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Campaigning for fairness

In the April issue of the *Voice*, we announced the Campaign for Fairness, which engaged a broad cross section of faith-based advocates, community-based advocates and community service providers in an effort to restore proposed budget cuts to Oregon's vulnerable populations. Many friends of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon provided leadership in this effort—as campaign strategists, event planners and coordinators, key congregational contacts for campaign information, postcard distributors and transportation coordinators for the rally in May. Our ecumenical team strengthened community ties and forged relationships that we hope will serve us in future policy initiatives.

The Campaign for Fairness platform

Building on the policy platform broadly endorsed at EMO's Interfaith Advocacy Day, 24 faith and community-based organizations joined together to launch the Campaign for Fairness at the state Capitol. The campaign called for restoration of proposed cuts to the state's safety net of services for vulnerable populations, including seniors, families on welfare, and families leaving welfare to work, as well as those unable to afford decent housing. The total cost of the platform amounted to approximately \$160 million, which is also the amount by which Ballot Measure 88 cut state income tax receipts in the current



Over 350 people attended the Campaign for Fairness rally on May 14 to advocate on behalf of Oregon's vulnerable populations.

biennium from Oregon's highest income filers. To fund the platform, we urged lawmakers to use available revenues, including the kicker, as needed. Our message: "Don't balance the state budget on the backs of the poor."

Key campaign events and activities

The campaign was initiated at a press conference in April, at which Archbishop Vlazny of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, the Rev. Ronald Williams of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Portland, and EMO Board President Virginia Robertson spoke. These key speakers were joined by other community representatives. The campaign received favorable editorials in *The Oregonian* and *The Statesman Journal*.

On May 14, Archbishop Vlazny kicked off a rally on the Capitol steps, where he was joined by EMO Board President

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Farmworker struggle in Oregon continues

Walk for Farmworker Justice

On June 18 to 24, hundreds of people walked in the Willamette Valley to show solidarity with Oregon farmworkers on the national Walk for Farmworker Justice (WFJ). The goal of the walk was to bring national attention and support to the Oregon farmworkers' struggle for justice and the right to bargain collectively. In addition, the participants hope to encourage NORPAC, a local grower-owned food-processing cooperative, to come to the table to talk with farmworkers and their union, Piferos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN). The walk was also a general call to all parties to seek a more sustainable and just agricultural industry for all—farmer, worker and consumer.

Walk participants were able to witness conditions in the fields firsthand and to talk with farmworkers and community residents about the issues facing Oregon's changing work force and economy.

The Walk for Farmworker Justice was endorsed by a diverse coalition of over 80 organizations, representing immigrant, labor, religious, human rights, environment and youth groups. Small farmers and concerned individuals also participated in supporting the walk.

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Jazz Under the Stars coming July 19

On Thursday, July 19, Dan Balmer and his band return to fill the night sky with jazz for the annual Jazz Under the Stars concert at Hopewell House Hospice Center. Balmer has recorded numerous CDs and is recognized nationally for his virtuoso guitar performances and his original compositions. The concert will feature songs from Dan's new CD, *Change of Heart*.

Those attending the concert are invited to bring picnics to enjoy on the lawn. Complimentary specialty coffees,

gourmet pizza and desserts will be offered. For the first time, a silent auction will be held, featuring such items as a weekend at the coast, a catered dinner for eight, artwork and gift baskets. Door prizes will be given away at intermission.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 7161 SW Capitol Highway. Parking is available at Wilson High School on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. Concert tickets are \$25, with children admitted free of charge. Proceeds benefit Hopewell House's charity care fund.

Tickets are available at EMO's main office, (503) 221-1054, or from Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890.

Dan Balmer



Big visions for Oregon

A recent editorial in *The Oregonian* concerning state funding for the arts and humanities caught my attention: "In one list of the states and U.S. territories by per-capita spending for the arts, Oregon ranks 53rd, or dead last—just behind American Samoa and Guam in the amount spent on the arts . . . Oregon has aimed too low for too long."

Oregon has aimed too low for too long, not only in support of the arts and humanities, but also in other areas of our community life. Consider the following: According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food Research and Action Center, Oregon continues to rank first in childhood hunger and sixth in food insecurity. The Census 2000 reports that Oregon ranks fourth in income disparity growth—the gap between the richest and poorest Oregonians continues to grow. A recent report from the Oregon Department of Education notes that when current spending levels on education are adjusted for inflation, there has been a 12 percent decrease in public education funding. The *U.S. Mayors' Annual Report on Hunger and Homelessness* reports that there was a 12 percent increase in requests for emergency services in Oregon during 2000.

These statistics describe only a small part of the problems we face. Mental health services in many rural and urban areas are either nonexistent or in disarray. There is a critical shortage of nurses that is adversely affecting our health care systems. Farm owners are experiencing unstable markets, and farmworkers still have no collective

bargaining guarantees. The results of these problems include ever increasing stress and strain on people, especially those who are poor or living on the margins of society.



David Leslie

Why are we experiencing this state of affairs? It is partially due to the small size of the vision we have about what is possible in society, and our willingness to be satisfied with only that which is deemed politically possible.

Fortunately, there are people in our

state who are driven by big visions for Oregon and who will not let complacent mediocracy be the order of the day. In May, on the Capitol steps,

I stood in the rain with hundreds of religious leaders, consumers and community and social service advocates in support of the Campaign for Fairness. This campaign was designed to call the Oregon Legislature to appropriate a fair share of our taxes and other revenues, to support low-income working families, elderly and disabled Oregonians, and those in desperate need of affordable housing. This is indeed a big vision, brought to us by people who have big aims for Oregon.

Hundreds of farmworkers, religious leaders and community members also brought us the power of the big vision through the National Farmworker Walk for Justice held in Oregon in June. This broad community effort

presented a vision and a call to all engaged in Oregon agriculture to come together to ensure the creation of an agricultural system that is equitable and fair to all who depend on it for their livelihoods.

Another sign of big visions actualized occurred on June 13, when six young men graduated from the Portland International Community School, an alternative education high school operated by EMO for refugee and immigrant students who had either dropped out of high school or were on the verge of doing so. These

graduates and their parents know firsthand the value of the big vision and how to overcome language and cultural barriers to achieve big dreams.

"Oregon has aimed too low for too long." This indictment must not be seen as a permanent condemnation, rather as a challenge to enhance our vision for the state and for each other. The religious community has a unique opportunity to contribute to this movement, for we are people dedicated to big visions characterized by love, compassion and justice for all people. I firmly believe that through our efforts, we can change our society and be known not as the people who have "aimed too low, for too long" but as the people who give all they can to realize big dreams for the benefit of all God's people.

You can reach David Leslie at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at dleslie@emoregon.org.

This is indeed a big vision, brought to us by people who have big aims for Oregon.

Endowment fund: Ensuring the future

The purpose of EMO's endowment fund is to ensure the future of the proud legacy of faith, unity and service that EMO has provided since 1917.

Today, EMO is one of the largest ecumenical organizations in the country, representing over 1,200 congregations and providing direct service to over 55,000 individuals annually. Three streams of ministry are integral to our mission—theological education and dialogue, public policy advocacy and community ministry.

The most common way to make an endowment-fund gift is through a bequest in your will. Other methods include beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and retirement accounts, a charitable-gift annuity (which returns a fixed interest payment to you), or gifts of stocks, bonds or property. Gifts of securities are generally deductible for their full market value. In addition, the donor may avoid capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due upon the sale of donated assets.

EMO staff and staff from the Presbyterian Church (USA) are available to provide free consultation on how a charitable gift fits into your estate plan. We can also provide information that is useful for a consultation with your own legal advisor, banker or financial planner.

Please join in EMO's mission to build better communities in Oregon. Your planned gift will ensure the future by providing ongoing support for our service, advocacy and education ministries.

For more information, please contact Gordon Dickey, EMO development director, at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at gdickey@emoregon.org.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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EMO MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
American Baptist Churches • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church • Church of the Brethren
Diocese of Oregon—Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Greek Orthodox Church • Presbyterian Church USA
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
Designated Member: Church Women United



EMO celebrates recent grant awards

The board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to the many supporters who have given their time and talents in support of the program ministries of EMO. The following is a list of recent foundation and congregational support received by EMO.

Program	Award	Donor
EMO Annual Fund	\$5,000	The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
NE Emergency Food	\$4,000	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Parent Mentor Program	\$3,000	The Leatherwood and Fleck Family Funds of The Oregon Community Foundation
Parent Mentor Program	\$1,253	Listos and Community 101
Parent Mentor Program	\$2,500	The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
Parent Mentor Program	\$3,000	Women's Care Foundation
Parent Mentor Program	\$5,000	Portland Women's Union Foundation
PICS	\$571	Open Meadow and Community 101

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) names new co-ministers

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon has called a clergy couple to serve as its new regional ministers. In February, the regional board unanimously extended a call to the Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Wirt and the Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt to serve as a regional ministry team for 38 Disciples of Christ congregations in Oregon. The two began their shared position as regional minister on June 11.

Ordained in 1983, both ministers have served in congregations in Oregon, northern California and Arizona. As a couple, they have served together in four previous ministries, including their service as community ministers for the Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland.

Doug Wirt most recently served as pastor of Foothills Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to his parish ministries, he has also given staff leadership to two ecumenical agencies, including EMO's NE Emergency Food Program.

Cathy Myers Wirt most recently served as director of Small Group Ministries and Women in Ministry for Homeland Ministries, the general program agency of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Cathy is currently writing her dissertation for a doctor of ministry degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Doug and Cathy are glad to be back in Oregon, working together and with the Oregon Disciples. They have been married for 21 years and have two children, Jacob and Rollie.



The Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Wirt and the Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt

United Church of Christ conference minister installed

On May 19, the Rev. Gene Ross was officially installed as a conference minister for the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Along with the Rev. Dr. Héctor López, the Rev. Ross oversees the general ministry of the conference, which includes 53 churches in Oregon, southern Idaho and Washington. There are 8,400 members in the Central Pacific Conference.

The Rev. Ross has a long history of service with EMO and other ecumenical and community organizations. He has served on countless commissions and committees and will serve on the EMO board of directors in his new role. Ross is a recipient of EMO's Louise K. Hunderup award for his leadership in ecumenical education. He has served with the UCC Central Pacific Conference for 23 years.

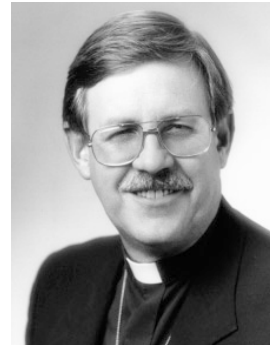


The Rev. Gene Ross

ELCA bishop re-elected

On May 5, the Rev. Paul R. Swanson was re-elected bishop of the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He will serve a six-year term.

Bishop Swanson has served in this role since 1987, and has been the only bishop for the Oregon Synod. The Oregon Synod consists of 123 churches in Oregon and one in Tulelake, California. There are 65 ELCA synods in the United States.



The Rev. Paul R. Swanson



NPNM celebrates tenth anniversary

In June, Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries (NPNM) celebrated ten years of service to the community. NPNM is an interfaith, nonprofit agency whose purpose is to initiate, develop and support parish nursing/health ministries within congregations and faith groups throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A parish nurse/health minister is a registered nurse who uses both nursing

and spiritual commitment in a healing ministry within a faith community. Since its inception, almost 1,000 parish nurses/health ministers have been trained as a result of partnerships with health care systems, colleges and universities.

For more information about NPNM, please call Annette Stixrud at (503) 413-2585.

Global warming conferences mobilize and educate regionally

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign's first three regional conferences have been met with enthusiasm and excitement. The first event, held on April 29 in Medford, drew over 90 people. Local conference coordinator the Rev. Tim Tiffany observed, "We were really blessed to have participants from the Christian, Jewish, Unitarian and Buddhist communities of southern Oregon. The input of the diverse faith perspectives revealed a broad commonality of vision for the healing of the earth." Congregations that participated in the conference are meeting again in July to explore how they might work together to take action on global warming in partnership with EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL).

On May 27, teams from over 25 congregations in the Portland area came together to participate in

conference entitled "Cool Congregations: Caring for Our Climate" at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Participants were inspired by hearing about congregational programs now underway to educate members and help them take action. Models included an alternative-transportation Sunday, educational programs for high school youth, green building projects and the OIPL program.

The effects of global warming on the land and people east of the Cascades, and how rural communities can benefit from addressing climate change, was the focus of the June 9 event held in The Dalles, co-sponsored with the Mid-Columbia Fellowship of Churches. The conference, entitled "Is Global Warming Real? An Interfaith Forum East of the Cascades," also explored the scientific, religious and social aspects of global warming. According to

speaker Marc Sullivan of the Climate Project, rural America has the potential to lead a second rural energy revolution focused on energy-efficiency and renewable energy. The first revolution was the establishment of public power in the 1930s. This broke the power of monopolies that were unwilling to bring electricity to rural areas. Sullivan said that rural American is poised to lead, especially in the areas of wind development, solar energy and biomass for fuel. These developments will bring new economic opportunities.

More than 200 individuals have participated in the regional conferences to date. The next regional conference will be in held in Eugene this fall. To participate in the work of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, call Jenny Holmes, campaign coordinator, at (503) 244-8318.

Six graduates, five cultures

On June 13, EMO's Portland International Community School (PICS) honored its second graduating class. Graduation ceremonies were held for six students, representing five cultures. The diversity of the student population is just one of the characteristics that makes PICS a unique high school. The alternative high school provides students with individual attention and the support they require in order to succeed. All students work at their appropriate skill level and attend classes specifically designed to best meet their needs.

Graduating this term are José LaMorte, a Portland native who learned Spanish from his father, a native of Mexico; Steven Ngo, who was born in Portland after his parents arrived from Cambodia; Tim

Kruzhkov, a native Lithuanian who moved to the U.S. when he was seven; Juan Pablo Gomez, a Portland native whose mother is a native of Mexico; Eric Marco Gibbs, who was born in Germany and moved to the U.S. in 1984; and Vienglath "John" Phanthalangsy, who was born in Beaverton shortly after his parents arrived from Laos.

The new graduates came from diverse backgrounds and cultures, but all came to PICS due to difficulties they experienced in other educational settings. Problems these students faced included attendance issues, a sense of social alienation, and cultural conflicts. They all found at PICS the support they needed to achieve success and earn their high school diplomas.



Congratulations to the second graduating class of EMO's Portland International Community School. Front row (from left): Vienglath John Phanthalangsy, Eric Marco Gibbs, Timofei Kruzhkov. Back row: Steven Ngo, Juan Pablo Gomez, José Andy LaMorte.

Each student now has a vision for the future. José plans to learn construction skills through an apprenticeship and eventually attend college to study computers or architectural drafting. Steven will attend Portland Community College (PCC) to study auto mechanics. Tim hopes to join the Air Force and eventually become a commercial airline pilot, so he can see the world. Juan's ideas for his future include the Chemeketa Community College's fire science program or PCC's seaman training institute. Eric will attend PCC in the fall, where he would like to study film and screenwriting. John plans to work and eventually go to PCC to become an electrician or engineer.

For more information about PICS, please call (503) 232-5334.

Patton Home offers low-income housing with a personal touch

Patton Home, located in the historic Albina neighborhood of north Portland, is now accepting lease applications for income-qualified adults who require some help with everyday living. To qualify for residency, an individual's annual income must not exceed 60 percent of the area mean, currently \$23,000 a year or less. Generally, individuals also qualify for Medicaid assistance. However, at this time, Patton Home is also accepting applications for a limited number of individuals who meet the income requirement, but do not need special services. As an early sign-up bonus, EMO is offering a \$100 referral gift and free meals for six months to certain qualified individuals.

Patton Home services include daily meals and snacks, assistance with medication, laundry services, housekeeping services, assistance with medical appointments, special diets as prescribed, and personal care. Qualified staff is on-site around the clock, and a registered nurse is on call.

Patton Home also offers social and wellness activities planned around tenants' interests and rehabilitative needs. Small pets are welcome at Patton Home, and a beauty shop is available on-site. Patton Home is fully ADA-compliant.

For more information about Patton Home, please contact Gary Logsdon at (503) 221-1054.

Giving to EMO through United Way

You can now donate to EMO through United Way contributions.

Although EMO is not a United Way member agency, individuals may designate our organization as a beneficiary by selecting EMO in the "Donor Option" box on the United Way pledge form.

Please consider EMO as your donor option.

Celebrate Christmas in July and help

The little gray food house on northeast 19th and Killingsworth is bustling with activity in preparation for the annual Christmas in July food drive and hunger awareness campaign. Volunteers are cutting out ornaments, putting together congregational packets, and wrapping gift boxes!

Christmas in July, a project intended to raise consciousness and commitment to food ministry, directly engages congregations in meeting the needs of our neighbors. The project includes a giving tree at each church, with ornaments indicating needed items for families who come to Northeast Emergency Food in crisis. Throughout the month of July, parishioners replace the ornaments with nonperishable food products, personal care items and monetary contributions. In addition, many churches incorporate food and justice themes into worship services.



Summer: A time to volunteer

Part of EMO's ongoing mission is a commitment to provide volunteer service opportunities in all EMO programs. In a variety of projects throughout the community, committed volunteers are working in partnership with EMO staff to touch the lives of more than 40,000 Oregonians each year. As schedules change during the summer months, EMO invites you to consider volunteer service at one of our community ministry programs.

HIV Services

For more information, please contact Lowen at (503) 460-3822.

• Support volunteer, HIV Day Center

Provide support to HIV Day Center staff in meal preparation and serving, dishwashing and cleanup, phone answering, and ongoing client service. Time commitment: three hours per week.

• Driver, Daily Bread Express

Deliver fresh, nutritious meals to homebound persons who are struggling with HIV-related disabilities in the Portland metropolitan area. You must have your own vehicle, a valid driver's license and insurance. Time commitment: two hours per week.

• Kitchen assistant

Help wash dishes and prepare and pack meals that will be delivered to homebound individuals. Time commitment: two hours per week.

NE Emergency Food Program

For more information, please contact Jennifer at (503) 284-5470.

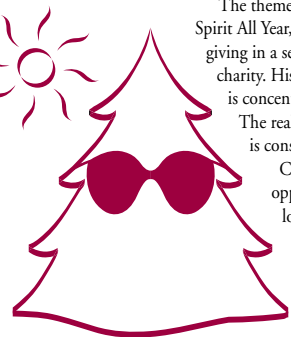
• Host & food packer

Greet guests, sort food, and pack food boxes for families and individuals in food crisis. Time commitment: three hours per week.

Parent Mentor Program

For more information, please contact Sylvia at (503) 231-3571.

Christmas in July and help hungry neighbors



The theme for this year, "Sharing the Holiday Spirit All Year," is intended to rouse compassion and giving in a season with traditionally less focus on charity. Historically, most of the program's support is concentrated around the Christmas season.

The reality is that the need in the community is constant throughout the year.

Christmas in July offers congregations an opportunity to participate directly in a local social ministry while ensuring an adequate supply of nutritious food for distribution to our neighbors in crisis. All gifts received through Christmas in July directly benefit families and individuals served by the

Northeast Emergency Food Program. We look forward to the participation of several new churches in this summer's celebration of sharing! If you or your congregation would like more information about participation, please contact Jennifer Core at Northeast Emergency Food at (503) 284-5470 or by e-mail at nepf@emoregon.org.

time to volunteer

• Parent mentors

Become a friendly support person for a parent who is enrolled in a social service program to overcome addiction, domestic violence or some other serious problem. Time commitment: One year, weekly contact by phone or in person. Qualifications: Mentors must be over 25 years old and experienced with children.

• Graphic artist consultant

Consult with program manager to design and produce a poster to help recruit parent mentors in the community. Time commitment: variable.

Russian Oregon Social Services

For more information, please contact Natasha at (503) 777-3437.

• Computer teacher

Teach refugees and immigrants basic computer skills. Time commitment: Once per week, two hours in the evening, for 12 weeks.

Several EMO programs

Several EMO programs are always looking for: General office volunteers
ESL tutors

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR GROUPS

Daily Bread Express (DBX)

Assume responsibility for a DBX route, delivering meals on an ongoing basis.

Hopewell House

Groundskeeping projects.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees

Five to six people to sort through donations. (This is a one-time event.)

Northeast Emergency Food Program

Groundskeeping projects and inventory projects.

HIV Day Center

Planning an event for clients.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, or to find out more about EMO and its programs, call Mindy Becker, human resource manager, at (503) 221-1054 or visit our Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Volunteer mentor touches lives

EMO's Parent Mentor Program trains volunteer mentors who offer mothers recovering from addictions or domestic violence both companionship and practical activities so they can learn about caring for their children and themselves. We celebrate our volunteer mentors and share this example of the difference one person can make in so many lives. The clients' names have been changed to protect their confidentiality.



Mentoring offers a woman in recovery a healthy relationship with a supportive adult.

Sue hadn't been raising a family and running a business with the aim of sharing her child-raising and career expertise with parents in recovery from addiction, but these life experiences readied her for that valuable role. When she read about the Parent Mentor Program in her church bulletin in 1997, she phoned to learn more about our parent mentor opportunity. After talking with Sue, the program staff concluded that her skills and understanding would be a precious resource for a parent with serious challenges.

Parenting and recovery don't necessarily go together—each demands all your time, all your physical energy, all your brain, and your entire soul. Sue, realizing this relentless truth, made herself a force for positive change in the lives of three parents across three years' time, giving a different aspect of herself to each mom according to her needs.

Sue first mentored Melody. During their time together, Melody completed residential drug and alcohol treatment at the Letty Owings Center and began a new life in an apartment with her infant son and a partner. The partner became abusive in a few months, and Melody had no clean and sober family or friends. She also had serious health problems. Melody wanted a mentor as "a resource for learning clean and sober activities."

Sue has a background in accounting, which proved valuable in helping Melody sort bills for the debts she accrued during her addiction and create a payment plan. Interspersed with this task were sessions playing with Melody's son. Melody had no one else with whom to "ooh" and "aah" over his accomplishments. Another reason Melody appreciated Sue's company during these sessions was that Melody had used drugs during her pregnancy and was therefore vigilant about her son's development. Sue helped Melody celebrate not only the baby's growth but also her own success at abstaining from drugs.

Sue's next experience, with Tracy, was not as positive. Sue stuck by her through treatment, relapse, jail and a work-release program. When Tracy relapsed, Sue switched from visiting Tracy in treatment to visiting her in jail. One way Sue coped with the sadness was to keep her sense of humor and to look at her jail visits as an "opportunity to learn."

The challenges of mentoring did not daunt Sue, but seemed to deepen her commitment. Now Sue is mentoring Lisa. After years of depending on alcohol, Lisa has built a sober support network from treatment peers, acquaintances, co-workers and participants in 12-step meetings. Sue is a strong cord in this safety net.

Lisa says, "Sue is much more than a mentor—we are friends." Sue's style of friendship is not to do things for Lisa, but to do them with her. For example, Sue not merely compliments Lisa, but reinforces her attempts to build her own confidence, working with her on making her new apartment into a home. When Lisa regained full custody of her son, the judge came down from the bench to shake her hand, saying that she had never seen a more successful case, that the client had changed physically and in every other way and should be a role model for others.

Lisa and the other mothers in this story took courageous steps to create family-friendly environments. Sue stood behind them with dependable, practical support for each step. This is not casual volunteer work, but intensive commitment that takes talent and heart—a long-term volunteer job with long-term benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a parent mentor, please contact Sylvia Hart-Landsberg at (503) 231-3571.

Wooster students serve in Portland

EMO is hosting three students from the College of Wooster (Ohio) for EMO's Urban Semester program. During the summer, the students, Nathan Zahn, Bryan Wilson and Andrew Gustave Bonito, will work in placements around the city, focusing on how their job placements relate to the urban environment.

One intern, Gustave Bonito, is working with EMO's public policy department. He hosted his fellow interns for a day at the state Capitol in June. Interns met with Representatives Deborah Kafoury, Diane Rosenbaum, Mary Nolan, Steve March and Jeff Merkley, and Senators Susan Castillo, Verne Duncan and Ginny Burdick. These urban representatives generously devoted time to discussing the students' interests during the fast-paced closing weeks of the session. In addition, the interns spent time observing floor debates and votes.

The Urban Semester program as been a joint venture between EMO and the Urban Studies

Department of the College of Wooster for over 20 years. Students are placed in local businesses and organizations to explore various aspects of the urban setting.

Any business or organization interested in placing a student for future semesters, please contact Rick Stoller at (503) 221-1054.



College of Wooster summer interns (from right) Brian Wilson, Nate Zahn, and Gustave Bonito discuss challenges in the 2001 legislative session with Sen. Verne Duncan, R-Milwaukie and a former member of the EMO board of directors, and Enid Edwards, EMO public policy director.

2001 legislative session update

Collaborative advocacy

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon continues to advocate for just social and economic policies at the Capitol both individually and through several coalitions. EMO collaborates with other faith-based advocates in Salem, including lobbyists for the Oregon Catholic Conference, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Jewish Federation and Church of Christian Science on issues of common interest.

Other coalitions EMO participates in include the Coalition for a Healthy Future, aimed at directing the 1998 tobacco settlement monies entirely to low-income health care; the Oregon Hunger Relief



Enid Edwards
EMO public policy director

Taskforce, which identifies policies that address hunger specifically and poverty generally; the Housing Lobby Coalition, which seeks to expand the state's commitment to preservation and development of affordable housing; the Oregon Health

Action-Expanded Access Coalition, which seeks to increase funding directed to the uninsured and underinsured; and the Oregon Human Services Coalition, which seeks to secure and protect funding for services to Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, and Oregonians (including working families) living in poverty.

By the time you receive this issue of the *Voice*, most of the funding decisions on which EMO has focused will probably have been made. As of this writing, many of our key bills are "parked" in the Joint Ways and Means Committee, awaiting final budget negotiations with the governor's office. The \$600 million budget gap facing legislators this biennium was eased somewhat by the recent decision to shave \$106 million in federal Medicaid dollars from this year's kicker refund. These Medicaid dollars are earmarked for low-income health care, which may affect how lawmakers view the disposition of the roughly equivalent Tobacco Settlement fund. In addition, a number of tax relief measures have yet to be decided, which, taken together, may diminish the state's budget by as much as \$1 billion in the 2003-2005 biennium.

Campaigning for fairness

Continued from page 1

Virginia Robertson, Bishop Edward Paup of the United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Conference and Bishop Paul Swanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, along with other community representatives. The rally followed gatherings for worship that morning at three churches near the Capitol grounds—St. Joseph's Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Approximately 600 people attended the worship service at St. Joseph's Church, where parishioners joined the call for social and economic justice in public policy.

Approximately 350 people attended the two-hour campaign rally in the pouring rain.

Participants represented the interests of a broad coalition that included public employee unions, homeless shelters, food bank networks, seniors, disabled Oregonians, child care advocates, welfare rights organizations, county action agencies, low-income housing advocates, hunger and health care advocates, and rural organizations. Throughout the morning, Oregon senators and representatives, both Democrat and Republican, left floor debates to address the rally and call for restoration of funding for services to Oregon's most vulnerable populations. Before leaving a Senate debate on posting the Ten Commandments in public schools, Senator Frank Shields announced the rally from the floor, saying that he felt that "God would choose today to be outside, with the poor."

Postcards and paper plates

A centerpiece of the campaign was a postcard mailing from churches and other organizations throughout the state—some of which wrote their messages on paper plates, to emphasize hunger in Oregon. At the last count, more than 17,000

postcards and plates had been delivered to state senators, representatives and the governor. Staff from EMO, the Oregon Catholic Conference, the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities and the Human Services Coalition of Oregon helped process and deliver many of the cards. We personally delivered cards to every office in the Capitol, from every district in the state.

Legislative response

The Campaign for Fairness generated visibility in the Capitol for issues that often die for lack of a concerted voice. Wearing our Campaign for Fairness buttons, social services advocates were regularly asked questions such as, "Is the bill you are asking me to support a part of the Campaign for Fairness platform?" We expect to see some of our key requests in the final budget, and we are still working together to advance other pieces of the platform. Specifically, we expect that the Legislature will restore the \$5-a-month cut in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and we hope that \$250,000 will be allocated for a food stamp statewide outreach program that will leverage millions of federal food stamp dollars. In addition, restored funding for senior services is expected.

This extraordinary ecumenical effort has forged important working relationships that will support our policy initiatives in the future. Most importantly, this campaign depended on the efforts of many people. The Oregon Catholic Conference, in particular, provided leadership throughout the effort. Many others contributed time, organizational resources, and their willingness to endure a cold morning in the rain. Without these contributions, there would not have been such a broad-based, highly visible campaign.

*Let's abolish
the
death penalty*

Death penalty initiative filed

Mark Hatfield, Norma Paulus and Dr. Bill Connor have refiled the Life for a Life initiative for qualification on the November 2002 general election ballot. This initiative would replace the death penalty in Oregon with mandatory life in prison, without the possibility of parole, and with restitution to victims' families. The EMO board of directors unanimously supports this initiative, based on our member denominations' national policies, citing:

1. the death penalty's incompatibility with the central themes of love and redemption in the Old and New Testaments,
2. the death penalty's degradation of societies that condone it,
3. the death penalty's failure to deter capital crimes,
4. the death penalty's finality, despite possible future findings of innocence,
5. the death penalty's requirement that we stand in judgment of a human soul, and find that soul to be beyond redemption,
6. the death penalty's high economic cost, and
7. disproportionate application of the death penalty to low-income and minority offenders.

During the coming year, EMO will facilitate safe and respectful dialogue and opportunities for personal discernment and action on the subject of the death penalty. We look forward to supporting the efforts of member denominations to address the issue of the death penalty, and we plan to develop a resource document to assist with congregational discernment. In addition, we will work with others to support an interreligious effort to promote quality education and dialogue on the subject of the death penalty. We welcome your involvement with these activities at any level, and we hope to hear from you. Please watch our Web site at www.emoregon.org for further information.

To contact the Life for a Life campaign headquarters, please call Angela Harris, campaign manager, at (503) 249-1556. Initiative petition sheets are available (in any quantity) upon request to the campaign office. For up-to-date information on campaign events, including Sister Helen Prejean's visit to Oregon in the fall, watch the campaign Web site at www.LifeforLife.org.



International church changes name

On April 6, the international church known since the 1860s as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints officially changed its denominational name to Community of Christ.

The issue of changing the denominational name evolved over a long period of time. There was an expressed desire for a name that more adequately represented the church's theology and mission to "proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace." Community of Christ reflects the denomination's quest to be community builders and emphasizes the centrality of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Murray Smith, pastor of Portland Community of Christ church, stated: "I was a delegate to the world conference of the church when this new name was voted upon. I must say that I am overjoyed at this change because it is much easier to relate to individuals the mission and vision of the local congregation. The Portland congregation is very much involved in community and shares with a number of agencies in providing support to programs that promote the dignity and worth of an individual."

There are approximately 250,000 Community of Christ church members in more than 50 nations.

Farmworker struggle continues

Continued from page 1

The WFJ concluded with a rally at the state Capitol in Salem, where supporters gathered to show their continued commitment to bring together workers and growers in the hopes of just amnesty.



United Methodists suspend boycott

At its annual conference in June, the Oregon-Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to suspend its boycott of NORPAC Foods. The denomination had voted a year ago to support the boycott, which was started by PCUN in 1992. Over the past year, the denomination had been urged by NORPAC and farmers to reconsider its position on the boycott.

The resolution that was passed encouraged the establishment of a private commission to oversee and monitor collective bargaining and related issues. An

internal committee within the denomination was established to assist with these issues as well.

Lutherans continue course

The Oregon Lutheran Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reaffirmed the work of its task force Economic Justice for Those Who Work the Land, at the annual Oregon Synod Assembly held in May. The task force was established in 1997 after debate about how to respond to the NORPAC boycott. The task force was therefore designed to engage the church in the issues of growers, farmworkers and agricultural communities.

The task force has focused its work on housing, direct service, legal status and conflict resolution. The Oregon Synod will continue developing the work of the task force, which it believes is the most constructive means of bringing economic justice to all those who work the land.

New faith and order conference in 2004

A newly formed ecumenical foundation, Foundation for a Conference on Faith and Order in North America, has called on Christian churches in Canada and the United States to gather in 2004 for a Second Conference on Faith and Order in North America.

More than 75 church leaders, pastors, theologians and other religion scholars have signed a statement endorsing the call, said the Rev. William G. Rusch, executive director of the Foundation for a Conference on Faith and Order in North America. The meeting's theme will be "The Church: Its Faith and Its Unity."

"Faith and Order" is the term used in church and ecumenical settings to denote the part of the ecumenical movement devoted to the theological issues that keep churches divided, and to the quest for Christian unity.

Explaining the rationale for the new venture, key organizer and Lutheran theologian Robert Jenson said in a telephone interview, "It is generally recognized that the burst of ecumenical activity that followed the Second World War and then the Second Vatican Council has run out of interest and support in the churches. What we hope to do with this conference is to rekindle that enthusiasm and support in the churches—and perhaps to discover new goals."

A large planning event will be held this fall at Notre Dame, Indiana, to hear reactions to the proposal, gain insights to make the conference successful, identify issues to be addressed in a study process preceding the conference, and identify additional people to be involved in preparations.

Excerpted from a story by Jean Caffey Lyles, press officer, Foundation for a Conference on Faith and Order in North America.

Let there be Light Genesis 1:3



On May 27, at the global warming conference held at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland, more than 50 of Oregon's faith leaders released a statement entitled "Let there be Light: Energy Conservation and God's Creation" in response to the Bush administration's energy policy. A press conference featured presentations by signers Rabbi Stampfer and the Rev. Pat Ross. The Oregon effort is part of a national initiative, in which the leaders of 39 national denominations and organizations representing the Protestant, Jewish and Orthodox faiths have signed on to the statement.

The statement provides a distinctive religious voice on the national energy debate:

Far more than rolling blackouts and gasoline price increases are at stake: the future of God's creation on earth; the nature and durability of our economy; our public health and public lands; the environment and quality of life we bequeath our children and grandchildren. We are being called to consider national purpose, not just policy. . . . We are not scientists, energy experts or policymakers. But this challenge raises fundamental moral and religious questions and we believe the perspectives of faith and values should help shape a national discussion.

"Let there be Light" is supported by the National Council of Churches and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. For more information about the statement, please call the Oregon Global Warming Campaign at (503) 244-8318.

Governor seeks diverse applicants for state boards and commissions

Members of Oregon state boards and commissions are vital participants in policy-making, regulation, advisory and advocacy efforts on a wide variety of issues affecting all Oregonians. Governor John Kitzhaber makes direct appointments to nearly 200 boards and commissions and continually recruits qualified applicants.

Citizens of Oregon, especially those of Black, African American, Native American, Latino/Hispanic and Asian heritage are needed for their skills and knowledge to make Oregon an even better place to live, raise a family and retire. Members are currently being recruited for most boards and commissions in the state of Oregon. Some of those boards and commissions are the

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, the Fair Dismissal Appeals Board and the Governor's Commission on Motorcycle Safety.

For more information, please contact Everette L. Rice, executive director, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, at (503) 945-9008, or contact the governor's office, executive appointments, at (503) 378-3123.

Calendar of Events

July 9 to 19

OSJS Summer 2001 Classes. The Oregon School of Judaic Studies at Portland State University presents a series of classes and workshops, including studies in sociocultural conflicts in and over Israel/Palestine, responses to modernity in the 18th and 19th centuries and more. For further information, call Rabbi Stampfer at (503) 246-8831 ext. 19.

July 14

Jacob Van Auken in Concert. 7 p.m., Beaverton Christian Church, 13600 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton. This free concert is part of the Saturday Nights on the Green at the Beaverton Christian Church Amphitheater, and guests are encouraged to pack a picnic for the concert. For further information, contact (503) 627-0780 or office@bcc.org.

July 14

LOUMStock Peace and Music Event. 4 p.m., Lake Oswego United Methodist Church, 1855 South Shore Blvd., Lake Oswego. LOUMStock, three hours of peace and music with a gourmet box supper, is a fundraiser for the Lake Oswego United Methodist youth mission trip, featuring music by the Flipside Band, Wayne Richards and Southern Nights, Sally Harmon and more. For further information or to purchase tickets, call (503) 636-8423.

July 14

Third Annual Picnic and Lamb Roast. Noon, Camp Angelos, on the Sandy River. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and the Limnes-Portland Association present an afternoon feast of roast lamb and all the trimmings. For tickets or information, call (503) 287-2196.

July 21

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Community Service Day. Canby. Coordinated by The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints in cooperation with the city of Canby and Canby Unified School District. Residents of Canby will have an opportunity to join together in a day of service in the community. Activities will range from outdoor building and landscaping projects to indoor quilting and painting children's toys. For information, contact Larry Blunck, (503) 263-8394.

August 6

From Hiroshima to Hope. 7 p.m., Bathhouse Theatre, Greenlake, Seattle, Wash. This annual commemoration of Hiroshima-Nagasaki and lantern-floating event will remember the victims of nuclear war and give expression to prayers for peace and an end to nuclear war. The event is sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle. For further information, contact Fred Miller at Peace Action, organizer@peaceaction.gen.wa.us or (206) 527-8050.

Jazz Under the Stars coming July 19

Join us on the lawn of the Hopewell House Hospice Center to listen to Dan Balmer and his band on Thursday, July 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. Specialty coffee, gourmet pizza and desserts are included in the ticket price of \$25 per person. Door prizes will be given, and for the first time, silent auction items will be offered. Hopewell House is at 6171 SW Capitol Highway in Portland. Tickets are available from EMO's main office, (503) 221-1054, or from Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890. Proceeds benefit Hopewell House's charity care fund.



August 10

Ray Boltz Anniversary Concert. 7 p.m., New Hope Community Church, 17721 SE Stevens Road, Portland. Ray Boltz celebrates 15 years of concerts with his "Moments for the Heart" concert series. For further information, contact (360) 260-9139 or www.premierproductions.com.

August 12 to 17

Holy Trinity Camp Angelos XV. Camp Angelos, on the Sandy River. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church celebrates 15 years at Camp Angelos, where the annual summer camp welcomes students between the ages of 9 and 15.

August 15 to 18

Wilderness Trip of Perspective. Journey Into Freedom presents four days in the Oregon Cascade Mountains, where there will be no phones, media or noises of daily life, offering a chance to get back-to-basics for community and personal reflection. To learn more, contact (503) 244-4728 or mail@journeyintofreedom.org.

August 16 to 19

Trauma, Spirituality & Healing. Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame, Calif. This interactive conference is designed to provide healing and direction to those who struggle with the profound effects of trauma. The primary emphasis will be on spiritual questions, wounds and journeys initiated by trauma. For further information, call (650) 340-7474.

September 9 to 15

Spaces for the Spirit: Adorning the Church. Menucha Retreat Center, Corbett. First Presbyterian Church, Portland, is offering a one-week workshop on creating art for worship spaces, led by artist Nancy Chinn. For further information or to register, contact Claudia Breese at (503) 638-9327. For further information about Nancy Chinn, visit her Web site at www.nancychinn.com.

October 5 to 6

The Art of Peace 2: Jubilee as Engaging the Powers. Gruenhagen Conference Center, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Wis. This conference, presented by the 2000 Jesus Jubilee and backed by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, will address the issues of powers and principalities presented by Paul in Colossians. Led by Walter and June Keener Wink. For further information, contact (608) 837-3108 or woc@wichurches.org.

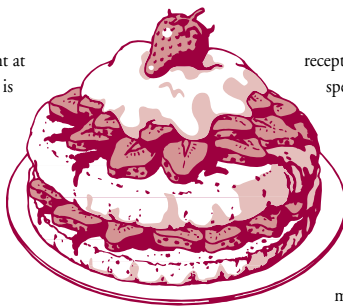
October 22 to November 11

Trips of Perspective. Travel to India to be taught by those who possess little of the world's resources, to gain perspective and have our lives changed. To register or for more information, please call Dale or Esther at Journey into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail journey@teleport.com.

Exceptional catering available for your next event

EMO's food service department at Hopewell House Hospice Center is now offering catering services as Hopewell Catering. Our seasoned staff of professionals specialize in homemade, nutritious cuisine that is tailored to your needs.

Use Hopewell Catering for meetings, luncheons, parties,



receptions and special events. We offer special menus, affordable prices and extraordinary service.

Cut your catering costs and support those in need through Hopewell Catering. To arrange catering service or for more information, please contact Mona Ballard, catering manager, at (503) 244-7890.