Inside...

Get to know your neighbor: Multi-faith books provide insight. Page 2

Oregon congregations save money, energy and the earth. Page 3

Recovery homes open doors to new way of life. Page 4

Public policy work continues in interim period. Page 6

Celebration engages youth in sacred music. Page 7

Faith community responds to national tragedy

Following the tragic events of Sept. 11, faith communities across the nation responded by gathering people together to pray, mourn and comfort one another. Throughout Oregon, places of worship opened their doors for meditation and prayer, clergy comforted individuals waiting to hear from loved ones, and communities organized prayer vigils to provide the opportunity for people to express their grief.

For example, the faith community in Bend responded collectively to the tragedy by offering several events throughout the week, including an interfaith worship service sponsored by Interfaith Ministries of Central Oregon. A series of interfaith services were also held each evening at different congregations, including First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church and First Lutheran Church. A special Taizi Vespers for World Peace was also held.

In Eugene, Too Rivers Interfaith Ministries sponsored two services and an on-going vigil in response to the terrorist attacks. The vigil is being held each evening at the Federal Building. Over 400 people attended a service on the evening of Sept. 11, in the Cuthbert Amphitheater. A second interfaith service held at First United Methodist Church on Friday, Sept. 14, drew a standing room only crowd of 1,000. Both services included Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey and leaders of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Bahai and Mormon communities. Local Muslim cleric, Tammam Adi, shared these words, “Brothers and sisters in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania, your assassins failed. . . . Your death will not create ignorance and prejudice, but enlightenment and unity.”

In Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joined with representatives of the faith community for an interfaith prayer service that was held at First United Methodist Church on the evening of the terrorist attacks. “Today would be a Tuesday like any other, yet we woke to a new reality,” Rabbi Daniel Isaac, Congregation Neeveh Shalom, prayed. “We need to stand with each other to share our grief . . . may the Eternal message of God’s concern for all God’s children link us to generations who have evoked prayers during other terrible times of tragedy and loss.”

EMO also participated in a memorial service that was Portland’s response to President Bush’s call that Friday, Sept. 14, be a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Over 3,000 people joined Mayor Vera Katz and religious leaders at the Rose Quarter Commons in northeast Portland.

Words of prayer and memorial were offered from Native American, Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Buddhist traditions. Senator Margaret Carter led the crowd in singing “America the Beautiful” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” Candles were lit, and a moment of silence was observed in honor of those who died. People left the gathering with a sense of hope and unity.

“We call on people of faith to reach out to one another,” stated David Leslie, EMO executive director. “We are praying for those who are suffering and for an end to the violence. We are concerned about retaliation against innocent persons and urge a spirit of peace throughout our nation.” To foster a continued spirit of peace and unity in this time of confusion, fear and uncertainty, additional interfaith events are being planned around the state. For updated information about prayer vigils, to read prayers of peace and to find out how you can help, please visit the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Nonviolence is in our hands

“I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others.”

The pledge is simple, but the impact is profound. The Hands Are Not for Hurting Project, a nonprofit organization located in Salem, Oregon, is dedicated to educating children and adults about their moral and legal right to live free of violence. In light of the recent violence against the United States, taking the pledge is a positive action individuals can take in the wake of the national tragedy.

The project encourages people to take the above pledge, to trace their hand on purple paper (the color purple is used to honor and remember victims of violence), cut out the hand print, sign their name and age on the hand print and display their purple hand as a visual reminder of their commitment to stop and think before acting out in anger.

Continued on page 7
Wisdom and courage needed in the days ahead

"Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love." —from the Prayer of St. Francis

September 11 began with an early morning breakfast celebration of my son’s sixth birthday. Within minutes, the memories of presents, singing, hugs and kisses, gave way to death, destruction, terror and confusion. As I drove from Portland to Seaside for a meeting, I listened to the reports about the planes that had struck the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

As the tragedy unfolded, I made and received telephone calls about planning a prayer vigil that evening in Portland. I called home several times and received telephone calls about events in Seaside. I called home several times and learned more about the devastation and loss of life. By the time I arrived in Seaside I was numb, confused, full of grief, sorrow and anger.

I was not alone. While “ground zero” may have physically been on the East Coast, we all felt the impact and were pulled into the center of the terror. In response to the physical, emotional and spiritual damage inflicted by the terrorists, we experienced the unifying power of empathy. We became connected through the horror of the attacks, our grief for the dead and missing, and our continued hope for the living.

In recent days, we have wept, prayed and sung songs of mourning. We have had late night and early morning telephone conversations with loved ones attempting to reassure one another that tomorrow will be a better day. We have listened to our children’s questions, struggling with the how’s and why’s about the tragedy. We have had sleepless nights and listless days searching for the adequate and just response to the terror that struck this nation on September 11. We have stood with one another against racism and religious hatred.

Today we are facing prospects of war—the type of war that the President says will be protracted, fought in foreign lands and complete with loss of human life. Is this the right response to the terrorist attack on this nation? Will acts of war result in a cessation of hostilities, or will they produce more violence, hatred and bloodshed? Will our responses be based solely on revenge, or will they produce a new reality, a new relationship? Will the terrorist attack be the start of a new age of war? What will be the order of the day?

May God grant wisdom and courage to all in power so that life, rather than death, may be the order of the day.

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

Multi-faith books: Getting to know your neighbor

Now is the time to seek out a better understanding of our neighbors. The following books provide insight into various faith traditions.

**Sacred Myths**
Stories of World Religions
Rolled by Marilyn M. Farlane
Siybl Publications, Portland
A vibrant way to hand down spiritual traditions and teach children tolerance for others’ beliefs. Sacred Myths retells 35 stories that are precious to world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American, and Earth-based religions. Brief introductions explain the basic tenets of each religion. Approved by religious authorities. Ages 10 and up.

Islam: A Primer
By John Sabini, Middle East Editorial Associates, Washington, D.C.
This basic overview is an excellent introduction to the history, beliefs, and practices of Islam for readers not familiar with one of the world’s great religions. For those who want to delve further into the subject, a detailed bibliography of suggested readings is included. First published in 1983, this classic is now in its fifth printing.

Welcome to the Family!
Opening Doors to the Jewish Experience
By Lois Susman Shemker
White Cloud Press, Ashland
Welcome to the Family is a user-friendly guidebook designed to...

Continued on page 7
Oregon Interfaith Power and Light: Leading by example

The challenge of global warming and the Northwest energy crunch calls all of us to be mindful of the way we use energy, of where that energy comes from and how it impacts creation. EM O’s Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) is challenging congregations and their members across the state to lead by example by conserving energy and purchasing renewable energy. OIPL estimates that if every member of every faith community in Oregon reduced their use of fossil-fueled electric energy by 20 percent by conserving energy and signing up for renewable power, they would reduce Oregon’s carbon dioxide emissions by 605,000 tons.

OIPL is an outgrowth of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, one of 18 statewide, interfaith efforts to slow global warming. The OIPL program aims for congregations and their members to make commitments to action on energy and global warming. OIPL congregations or groups pledge to conserve energy in their facilities and to educate their members about global warming, energy conservation and renewable power. They also sign up for clean, renewable power through their electric utilities or have their members sign up for wind power. Some ambitious congregations are looking into generating their own energy on-site through rooftop solar (photovoltaic) systems.

OIPL staff has given presentations to congregations and clergy in Pendleton, Medford, Bend, Newberg, and The Dalles. “The interest in energy conservation and renewable power is growing,” said Jenny H. Olmes, who directs EM O’s environmental ministries. “We’re impressed with the enthusiasm we see across the state.”

Denominations are also taking action. A resolution passed at the recent Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church requires each congregation in the conference to have an energy audit conducted and to use the audit to develop a ten-year strategy for conserving energy and saving money. “Our Conference will be accountable to the Creator’s call to be the best stewards we can of the gifts of Creation,” states the resolution, which was inspired, in part, by the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. To learn more about OIPL or to request a presentation, please call Teri Ruch, OIPL Coordinator, at (503) 736-0845.

Portland’s Bounty, Second Edition

The second edition of Portland’s Bounty: A Guide to Eating Locally and Seasonally in the Greater Portland Area will be available this fall. The guide is an excellent resource for individuals, congregations and other organizations that are interested in participating in a local, sustainable, community-based food system.

The second edition features new recipes for eating locally and seasonally, articles addressing issues of sustainability, and resources for growing, preserving and sharing foods.

Portland’s Bounty, Second Edition, produced by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, will be available for $8.30 plus shipping ($2.75 for the first book and $1.00 for each additional book). To purchase one or several copies, contact Jenny Holmes in INEC at (503) 244-8318 or look for the guide in local bookstores.

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry seeks executive director

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, a faith-based organization, is currently seeking applications for the position of executive director to provide leadership in statewide organizing of the religious community to advocate for farmworkers’ rights. Experience in grassroots organizing and mobilizing, ability to communicate to a variety of faith traditions, strong leadership, administrative and communication skills desired. Candidates should send resume to OFWM, 230 W. Hayes, Woodburn, OR 97071. For more information, call Venie Cooperrider at (503) 585-8340.
recent census reports show that more Russian
and Ukrainian immigrants are calling
Washington and Oregon home than in any
other states in the country. If you work, live or go
to school in Portland or Vancouver, you now see
Russian-speakers as clients, co-workers or students.

ROSS provides comprehensive case management
services to Russian-speaking refugees and immi-
grants. Over 10,000 clients were served last year.

EMO’s Russian Oregon Social Services program
(ROSS) has been working with Russian-speaking
refugees and immigrants since 1994. ROSS under-
stands the many obstacles they encounter upon
arrival to this country. English, citizenship and
classical classes are either at no cost, and a series
of classes on law and safety, tax preparation and
community orientation are also available to help
these new residents acculturate successfully into
American society.

In addition, ROSS also reaches out to Americans
who work with and serve Russian-speakers. “It’s
important for Americans to understand the Russian-
speaking community if they are going to work closely
with them and be good neighbors.” says Yelena
Sergeyeva, ROSS program manager. Cross-cultural
education can help bridge communication gaps,
clarify misunderstandings and improve outreach
projects.

Cultural sensitivity is also important when working
with the Russian-speaking community. Recognizing
ROSS’s expertise in cultural sensitivity, the Susan B.
Komen Foundation recently funded a breast cancer awareness program to Russian-speaking
women in the Portland area. Working collaboratively
with Russian-speaking congregations as well as
service and refugee resettlement agencies, ROSS has
been able to educate and promote the importance
of early breast cancer detection. “Discussing this subject
must be done appropriately,” explains Svitlana
Chvetsova, outreach coordinator. “Many topics,
especially those concerning women’s health, are
especially sensitive to many Russian-speaking
women. Health presentations can easily embarrass
them and have them running in the other direction.”

Because of ROSS’ culturally sensitive approach, more
than 300 Russian-speaking women have attended
these presentations since January 2001, and many
have also received free mammograms.

ROSS is now offering cross-cultural education
to banks, loan offices, retailers, and other
businesses. These groups can now access useful and
practical information to help deliver services in a
more customer-friendly way to Russian-speaking
newcomers. ROSS will also be offering translation
services and cross-cultural education to employers
and businesses that employ or work with Russian-
speakers.

If you are interested in finding out how your business or
organization can benefit from cross-cultural education
services, call ROSS at (503) 777-3437.

World AIDS Day marks 20th anniversary

This year’s World AIDS Day is December 1, 2001,
marking the 20th anniversary of the identification
and naming of the disease. Throughout most of
this period, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon,
through the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread
Express programs, has provided meals, counseling,
support services and a safe, welcoming gathering
place for individuals facing the challenges of life
with HIV/AIDS.

T hankfully, there are now medications that can
sustain and prolong life for those living with HIV/
AIDS. However, these medications are not a cure,
nor do they provide for a “normal” comfortable
lifestyle. People living with HIV/AIDS often
face a regimen of twenty or more pills per
day, which can produce serious side effects.
Alarmingly, rates of infection (which had
been going down) have stabilized and are even begin-
ing to climb once again. The result is that more
and more people are living with HIV/AIDS, currently
an estimated 4,000 individuals in the Portland metro-
area.

Nationally, the epidemic has shifted into minority
communities. According to national estimates, in 1999,

Home providers needed

Shared Housing is experiencing an increase in the
number of people seeking homeshare arrange-
ments, and is accepting applications for home providers. If you have an extra room available in your
home, and would like help with rent, household
tasks or personal care, Shared Housing may be the
answer for you.

EMO’s Shared Housing program is a matching
and referral service that brings together those who
need affordable housing with people who have homes
and want help with rent, household chores or
personal care.

Many elderly, disabled and low-to-moderate
income homeowners and renters have found that rent
and/or services provided through homesharing have
been an important factor in enabling them to remain
in their homes. Home seekers have found affordable
housing at low rent or in exchange for work.

For more information, please call Shared Housing at (503)
225-9924.
Homelness and the faith community

EMO is participating in discussions with religious leaders, civil activists and concerned citizens regarding homelessness in the Portland metropolitan area. A consultation on homelessness and the faith community’s response will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. Issues surrounding Dignity Village, shelters and affordable housing will be explored. EMO will convene similar discussions in the future, involving community, civic and business leaders.

For more information, please contact Ardi Stoller at (503) 221-1054.

Workshop explores values, healthcare decisions

Efecting values and beginning meaningful dialogue with loved ones are on the agenda for Caring Conversations, an afternoon workshop on advanced directives to be held on Sunday, Oct. 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 N.E. Airport Way, Portland.

The workshop, sponsored locally by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in conjunction with AARP Oregon and numerous other state organizations, is designed to empower attendees and their loved ones to “begin the conversation” — to think through and talk about their spiritual values, life experiences, and personal goals. After focusing on their core values, attendees will think about healthcare wishes and decisions and begin the process of completing an Oregon advanced directive.

Registration fee for the workshop is $15 per individual and $25 per family. Pre-registration is required. To register by phone, call 1-877-926-8300. Those attending the workshop are encouraged to bring a family member if they wish, and people from all age groups are welcome to attend.

For more information, call the office of AARP Oregon at (503) 652-8855.

Jazz event draws hundreds

D elicious food, sparkling music, and the excitement of a silent auction combined to make Jazz Under the Stars 2001 “the best ever,” according to Melinda Smith, EMO’s Director of Compassionate Care and Education at Hopewell House Hospice Center. In addition to EMO and the AARP, community sponsors also include the Oregon Gerontological Association, Oregon Health Decisions, and Oregon Hospice Association.

For more information, call the office of AARP Oregon at (503) 652-8855.

Donors needed for refugees’ first Thanksgiving dinner

EMO’s Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) program will be hosting the second annual “Refugees’ First Thanksgiving Dinner” on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22. This multicultural event drew over a 100 refugees last Thanksgiving for a hearty turkey dinner along with door prizes ranging from new dishes and blenders, to wool coats and gift certificates.

If you would like to contribute to the 2001 Refugees’ First Thanksgiving Dinner, please make check payable to SOAR — Refugees’ First Thanksgiving, 2906 N.E. Glisan St., Portland, OR 97211. For more information, please call Oiga at (503) 284-3002.

Hundreds of people enjoyed a jazz-filled evening at Hopewell’s Jazz Under the Stars event, held July 19.
2001 legislative session overview

Given the state’s skewed tax structure and historic underfunding of social services to the state’s most vulnerable populations, the results of the last legislative session should come as no surprise. Once again, funding to address the root causes, even the symptoms, of Oregon’s hunger, homelessness and poverty was in short supply.

Yet, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and its many partners in advocacy achieved some important successes during the 2001 legislative session. Perhaps most importantly, we collaborated with a broad base of advocates to call for adequate funding to our most vulnerable citizens. This collaboration, called the “Campaign for Fairness,” reflected the combined resources of many organizations and was visible within the capitol building during the session. In giving permission to our elected representatives to use the kicker as necessary to fulfill the state’s obligations, we helped to set the stage for lawmakers to make responsible decisions on behalf of all Oregonians. We hope that the many individuals and organizations who comprised the Campaign for Fairness during the 2001 legislative session will continue to make their funding priorities known, particularly during the coming months as Oregon faces additional revenue shortfalls and considers convening in special session.

Our successes included key elements of the Campaign for Fairness platform, such as restoration of funding for Oregon Project Independence, existing Medicaid reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities, funding for affordable housing development, and certain payments to TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) recipients.

Direction of national charitable choice legislation unclear

President Bush’s legislation to federally fund faith-based organizations’ social service programs, HR 7, seemed to be losing priority to other concerns, even before the September 11 disaster.

On August 17, John Dilulio, Jr. resigned his position as head of the government’s religion-based initiative that was established to identify and address barriers to implementation of Charitable Choice legislation. The committee’s report presents 15 “barriers” that faith-based nonprofit groups face when attempting to provide federally funded social services. An amended version of HR 7 passed the House on July 19, 2001. At printing, the bill awaits a hearing.

We also secured new funds for statewide food stamp outreach, and the state working family childcare tax credit was made refundable. EMO also worked to defeat a number of bills, including bills that would extend the death penalty to additional crimes and a bill to allow the Ten Commandments to be posted in public schools. For additional information on our successes and disappointments during the session, please see our Web site, Public Policy link at www.emoregon.org.

Intergovernmental period not a time of rest

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon continues its social and economic justice advocacy in the interim period, principally by monitoring the implementation of bills passed, ongoing participation in the significant reorganization of the state Department of Human Services, and research and advocacy concerning a variety of citizen initiatives.

As noted above, Oregon’s state revenue forecast predicts another significant shortfall. This is especially concerning to advocates for public supports for vulnerable families, as the 2001 legislative budget did not include flexibility for rising caseloads. With no budget cushion to absorb revenue shortfalls, and a worsening statewide job market, advocates foresee Oregon families who live on the economic margins to be at increasing risk. If the state legislature convenes a special session this spring, it will be to determine further cuts in an already insufficient state budget. Please communicate with your elected representatives to let them know that their decisions with respect to the poor and marginalized are important to you.

In addition, EMO is working to support the ballot initiative to replace the death penalty with a life sentence; participate in the public dialogue concerning “faith-based initiatives”; support food stamp and TANF reform; at funding levels adequate to support growing caseloads; encourage fair and responsible implementation of legislation that re-shapes Oregon’s Health Plan; support effective reorganization of the Oregon Department of Human Services; seek appropriate funding for human services from the Legislative Emergency Board; and provide ongoing support for campaign finance reform. For more information on current activities, please visit EMO’s Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Governor Kitzhaber signs the Working Family Child Care Tax Credit bill, which makes the credit accessible to Oregon’s lowest-income working families. This bill was key to the Campaign for Fairness platform.

Bieberle’s contribution to Oregon unmatched

Emil Edwards, director of public policy advocacy, EMO public policy advocate. “Jerry’s contribution to Oregon unmatched”

Sister Prejean will speak to religious community

Sister Helen Prejean, whose work with death-row inmates was the focus of the 1995 film Dead Man Walking, will speak in November at an interfaith conference organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Oregon Catholic Conference, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Synod, Presbytery of the Cascades and the Portland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. The conference will be held in Portland on Friday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please check the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org for updated information about the location.

Topics include a brief history of the death penalty in Oregon and the U.S., the interfaith nature of opposition to the death penalty, religious social teaching on the death penalty, and tools and resources for congregational education and organizing. Information on religious social teaching and tools for use in congregations will be a particular focus and will be geared toward specific denominations. All are welcome. For more information on this event, please contact EMO at (503) 221-1054.
A Program celebrates sacred music

An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys, an annual gospel concert and awards ceremony, will be held Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson High School auditorium, Portland. The evening will feature several artists including nationally-recognized vocalist Candi Staton, from TBN Ministries; the Inspirational Sound gospel choir from Eugene; the Portland Jewish Academy Children's Choir; RAP, a contemporary dance group; the Portland Metropolis Youth Choir; and pianist Elbert Mondainé.

Eighty Eight Keys was founded in 1989 by Elbert D. Barrell, Jr., whose vision was to help dreams become a reality for those who aspired to be singers and musicians. Now in its eighth year, An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys continues to encourage, recognize and promote Oregon's musical talent. It provides the state's gospel musicians and educators an opportunity to showcase their skills and be publicly recognized for them.

In addition to advancing gospel music as an art form, Eighty Eight Keys assists young, developing talent toward potential music careers through its music and instrument scholarships. "The goal of the program is to give scholarships and instrument to kids who can't afford them," explains John Tolbert, program director. "This is a consistent way of getting kids back into church to perform." This year's event will feature an instrument drive. Concert attendees are invited to bring a slightly used wind or string instrument that will be distributed to children in need.

Eighty Eight Keys is seeking volunteers to assist with the event. Tickets are available at Fastixx, $12.50 advance purchase, $14.50 day of the event. For more information, call John Tolbert at (503) 285-7324.

Nonviolence is in our hands

Continued from page 1

Established in 1997 by founder and executive director, Ann S. Kelly, the Hands Project is now used in schools, places of worship, day care facilities, birthing centers, government agencies, homeless shelters, battered women's shelters, businesses, youth centers, and homes in Oregon and in at least forty other states. National and international interest in the project continues to grow. Schools in Japan, Mexico and Canada are also currently using the Hands Project. For more information, call John Tolbert at (503) 285-7324.

For Hurting Week and the National Y.W.C.A.'s annual "Week Without Violence," there are several ways congregations can participate: place a copy of the vow in each bulletin, which worshippers could sign and place in the offering plate; read the pledge in union during a service; and/or create a collage which includes the pledge, the signatures of those taking it, and the purple hand/red heart logo. A visual display in the congregation could continue to serve as a powerful permanent reminder of the pledge of nonviolence. To request a copy of the pledge, or to order other project materials, i.e. brochures, posters and banners, please call the Hands Project at (503) 587-4853 or 1-888-443-6299. You can visit the Web site at www.handsproject.org.

It is important to have feedback on how the Hands Are Not For Hurting Project was implemented and the results that occurred. If your congregation participates in the pledge, please contact Stephanie at EOM , (503) 221-1054, so we can share your experience with others.

NRSV search engine added to Web site

The National Council of Churches of Christ has added a search engine to their Web site that indexes the entire New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV) at www.nccusa.org. To access the search engine, go to the "search" page and type in any word or phrase. The search engine will find all scripture passages that contain the word(s); provide a list of commentary backgrounds on the passages and will display them in context. You can also compare the NRSV wording with more than 20 other translations.

Multi-faith books

Continued from page 2

Increase the comfort level of those unfamiliar with the Jewish experience. This practical handbook is written especially for those seeking simple explanations about Jewish, Jewish events, and Judaism, and will increase both the reader's knowledge and comfort level in interacting with Jewish people. The book addresses the issues of intermarried families and speaks to their concerns in a warm, welcoming manner, interspersing personal family stories with basic information about the Jewish experience. Local author Lois Shenker will talk about her book October 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 1900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland.

Additional information about world religions is available at EM O's Web site, www.emoregon.org. Click Calendar of Events, Interfaith Calendar and Families of Religions.

Ecumenism

NCCC general assembly meets in November

The Annual General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC) will be held Nov. 13 to 16 at the Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel, Oakland, Calif. Dr. Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of Sociology at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, will be the keynote speaker.

A festival highlighting a variety of models of ministry from ecumenical agencies and organizations will be held at various times throughout the gathering. Conversation work groups focused on poverty will also be held. Participants will have the opportunity to work on Habitat for Humanity projects in Oakland.

The NCCC will also install incoming president, Elenie H. Luszcz, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.

Denominational meetings slated for fall

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon annual convention

The annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon will be held October 12 to 14 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend. The theme will be "Living Our Baptism in Congregation, Diocese and the World." For more information, please call (541) 382-5542.

American Baptist Churches annual gathering

On October 19 to 21, the annual gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Oregon will be held at The Riverhouse in Bend. The theme of the gathering will be "Celebrating a Difference..." Ken M. Edema, internationally known songwriter and performer, will be the featured musician, and J. Alfred Smith, senior pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., will be the featured speaker. For registration information, please contact Emerald Baptist Church at (541) 342-6559 or e-mail EmeraldBaptist@aol.com.

Presbytery of the Cascades stated meeting

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades will be held November 8 to 9 at First Presbyterian Church in Medford. For more information, call (503) 227-5486 or 1-800-495-4114.

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon annual convention

The 113th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon will be held November 15 to 17 at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside. The theme will be "Joyful Living—Joyful Giving Stewardship: A Way of Life." For more information, call (503) 636-5613 or visit the Web site at www.dioce-oregon.org.
Calendar of Events

October 10 Consultation on Homelessness and the Faith Community’s Response: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. EMO will convene a discussion with religious leaders, civil activists and concerned citizens regarding homelessness in the Portland metropolitan area and issues surrounding Dignity Village. For more information, call Rick Stoller at (503) 221-1054 or rstoller@emoregon.org.

October 14 Caring Conversations: Making Decisions About End-of-Life Care: 1 to 5 p.m., Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland. This workshop is designed to help individuals and their loved ones talk about end-of-life values and preferences. Sponsored by AARP Oregon Gerontology Association, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Health Decisions, Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation and Oregon Hospice Association. For more information or to register, call (503) 652-8855.

October 19 Care of Self: Care of Story. 8:30 to 11 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock, Portland. John C. Karl will be exploring the use of stories to nourish the self and reconnect the soul. Presented by the Samaritan Counseling Center.

October 22 Energy Stewardship Workshop: Save Energy, Monetize the Earth. Bend. Time and exact location to be announced. Learn how to save 20 percent or more on your energy bill and how to support your sustainable economic development through renewable power. Topics include tips for home lighting audits, energy efficiency guidelines for home and place of worship and updates on renewable energy. Sponsored by EMO’s Oregon Interfaith Power and Light Project. For more information, call (503) 244-8318.

October 22 to November 11 Trips of Perspective Travel to India to be taught by those who possess little of the world’s resources, to gain perspective and have our lives changed. To register or for more information, please call Dale or Esther at Journey into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or email journey@teleport.com.

October 23 Beatles Baroque—A Benefit for Trinity Consort. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will support the Portland-based Trinity Consort, a professional chamber music ensemble that performs the sacred choral works of the 17th and 18th centuries. Featuring the Portland Baroque Orchestra and choir. For more information, call (503) 222-9811 or www.trinitycathedral.org.

October 26 Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries Spiritual Retreat. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Peyto Arboretum, Corvallis. Led by Sister Dorothy Puluka of the Shalom Prayer Center, this retreat is open to parish nurses, chaplains, church ministers, health care providers and social workers. To learn more or to register, visit the Samaritan Health Services Web site at www.samhealth.org.

October 26 to 27 Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries Conference. Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Albany. This conference is open to parish nurses, chaplains, church ministers, community health and hospice staff, health care providers, physicians and social workers. Sponsored by Samaritan Health Services and Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries. For more information or to register, visit the Samaritan Health Services Web site at www.samhealth.org.

October 26 to 28 Deepening Our Relationship with God. A retreat for women that will be held in the Portland area. To register or for more information, please call Dale or Esther at Journey into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail journey@teleport.com.

October 27 Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter Street, Eugene. The Second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

October 27 The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, call (503) 285-7334.

October 27 to 28 Bach: Father and Son. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. Part of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert series featuring the great sacred choral works of the 17th and 18th centuries performed on period instruments in historic Trinity Cathedral. To order your subscription, call (503) 222-9811 or www.trinitycathedral.org.

October 27 to November 4 Through the Farmworker’s Eyes. This travel seminar to Cuernavaca and Oaxaca, Mexico is co-sponsored by the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry and the Episcopal Hispanic/Latino Ministries of North Carolina. Led by the Center for Global Education, the seminar promises opportunities for conversation with people across the spectrum of Mexican society. Contact Oregen Farm Worker Ministry for further details at (503) 981-8384 or ofwm@earthlink.net.

November 10 Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 231 N W 19th Avenue, Portland. This event will bring together farmers, eaters and policy makers to consider how to sustain local agriculture during a time when the globalization of agricultural markets threatens the viability of farming in Oregon. Sponsored by the Economic Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church, EMO’s Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and others. For more information, call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-5062.

November 11 One Day of Peace. On December 5, 2000, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed an initiative stating that January 1 of every year be designated as a day of peace and sharing. To promote this day of peace and sharing, call (503) 422-1254 or www.onedayofpeace.net.

February 9 Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Butner, Beaverton. The Second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

April 7 to May 5 Anne Frank: A History for Today Exhibit. Lloyd Center, Portland. This high-profile event is expected to attract 100,000 people, including 20,000 students. Admission is free.