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# Faiths exchange insights on peace

**By Mary Stamp**

Welcoming people to an inter-faith celebration of peace on the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, Dennis Ashley of Unity Church gave recognition to the many names of God represented at the gathering:

“God, Allah, Lord Krishna, Jehovah, Great Spirit, Divine Mind, Father, Elohim, Grandfather, Mother/Father God, Dharma, Udana, Mwari, Paramatma, Ek Onkar, Govinda, Yahweh, Adibud-dha, Ahura Mazda,” he said.

“Peace begins with us,” Dennis believes. “It is an internal decision to experience a consciousness of peace, an understanding that we can see the good in everyone regardless of outward appearances.

“When we experience peace, then and only then can we begin to extend love to others,” he added, recognizing that each of the congregations, centers and movements gathered “helps people experience love and peace as individuals.”

Dennis encouraged accepting people who differ on the outside, knowing “we are all the same inside.”

Meditative flute music, drumming, Hindu and Buddhist chanting wove through the service along



**Jaylynn Leadercharge lights a candle while a Native American prayer is read.**

with the “joyful noise” of the Spokane Community Gospel Choir singing, “we are Kingdom builders,” and the Unity choir singing “teach us the way of peace.”

The Rev. Clare Austen, pastor of Unity Church, said that last spring, after seeing the movie “Peace One Day” about British filmmaker Jeremy Gilley’s journey to have the United Nations establish an annual International Day of Peace, members of Unity Church decided to help organize some events from Sept. 11 to 21.

“Our aim was to bring together faith organizations to create an interfaith celebration, post a calendar of events, invite media attention and promote practical things to do to create peace—such as practicing stillness, kindness, generosity and forgiveness,” she said.

The organizers wanted to transform the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001—when the International Day of Peace was to be announced at the United Nations—“into energy to create a movement for peace,” Clare said.

Organizers invited speakers, musicians, choirs, ministers, prayer leaders and candle lighters to participate.

*Continued on pages 4 and 10*

## Resilience and faith empower woman’s advocacy and care for abused women

**By Virginia de Leon**

Mable Dunbar’s resilience and faith have empowered her to overcome her suffering as a child.

As an adult, she uses the pain of her past to bring hope to others and to shed light on domestic violence and abuse—problems, she said, many churches and religious organizations tend to ignore.

“My ministry is to help heal the broken-hearted,” she said. “I want people to speak the truth, to acknowledge what we’ve been through and endured, and to find healing through Christ.”

Mable is president of Polly’s Place Network, a nonprofit that provides education, counseling, research and resources on domestic violence and sexual abuse.

She is a counselor, author and speaker, traveling nationally and globally to share expertise on abuse and lead healing workshops for churches and religious organizations. In addition, she is director of the Counseling Center of the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and works with Women’s Ministries, Family Life and other Seventh-day Adventist programs.

Her mission in these roles is to empower abused people.

After reading about her in “Women of Spirit” magazine in 1997, Linda Schultz of Spokane invited Mable and her husband, the Rev. Colin Dunbar, an Adventist pastor, to lead a workshop in 1998 in the Inland Northwest.

When East Central Community Adventist Church needed a pastor, they called Colin. The Dunbars moved to Spokane in 2000.

Mable felt called to the ministry of ending abuse as a result of her family background.

When her mother, Ellen, was 18, she was raped by a church youth leader. Instead of receiving support from her congregation—including her own father, an elder—Ellen was “disfellowshipped” for having a child out of wedlock.

Mable met her father only a few times before he died. She spent the first five years of her childhood in Jamaica, West Indies, with her grandparents while her mother worked and sent money home from Bermuda to support her.

“Because she was Christian, my mother didn’t want to say anything bad against my father,” Mable explained. “She wanted to forgive and forget. She was afraid to use the word ‘rape.’ Telling the story, however, is part of healing. As Christians, we must speak the truth.”

*Continued on page 6*

## Emmanuel Center plans open house on Oct. 17

The Emmanuel Family Life Center, which will house education programs and outreach services to move people toward self-sufficiency, will hold an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at 645 S. Richard Allen Court.

There will be hors d’oeuvres, tours of the \$1.7 million facility and opportunities to learn how to share in supporting the center and its outreach to East Central Spokane and the wider community.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church established Richard Allen Enterprises, which has developed the 17,000-square-foot building in conjunction with other programs on the church’s property.

In mid September, the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell, pastor, said that \$72,000 remains to pay off the mortgage so the nonprofit and education tenants will need pay for only maintenance and utilities.

Richard Allen Enterprises, a nonprofit, seeks small and major donors to help finish a room, to furnish a room or just to

*Continued on page 3*



**Handprints of preschoolers on new sidewalk.**

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

Reports from the Communications Department  
of the National Council of Churches  
Philip Jenks 212-870-2228

Faiths seek moral response to disasters

More than 100 evangelical, and mainline Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim leaders, including the president and general secretary of the National Council of Churches, have criticized “the slow pace of recovery” from devastating hurricanes and have called for a “moral response” to national disasters.

“Three years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck and the levees breached,” said leaders, “the slow pace of recovery and new needs caused by Ike’s and Gustav’s destruction have created ‘a moral crisis’ along the Gulf Coast that demands a powerful response from people of faith.”

The statement expresses the concern of these leaders about the collapse of local institutions, homelessness, internal displacement, poverty, abusive labor practices and environmental degradation in the Gulf Coast.

In the wake of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the leaders said, “Our God is a God of justice, of humanity and of healing. Injustice related to hurricane recovery calls each of us to bold action in support of the common good. We must act to justly rebuild communities, restore the Gulf Coast and empower families to overcome the devastation they suffered in our nation’s worst natural disasters.”

They ask government officials and political candidates to pledge that obligations to the people in the paths of storms be fulfilled promptly and justly. They also urge national leaders to enact bi-partisan resident-led federal solutions, such as the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, helping families return and participate in rebuilding communities, creating living wage jobs, restoring the coastal wetland and ensuring human rights along the Gulf Coast.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign is a partnership of community, faith, environmental, student and human rights organizations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. They urge national leaders to make a priority of creating jobs, rebuilding infrastructure and affordable housing and restoring natural flood protection along the Gulf Coast.

Signers included Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, president of the NCC, and the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, NCC general secretary. Bishop Thomas Hoyt and the Rev. Michael Livingston, co-chairs of the NCC Special Commission on the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and former NCC presidents, also signed.

For information, call 202-463-7575 ext 241.

Delegation urges adapting to climate change

Washington D.C. - In response to growing challenges of climate change—crop failure and increasing storms occurring across Africa—a delegation of Christians from Uganda, Zimbabwe and the National Council of Churches USA (NCC) met in September with Capitol Hill lawmakers to seek international adaptation assistance.

“The crops die,” said Rosemary Mayiga, a Ugandan Catholic and rural economist. “Farmers then have to plough and plant again. It is not moral for some people to go to bed with a full stomach when others go to bed with their stomach empty.”

“The delegation aims to raise awareness about how global climate change impacts those living in poverty and to help people understand that climate change is a moral issue that demands timely action,” said Tyler Edgar, delegation representative from the National Council of Churches.

Delegates will meet with members of Congress and religious leaders on the impacts of climate change in Africa. The trip continues the partnership between African Christian activists and NCC representatives that began at the recent UN Climate Negotiations in Accra, Ghana.

In Accra, religious delegates urged UN delegates to develop a new treaty by the end of 2009, to slow global warming and provide adaptation measures for communities such as the farmers in Uganda.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Panel to discuss ecumenical unity, division

“Bread Broken and Shared: Challenges and Opportunities for Ecumenism Today” is the theme four bishops and an ecumenical leader will discuss in a program of fellowship, dialogue and worship at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

Bishop Walton Mize of Christ Holy Sanctified Church, Bishop William Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, Bishop Jim Waggoner of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane; Bishop Martin

Wells of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Alice Woldt, transitional executive director of the Washington Association of Churches, will be the panelists.

The event launches 25th anniversary celebrations for The Fig Tree as part of its annual Faith in Action Dialogue. Negotiations about starting the newspaper to cover religion news began in the fall of 1983, and the first edition was published in May 1984 under

what was then the Spokane Christian Coalition.

The event opens with a gathering time for fellowship, followed by the panel presentation, dialogue and a worship service led other area church and faith leaders around the theme of bread.

“We will have a procession of different breads, visually representing our differences, brokenness and unity around bread,” said Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree editor.

For information, call 535-1813.

Bill Gates, Sr., speaks on enhancing education

Bill Gates Sr., co-chair and co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will give a Spokane City Forum presentation at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

His theme is “Building Public Will for High Quality Education in America.”

An attorney, Bill has served as trustee, officer and volunteer for more than 24 Northwest organizations, including the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

and King County United Way.

In 1995, he founded the Technology Alliance to expand technology-based employment in Washington.

An advocate for education, he co-chairs with Governor Christine Gregoire the board of Thrive by Five Washington, a partnership for early learning.

Bill helped start the Initiative for Global Development to increase foreign assistance to combat global poverty.

At the Nov. 19 Spokane City

Forum, Spokane Mayor Mary Verner will speak on “Ideas for a Vibrant Spokane Economy,” and on Jan. 21, Dan Baumbarten, executive director of Community Minded Enterprises will discuss “Building Economic Resilience and Community Sustainability.”

The forums are rebroadcast weekly at 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays on Community Minded TV channel 14.

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

Tibetan monk calls for transforming hate

Venerable Geshe Thupten Phelgye, a Tibetan monk who represents the Dalai Lama in the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, will speak at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the School of Law’s Moot Courtroom on “Techniques for Transforming Hatred into Love.”

Geshe Phelgye’s talk will explain methods for moving the mind from a place of anger and re-

sentment to peace and goodwill.

Born in Tibet in 1956, Geshe Phelgye walked with his parents to India in 1959 to escape the Communist invasion of Tibet. There he studied and became a monk at the age of 17.

After a personal audience with the Dalai Lama, Geshe went to a hermitage where he spent several years in isolation.

Upon emerging, he focused

on treating hundreds of people with tuberculosis and on showing compassion for all sentient beings by espousing vegetarianism. He founded the Universal Compassion Movement.

The event is sponsored by the Gonzaga Religious Studies Department, Institute for Action Against Hate and Unity House.

For information, call 313-6784 or email sheveland@gonzaga.edu.

Islamic specialist leads WSU symposium

“Voices of Conscience from Islam” is the theme for the 2008 Roger Williams Symposium on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25, at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman.

Omid Safi, associate professor of Islamic studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the speaker for the annual event presented by the Common Ministry at WSU.

A specialist in contemporary Islamic thought and medieval

Islamic history, he chairs the study of Islam at the American Academy of Religion.

His lecture at a 6 p.m. banquet on Friday at the CUB Junior Ballroom is on “A Progressive Muslim Quest: On Justice and Love in Islam.”

On Saturday, Omid leads a 10 a.m. presentation on “Iran: Beyond the Axis of Evil,” and a 1 p.m. conversation on “Reconciliation among Religions: What Works? What Doesn’t?” at Koi-

nonia House, 720 NE Thatuna.

Although he was born in the United States, he has spent half of his life in Muslim countries. His family is Iranian.

Omid edits “Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism,” and wrote *Politics of Knowledge in Pre-modern Islam and Voices of Islam: Voices of Change*.

For information, call 332-2611 or email gailstearns@common-ministry.com.

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Teddy Roosevelt:  
A One-Man Show

Dr. John “Chuck” Chalberg is a professor of American History at Normandale Community College and delights audiences throughout the United States with his historical impersonations of American and British characters including this performance as President Theodore Roosevelt.

Wednesday, Oct. 8  
7 p.m.



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## Community center will foster self-sufficiency

*Continued from page 1*

add overall contributions to help complete construction.

Organizers have patiently persisted since 2005, pulling together state, federal, foundation and private funds to offer services "to those most in need in this community," Lonnie said.

Individuals have also donated more than \$200,000 in volunteer labor.

The facility will offer a multi-purpose room and gym, a kitchen, computer labs, homework rooms, classrooms, nonprofit offices and a conference room.

Programs to be housed include Community Colleges of Spokane, ActSix Leadership and Scholarship Initiative, a Housing and Urban Development After-School Program and Computer Center, the Richard Allen Enterprises Day Care, Bethel's Senior Center, Health Screening by The Links, Inc., and The Fig Tree.

Those agencies will provide housing, education, social services, adult education, English as



The Rev. Lonnie Mitchell shows progress on Fig Tree office space.

a second language and a GED program. Programs are tentatively scheduled to move in by Nov. 1.

The Fig Tree seeks donations to furnish and equip its office, which will make possible expansion of its media outreach. The Fig Tree also has an office at Unity House at 709 E. DeSmet at Gonzaga University, where staff work with service learning students in a public relations class, offer presentations

in classes and participate on the board of the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media.

The new office will provide The Fig Tree room for expansion, so it can add staff to expand the website, circulation, programs for congregations, displays, the directory, and its model of peace and justice journalism in print and on the web.

For information, call 534-3007.

## Panel considers press and First Amendment

"Where Journalism Is Going and How We Protect Its Values" is the theme for a panel discussion by journalists in Spokane, moderated by Gil Klein of the National Press Club at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23, at Room 20 of the Riverpoint Campus Academic Center, 600 N. Riverpoint Blvd.

For its centennial, the National Press Club, a worldwide professional organization for journalists, is taking programs across the nation to promote the First Amendment and freedom of the press, and to look at where the journalism profession is heading.

It is hosting forums in cities and journalism schools, presenting its documentary, "A Century of Headlines," and organizing panels of journalists to talk about preserving the values of the profession while facing changing dynamics of the business.

The Spokane panel will include media management, reporters for print, broadcast and internet media, journalism school faculty and media advocacy groups.

Local sponsors include the World Affairs Council of Spokane, the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media and the

Journalism Department at Eastern Washington University.

Gil is director of the National Press Club's Centennial Project. For 22 years until the end of 2007, he was a national correspondent for the Media General News Service.

Writing for 25 newspapers in the Southeast, he covered the White House, Supreme Court, Congress, political conventions and presidential campaigns. He was president of the National Press Club in 1994 and wrote the Club's centennial history.

For information, call 313-6656.

## YWCA sets dating abuse workshops

Faith Partners Working Against Family Violence and the YWCA Alternatives to Domestic Violence will present workshops on dating violence for pastors and for youth as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

A march begins at 4 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6, at the YWCA, 829 W. Broadway, and goes to a downtown church to raise awareness about domestic violence.

There is a workshop from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6, for youth pastors, clergy and people working with teens to help them identify dating violence. At 6 p.m., there will be a workshop to help youth determine the health of dating relationships and how to leave unhealthy relationships.

The Rev. Lizann Bassham, who has taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., on youth ministry, adolescent spirituality, and spirituality and sexuality, is the featured speaker for these events.

For information, call 326-1190 or 863-7005, or email sandit@hotmail.com.

## Center offers events to heal congregations

The Center for Organizational Reform will hold a six-hour workshop, "Coming to the Table Introductory Workshops: Healing for Hurting Congregations," on healing after congregational crises, such as clergy sexual abuse, loss of trust, and other crises.

The workshop, which is open to people of all faiths, will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, and 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 25, at Clare Center, 4626 E. Jamieson.

For information, visit [www.corhome.org/events](http://www.corhome.org/events).



## FAITH IN ACTION DIALOGUE

# 'Bread Broken and Shared: Ecumenical Challenges and Opportunities'

Kicking off The Fig Tree's 25th year

PANEL • DISCUSSION  
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**Thursday, Nov. 6**  
6:30 p.m.

Episcopal Cathedral of St. John  
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### Panelists

**Bishop Walton Mize**  
Christ Holy Sanctified Church

**Bishop William Skylstad**  
Catholic Diocese of Spokane

**Bishop Jim Waggoner**  
Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

**Bishop Martin Wells**  
Eastern Washington Idaho Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Alice Woldt**  
Interim director at the  
Washington Association of Churches

For information  
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**Cheney United Church of Christ Bazaar**  
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**Central United Methodist Holiday Festival & Luncheon**  
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**Saturday, Nov. 15**  
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**11:30 am-1 pm**  
Tours, Labyrinth Walking, Music, St. Nicholas, Food, Craft Items

**Bazaar & Bake Sale**  
**St. Mark's Lutheran**  
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**9 am - 2 pm**  
**Saturday, Nov. 1**  
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The Fig Tree will run another composite ad in the issue out on Oct. 29. Cost: \$14 / col. inch



# Interfaith music, reflections, prayers envision a time peace will prevail

*Continued from page 1*  
Presenters at the peace service offered music and reflections.

David Browneagle of the Spokane Tribe and his niece, Shanelle Harvey sang two Native American prayer songs.

Shanelle's song invited appreciation for "what we have based on what we have lost."

David said his song belongs to the grandchildren—the children, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. It is about the balance needed to bring peace.

"We look in our homes, at different people and at different nations, and sometimes there is violence in each setting," he said. "The spirit of the songs creates understanding."

His prayer recognized: "At time we are pitiful as human beings. We turn to hate and greed. We ask for the understanding we need to love. Greed causes wars. When we have balance in ourselves, we see the riches within. Somewhere, sometime, somehow riches within were replaced by material riches like money. We fight, die and kill over those types of riches."

He envisions a day when there is peace, when "our children and grandchildren thank their elders and ancestors for teaching the message of peace."

He closed, saying: "My prayer is that in time our children's children's children will one day look at the violence today and ask, 'Did they really do that to one another?' Peace begins within."

Representatives of Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Native American, Muslim, Baha'i and Christian faiths read peace prayers from their traditions—prayers read at an interfaith gathering to pray for peace in 1986 at Assisi, Italy.

The prayers, said the Rev. Joan Broekling, event coordinator, "begin in our minds to open our hearts and inspire us to do something in our lives to engender peace."

After each prayer, a child from that tradition lit a candle on the altar. The following are summaries of the prayers:

**Hindu Prayer**



Sreedharani Nandagopol leads a Hindu chant.

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. Shanti (peace) to all. O God, may there be peace in celestial regions and on earth. May all things be a source of peace to us...

**Buddhist Prayer**

"May all things everywhere plagued with suffering of body and mind quickly be freed from their illness. May those frightened cease to be afraid, and those bound be free. May the powerless find power and may people befriend one another..."

**Jewish Prayer**

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and walk the ways of the Most High. We shall beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation nor learn war any more.

**Native American Prayer**

O Great Spirit of our ancestors, I raise my pipe to you. Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, respect and be kind to each other, so they may grow with peace in mind. Let us learn to share all good things that you

provide for us on this earth.

**Muslim Prayer**

In the name of Allah the beneficent, the merciful, praise be to the Lord of the Universe, who has created us and made us into tribes and nations that we may know each other, not despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace and trust God, for the Lord is the one that hears and knows all things. The servants of God, most Gracious, are those who walk on the earth. In humility, when we address them, we say, "Peace."

**Baha'i Prayer**

Be generous in prosperity and thankful in adversity. Be fair in thy judgment and guarded in thy speech. Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness and a home to the stranger. Be eyes to the blind and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, dew upon the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

**Christian Prayer**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as the children of God. I say to you that

hear: Love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, bless those that curse you, pray for those who abuse you and as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

For information, call 838-6518. *More reflections in editorial and Sounding Board on page 10*

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## Bread for the World Sunday is Oct. 19

Bread for the World Sunday on Oct. 19 offers congregations and faith communities an opportunity to renew their commitment to end hunger and poverty.

Resources—bulletin inserts, a call to worship, a litany, prayers, hymn, a reflection, Bible study and an election handbook—are available to help churches observe Bread for the World Sunday.

As part of the prophetic tradition to speak for people who are poor and hungry, Bread for the World also has resources for advocacy on global hunger, includ-

ing a letter-writing campaign for Senators to sign onto the Global Poverty act.

For information, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

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# Students continue service philosophy of Ursuline founders of school

By Carol Price Spurling

One hundred years after three Ursuline nuns founded the first Catholic school in the Palouse, its students and teachers still participate in the service-oriented philosophy of the Order of St. Ursula.

The school the nuns started in Moscow, Idaho, is still going strong with its academic, athletic and music programs.

Today, only the principal of St. Mary's School, Sister Margaret Johnson, is an Ursuline nun. The teachers and staff are now lay people.

"Service is something we're obligated to do. It's part of our Catholic identity," explained Elizabeth McEvoy, fifth grade teacher and advisor to the student council. "It is our responsibility to help other people. Everybody can contribute to the greater good."

**Each class participates** in service activities along with school-wide and student-council projects.

First graders, for example, collect gloves, hats and scarves to give to needy families.

Second graders hold a bake sale to raise funds to purchase livestock for families in developing countries through Heifer International.

"The cool thing about Heifer International is that the people who get the animals give the offspring back to Heifer so they can be given to someone else," said Skyler Ting, student body president last year.

Third graders help clean "D" Street and Hordemann's pond area in Moscow.

The school often has fund raisers for the local food bank.

With proceeds from a Valentine's Day raffle, students bought items the food bank requested: \$100 worth of Hamburger Helper and \$100 worth of spaghetti sauce.

They set the items on a counter so the students could see: "This is what you did. It will feed x number of families for x number of weeks," Elizabeth said. "It makes more of an impact on younger children to see the connection between their raffle ticket purchases and needs of the local community."

**Last year the student council** decided to collect shoes and send them to a place in Honduras where nobody had shoes, Skyler said.

Over two months, student council members and other students worked to clean 300 shoes during lunchtime recesses.

That gave the children and adults in Honduras the opportunity to choose from different sizes



Skyler Ting, background, and her friend Aubrie clean shoes.

and types of shoes.

Student council members also met one day a week after school to make Christmas tree decorations that they sold after the Masses on Sundays at St. Mary's Church. They used the proceeds to purchase Christmas gifts for the local Giving Tree project.

Sixth graders went to the food bank and helped take in and organize food.

"It was really big, but we learned that they usually run out of food," Skyler said. "I was also surprised that there are so many people in our area that need help."

Elizabeth said it's important that the students don't just go home and say, "Mom, I need two bucks for the bake sale."

Instead, she said they do something or give something up to come up with the funds to help people.

"When they bake a dozen cookies, there is a little bit of them in the project," she said.

Despite that reward, Elizabeth said "it's not about the feel-good part of it, but it's about doing something for somebody else."

**That was the spirit** of Mother Mary Rose Galvin, and Sisters Paula Slevins and Mary Carmel McCabe when they arrived on Sept. 5, 1908, at the train depot in Moscow. Parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the new school trustees and non-Catholic supporters gave the nuns \$1,000 with which to open their new Ursuline Academy.

They'd had a "tedious" five-day journey west from Ohio, but

they came willingly at the request of Bishop Glorieux of the Boise diocese.

A large, empty farmhouse at the northern edge of town at D and Howard Streets awaited them. The church rented it for \$25 per month.

The nuns opened the Ursuline Academy soon after their arrival. Boarding students came to the school within a couple of days to join day students. Enrollment increased steadily. By the end of the first year, there were about 60 pupils.

Within a month of their arrival, they transformed the farmhouse into a convent and a school, where faith guided every lesson as it does today.

By 1957, the Ursuline Academy outgrew the farmhouse and Catholic education continued in a new brick building, built next door on Monroe St. in the summer of 1956.

**In September 2008**, a large crowd of the school's alumni and supporters gathered near that spot, no longer on the outskirts of town, to celebrate a century of Catholic education on the Palouse.

The crowd also celebrated the completion of a 15,000-square-foot, \$1.9 million gymnasium and classroom addition to St. Mary's school.

After decades of using an area about the size of two small St. Mary's classrooms for a lunchroom, gymnasium, indoor recess room, assembly, music, band and all-purpose room, the school now has breathing room.

"The expectation for each student at St. Mary's School and St. Rose's Preschool is that the '3 R's' are practiced: respect, resourcefulness and responsibility," said Sister Margaret who has been principal since 1995.

"We believe that a loving God has created each human person and that we are bonded with one another as brothers and sisters. Therefore, we have the right and responsibility to respect not only ourselves but also one another," she explained.

"We each also have the responsibility to use the gifts we have been given to build the community around us," she said. "Although I have rights, I also have the responsibility to serve others. It's simple. Each day, we focus on these and on God's loving presence."

**Through the centuries**, members of the Order of St. Ursula, founded by Angela Merici in 1535 in Italy, have served with compassion to "meet the needs of the times" in the communities where they have lived.

Soon after their foundation, the Ursuline sisters' mission frequently led them to focus on education, especially for girls.

Today Ursuline sisters are on every continent except Antarctica, involved in ministries as psychologists, doctors, librarians, social justice workers, pastoral workers and teachers.

In the early 20th century, the school educated people who helped transform Moscow from a frontier village into a thriving, cultured university town.

With the church's support, the Ursuline founders filled the need for parochial education in the region, serving Catholics and non-Catholics.

**Now, there are 105 students** in first through sixth grades at St. Mary's, primarily from Moscow, but also from Pullman, Deary, Potlatch, Troy and other towns in the area. More than 15 percent come from non-Catholic homes.

St. Rose's preschool and kindergarten, begun in the late 1940s, was one of the first preschools in Idaho.

Ursuline sisters still run it in the building built in 1962 on the site

of the original farmhouse convent. It serves more than 50 students.

**Several leaders in Moscow's** business community spoke of their education under the Ursuline sisters at St. Mary's.

Tod Kiblen, the owner of 108-year-old Latah County Title, attended St. Mary's along with his siblings in the 1950s. His four sons attended in the 1970s and 1980s. Now several of his grandchildren go to St. Mary's, too.

A goof-off as a child, Tod said St. Mary's instilled "character," bringing out a desire to excel along with values of the golden rule of "treating other people like you want to be treated."

Gerard Connelly, owner of Tri-State, was two grades behind Tod in one of the first classes in the 1956 building. His children have also attended St. Mary's School.

For Gerald, values taught there came first, academics second.

"My passion for the school is based on the value system that was the first and last lesson of the day and that permeated every activity in the school day," he said.

**"The children are taught** to love, respect and forgive all people including their fellow students, teachers and especially those who need it the most: the poor, the disabled, the elderly and enemies. The lesson St. Mary's School teaches its students, first and foremost, is the need to be a good person."

Gerald attributes his success in business and in life to his formative years at St. Mary's.

"Along with my parents, St. Mary's School was instrumental in providing a foundation for my faith," he said.

Gerald believes that those called upon to provide leadership are effective if that leadership is grounded in faith in God.

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# Mable Dunbar believes church has obligation to heal abused

*Continued from page 1*  
As a child, Mable realized she was different. Adults whispered about her in church, she said. Other children teased her for being an “illegitimate” child. She grew up consumed with anger and low self-esteem. Fear of rejection also led her to deny what happened to her mother and family. She remained a church member, but there was a void in her life.  
“I didn’t talk about it,” she said. “We protect but we also hurt in the name of religion.”

Even though she and her mother received little support from the church they attended, faith kept both strong through their lives. So many things could have discouraged her belief, but in her moment of desperation, “as I called out to somebody, Jesus answered my prayer,” Mable said. “I have learned through disappointment and hurts that I can trust him to take care of everything. God has done many good things in my life.”

As an adult, Mable overcame her childhood pain by focusing on education and her own family. She graduated from Bermuda Institute High School, and earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education at West Indies College, a master’s in education and counseling from Andrews University in Michigan, and a doctorate in family mediation from LaSalle University. She spent several years at home to care for her three children.

During an internship at a domestic violence shelter in Michigan, she discovered her calling. She found homes for Christian women abused by their husbands and then became the shelter’s executive director. With the support of her husband of 36 years, Mable also started sheltering some women in their home. Several were wives of seminarians and pastors.

She thought of how her mother had nowhere to go for help. “The Lord impressed upon me that I needed to start a safe Christian shelter,” she said.

Although women would also be safe in secular shelters, Mable said they need a place that offers the context of faith, because inaccurate interpretation of Scriptures helps perpetuate their abuse.

When Polly Westman, a nurse, learned about Mable’s efforts and the plight of these women, she donated property in Niles, Mich., to provide a home for them.

Since 1996, hundreds of women have come to this shelter, called Polly’s Place. Many who experienced the two-month program left abusive relationships for good. Some returned to their husbands only after the men sought professional counseling to deal with



Mable Dunbar

their abusive behavior. Through its programs, Polly’s Place Network, which will soon be renamed the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network, helps individuals experience wholeness by discovering their value to God, Mable explained.

They also spend time recovering from dysfunctional thoughts, feelings and behaviors that predispose them to being abused or abusive so that they can heal, grow and become role models for others in the future.

Mable considers it the church’s obligation to provide safety and healing for individuals who have been harmed by abuse and domestic violence. However, she knows that some churches and religious leaders have ignored these problems and use Scripture “to perpetuate abuse.”

For example, she knows some pastors advise women to go back to abusive husbands based on biblical texts quoted out of context to “give the idea that women have to be subservient and submit to their husbands,” she explained.

“God, however, calls for mutuality in a relationship so both individuals support each other,” she said.

Without support of their faith communities, some abuse survivors are afraid to share their stories, she said. They fear they will be shunned and rejected. Because they suffer in silence, people mistakenly think abuse and domestic

violence isn’t a problem among “good Christians.” Abuse remains a taboo subject, and some people of faith remain in denial of its pervasiveness in congregations.

“Because of our religious beliefs, we may want to forgive quickly and forget,” Mable said. “This doesn’t allow for healing.”

Instead of ignoring the problem, churches need to provide funding and resources to help people who have suffered abuse, she said.

She urges religious leaders to speak against domestic violence from their pulpits and to empower church members with information, education and dialogue.

Mable wants seminars and organizations offering religious formation to prepare future pastors and leaders to help victims of domestic violence and abuse.

“We want clergy to do something for us, but they’re not always educated on domestic violence issues,” she said.

Her next project is to garner support and funding for a women’s healing center. She wants to name it “Patty’s Healing Center” in honor of a young volunteer at Polly’s Place Network who died last year because of domestic violence.

Through this center, Mable hopes to provide refuge for abused women, particularly professional women who sometimes are too ashamed or fearful to speak out about their suffering at home. She envisions a house where women

and their children have their own rooms and share common areas for exercise, meals and classes.

Mable also hopes to find a house on acreage so children have space to play and mothers can go for walks and garden.

“I hope churches will address domestic violence,” she said. “They need to give messages of healing and empowerment.”

For information, call 838-2761 or email [info@pollysplacenetwork.com](mailto:info@pollysplacenetwork.com).

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# Christ Kitchen mixes Bible study with employment opportunity

Over 10 years, Christ Kitchen has used packaging dried food and catering meals to provide work and job training for women isolated and marginalized by poverty, abuse, health or other circumstances.

Growing from operating one day a week with two women in the fellowship hall of Westminster Presbyterian, Christ Kitchen now employs 35 women on Thursdays, and a varying number from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, packaging 25 gourmet mixes.

Together, Christ Clinic and Christ Kitchen purchased its present 2,700-square-foot building at 2410 N. Monroe and a house next door. Christ Kitchen moved into that building two years ago.

There, in a former taco fast-food restaurant, they have a commercial kitchen, which allows them to make box lunches and cater. It also has space so groups of 10 or more can come for meetings.

Jan Martinez, a therapist who volunteered at Christ Clinic—which began in 1991 at Westminster Presbyterian to provide health care for uninsured people—realized women coming to the clinic needed community to help them make healthy choices.

Finding that women would not come to the Bible studies or therapy she offered, she believed they would come to gain something they all needed: money.

Given her own love of cooking, Jan invited a few women to bag pinto beans, corn bread and tortilla mixes in a development micro-enterprise model.

Christ Kitchen now helps women in poverty by providing work, job training, group fellowship and



**Elena Johnston, production manager, and part-time employee Diana Tindal fill bags with a mix.**

personal support as they produce and sell gift baskets with dried food products such as bean soups, cocoa, teas, popcorn, corn bread, cookie and brownie mixes, and other food products.

Women pour mixes into bags, cut ties, tie the packages and prepare the labels. The women work three to six hours at minimum wage and are paid in cash at the end of the day.

The ministry helps women learn work skills so they can eventually support themselves and their families without reliance on government programs or destructive relationships.

It also offers support, community, love and healing, said Jan, who has served on short-term medical missions with her family in Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam.

Women begin each work day with an informal Bible study and time to tell their stories, share their hurts and confess their sins to each other. At noon meals,

each is asked how others can pray for them—drawing out concerns they face.

Jan, who is director of the program, has seen over the years that God matches needs and skills, so women become healthy, accountable support persons, walking side-by-side with each other.

“I pray Christ Kitchen will continue to grow so it is self sufficient, supported by sales,” she said.

Construction is underway beside Christ Kitchen to build a 4,800-square-foot building to house the health care clinic. The nonprofit has raised two-thirds of the \$3 million needed to complete the project debt-free.

Christ Clinic, which does 3,000 patient visits a year, turns away 20 patients a day. The new building will allow the clinic to serve four times as many patients.

“There are about 47,000 people

uninsured in Spokane,” Jan said, describing the need.

Through years of ups and downs, Jan has relied on prayer as she has seen women go from addiction to running their own businesses.

“It feeds me when I see what God is doing in the lives of people here,” she said.

In a 2002 Fig Tree article, Jan described Christ’s Kitchen as “being Christ’s hands and feet in a hurting world.”

To celebrate Christ Kitchen’s 10th anniversary and to raise funds for its capital, the organization is planning a luncheon at 11:45 a.m. and a dinner at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, at Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln.

Responding to the theme, “Celebrating Our God Who Makes Small Things Grow,” women in the program will describe the

ministry’s history and how it has improved their lives. Christ Kitchen seeks table hosts who will invite seven friends and colleagues to introduce this ministry to them.

For information, call 325-4343 or email [christkitchen@qwestoffice.net](mailto:christkitchen@qwestoffice.net).

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## University schedules events

Marty Miller, director of the Office of Rural and Farm Worker Housing of Yakima, will speak on “A Mind and Heart for Serving Rural Washington,” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2, at Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University.

He will discuss his work for 15 years with farm workers and low-income families.

At 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, John “Chuck” Chalberg, American history professor at Normandale Community College, will do “Teddy Roosevelt One-Person Show,” at Weyerhaeuser Hall.

Faith, Film and Philosophy Conference, co-sponsored by Gonzaga and Whitworth Universities will be held Oct. 29 to Nov.

1, featuring Doug Geivett of Talbot School of Theology, Mike Foley of Baylor University and Carl Plantinga of Calvin College.

For information, call 777-3275 or email [epace@whitworth.edu](mailto:epace@whitworth.edu).

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# Lay Franciscan concerned about injustices cancer patients face

For Cliff Evans, the image of one person embracing another in the Cancer Patient Care logo connects with his call to ministry as one of 40 active secular Franciscans in Spokane and millions of men and women worldwide.

He likens the embrace Cancer Patient Care's eight staff and many volunteers offer cancer patients and families in services and resources to the embrace St. Francis of Assisi gave to a leper in 1209. Lepers were hated and outcast then. By embracing the leper, Francis overcame his embedded repugnance for people afflicted with that illness.

In the embrace, Francis learned to embrace all people as Jesus did. That began the Franciscan tradition of care for the poor and outcast.

As executive director, Cliff uses his skills in public relations and administration to ask for "stones" to build Cancer Patient Care, which is at 1507 E. Sprague.

Cancer Patient Care (CPC) started in Spokane 50 years ago, when the American Cancer Society was striving to find cures. CPC began to provide a safety net for cancer patients of all ages, and their families.

"I help the staff team and board deliver services to cancer patients, especially those with limited resources," said Cliff, who professed as a secular Franciscan in February 2007.

Unlike lay companions who support people in other religious orders, Secular Franciscans are members of the only Vatican-recognized religious order for laity living "in the world," pledging to evangelize through lives of service and simplicity.

"Many people want to make a difference for cancer patients but don't know how," he said. "I seek to do it by helping cancer patients embrace hope and life."

CPC provides services for people in 10 counties of Eastern Washington and five counties of North Idaho, including emergency assistance for prescriptions, transportation, groceries and utilities for clients earning less than 80 percent of median income in Spokane.

Cancer Patient Care also coordinates assistance as it provides hospital supplies and home-health-care equipment such as walkers, wheel chairs, shower chairs, bedpans and other resources for cancer patients, often coordinating with end-of-life home care provided by Horizon Hospice or Hospice of Spokane.

The program also offers nutritional supplements for end-of-life and during treatment. It's sometimes the only nutrition a person can take in to provide energy and



Cliff Evans's lay Franciscan commitment permeates his life.

keep on weight. CPC can buy it at a third of the cost through Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest.

Cliff's office is down the hall from the Reimer Room, which offers prostheses and wigs.

"I see women come looking despondent as they pass my office. Soon I hear laughter and crying as they try on wigs," he said. "Most leave looking more confident, feeling more like themselves."

Funding comes from county block grants, United Way, fund-raising events and donations by individuals, congregations and regional churches.

Cancer Patient Care's 2008 "Dinner Among Friends" benefit is planned for 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at Northern Quest Casino.

"People will call to give donations of equipment after someone they loved has died. These items help caregivers care for family members while they are undergoing treatment or during end-of-life care," said Cliff.

A Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant funds rural outreach and advocacy.

While some funds come from the faith community, Cancer Patient Care is not faith-based, and serves people of many faiths.

Many clients come on referral from their faith groups, and many people in congregations assist their members.

"My faith helps me be in this work," said Cliff, who converted to Catholicism when he was 45 and completed a master's degree in religious studies at Gonzaga University. "For me, the justice component, which is strong in Catholic and Protestant traditions, is important.

"We are blessed, forgiven and saved, but we often forget why. We are blessed to serve the least of these," he said.

"We let cancer patients and their families know they are not alone," said Cliff, a member of St. Augustine Catholic parish. "With one in three people in Washington diagnosed with cancer, we are there to say that the community cares. People can call us when they are down.

"We help them keep up their sense of dignity and self respect," said Cliff, whose father died of lung cancer 11 years ago when he lived in Maui, Hawaii.

After moving from California in the 1980s, Cliff and his wife lived nearly 20 years in Hawaii, where he worked in tourism.

During college years studying Japanese history, culture and language, he set aside his Presbyterian upbringing and explored Buddhism and other oriental traditions. He and his wife moved to Spokane in 2001 so he could begin religious studies at Gonzaga.

After graduating, he served as development director at St. Joseph Family Center from 2003 to 2004 before joining Cancer Patient Care as executive director.

"I use my background in sales and marketing to make a difference in people's lives," he said.

At St. Joseph's Family Center, which is run by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, he learned about secular Franciscans and the gospel from a Franciscan point of view, based on the stewardship of and kinship with all creation.

From the perspective that all creation is holy, he is also con-

cerned about injustices cancer patients face. In many ways, they are outcasts today, Cliff said.

For example, often after they take time off from work for treatment, companies will not let them return to their work or will cut them off if they are over 55 years old, because their employment means health insurance costs go up for everyone.

"It's illegal, but it's happening," he said. "While it's sometimes hard to find supportive companies, some businesses do rally around their employees with cancer.

"Secular Franciscans are called to follow Christ in the manner of St. Francis and St. Clare," Cliff continued. "We seek to live the gospel in our everyday lives.

"It's not about what we do, but about the spirit with which we do it," he said. "Few of us live

in as radical a state of poverty as St. Francis and St. Clare, but we can make life choices to have less and to give more, to seek our call over valuing money and 'what's in it for me.'

"St Francis did theology with his body and heart," he said.

Because Cancer Patient Care is not a faith-based ministry, he does not wear the Tau or "T" cross of Franciscans at work, but has "SFO" after his name on his business card and name tag.

Local Franciscans—which Cliff said celebrate their eighth centennial in 2009—include friars at St. Francis of Assisi parish, Poor Clare Sisters, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

For information, call 456-0446 or email [cliffe@cancerpatient-care.org](mailto:cliffe@cancerpatient-care.org)

## Fall Folk Festival

The Fall Folk Festival is sponsored by the Spokane Folklore Society  
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# Four Lutheran churches collaborate to build affordable housing

By Deidre Jacobson

Spokane Urban Ministries (SUM), a collaboration of four Lutheran churches serving housing and related needs of the urban poor, broke ground in July and began construction in August for 47 new affordable apartments in two locations off Walnut St. in West Central Spokane.

Emmanuel, Grace, St Paul and Salem Lutheran churches, and Salem Arms, a nonprofit that provides 18 affordable housing units for mentally ill people, are the SUM members. Jubilee Community and Housing Ministries are associate members.

The Rev. James Kashork, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, is the president of SUM.

The Walnut Corners residents at the Broadway site will live in 18 single-bedroom units. That building will also have about 1,650 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor.

Spokane Urban Ministries hopes to fill that space with organizations providing services for the neighborhood.



Drawing shows Walnut Corners building planned on Broadway

The Mallon site will offer 28 units of affordable housing with one-, two- and three-bedroom units. SUM is negotiating with others to manage the properties.

“Salem Lutheran has made a special point of walking with the people of the West Central community for 25 years, and our SUM partners have had a similar commitment to their neighborhoods,” said the Rev. Tom Soeldner, Salem’s pastor since 2003.

In 1990, Salem congregation formed Salem Arms. It also works with Our Place Community Ministries, the Faith and Environment

Network (FEN), the Spokane Alliance, Emmanuel Meals, Project Hope and Riverfront Farms. The Book Parlor bookstore and neighborhood drop-in center is a ministry of Salem. The FEN and VOICES for Opportunity, Income, Child Care, Education and Support have offices at Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway.

In 2005, Salem established a task force to determine how to use property owned by the church, a half city block on Mallon Street between Walnut and Cedar and a half city block on Broadway, across from the church,

Employing the expertise of Common Ground, a nonprofit, low-income housing developer, the task force recommended that the properties be used for afford-

able housing.

The people of Salem voted overwhelmingly to support the project and donate the church’s properties, Tom said.

SUM’s other member churches—Emmanuel, Grace, and St Paul—each contributed \$25,000 for initial costs. Salem Arms contributed property for the project.

Common Ground helped Spokane Urban Ministries apply for additional funds from the City of Spokane, Spokane County, the Washington State Housing Trust Fund and low-income housing tax-credits through the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. The cost of the project is about \$9.5 million.

“Spokane lost more than 200 units of low-income housing in re-

cent years as downtown property has been taken up by high-end condominiums and commercial buildings. Spokane Urban Ministries hopes that this will be the first of many projects that will focus on affordable housing and building healthy neighborhoods,” said Tom.

He also noted that increasing property values in West Central make it difficult for mid- to low-income people to own a home. More than half of the houses in the neighborhood are rentals.

Tom is not new to urban ministry. He has walked the streets of downtown Seattle on Nightwatch Ministry, helped initiate the Jefferson County Domestic Violence program and ministered to the inner city poor in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He has also served in rural churches and suburban areas, but senses he is always directed back to ministry with those struggling to survive in the city.

Recognizing that the urban poor have “so many needs,” Tom said that “one must purposely close one’s eyes not to see those needs.”

Tom expects Walnut Corners will open in July 2009.

For information, call 328-6280.

## YWCA features Mae Jemison

Mae Jemison, the first woman of color to go into space and the founder of two technology companies, is the featured speaker for the YWCA Women of Achievement Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Spokane Convention Center.

Born in Alabama, she grew up in Chicago, entered Stanford University at 16 and earned bachelor’s degrees in chemical engineering and Afro-American studies. She studied medicine at Cornell University.

She worked in engineering and medicine in Los Angeles, and

spent two years as a Peace Corps medical officer in West Africa before joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for six years, doing scientific and medical experiments.

In 1993, she founded the Jemison Group, Inc., which integrates science and technology in everyday lives, and she is now building a new business, BioSentient Corporation.

Her first book, *Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life*, shares anecdotes about growing up for teens.

For information, call 326-1190.

## Concerts benefit Tanzanian school

Despite the distance between Eastern Washington and Idaho and Ulanga Kilombero, Tanzania, in Eastern Africa, there are connections through the Lutheran synods in both regions.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Synod in this region is sponsoring three concerts to support a dining-assembly hall project at Tumaini School in Ulanga Kilombero.

They will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, at Trinity Lutheran in Coeur d’Alene and at 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran in Spokane. There will also be a 2 p.m. concert on Sunday, Nov. 2, at Emmanuel Lutheran in Cheney.

The 20-voice Wild Mountain Thyme Choir of Bonners Ferry,

which has sung in international choir performances in Ireland, Newfoundland and Austria will present their 2008 “Give Peace a Chance” concert.

Songs include “One Tin Soldier,” “On Justice, Truth and Peace,” “Fences,” “Who Will Fight No More Forever” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

“We hope the words can put the hope and dream of peace in our hearts and minds,” said Marj Nishek, chair of the Companion Synod Task Force Committee.

Tumaini School is a 360-student boarding high school at the end of a bumpy road in Tanzania. The total project budget is \$42,000.

For information, call 208-267-7191.

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# We have options to bailing out on justice by adopting unhealthy business mores

In the bailout buzz, many people are talking about how Wall St. greed undermines Main St. We sadly know it sometimes pulls on the soul of some humanitarian and faith corporations, who cave in to hard-nose corporate practices.

We hear cries: Where’s the bailout for those strapped by the rising costs of living on Main Street? When will we have relief from uncontrolled speculation? When will we have universal health care?

The “business” model that worships the bottom-line—the god of money—may rear its head among agency staff, nonprofit boards and church councils. Some are more formed by secular mores than religious values. Expediency can chip away at a congregation’s or nonprofit’s funding and doing its mission, just as it also affects corporate and government budget processes.

We need to ask “Where’s the beef?” in the sense of “beef” being the core mission for churches, faiths and nonprofits. When we place other gods before God, we operate with blinders and lose sight.

In face of the bail-out proposed in a rush to save the super rich, let’s pause to see how “corporate,” non-humanitarian mindsets take hold of our lives.

For example, today’s escalating health insurance costs are one force that can lead to heartless decisions in faith, as well as secular, realms.

Wall St. greed for 30 to 40 percent on

investments tightens the financial squeeze on faith and nonprofit groups, leading them to hand out pink slips, for example, when employees use health insurance.

Once the adage was “use it or lose it.” Now it’s “use it *and* lose it”—use health insurance and lose your job, health care, house and ability to provide for your family.

Some corporations think they save money by firing, laying off or forcing the resignation or retirement of employees—a cancer patient, an older person or a pregnant woman—because their use of health insurance may drive up costs for the employer and other employees.

Is it a “wise” corporate decision to push folks out one-by-one, putting more people into overburdened unemployment and welfare systems? Is it good business to push more families to live on the edge of losing housing, food, health, relationships and hope? It creates fewer consumers for a business and fewer donors for the nonprofits. People know something is suspicious and pass the word along.

It’s a dilemma and temptation for faith and nonprofit corporations to consider this month when many churches focus on budgets and stewardship.

For us to adopt business models as if they are the “only option” and as if they are based on the only “hard facts and figures” is to lose the humanitarian soul of serving those who suffer. As such decisions create

more suffering, they undermine a ministry’s *raison d’être*, its mission, its heart and even its well-being.

Some corporations are self-deregulating by ignoring Equal Employment Opportunity laws against discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability, especially related to health insurance. For example, so far this year, 4,900 have filed EEO “pregnancy discrimination” complaints, up 1,000 from 2007.

There are more options than to wear greed-based business blinders. It’s time for creative thinking and new approaches:

- Some corporations know if they treat employees well, they reduce costs of training new employees and gain from the cumulative expertise of long-term employees. Many know that open conversation among colleagues and overall transparency improve productivity and creativity.

- Some organizations like the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility watchdog corporations as shareholders and influence board decisions. Who calls churches and nonprofits to accountability?

- Some people voluntarily live simply, accepting professional responsibilities at salaries below expectations, out of commitment to work for justice. What if more executives did that for the general welfare from which they would benefit, too.

To seek solutions on health care, how might we separate it from jobs so people do

not lose jobs because they use insurance?

- If “we the people” bail out AIG, a health insurance provider, might it be a springboard for universal health care that is portable from employer to employer?

- What about trying “trickle-up” economics, infusing funds into Main St. to subsidize health-care premiums and costs? Wherever we inject funds into the economy, it spurs growth. Doing that still reaches the wealthy, but assures flow through low- and middle-income folk enroute.

- We might set aside fears about a government bureaucrat coming between a patient and a doctor, if we realize we *already* have investors, employers, insurance companies and poverty between patients and doctors.

- What if churches and faiths form a health-care pool across competing institutions to cover clergy, members and communities they serve. That might draw new members and funds for our mission.

- Another option is to remember that hospitals, physicians and nurses once operated—and many still do—as faith-based, altruistic servants to spread God’s caring and healing. When we lose sight of our roots, we lose our way.

Will we silently let health insurance costs break the heart of churches and humanitarian agencies? Let’s take off the blinders that limit our vision, speak up and be accountable to one another to act justly.

Mary Stamp - Editor

# Empathy is the path to peace, God does not want us to kill

There are two rules related to peace beginning inside each of us: First, peace begins inside when we hang on to empathy. Second, as people of faith we do not believe in a God who wants us to kill people.

Empathy is the path to peace. It’s about realizing every person is a human being with the same wants, needs and desires. If we live in someone else’s shoes, we can’t be violent. When we lose empathy and dehumanize people, we justify violence and turn enemies into things. Every culture justifies war by dehumanizing its enemies.

In the present war, the Administration and media describe what happens by saying: “Allied troops killed 14 terrorists and 34 insurgents.” They never say: “Allied troops killed 14 parents and 24 children, all

of whom were loved by their families.”

Governments need to dehumanize people to kill them. They destroy empathy to justify violence. So the first thing to do to end violence and bring about the day of peace is to hang onto empathy.

When we empathize, we can’t be violent, not just on the big level of war but when someone cuts into the grocery line or cuts us off in the car. If we consider that person a jerk, we begin to dehumanize the person and justify our violent thoughts.

If I have empathy, I imagine how I feel and act when I’m in a hurry, afraid of being late. If we understand that we are cut off by human beings who are being human, we lose our capacity for violence.

Empathy holds us together.

Similarly, by not believing in a god who wants us to kill, we will question those who quote sacred texts—the Hebrew Bible, the Christian New Testament, the Koran or any other Scriptures—saying they prove god wants us to kill people.

Do not believe it. If we become convinced, we need to find another God. God, as revealed in our traditions, would rather die than kill.

We do not become violent because God is violent. We believe God is violent because we are violent. How often do people drop bombs in God’s name?

When we drop bombs, we need to think that the bombs are falling on God—“the least” among us. Who could justify that? The God of our sacred traditions lives at

Ground Zero, not with those in planes that hit buildings or drop bombs.

God is the victim of our violence, not the perpetrator of it. If we remember that, how can we ever be violent? How can we justify taking arms if we truly believe our traditions?

In summary, empathy makes it impossible for us to be violent.

We need to realize that when we respond to terrorists’ violence with violence, we are hurting human beings God loves, too.

In addition, we should not believe in a god who tells us to kill. If you start to step in that direction, get another God.

The Very Rev. Bill Ellis - Fig Tree Board - Cathedral of St. John Reflections at Peace Celebration

Reflections on Peace

## Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

Four young women shared reflections on peace as part of the “One Peace, Many Paths” interfaith celebration of peace.

**Peace is the relinquishment** of all prejudices and biases. Peace is the acceptance of anyone and everyone despite their flaws or differences. Peace is focusing deeper on understanding people, and loving them for who they truly are. Peace is cherishing even the littlest and most precious gift God gave every one of us. Peace is the celebration of friendship and knowing the value of forgiveness. Peace is respecting morals and noticing change. Peace is the value of unity. Peace to me is love.

Josie Woodfield - Baha’i Lewis and Clark High

**I experience peace in my life** through my daily prayers. Muslims pray five times a day, as it is one of the pillars of Islam. In addition to the mandatory prayers, we are always encouraged to do extra prayers anytime day or night.

Prayer forms a strong connection between people and their creator that gives the people reassurance and fulfillment in their lives. I’ve learned that when you nurture your relationship with God, you will always have your faith to turn to. It will give you inner peace in difficult times.

When I feel troubled or lost, when I am



Anusha Gollapalli, Natalie Wendt, Nasreen Sadaf Shah and Josie Woodfield

searching and cannot find the answer, I turn to God, I turn to my prayers, and a sense of calmness comes over me, telling me that all I need to do is trust in God to protect me and guide my life in the right direction and that everything will be ok.

The inner peace that Islam gives me is the strength that guides me through my day-to-day life. Seeing all the blessings God has provided, countless day to day things that we all have but take for granted, such as good health and being able to spend time with my family. These are all blessings that strengthen my faith. Just knowing that God is there to protect and watch over me gives me inner peace.

Nasreen Sadaf Shah - Muslim Eastern Washington University

**My vision of peace** in the world is not only the absence of violence but also the presence harmony and equality among all people. It’s a world where everyone’s needs are met, communication is honest, and human beings balance our lives in ways that allow other species to coexist.

Lasting peace is a world where inner peace, compassion and wisdom are valued and cultivated, and people support one another in pursuing these qualities. External peace and internal calm depend on other another. A violent, destructive society,

where harming others is considered a viable way to solve problems, makes it hard to overcome anger, hatred, greed and ignorance that disturb the mind. Without ending wars in our hearts, external peace will be difficult, maybe impossible, to maintain. A peaceful world and peaceful mind cannot exist without each other. Developing both is necessary and possible.

Natalie Wendt - Tibetan Buddhism Substitute teacher Spokane Public Schools

**In my opinion, peace is living** with a relaxed mind and body. We all possess a source of joy and wisdom already inside us. Consciously or unconsciously, we are all seeking peace of mind. All of us have different ways of finding our peace.

If peace of mind is shattered by anger or unhappiness, calm yourself by focusing on the opposite emotion. For example, replace hate with love, doubt with faith and hope. Most importantly, keep your thinking as positive as possible.

I experience peace in my life when things go the way I planned, such as finishing my homework, playing outside, eating my favorite food, interacting with friends and spending time with my family, especially my little sister Esha. All of these give me peace and happiness in my life.

Anusha Gollapalli - Hindu Seventh grade - Greenacres Middle



# Calendar of Events

Oct 1-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Peace Advocates Exhibit</b>, Human Rights Education Institute, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Mountain West Bank, 424½ Mullen Rd., Coeur d'Alene, 208-292-2359 <a href="http://www.hrei.org">www.hrei.org</a></li><li>• <b>"Faith and Politics</b>, Todd Cioffi, Knox Presbyterian, 806 W. Knox, 7 p.m., 777-3386</li><li>• <b>The Franciscan Place</b> at St. Joseph Family Center, Grand Opening Celebration, 1016 N. Superior, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., 483-6495</li><li>• <b>"A Mind and Heart for Serving Rural Washington,"</b> Marty Miller lecture, Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3772</li><li>• <b>Frankhauser Concert</b>, Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship Benefit, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 7:30 p.m.</li><li>• <b>Harvest Fest and Fund Raiser</b>, Farm/Eco House, 2605 W. Boone, 3 to 5 p.m.</li><li>• <b>Mennonite Country Auction &amp; Sale</b>, Menno Mennonite Church, 659-0926</li><li>• <b>Bishop's Poor Man's Meal</b>, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3358-4254</li><li>• <b>"Manna Concert,"</b> benefits Meals on Wheels and Second Harvest, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 3 p.m., 624-1366</li><li>• <b>"Children in Africa: Pawns of Politics,"</b> Rory Anderson, senior policy advisor for World Vision, Eastern Washington University, 1:30 p.m.</li><li>• <b>Domestic Violence Month workshops and march</b>, 326-1190</li><li>• <b>Turner Lectures</b>, Diana Butler Bass, "Christianity for the Rest of Us," Englewood Christian, Yakima, 966-6550</li><li>• <b>"Everyone Matters: Building Communities for Successful Aging"</b> Community Forum, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, Greater Spokane, Inc., Washington State Council on Aging, Eastern Washington University and the Kalispel Tribe, Northern Quest, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 458-2509</li><li>• <b>YWCA Women of Achievement Luncheon</b>, Mae Jamison, astronaut, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m., 326-1190 x 154</li><li>• <b>Teddy Roosevelt One-Person Show</b>, John "Chuck" Chalberg, professor of American history at Normandale Community College, Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3772</li><li>• <b>Reading and book signing</b>, Whitworth associate professor of communication Jim McPherson, author of The Conservative Resurgence and the Press: The Media's Role in the Rise of the Right, Borders Books, 9980 N. Newport Highway, 7 p.m.</li><li>• <b>Rodrick Gilbert</b>, "House Church Planting," Union Gospel Mission, 1224 E. Trent, 7:30 a.m. and Perkin's Restaurant, 12 E. Olive, 9 a.m., other dates: 468-4855</li><li>• <b>"Constructing Political Opinion,"</b> film on media literacy and discussion, Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., 313-6656</li><li>• <b>"Raise the Roof" Auction</b>, Habitat for Humanity-Spokane, Northern Quest Casino Pavilion, 5 p.m., 534-2552</li><li>• <b>Bill Gates, Sr., Spokane City Forum</b>, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 11:45 a.m., 747-1058</li><li>• <b>Venerable Geshe Thupten Phelgye</b>, "Techniques for Transforming Hatred into Love," Gonzaga University School of Law Moot Courtroom, 6:30 p.m., 313-6784</li><li>• <b>Living Liturgy Event</b>, St. Luke's Lutheran, 9706 N. Division, 6 p.m., Thursday, 8:30-4:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 467-5256</li><li>• <b>Open House for the Emmanuel Family Life Center</b>, 645 S. Richard Allen Court, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 534-3007</li><li>• <b>Bioneers Satellite Conference</b> and local workshops, Spokane Falls Community College, 209-2394 or <a href="http://www.SustainSpokane.org">www.SustainSpokane.org</a></li><li>• <b>"Living a Scandalous Gospel,"</b> Episcopal Diocese of Spokane Convention, Cathedral of St.</li></ul>	John, 127 E. 12th, 624-3191
Oct 18	• <b>Fall Compost Fair</b> , Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6539	
Oct 19	• <b>Bread for the World Sunday</b> , worship resources at <a href="http://www.bread.org">www.bread.org</a>	
Oct 21-22	• <b>Dementia Workshops</b> , Marty Richards and Teepa Snow, Tuesday, Community United Methodist, 1470 W. Hanley, Coeur d'Alene, 6:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, North Idaho College, 208-666-2996	
	• <b>Dialogue on Open Theism</b> vs. Divine Foreknowledge, Greg Boyd and Keith Wyma, Seeley Mudd Chapel at Whitworth University, 4 p.m., 777-4580	
	• <b>"Myth of a Christian Nation,"</b> lecture by Greg Boyd, Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-4580.	
Oct 23	• <b>"Where Journalism Is Going and How We Protect Its Values,"</b> National Press Club Centennial Forum with local journalists, Room 20, Riverpoint Campus Academic Center, 600 N. Riverpoint, 7 p.m.	
	• <b>"Ladies Night Out,"</b> Spokane Valley Partners Auction, Mirabeau Park Hotel, 5:30 p.m., 927-1157 x 13	
Oct 24	• <b>"Environmental Sustainability,"</b> Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted, vice president student affairs at Eastern Washington University, United Nations Day Dinner, Mukogawa Institute Commons, 4000 W Randolph Rd., 6 p.m., 456-2382	
Oct 25	• <b>"Faith Formation in an Interfaith World,"</b> Robert Corin Morris, Spiritus Center, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 624-3191	
	• <b>A Time to Heal</b> , Bill Ma-dha-va Miller, The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 313-6012	
Oct 24-25	• <b>Roger Williams Symposium</b> , Omid Safi, Friday, WSU CUB, 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m., K-House, 720 Thatuna, Pullman, 332-3611	
	• <b>"Coming to the Table"</b> Introductory Workshops: "Healing for Hurting Congregations," Center for Organizational Reform, Clare Center, 4626 E. Jamieson Rd., Friday 5 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to noon, <a href="http://www.corhome.org/events">www.corhome.org/events</a>	
Oct 27	• <b>Christ Kitchen 10th Anniversary</b> , Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln, luncheon at 11:45 a.m., dinner at 6 p.m. 325-4343	
Oct 29	• <b>"Champions and Revolutionaries: Critical Ingredients for Ending Global Poverty,"</b> Music Recital Hall at Whitworth University 7:30 p.m.	
Oct 29-30	• <b>People Who Care Fund-Raising Breakfast</b> , Transitions, 7 a.m., Thurs; <b>Lunch</b> , 11:30 a.m. Friday, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 328-6702	
Oct 29-31	• <b>Annual Faith, Film &amp; Philosophy Lecture Series</b> , co-sponsored by Whitworth and Gonzaga University, email <a href="mailto:mpace@whitworth.edu">mpace@whitworth.edu</a> , 777-3275: <b>Oct 29:</b> Doug Geivett, Talbot School of Theology, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7:30 p.m., <b>Oct. 30:</b> Panel with Doug Geivett at Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 3:30 p.m.; Lecture by Mike Foley of Baylor University, Gonzaga University, 7:30 p.m., <b>Oct 31:</b> Carl Plantinga of Calvin College, Wulff Auditorium, Gonzaga, 7:30 p.m.	
Oct 29	• <b>Fig Tree Distribution</b> , St. Mark's Lutheran 24th & Grand, 9 a.m.	
Nov 1, 2	• <b>"Give Peace a Chance Concerts,"</b> p. 9	
Nov 6	• <b>Fig Tree Board Meeting</b> , Manito United Methodist, 3220 S. Grand, 1 p.m.	
	• <b>Fig Tree Dialogue</b> , "Bread Broken and Shared: Challenges and Opportunities for Ecumenism Today," Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 6:30 p.m., 535-1813	
Tues-Sats	• <b>Habitat-Spokane work days</b> - 534-2552	
Fridays	• <b>Colville Peace Vigil</b> - 675-4554	
3rd Mons	• <b>NAACP</b> - 467-9793	
1st Sats	• <b>Spokane Ministers' Fellowship &amp; Wives/ Widows Fellowship</b> , Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, 806 W. Indiana, 624-0522	
2nd, 4th Weds	• <b>Pax Christi</b> , St. Joseph's, 1503 W. Dean, noon - 844-4480	

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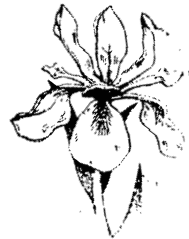
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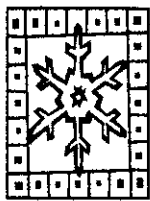
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# Through church history, faith and politics have intermingled

Given the questions people of faith have about involvement in politics, the Rev. Todd Cioffi, assistant professor of theology at Whitworth University, is teaching courses on “Faith and Politics” at two Spokane Presbyterian churches during October, November and December.

Discussions will provide historical perspectives on the relationship between the church and the political realm, framed through the Reformed tradition.

Sessions will also look at the Christian right and left in American politics and explore possibilities of moving beyond “right” and “left” in politics and faith.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Todd has been teaching philosophy, Bible, church and society, and Christian political thought at Whitworth since September 2007.

A series of five sessions will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesdays, Oct. 1 and 8, and 10:15 a.m., Sundays, Oct. 12, 19 and 26, at Knox Presbyterian Church, 806 W. Knox.

The sessions at his church, Manito Presbyterian, 401 E. 30th Ave., will be part of the Sunday morning adult education program on the first Sundays of October, November and December. He has also taught a series there critiquing U.S. use of torture.

“I’m offering one session after the election so we can look at what the candidates said and find ways to be involved,” said Todd.

He graduated from Hope College in his hometown of Holland, Mich., with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1988, and earned a master of divinity degree in 1993 at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey.

For the next seven years, Todd served in diverse forms of ministry. He taught philosophy and religion at a boarding school in Connecticut for two years, worked with homeless people in Atlanta, Ga., two years, served as co-pastor of an African-American church in Detroit for eight months, and taught moral theology at Detroit Jesuit High School.

Todd pointed out that the divisions between conservative and liberal have taken place many times in the history of the church, so “we have a wealth of resources for thinking through the issues.”

From the point of view of Reformed churches, Christians “can and should be involved in politics, not to further their own Christian agendas but to work for the common good,” he said.

While media have in recent years seemed to assume that the Christian right was “the” point of



Todd Cioffi challenges Christian “right” and “left.”

view of the Church and while the left has tried to push religion out of politics, he considers neither approach helpful.

“We need to look at resources and language that will move us beyond right and left,” he said.

For example, he observes that many evangelical Christians today are moving beyond “a simplistic acceptance of the agenda of the Christian right that uses abortion as the only litmus test.”

He sees media opening to cover evangelical leaders who are moving beyond the typical pigeon-holes on issues.

“We must move from one-dimensional ways of characterizing

and analyzing issues,” suggested Todd, who considers himself both evangelical and socially progressive.

“I think Christians of all stripes need to take seriously the gospel’s requirement that Christians, whether conservative or liberal, should care about the least, the

poor and the downtrodden. We need to support policies that look out for people left out. It’s a no brainer,” he said.

“All Christians could participate in certain issues together if they set aside the hot-button, litmus-test issues,” said Todd.

For information, call 777-3386 or email [tcioffi@whitworth.edu](mailto:tcioffi@whitworth.edu).

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