

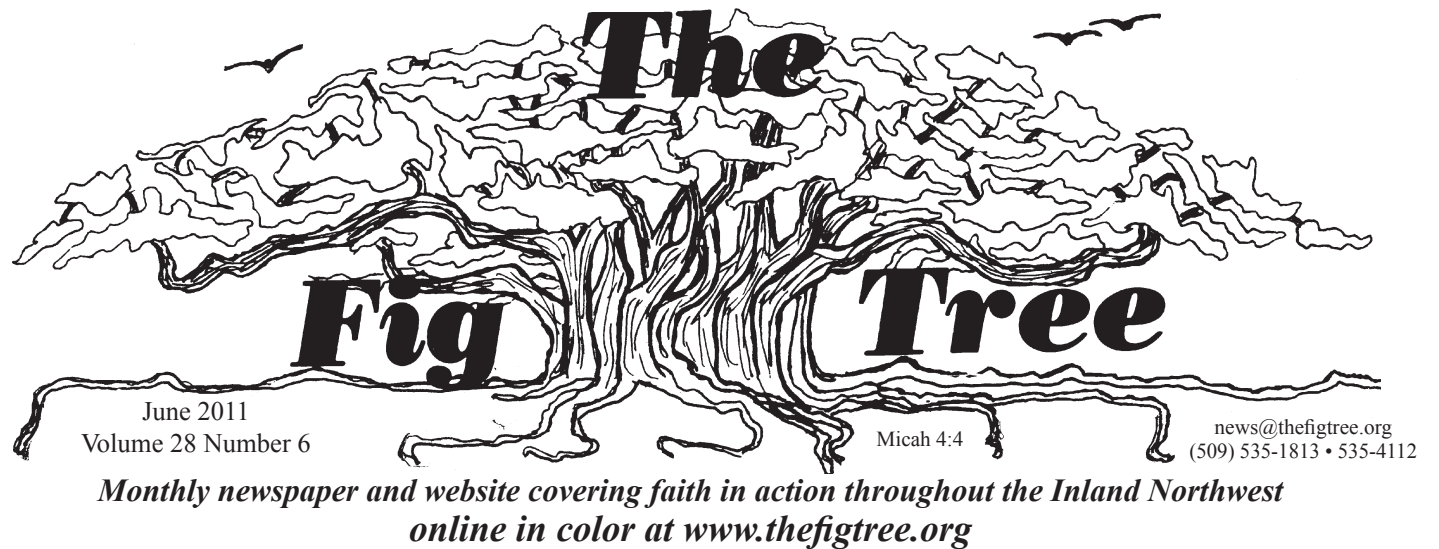
STORIES INSIDE

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Prevention efforts reduce abuse

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

As Mary Ann Murphy retires the end of June from 23 years as the founding director of Partners With Families and Children (Partners), she leaves a legacy as a champion of children.

Under her leadership, the program earned a national reputation as an integrated service-delivery model which co-locates health, child welfare, chemical dependency and mental health treatment.

"We do difficult work well and will stick with the children we serve through thick and thin," Mary Ann said. "However, the core challenges we face are the twin evils of poverty and racism.

"Children are not receiving what they need in terms of food, clothing and supervision," she said. "Between 2001 and 2007, 85 percent of the cases we saw were the result of child neglect."

An accredited children's advocacy center, Partners' services focus on children who have suffered physical and sexual abuse, neglect, exposure to drugs and violence.

In addition to services for at-risk children, it provides services for families with multiple needs, including individual and group counseling for parents.



Mary Ann Murphy retires after 23 years with Partners with Families and Children.

In a 1980s conversation with Mary Ann and others, Spokane physician Alan Hendrickson jotted notes on a paper napkin. Those ideas became the inspiration for Partners with Families and Children. They were discussing how the community could serve and protect children who were physically and/or sexually abused.

From those roots, a community effort grew to create a regional center for child abuse, organize doctors, coordinate the investigations of law enforcements and Child Protective Services, the courts and other social and health treatment services, secure funding and identify an advisory board. Eventually it became an independent nonprofit organization with the sponsorship of Deaconess and Sacred Heart Medical Centers.

A cornerstone program of Partners is prevention. It includes "Darkness to Light," a curriculum designed to increase public awareness of child sexual abuse issues and educate adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to abuse.

"I have focused on prevention for most of the last six years. I believe we need to intervene before abuse

Continued on page 4

Fig Tree's 2011-12 Resource Directory will be out in July: volunteers needed

The Fig Tree needs volunteers to assist with phone calls to verify data, edit copy, prepare mailings and deliver bulk quantities of the 2011-12 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources.

For the fifth year, The Fig Tree is publishing the directory, and for the third year, it is publishing it in collaboration with Community Colleges of Spokane, Spokane County Headstart/ECEAP, which previously published its own directory.

This will be the 39th annual edi-

tion of the publication, which was started by the Spokane Christian Coalition and its successor organizations, the Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries and the Interfaith Council.

To assist with printing the 2011-12 edition, The Fig Tree recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington. It also received a grant of \$500 from the foundation to purchase software to network the database for the newspaper and directory.

Malcolm Haworth, directory

editor, has prepared the directory since The Fig Tree took on its publication.

Assisting him this year are Ginny Terpening of CCS Headstart/ECEAP; Brenda Waga, who is on The Fig Tree staff through Career Path Services, and Jacquie Echelberger, who is on staff through American Association of Retired Persons.

Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree editor, and Yvonne Lopez-Morton, associate editor, are responsible for selling advertising to help cover the costs of production.

They have extended the deadline, because ad space is still available and critically needed to support the venture.

Malcolm said that any corrections must be submitted by June 10.

Malcolm urges those involved with nonprofit, government and other community service agencies to be sure that their listings are current. They may email changes to directory@thefigtree.org.

For information, call 535-4112 or 535-1813.

Fig Tree section gives a taste of 2011 camps



Bob Watrous of Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland, a volunteer leader for older elementary-age campers at N-Sid-Sen, connects biblical stories with life issues today through drama.

Reports on pages 5 to 7

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International Ecumenical Peace Convocation asks participants: What is God's security?

As a 10-year-old schoolgirl, on Aug. 6, 1945, at 8:15 a.m., Setsuko Thurlow suddenly saw a brilliant bluish light flash outside her schoolroom window. "I remember floating in the air. When I regained consciousness, in the total darkness and silence, I found myself in rubble." She heard her classmates' faint voices: "Mom, help me. Dad, help me." Thurlow is a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, one of two the United States dropped on Japan at the end of World War II. She has a lifelong commitment to end development and use of such arms.

Her vivid, painful memory washed over participants at the World Council of Churches' International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) in May at Kingston, Jamaica, when a panel explored the theme, "Peace among the Peoples," examining obstructions to peace and considering what "security" looks like.

Thurlow's presentation by video reminded that world powers continue to develop and proliferate nuclear arms. As survivors tell their stories, they recall the injustice that 260,000 innocent people perished after 1945 from effects of the heat and radiation.

Governments continue to justify large-scale military action, even nuclear warfare, in the name of "security," said Lisa Schirch, professor of peace-building at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. She asked what security should mean to Christians: "Jesus doesn't use the word 'security.' The church's language is more about justice and peace than about security," she said.

In Iraq in 2005, Lisa worked with Iraqis who were peace-building at a community level. "They told me security does not land in a helicopter. It grows from the ground up."

Iraq was one of many countries on the minds of IEPC participants as they explored peace among the peoples—from nuclear disarmament to ending all war.

The Rev. Kjell Magne Bondevik, president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Right and twice prime minister of Norway, remembers that in 2003 when U.S. President George Bush called to solicit support for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. "I said no," said Kjell. "You don't have a mandate from the U.N. From my ethical Christian perspective, using military means must be the last solution, after you have tried all other peaceful means." The campaign of Norway's churches against the war influenced his decision, he said.

Archbishop Avak Asadourian, the Armenian Orthodox Archbishop of Baghdad, said he wants Kjell's message of Christian peace to be communicated across the world. "I am sorry leaders are not listening," he said. "In the past 32 years, Iraq has gone through three wars and an embargo. Their situation is bad." Although Christians are a minority in Iraq, he said, "we are an important part of Iraqi society. We are doing everything we can for peace. By peace, I mean equality, not just the absence of war."

IEPC participants said a Christian version of security could be created if churches would have some form of "early warning"—sending messages out about potential conflicts.

"Women have a special role," said Patricia Lewis, deputy director and scientist-in-residence at the Monterey Institute in California. "If you don't ask women, you don't know what's happening." Believing change will come, she said, "People in the military and positions of authority understand nuclear weapons have almost no use militarily. They realize we can't make small mistakes with nuclear weapons."

To stop war and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, churches must move beyond statements into action, said Christiane Agboton-Johnson, deputy director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva, Switzerland. "Women often suffer most in a conflict despite their commitment to ending it. The U.N. would do better to implement what they write," she said.

Meanwhile, nuclear bomb survivors continue their call for humankind to learn from the past. "No human being should ever have to repeat our experience of the inhumanity, illegality, immorality and cruelty of atomic warfare," she said.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Hospice offers classes on grieving process

Hospice of Spokane is offering an introductory class on the grieving process for those who have recently lost a loved one.

The class, which is held at 1:30 p.m., first, second and third Thursdays at Hospice of Spokane, 121 S. Arthur, will help people tell their stories, do self care, look at their relationships, special days and a new normal.

Other bereavement support groups include:

- Spouse/Partner Grief Support Group, 1 p.m., Wednesdays, at Hospice of Spokane.

- North Side General Grief Support Group, 6 p.m., Mondays, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9706 N. Division St.

- South Side General Grief Support Group, 3:30 p.m., Mondays, at South Side Senior Activity Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave.

- Spokane Valley General Grief Support Group, 1:30 p.m., Thurs-

days, at Spokane Valley Senior Center, 2426 N. Discovery Place

- Loss of a Child Support Group, 4 p.m., Wednesdays, at Hospice of Spokane.

- Survivor of a Loved One's Suicide, 5:30 p.m., Hospice of Spokane, 121 S. Arthur St.

- Connections Child/Parents-Grief Support Group, 6 p.m., Wednesdays, Hospice of Spokane.

For information, call 456-0438.

Juneteenth celebrates abolition of slavery

"Liberty, Literacy and Livelihood: 1865 to 2011" is the theme for the Juneteenth commemoration at noon, Saturday, June 18, at Liberty Park.

Event sponsors—the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship, the Spokane's National Association for

the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other community organizations—seek to build community through education, music, entertainment and vendors.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is

a U.S. holiday that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865.

Usually celebrated on June 19, the term combines June and 19th, and is a holiday in 37 states.

For information, call 467-9793 or email spokanenaacp@yahoo.com.

Jubilate! connects worship and the arts

"Worship: Rethink, Reshape, Renew" is the theme for the 2011 Jubilate! summer conference on worship and the arts from Aug. 15 to 20 at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island near Coupeville, Wash.

The keynote speaker, the Rev.

Brad Beeman of First United Methodist Church of Auburn, will lead the exploration of worship for this annual gathering for pastors, music and choir directors, artists, worship planners and leaders and others interested in worship arts.

Started by the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Conference in 1978, Jubilate! is part of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

For information, visit www.jubilatetoworshiparts.org.

World Peace Tour creates sand mandala

The Sera World Peace Tour brings Tibetan culture to Spokane June 9 to 11 to raise funds for the Sera Monastery in India by building a sacred Flower of Compassion sand mandala at Unity Church South, 2900 S. Bernard.

Because it is made in the spirit of impermanence and non-attachment, there will be a ceremony for dismantling it, beginning at

9 a.m., Saturday, June 11, at the church, with offering some of the sand to the audience.

That ceremony will conclude at 11 a.m., on the wooden bridge above the falls, at Riverside Park when the remainder of the sand will be dispersed into the water.

Designs for sand mandalas, a Tibetan tradition of sand painting, are created for purification and

healing. They include meditative designs that represent harmony, balance, community and pure wisdom. Dispersing sand into the river symbolizes that the waters carry the healing energies throughout the world.

The event is sponsored by the Universal Compassion Movement Spokane.

For information, call 838-6518.

Cool Water Bikes schedules benefit ride

Cool Water Bikes, a nonprofit bike shop in downtown Spokane, is planning its annual Poker Ride and Run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 11, at New Community Church, 1003 E. Trent.

Participants who bicycle 10 miles or walk/run one to three miles draw cards at stations along

the Centennial Trail to form a poker hand. There are prizes for the best hands, so the farther participants ride, the more chances they have to improve their hands.

There will be a silent auction, raffle and kids' games on-site after participants finish the route.

Cool Water Bikes teaches at-

risk youth to refurbish used bicycles, offering them skills and a way to leave street life.

Cool Water Bikes is part of A Cup of Cool Water, a ministry to youth on the streets in downtown Spokane.

For information, call 838-8580 or visit coolwaterbikes.org.

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Institute of Ministry is July 11 to 15

The 36th annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry on the theme, "Enduring Wisdom for the Church Today," will be held July 11 to 15 at Whitworth University.

Featured speakers include Dale Bruner, Whitworth University theology professor emeritus, Karen Petersen Finch, assistant professor of theology at Whitworth, and Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School.

They will set the context for reflection, renewal and refreshment with a daily Bible Hour on crucifixion and resurrection narratives led by Dale, afternoon workshops including Karen's exploring Reformed theology in sessions on "Calvin for Congregations," and evening worship with Timothy preaching on God's word through the ages.

Dale, who taught 22 years at Whitworth, is author of *A Theology of the Holy Spirit: The Pentecostal Experience and the New Testament Witness* and a commentary on the Gospel of Matthew. His commentary on John's Gospel will be published this year.

While at Whitworth, he spoke and taught at churches around the country. He retired in 1997 and lives with his wife, Kathy, in Pasadena, where he has studied at Fuller Theological Seminary and is working on a commentary on Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Karen, an ordained pastor of the Presby-

terian Church (USA), teaches Reform theology of Calvin, Roman Catholic theology of Lonergan, ecumenical dialogue, the doctrine of God and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. She also teaches in Whitworth's lay ministry training programs.

In addition to responsibilities as dean, Timothy, an ordained Southern Baptist pastor, teaches church history and doctrine. He is a senior editor of *Christianity Today*. He is active in Evangelical-Roman Catholic Church dialogue and chairs the Doctrine and Christian Unity Commission of the Baptist World Alliance. He has served churches in Georgia, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Alabama. His books include *The Mark of Jesus: Living in a Way the World Can See; Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?* and *Amazing Grace: God's Pursuit, Our Response*.

Participants will look at challenges of these times, asking questions about how the enduring wisdom of the past helps people experience God's redeeming love through Jesus Christ in their fragile lives, struggling churches, and the fractured, pain-filled world.

Each year, the Whitworth Institute of Ministry provides an opportunity for clergy and laity, and their spouses and children to be encouraged in their lives and ministries.

For information, call 777-4345 or visit www.whitworth.edu/wim.

Habitat plans 2011 Blitz Build

Habitat for Humanity Spokane's 2011 Blitz Build, which will be done from June 1 to 17, will draw more than 100 volunteers each day to the site at 4417 E. Mt. Baldy Lane.

Since 2002, Habitat-Spokane Blitz Builds, which are efforts both to build decent, affordable homes in a few weeks and to increase awareness of housing needs, have built 37 homes.

The Blitz Build is open to community volunteers, organizations, builders and businesses willing to be sponsors, to volunteer time or to provide in-kind materials and professional labor.

Catherine Lyle is coordinating sign-ups of volunteers. Shifts are from 8 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

For information, call 534-2552 ext. 21.

Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane Pancake Breakfasts at Applebee's

The following Saturdays from 8 – 10 a.m.
July 23 – Southside **August 20** – Valley
September 10 – Northside



\$7 per person

To purchase tickets call **747-5487**.

The Fig Tree was among 22 recipients of grants awarded in 2011 by the Catholic Foundation

The Fig Tree was among 22 recipients receiving funding for 32 projects from \$42,128 granted this year by The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington.

With a grant of \$1,000, The Fig Tree will help cover costs of printing the 2011-12 Resource Directory. A grant of \$500 will be used to purchase software for networking the database for the newspaper and directory.

Since 1981, the foundation, which has grown from three restricted endowed funds valued at \$500,000 to 137 restricted endowed funds valued at \$15,932,000, has awarded 1,385 grants worth more than \$1,296,000 to Catholic parishes, schools and

community organizations.

The Fig Tree has received grants in the past primarily for development of circulation and coverage in rural communities.

Other community organizations receiving 2011 grants include: Caritas Outreach Ministries in North Central Spokane, \$3,000; Catholic Charities Senior Services, \$500; the Catholic Diocese of Spokane Prison and Detention Ministry, \$2,500; Cheney Outreach Center, \$1000; Our Place Community Ministries, \$2,500; Secular Franciscans in Dayton, \$800, and St. Joseph Family Center, \$2,000.

Other grants to Catholic churches, schools and projects support

retreats, education and worship materials, and other projects.

The Catholic Foundation, which manages the Frank, Anna, Madeleine and Lucille Lieb Memorial Endowment #3 for support of the poor and needy in Spokane, awards support for the House of Charity, Catholic Charities, Our Place and Immaculate Heart Retreat Center each year, plus a fifth recipient chosen each year that helps poor elderly people.

For 2011, the trustees granted \$2,205 to Meals on Wheels, a program of Mid-City Concerns that delivers 78,000 meals to elderly, disabled and homebound individuals in Spokane.

For information, call 998-0654.

Immaculate Heart schedules an estate planning retreat

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center will host an estate-planning seminar, "Let's Face It: Setting Things in Order for the End of Life," from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 7, at the center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.

Sponsored with the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington and Catholic Cemeteries of

Spokane, the event covers such end-of-life decisions as wills, estate taxes, powers of attorney, medical decisions, funeral/memorial services, burial, and designating gifts to organizations.

Presenters include financial planner Tom Kendall, estate-planning attorney Dave Knutson, and Fr. Mike Savelesky from Assumption Parish.

For information, call 448-1224.

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Mary Ann Murphy urges more community conversations on abuse

Continued from page 1
occurs," Mary Ann said.

She urges efforts to empower and support parents and reach out to parents who experienced abuse.

"In my lifetime, we thought we had to be the voices for children, but I now believe that parent leaders are the wave of the future," she said. "We need more community conversations. The answers must come from the people most affected by public policies. They must have a role in helping set the agendas and action plans."

Her commitment to educating the public about child abuse and neglect issues has been reaffirmed for five years in her helping found the "Our Kids: Our Business" public awareness program in the greater Spokane area.

She is pleased that the community comes together to send a strong message that abuse of children will not be tolerated.

Uniting local media, social service agencies, nonprofits, businesses and others since 2007, Mary Ann, in partnership with fellow social service advocate and friend Marilee Roloff, executive director of Volunteers of America in Spokane, led the effort to initiate Our Kids: Our Business as a response to needs of Inland Northwest children.

Each April, the community "blooms" in solidarity as thousands of colorful pinwheels—the Our Kids: Our Business call-to-action symbol—adorn public spaces, businesses and even private lawns. This year a shift was made to reusable street banners.

"Working the campaign has given a second wind to my career. When I started in 1988 at our child abuse treatment center, we could not imagine prevention," Mary Ann said.

For her, that was hopeful, because she knows how many children need treatment, yet most are too scared to come forward to reveal their family secret. With so many children needing treatment and few coming forward, she's glad prevention science has progressed.

The campaign engages adults in various participating organizations in planning for children's safety based on known factors that increase protection: strengthening social connections for families; offering places to turn for basic needs in times of crisis; increasing knowledge about child development and parenting skills, and expressing to children that they are loved and belong, she said.

When Mary Ann was growing up in Utah, her grandfather was the only Catholic doctor in a Mormon town. When her father died in World War II, her mother went back to school and became a teacher to support Mary Ann and her brother. They moved to California, where her mother remarried, adding five more children to the family.

Living in Texas in the early 1950s, Mary Ann observed her mother's quest for social justice as a progressive Catholic.

"She was my mentor," she said.

The family moved to Spokane when her stepfather was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base. She graduated from

Lewis and Clark High School and the University of Washington, where she majored in political science.

After college, Mary Ann married and was a pre-school teacher in Seattle.

From 1967 to 1970, she was a Head-Start teacher in the Watts section of Los Angeles, day school director at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle in 1970 and 1971, and a pre-school teacher in Washington, D.C., in 1971 and 1972.

She was disturbed by and afraid of the child abuse and neglect she saw.

So in 1973, after divorcing and returning to Spokane with her 10-month-old daughter, she pursued a master's degree in developmental psychology at Eastern Washington University. She worked for 10 years with EWU's department of applied psychology faculty. She designed and administered two grants, which were national models for financing of early intervention services for high-risk infants and families.

When she left EWU, she was a consultant for a year, but yearned for mission-driven service. In 1983, she became the executive director of Youth Help Association, now YFA Connections, where she helped develop social service programs in six service areas for youth, families and substance abuse treatment.

A practicing Catholic until college, Mary Ann said she and her late husband, Spokane film critic and ad executive Robert Glatzer, raised three children in their blended family with Jewish and Christian traditions in their home.

As she prepares to retire and evaluates challenges ahead for Partners with Families and Children, Mary Ann believes that, in the the current economic climate as federal and state funding collapses, the community needs to help find solutions to support child victims, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Last fall, Spokane voters rejected the Children's Investment Fund initiative, which would have generated \$5 million each year to support youth programs through a property tax levy, she said.

"Partners and other nonprofits have had to make hard choices during this economic downturn," she said. "To keep everyone employed and retain our level of skills, we had to reduce salaries and increase employee insurance contributions."

"We all shared the pain, but we held on to everyone," she said.

Mary Ann is encouraged that Partners' work was validated with a three-year \$135,000 Asset Building Grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to support financial counseling for families of at-risk children.

She said Partners must continue to respond to children's needs, because children are often crime victims. She encourages collaboration with law enforcement and schools to strengthen prevention.

Mary Ann will stay in Spokane and explore new paths to reaffirm her social justice values instilled by her mother and others.

For information, call 473-4810 or email partners@inhs.org.

Millwood market enters its fifth season

After spending the winter inside at The Crossing Youth Center, the Millwood Farmers' Market began its fifth season—open from 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays—outdoors on May 18 in Millwood Community Presbyterian Church's parking lot at 3223 N. Marguerite.

Organized by farmers, business owners and church leaders, it began with 12 vendors and a few hundred shoppers in 2007.

"Experiences in the first four years have exceeded our hopes," said the Rev. Craig Goodwin, pastor of Millwood, noting that the market now has about 40 vendors and draws about 500 shoppers.

"Our market was the impetus for a new state law allowing Washington nonprofit organizations to host farmers' markets

without losing their property-tax exemptions," he said.

Millwood and more than 100 of the state's 146 markets accept state Women, Infants and Children coupons to supplement diets for low-income families. Shoppers can use EBT (electronic benefits transfer), debit or credit cards, swiped at the market's main booth, in exchange for tokens accepted by vendors.

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service, as of mid-2010, there were 6,132 farmers markets operating in the United States, a 16 percent increase from 2009. There are 146 farmers' markets listed in Washington.

For information, visit www.millwoodmarket.org.

Adult study draws experts on aging

Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ plans a 10-week series on "Life's Journey: What I Need to Know But Don't Want to Talk About" at 9 a.m., Sundays, June 19 to Aug. 21, at the church 411 S. Washington.

To explore issues related to aging and care-giving for parents, self, relatives and loved ones, organizers invited a hospital chaplain, the director of health services at Harbor Crest, a therapist at Spokane Mental Health Elder Ser-

vices, the editor of *innovAging*, marriage and family therapists, a retired attorney, the manager of Cancer Care Northwest, the director of Tree of Sharing and the pastor of Westminster.

For information, call 624-1366 or visitwestminsterucc.org.



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A Taste of the 2011 Summer Church Camping Season

Outdoor adventures, water sports, music and reflection await campers

Rock climbing, mission aviation, house painting, high ropes, yard work, waterskiing, performing music, rebuilding burned homes, horse-back riding, teaching children and white-water rafting draw youth at church camps away from screens, and into nature and neighborhoods for summer adventures.

These are among the activities Inland Northwest camps and retreat centers offer amid usual activities of swimming, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, arts and crafts, campfires, and discussions on faith and life.

Managers and directors of church camps and centers recently shared their preparations and expectations for the upcoming summer church camping season.

As every year, camps have been doing renovations and maintenance to improve their facilities for campers and year-round retreats. For example, Zephyr Christian Conference Center is raising money to reroof and repaint its historic 109-year-old historic lodge on Liberty Lake.

Directors and administrative staff recently told how the economy and fewer children in their churches have an impact on camps and how they are adjusting to the changes.

This section provides a sampling of activities and news from several of the Inland Northwest's church-related camps. A comprehensive list of the camps is included in the upcoming 2011-12 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources in the region. The directory will be published and distributed in July.

Camp schedules and registration information is available at camp websites.

Camp tries billboard ads

For the first time, Camp Spalding, the Inland Northwest Presbyterian's camp near Newport, is marketing to the community with billboards and other media to draw children, youth and adults who are not in churches.

"In the past, we focused on our constituency and their friends," said Andy Sonneland, executive director of Camp Spalding. "We are still doing that, but we have a great experience for any child or youth, even those who have no church background."

Since record attendance in 2008, "we have taken a hit with the economy," said Andy. "Marketing is more than a business



Boys at Camp Spalding enjoy a race.

imperative. It's a ministry opportunity to engage with families in the community."

While theology informs camp life, the Presbyterian theology is invitational, he said.

With membership in the presbytery down 50 percent over the last 45 years, "there is not the critical mass to sustain a camp based on denominational participation alone," he said.

Andy notes that last summer 40 percent of campers were from Presbyterian families and the rest from other churches or no church. Until five years ago, there were more Presbyterian than non-Presbyterian campers.

Most campers come because their families send them, and about 75 percent of campers return, he said.

Role models spark interest

"Outdoors with older role models who are enthusiastic about their faith and perceived as cool, campers are receptive to talk about life's big questions and even to consider Jesus," Andy said.

The 40 college-age staff, who bring confidence and awareness of the world from mission trips, do not fit cultural caricatures of Christians.

Youth today are harder to reach because many are "more jaded" than when he started as executive director of Camp Spalding 20 years ago. Because the culture in general is more hostile because of stereotypes of Christians, he said defenses of high school youth are greater now.

"To present Jesus as compelling, we focus on Gospel stories that tell how Jesus interacted with people and how God wants to interact with us," he said. "We talk about how the stories relate to, make a difference in and can be real in their lives."

For information, call 509-447-4388, email andy@clearwaterlodge.org or visit campspalding.org.

Lutherhaven adds horses

To hold the interest of returning campers, camps provide new activities.

For example, part of Lutherhaven's Shoshone Base Camp has become a 1920s-era western dude ranch, the Shoshone Creek Ranch, with corrals, barns, riding arenas and 15 horses. Each week, 14 fifth grade through high school students will come to the ranch.

Bob Baker, executive director of Lutherhaven, which runs both the Shoshone Base camp and Camp Lutherhaven on the western shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, said the camp has a permit with the U.S. Forest Service to do trail rides into nearby national forests.

The ranch camp is separate from the Shoshone Base Camp, where about 100 youth come from around the United States each week to do community service in the Silver Valley.

Campers paint houses, patch roofs, clean basements and do repairs on homes of low-income elderly or disabled people. They also work with children at city parks. In the last four years, camp-

ers have put in 30,000 volunteer hours.

Churches give camperships

Bob, who has been at Lutherhaven for 18 years, said that instead of traditional camperships for church members' children, churches are offering camperships for neighborhood children.

One Spokane church, Holy Cross Lutheran, is sending 96 children—more than the number of children in their church.

He estimates that a third of Lutherhaven campers are Lutheran, a third from other denominations and a third attend no church.

Camps foster community

"Camp counters the trend for children and youth to spend more than seven hours a day in front of screens," Bob said.

"At camp, they are outdoors away from screens, building relationships with Christian mentors who present the gospel of Jesus," he said. "The camp allows no cell phone use, so there is no contact with family or friends at home, so the campers can really be present."

Many campers return for the leadership program to be camp leaders, and many of them become campus ministry group leaders, pastors, and leaders in their communities and churches.

Lutherhaven is partnering with the U.S. Army National Guard to offer Operation Teen Camp for 250 children of parents who are deployed. It is also partnering with the Church of the Nazarene, which is selling its Pinelow Camp, to host a Nazarene teen camp.

A youth Chorale Camp will be held this summer in conjunction with and at Camp Cross, led by Mary Carlson, who was on Lutherhaven's staff in the 1970s and now teaches choir in Reno. The camp will introduce youth to sacred music and dance across religious boundaries.

For information, call 208-667-1713, email bob@lutherhaven.com or visit lutherhaven.com.

Continued on next page

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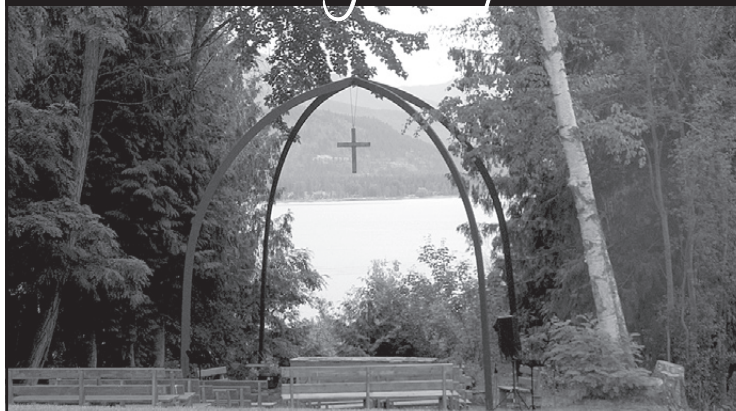
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Camps always seek new ideas, partnerships to strengthen programs

Continued from previous page

Joint Chorale Camp set

Maureen Cosgrove, director of Camp Cross, the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane's camp, also on the western shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, said the collaborative Chorale Camp will invite young people of Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the region to learn about the liturgical and new music of their traditions.

Overall, she said, the summer camps' theme, "Create Your Faith Print," will help campers consider how their lives together and individually have impact on their communities, the environment and the world. They will supplement that theme with a curriculum by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Camp Cross is again hosting Camp No Limits, which is for children without limbs. It will be held the same weekend as a women's retreat from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bonners Ferry.

"Since the 1920s, we have blended the traditional and new," Maureen said. "We look to grow in relationship with our diocesan mission of welcoming everyone."

Registration for the 2011 camps for youth is about the same as recent years. As at other camps, campers include friends of church youth and youth sent by parents seeking spiritual content that is open-minded.

Maureen said that offering campers "spiritual safety" is key. By that she means having camp leaders aware that campers come from Episcopal, other denominations and no faith traditions, and that they should respect those different backgrounds.

For information, call 624-5780, email campcross@spokanediocese.org or visit campcross.org.

Camp has new director

Twinlow's new camp director Tyler Wagner said the United Methodist camp on Twin Lakes in North Idaho will follow what has worked over Twinlow's 86-year history "as we make the camp relevant to campers."

"To be relevant, we must meet youth where they are, keeping in mind that opportunities for children and families are endless," he said. "We need to keep Twinlow at the top of their list as a place to grow in faith, especially as the word, 'camp,' becomes diluted in its use by schools, music stores, child care and other programs.

"Traditional camp models are still significant, because children lack outdoor and community-building experiences," he said.



Ross Point adds to its high-ropes course challenges.

"We need to unplug them. As people are more plugged in, sitting in front of screens, society is more disconnected.

"We need places like this to retreat from the busyness of the world," he said, mentioning questions camps are considering: "Do children know how to live without a screen? Are they able to talk with each other? Do we bring video games and computers to camp to draw people? Does it serve our mission?"

Twinlow allows no cell phones or screens.

Tyler, who is from a Lutheran camp background in Oregon and California, grew up in Colorado and worked three seasons in outdoor education and as seasonal program director at Lutherhaven.

His bachelor's degree in 2001 from Fort Lewis College and master's degree this spring from Marylhurst University in Portland are in business.

"I tried to leave camping, but God dragged me back," he said. "Camp is the most exciting part of church. In today's world, churches need connection and excitement, not just for children and youth, but for any age."

In the summer, United Methodists have their weeks of camp, along with camps of partnership groups like the American Diabetes Association and Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Day camps expand reach

Tyler seeks both to draw more people to Twinlow and to take a Twinlow camp experience to churches for community-based day camps. Resident camp programs run June 26 to Aug. 13. Day camps, which take place all summer, include a pick up in Coeur d'Alene and a day-camp week July 11 to 15 at Community United Methodist Church in Coeur d'Alene.

The Pacific Northwest Cross Connection high-school camp

draws youth groups to come and go from the site daily to nearby communities where they do lawn work or repairs for people referred by community organizations.

For information, call 208-687-1146, email tyler@twinlowcamp.org or visit twinlowcamp.org.

'Got Spirit' is theme

Randy Crowe, managing director of N-Sid-Sen on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, considers the theme for the National Council of Churches' 2011 camp curriculum, "Got Spirit: Finding God in the Everyday" apropos for children, youth and adults in today's culture.

Other camps using that curriculum this summer are Zephyr and Ross Point.

In recruiting and training volunteer directors and counselors, he said there is more need to realize faith is relevant in everyday life to "reinforce that God is with us, is in our communities and is in creation," he said.

"Given corporate interests promoting denial of climate change, we need to look at the environment and our responsibility to each other and to God," he said.

"It's also important to be aware of God in the everyday in terms of caring for 'the least' in these times of budget cuts, so those in most need will not be forgotten. We need to teach children to adults to find God wherever we are, to see God with us all the time," he said.

As campers gain that understanding, he hopes they will go home and do what they can in their communities.

Like other camps, Randy said that N-Sid-Sen summer church camps draw many in the camp's sponsoring United Church of



Middle-school girls enjoy water sports at Twinlow.

Christ churches, friends of children and youth in churches, and children whose parents want their children in a progressive summer camp that will help them think.

As of mid-May, he reported that as usual some camps that are popular—the teen aqua camps—fill up quickly, and others are traditionally last-minute registrations.

For Randy, the 2011 summer camp season is his 21st and last as managing director of N-Sid-Sen. He retires in April 2012.

For information, call 208-689-3489, email randy@n-sid-sen.org or visit n-sid-sen.org.

Age groups share camp

Nico McClellan, manager of Zephyr Christian Conference Center at Liberty Lake, expects full Disciples of Christ children and youth camps this summer.

Amber Saladino of the North-

west Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), said the region combines younger and older elementary children one week and junior and senior high another week. Each age group has separate, concurrent programs using the National Council of Churches (NCC) curriculum.

She said a decline in camping has accompanied the decline of youth in churches, so the region is exploring other models and formats for camps, and is connecting with other denominations.

Nico said lodge improvements will be completed before denominational camps. The facility is also used for family reunions, retreats, church camps, scrapbookers and other groups in the area.

For information, call 255-6122 or email zephyrlodge@live.com or visit www.disciplesnw.org.

Continued on next page

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Camps build leadership, connect faith to life, serve nearby communities

Continued from previous page

Camps share facilities

Ross Point, the American Baptist camp on the Spokane River at Post Falls, is planning three weeks of youth camps and two weeks of family camps, along with rental by Camp Good Times, the American Cancer Society camp for children with cancer.

While the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest owns the camp, Marta Walker, administrative assistant, said the camp encourages church youth to invite friends.

American Baptists are offering three gift certificates to each church to invite neighborhood children to come for a free week.

"Many churches use it," she said. "Once children come to camp, they return year after year."

"We encourage children, youth and families to develop a relationship with God," Marta added. "A study several years ago showed that 65 percent of children who go to camp have a significant experience with God and often become our future leaders."

High ropes build trust

Each year, Ross Point has added to its high ropes course, which, she said, is a draw for youth 12 years and older. There are now 20 elements in the ropes course to help with personal growth, trust development and team building.

"It challenges youth and adults to stretch as they are out of their comfort zone in trees 15 to 20 feet off the ground. Along with learning to trust each other and themselves, campers learn to trust God."

Fay Batchelder, wife of the camp manager and director John Batchelder, is a trained high ropes course facilitator.

"We add new elements to keep campers' interest as they accomplish tasks," Marta said.

For information, call 208-773-1655, email service@rosspoint.org or visit rosspoint.org.

Popular camps fill quickly

Richard Parker, administrative director of the Seventh-Day Adventist Camp MiVoden, said youth camps were filling up ahead of last year.

In addition to regular recreation activities at camp—swimming, horseback riding, high ropes, water skiing and wakeboarding—and along with Bible studies and discussions, MiVoden offers some specialty camps.

For the third year, four to seven 15-to-18-year-old youth participate in the Mission Aviation camp, which offers ground school, some



Yakama Christian Mission keeps children busy in day camp.

flight time, their own log book, training from a certified flight instructor, and field trips to a control tower, the Aviation Museum and Quest Aviation, which builds planes for the mission field.

"This camp can open minds of campers about options and opportunities," Richard said. "One of the first students, over four years, has reached halfway to his commercial license."

MiVoden's Extreme Camp takes 12 youth aged 11 to 16 to Clark Fork and Alberton Gorge for whitewater rafting; to Post Falls for rock climbing, and to Silver Mountain for mountain biking.

He estimates that 50- to 70-percent of campers each summer are Seventh Day Adventist. The rest are friends and community members.

For information, call 208-772-3484, email richardp@uccsda.org or visit mivoden.com.

Camps draw musicians

In British Columbia, Sorrento Centre offers an Anglican-tradition and ecumenical conference and retreat center with summer programs and a new Sabbatical Centre.

For the second year, organizers of the Sorrento Bluegrass Festival on Aug. 27, expect to draw 1,000 people between two weeklong bluegrass camps for 250 participants. The 11th annual British Columbia Swing (jazz) Camp is in mid-August.

These multi-age camps are the busiest of the year, said Christopher Lind, executive director.

"They draw people from all walks of life to the genre," he said. "They sing gospel in the

context of bluegrass, but don't assume it's Christian. Organizers include people of Jewish and Taoist faiths.

"Campers come to do music from 9 a.m. to midnight," he said. "The camps are instructional and include performances."

Sorrento Centre has offered the bluegrass camp for 20 years and the swing jazz camp, 10 years.

Last year, when some suggested having a worship experience, one woman said she would not come to worship because she did not believe in God. Chris, a theologian and former seminary president, took her to lunch and learned that the concept of God she rejects is "an old guy upstairs who decided who goes to heaven and who goes to hell." She was surprised to learn Chris did not believe in that God either.

While theology is not the central focus of the music gatherings, it drives many other summer offerings, which include programs in June on ecojustice and moral economy, White Drum Mesa teachings and the spiritual legacy of Duke Ellington.

"Five Weeks of Summer" programs include a rabbi's session on wrestling with sacred texts, nature photography, leadership training, gospel song, L'Arche, the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, creative prayers, dance and art, sibling rivalry in the Bible, Celtic spirituality, justice in the world and more.

For information, call 250-675-2421 or visit sorrento-centre.bc.ca.

Art center plans concert

The Grunewald Guild on the Wenatchee River north of Leavenworth is also planning a concert as

the culmination of its music week. It will be held at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 30, at the Icicle Creek Music Center in Leavenworth.

Four artists who are music instructors for the music week will perform.

Dan Oberg, director, said the guild serves as a bridge between faith communities and working artists, dispelling the fears and suspicions each sometimes has of the other.

"We encourage faith and artistic communities to converse and see that they need each other," he said. "They are an essential mix."

He pointed out that participants in programs learn how art is enhanced by faith and how faith can be expressed in art, as they work side-by-side in a faith community.

Given the economy, the Grunewald Guild is looking at its programs and the traditional weeklong duration as people have less time and money. Dan is also nurturing partnerships with colleges and seminaries on art and faith studies to provide space to experience education while living in community.

For information, call 763-3693, email dan@artfaith.com or visit artfaith.com.

Church groups serve

Campbell Farm, a program of the Central Washington Presbytery at Wapato, still has openings from July 17 to Aug. 20 for church groups to come to do mission outreach projects on or near the Yakama Reservation.

This year, some camps are helping rebuild homes destroyed by fire that swept through White Swan in February.

Youth and adult groups come through the summer and stay at Campbell Farm, going out each day to lead vacation Bible school programs for children, and work

with Volunteer Chore Services, food banks, gleaning or children's programs.

Groups are coming from North Carolina, Colorado, California, Oregon and Washington, said Carman Pims, director.

"I arrange with local programs for the campers to do projects," she said. "The economy has hit charitable giving and mission projects, so they need much help."

For information, call 509-877-6413 or visit nwinfo.net/~campbellfarm.

Volunteers learn, serve

In White Swan at the Yakima Christian Mission, directors David and Jill Delaney provide June through August "Learning and Serving" opportunities for all ages to learn about anti-racism, culture and economic justice, and to do service projects. Mornings are for workshops and afternoons are for service projects such as at Noah's Ark, a homeless shelter; RicOrganics, a farm workers cooperative, and rebuilding or repairing six houses destroyed and 40 houses damaged in fires during February.

"Volunteers for the learning and serving camps are up from previous years, because of word of mouth about how we tie the workshops and service," said Dave, who expected numbers might be low because of youth participation in the national Disciples of Christ General Assembly and United Church of Christ General Synod.

Groups from those denominations are about 60 percent of campers, along with groups that come from Episcopal, United Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

For information, call 509-874-2824, email dave@yakamamission.org or visit yakamamission.org.

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Carpenter pastor restores lives, building

Be it pounding nails for remodeling and restoring the church building or pounding points as a preacher, teacher and pastor rebuilding and restoring lives, Pastor A.S. Rhodes sees that God is using him as a carpenter.

In his eighth year as pastor of the 35-year-old Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 2026 E. Fourth, he said he is not afraid to don a carpenter's apron and is blessed by men in the church who are helping him "take the church to the next level."

"God provides me what I need and provides me with people to help me meet needs," he said.

Last summer, men replaced the church's sign, planted grass and spread bark. This year he said they will do outdoor repairs and replace the roof. Recently, the church completed renovations of the lower level.

For building supplies, the church shops at the Habitat Store, and Rhodes directs members to shop there, too.

He also seeks to take individuals to the next level of growth.

"It makes me jubilate to see growth," he said.

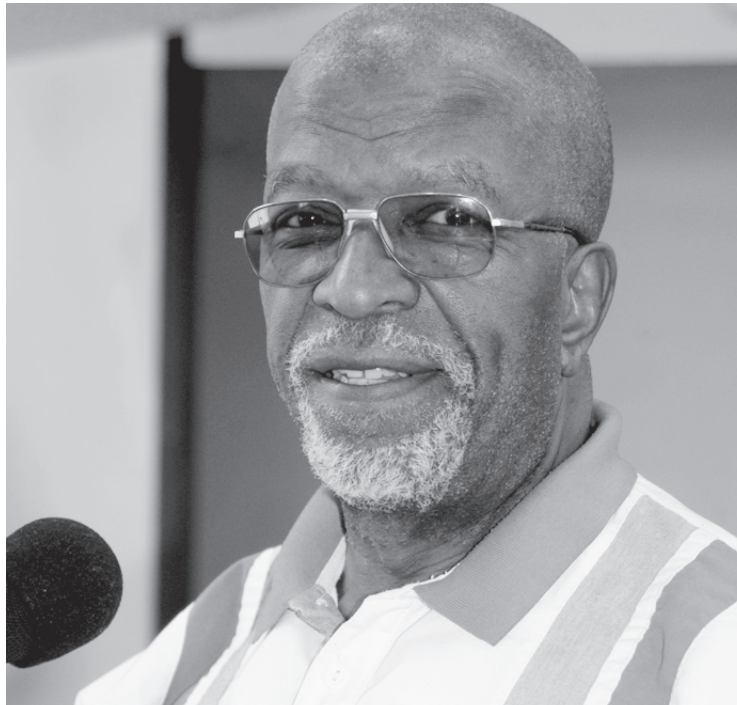
Rhodes declared his interest in ministry and preached his first sermon at the age of 16 in his grandmother's living room in Mobile, Ala.—then the gathering place for his church. As the oldest son, he grew up in the church and helped his single mother care for his seven other siblings.

At 17, he left home to serve two years in the Air Force, when he admits sowing some wild oats before marrying and settling in Los Angeles in 1955. He worked in various jobs and studied electrical engineering in college a year, before working in printing, which he learned in the service. He worked 16 years in the Los Angeles County print shop.

While raising two sons with his wife, Doris, he also began serving in ministry. Both sons are now also ministers. One is co-pastor of a church in Los Angeles, and the other is pastor at a church in Portland. Rhodes and his wife decided to join their son in Portland, before he was called in 1983 to serve Morning Star Baptist Church in Pasco.

He came to Spokane and was involved at Mt. Olive Baptist with his friend and colleague, Pastor L.D. Williams, who founded the church. Williams died in August 2003 and Rhodes became pastor in October 2003.

Rhodes has been involved with the State General Baptist Convention and the National Missionary Baptist Convention, and the church affiliates with both those conventions as well as the Southern Baptist Convention.



Pastor A. S. Rhodes

"Although we are few in numbers—fewer than 100—we are thriving and alive," he said. "I keep reminding people we have come a long way."

After being out of the church while in the military, Rhodes felt "a hunger and thirst for change," and a challenge to go back into the church and do what he was called to do.

He believes his good and bad experiences make him "more steadfast" and help him "challenge people who are moving in the wrong direction. I'm thankful God kept with me through my wayward years," he said.

The carpenter-pastor seeks to rebuild and repair lives and to reinforce changes in lives, because "I've seen God rebuild me."

Rhodes considers himself "a country preacher," because he entered ministry through self-study while doing ministry, rather than going to a seminary. He also feels influenced by his country roots, even though he has served in cities. As a country preacher, he said, his message is that "Jesus saves people," saves them to give them life so they can do things they never expected.

"Jesus can save anyone, but it's up to everyone to see what they need to be saved from and for," he said. "Often people feel no hope, but Jesus is the God of second, third, fourth and fifth chances."

He also sees himself as "standing on the shoulders" of his predecessor and building on love and harmony in the mixed-race congregation, making them aware they are a family. "The people are committed to each other, not just meeting, greeting and eating, and worshiping God in the same building," Rhodes said.

Several approaches build to-

ward that goal.

1) He wants the building attractive so people feel comfortable.

2) He wants people to be aware they are in the presence of "God's people" and to enjoy each other.

3) He nurtures a ministry for each person.

For example, he sensed one woman's demeanor would make her an ideal greeter. She sits at the visitors' desk in the entry, welcoming people to the church.

Once visitors enter the sanctuary, an usher seats them, but they may not stay seated long, because many are on their feet, joining the praise team in singing 15 minutes before the 11 a.m. worship.

The service proceeds from the call to worship through a litany, singing, offering, prayers, sermon and invitation to come to Christ.

"We do not force anyone to be part of our church, but invite them to come to Christ and help them find a church home if it's not here," he said. "I'm called to pastor people God sends me and be involved with them as they allow me to be involved in their lives."

"I'm here to help strengthen people for what they face in life, teaching them how to be the best they can be for God," he said.

Rhodes also stirs parishioners' dreams for the church and neighborhood, especially now they know the building will remain when the freeway expands.

"I believe there is a reason for Mt. Olive Baptist having been established at this corner. God calls the shots," he said.

For example, Rhodes said that the team of members who help repair the church building now have the skills to help members and neighbors in need improve their houses and yards.

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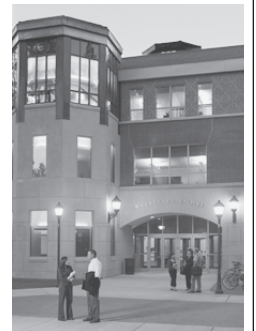
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At 100, Holy Names sister continues ministry of praying and caring

By Deidre Jacobson

As she approaches her 100th birthday on June 5, Holy Names Sister Virginia Shelton continues to pray daily with her rosary and make one rosary a day, so children at Trinity and Cataldo Catholic schools learn to pray the rosary.

"Praying the rosary is the joy of my life," she said. "It lets me follow our Lord's whole life and brings it into the reality of our lives today, as we experience the same mysteries."

While she makes a rosary, she listens to News Hour on Channel 7 in the fourth-floor TV room at the Convent of the Holy Names in Spokane where she lives.

"As I listen, I hear what there is to pray about," Sr. Virginia said.

As she prays, the beads remind her of traditional prayers and the mysteries of the Blessed Mother's anticipation and giving birth; Jesus' life and teachings; his agony and crucifixion, and his resurrection and Mary's crowning as the queen of heaven and earth.

Connected with each segment of beads, she also prays for concerns of today—such as women who carry their babies to term; for healing of women and children who are abused; for the conversion of traffickers, all who plan injury to others, liars and financial cheaters; for people who suffer; for families struggling to feed their children, and for those who are dying to have the grace of a peaceful death.

For her, praying the rosary is a powerful form of prayer.

"Through the rosary prayer, the Blessed Mother pleads for peace and for the needs of the world," she said.

Since she retired 10 years ago at the age of 90, Sr. Virginia has followed through with her intention to serve God and God's people as long as God gives her life.

Reflecting as she approaches her birthday, she is grateful her life "has been blessed with wonderful people along the way" and has been "an amazing journey."

"I'm on a mountaintop looking back at plains, valleys and mountains all the way to the ocean," she said.

Although Sr. Virginia formally retired at 90, she is still engaged in ministry. She attends Mass daily, participates in a Scripture study and plays bingo weekly, donating to Our Place, directed by Holy Names Sister Ann Pizelo.

Sr. Virginia shares Sr. Ann's desire to provide for the poor and homeless living within the West Central Spokane area.

"Looking back on my 100 years, I realize more fully, the presence of God directing and supporting my life, much of the



Sister Virginia Shelton turns 100 on June 5

time without my awareness," said Sr. Virginia.

"I see my parents' sacrificial love, my brothers' devotion and the unfathomable gift of my vocation," she said. "I have experienced joy and peace throughout my life, as the bride of Christ."

When she was four her parents and two brothers, Frederick and Leroy, moved from Lewiston, Idaho, to a Spokane neighborhood near Felts Field. For two years, they lived in their garage while her father, who worked for the Northern Pacific railroad, built a home for the family.

She remembers walking with her mother by the Spokane River when she was seven years old. The paper mill at Millwood put pulp into the river, which made the river rocks slippery. Virginia was walking in the river and fell. She saw a big rock, climbed onto it and felt safe on the rock.

Whenever she reads in Psalms that "the Lord is my rock," she remembers the security she felt on the river rock.

During two years of high school at Our Lady of Lourdes, she met Sr. Francis Theresa, who introduced her to Saint Theresa Lisieux who died of tuberculosis at the age of 24.

Virginia read Saint Theresa's autobiography, *L'histoire d'une ame*, (Story of a Soul) and was inspired by Saint Theresa's desire to give herself completely to Jesus.

"Saint Theresa taught me to follow the Lord's direction in my life," said Virginia.

Saint Theresa was nicknamed,

"the little flower," because she sent a rose to a person when she prayed for intercession for them.

Admiring Saint Theresa's personal devotion, Virginia took the name Virginia Maria Theresa at confirmation. After high school, she felt God was calling her to dedicate her life to the mission of teaching.

Visiting an aunt in Buffalo, N.Y., whose son was a priest, Virginia went to Mass daily at a nearby monastery and made a novena—nine days of prayer—to Saint Theresa of Lisieux. Visitors at the monastery were reported to have noticed the fragrance of roses there, before any flowers were brought in.

Virginia was one of 32 young women who arrived at Marylhurst University in July 1932 to join the order of the Holy Names of Jesus

and Mary. She was one of 26 of the women who took vows.

Sr. Virginia studied piano and music at Marylhurst, and then taught music to small children for 20 years. She returned to Marylhurst, earned a teaching certificate and went on to teach fifth and sixth graders for 15 years in Tacoma and Seattle.

At age 65, Sr. Virginia came to Gonzaga University to help with its Ministry Institute's former CREDO sabbatical studies program for priests and sisters from all over the world to focus on renewal and to form a new vision of ministry. She saw her future calling to be in teaching Scripture and visiting homebound people with the Eucharist.

Five years later, Sr. Virginia went to Snohomish to work as a parish minister. She taught Scripture and planned events for members of the congregation who were 55 and older.

She celebrated her golden jubilee of 50 years in ministry at the parish in Snohomish and with family and friends in Spokane.

She next moved to Wapato, a small community in the Yakima Valley, founding a mission, the

Marie Rose House. There she formed support groups for poor women, taught Scripture and visited the sick and homebound to bring the Eucharist.

The pastor there took Sr. Virginia and 22 others on a trip to the Holy Land. They visited Bethlehem and walked the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem.

"It was a privilege to walk on the streets where Jesus walked," she said. "It made me realize, for example, how long the thorns were in the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head."

In 2004 Sr. Virginia visited the Mother House, the center of the international community, in Outremont, Quebec, where the tomb of the blessed Marie Rose, foundress of her order had rested for many years. The tomb was transferred to a Cathedral in Longueuil, Quebec, where she has a special altar in a chapel. Sr. Virginia visited that chapel.

At age 89, she moved to Spokane and became the companion of Sister Dee Marie Reeder, the director of novices.

A year later, she moved to the Convent of the Holy Names and celebrated her 75th year jubilee.

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When 'reality' is defined by a violent, oppressive market, is peace naive?

News last month has been filled with devastation from tornados and floods, violent and nonviolent Arab protests, end-of-the-world predictions, ongoing war in Afghanistan and, yes, Iraq, and the usual fare of sex scandals and crimes.

There was little or no mention that 1,000 people of faith, including 95 youth, met in May at Kingston, Jamaica, for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation of the World Council of Churches and recognized that "peace is a core value of all religions" and that the "promise of peace extends to all people regardless of their traditions and commitments." They called for intensified interreligious dialogue to seek common ground.

They recognized that each church and religion comes toward the call for a just peace from different bases—personal conversion and morality, mutual support and correction, or commitment to social movements and public witness.

"Each approach has merit," said the mes-

sage of the convocation, and is inseparable, so "even in our diversity we can speak with one voice." The message is to the churches and to the "bruised and broken" world that God loves.

Participants realize that churches have often blocked the path to peace by being "complicit in systems of violence, injustice, militarism, racism, casteism, intolerance and discrimination." Asking for forgiveness they asked God to "transform us as agents of righteousness and advocates of just peace"—in communities, with earth, in the marketplace and among peoples.

The convocation marked the end of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence, which followed the Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Mennonite theology professor Fernando Enns of the University of Amsterdam said: "Our journey must continue. We shall hold each other accountable. The church is either accepting the call to just peace or

it is not the church at all."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said that most peacemaking efforts fail because "we are unwilling to forgo established ways of wasting and wanting. In peacemaking, then, it is critical that we perceive the impact of our practices on other people, especially the poor, as well as on the environment," he said. "This is precisely why there cannot be peace without justice."

Martin Luther King III told participants that after losing his father, uncle and grandmother to violent and, in some cases, suspicious causes of death, he still believes there is a more noble way: to "dislike the evil act" but "still love the individual." He said killing of Osama Bin Laden was "not necessarily the best course of action." King said that an eye-for-an-eye would leave everyone without eyes. He urged churches, political leaders and citizens to reach for the noble, higher

ground of nonviolence.

These calls and reflections were lost in the muddle of conflict-, celebrity-, sensation-, crime-, divisive-, sex- and commercial-driven media, that assures us they know what readers, viewers and listeners want, and that they know what sells. So we continue to be fed divisive messages that leave us feeling hopeless and helpless, particularly when our faith communities call us to follow the way of love, peace, justice and sustainability.

Those values become lost and seem irrelevant in the onslaught of other "realities" presented.

What difference will it make in our lives if we begin to question the empire market economy based on domination, exploitation and speculation, not supply and demand? Can people of faith opt out of the marketplace in which structural violence is embedded?

Mary Stamp - Editor

Despite a tight economy, churches have helped New Orleans rebuild

We make do with what we have.

Mass media inform us daily of places and events that call out to the faithful and stir feelings of compassion for us to respond to needs.

However, these are also days of tight budgets and difficult decisions.

Too often, a church board's decisions center on the unspoken question, "How much do we have to cut in order to support our building?" Maintenance needs are there, silently demanding, developing an assortment of leaks, cracks, falling plaster, exposed asbestos.

In the CEO mentality, the words, "We take care of ourselves first," creep in as we face repairs, hiring expensive help to do specialized repairs and trying to keep up with utility bills.

No easy solutions pop into mind, but if we allow things, such as buildings, to narrow our focus, we lose both long-term goals and long-term relationships.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina devas-

tated the Gulf region, the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ offered help to Little Farms United Church of Christ in New Orleans.

The church's roof and siding had been damaged. The membership was widely dispersed. Many homes in the neighborhood needed mucking out and extensive repairs. It was agreed that the conference would send financial support for a number of years along with work teams.

Some members of the first work team made repairs to the church building, while the rest began the heartbreaking work of carrying the contents of houses to the curb for pickup.

As they moved furniture, appliances and personal effects, they occasionally found a photograph, a baby dress or some other belonging that was not mud-soaked and molding.

Returning these supposedly small bits of their former lives to the owners added a depth of meaning to what could have been

merely a messy job.

The Sunday school rooms of the Little Farms UCC Church became the dorm rooms in which team members unrolled their sleeping bags, and they prepared their meals in the church kitchen. Bathroom facilities were what you would expect in a church.

The church members who were still in the area prepared a New Orleans-style dinner one evening each week, and stories were exchanged as the groups became acquainted.

In the years since Katrina, the church has been hosting more than 40 work teams a year from various denominations and organizations, so they have upgraded sleeping and bathroom facilities, and added furnishings. The dinners with the congregation continue.

The church's commitment to mission is also evident in its commitment for 10 percent of its budget to go to outside organizations.

At some point, it occurred to people here that children from Little Farms might enjoy summer camp, so funds were raised for them and the adults traveling with them. There have been more stories exchanged and friendships have developed.

The ministry in this situation has been mutual and inspiring. Community happened.

Recently, Little Farms UCC presented the Pacific Northwest conference a ceremonial cross in recognition of the help that had been given. The cross is being passed from church to church as a reminder of what church should be about.

The recent tornadoes forcefully remind us that there are always needs. Little Farms reminds us of why we respond.

If we close in on ourselves, we fail to do what faithful people should be doing, and we also miss out on some incredible experiences that inspire us to find ways to keep on doing.

Nancy Minard - Editorial Team

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

The story in the May issue about Rev. Kimberly (Kimmy) Meinecke's mission to Palestine and Israel was interesting. Unfortunately there were some misleading statements in the print version. The Fig Tree in consultation with Kimmy made a correction, which appears on the website. I encourage readers to view it at thefigtree.org/may11/05011meinecke.html.

The story has a distinct Palestinian slant, which probably is to be expected given the nature of Kimmy's mission. To her credit, she mentioned several Israeli organizations that work for peace and human rights. The existence and activities of these organizations is often ignored by those who feel that supporting human rights for Palestinians requires demonizing Israel. Going down that path contributes to the problem rather than bringing the two sides closer to a solution.

By focusing on fixing the problem rather than fixing the blame, Kimmy is aligned with Izzeldin Abuelaish, the Palestinian physician who was the featured speaker at the recent International Conference on Hate Studies (see front page story in the May issue). Though the tragic losses Izzeldin has suffered in the conflict would seem to justify anger and hatred toward Israel, he has struggled past these feelings to "acknowledge the past," but "embrace the future." The late, but still beloved, Eva Lassman would certainly have agreed with that.

Howard Glass
Spokane

Gonzaga University hosted a recent gathering of scholars, professors and intellectuals from more than 40 colleges and universities to share their work in higher education, their research and their ideas.

It was a joint meeting of the Northwest Area of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), an association of religion scholars who promote research; the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), which stimulates study of ancient texts, languages, history and Near East and Mediterranean archaeology, and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), which fosters research, offers scholarly experiences and disseminates research on Near East archaeology.

The event is part of the fabric of religious life few see or experience—a contemporary expression of an early Middle Ages association when monks and priests created hand-written libraries to preserve ancient knowledge in the modest beginnings of our educational system of colleges and universities.

One participant said the gathering was just students of religion doing their stuff. Another said it was the work of the academy that is foundational for all the church does, from training its leaders to correcting heresies.

A presentation on "Ethiopic Manuscripts for the Textual History of the Ethiopian Old Testament" reported on an Ethiopian community's celebration as an ancient manuscript found its way home.

In another session, a Seattle Univer-

sity professor spoke on what she saw as a biblical mis-translation from the Greek in a session on "Logos and the Samaritan Woman."

Other sessions were on "Women and Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls: a Feminist Analysis," "Compositional Strategies in the Coptic Gospel of Mary" and "Remythologizing Pauline Theology: Paul and the Matrix," "Theology—Like Jazz," "What is God Getting At" and two books, *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel* by Paul Anderson and *Gathering Those Driven Away* by Wendy Farley.

Do these discussions and topics have any relevance to the contemporary church? I believe they do.

They won't draw thousands to a service of worship. They won't be eucharistic homilies or lead people to an altar call. They are, however, topics that need to be discussed.

In the face of an absolutist and often anti-intellectual religious culture, the fact that the academy persists in asking questions and raising issues that have impact on the health of the church at large is more than merely refreshing. It is invigorating.

The Rev. Nick Block
Fig Tree Board

"You can wear blue jeans to church?!" Absolutely, of course! "Every week?!" Sure, why not?

Most of us who frequent our Sunday worship know that wearing blue jeans to church is acceptable, but many, who are

not here quite as often, may wonder if this is okay. "Do we have to 'dress up' to come to worship at Manito United Methodist Church (UMC)?" Only if we want to. Manito UMC held a Blue Jeans Sunday on May 15.

Many of us were raised in the era of dressing up for God on Sunday morning. That was, and still is, a good thing, but we live in a different time and culture.

While some of us may still want to and have those "Sunday-go-to-meeting" clothes, others feel that it is not so necessary to dress up for God. It is more about "showing up" for God.

I like to think that God doesn't mind what we wear. God only cares that we are there. We are, indeed, a diverse congregation who come from a myriad of cultures—socio-economic, age, gender, ethnicity, political and theological.

We like to believe, and often model, the words of the hymn chorus that "all are welcome in this place."

For some, Blue Jean Sunday meant going out and buying the first pair of jeans. Those who did not want to vary from suits and ties, or dresses, didn't have to.

It is good for us to continue to try new things, to experiment with change, and to find out what works and what doesn't.

God loves to remind us that "behold I am doing a new thing, do you not perceive it?"

The Rev. Flora Bowers
Manito United Methodist Church

About 1,000 LDS volunteers clear 2012 camp site

A thousand volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) came to the Boy Scouts of America's Camp Cowles on Diamond Lake on Saturday, May 14, to clear, clean and prepare a 66-acre undeveloped area, which will be named "Camp Sunrise."

People from 17 LDS stakes helped prepare for a 2012 Encampment of more than 4,000 LDS Boy Scouts from the Northwest. The

improvements will benefit all Boy Scouts in the area.

The Church is donating infrastructure and improvements such as adding a road and water system to the new area. The area

was cleared of trees, but fallen trees and brush need to be cleared before the encampment.

The LDS Jamboree Encampment "Catch the Vision" has a web page www.cowles2012.org.

Fig Tree receives grant from fund

The Fig Tree recently received a grant of \$250 from the Kermit M. and Frances C. Rudolf Fund at the Inland Northwest Community Foundation.

The donation is for support of the newspaper's work to make a difference in the community.

The mission of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF) is to foster vibrant and sustainable communities in the region through grants to non-profit organizations.

Donors establish funds at the INWCF, said PJ Watters, director of gift planning.

For information, call 624-2606.

Feed Medical Lake meal starts

Feed Medical Lake, a free meal program designed to be like Feed Cheney, will start at 5 p.m., Monday, June 13, in the fellowship hall of St. John's Lutheran Church, 223 S. Hallett St. in Medical Lake.

Volunteers will help with set up, preparation, serving and cleanup, said Joanna Williams, who has a permit from the Spokane Regional Health District to serve food.

The Feed Cheney program was started in fall 2009 by Natalie Tausin, a health specialist at the health district.

For information, call 714-1150 or email jojo382@gmail.com.

Yoga center plans benefit

The Radha Yoga Center is offering a program on "Celebrating Creativity and Community" at 7 p.m., Friday, June 10, at the center, 406 S. Coeur d'Alene St.

The event, which will be a Kirtan—Indian Sacred song—and dance with two instrumental groups, will raise funds for Radha Yoga Youth Outreach.

For information, call 838-3575 or email radhayoga@comcast.net.

Calendar of Events

- June 1 - 17 • **Habitat Spokane Blitz Build**, 534-2552
- June 2 • **Fig Tree Board Annual Meeting**, Convent of the Holy Names, 2911 Ft. Wright Dr., noon lunch, 1 to 3 p.m., board, 535-4112
- June 3 - 5 • **Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly**, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 838-9871
- **ArtFest**, Coeur d'Alene Park in Browne's Addition, Second & Hemlock, 456-3931
- June 6 • **P.e.a.c.h. Community Farm Plant Giveaway** to low-income families, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 3 to 5 p.m.,
- June 6-11 • **60,000-Pound Challenge for Second Harvest**, Huckleberry's, 926 S. Monroe, 534-6678
- June 7 • **"Healing Communities Welcome Veterans Home,"** Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., healingcommunities4veterans.com
- **"Let's Face It"** estate planning seminar, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 448-1224
- June 8 • **Hispanic Business Professional Association**, Agave Bistro, 830 W. Sprague, 11:30 a.m., www.hbpspokane.org
- June 9 • **Unity in the Community "Up on the Roof" Benefit**, Saranac Building, 25 W. Main, 6 to 8 p.m., 209-2645
- June 9-11 • **Sera World Peace Tour Sand Mandala**, Unity Church of Truth, 2900 S. Bernard, 838-6518.
- June 10 • **Spokane Valley Relay for Life**, East Valley High School, 15711 Wellesley, kelli.hornback@cancer.org
- **"Celebrating Creativity and Community Benefit,"** Radha Yoga, 406 S. Coeur d'Alene St., 7 p.m., 838-3575
- June 11 • **Eco Expo**, Spokane Community College, Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ecoexpo2011@live.com
- **Cool Water Bikes Poker Ride and Run**, New Community Church, 1003 E. Trent, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 838-8580.
- June 12 • **Sacred Space, Sacred Songs**, Spokane Choral Artists, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 4 p.m., spokanechoralartists@gmail.com
- June 13 • **Feed Medical Lake**, St. John's Lutheran, 223 S. Hallett St., 5 p.m., 714-1150
- June 15 • **"Road to Discovery" Tour**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 11:30 a.m., 448-1224, ext. 114
- June 17 • **KPBX KIDS Concert**, Big Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague Ave., noon to 1 p.m., 328-5729
- June 18 • **Spokane Juneteenth Celebration**, Liberty Park, noon, spokanenaacp@yahoo.com
- June 25 • **Breakfast for the Hungry**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 8:30 to 11 a.m., pat@community-building.org
- July 10 • **Jordan Valley School Building Project**, Sheila Fox, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 838-7870, pjals.org
- July 11-15 • **Whitworth Institute of Ministry**, "Enduring Wisdom for the Church Today," Whitworth University, 777-4345
- July 11-15, 18-22 • **Summer Seminar Series: Living in Intensive Times**, Center for Organizational Reform, corhome.org
- July 15 • **"What's for Lunch" Food Drive for Second Harvest**, Yoke's Markets
- July 16 • **South Perry Street Fair**, between 8th & 11th streets, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Heidi Hash, 536-5516
- July 29 - 31 • **Buddhist Relic Tour**, Unity Church of Truth, 2900 S. Bernard St., 838-6518
- Aug 6 • **Eight Lakes Leg Aches Bike Ride**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Group Health Office, 5615 W. Sunset Hwy., registration 7 a.m., ride starts 8 a.m., 343-5020, lcsnw.org/8LakesRide/index.html
- Aug 13 • **Hispanic Heritage Festival**, Harmon Park, Bismark & N. Market, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., 325-9640
- Aug 14 • **Sacred Space, Sacred Songs**, Spokane Choral Artists, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 4 p.m., spokanechoralartists@gmail.com
- Aug 15-20 • **Jubilate! Camp Casey**, Whitbey Island, www.jubilateworshiparts.org
- Aug 20 • **Unity in the Community**, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 209-2634
- Aug 21 • **Mica Peak Century Ride Plus**, Vertical Earth in Riverstone, 7:30 a.m., frpbell@frontier.com
- Aug 26-28 • **Spokane Falls NW Indian Encampment and Pow Wow**, Riverfront Park, 483-7535
- Sept 7 • **Fig Tree distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Sept 8 • **Fig Tree Board 11 a.m. and Volunteer Recognition** noon, Highland Park United Methodist, 611 S. Garfield, 535-4112

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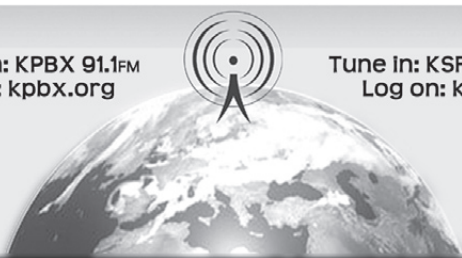
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Family's adopting an Ethiopian orphan led church to a fall mission trip

The decision of North Addison Baptist Church's youth minister and his wife to adopt an Ethiopian orphan blossomed beyond plans to expand their own family.

Tom and Leanne Wade led a November 2010 mission trip and they now will move with their children to Addis Ababa, where he will teach three years at an international school and she will serve as part-time campus nurse.

Ties there broaden the church's perspective beyond Spokane and the United States and help mission trip participants, church members and their own family step out of their comfort zones.

After graduating in religious education and youth ministry from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., 21 years ago, Tom worked in a variety of jobs before he met and married Leanne 18 years ago. Because she worked as a receptionist in Spokane, they moved to Spokane, where he has worked part-time as youth minister and part-time in a print shop.

Tom and Leanne, who have three daughters, wanted to adopt an Ethiopian or Haitian orphan, because there were many orphans in those countries. The process for Ethiopia was shorter.

When they told Tom's mother, she was excited. Her parents spent two years in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia after retiring. He knew little of their experience, but remembered knickknacks and a basket from Ethiopia in his home.

Three years ago, the Wades spent seven days in Addis Ababa to complete adoption of their son, Caleb. It was their first trip outside the country, but they knew they would go back. With other adopting families, they went on guided tours to tourist sites, museums and resorts.

"In the process, we began to feel a passion and a burden for something more," Tom said.

Leanne suggested the church send a group to work at orphanages. The pastor supported the idea and asked her to lead a group.

"We felt it would be a good way to expose people in the church to Ethiopia and international work," Tom said.

With All God's Children International, a Portland-based group that does international work with orphans, they set a date for 2010 and invited church members.

There was immediate response. Soon they had a group of 12, including the Wade's oldest daughters, Deanna, 14, and McKenzie, 13, and other church-related people ranging into their 60s. One member who was unemployed was able to go because the church raised more than \$36,000 to cover the costs for the team.

Among the members who signed up were Annie and Garry Matlow, who have been married 26 years. In 1967, she had gone to Ethiopia after her first husband had orders to go there for military



Deanna, Alli, McKenzie, Caleb, Leanne and Tom Wade

service. She spent three years in Eritrea, a secessionist section of northern Ethiopia.

"It was part of my life I wanted to share with Garry," she said. "My sister decided to go too."

In the months of preparation, Garry said people often said, "You're going to Africa? It will change your life." In a report he wrote after 10 days of painting, carpentry and interacting with Ethiopian people, Garry said team members now "look at life through a different set of eyes."

On the mission trip from Nov. 3 to 14, participants worked in three orphanages, a youth detention center and a hospital.

"We worked 10 to 12 hours a day scrubbing walls, painting walls and painting murals on walls, turning filthy places into beautiful places," said Annie.

Some shared their skills teaching, and Leanne, who has worked as a medical assistant since earning an associate degree in 2006 from Spokane Community College, brought medical skills.

For a youth rehabilitation center, the women in the church had pre-cut 5,520 squares—about a year's supply—for girls to use as they learn to sew, making patchwork rag quilts.

Some team members joined in recreation with boys. Later the team cleaned and painted the boys' dining hall and patched holes in the concrete floor.

Another day, they led a mini vacation Bible school at the Hannah's Home orphanage and later at a Bethzatha Children's Home Association orphanage.

At another Bethzatha orphanage in Awassa, they found children with "no toys to play with or tables to eat on," said Leanne.

"We saw what it takes to run an orphanage," said Tom, pointing out that although Ethiopia's AIDS mortality rate is lower than in Southern Africa, some orphans'

parents died of AIDS.

"Ethiopian children are also in orphanages because drought and famine make families so poor they can't care for their children or provide medical care," he explained. "Many deaths come from a lack of clean water. The average life expectancy is mid to late 40s."

Tom said they met a man who runs Bethzatha Orphanage. When they returned home, they found his name on the paperwork for Caleb's adoption.

"As we left, we knew our family would go back and spend time working there to give our son a chance to see the culture where he

was born and see orphanages like the one that cared for him."

Tom went earlier than the team to interview for a job to teach at Bingham Academy, an international, English-speaking school in Addis Ababa run by Serving in Missions, headquartered in Charlotte, N.C.

The academy's 350 students are from the international community there—families of missionaries, embassy staff and non-governmental organization personnel.

Tom will teach a Bible class, be a youth minister and the chaplain for faculty and students, helping them adjust to life in a different

culture and helping them grow.

The Wades leave Aug. 1 to live there three years. Tom will be on a leave of absence from his youth ministry at North Addison Baptist Church.

He hopes his family's willingness to move from comfortable lives in Spokane will be an example to the youth of the church.

He involves the youth group in community service by working at Anna Ogden Hall and doing World Vision's annual "30-hour Famine" to raise money and educate teens on international needs. Tom believes youth are insulated from pain people in the rest of the world experience and pain of those who are homeless, disabled and left out in Spokane.

"Teens need a broader perspective than Spokane and the United States so they develop a passion to help others," he said. "Children and youth need to grow up with concern for others and the conviction they can help.

"If that's to happen, they need to see it in lives of their leaders," he said. "The mission trip opened eyes to needs for serving there and to our need to experience the joy we saw in worship in Ethiopia," he said.

The adoption, trip and his family's mission commitment are part of a faith pilgrimage.

"Risk and faith are closely related," he said. "Risk deepens faith. Growth in faith relates to the amount of risk we are willing to take," he said. "I expect surprises in Addis Ababa. I don't know where God is leading us."

For information, call 220-6159 or email tom.wade@sim.org

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