Schuller at 7:30pm
St. John's Cathedral • 127 E. 12th Avenue at Grand Boulevard in Spokane
General Admission Tickets \$30 (\$15 for students)

For more information please visit us at www.nwbachfest.com
All tickets through
TicketsWest outlets or (800) 325-SEAT or www.ticketswest.com

Bishops and spouses communicate faith so it's relevant in their contexts

Continued from page 1

While bishops met for morning Bible studies and worship, their spouses had their own studies and worship. They attended some events together.

Meeting in a small group with three women from Sudan and three Americans, Gloria learned that some Sudanese lack access to clean water, education and health care.

One spouse said rebels crossed the border, raided her village and mutilated children and adults. Another has to walk through a minefield to go to the only source of water, which is not even clean. Women going for water may be raped or maimed.

Gloria also gave a keynote speech there on the environment, offering tips on changes people can make in their daily lives.

Her talk considered daily life issues, poverty, insect-borne disease and other challenges in communities around the globe.

"One initiative from the discussion was a call to plant trees to counter carbon emissions," she said.

In addition, she suggested alternatives appropriate in other countries, such as using vanilla flavoring as a mosquito repellent.

Gloria also expressed concern about use of pesticides in mosquito nets for children. She urges eliminating mosquitoes by eliminating their breeding places in standing water or still ponds.

"We need to view the earth as part of an integrated natural system that includes insects, rather than trying to control nature with pesticides and herbicides."

She encouraged bishops and spouses to urge their governments to change laws to create safer environments.

"Bishops' spouses can also set an example and can talk to people in their communities about healthier ways to live," she said.

In the Spokane diocese and other dioceses, Gloria talks with groups about ways to take responsibility.

Jim's Bible study group included Anglican bishops from Sudan, Tanzania, South India and England, and a Lutheran bishop from South India.

Jim gained appreciation for those connections and other conversations with bishops, "being there in the flesh, communicating face-to-face, from all perspectives to clarify who we are and to correct misconceptions," he said.

Discussing Jesus' "I am" sayings—like "I am the bread of life" or "I am the light of the world"—the bishops and spouses "came to conclusions on the biblical truths," Jim said.



Bishop James Waggoner, Jr., and Gloria Waggoner

"We could agree on what Jesus said, but we each interpret the truth in our different cultures based on our values, history and contexts," he said.

For example, a bishop from South India said what he could say was limited by the government and religion. He has to interpret concepts so they are not politically or religiously offensive in a predominantly Hindu area.

"What we say relates to sensitivity to our culture, language and symbols, but we agreed that does not change the truth," Jim said. "I gained appreciation for the freedom and technology we have here to communicate. Some live with political, religious, geographic and technological constraints."

A bishop from Sudan has to walk five days to access the internet.

Jim appreciates the need for Anglicanism to take on characteristics of the cultures in its practice.

"It's the genius of Anglicanism to reflect the local culture. The challenge is to communicate the teachings and practices in the different cultures and still hold the communion in union, given that we are held together by a bond, not a governing body," he said.

While the Archbishop of Canterbury is the head of the church and has a global voice, Jim said, he does not have a role of authority over bishops or their communions.

Lambeth gathers bishops to study Scriptures, share faith and address issues that enhance and impede the church's mission. It is a time to ask, "What can we do to carry out the mission? What questions stand in the way of or

threaten our unity?" he said.

The bishops reaffirmed participation in ecumenical mission and interfaith work. In some areas, there is more emphasis on ecumenism.

"Our mission is to proclaim the gospel—evangelism, stewardship of what we do with what we have, caring for creation, using our gifts and the church's resources and leadership," Jim said.

The bishops discussed but did not adopt a proposal for the Anglican covenant to express common beliefs and actions. Some provisions set restraints that might threaten the unity of the Anglican communion—such as prohibiting a bishop from trespassing in another bishop's territory or limiting further elections of homosexual bishops.

"It was not adopted," Jim said, "because we want to hold the communion together rather than setting an agreed-upon standard."

"We were there to confer, study and listen, not to legislate," he said. "There's a difference in the ethos of listening without legislating, focusing on candid conversations that build the communion and faith across the world."

"When we vote, we focus on who is right and who is wrong, who is in and who is out," he commented. "We decided to respect our substantial differences and work together in mission in unity."

Many from Asia, Africa and Latin America suggested that doing up-or-down votes on issues is "western."

With open hearings, Jim found that conversations were deeper and more candid than those set in a win-lose mode. With the

Anglican emphasis on inclusion, the bishops could come to know each other and discover where they could work together despite differences.

"There is tension living that way and being open to the Spirit, rather than having a body of knowledge that defines us. God always shows us something new, so we gain new understandings. It's not unique to Anglicanism, but it's part of who we are as Anglicans."

In the U.S. church, those tensions relate to all issues, Jim said, not just human sexuality. They open people to hope and possibilities, as well as to discomfort and tensions.

The greatest struggle for him is learning to be the church in the 21st century in a "globalized" world and using resources for mission to feed the hungry and care for creation.

He realizes that living into a vision of what the world and the church can be means that people will not be of one mind. Conflict

on cultural issues can distract from the church's broader mission and unity.

"Some will use issues for power, control and advantage, to forward their agendas rather than God's," he said.

For a bishop from the Solomon Islands, discussion of human sexuality seemed like an academic luxury while his island nation is being flooded because of global warming. For bishops in India and Sudan, the lack of drinking water, health care and education are priorities.

Some matters work out over time, Jim observed.

For example, despite controversy about ordaining women, there were 40 women bishops at Lambeth.

"Some provinces are ordaining women. Some are not," he said. "Why force an artificial agreement? It is now routine that there are women bishops, so some of the bishops' spouses at Lambeth were men."

For information, call 624-3191.

Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

The program trains, equips, and supports lay people to serve more effectively as commissioned lay pastors, as lay ministers and in other paid and unpaid lay-leadership positions in the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as in other denominations.



Program Format

- Eight foundational courses
 - Survey of the Old Testament
 - Survey of the New Testament
 - Church History
 - Introduction to Pastoral Care & Counseling
 - Christian Theology
 - Worship and the Sacraments
 - Polity and Church Leadership
 - Preaching Principles and Practice
- Two additional educational experiences
- Reading assignments
- Post-class papers and/or projects

Program Schedule

Session I: June 1 – 5, 2009

9 a.m. – noon and 2 – 5 p.m.

Session II: June 8 – 12, 2009

9 a.m. – noon and 2 – 5 p.m.

Program Faculty

Whitworth University faculty and staff and other qualified instructors from the community.

Program Costs

\$275/course plus room and board



WHITWORTH

For More Information, contact: Rev. Tim Dolan
 Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry
 Whitworth University
 (509) 777-4676 • tdolan@whitworth.edu
 To register online, visit
www.whitworth.edu/faithcenter
 Registration deadline is May 1

Action Recycling
 911 E. Marietta
TOP PRICES
HONEST WEIGHT
 aluminum
 brass
 copper
 stainless
 newspapers
483-4094


We now take cans with labels still attached.


Cans
 Aluminum and tin:
 Rinse well, labels okay
The cycle starts with you.
 Partial funding provided by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.
 recycling hotline: 625.6800
www.solidwaste.org


Responding to changes ahead for community as mine closes

Metaline Falls' mayor, pastor, theatre director is three in one person

As mayor, pastor and theatre advisor/director in Metaline Falls, the Rev. Tara Leininger is attuned to which hat she's wearing and when her roles overlap.

Committed to serving the community, she said each role calls for the empathetic listening skills she honed in college and for knowing community concerns and resources.

"As mayor, I know people want to say something and be heard," said Tara, who was elected in November 2007 and began her two-year term in January 2008.

To facilitate listening, she is at Cathy's Café for lunch on Thursdays, when they serve steak-and-mushroom soup. People come to talk to her—about everything from dogs to administration.

"Some days I walk out of the grocery store and someone will say, 'I want to talk to you.' I adjust for what hat they want to speak to," Tara said.

"The planters in the street are not watered enough," one woman told her, so Mayor Tara called the city maintenance man.

While she was shoveling snow recently in front of the church, someone expressed concern about how the streets were plowed.

"As long as I know who I am, I'm okay," said Tara, who spends a quarter of her time in theatre work, quarter-time as mayor and half-time as the pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Metaline Falls. "I'm also a wife, and have children and grandchildren in Idaho."

She has been wearing the three hats since Teck Cominco announced in December that a temporary closure of its Pend Oreille Mine and a lay off 167 workers begin Feb. 16, because the price of zinc fell from \$2 to 50 cents.

While she anticipates the closure's secondary impact on the community's businesses, restaurants, social services, churches and the school, she knows there were plans for a committee to envision the region's economic future after the mine would close when there was no more zinc.

Expecting that mining would not last forever, the Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance promotes tourism—drawing people to cross-country ski, hike, fish, hunt and enjoy the natural setting—and the Tri County Economic Development District is envisioning ways to foster local business growth.

Mine and community leaders have called a community meeting to talk about the closure, people's fears and visions for possibilities.

Some, like Tara and her hus-



Tara Leininger

band, Donovan Johnson, love living there and hope to stay. Tara and Donovan moved to Metaline Falls 18 years ago, thinking they would stay five years. He teaches music for the school district.

In a previous economic downturn, Tara was laid off as half-time teacher 10 years ago, became pastor and was ordained two years ago.

As mayor and pastor, she is busy with phone calls. As mayor, she has been talking with the manager of Teck-Cominco, other area mayors and business people.

As pastor, she finds that many people have started the grieving process that begins with disbelief and moves through anger and resignation to "the other side."

For the theatre programs, Tara wonders how the loss of mining jobs will affect them. She hopes volunteers and participation in the theatre remain strong.

She expects the community will emerge from this downturn as it has other difficult times.

When the food bank hit hard times in recent weeks, churches spread the word, asking for dry goods, canned goods and cash. The community responded.

"As mayor and as pastor, I talk with people in need and know what emergency resources are available," she said.

Tara described the area's demo-

graphics. Miners live in Metaline Falls, Metaline, Ione, Newport, Colville and other communities. Some grew up in the area. Others moved there because of the mine. Many rent apartments and stay in hotels, because mining is uncertain. They leave their families in one place and work on contract in different places.

Some brought their families and bought homes.

Job opportunities are limited, so it's uncertain how many of the region's population of nearly 1,000—258 people in Metaline Falls, 479 in Ione, 162 in Metaline and more outside the towns—will stay.

The Selkirk School District might lose 80 of about 350 students and the state funding that comes with them.

Tara said few miners are in the churches.

Her church and others have experienced a decline because young and middle-aged members have moved away for jobs and older people for medical care.

Recently, she and several pastors formed the North Pend Oreille Ministers' Association to address why only 30 percent of the people in the area attend churches and to seek ways to help them in their lives and spiritual journeys.

"Many have no tradition of church in their lives and no sense

of need to be in a church," said Tara, who performs marriages and funerals for many of them.

One dynamic the association has been considering is how face-to-face relationships and community have declined with access to the internet and email.

"We see that many students go home and sit in front of the computer rather than visiting friends in person," she said.

Tara values sitting down with the city council in person to discuss the emergency plan, infrastructure maintenance, zoning and other issues. She also uses email to connect with state government officials and other mayors.

The pastors recognize that church attendance is no longer the social norm as it may have been in the 1940s and 1950s.

Tara observed that even in that heyday, few 1950s TV characters went to church, and despite religious themes of 'Seventh Heaven' and 'Touched by an Angel' in the 1970s, people preferred watching a show about angels rather than talking about angels at church.

A proponent of separation of church and state, Tara added that being mayor does not draw more people to her church.

Sometimes her roles overlap. Invited to the Veterans' Day Dinner at the American Legion as mayor to honor the volunteer fire fighters, she was asked on arriving to bless the meal as the pastor.

"I pray often for guidance for each role I'm in, but do not lead prayer at city council," she said.

For information, call 446-3301 or email mfcucc@yahoo.com.



Moonflower Enterprises
Fair Trade Textiles, Folk Art • Handcrafts
Organic Coffee from Guatemala

509-768-3193 • Toll free: 877-892-3193
info@moonflowerenterprises.com
www.moonflowerenterprises.com

Twinlow Camp & Retreat Center
A place apart for all seasons



- Serving churches & nonprofit groups
- Sacred space to rest, relax & renew
- Motel-style retreat center for 40
- Dorm-style sleeping for 120
- Nutritious food services for 20-150
- Summer overnight camps
- Summer Day Camp program
- Water sports & team building programs
- Winter retreats for youth & families

Web: www.twinlowcamp.org
Phone: 208-687-1146

Certificate in Teaching the Bible

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning at Whitworth University

Program Format
This non-degree program is open to all pastors and church leaders who are regularly called upon to preach and/or teach the Bible. The course includes:

- Participation in a small cohort-learning community.
- Reading assignments, reflection and group discussion.
- Completion of a final project that relates to the course work.
- Participation in seminars that meet from February to May.

Program Topics
Major Themes in the Old Testament
Major Themes in the New Testament
Themes in Christian Theology
Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics
Preparing Biblical Messages
Teaching the Bible in Small Groups
Teaching the Bible to Adults
Teaching the Bible to Children/Youth

All sessions are held at Whitworth University.



WHITWORTH

For further information or to register call (509) 777-3275, visit www.whitworth.edu/faithcenter or contact Tim Dolan, Ph.D. - tdolan@whitworth.edu Michelle Pace - mpace@whitworth.edu

PaperPlus

125 S. Arthur
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-0229
(800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**



SPOKANE MULTIFAITH AIDS CARETEAMS
Volunteer Orientation & Training
Saturday, January 24, 2009
Unity Church, 2900 S. Bernard
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\$10 registration fee, lunch included. Pre-register by phone, email or post by Monday, Jan. 19.

This orientation/training is for persons interested in becoming HIV/AIDS volunteers as members of faith-based AIDS CareTeams. CareTeam volunteers express their compassion and values through practical, emotional and spiritual support for an individual or family living with HIV/AIDS. CareTeams do the things friends might do. *CareTeams do not give medical care.*

There is no risk of infection from any volunteer activity.

Members of faith communities of all traditions, compassionate people with no religious affiliation, and people living with HIV/AIDS are all warmly invited to attend!

Sponsored by Catholic Charities Spokane, in collaboration with Spokane AIDS Network & the Spokane Regional Health District, serving people of all faiths.

Please call Catholic Charities at 509.358.4273 for information and registration or email to scooper@ccspokane.org.

Catholic Charities  Spokane

Energy consumption questions permeate work and personal life

At work and in her personal life, Juliet Sinisterra applies planning processes and green-building know-how from her experience as an architect to shape communities and create sustainable homes.

For example, unlike many who are considering buying an HDTV, Juliet Sinisterra researched those TV's energy consumption. She found that few, except for some with small screens have an Energy-Star rating. Some large flat-screen TVs use more electricity than a refrigerator, she said.

Through several new services at Community-Minded Enterprises (CME), she promotes initiatives that help CME fulfill its mission of creating "vibrant, inclusive, resilient communities."

With the Northwest Ecobuilding Guild, Juliet educates people on natural and green building, and develops architectural designs to make new buildings carbon neutral by 2030. She said that 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings.

At home, she conserves energy, consumes less, researches purchases and uses renewables.

For a workshop at the 2008 Bioneers Conference, she told of ways to enhance "the built environment," build community and reduce carbon emissions.

After graduating from Gonzaga Prep and Washington State University, where she earned a five-year professional degree in architecture in 1993, Juliet worked for a year with the Fremont Public Association in Seattle's Low-Income Housing Institute and for five years with a private architectural firm, developing museum plans and public projects.

On returning to Spokane, she worked a year with Integrus Architects to design the Barbieri Student Center at Gonzaga Prep to create spaces for students to gather and build community.

When her children were young, Juliet worked at home on small architectural projects and remodeled a 1911 house, blowing insulation into walls, adding storm windows, installing a tankless on-demand hot water heater, and using recycled tile, fir flooring and nontoxic wood finishes and paints.

In 2005, she participated in a visioning workshop to help design the Saranac at 25 W. Main, became involved with the Ecobuilding Guild and began writing a column on sustainable living for Out There monthly.

In preparing the columns, Juliet learned about biodiesel fuel, perma-culture, conservation practices, composting plant waste, preserving old buildings, alterna-



Juliet Sinisterra

tive energy, green-collar jobs and steady state economies.

"I interviewed experts. One was Dan Baumgarten of Community-Minded Enterprises," she said. Learning CME shared her interest in strengthening sustainability and building communities, Juliet began working there in 2007.

With her help, Community-Minded Enterprises has launched several new services, including:

- Green Business Consulting Services assesses day-to-day operations of businesses—procurement, energy and water use, transportation and waste—to offer holistic advice in improving sustainability.

- Computer Support Services assess, install and maintain hardware, software, networks, databases and internet security at below-market rates for local nonprofits and microenterprises.

- Capacity Building for Nonprofits, funded through a three-year federal Compassion Capital Fund grant, assists 10 partner agencies—Crosswalk, Project Hope, Odyssey Youth Center, Camp Fire, Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center, A Cup of Cool Water, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Family Connections, Childbirth and Parenting Alone and the East Central Community Center. The Partners Empowered for Youth assist with new equipment, board development, volunteer recruitment, appropriate technology and personnel assessment.

Juliet said the fund supports youth entrepreneurial activities such as the Green Collar Jobs Task Force and programs that increase youth access to and training in green ecology and economy.

"Green-collar jobs provide paths out of poverty for people

without a college education," Juliet said.

With the Department of Ecology, CME hopes to develop a curriculum on youth and community sustainability with urban agriculture, green building, energy conservation, resource protection and recovery, and renewable energy.

CME is implementing only the urban agriculture curriculum to engage at-risk youth by building resilience and self-confidence for 14- to 21-year-olds while building awareness of issues such as climate change.

In September, Juliet connected the national Green for All movement, Partners for Empowered Youth and the Northwest Ecobuilding Guild to co-sponsor a Day of Action, "Green Jobs Now." Volunteers built a cob oven beside a community garden in West Central Spokane.

With Northwest Ecobuilding Guild, she is spreading information about building strategies to reduce carbon emissions through straw-bale construction, comprehensive weatherization, energy efficiency and water conservation.

Juliet suggests enhancing building ecology with 1) passive solar, 2) recycled materials for carpet and insulation, 3) composting toilets, 4) recycling waste water from sinks and washers for the garden, 5) landscaping with native plants that need little water, 6) nontoxic interior finishes, 7) small square-footage sealed houses with small heating units or solar panels powering a furnace, 8) solar-powered air-to-air exchangers to maintain air quality and 9) insulating walls around refrigerators.

Beyond developing new sustainable technologies and techniques, Juliet challenges people to look at their lifestyles so their

homes will produce less carbon.

It starts with using less electricity and producing more electricity with solar energy, she said.

"In the 1950s, the average home had six electrical appliances. Today the average home has 26 big and small appliances," she said.

As people seek to go green, Juliet advises simpler living.

"Solar panels are effective, but expensive," she said, "so before we turn to solar, we need to live smaller. Life can be rich and abundant living smaller.

"In my house, we recycle everything—cereal boxes, magazines, bottles and cans. I compost. I hang clothes to dry in the summer. I use compact florescent light bulbs. I keep heat at 65 in the day and turn it down to 55 at night.

"When I buy something, I ask if I need it or if I can buy it second hand. I also ask about its durability," Juliet said, pointing out that every day Americans dispose of

more than 400,000 cell phones. "We don't have the energy to sustain a throw-away society."

Juliet grows organic food and cans apricots, apples, pears and plums. She buys organic at organic stores and farmers markets. Her children think it's normal to turn off lights, throw vegetable scraps on the compost pile, pick raspberries at Green Bluff and help with canning.

"Even with all I do, I found in calculating my ecological footprint that it would take 2.2 earths to sustain my lifestyle. I still need to cut back," she said.

"My faith influences me to have a sense of social concern, a connection with the earth and an appreciation of the beauty in life," said Juliet, who attends St. Augustine Catholic Church. "Other religious traditions, such as practicing yoga and meditation enhance my faith."

For information, call 209-2859.

The Book Parlor

A Full-Service Bookstore - Supporting Neighbors & Neighborhood Ministries

Mon - Fri
10 am - 5:30 pm
Sat 10 am - 2 pm

1414 W. Broadway Ave.
Spokane WA 99201
509-328-6527
lutheranbooks@msn.com
www.TheBookParlor.com

- Books new/used
- Fair Trade gifts
- Coffee, Tea and Chocolate!
- Hood Gear

Spokane Children's Theatre

presents

Alexander Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move!
Book and Lyrics by Judith Viorst
Music by Shelly Markham
Directed by Dawn Taylor Reinhardt

Sat Jan 31 - 1 & 4 pm

Sun Feb 1 - 1 p.m.

Sat Feb 7 - 1 & 4 pm

Sun Feb 8 - 1 & 4 pm

Sat Feb 14 - 10 am* & 1 pm*

Sun Feb 15 - 1 pm

*performances signed for hearing impaired

**Performances at Spokane Community College
Lair Auditorium - 1810 N. Greene St. at Mission Ave.**

\$8 children, \$10 adults
**At 325-SEAT, www.ticketwest.com
or at the door as available**

See our website www.spokanechildrenstheatre.org for more information

Building on Faith

with Habitat for Humanity!

Put your faith into action! Organize a build day with your faith group to help build decent, affordable homes.

- Groups up to 15 people, ages 16 or older
- Building Wed-Sat
- For more info or a presentation, contact Vickie at Habitat-Spokane, 509-534-2552, ext. 19.

Habitat for Humanity
Spokane

www.habitat-spokane.org

Peace • Trust • Respect

Providing quality funeral, cemetery & cremation services with care, compassion and dignity

Funeral Homes

Ball & Dodd Funeral Homes
West 5100 Wellesley, Spokane 509 328-5620

Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes
1306 North Monroe St., Spokane 509 327-6666

Hazen & Jaeger Funeral Homes
1306 North Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-9700

Thornhill Valley Chapel
1400 South Pines Rd., Spokane 509 924-2211

Pre-arrangement Plans Available
www.dignitymemorial.com www.BestHalf.com
www.spokanefuneralhomes.com

- National Network
- National Portability
- 100% Service Guarantee
- 24-Hour Compassion Help-Line

Cross-cultural exchange in Romania stretches Spokane woman's faith

By Joan Healy-Hartill

When a dying friend told her not to wait to live her life, Barb Borgens of Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, decided to join eight others for the church's joint mission trip April 15 to 26 to Felsorákos, Romania.

Without her friend's encouragement, Barb said she might not have gone and would have missed faith-strengthening experiences and memories that give her new meaning in her work as a buyer with United Retail Merchants (URM), her involvement as a deacon and her volunteer assistance with church projects, such as the recent Manna Concert or the Tree of Sharing.

Beyond several specific mission tasks, Barb said the highlight of the trip was the team's immersion in a cross-cultural exchange.

While some may have decided not to go because of warnings that accommodations might lack modern conveniences, that didn't intimidate Barb, who grew up on a farm in Montana. She came to Spokane in 1968 to study at Kinman Business College.

Members at Westminster have previously joined several partnership visits the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Spokane has made to the Unitarian Church of Felsorákos. This was an independent visit.

The Unitarian Church in Felsorákos, a village with a population of about 1000, developed a partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane in 1991, after the 1989 fall of Communist rule in Romania.

Two Westminster members visited Felsorákos in 2005 and encouraged Westminster to become involved. The spring 2008 visit was the first trip involving the whole church.

The team's mission was to check on and help paint a house that is being renovated into a guesthouse for tourists, and to meet with the mayor of the nearby city of Barót to check on the progress of a project to bring fresh drinking water to the village.

Because Westminster had previously donated \$2,550 for water quality testing and the water source has passed the test, Felsorákos is now waiting for a European Union grant to complete the project.

The team began their visit with some sightseeing that included tourist sites.

At the Teleki Library in Marosvasarhely, they found one of seven remaining copies of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. They



Barb Borgens

also visited the fortress of Sighisoara in the heart of Transylvania, the birthplace of Vlad Tepes, the infamous Dracula.

In Felsorákos, the visitors stayed in the homes of host families. Barb and another woman stayed with Elemer and Jolanka Petro, nine-year-old Elemer, Jr. and three-year-old Arpa'd.

Their days started with a hearty breakfast and a morning toast with the local drink, Polinka, at the home of each host. Lunch and dinner, prepared by several women from the Unitarian Church, were held in a communal dining room.

Barb shared some of her experiences in the cross-cultural exchange.

On Sunday, they attended worship at the Unitarian Church, led in Hungarian and English by the Rev. Jozsef Kotecz. The Westminster women sang a hymn for the villagers and village women in traditional dress sang for the Westminster group.

Although the team had two interpreters, often none were needed.

"One item we served for the villagers was chocolate cake," Barb said. "While it was baking, a village woman indicated she would check on it. I said 'toothpick,' and made the motion of sticking it in the middle. The woman said, 'No, no,' and walked over to the broom,

plucked a bristle and held it up. I understood."

The village was a step back in time.

Gypsies traveled through town, bright red tassels on the horses bobbing.

Ox-drawn carts clattered over cobblestone streets.

Chickens roamed yards. Because there were no fences, shepherds guarded sheep.

At 7 p.m. each night, the church bells rang, and cows trudged to their separate homes.

"The villagers thought we were crazy," Barb said, "because it was a highlight of our day to watch the cows come home."

The week was filled with other exchange events for the Romanians and Americans.

The team taught the villagers how to play Bingo, gave out Pez candy and glow sticks to the children.

The 80-year-old church organist played the hand-pumped organ for them and in response, a member of the team played violin.

Singing together, both groups found out that they knew the song, "She'll Be Coming 'round the Mountain."

There were visits to local wood carvers, wood print makers and weavers.

At the guesthouse, which was not ready to be painted, the Westminster team presented the presi-

dent of the Unitarian Church their gifts for the house—quilts, sheets, towels, dishcloths, dish towels, bedspreads, afghans and \$2,000.

On the last day together, the villagers gave a farewell picnic, an opportunity for the people of Felsorákos and the team from Westminster to dance and sing.

Barb said the community experience strengthened her faith: "I hug the people from the trip now because the Romanians liked to hug. I will always have a connection to everyone who went with me to Felsorákos."

The minister of the Unitarian Church in Felsorákos, the Rev. Jozsef Kotecz, his wife Reka Bencze and step-daughter Ottilia Gyorgy will visit Spokane in early February as part of the ongoing relationship-building, faith-strengthening and insight-producing exchanges.

"My friend has since died," said Barb, who now has not only the special memories of that friend

but also the special memories of being welcomed by a Romanian community. "I tell people don't wait to do what you want to do."

"Although the people there are Unitarian and we are in the United Church of Christ, the labels do not matter. What is most important to them and to us is the importance of community."

"They have little in material things, but a strong sense of community," Barb said.

For information, call 624-1366.

BIZ Recycling!

Paper, Metal, Cardboard, Old Computers

www.EarthworksRecycling.com
(509) 534-1638
ASK ABOUT OUR PICKUP SERVICE
1904 E Broadway-Spokane
2 blks N of Trent/Napa

Caregivers Wanted

'Non Medical in Home Eldercare'

- Full Time, Part Time Positions
- Training Provided
- Flexible Hours
- Paid Time Off Available

Call for an interview appointment

535-1546

Come to the Water

Saturday Reflections *Spring 2009*

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. including lunch

A Time to Weep **Feb. 28**
Shonna Bartlett – Lenten Reflections

A Time to Build Up **March 21**
Jolie Hagan-Montasterio – Remembering Jewish Roots

A Time to Sow **April 25**
Fr. Michael Woods, S.J. – How Do Our Souls Connect to the Soil?

The Ministry Institute **Please RSVP to Shonna Bartlett**
 405 E. Sinto, Spokane WA 99202 **800-986-9585 x5765 or 313-5765**
www.gonzaga.edu/ministryinstitute **bartletts@gonzaga.edu**
Cost: \$35/seminar

International Student Homestay Program

Spokane Falls Community College/Spokane Community College

Globalize your life....from your own home!

An exciting opportunity for Spokane and Spokane Valley residents to share their home, life and community with a college age SFCC/SCC international student while they share their life and culture with you!

- Families receive \$550/month for room and board, \$350 for room only.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation.
- College-, career- or retirement-age couples or singles with or without children.
- Homestay can last 1 quarter or longer.
- Receive \$100 for each qualified homestay family you refer.
- Placements are monitored and supported by CCS International Programs staff.
- Quarterly family training meetings.

Join our network of welcoming Homestay families and begin a cross cultural adventure of a lifetime!

To receive more information or apply:
Contact Teresa Gay at teresag@spokanefalls.edu
SFCC 509 533 4131 or SCC 509 533 8201

Find a Homestay Family Application Form under Foundation Forms at <http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/Forms/default.aspx>

Community Colleges of Spokane provides equal opportunity in education & employment

GOOD SAMARITAN VILLAGE

You'll Always Feel Right At Home In Our Village

As your needs change, you remain in a familiar environment for your comfort and assurance. We offer a choice of options and progressive services for senior living, assisted care, or skilled care. Mother Nature offers a splendid view of the surrounding pine-draped hills.

Come Home To Exceptional Quality And Service

- Village Inn Assisted Living
- Samaritan Towers Senior Living Apartments
- Nursing Care Center
- Village Cottage Homes

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Groups up to 200
- Audio/Visual Equipment
- Reasonable rental rates
- Non-smoking
- Free Event Parking
- Warming Kitchen
- Tableware Available

Call (509) 924-6161 to schedule a personalized tour.
17121 E. 8th Ave., Greenacres, WA • www.good-sam.com
East of Sullivan on Sprague, turn right at Tschirley to the top of the hill.
All faiths welcome without preference.

Celebrating 50 Years

Just Trade

fairly traded
crafts from
around
the world

inside
Brused Books
235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898

Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Three cultures shaped multi-faceted identity, commitment

Become a 2009 Fig Tree Sponsor

Continued from page 1
Riverside State Park Latino Festival, EWU's Chicano Education Scholarship Selection Committee, Chase Youth Awards judge, and YWCA Luncheon and Transitions Breakfast table captains.

Those are a few. There are more.

Yvonne shared some background for her identity and her commitments.

Her parents met in France after D-Day and were among a group of couples—Hispanic soldiers with French wives—who settled in New Mexico.

"I grew up in a unique mix of cultures, enjoying French, American and Southwest foods. My first years were in a primitive, rural community and my first home was a shed at my grandmother's," Yvonne said.

"Growing up in three cultures with most of my friends Hispanic shaped me," said Yvonne, who went to high school in Los Padillos, N.M., with primarily Euro-American, Hispanic and Native American students.

"The way I look was a challenge, because Hispanic students thought I looked too white, and Euro-Americans questioned me because of my Hispanic name.

"I am who I am," she asserted. "Many people have ethnic heritages and identities that are not apparent in their looks."

In, 1970, Yvonne graduated in journalism from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

"There, I solidified my Hispanic identity as something I could claim despite how I looked," she said.

She married Bob Morton in 1970 and followed him in his career in the Air Force to Las Vegas for two years, England for six years, Georgia for six years and then Spokane, where Bob grew up and where he retired from the Air Force. He works with Focus Medical Business Solutions.

"The military has paved the road for many to accept diversity," she noted.

In Las Vegas, she worked for a community radio station.

In Macon, Ga., she met embedded racism in her work for a newspaper. Despite meeting and testing racist attitudes on the job and in social settings, she also found many progressive people.

In Spokane, when Yvonne heard about the Hispanic Business Professional Association meeting, she went and started to connect to the Hispanic community here.

Once at a dinner party here when she told someone she was from New Mexico, he made a

derisive comment about Hispanics being lazy.

"I had to speak up. I said I knew a family whose members worked their way through college and who were in good jobs. It's my family. My name was Lopez before I married," Yvonne said.

The next month, she changed her byline in the Inland Power Country Magazine to "Yvonne Lopez Morton."

Another catalyst for her commitment to diversity is her mother. Yvonne admires her courage. She slept in the fields outside her village of Argentan, Normandy, to avoid nighttime bombing in World War II. She married a Hispanic American, moved and settled in a blended family and culture in the diversity of New Mexico.

Once when visiting Spokane, she told Yvonne "to mix it up."

With that challenge, Yvonne and Bob decided to stay in Spokane to help be among those who "mix it up" by enhancing diversity.

Through the Hispanic Business Professional Association, she has helped Hispanics gain voice and visibility in Spokane.

"We should be and should have been at the table of community boards and committees," she said. "That's how the community can recognize the contributions of Hispanics."

When she was involved with the Washington Association for Multicultural Education, she helped assess needs of African-American, Native American, Hispanic, Asian and low-income children in the 1990s.

As a state human rights commissioner, she helps enforce laws related to discrimination in housing and employment, addresses and investigates emerging issues, and educates the public.

The commission investigated conditions in housing for Hispanic workers in Shelton. The buildings were crumbling and moldy. The commission won a financial settlement for residents.

"We sent a strong message that we do not tolerate certain behaviors and actions," Yvonne said. "We cannot let them slip by without being addressed."

There's more to her volunteer commitments than saying 'yes' and showing up.

"I believe in community service. I'm just one voice. There is so much work to do," said Yvonne, who enjoys opportunities to speak to students to urge them to identify their passions and pursue them in their careers and volunteer work.

A lifelong Catholic, she said

part of faith is to question and challenge: "I'm a social justice Catholic in an inclusive parish that incorporates and celebrates other cultures, including Hispanic and African cultures, in our Masses. We have also supported an El Salvadoran parish and African faith-based initiatives.

"I evaluate things based on faith, seeking to understand and care about marginalized people," she said.

"Being Christian, I believe we are to look out for one another," Yvonne said.

"Faith influences how I live my life, and drives me to respect beliefs of people who live lives of integrity and choose different paths," she commented.

Yvonne reaffirmed that belief when she recently attended the wedding of a friend in Japan as part of her long-term interest in Japanese culture and the need for peace.

In October, she and Bob, visited Japan for two weeks for the wedding of a Japanese friend, Kazumi Yamamoto, who worked for her brother in Tokyo. When Kazumi came to study as a Rotary scholar at Washington State University in Pullman, she became part of the Morton's family for 10 years, including her work for two years at Mukogawa Institute.

Along with welcoming her into their family, the Mortons have hosted Mukogawa students 12 times.

Their trip to Japan was also an opportunity for Yvonne to visit Hiroshima. Not only has she been aware of post-World War II reflection from visits over the years with her grandmother and cousins in France, but also, since discovering a library book on Hiroshima and Nagasaki when she was in junior high, she has read much about Hiroshima.

"Aware of the impact of war on people, I'm a pacifist," Yvonne said.

At Hiroshima, she stood in front of the dome that was hit, but not destroyed by the nuclear bomb dropped in 1945. The area around it, once a devastated wasteland, has been rebuilt.

Yvonne likened visiting Hiroshima to visiting her French family in 1994 for the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

"I had the same experience at Hiroshima as I had walking the beaches and in the cemetery in Normandy," she said.


"My great-grandmother was killed on D-Day," Yvonne said. "Although she survived the bombing of her house and was carried in a wheelbarrow to the hospital,

she died in the hospital when that hospital was bombed."

Yvonne knows from her French family that France did not join in the coalition going to war in Iraq, because they know how serious and devastating war is.

Work in diversity, human rights, peace and justice is hard, Yvonne pointed out, because there are many perspectives to consider and to respect.

For information, call 599-1177 or email yvonne@asisna.com.



COME AWAY
...to a retreat
in beautiful Cottonwood, Idaho.

Come to the Quiet: a Silent, Directed Retreat FULL WEEK
January 23 - 30, 2009
WEEKEND ONLY
January 23 - 25, 2009

or

FULL WEEK
June 19 - 26, 2009
WEEKEND ONLY
June 19 - 21, 2009

Stations in 2009
February 27 - March 1, 2009
Presenter: Meg Sass, OSB

Repeat: The Challenge to Change
March 13 - 15, 2009
Presenter:
Barbara Jean Glodowski, OSB

All at the Table in God's House
March 27 - 29, 2009
Presenter: Mary Kay Henry, OSB

Monastery of St. Gertrude
See our website for a complete retreat schedule!
www.StGertrudes.org
"A tradition of welcoming people of ALL beliefs."
465 Keuterville Road • Cottonwood, ID 83522
208-962-2000 • retreat@StGertrudes.org

Aunt Antiques

We specialize in Estate Sales



Always buying fine antiques

LOCATED AT
5005 N. Market
Spokane, WA 99207
(509) 487-9278



THE HABITAT STORE
New & Used Building Materials

Now Open

The Habitat Valley Store

11410 E. Sprague

Featuring doors, windows & eclectic thrift

CALL FOR DETAILS

509.535.9517

850 E. Trent • Spokane
Store Hours Mon-Sat 9-6

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Whitworth University
announces the
JOHN KNOX SCHOLARSHIP
for
Graduate Study

The John Knox Scholarship is for teachers and other employees of Christian schools, Christian churches, and Christian nonprofit organizations.

The scholarship is equal to 25 percent of regular graduate-course tuition and can be applied to all Graduate Studies in Education degrees and certification programs, including Community Agency Counseling and Administrative Leadership.

For more information, contact
Vernice Hunnicutt, Assistant Director
Graduate Studies in Education • Whitworth University
Email: vhunnicutt@whitworth.edu
Phone: 509.777.4398

Simple tasks even tidbits of time can make a BIG DIFFERENCE!!

Volunteer to help The Fig Tree

15-minutes-a-month in your congregation: distribution - speaking
Delivery Mailings Events Office Computer Website
Church contacts Nonprofit contacts Rural-Urban Connections

CALL 313-4037 or 535-1813

In economic downturns and upturns, we can share and care

For many of us, the “economic downturn” has personal ramifications. One or more family members have lost jobs, and we wonder how we will manage. How can we support them? How bad will the times become? How long will it be?

There have been other economic downturns, and we have plowed on through. We have perhaps had our own personal downturns, while others were doing well.

From images of the Great Depression, I have the impression of a bleak, gray time. What we’re living is in color, unlike the black-and-white, aged and faded films and photos that give glimpses into that time. I see that photos and films of my young years in the 1950s and 1960s now have that aged, faded, old-time feel, in contrast to my technicolor experiences then.

Another image I have of the Great Depression is long lines: People waiting for jobs. People waiting for food. People waiting and waiting. People hopeless, isolated, abandoned, depressed and waiting.

There were also people actively working and striving, doing whatever they could to support themselves and their families, setting aside dreamed of careers just to survive. There were also stories of good deeds and frugal living that helped people survive. My parents pinched pennies, turned out lights, saved for a rainy day and lived lives committed to serving and helping others.

The Fig Tree shares such stories through our economic upturns and downturns. There are always people caring and sharing. There are always people seeking solutions through programs and policies. There are always people ready to be hopeful and persistent.

Retailers were on edge about year-end sales. They always wonder or worry whether they will have enough of an “increase.” The Christmas Bureau surpassed its goal. Congregations and nonprofits have been on edge about increases in need, hoping enough money will come in to support

their budgets and meet needs of those hit by the downturn.

Is the worry this year different? What media spin? The skyrocketing oil prices that lined some pockets are declining. Some fear deflation. Is that bad if people earn less? Some prices continue to rise.

It’s in everyone’s self-interest for everyone to share the burden a bit. Then the downturn won’t snuff out the livelihoods of more. If that happens fewer will be able to buy goods and services to fuel an upturn.

Why would corporate executives be blind to that economic reality? Why would any take bonuses, leaving others to suffer in the cold? Why would any faith or nonprofit leader mimic that model? Why did it happen to me? Why? Why?

In asking, we may turn our frustration outward or inward, blaming others or blaming ourselves. That may fuel just our hopelessness and personal depressions when we need to try, try again.

Will we slam the door on faith or open it

to build resilience—a word woven through several stories in this issue.

Moving forward, putting one foot ahead of another may seem tedious, but we must persist. Moving together, being with friends and family may seem difficult, but it restores identity and vision. Standing up is possible when we can see a few steps ahead and when we know we’re not alone.

How will we reach out as individuals and congregations in these times? How will we move from hand wringing to extending a hand, even if that is all we have to offer? How will we be open to faith in these uncertain times?

We need hope, not false hope. We need inspiration, not empty words. We need vision, not packaged ideologies. We need new leadership, new directions, new approaches, new opportunities and renewed communities as we begin a new year and a new U.S. Administration and new times. May God be in our midst, guiding us.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Voices from around the world offer perspective on Eucharist

At a recent gathering of area bishops from various church traditions on Nov. 6 as part of the Fig Tree’s 25th anniversary kick-off, bishops and participants offered reflections on opportunities of outreach, sharing in ministry and working through conflicts, we broke and ate bread.

We were one Christian body. Divisions, theologies and intellectual interpretations were set aside for a moment.

The experience brought to mind certain voices from Africa, Asia and Latin America on the Eucharist or Lord’s Supper.

How can such voices from around the world, voices so different from our own, speak to us here concerning the ongoing need for Christian unity in the Eucharist or Lord’s Supper?

How do Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans experience and celebrate this

unique sacrament?

The inclination among African, Asian, and Latin American Christians to address their social concerns—such as injustice, suffering, poverty, disease, hunger and exploitation—through the sacrament of Christ’s body and blood provides a direct challenge to ecclesiastical traditions in the West, calling us to move beyond our intellectual or rational understandings of the Lord’s Supper.

The African theologian Laurenti Magesa sees the Lord’s Supper as giving the church its life and edification. Many African Christians tend to work out their social concerns through the Lord’s Supper.

For Nguyen Doan, a Korean theologian, the “living Christ” instead of the “orthodoxy of texts” makes it possible to address the needs of humanity in the world.

For him, only then does the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at church become meaningful.

The Latin American theologian Leonardo Boff ties the celebration of the Lord’s Supper to the liberating and transforming work of the Trinity throughout history.

Some traditional voices—Orthodox, Catholic, and mainline Protestant churches—often concentrate on having the correct theological interpretation of the bread and cup—mystical, physical, real presence or symbolic.

Some contextual-intercultural voices, however, may celebrate the Lord’s Supper in terms of its communal benefits in addressing the physical, social, economic and spiritual needs of human beings.

The western tendency to reduce the Lord’s Supper to a lifeless, intellectual

custom is an urgent concern.

If the sacrament is only about rational participation, celebration or a memorial of Christ’s death, then does that mean the church can ignore the real needs of people?

The contextual-intercultural voices offer a biblical paradigm: God is placed at the center of people’s lives and worship practices.

The motifs of “table,” “supper,” “eating and drinking,” and “koinonia as communal participation in Christ’s body and blood” take on new dimensions pertaining to both communal sharing and meeting the needs of human beings.

Lace Marie Williams-Tinajero
Adjunct professor
Religious Studies Department
Gonzaga University

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

I look forward to stories of Jesus’ life that are part of the Epiphany season. We meet Jesus all over again and discover the amazing power he holds in human hope.

On Jan. 20, we’ll also inaugurate a new President. We don’t have to be partisan to pray that this inauguration is the beginning of new hope for our country. As with all political leaders, we pray for the President and the huge responsibility he carries.

In this particular case, I think something else is at work. Having overcome some ugly racial barriers and faced with unprecedented challenges both nationally and internationally, I think it’s time for each of us to enter the game and offer what we can on behalf of our common good.

I serve on the transitional board of the Washington Association of Churches, and we are searching for a way to bind together the faith communities in our state. As part of a winter fund-raising banquet, a speaker from the University of Washington invited us to consider “a covenant of hope” at the beginning of this Presidency. Loosely quoting from a young girl trapped in war, he invited us to “promise to do what we can do.”

What I hear in that commitment is the call of vocation, the invitation to use the gifts, background, skills and relationships we have to “do what we can do” to advance hope for the whole human family. Is there any doubt how much our hurting world needs such promises, such hope?

Epiphany shows us Hope in the form of

Jesus. Jesus is “God come down,” God’s promise of life extended to us. Shall we imitate God through our own promises, our own covenants of hope, extended to the human family? It’s just a matter of doing what we can do.

The Rev. Martin Wells
Bishop of the Eastern Washington-
Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God speaks, but not always in a booming voice from the clouds. Some of us believe God never speaks that way. In truth, God gives His/Her call in more subtle ways: a word here, a thought there, a suggestion, an example, a story, a musing or a pointed question. God speaks through parents and professors, but through peddlers and paperhangers as well. The corollary to all of this is that you, at times, may indeed be the voice of God and not even realize it. Whom have you influenced today. Whose life have you shaped? Frightening, isn’t it?

The Rev. Wilbur Rees
Shalom United Church of Christ -
Richland

Anyone who has tried stargazing knows that we see stars better when it is dark. In Seattle, bright lights of the city, though creating a warmth, safety and comfort for those who walk the streets at night, are not conducive to “good seeing.” Their welcome glow in the city almost completely hid the brilliance of the heavens from our sight.

In Vermonia, it was different. That tiny mountain community has extremely dark nights. We could sit on our deck at night and see the Milky Way and Orion’s Nebula, examining the details on the moon and watch the shooting stars without the aid of a telescope. What a magnificent sight to behold!

It reminds me of what St. John of the Cross called the Dark Night of the Soul. Often, in our spiritual journeys, we feel as if we are walking in the light. We feel connected to God—warm, safe and comfortable with the life going on around us. Still there are times when we feel spiritually cold, dry and alone, surrounded by darkness and wondering if God truly is Emmanuel—“with us.” St. John of the Cross says that in the darkest of nights God is closer than ever, working to transform our souls into the people God has called us to be.

God’s presence shines brightest in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it.

The Rev. Lauri Strait
Opportunity Christian

We are in a season of anxiety. The economic crisis is upon us and it is affecting everyone. We are all trying to figure out how to adjust our living.

For some who are living on retirement, this is a big challenge. Others are losing jobs. Some need to go back to work to help pay the bills. The crisis hasn’t bottomed out yet. There are still big adjustments coming in terms of federal, state and local

government policies.

We are in a season of anticipation. It is a time of hope and longing for God to act to bring peace and justice in the world. It is a time of sharing, of working together, of leaning upon one another.

The Rev. David Helseth
Englewood Christian - Yakima

Jesus throws his lot in with the poor and suffering by becoming one of them. So it is appropriate for us to do the same thing.

All of us know that this is a hard time in our country. None of us has been unaffected by the downturn in our economy. This is especially true of those who are on the margins of this country.

There will be more and more homeless people this year, more people who will struggle to keep their jobs and more who will be looking for a word of hope.

We are placed in this time and in this part of Pasco to help provide that word of hope and to help give food to those who are in need of food. Now is the time to reach out to help those who are helpless.

Each time we gather, I suggest we bring food items for food baskets. Each time you shop, buy something for someone who will have nothing. Each time you think about how bad your life might be, remember there are many who would give anything to be in your shoes.

The Rev. John Hergert
First Lutheran
Pasco

Legislative Conference connects issues and state public policy with faith values

Plans are underway for the 2009 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on "Sustainable Community: Advocacy for Equity and the Environment in an Economic Crisis" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

Alice Woltdt, transitional director of the Washington Association of Churches (WAC), said the event will connect Gospel values to issues, teaches advocacy skills and motivates people to take action on public policy priorities in a time of economic turmoil and decreased public budgets.

"It is an opportunity to receive up-to-date briefings on legislation and to attend workshops on issues of current concern. The WAC will focus on reducing poverty in the upcoming legislative session," she said.

"People of faith must assure that all of God's children benefit from God's bounty and that care is taken to protect God's creation.

"State budgets are moral documents. We must make sure budgets are not balanced on the backs of the poor," Alice said.

Center benefit set

Continued from page 1

perform music from Palestrina and Gabrieli to Bach and Haydn to 20th century composers, including American Spirituals, folk songs, jazz and swing. They have toured Europe and in North America.

The Rev. Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church will recite the "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The concert benefits the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, which serves children, youth and families through educational, social, health, prevention and intervention programs.

The center's programs include: 1) Early Child Educational Assistance Program (ECEAP); 2) child care; 3) after-school programs; 4) summer programs for children, youth and teens to promote literacy, recreational activities and community service; 5) parent education and in home visitation, and 6) teen leadership programs.

For information, call 838-6131, 838-4277 or 325-SEAT.

WAC is planning Spokane's conference in cooperation with Catholic Charities and the Washington State Catholic Conference. Malcolm Haworth, the WAC's liaison, is helping arrange local speakers and workshops.

The WAC will provide leader-

ship for the briefings and workshops, along with other members of the Religious Coalition for the Common Good, the Washington State Catholic Conference and Spokane's Futurewise.

For information, call (206) 625-9790 or 358-4273.

Calendar of Events

- Jan 7** • **Fig Tree distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- **Monthly Red Cross Open House**, Tour and Presentation, 315 W. Nora, 8 to 9 a.m., 326-3330 ext 217
- Jan 8** • **Fig Tree Board**, Manito United Methodist, 3220 S. Grand, 1 p.m.
- Jan 11** • **"Gospel in the Cathedral,"** benefit for Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center, Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 6 p.m.
- Jan 12** • **"Mortgage Basics,"** Community Frameworks Homebuyer Education Class, 315 S. Mission, 6 p.m., 484-6733 ext. 117
- Jan 18** • **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 4 p.m., 455-8722
- Jan 18-26** • **Eight Day Ignatian Retreat**, Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- Jan 19** • **Martin Luther King, Jr., Rally, March and Resource Fair**, Convention Center, 10 a.m., River Park Square, 11 a.m., 455-8722
- Jan 21** • **Building Economic Resilience and Community Sustainability,** Dan Baumgarten of Community Minded Enterprises, Spokane City Forum, First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, 777-1555
- Jan 22-23** • **"Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability,"** national Trinity Institute webcast, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Thursday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, 838-4277
- Jan. 23, 24, 27, 31** • **Northwest Bach Festival Concerts**, 8 p.m., 325-SEAT
- Jan 24** • **Garden Planning Ideas** from Spokane Tilth and Washington State University Master Gardeners, Slow Food Spokane River Annual Meeting and Potluck Brunch, WSU Extension, 222 N. Havana, 10 a.m. to noon
- Jan 25** • **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, Washington Association of Churches, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone, 3 p.m.
- Jan 26** • **Spokane Alliance Winter Assembly**, "Quality Jobs for a Healthy Environment," Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 Fort Wright Dr., 532-1688
- Jan 28** • **"The Ordinary Radicals,"** a documentary and discussion sponsored by the Lutheran Book Parlor, The Porch Church, 1804 W. Broadway, 7 p.m.
- Feb 1** • **"Souper Bowl" Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe** Benefit for the Women's and Children's Free Restaurant, Selkirk Lodge at Mount Spokane, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., www.mountaingear.com/retail
- Feb 2** • **"The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times,"** Dean Brackley, S.J., of the University of Central America in El Salvador, Catholicism and the New Millennium Lecture, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 3-5** • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod **Rural Ministry Network booth**, Spokane Ag Expo, Convention Center, 838-9871
- Weds-Sat** • **Habitat-Spokane** work days, 534-2552
- Thursdays** • **PJALS street vigil against the Iraq War**, Riverside and Monroe 4:30 p.m., 838-7870.
- Fridays** • **Colville Peace Vigil**, 675-4554
- 1st Sat** • **Ministers' Fellowship Union and Minister's Wives/ Widows Fellowship**, 806 W. Indiana, 624-0522
- 3rd Mons** • **NAACP**, 467-9793

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221



Hillyard Florist

FULL SERVICE FLOWER SHOP

4915 N. MARKET - Spokane

www.hillyardflorist.com

489-5001

Share a Little Time. Make a Big Difference.

"It's a real fun experience for me. It actually makes me feel like a kid again. Give it a try. Become a Big Brother or Big Sister."

Choose from two programs to fit your needs!

Call today: (509) 328-8310



Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest

222 W. Mission #210
Spokane WA 99201

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE

Now serving the interment and memorialization needs of our Catholic / Christian community in two locations

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY
7200 North Wall
467-5496

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
17825 East Trent
891-6420

Pre-arrangement plans available for all interment and memorialization needs — including ground burial space, garden crypts, lawn crypts, cremation niches, monuments and memorials.

Indoor mausoleum crypts now available at pre-construction discount prices.

Please call or stop by our offices for further information or visit our website at www.cathcem.org



Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington

1222 N Post

www.altcew.org

Promoting wellbeing, independence, dignity & choice for Seniors and others needing long-term care

For information, assistance & case management, call

Spokane - Elder Services 458-7450
Stevens/Pend Oreille - Rural Resources Community Action (800) 873-5889
Whitman - Council on Aging & Human Services (800) 809-3351
Northern Ferry - Ferry County Community Services (509) 755-0912

Rockwood Retirement Communities are dedicated to the lifelong vitality and well-being of the whole person.

Enhance your Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Intellectual Life in a comfortable custom home or apartment, with assisted living and skilled nursing available.

Rockwood South 2903 E. 25th Avenue
Rockwood at Hawthorne 101 E. Hawthorne Rd.

ROCKWOOD
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
Since 1960

536-6650

We don't just break the news.

We put it back together.

Don't just get the news. Understand it. NPR News and Spokane Public Radio go beyond the headlines so you know why things happen. Our coverage isn't just current, it's complete. Tune in to **KPBX 91.1** or **KSFC 91.9 FM**, and catch both on the web at kpbx.org.

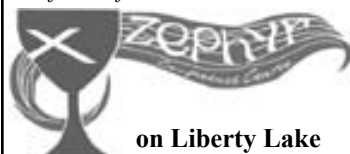
npr news

KPBX 91.1

News & Public Affairs
KSFC 91.9 fm



Located on 52 acres of wildlife - with lake access



on Liberty Lake
Come and enjoy a retreat or camping with your family and friends.

Church & youth groups welcome.

For a brochure or info, call

255-6122

or email: zephyrlodge@live.com
www.zephyrlodge.org

RETREATS • CAMPS • SEMINARS
HOLIDAY PARTIES • FAMILY CAMPING
REUNIONS AND MORE!

CLASS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOGA AND STUDY GROUPS

As needs rise with economy in flux, Our Place donors keep up support

By Janae Cepeda

With the economy in constant flux, the client base of Our Place Community Ministries in Spokane continues to swell.

Volunteers and donors are rising to help meet the needs of neighbors south of Montgomery Ave. and west of Division Street.

From July 2007 to June 2008, Our Place served 16,842 people in 6,551 households, an increase of 1,000 from the previous fiscal year. New clients continue to come, with 22 new households in one day in December.

Our Place relies on individual donations, bequests and support of area churches, said Peg Sammons, co-director with Holy Names Sister Ann Pizelo.

Peg shared examples of recent gifts and their impact on clients.

One donor, aware of Our Place's need list, gave 173 pairs of Red Wing boots, providing various sizes of footwear for adults for work in harsh conditions or simply to walk in.

William Kemme, a third-time client and cancer survivor, was excited about the boots. Unable to work on a regular basis because of ongoing treatment for his illness, he said that the boots make it possible for him to do jobs outdoors more comfortably than he would wear tennis shoes.

Group Health recently gave a donation of winter items such as blankets, hats and gloves.

Peg encourages the people to come together to help others because "no one has ever become poor through giving," she said quoting a favorite quote of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis in the Netherlands.

Currently, she said that there is a need for blankets and sleeping bags because of the increasing number of homeless people and people who have houses but cannot afford to turn their furnaces up

to a comfortable level.

Our Place's new addition into remodeled office space, means the more than 60 volunteers can better serve the clients.

The expansion means Our Place can offer laundry services to clients free of charge during normal operation hours. There is also more room for its food bank and clothing bank.

Laundry, classroom expand services.

The clothing bank is designed to have the appearance and feel of a retail store with volunteers always on the floor ready to help clients find the items they need or desire.

A young man came in during November needing a suit for his new job, a promotion that meant he would work inside. A volunteer found three suits and one was his size. Appreciating her service, he came back about half an hour later so she could see him wearing his new suit. His grin expressed his appreciation.

At first glance, the many rows of used clothing hanging on racks are neatly categorized and organized based on size and type of clothing, so "digging" through rack after rack is kept at a minimum, Peg said.

Since the laundry room was completed in September 2007, clients have been able to wash 430 loads of laundry.

The remodeling also included a classroom for teaching clients life skills, such as a cooking class. Its instructors visit Second Harvest to find out what food is available so they can cook meals with those foods. Now there is a stove, sink and running water. About 20 attend the class.

Peg said that Our Place is committed to provide for people in need regardless of personal history.

Two-thirds of their clients are on Social Security or are working two jobs and still not making ends meet, she said.

Our Place's services include providing help to pay part of someone's utility bills and to give out bus passes, gas vouchers, hygiene products, clothing, bedding and food once every 30 days to anyone within the area who comes to their door.

Peg, who is Catholic but attends Life Center with her adult children and grandchildren, said she has faith in her clients.

"Our Place does not investigate people or turn away those who may not have a legitimate need," she said. "We trust that people would not come if they did not have a need. Our ministry focuses on respect. Poor people do not need to be put through demeaning, demoralizing questions about their personal lives."

When he was interviewed after receiving boots, William said that the people who run Our Place show such generosity that "it would be foolish to take advantage of such a neat organization."

"We all feel uncertain about these economic times. It's no fun to be poor, but there's wisdom in those words. Only good things come from giving," she said.

Our Place, in partnership and collaboration with faith-based and other organizations, welcomes and supports their neighbors in West Central Spokane who have unmet needs or emergencies and assists them in improving their quality of life.

More than 22 years ago, Benedictine Sister Meg Sass began organizing West Central churches to survey their neighborhood and then to work together to serve their neighbors.

She also helped establish similar ecumenical outreach centers in North Spokane, Spokane Valley, Cheney and Medical Lake.

The church partners include Salem Lutheran, St. Joseph's Catholic, St. Paul's Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Central Baptist and Knox Presbyterian.

Our Place, which started in a house beside Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and is now housed in a one-story building at 1509 W. College, is open from 10 a.m.

to 1 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and the last Saturdays of each month.

For information, call 326-7267 or email ourplace@cet.com.

Wellness... is Our Passion
Life Enrichment... is Our Goal



10410 E Ninth Ave
 Spokane Valley
 509-926-3541
 sunshinehealthfacilities.com

Long Term Nursing
 Short Term Rehabilitation

Family Owned &
 Operated Since 1949

GOSPEL IN THE CATHEDRAL
 Benefit for the
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
 FAMILY OUTREACH CENTER

Sunday, January 11, 2009
6:00 pm
 in St. John's Cathedral

Featuring:

Bethel B.A.S.I.C. Gospel Choir **Spokane Community Gospel Mass Choir** **Montana Trombone Chorus**

Advance Tickets \$10.00

For Tickets Please Call:
 Rich - 939-4949 or 838-6131
 St. John's Cathedral - 838-4277
 TicketsWest - 325-SEAT (7328)


It's here.
Right time. Right place.

M.A. in Theology

- ◆ Classical Theology
- ◆ Practical Ministry
- ◆ Spiritual Formation

... and a convenient schedule, too.

Is it your time?



WHITWORTH
 509.777.3222 ◆ www.whitworth.edu/theologyma



one day, I'll give someone hope.

Choose Social Work at EWU
 If your dream is to inspire hope in someone then look no further than the School of Social Work at Eastern Washington University. With a high demand for individuals with diverse backgrounds, you can train with nationally-recognized faculty in a collaborative, real-world atmosphere for one of the top 10 fastest growing occupations.

Social Work Programs

- Bachelor of Social Work
 contact Diane Somerday, MSW 509.359.6482
- Full-time Master of Social Work
- Part-time Master of Social Work
 contact Patricia Valdés, MSW PhD 509.359.6772



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
 start something **big**
www.ewu.edu/socialwork