

Inside...

Social creed during campaign season, p. 2

Western Climate Initiative update, p. 3

Local community celebrates *World Refugee Day*, p. 4

ROSS awarded funds to expand services, p. 5

Taxing questions & fiscal prophecy, p. 6

Archbishop Tutu 2009 Collins Lecturer, p. 7

Inside ...

2007 EMO Annual Report

Voters' Guide to Ballot Measures

Forums on torture & human rights kick off new phase of Oregon Religious Campaign Against Torture Princeton theologian George Hunsinger speaks in Bend, Eugene and Portland

On July 23 and 24, 2008, Dr. George Hunsinger, the co-founder of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), was the keynote speaker at forums on the issue of torture and human rights held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene and Nativity Lutheran Church in Bend. Hunsinger is also the Hazel Thompson McCord chair of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary and is one of the world's leading scholars on theologian Karl Barth.

Hunsinger explained that he founded NRCAT (www.nrcat.org), after being shocked by the photos documenting torture and abusive treatment by U.S. military

personnel at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. "I waited for a year after those photos were released and saw no expression of moral outrage coming from the religious community with regard to the U.S. use of torture," said Hunsinger. "So, I finally decided I would try to organize it myself."

In all three of his presentations, Hunsinger provided powerful public witness against the use of torture. "Let us be clear that torture is not just one issue among others. It is a profound assault on the dignity of the human person as created by God. It is therefore inherently evil," stated Hunsinger. "In fact, torture is the line that separates democracy from tyranny."

Continued on page 6

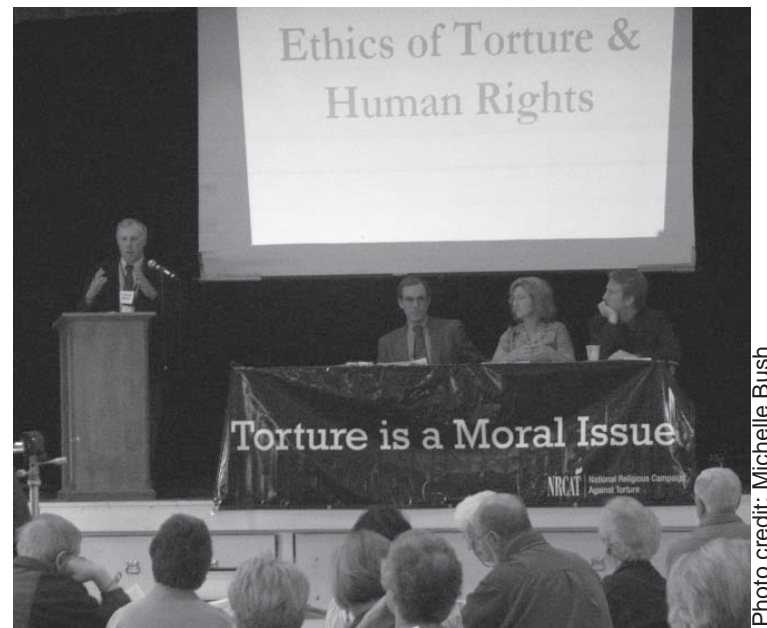


Photo credit: Michelle Bush

A panel discussion at the Portland forum included presenters J. David Kinzie, director of the Oregon Torture Treatment Center (at podium), along with (seated from left) Steven T. Wax, federal public defender for Oregon and author of "Kafka Comes to America"; Alison Brysk, professor at the University of California, Irvine; and Travis Hall, attorney and former Army captain in the Judge Advocate General.

New denominational leadership welcomed

The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris

The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris began serving as conference minister for the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) on Aug. 1, replacing the Rev. John Gantt, interim conference minister for the past two years. With over 28 years of ministry experience, Boris first served as pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Iowa and for the last 13 years at Kirkland Congregational Church in Washington. He has participated extensively in the national UCC, three Conferences, two Associations and the Association of United Church Educators.

Boris is committed to

social justice as shown by his congregation's "tent city" for the homeless and his involvement in founding the Seattle area Interfaith Alliance.



The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris

The Rev. Dr. Louise Barger

The Rev. Dr. Louise Barger began serving as the interim executive minister for the American Baptist Churches of Oregon (ABCO) in June, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Wayne Brown.

Barger is also an adjunct professor at the Denver Theological Seminary in Littleton, Colo. Previously, she served as executive minister of the Rocky Mountain Region, director of leader development for the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania/Delaware and pastor of Third Baptist Church in St. Louis.

The search committee for a permanent ABCO executive



The Rev. Dr. Louise Barger

minister is conducting a national search. They will begin the process of reviewing prospective candidates this fall.

Continued on page 7

Social creed offers vision & guidance during campaign season

It is that time again when we turn our attention to the presidential election, as well as electoral decisions at the local, regional and state



David Leslie

While there has been debate from time to time in the religious community about the appropriateness of Christian involvement in politics, the overarching consensus is that Christians—like all citizens—should be involved in the political arena. How we are involved is important, as are the foundational principles that are the basis for our involvement.

As I know all too well, making informed decisions about the candidates and ballot measures is not always easy. There are a lot of voters' guides and election resources available to assist the prospective voter. I want to turn your attention to two resources in particular during this campaign season.

The first resource is the National Council of Churches' *A Social Creed for the 21st Century*. This creed lays out principles and practices based on the Gospel vision "... that all may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) As the preamble states, "We churches of the United States have a message of hope for a fearful time. Just as the churches

responded to the harshness of early 20th century industrialization with a prophetic 'Social Creed' in 1908, so in our era of globalization we offer a vision of society that shares more and consumes less ... seeks compassion over suspicion and equality over domination ... and finds security in joined hands rather than massed arms."

This new Social Creed helpfully lays out areas of ecumenical commitment and agreement about national and international policies—which can be helpful in determining which candidate or issue to support or oppose. The creed has well-articulated positions on immigration, poverty reduction, military expenditures and human rights. While not telling people whom to vote for, the points in *A Social Creed for the 21st Century* outline important faith values and commitments, which are excellent filters through which to view campaign promises and ballot measure positions.

Another important resource helpful

Being a faithful citizen is more than voting one's self-interests. It is engaging in prayerful acts of deliberation and discernment about the issues of the day.

As you make important decisions during this election season, I invite you to do so in the spirit of the One who calls us to be ever mindful of the needs of others, the life-changing power of justice and the importance of peace in a fractured world.

in making electoral decisions is the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) *2008 Voters' Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures*, which is enclosed in this issue of the *Voice*. Since the 1960s, EMO (and our predecessor organization the Oregon Council of Churches) has published this resource to help Oregon voters better understand the content and impact of statewide ballot measures.

The *Guide* is developed through the hard work of many volunteers and able staff. It combines analysis, discussions with proponents and opponents of each initiative, review of current denominational theological and social teachings, and consideration of previous EMO positions that help inform the current recommendations taken by the EMO Board of Directors. In the

deliberations, we are always mindful of the impact that these measures have on the poor and marginalized in our state, as well as the long-term costs and benefits for Oregon, as guided by the biblical vision of equity, hope and possibility for all.

Being a faithful citizen is more than voting one's self-interests. It is engaging in prayerful acts of deliberation and discernment about the issues of the day. It entails respectful debate with those whose opinions and positions differ. And it demands modeling civil discourse at a time when shrill monologues all too often seem to be the order of the day.

As you make important decisions during this election season, I invite you to do so in the spirit of the One who calls us to be ever mindful of the needs of others, the life-changing power of justice and the importance of peace in a fractured world. May these be helpful guides in making decisions that will impact our state, nation and world—not only today, but well into the future.

"A Social Creed for the 21st Century"

Learn more about "A Social Creed for the 21st Century" and download the bulletin insert format at www.nccusa.org/news/ga2007.socialcreed.html.

Upcoming EMO sponsored & cosponsored events

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) workshops

For more information or to register for workshops, call (503) 221-1054, e-mail ksharinghousen@emoregon.org or download a brochure at www.emoregon.org. Bonneville Power Administration is cosponsoring workshops in McMinnville and Ashland. Oregon Department of Energy is cosponsoring all workshops. Discounts are offered to OIPL Energy Stewardship Covenant congregations and to three or more from the same congregation, if registering at the same time.

September 29

"Save Your Congregation Energy and Money," 12 to 2:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows St., McMinnville, and "Energy Stewardship," 6 to 8:30 p.m., at McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, 544 NE Second St. Geared to the needs of congregations, the afternoon workshop will cover key principles of energy stewardship, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy expenses, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. Topics for the evening workshop include reducing energy costs for homes and businesses, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship. The keynote speaker for both workshops is Doug Boleyn, OIPL's energy consultant, who has over 30 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency and is a member of Energy Trust of Oregon's Renewable Advisory Committee.

October 30

Green Building and Renovations for Congregations. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (registration begins at 10:30 a.m.) at Cedar Hills UCC, 11695 SW Park Way, Portland. This workshop will both provide practical information and inspiration to assist congregations in saving money and caring for the Earth, as they consider renovation and construction projects at their facility.

November 10

"Save Your Congregation Energy and Money," 12 to 2:30 p.m. and "Energy Stewardship," from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at First Congregational UCC, 717 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland (For workshop descriptions, see Sept. 29.)

Other OIPL events

September 25

Climate Justice Training for Clergy and Laity. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Interchurch Center, SW Bancroft and Kelly, Portland. Learn about proposed energy and climate legislation for 2009 and how people of faith can be involved. Jim Edelson, OIPL's policy consultant and member of Governor Kulongoski's Energy Efficiency Committee, will outline challenges and opportunities. ELCA Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke will share perspectives on climate justice as a theologian and member of the Governor's Global Warming Committee. Cost is \$5 to cover the cost of breakfast and materials.

September 30, October 7, 14, 21 and 28

Addressing Global Warming as a Community. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Paulist Center at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 2408 SE 16th, Portland. This workshop is given in collaboration with OIPL. Joy Wallace of the Franciscan Spiritual Center will lead a series of sessions designed for faith communities. Learn how to use NW Earth Institute's "Global Warming: Changing Co2urse" with your faith community in combination with OIPL resources.

Schedule and locations for fourth season of Interfaith Services

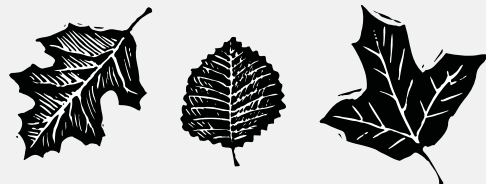
Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland (ICGP), the theme of the 2008-2009 series of interfaith services highlights the transformative power of religion in the world. The services are held on Sundays at 4 p.m., from September through May, at a different location each month. (EMO is a member of ICGP.)

November 16: "Power of Diversity" at Baha'i Beaverton, 5355 SW Murray Blvd., Beaverton.

December 14: "Power of Light in the World"*

January 18: "Power of Reconciliation"*

* Locations to be announced. For updated interfaith service details, check the "Calendar of Events" page on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org.



People of faith call for a just Western Climate Initiative

Since it was announced at EMO's Interfaith Energy and Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day in February 2007, the Western Climate Initiative (WCI)—a collaboration of seven Western U.S. states and four Canadian provinces (representing 49 percent of Canada's population)—is developing regional strategies to address climate change.

In July 2008, the WCI unveiled its final draft of a cap-and-trade system for public comment. The system involves establishing a cap-and-trade market where greenhouse gas emitters who can't meet their cap targets buy emission credits from those below the cap. The amount of allowed emissions is set to decrease over time. The cap encourages efficiency and conservation by rewarding industries that get below the cap and adding costs to high polluters.

People of faith in the western region have been providing valuable input—especially regarding the creation of green job and low income issues—during the drafting of the many elements of the WCI plan. EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) presented over 600 signatures from seven states on the People of Faith for Climate Justice petition at the July 29 San Diego meeting of the WCI. The petition states, "Global warming endangers the life-support systems for all Creation and puts at risk the most vulnerable—those living in

poverty, the elderly, those in ill health and children." The petition's requests include the following:

- Designate a portion of allowances, or revenues from allowance auctions, to assist low-income people in adapting to WCI through intensive energy efficiency programs, transportation alternatives and bill payment assistance.
- Ensure that working people can transition to new green jobs, and that worker retraining is available.
- Include transportation fuels in order to maintain the environmental integrity of WCI and to achieve the lowest cost economy-wide emissions reductions.

The Western Climate Initiative will release its final design for a regional system to reduce greenhouse gases by Sept. 22, 2008. After that, it is up to states to develop legislation or rules to implement the goals of the WCI.

It is important for citizens to help shape legislative proposals before the 2009 Oregon Legislature starts in January. Therefore, OIPL is holding a breakfast training to prepare people of faith for this important pre-session work on Sept. 25, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., at the Interchurch Center, SW Bancroft and Kelly, Portland.

Jim Edelson, OIPL's policy consultant, will discuss proposals to implement the WCI in Oregon and outline ways citizens can be involved. Bishop David Brauer-Rieke, ELCA Oregon Synod, will share as a theologian and member of the Governor's Global Warming Commission. The cost is \$5. For more information and to register, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

Climate stewardship advocacy day planned for March 4, 2009

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, other faith-based organizations and congregations will sponsor the second *Interfaith Energy and Climate Stewardship Advocacy Day* at Willamette University from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 4. The event will bring a moral voice to energy and global warming policy at a critical time. Workshops and keynotes will be held in the morning, and legislative visits will occur in the afternoon.

Call (503) 221-1054 for more information or to be a cosponsor.

Garden nourishes people & community

A new community garden located at Westside Community Church in Corvallis has come into being almost overnight, with support from EMO's Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership's (IFFP) USDA grant.

Since breaking ground in late May, Garden Coordinator Sue Dominguez has found sources of donated seeds, plants, compost and mulch, found

a volunteer to build a garden shed and started to lay an irrigation line. Ten 20' by 20' plots were given out to low-income gardeners by the church and a partner congregation, Iglesia Cuadrangular Emanuel. An equal amount of space is being maintained by volunteers as a community farm. The bounty from this community space will be used in IFFP Corvallis' low-income cooking classes and donated to food banks.

The garden is one of the projects to receive proceeds from IFFP's first annual benefit dinner in May, "Farms Feed Everyone," which raised over \$2,500. At the event, a delicious dinner was prepared by Intaba Liff-Anderson, IFFP community kitchen coordinator, and participants in her recent series of low-income cooking classes, with donations of produce and eggs from five farms in the area. About 130 people attended, enjoying door prizes, live music, and presentations from Dr. Leslie Richards, program evaluator, and Anita Azarenko, farmer at La Mancha Ranch and Brooklane Specialty Orchards. It was an exciting celebration of the community's support for IFFP's projects in Benton County.



Photo credit: Liv Gifford

The gardens at Westside Community Church provide food from a former lawn.



Photo credit: Liv Gifford

A family tends their plot at the community garden located at Westside Community Church in Corvallis.

Making good food available in the heart of the city

This summer, residents of Alder House and guests of the Julia West House (JWH) are getting to know their farmers through the "That's My Farmer!" coupon program. Alder House is a single-resident occupancy building, and the Julia West House (JWH) facilitates a program through which low-income and homeless residents alter their lives through positive action. Both are ministries of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in Portland.

EMO's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) linked FPC's existing farm stand, cooking classes and the "That's My Farmer!" coupons together, so that participants in the cooking classes received the coupons at the completion of the course—improving access to healthy food for people with low incomes in downtown Portland.

In March, IFFP held four cooking classes for guests of JWH and residents of Alder House.

Lisa Bersani, cook at Sisters of the Road Café, taught participants how to use common emergency food box items and fresh produce to create nutritious meals. All meals were prepared in the microwave—the primary means of food preparation available to the participants. Each week, participants took home leftovers and fresh produce and at the end were given utensils, food staples and a microwave-safe pot. This summer, participants were also given coupons to the Her Family farm stand at First Presbyterian.

Through the church's "That's My Farmer!" program, members of the congregation buy coupon books for the farm stand, and 10 percent from each sale is donated to subsidize coupon books for people with low incomes. This year, the congregation raised enough money to distribute more than 20 books so far, supplying nearly \$400 worth of fresh fruits and

vegetables to participants.

Participants and teachers have very positive feedback about the cooking classes and giving out coupons at the end of the course, because it encourages commitment and responsibility and empowers people to purchase healthy food. Many participants have noted that it is normally difficult to obtain food on Sundays, and especially difficult to acquire fresh foods through emergency services. Recently at JWH, one of the participants was in the kitchen cooking kale in her microwave-safe pot from the cooking class! There has been a great deal of interest among other guests and residents who learned about the classes from their neighbors.

IFFP is looking forward to conducting more classes and continuing to promote eating fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as creating new awareness for access for people with low incomes.

Community celebrates *World Refugee Day*

A crowd of displaced Burmese, Sri Lankan, Laotian, Somali, Burundian and other peoples, as well as supporters of refugees, gathered on June 21 in Portland's South Park Blocks to commemorate *World Refugee Day* with a 5K walk and resource fair. "Footsteps to Freedom" benefitted the refugee and immigrant programs of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) and Catholic Charities of Oregon, and honored the nearly 10 million refugees worldwide recognized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The United Nations *World Refugee Day* is celebrated every year in June to commemorate and honor refugees worldwide. Each of these individuals has experienced a "journey to freedom," escaping war-torn homelands, genocide, oppression or persecution, to begin a new life of hope.

Moses Rain, a Burmese refugee who arrived in the United States two weeks prior to the event, spoke of his experience living in a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border and the gratefulness he feels toward the organizations helping him transition to a new life. Since 2000, Rain lived in a camp near Mae Sot, Thailand, and left family members in Thailand and Burma to make the move to Portland. While he appreciated the relative security of the camp and the assistance of non-governmental organizations, he laments the lack of opportunity in the place he called home for so many years.

"Refugee camps provide only food and shelter, no freedom," said Rain. "We live behind bars and receive food rations."

Rain receives assistance from SOAR and spoke to the audience at the resource fair of the impact the organization has had on his life, from guiding him through the maze of the resettlement process to meeting basic needs in his new home.

"I would like to let everyone in Portland know that we are very new to you and your culture. We

have a long way to go to be perfect Americans," Rain told the audience. "Please join with us, guide and support us, and consider us as we work towards a new and better future here."

King Mang Zam, pastor of the Burmese fellowship at City Bible Church in Portland, also praised the work of the sponsoring organizations, drawing an analogy between the towering maples in the South Park Blocks, the network of support from earlier-arrived refugees, and the SOAR, LCSNW and Catholic Charities programs: "I am very grateful that someone planted these trees so we can enjoy this shade."

Each year, nearly 1,400 refugees are resettled in Oregon and southwest Washington through the faith community's support.

For more information about helping support resettled refugees, contact Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees at (503) 284-3002 or soar@emoregon.org.



Photo credit: Carla Starrett-Bigg

Participants at the "Footsteps to Freedom" event pose for a group photo during the 5K walk, which commemorated *World Refugee Day* and raised funds for several faith-based organizations offering assistance to asylum seekers and refugees.

EMO Ministries by the numbers

(April - June 2008)

HIV Services ... Offered 4,377 meals to 166 unduplicated Day Center and Daily Bread Express clients; the Day Center had 1,606 client visits and provided 2,051 therapeutic encounters.

Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial ... Received nearly 11,000 pounds of donated food; supplied three-to five-days worth of groceries to 3,743 individuals.

Portland International Community School ... Graduated 13 seniors in June, the largest number in the school's history.

Russian Oregon Social Services ... Provided 196 Russian-speaking clients with direct services, including assistance to 72 domestic violence/sexual assault clients; eight women received mental health counseling and 15 were given a free mammogram; three clients received rental assistance, 15 dental care, 10 legal assistance and 22 attended ESL classes.

Shared Housing ... Arranged 467 months of housing for 118 households and 133 individuals.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees ... Received 41 refugees and asylees including two from the Former Soviet Union, 41 from Cuba, 10 from Burma, one from Liberia, two from Iran and three from Iraq; six children from Liberia, Afghanistan, Burma and the Former Soviet Union were enrolled in the Multnomah County School Impact Project.

EMO Member Profile: Willamette West Habitat for Humanity Generating home ownership for low-income families

Moldy walls, squishy floors, and a foul odor marked Hector and Alexandra Salcedo-Hernandez's apartment. Antonio, their five-year-old son, suffered frequent asthma attacks. His constant coughing kept him from ever getting a good night's sleep. After treating Antonio several times, a doctor finally urged the family to move out.



Next year, the Salcedo-Hernandez family will move into a new Habitat for Humanity home that they help build.

"We just wanted a safe place we could call home," said Hector.

The family of six turned for help to Willamette West Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit ecumenical organization that seeks to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness. It is dedicated to generating home ownership by building simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with low-income families.

Hector and Alexandria are one of five families accepted by Willamette West Habitat last fall. Not a giveaway program, the Salcedo-Hernandez family will invest 500 hours of their own labor – "sweat equity" – into building their Habitat house and the houses of their neighbors. So far, they have already completed nearly 200 hours. By this time next year, they will move into a home at Vance Place, Willamette West's latest project in Aloha, Ore. They'll finally have a chance to get healthy, experience stability, build equity wealth and have something tangible to pass on to their four children.

Their transformation is only possible with the generous support and dedication of local volunteers, businesses and community members.

To partner with the Salcedo-Hernandez family, or other Habitat families, visit www.wwhfh.org. Together we can build hope, one family at a time!

EMO membership continues to expand

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) welcomes the new members listed below (approved in May and June 2008). Our growing list of members reflects the vibrant community of faith in Oregon and enables us to establish partnerships, so we can better serve the needs of people in our state.

Congregations: Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland; First Christian Church, Vancouver; First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg; r.e.a.l. life church, Hillsboro; and Westside Community Church, Aloha.

Ecumenical Organizations: Habitat for Humanity Willamette West.

Interfaith Partners: Great Vow Zen Monastery, Clatskanie.

For information on how your congregation or faith organization can become a member of EMO, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054,

ROSS awarded funds to expand breast & cervical health education & support

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Russian Oregon Social Services' (ROSS) Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project has received major grants from the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Investment Program and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

The project at ROSS uses educational outreach and treatment support to provide Russian-speaking women in the community with Pap tests, clinical breast exams and mammography. The project's ultimate objective is to raise the mammography rate and lower the rate of breast and cervical cancer in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Russian Oregon Social Services Development Assistant Marcus Harris spoke for Program Manager Yelena Hansen about the grants, "We deeply appreciate the support of these two important organizations. Their support will enable us to reach many people who would otherwise not have access to these tests. These grants also reinforce the longtime support of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation for our programs."

The American Cancer Society's support of \$50,000 begins in September 2008 and runs through August 2010. The Spirit Mountain Community Fund will grant \$25,000 in early

August. Both grants will supplement funding from Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

ROSS has been providing breast health education to an estimated 100,000 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants since 2001. The new grants will allow ROSS to add cervical cancer educational outreach and treatment support to the project; offer survivor support to Russian-speaking women who are battling breast or cervical cancer; extend the project's outreach and support to the large Old Believer community living in Marion County, Ore.; and offer incentives such as bus passes and gift cards to Russian-speaking women, if they schedule and attend mammography appointments.

The new project will also cover the cost of clinical breast exams and mammography for low-income, uninsured Russian-speaking women who are too young to access state-subsidized exams. These enhancements enable the ROSS Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project to be an even stronger voice in the fight against cancer in Oregon and southwest Washington.

For more information about the ROSS Breast and Cervical Health Education and Support Project, call (503) 777-3437.

SOAR welcomes new immigration attorney



In August, EMO's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees hired new immigration attorney/program coordinator, Olivia Horgan, who will supervise the Cuban/Haitian Assistance Program (CHAP) and the SOAR Immigration Service Program.

Horgan brings several years experience of immigration and family law. Most recently, she practiced immigration and family law at Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), a nonprofit agency in San Mateo, Calif., where she represented Spanish-speaking immigrants in restraining order and other family law cases.

"Working for EMO interests me because of my passion for immigrants' rights, which developed from volunteer work with Bosnian refugees," said Horgan. "This passion inspired me to attend law school, where I focused my studies on immigration, human rights and social justice issues."

The Cuban/Haitian Assistance Program aims to specifically assist Cubans and Haitians during their transition of acclimating to U.S. work culture, obtaining employment and gaining self-sufficiency. The program offers SOAR's Cuban and Haitian clients assistance in applying for Employment Authorization Documents, green cards and naturalization. Additionally through CHAP, Cubans and Haitians are offered naturalization classes and an orientation on crime and victimization, including state laws, domestic violence and differences in cultural perceptions on behaviors. The CHAP program is funded by the Department of Human Services Refugee Program.

For more information about CHAP, call the SOAR office at (503) 284-3002.

PICS celebrates largest graduation in school's history

Portland International Community School (PICS) had the largest graduating class in the history of the school, with 13 students graduating on June 2 at Portland State University.

The students' stories testify to the challenges that immigrants and refugees face and to the amazing fortitude of these students. As a group, the students

or their parents came to the United States from Somalia, Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, Russia, Laos, India, the South Pacific and the United States. They speak Somali, Hindi, Haitian, Russian, Spanish and, thanks in part to our program, English. They have amassed over 286 high school credits, held full and part time jobs and attended college classes at Portland Community College.

One of the graduates is a mother of two children. Three of the students were on the Pioneer basketball league, which was featured in an *Oregonian* article earlier this spring. Another came to the United States through a refugee camp in Africa. Nine of the graduates studied at PICS for two or more years.

A program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, PICS serves immigrant and first generation students with a full high school curriculum supported by classes in English as a Second Language. The school is supported by a contract with Portland Public Schools as part of its educational options program.

For information about PICS, call (503) 232-5334 or e-mail sadams@emoregon.org.



The Portland International Community School class of 2008 was the largest in the school's history.

Conference on preventing gun violence will take place at PSU

On Sept. 10, 2008, the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation will host a Conference on Preventing Gun Violence at Portland State University. Conference participants will review the incidence of gun violence in Oregon, explore effective interventions and examine ways to bring this issue back to the forefront of the public's concerns. Conference cosponsors are the Sidney Lezak Project and Portland State University's (PSU) College of Urban and Public Affairs. All members of EMO congregations and other friends are invited to attend the conference.

Speakers will include Bruce Goldberg, MD, director, Oregon Department of Human Services;

Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk; State Senator Ginny Burdick; PSU Professor Mark Kaplan, DrPH; Nina Vinik, legal director, Legal Community Against Violence; a representative from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); and other local and national experts.

Speakers will discuss the risks that gun violence poses to public health; access to guns in Oregon and limiting access by prohibited purchasers; federal and state gun laws; recommendations for reducing gun violence from the IACP and others; how to involve the public in preventing gun violence; and how to engage the media.

In workshops, participants will discuss (1) how to involve the public in preventing gun violence, (2) how to gain traction for interventions at the federal, state and local levels, and (3) forming a coalition to work on gun violence issues.

This conference offers an extraordinary opportunity to hear from local and national experts on gun violence issues and to discuss those issues with other Oregonians concerned about gun violence. Due to significant underwriting, the registration fee is only \$25.

For more information or to register online, please go to www.ceasefireoregon.org/coeflconference.html.

6 Public Policy Advocacy

Taxing questions & fiscal prophecy

EMO Public Policy offers congregational workshops on federal tax policy and Christian social ethics

“As you sow, so shall you reap.”

Galatians 6:8

In 1978, a new anti-tax movement burst into the national news when the state of California passed Proposition 13—a measure that dramatically limited property tax revenues in that state. Two years later, Ronald Reagan was elected president on a platform of “supply-side economics,” which called for reducing the size of government and creating deep cuts in taxes on the wealthy and heralding a new era of “limited government.”

This anti-tax crusade scored perhaps its biggest victory with the election of President Bush, who was strongly supported by anti-tax activist Grover Norquist. The Bush-backed tax packages of 2001 and 2003 enacted reductions in the federal estate tax, reductions in the top income tax rate for high-income taxpayers, and reductions in the tax rate

on earnings from capital gains and dividends. But now many of those same tax cuts are set to expire, and a renewed debate over federal tax policies has emerged.

In this context, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) director of Public Policy is offering to organize congregational workshops on tax policy and Christian social ethics. *Would your congregation like to host one of these workshops?* (See below.)

The “Taxing Questions” workshop examines the budgetary consequences of the Bush tax cuts and also examines current proposals to extend, or eliminate or scale back, the Bush tax cuts. The workshop explores many other taxing questions, including:

- Are there clear religious principles that inform questions of tax justice?
- What does government actually spend my taxes on anyway?

- What are the different sources of federal tax revenue?
- Will the federal budget deficit explode out of control if we don’t raise taxes?
- Do we need some kind of radical change to our tax system?
- Is there a moral obligation to pay taxes?
- What do religious leaders say about taxes?

These workshops are being sponsored by EMO in conjunction with the Oregon Center on Public Policy and the national Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. They can be held anywhere in the state of Oregon.

If you would like EMO to organize one of these workshops for your congregation, contact Kevin Finney, director of Public Policy, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204, or by e-mail at kfinney@emoregon.org.

Religious campaign against torture

Continued from page 1

Hunsinger also asked why President Bush continues to say that the United States never engages in torture. “Is he just lying?” asked Hunsinger. “No, I think it is more complex than that.” He went on to note that in the United Nations Convention against Torture, which the United States has signed and ratified, the prohibition against torture is always linked with the prohibition against “Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.” “Torture,” said Hunsinger, “is just one part of what is prohibited. But this administration has first discarded the emphasis on cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment—so that all that is left is torture itself—and then they have defined torture itself so narrowly, that they now believe they can honestly say that we never engage in torture.”

In addition to Hunsinger, a diverse group spoke at the Portland forum including Steve Wax, the head of the Oregon District Federal Public Defenders office, who recently authored “Kafka Comes to America,” an account of his involvement in defending detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Others included J. David Kinzie, who heads the Oregon Torture Treatment Center; Alison Brysk, professor of political science at UC Irvine; and Richard Amesbury, professor of Ethics and of Religion at Claremont School of Theology.

Rabbi Maurice Harris of Temple Beth Israel in Eugene outlined the Jewish religious foundations of opposition to torture and cruelty. Rabbi Harris is active in the organization Rabbis for Human Rights–North America, which has many useful resources on the issue of torture on their Web site (www.rhr-na.org). He was joined on the afternoon panel by Marge Abbott, immediate past clerk of the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Michael Branch, advisory board member of the Muslim Educational Trust; and Jeff Bachman, the current chair of the board of Amnesty International USA.

A total of nearly 200 people attended the three forums that were held in Portland, Eugene



George Hunsinger addressed issues of torture and human rights at the interfaith forum in Portland.

Photo credit: Michelle Bush

and Bend. The Portland forum was presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and cosponsored by Amnesty International; Jewish Federation of Portland Community Relations Committee; Muslim Educational Trust; National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT); Oregon Area Jewish Committee; and Willamette University Center for the Study of Religion, Law and Democracy.

These speaking events helped to launch Oregon efforts on a number of new religious initiatives to end U.S. use of torture. For example, EMO is working closely with NRCAT to promote a new “Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture and Cruelty.” This campaign calls upon our next president to issue an executive order banning torture, cruelty and inhumane treatment based on six core principles, as detailed in the box to the right on this page.

Expanded involvement of religious congregations and leaders throughout Oregon is being sought for this next phase of the campaign. “Even if you or your congregation have already endorsed the ‘Torture Is a Moral Issue’ statement on the NRCAT Web site,” said Jan Elfers, EMO director of Congregation Relations and Peace Programs, “it is important to go back to their Web site and click on ‘Tell the President to Ban Torture,’ in order to endorse this separate statement of principles.” NRCAT is urging both individuals and religious organizations to endorse the Executive Order declaration at www.nrcat.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is also working with NRCAT in support of new legislation recently introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and cosponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators,

which includes Oregon Senator Ron Wyden. S. 3437, the Restoring America’s Integrity Act, contains three primary provisions. First, it would enact a single uniform standard for interrogation that prevents the use of torture by applying the U.S. Army Field Manual standards for interrogation to the CIA and intelligence community, as well as to the military. Second, it would grant the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to all detainees held in U.S. custody, in a manner consistent with the current practices of the U.S. military. The ICRC is the UN-recognized body responsible for verifying compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture and other international human rights treaties. The third and final provision of the bill forbids the use of outside contractors as interrogators. You can read Senator Feinstein’s speech to Congress upon introducing the bill at www.fas.org/irp/congress/2008_cr/s3437.html.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will be urging Senator Gordon Smith to become a cosponsor of S. 3437, and members of the faith community are encouraged to contact Senator Smith’s office and urge him to cosponsor S. 3437.

For more information about the Oregon Religious Campaign Against Torture, contact Kevin Finney at kfinney@emoregon.org or Jan Elfers at jelfers@emoregon.org.

Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture & Cruelty

- **The “Golden Rule.”** Do not employ any interrogation methods that would be unacceptable if used against Americans.
- **One national standard.** Adopt one national standard for treatment of prisoners.
- **The rule of law.** Acknowledge all prisoners to our courts or to the International Red Cross. Allow prisoners to prove their innocence through a fair and just process.
- **Duty to protect.** Do not transfer any person to countries that use torture.
- **Checks and balances.** Allow Congress and the courts access to information necessary to provide oversight of our detention and interrogation policies.
- **Clarity and accountability.** Hold accountable all U.S. officials who authorize, implement or fail in their duty to prevent the use of torture.



Churches throughout Oregon participated in the “Banners Across America” campaign, including St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Portland.

Photo: Kevin Finney

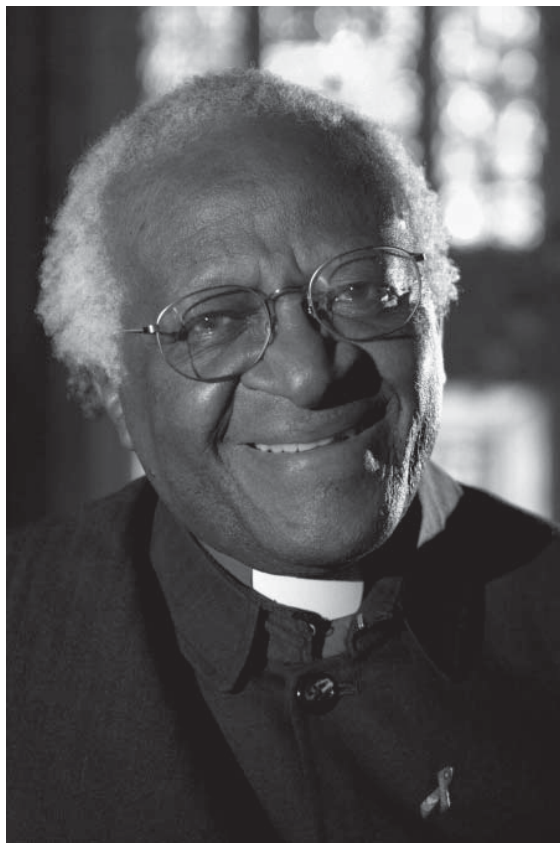
Save the date: Archbishop Tutu scheduled for 40th Collins Lecture

The 40th annual Collins Lecture, presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009, in Portland. The theme is "The Transformative Power of Reconciliation in Society." Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus from Cape Town, South Africa, will be the featured keynote speaker.

Archbishop Tutu has led a formidable crusade in support of justice and racial conciliation in South Africa. His tireless work was recognized in 1984, when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Following a short stint as the Bishop of Johannesburg, Tutu was elected Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986—an office he held until his retirement in 1996.

In 1996, Archbishop Tutu was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—the body set up to probe gross human rights violations during apartheid. Since the presentation of the Commission's report to the president in 1998, Tutu has been the visiting professor at several overseas universities, and he has also published several books.

As they become available, details about the 40th Collins Lecture featuring Archbishop Tutu will be posted on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org. Registration for the event will be available early next year.



For more information about the Collins Lecture featuring Archbishop Tutu, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@emoregon.org.

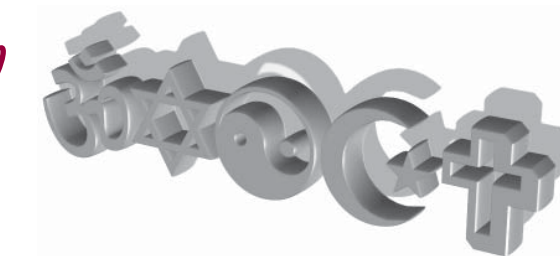
Beyond tolerance: Celebrating shared values and unique gifts at the 2008 Festival of Faith

The 2008 Festival of Faith—organized by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland (ICGP)—will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The third annual event will be held at Portland State University in the Smith Memorial Center (third floor), SW Broadway at Montgomery. This year's theme is "Beyond Tolerance: Celebrating Shared Values and Unique Gifts." David Leslie, executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will be the keynote speaker.

The Festival's purpose is to educate participants about the various world religions in a friendly atmosphere. Practitioners of different faiths teach the classes by offering "basic 101" workshops. This year, eight classes will be taught during three different time periods. The major faith traditions represented in the workshops include Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Classes will also be offered on Mormonism, Scientology, Seventh-Day Adventism, an Experience of Interfaith Dialogue and Dances of Universal Peace. Many of the morning classes will be repeated in the afternoon for those who are unable to attend in the morning due to church services.

In addition to the workshops, the program will include a proclamation of support made by the Honorable Mayor Potter's office, music performances and general interaction between participants. There will also be booths and display tables hosted by various religions that will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions, view literature and establish personal relationships with the representatives of those religions.

In previous years, there has been time for dialogue to explore certain issues of importance, such as how the various faith traditions view other



religions. This year, there will be more opportunities for participants to compare and share their views and to express their hopes for increased acceptance of all within our community—believers and non-believers alike.

The Interfaith Council of Greater Portland was first organized in the aftermath of September 11 by leaders of local religious communities who wanted to make permanent connections between believers of many faiths. The ICGP sponsors events and presents opportunities for people who are interested in interfaith dialogue to gather with other believers from a wide variety of faith communities. The main events sponsored by the ICGP are monthly meetings, interfaith breakfasts and the annual Festival of Faith. The mission statement of ICGP is: "We, the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland, are impelled by the ground of all being to restore wholeness to the one human family and all of creation. The council is organized for the affirmation, education and mutual protection of religion and religious freedom."

The Festival of Faith 2008 embodies these sentiments and promises an opportunity to develop friendships, build bridges and foster positive understanding of each other on a local grass roots level.

For more information, contact Janet Leatherwood at (503) 238-1155 or e-mail her at dmjs1@qwest.net. The ICGP's Web site can be found at www.ifcgp.org. Co-chairs of the ICGP are Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, Gulzar Ahmed and Shanan Gardiner.

Interfaith services begin fourth season

Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland (ICGP), the theme of the 2008-09 series of interfaith services highlights the transformative power of religion in the world. EMO is a member of ICGP. This will be the fourth year of these monthly observances, which gather together people from various faiths to foster an appreciation for the values we share and the unique gifts our diverse traditions offer.

The services are held on a Sundays at 4 p.m. from September through May, located at a different venue each month. The first service of the year will be held on Sept. 21 at the Church of Scientology, 709 SW Salmon St., Portland. More information about the services is listed under "upcoming events" on page 2.

New denominational leadership

Continued from page 1

The Rt. Rev. Sandy Hampton

At the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon in April, The Rt. Rev. Sandy Hampton joined the interim administrative team as assisting bishop, after the resignation of Bishop Johncy Itty. Hampton was ordained

in 1966 and served in Illinois, Utah, Oregon and Maryland. In 1988, he was elected Bishop Suffragan of Minnesota. He was appointed assistant bishop of the Diocese of Olympia in 1996 and retired



The Rt. Rev. Sandy Hampton

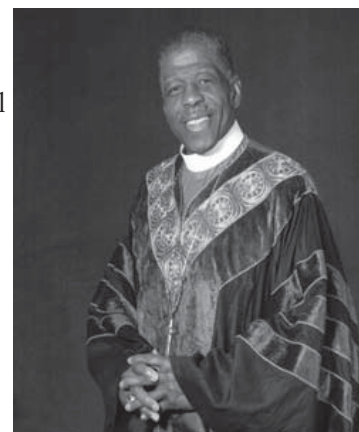
from that position in 2003. Since then, Hampton serves a congregation in Oak Harbor, Wash. and is a chaplain to the retired in the Diocese of Olympia.

Bishop Sandy spends two weeks a month at the Bishop's Close in Portland. He works closely with the other members of the Standing Committee, Board of Trustees, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Staff to help pave the way for the consecration of a new bishop. The committee has set a goal of holding their electing convention in November '09.

The Rt. Rev. T. Larry Kirkland, Sr.

The Rt. Rev. T. Larry Kirkland, Sr. is the newly appointed presiding prelate of the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. In July,

Kirkland was appointed during the district's general conference. Since 1996, Kirkland has served as the 114th Bishop of the AME Church. During that time, he was assigned to the 17th District, encompassing several countries in Southern Africa, and the 9th District of Alabama. He also served as the ecumenical officer for the denomination.



Prior to being elevated to the Episcopacy, Kirkland was the first pastor of Brookins Community AME Church located in Los Angeles—where he grew the mission church of 12 borrowed members to a congregation of more than 8,000 during his 20-year tenure.

8 Development & Fundraising

Honor and memorial gifts

Gifts in Honor March – July 2008

In honor of Rocky Blumbagen
Otto Blumbagen

Gifts in Memory March – July 2008

In memory of Engracia Diez
Alberto Diez

In memory of Michael B. Farmer
Dan Blair

*In memory of Howard Fowler and
Joan Fowler Seger*
Donald J. Barrett

In memory of Dorothy Frantz
Barbara A. Olson

*In memory of
Robert Oga*
Rosendo J. Pont

*In memory of
John F. Richard*
Helen Richard

*In memory of
Alan Robertson*
Mary A. Lynch

In memory of Ron Taylor
L. Fraser Rasmussen

*In memory of Katherine K.
Weidkamp*

Richard A. Brown
Kenneth M. Weidkamp



EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Board of Directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO's ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the Spring issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Alpine Mortgage	HIV Day Center
American Baptist Church, National Ministries	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
American Cancer Society	Russian Oregon Social Services
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon	2008 Annual Fund
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	HIV Day Center
Bullitt Foundation	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Cedar Hills United Church of Christ	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Community of Christ, Greater Pacific NW	2008 Annual Fund
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	2008 Annual Fund
Dell USA	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
DocuMart Copies & Printing	2008 Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon	2008 Annual Fund
Energy Trust of Oregon	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon	2008 Annual Fund
The Equity Foundation	HIV Center
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	2008 Annual Fund, Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Harrang Long Gary Rudnick Law Firm	2008 Annual Fund
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	2008 Annual Fund
Income Property Management	2008 Annual Fund
Jackson Foundation	Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership
Kiwanis Club of Portland	HIV Day Center
Northwest Christian College	2008 Annual Fund
Opus Northwest, LLC	2008 Annual Fund
Oregon Center for Public Policy	Public Policy Advocacy
Oregon Food Bank	2008 Annual Fund
PGE Foundation	HIV Day Center
Presbytery of the Cascades	2008 Annual Fund
Pride Foundation	HIV Day Center
Providence Health Services	HIV Day Center
The Regeneration Project	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Regional Arts & Culture Council	Portland International Community School
Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving	Shared Housing
SEIU Local 503	2008 Annual Fund
ShoreBank Pacific	2008 Annual Fund
Spirit Mountain Community Fund	Russian Oregon Social Services
Susan G. Komen for the Cure	Russian Oregon Social Services
Synod of the Pacific (Presbyterian)	Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership
United Methodist Church, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference	2008 Annual Fund
United Way of the Columbia-Willamette	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
USI Northwest	2008 Annual Fund
Women's Care Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services

The Collins Challenge

The time to give is now

We are happy to report that in spite of the downturn in the economy, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) supporters have brought us over \$55,000 in new and increased giving so far this year. When we reach the \$70,000 mark, the Collins Foundation will match these gifts with another \$70,000.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's work is more important than ever in the tough economic times that disproportionately affect people most in need. Our profound thanks to our many donors for their continued faithful partnership in EMO's work. If you haven't yet made the decision to give, we encourage you to consider doing so before Nov. 1 to be part of the Collins Challenge.

The Annual Fund supports EMO's general operations and is used to support new and ongoing programs and initiatives. Through this challenge grant, the Collins Foundation encourages all EMO supporters to join them in our work in bringing the faith community together for service, dialogue and practical work addressing the pressing issues of the day.

Since 1947, the Collins Foundation has been supporting religious, charitable and educational needs in the state of Oregon. The Collins Foundation has a rich history of supporting community organizations like EMO.

For more information on the challenge grant, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

**Help EMO reach the goal of raising \$70,000
for the Collins Foundation challenge grant.
Double your gift today!**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
 Other _____

Please send your gift to:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B,
Portland, OR 97239. You may also make a credit card donation
over the phone by calling EMO at (503) 221-1054
or make a secure on-line donation at www.emoregon.org.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Publisher:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
David A. Leslie, *executive director*
Michelle Bush, *graphic designer, editor*

Telephone (503) 221-1054

Fax (503) 223-7007

www.emoregon.org

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • American Baptist Churches of Oregon
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) • Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of the Brethren • Community of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon • Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Greek Orthodox Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)–Presbytery of the Cascades • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches