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Interfaith service marks eve of Million Mom March

On Mother's Day, May 14, the crowd in downtown Portland was more than double predictions. Five thousand Oregonians from across the state gave up traditional Mother's Day brunches and family celebrations to show solidarity with other moms and honorary moms in a rally promoting gun safety legislation. Other Oregonians marched in Eugene or Ashland, and marches were held in 65 cities across the United States.

More than 50 faith groups sponsored the Washington, D.C., rally, which drew 500,000 people. Among the groups were the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Baptist Churches, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church, the National Council of Catholic Women, the American Jewish

Leaders and readers from numerous traditions—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Native American, and Buddhist—read from texts significant to their faith or spiritual practice, or poems that expressed their concerns about children's safety.

Following a welcome and opening from Rabbi Emanuel Rose of Temple Beth Israel and a song about peace sung by Cantor

Judith Schiff, Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, read from *Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action*.

"We can turn away from violence; we can build communities of greater peace," she read. "It begins with a clear conviction: respect for life. . . . We believe silence and indifference are not options for a community of faith in the midst of such pain."

"We believe silence and indifference are not options for a community of faith in the midst of such pain."



John Schultz

Timothy Erickson, Skyler and Brock Knapp, and Paul Erickson hold the EMO banner at the Million Mom March, which EMO co-sponsored.

Committee, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the National Council of Churches.

Portland's participation began the night before Mother's Day with a candlelight worship called "Prayers for our Children's Safety." The interfaith worship, hosted by Temple Beth Israel and organized by EMO and the Million Mom March, drew people from Salem, Talent and the Portland area to a service of healing and hope.

The Rev. Dr. Héctor López, conference minister for the United Church of Christ, read from children's letters to God and spoke passionately about the need to control the sale of guns. Shafia Monroe, speaking on behalf of Imam Shabazz of the Muslim Community Center of Portland, read from the Quran about the importance of attending to neighborly needs. She also spoke about her personal experience with

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Patton Home's tradition of caring

Former board members recall hard work and the reward of caring

Patton Home, located at 4619 N Michigan Ave. in Portland, represents the best of Oregon's history. Built in 1890 with money raised by 29 women, on land donated by a pioneer who herded his sheep along the Oregon Trail, Patton Home was managed for over a century by Portlanders who lived out a tradition of helping others.

The charity that marked the home's beginning continues today. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's \$6.1 million renovation, made possible through generous donations from foundations, individuals, congregations and others, will improve the comfort and quality of the home's 64 rooms for low-income, special needs residents and also provide space to community groups.

But it started with pioneer Mathew Patton. After settling in the Portland area, Patton set out for California to mine for gold and came home rich. With the \$10,000 he earned, he started what became a thriving iron mining business. In 1888, Patton offered any organization willing to accept the challenge a full block of land, free of charge, if the group could build a home for the "aged, friendless, and others" within a year, at a cost of \$1,000.

A home for the friendless

The Ladies Union Relief Society of Albina accepted the challenge. One year earlier, the women had formed a group whose purpose was to "provide food, clothing and fuel for the poor, friendless, orphaned and erring in our midst." Though Albina was a struggling village north of Portland then, the women raised the money by organizing parties, taffy socials, picnics and balls. They even charged each other penalties to raise the funds: each woman was fined ten cents for missing a meeting, for failing to attend to committee duties, or for failing to have any necessary materials at a meeting.

Granted a time extension from Patton, the women raised the \$1,000 and had the home built within two years. There was room for six residents. Additions made during the following years added a spacious

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It's all about vision

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

In Oregon, we seem to be struggling with this vision thing. Specifically, we are struggling with the essence of vision, namely the future and how we will justly relate to one another as members of the human community.

During this season of initiative politics, several initiatives that have been filed by Oregon Taxpayers United (Bill Sizemore, et al.) and Don McIntire clearly demonstrate just how serious this lack of clarity about the future is. Initiative 10, Initiative 88 and Measure 88 are designed, according to the drafters, to provide "tax relief" and "limit government . . . to the benefit of the people."

Initiative 10 makes federal income taxes fully deductible on Oregon personal and corporate income tax returns. This is a very enticing initiative because it appears that this "tax relief" measure will benefit many Oregonians, but alas, the vision is simply a mirage. Not only will the benefits be limited both in scope and number of people positively impacted, many Oregonians, while maybe not perishing, will suffer.

First consider the benefits. According to current analysis, a family of four with a combined income of \$40,000 will receive a \$1.66 per month tax break, or \$19.92 per year. For people making \$200,000 this amount is projected to increase to \$326 per month, or \$3912 per year.

Now consider the costs. If this initiative passes, the impact is swift

and immediate. According to current estimates from the Legislative Fiscal Office, reductions in state spending would be more than \$630 million in the 2000-01 state budget. These cuts will have to be implemented in the last six months of the biennium, or between January and June 2001.

The impact does not end in June 2001. Starting in the 2001-03 biennium, approximately \$1 billion will have to be cut from the budget each year. Given the nature of our state budget, many of the reductions will be focused on already under-funded programs serving children, indigent people in need of basic health care, people with disabilities and other Oregonians needing our public support. As the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported, Oregon is one of the "hungeriest states in the nation." It is distressing to think about the state of affairs if Initiative 10 passes.

Initiative 10 is just one measure that will adversely affect Oregon. Initiative 88 (sponsored by Don McIntire) would also limit state spending. If approved, the state would be limited to spending approximately \$26.7 billion, a reduction of \$5.7 billion off the projected \$32.4 billion anticipated budget for the 2001-03 biennium. While possibly hard to believe, the impact of Initiative 88 would be more draconian than Initiative 10.

At a recent community forum co-sponsored by EMO addressing these initiatives, state Sen. Verne Duncan (R-Milwaukie) spoke on just how visionless these initiatives really are. The senator said, "They are about me and now, taking us backwards. They

will be devastating to the people of Oregon . . . bad, bad public policy bordering on the reckless."

The EMO board of directors agrees with the senator's assessment. These measures are too extreme, unfair and extremely regressive, disproportionately benefiting the wealthy at the cost of the poor. In this year of Jubilee, people are focused on God's vision for the world and contemplating what it means to live more fully into the scriptural mandates that call us to support one another, lift up the needs of the oppressed and release the bonds of debts. This also is the basis for our opposition to these initiatives, and I invite you to work against them. For these initiatives are not about the vision of community and about people discovering their God-given potential but visionless movements that will adversely impact life and cause dreams and visions to perish.

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



David Leslie

University of Portland honors Mary Jo Tully

At its graduation ceremony last month, the University of Portland honored Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, "for educating others in the brilliant light of Christ's life and story."

Tully was noted for serving cardinals, archbishops and bishops with "rare distinction, discretion, and dash." She was also honored for her "clear and passionate prose" that has been "read by millions of Catholic men, women and children."

Mary Jo Tully has been chancellor of the archdiocese since 1990. She has served on the EMO board of directors since 1991 and is a member of EMO's Interfaith Work Group. She is the author of a series of religious education textbooks and has worked to further understanding between the Jewish and Catholic faith communities. She has been involved in church ministry since she was 17.

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon welcomes the Rev. Gregg and says farewell to Bishop Kimsey

In May, the Rev. William O. Gregg, rector of St. James Episcopal Church in New London, Conn., was elected the sixth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. Gregg, 49, will be ordained/consecrated in late September. He will succeed the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, who retired June 20.

Gregg is a native of Virginia and has been a priest since 1978. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and holds a master's degree in Medieval English from Boston College and master and doctoral degrees in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame.

In response to his election, Gregg said, "To be called to be a bishop is daunting. To be called by the people of eastern Oregon is a gift and blessing of immense joy. I am deeply grateful to God and to the diocese. The Diocese of Eastern Oregon is a wonderful and healthy community of faith. I know that God will equip us for a great adventure together. My family and I look forward to getting to know and work with the people of eastern Oregon."

There are 23 congregations and about 3,700 Episcopalians in the diocese, which includes all of Oregon east of the Cascades and Klickitat County in Washington.

On June 20, the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey retired from his 20-year role as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. A sixth-generation Oregonian who was born in Bend and raised in Hermiston, Kimsey was elected the fifth bishop of the diocese in 1980.

During his two decades as bishop, Kimsey furthered the cause of ecumenism in numerous ways. Throughout that time he served on the EMO board of directors, and he worked within his denomination to enhance relationships and sharing that further understanding and common ministry between the Episcopal Church and other denominations. In February, EMO presented him with the Ecumenist of the Year Award at its annual celebration. As he accepted the award, he said that at the heart of his ecumenical understanding was an "abiding belief that whatever truth there is for me . . . dwells in you. For me to stand in the light of truth, I must stand in the light of you."

Kimsey chairs the Episcopal Church USA's Standing Commission for Ecumenical Relations. His reflections on his time as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon will be printed in the October *Voice*.

voice

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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 • *Designated Member*: Church Women United

Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate

Vengeance is a quick fix to frustration and hurt, and hate can trap people and nations in patterns that perpetuate the damage. Forgiveness, on the other hand, is neither quick nor easy. But it is a powerful path to liberation.

In a world where newspaper headlines often announce conflict, we rarely hear the stories of reconciliation that Michael Henderson tells in *Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate*. From South Africa to Oregon, from nations to individuals, Henderson gives numerous examples of the transforming power of forgiveness.

The key is seeing the other—whether oppressor or victim—as a human being. In *Forgiveness*, Terry Anderson, an AP bureau chief kept hostage for nearly seven years in the Middle East, said that at first he hated his captors, but that as he listened to their stories, they slowly became people to him. During days of looking at “nothing but a blank wall” he began to understand his own motives and actions, and to “move beyond hate.”

Most remarkable are the stories from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, where people subjected to torture were able to forgive their torturers. Henderson also includes stories of men

who once persecuted South Africans, asked for forgiveness, then become activists in reconciliation efforts.

In *Forgiveness* we also read about historic apologies by institutions and governments to the people who suffered because of hurtful policies. Pope John Paul II is noted for his apologies to Jews, Muslims, Native Americans and African Americans. And Australia is shown as a model of the way many sectors of society—government, churches and other organizations—can collectively apologize. About 400,000 people signed apologies to Aborigine citizens for more than a century of removing children from Aborigine homes so the children could be raised by non-Aborigine families.

Oregon's most notable apology is also presented in the book: the Day of Acknowledgment on April 22, 1999. Nearly 1,000 Oregonians met in Salem to celebrate the Legislature's signing of a resolution acknowledging the state's history of discrimination, a history that included an exclusionary act in 1849 making it illegal for “Negroes and mulattoes” to live in the old Oregon Territory. The Legislature and the many diverse groups of people who attended the Day

of Acknowledgment ceremony made a commitment to a future of equality and mutual respect.

The Day of Acknowledgment was only a beginning. Oregon Uniting, the organization that spearheaded the event, has organized ongoing dialogues for further reconciliation and has initiated a Marking History Project that involves designating sites in Oregon where significant strides in interracial or intercultural reconciliation have occurred. Recent acts of racism—anti-African American graffiti at Portland State University and anti-Native American racial slurs during a public hearing on the future of the Snake River dams—make clear that the healing process has only begun in Oregon, and much work lies ahead.

Henderson closes his book by encouraging us to consider the steps we can take, small or large, to “jettison the baggage” of resentment we still carry with us. He asks us to consider how we can personally meet the “challenge of forgiveness.” Judging from the examples in his book, the challenge is more than worth meeting.

To order Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate, call 1-800-895-7323 or e-mail hbbooks@teleport.com.

Patton Home builds on tradition of caring

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porch in 1891, then extra rooms in 1894, 1910, and 1926. A 1958 addition brought the total number of rooms to 64.

The Albina women who built the original structure “were thinking of the sailors,” said former Patton Home board member Elizabeth Howells. She explained that when Patton Home was built, there was no I-5 and there were few, if any, buildings between the hill Patton Home is built on and Swan Island, where boats were docked. The Albina women wanted to build a home “for anybody who didn't have one . . . down the hill.”

Playing God

At one time, said Ruth Harris, who served on the Patton Home board from 1960 to 1980, Patton Home faced the Willamette, so residents could “look over the river.”

Harris, now 95, remembers running Patton Home “on a shoe string.” She and the other women who formed the volunteer “working board” of Patton Home did just about everything. When the board had a meeting at the home, they joined the residents for lunch, then stayed all day to work. “I learned a lot about roofing and other things,” Harris said, adding that managing Patton Home had been a great learning experience.

For a couple years Harris also handled admissions to the home. “My daughter used to ask me if I was “going out to play God again,” she said, laughing. Harris added that sometimes the residents she had concerns about admitting turned out to be “top Susans” and others she thought would be great residents “fell by the wayside.”

“It was a very good time in my life,” Harris said of her 20 years on the Patton Home board. “I loved every minute of it.” It was especially gratifying that the residents “felt they were loved,” she said. “And they were.”

High teas and lawn parties

Former Patton Home board member Jack Parker remembers lawn parties in July, where Beaverton's American Legion Band performed. Board members

and relatives of residents brought pot luck dishes, and the Patton Home cooks made barbecue. He also remembers the board members hosting fancy teas each spring and winter.

Elizabeth Howells remembers a birthday party once for a resident who turned 100. She also remembers a resident who enjoyed carving on the big chestnut tree in the yard. “He loved to take his knife and whittle on the bark,” she said. She used to worry that he'd kill the tree, but it's still there. And, she added, it's over 100 years old.

Eventually the women on the board “hauled our husbands in,” said Howells. For several years, the board of Patton Home was composed of six couples. Like the women who managed the home in its earliest days, the couples handled most of the home's activities and needs, redecorating rooms and purchasing needed equipment. “When Patton Home needed new curtains in the bathrooms,” said Howells, “I made them.”

“It was homey,” she said. Home is a word that comes up often when people talk about Patton Home. One of Ruth Harris's strongest memories is that Patton Home residents who left the home for the day always said, when they returned, “It's so good to be home again.”

Keeping traditions, coming home

Parker said he'd driven by Patton Home recently and that the renovation is “impressive on the outside.” He thinks the renovation will “greatly improve the quality of the rooms.” He also looks forward to other improvements when the renovation is completed: a brighter sun room and a new chapel that will provide a separate space for worship services.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, which purchased Patton Home in 1991, has formed a Patton Home Redevelopment Committee to spearhead the capital campaign and renovation. The committee is composed of former Patton Home board members, as well as business, community and religious leaders. Co-chairs are EMO board member the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr. of Allen Temple Christian Meth-



Gary Logsdon

Co-chairs of the Patton Home Redevelopment Committee, from left to right: the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr., Bonny Groshong, and Ron Means

odist Episcopal Church; former EMO board president Bonny Groshong; and EMO Foundation member and former EMO treasurer Ron Means.

The renovation of the home's exterior is almost completed, with siding made to resemble the horizontal “ship-lap” siding shown in an 1894 photo of Patton Home. When completed this fall, Groshong says, Patton Home will have fully insulated interior and exterior walls and new double-pane windows, and each room will have an individually controlled heater. The home will also offer a newly remodeled community room with a kitchen. New bathrooms are also being built.

Patton Home, notes Groshong, is about more than a building. It's about people and community. Many of the current residents who have been living at the MacDonald Center or the Terrace during the renovation, she said, eagerly await the renovation's completion. They are, she says, ready to “come home.”

To find out how you can support the Patton Home renovation, call Gary Logsdon at (503) 221-1054.

NEFP's Christmas in July, new cooler

This month, EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) is hosting its seventh annual Christmas in July food and fund-raising drive. Participating congregations have posted trees in their churches and hung paper ornaments on them naming items that NEFP clients need. This year the Northeast Broadway Business Association has adopted the project for its street fair on July 15.

In April, NEFP purchased and installed a new walk-in cooler that increases by a ton the amount of food available each week to families in crisis. People can now receive fresh produce along with canned and boxed goods. The \$9,000 cooler was a gift from Portland's St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Parent Mentor's Daily Points of Light

On March 15, the Points of Light Foundation awarded EMO's Parent Mentor Program a Daily Points of Light Award for its "positive and lasting contribution to the lives of others." The program has also received significant funding recently from the Fred Meyer Foundation, the Templeton Foundation, the Women's Care Foundation, Portland Women's Union, and the Hoover Family Foundation. The program also receives ongoing support from the Collins Foundation, which provided the initial funding to start the program in 1996.

The 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. The program matches mentors with mothers leaving the Letty Owings Center, the Salvation Army's White Shield Center and Raphael House's Transitional Housing Program.

Linfield students honor Old Town Clinic

At its closing convocation on May 27, the senior class of Linfield Good Samaritan School of Nursing presented a gift of \$500 to EMO's Old Town Clinic. The award recognized the valuable education the students received from Linfield instructor and Old Town Clinic family nurse practitioner Linda Eddy on the care of homeless and other disadvantaged populations. It also honored Old Town Clinic nurse Pat Winter's outstanding support for Linfield students who worked at the clinic for their senior practicum.

Old Town Clinic, located at 219 W Burnside St. in Portland, serves about 6,000 homeless and low-income people each year. The clinic provides medical care, housing and social service referrals, mental health counseling, medication management, and TB tests.

ROSS receives funding

EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) has been awarded a \$67,000 grant from Multnomah County to continue assisting women and children affected by domestic violence and educating people about relevant family law issues. Combined with the county's \$25,000 commitment last fall, ROSS will receive a total of \$92,000 a year from Multnomah County for five years. The mental health and domestic violence services are offered in partnership with Lutheran Family Service and Catholic Charities.

ROSS's bilingual staff members have worked closely with Multnomah County to offer assistance and advice in the area of domestic violence services. On April 14, the county's Citizen Involvement Committee presented ROSS Program Manager Yelena Sergeyeva with a volunteer award in recognition of her "exemplary contribution of time, ideas, creativity and participation to enhance Multnomah County."

Innovative collaboration enhances hospice care at Hopewell House Hospice Center

Since 1991, EMO's Hopewell House has been an important resource for patients with terminal illness and their families, offering them compassionate medical services, family support, and spiritual care in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. In recent years, Hopewell House has also become a resource for the community, bringing clergy, caregivers, volunteers, and community members together for education and dialogue on end-of-life care.

On June 15, Hopewell House took an exciting step toward a vision of expanded patient care, family services, and community education opportunities through an innovative collaboration between EMO and a leading home hospice provider, Legacy Visiting Nurse Association (LVNA). To better represent the collaborative vision of both organizations and Hopewell's expanded services as a premier hospice center in the Northwest, Hopewell House will now be called Hopewell House Hospice Center: A Program of Legacy Visiting Nurse Association and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

"This is an exciting moment for us at EMO and a defining moment in the history of Hopewell House as a community resource," said EMO Executive Director David Leslie. "It marks the creation of a dynamic collaboration between two very different organizations, combining skills and talents for the benefit of hospice patients, community members, and caregivers throughout the Northwest."

Medical services, access expand

As part of the collaboration, LVNA will assume responsibility for inpatient medical services, bringing a new depth of resources and expertise to controlling each patient's pain and discomfort and managing each patient's medical needs according to an individualized care plan. Staffing will be an LVNA responsibility as well, with most Hopewell medical staff becoming LVNA employees.

LVNA's participation in this collaboration will, for the first time, help accomplish the long-hoped-for goal of allowing Hopewell House Hospice Center patients to access the federal Medicare hospice benefit, available to all adults over 65. This opportunity, coupled with the increased flexibility and depth of LVNA's staffing resources, means that the Center will be able to serve 30 percent more patients than has been possible in recent years.

EMO's central role

"EMO will continue to play a central role at Hopewell House Hospice Center," said the Rev. Melinda Smith, EMO's director of compassionate care. "We will, of course, provide the Hopewell House facility and food service for patients and families. But EMO will also dedicate increased funds for charity care so that more unfunded or underfunded patients can be served than ever before."

EMO will coordinate and maintain the Center's active volunteer program, recruiting and training volunteers for service in the areas of patient care, spiritual care, and bereavement support, among others. EMO will also provide more opportunities for community learning and involvement in hospice care and end-of-life issues.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this collaboration is the opportunity it gives EMO to expand our community education and outreach," Smith said. "We will be offering more classes and workshops, not just in the Portland area but around the state, for clergy, caregivers, and community members. And we will be able to sponsor outreach opportunities like Compassion Sabbath, which will raise awareness of terminal illness and hospice care in faith communities." (See calendar on back page.)

Together, both EMO and LVNA will provide internships, practicums, and service learning opportunities to students in medical, social service, and spiritual care fields.

Seeds of Change helps refugee women run businesses

A new opportunity provided by EMO's refugee and immigration ministries, Seeds of Change, helps refugee women establish businesses in their homes. It also helps the women develop the skills they need to improve self-esteem and "navigate the community," said Kristin Eccles, who directs Seeds of Change.

The program pairs refugee women with established businesswomen who volunteer to work with the refugees for a year, assisting them in business development. Seeds of Change also offers classes in basic business skills and self-esteem. So far ten women have enrolled in the program, which is open to refugees receiving noncash public assistance who have lived in the United States a year or more.

Seeds of Change has been especially helpful for women who manage large families. For some, paying for day care services so they can work at a minimum wage job outside the home is not only unprofitable but also conflicts with their religious and/or cultural practices or beliefs.

The women enrolled in Seeds of Change now operate businesses in day care, bookkeeping services, sewing, cake decorating, and selling nutritional supplements and environmentally friendly cleaning supplies. Most have come to



Nataliya Koval brings sewing skills she learned in the Ukraine to her home-based business. "Sewing by Nataliya."

Portland from the former Soviet Union, though some come from Bosnia and Rwanda. The businesswomen offering them mentoring assistance also come from diverse countries, including Uganda, Rwanda and Japan.

Seeds of Change operates through Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), a part of EMO's refugee and immigration ministries. Located at 5404 NE Alameda Drive in Portland, SOAR resettles between 800 and 1,000 refugees a year.

Princeton survey shows mainline Protestantism has strong public voice

American mainline Protestantism has not lost its political voice—nor has it surrendered the field to conservatives, according to a new study by Princeton University.

At the center of the struggle for political reform over the years, especially for civil rights and against the Vietnam War, mainline involvement has been overshadowed by more conservative religious groups, leading some observers to conclude that the churches have lost their voice.

“The perception that religious groups are really only interested in conservative issues is not true,” said Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow, an Episcopal layman who directed the study. “Progressive issues do seem to be of enormous importance to people,” he said.

The study by the Survey Research Center found that more than three-quarters of the public believe that religious groups should take a more active role in raising awareness of racial discrimination, giving the poor a voice in public affairs, protecting the environment and promoting a greater sense of community responsibility.

For example, six in 10 people surveyed said that they were “quite interested” in legislation to protect the environment and in “social policies that would help the poor.”

The survey showed nearly as much interest in the issues of “overcoming discrimination against women in our society,” and for “achieving greater equality for racial and ethnic minorities in our society,” as well as “government policies to promote international peace.”

“We have too often assumed that mainline Protestants are politically dormant,” Wuthnow said. “These results show they are politically interested and active.”

He noted that the public “wants churches to be taking a more active role at the local level but is less keen on religious groups exercising influence at the national level.” Yet he underscored the potential for alliances on the local level among liberal Protestants, African American churches, Roman Catholics and Jews on such issues as protecting the environment and overcoming social injustices.

*Excerpted from a story by James Solheim
Episcopal News Service*

EMO will publish a ballot measure guide in the fall edition of the *Voice*. Copies of the guide will be available in September by calling (503) 221-1054. EMO can also arrange to have speakers make presentations on the ballot measures at your congregation's adult education classes.

EMO urges support of Hunger Relief Act

The Hunger Relief Act, backed by President Clinton, would help secure access to nutritional food for working families and legal immigrants as well as make more food available to local food banks. The act is co-sponsored by all five Democratic members of Oregon's congressional delegation—U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Representatives David Wu, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and Darlene Hooley. The act would (1) permit states to determine how to assess the value of a vehicle in determining a person's eligibility for food stamps, (2) restore food stamps to all eligible legal immigrants, and (3) increase funding for the food stamp program by approximately ten percent.

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith supports the act, but he needs to hear that his constituents want him to co-sponsor it. EMO encourages you to ask both Smith and U.S. Rep. Greg Walden to co-sponsor this important legislation. They can be reached at:

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3753
Fax: (202) 228-3997
e-mail: oregon@gsmith.senate.com

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 225-6730
Fax: (202) 225-5774
e-mail: greg.walden@mail.house.gov

Join EMO's public policy advocacy network

Would you or one of your congregation's committees like to receive timely information about key policy issues affecting Oregonians, and some ideas for responding to those issues? If so, please fill out this form and mail it to Enid Edwards, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, Oregon 97201. If you'd prefer to respond electronically, this form is also on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Key contact for public policy advocacy alerts:

(Contact name) _____

(Contact e-mail address) _____

(Congregation name) _____

(Congregation e-mail address) _____

(Congregation mailing address) _____

EMO has identified several areas of focus for the upcoming legislative session, as well as during this interim period. Please check below any issues that are of particular interest to you or your congregation.

- Church/State Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Farm Workers
- Health Care
- Housing
- Hunger
- Minimum Wage/Living Wage
- Welfare Reform

Listed below are a selection of initiatives circulating for the November ballot as well as a list of measures referred to voters for the general election. Please identify below any initiatives or measures of particular interest to you or your congregation. (See EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org for more information on policy positions taken to date by the EMO board of directors.)

Please let us know if you are interested in information about an initiative:

- calling for full deduction of federal income taxes on Oregon tax returns
- making it more difficult for public employees to give money to political causes
- prohibiting public school instruction encouraging, promoting, or sanctioning homosexual or bisexual behaviors
- repealing mandatory minimum sentences for certain felonies
- requiring repayment to landowners if government regulation reduces property value
- replacing the death penalty with life without the possibility of parole, and restitution
- limiting the growth in state spending to 15% of the personal income of Oregonians in the previous two calendar years, beginning in 2001-03
- requiring a vote on most new or increased taxes, fees, or charges, retroactive to December 1998
- creating a process for requiring the Legislature to review administrative rules
- expanding the circumstances requiring a background check before firearm sales
- creating a commission ensuring quality home care services for the elderly or disabled
- prohibiting certain minimum wage changes and requiring an inflation adjustment
- eliminating references to white inhabitants in the Oregon Constitution
- establishing a constitutional requirement to return any excess general fund "Kicker" revenues to taxpayers
- Other _____

Please let us know if you are interested in information about a measure:

- allowing regulation of the location of sexually oriented businesses through zoning
- increasing the deduction Oregon taxpayers may take for federal income taxes
- allocating tobacco litigation settlement proceeds to finance specified health programs
- authorizing rates giving utilities a return on investments in retired property
- Other _____

Please feel free to circulate this form to any interested parties. We look forward to hearing from you!

Interfaith service

Continued from page 1

violence. Not only was her son shot, but she lost her brother to gun violence.

Emily Gottfried, area director of the American Jewish Committee, led the participants in three songs and read the words of a song, "Shir L'Shalom," which Yitzak Rabin sang at a peace rally moments before he was shot and killed:

Lift your eyes with hope, not through the rifle sights . . . Bring the day, because it is not a dream. And within all the city's squares cheer for peace.

The Rev. Ronald Williams of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church spoke about the importance of heritage and family, and the Rev. Alcena Boozer of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church read "A Prayer for Children" by Ina Hughes:

We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with the dog and bury the goldfish, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money. . . . And we pray for those who never get dessert, who have no safe blanket to drag behind them . . . who don't have any rooms to clean up, whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser."

Earnestine Berkey of the Portland Bahá'i Community spoke about respect and compassion, and Rose High Bear, co-founder of Wisdom of the Elders, read about growing up and the importance of community. Hogen Bays of the Zen Community of Oregon read from Thich Nhat Hanh's *Being Peace*:

It would be wonderful if we could bring to the peace movement our contribution, our way of looking at things, that will diminish aggression and hatred. Peace work means, first of all, being peace. . . . We rely on each other. Our children are relying on us in order for them to have a future.



Hogen Bays of the Zen Community of Oregon lights a candle at the interfaith service at Temple Beth Israel. To the right is Rabbi Emanuel Rose.

Leslie Sackett of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church served on the Million Mom March committee on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese in Oregon. She worked closely with Teri Ruch of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to plan the interfaith service. "Our styles and expressions of worship may be different," she said, "but at the heart of all faith traditions is a love of God and a reverence for the sacredness of God's creation."

The interfaith service and the Million Mom March were both held to promote the passage of safe gun legislation. In particular, it is hoped that Oregonians will vote in favor of an initiative sponsored by state Sen. Ginny Burdick requiring background checks at all gun shows.

Governor orders sustainability

In May, Gov. John Kitzhaber signed an executive order directing state government to work toward environmental sustainability by the year 2025. Within six months, guidelines are to be developed to ensure that the state constructs buildings and roads using recycled materials, nontoxic paints, and safer chemicals. The governor also urged all Oregonians to become good stewards of the state's resources.

The order was made in response to the final draft of the *Oregon State of the Environment Report* released to the Oregon Progress Board. The report was written by a volunteer science panel composed of outstanding researchers with expertise in various components of Oregon's environment, chaired by Dr. Paul Risser, president of Oregon State University. Jenny Holmes, who directs EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, served on the Environmental Stewardship Plan Committee that proposed and contributed to the report.

"Oregon is the first state in the United States to establish a goal of achieving sustainability in one generation and the first western state to require sustainable practices within state government," said Bob Doppelt, director of the Portland State University Center for Watershed and Community Health. Doppelt helped manage the development of the *Oregon State of the Environment Report*.

Sustainability involves phasing out the use of toxic materials and substances, reducing the use of energy in producing goods and services, and increasing reuse and recycling of waste. Sustainability also involves using fewer natural resources and harvesting them in a manner that preserves ecological health.

New director for Oregon Farm Worker Ministry

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry (OFWM) has hired its first full-time executive director, Sara Meza-Romero, of San Anselmo, California. Meza-Romero assumed the directorship on June 19.

OFWM is a member of National Farm Worker Ministry of St. Louis, Missouri, an advocacy and faith coalition affiliated with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC). Since it was founded in June 1985, OFWM, located in Woodburn, has advocated for just wages and working conditions for farm workers.

Oregon denominations support boycott

At the annual meeting of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church in June, the conference narrowly approved support for the NORPAC, Inc. boycott. The vote reflected the complexity of the issues involved and the conflict between those who support farm worker rights and those supporting farmers. Both groups are suffering economic hardships.

According to the Rev. Jim Monroe, assistant to Bishop Paup, the advisory vote requests but does not require the conference's 220 congregations to support the boycott. The conference voted to create a task force to explore the possibility of legislative action to protect the rights of farm workers.

Roseburg congregations unite in dialogue and service

Ecumenism is thriving in Roseburg, where a decades-long collaboration continues to help people in need, and where a series of dialogues inspired by the God at 2000 conference recently brought together 70 to 90 people each week for eight weeks.

According to the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave of St. George's Episcopal Church in Roseburg, people from the area who either attended the God at 2000 conference in Corvallis or viewed it from an area downlink site felt that the speeches by seven internationally respected theologians were "so rich that they wanted others to have a chance" to hear them. The follow-up dialogues were sponsored by Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Unitarian Universalist congregations in Roseburg.

The God at 2000 conference speakers included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Marcus Borg, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Karen Armstrong, Joan Chittister, and Diana Eck. (See story in April *Voice*.) The first seven Roseburg dialogues began with a video presentation of one of the seven theologian's speeches, and the final dialogue opened with a video of the panel discussion at the end of the God at 2000 conference.

Hesselgrave said that the people who participated in the Roseburg talks came from "very diverse" faith practices. "This has provided a way of talking about God that's not denominational," he said. He added that some of the people participating had been connected to the faith community earlier in their lives and found this an interesting way of "sticking their toe in the water" again. He was especially impressed that the number of people attending the discussions stayed consistently high for each session. There was a "really enthusiastic response," he said.

In addition to sponsoring the current God at 2000 discussions, congregations in the Roseburg area have for almost three decades helped people in emergency situations. FISH, a coalition of six congregations—Unitarian, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic—is housed at the offices of Umpqua Community Action Network, a community action program. Two members of each congregation serve on the board of FISH, which is run by volunteer Verne Haas.

Fifty percent of FISH's services include providing food to families in need, approximately 400 a month. FISH also helps people in need of medical care whose Oregon Health Plan premiums have lapsed by paying the premiums on a one-time basis. Additionally, FISH pays for some prescriptions and offers shelter to families through local motels.

"We are the only food bank in Douglas County that offers self-service," said Haas, explaining that the pantry sorts the food into ten categories, and the families choose from among them, according to their needs.

The churches support FISH through donations of money, food and volunteer time. FISH offers both nonperishable items and fresh milk and eggs. About one-third of FISH's support comes from congregations, one-third from the community through United Way, and one-third through foundations and denominational groups like Catholic Charities and the Episcopal Church.

Hesselgrave's congregation has found it especially meaningful to do special projects for FISH clients at holidays. They congregation has bought stuffed animals for the children at Easter and turkeys for the families at Thanksgiving. "I think people really like to do things when they can see that the people they're helping appreciate it," he said.

NCC to undergo major change, CWS to separate

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) is undergoing major changes during its 50th year. The council plans to invite Christian denominations that are not currently members to discussions about the future of the NCC, with the possibility of offering them membership. In addition, Church World Service and Witness (CWS), the humanitarian response ministry of the NCC, is setting up its own administration and finance offices, with the goal of reaching full autonomy from the NCC by fall. In the past, CWS has raised and spent about 80 percent of the NCC's total annual budget of around \$70 million.

The NCC was established 50 years ago as a council of mainline Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and historically African American churches. Christian groups invited to the discussions about the NCC's future include Roman Catholic and evangelical and Pentecostal Protestant churches.

Some of the council's many past projects include introducing the Revised Standard Version Bible and working on church-state issues to advocate for religious liberty. CWS provides disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and community-based events to help stop hunger through Christian Rural Oversees Program (CROP).

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is currently working in partnership with the NCC to organize the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns is also engaged in a project with the NCC to strengthen the work of faith-based, environmental justice ministries in eight western states including Oregon. EMO also works as an affiliate of CWS to resettle refugees in the Portland area.

"CWS has a clear mission," said the Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar, general secretary of the NCC. But there has been less and less consensus about the mission of the NCC. As a result, Edgar said, it was time "to risk ourselves" and examine what a national ecumenical organization could look like in a new century and new millennium. The NCC board has authorized an eight-member vision team to outline a framework for the process and to contact the churches invited to the discussions of the NCC's future.

CWS and the NCC will continue to share communications and public policy work, with the NCC

general secretary continuing to serve as the chief ecumenical spokesperson.

CWS Chair and Episcopal Church Canon Patrick Mauney said he believed that the plan will "allow the NCC to place itself at the service of a larger calling—a truly inclusive ecumenical entity in the United States" and will strengthen the entire NCC at a time when clearer and tighter financial reports make funding sources and uses more transparent. A six-member financial transition task force will carry forward the implementation.

Up to now, the NCC has assessed CWS a percentage of its income for administration and financial management, and there has been tension over the cost and efficiency of services provided. The separation of financial management will take place in the context of an intensive effort to bring overall expenditures under control and to begin to rebuild the council's badly eroded financial reserves. A cash flow crisis is being addressed through staff travel restrictions and requests for early payment of fiscal commitments from denominations, governmental



agencies and other donors that ordinarily would come in later in the year.

Edgar said that \$3.8 million has been pledged for reduction of the NCC's 1999 year-end debt, leaving an accumulated deficit of about \$2.7 million.

Rodney Page retires as director of CWS

When the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page took the helm of Church World Service and Witness (CWS) in 1996, CWS income was \$42 million. As he retires, CWS income has grown to over \$62 million, thanks to the addition of funding from government, foundations, major gifts and planned giving campaigns.

Dr. Page is proudest, though, of the human side of his work, from hiring "talented, committed, creative people," to encouraging a more collegial style of working, to visiting CWS projects all over the world to demonstrate "care for our common ministry."

"He came in during a difficult period in the life of the council and of CWS," said David Weaver, director of the CWS Middle East Office. "He managed to effect powerful transformations in the way CWS envisions and does its work, as well as increasing the revenue streams."

"What struck me about Rodney Page from the first was his energy and vision," said Ronda Hughes, CWS director of program information and resource creation. "Rodney's leadership and discernment have seen Church World Service through some important milestones."

The transformations to which his colleagues allude include a strategic planning process that has led to a plan calling for the complete reorganization of CWS. Dr. Page describes the new organization as one that moves from "semiautonomous units" to a more "dynamic, collegial way of working."

Dr. Page is also satisfied that before he leaves, a new relationship has been envisioned between CWS and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. "This new structure will enhance and enrich other organizations to fulfill their missions in a much better way," he said.

These accomplishments, notes Dr. Page, are important because they demonstrate a commitment "not only to the distribution of food, aid and development," but to "the ministry of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Page was executive director of EMO from 1982 to 1996. In his retirement, he will live in Austin, Texas, and in Portland, Oregon. He has taken courses to become a certified mediator and hopes to do some mediation work.

AME Zion and CME make plans to unite

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, historic African American churches in the Wesleyan tradition, have formed a task force to plan a union in the coming years. Together they would form a new denomination, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, CMEZ.

The AMEZ Church was established in at the beginning of the 19th century under the leadership of James Varick in response to racial injustice during a time of slavery. The CME Church formed later, in 1870, after newly freed slaves petitioned the Methodist Church, South to create an independent church. (See July 1999 *Voice*.) Though their origins were different, they share much in common.

A union of the groups would allow both denominations to review, revisit or renew their

structures and polity, and consider new practices that might encourage a more effective witness of the church. A union would also eliminate duplications in structures and programs, and allow a consolidation of financial and personnel resources. A union might also strengthen the spiritual, prophetic and political influence of both groups, and increase the potential for social outreach and economic empowerment.

Significantly, the union would be a powerful ecumenical witness and serve as a model for other efforts toward unity where there is currently division.

The goal is for the two denominations to unite on July 18, 2004. The proposed structural plan for the unified body calls for the establishment of bishops as chief pastors, with all bishops serving on an episcopal council charged with general supervision of the church.

David Duncombe fasts again

Last month, the Rev. Dr. David Duncombe, retired minister from White Salmon, Washington, began another fast in Washington, D.C., to persuade Congress to cancel the debts of impoverished countries. Eight months ago he fasted in D.C. for more than six weeks, demonstrating personally the effects of starvation.

But despite strong support from President Clinton, bipartisan co-sponsorship, and the Helms-Biden authorization of \$600 million for debt relief, only \$75 million has been appropriated for debt relief programs this year. Without a stronger commitment to debt relief, the wealthiest eight countries in the world (the G-8) may decide when it meets this month in Okinawa that the U.S. has reneged on a pledge it made last June to cancel \$900 million in debt. As a consequence, other countries may withdraw their pledges, too.

To read more about the Rev. Dr. Duncombe's fast, visit EMO's Web site at www.emoregion.org, and click on Jubilee Oregon.

Calendar of Events

July—all month

Christmas in July. Annual food, funds and awareness raiser for EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program in Portland. Each participating congregation hangs paper ornaments provided by NEFP on a giving tree set up in the church during July. Congregation members leave the food and nonperishable items named on each ornament at the foot of tree. The food is delivered to NEFP, or to another food pantry that the church supports, at the end of the month. Call Drew Hudson or Rob Wentzien at (503) 284-5470.

July 8 and 9

Eat locally, seasonally and sustainably 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., New Seasons Market, 7300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Portland. Sale of locally grown produce and barbecue will benefit EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns. Copies of *Portland's Bounty: A guide to eating locally and seasonally in the greater Portland area* will be available for purchase. Call (503) 292-6838.

July 8 to 12

From Many... One: Keeping Faith in these Times Noon, July 8, to noon, July 12. Seattle University, Seattle, Washington. Annual gathering of the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS). Call Rebecca Tollefson at (614) 885-9590.

July 11

The Art of Forgiveness. 6:30 to 9 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Room 134, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Workshop will be led by Robert Gould, Ph.D., director of Graduate Program in Conflict Resolution and chair of Philosophy Department, Portland State University. Sponsored by Oregon Peace Institute. \$10 donation appreciated. Call (503) 725-8192.

July 15

Charles Patton plays rhythm and blues 6 p.m., Beaverton Christian Church, 13600 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton. Patton's performance is part of the church's seven-week series of performances called "Saturday Nights on the Green." Call Sherri Lacy at (503) 646-2151, ext. 230.

July 16

The Bible and the Environment: Is there a connection? 6:30 p.m., Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, Washington. Speaker Cal DeWitt, internationally known Christian environmentalist and professor of environmental studies at University of Wisconsin, Madison. Sponsored by EMO; Columbia Presbyterian Church; Eco-Justice Unit, Presbytery of the Cascades; and Target Earth Northwest. Call (503) 244-8318.

July 17 to 21 and July 24 to 28

The Mission of the Church in the Contemporary World. 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. A two-week course exploring the mission of the church in the post-modern multicultural world. Instructor Sister Joanmarie Smith of Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Northwest House of Theological Study (NHTS), Salem. Auditors are welcome. Call Arlene McKenna at (503) 588-4344.

July 21 to 22

Dead Sea Scrolls: Jesus and Judaism. Two-day workshop taught by Professor Daniel Falk, Department of Religious Studies, University of Oregon, Eugene. Examines the most recent findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls and their significance for understanding Judaism, Jesus and Christianity. Call (541) 346-3475.

July 21 to 22

The Life of Prayer and the Art of Writing: A Retreat for Writers Collins Retreat Center near Sandy. The retreat with author Robert Benson is based on the Benedictine model, a simple rhythm of directed reflection, writing, silence, and prayer. Sponsored by Journey into Freedom. Deadline for registration is July 7. Call (503) 244-4728.

August 18 and 19

Godly Play Conference. Friday, August 18, 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, August 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St., Portland. An imaginative approach to religious education with Episcopal priest, author and teacher Jerome Berryman. Godly play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction used to teach children the art of using religious language (parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action) to become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Cost is \$85. Call Caryl Menkhus at (503) 234-5017 or e-mail her at clmenkhus@aol.com.

August 23 to 26

Wilderness Trip of Perspective into the Oregon Cascades. Spend four days hiking in the Jefferson wilderness, praying, sharing stories, and sharing silence in the beauty of God's creation. Sponsored by Journey into Freedom. Registration deadline is August 4. For information, call (503) 244-4728.

September 3

Ecumenical Labor Day Service. 10 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1805 Minnesota St., The Dalles. Includes participation by United Church of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist congregations. For more information, call (541) 296-9587.

Coming this fall are three opportunities for engagement and discussion in end-of-life issues and caregiving:

"On Our Own Terms: Moyers on Dying"

September 10 to 13

In this four-part PBS series, set to air on Oregon Public Broadcasting television at 9:30 p.m. September 10 through 13, journalist Bill Moyers examines the numerous issues and challenges faced by terminally ill people and their loved ones. Check out the program Web site at www.pbs.org/onourown/terms for more information, or call EMO's Melinda Smith at Hopewell House Hospice Center at (503) 244-7890.

Caregiving Documentary

October 11

This documentary about the joys and difficulties of caregiving, produced by the Northwest Osteopathic Foundation and Oregon Senior and Disabled Services, will air on OPB television at 8:00 p.m. October 11.

Compassion Sabbath

October 27 to 29

This EMO-sponsored interfaith project will encourage faith communities to devote one Sabbath on or around October 27 to 29 to a focus on issues faced by terminally and chronically ill persons, their families, and caregivers. EMO will provide a resource book to congregations including bulletin inserts, prayers, scriptures, speakers, sermon assistants, and educational materials. The resource book will be available August 15.

jazz under the stars on july 20

On July 20, Dan Balmer returns to Hopewell House as the Dan Balmer Quartet fills the night sky with jazz for the annual Jazz under the Stars concert. This year, in addition to celebrating Hopewell's long history of compassionate hospice care and community outreach, the concert will celebrate the new Hopewell House Hospice Center, a unique collaboration between EMO and Legacy Visiting Nurse Association. (See story on page 4.)

Balmer has recorded numerous CDs and is recognized nationally for his virtuoso guitar performances and his original compositions. Those attending the concert can bring picnics to enjoy on the gently sloping lawn. A variety of complimentary desserts, pizza and coffees will be offered. Door prizes will also be given away.

Seating begins at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. concert, with parking provided at Wilson High School on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. The Hopewell House Hospice Center is located at 7161 SW Capitol Highway. The concert costs \$25, with children admitted free of charge.

For more information about the concert, or to order tickets, call Beth Richley at (503) 221-1054.



Dan Balmer