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*There is still time
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Faith community fights hunger in Oregon

In early May, a delegation from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) met with Governor Ted Kulongoski in Salem to discuss the rising hunger rate in the state and how the faith community, the state and others can respond.

This was the first official meeting between EMO and Governor Kulongoski since he took office in January. EMO conveyed to the governor an understanding of the various roles the faith community has in addressing hunger. This includes providing emergency food services, building community-based organizations around food security and advocating for policies that address the root causes of hunger such as income, housing and health care.

Governor Kulongoski has made fighting hunger a top priority for his administration. The governor believes that a broad cross-section of involvement that includes businesses, non-profits, religious institutions and the government is necessary to effectively fight hunger in

Oregon. During harvest week in the fall, plans for a faith-based event around the issue of hunger are underway with the governor, EMO and others in the faith community. In the meantime, EMO has pushed for several bills in the Oregon Legislature that would provide greater access to food for low-income individuals and has helped convene an interfaith group around hunger.

Close to 70 percent of the Oregon Food Bank's emergency food distribution network is either faith-based or agencies associated with religious institutions.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oregon continues to have the highest hunger rate in the nation, indicating that many



Photo credit: Erinn Kelly-Siel

On May 6, leaders from EMO staff and denominational membership met with Governor Kulongoski to wish him well in his first term and to discuss ways of reducing hunger in Oregon.

From left to right: Phillip Kennedy-Wong, EMO public policy director; Bishop Edward Paup, United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference; Mary Jo Tully, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Bishop Paul Swanson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. Dr. Dan Bryant, First Christian Church; Rev. Jack Hodges, Presbyterian Church (USA); Governor Ted Kulongoski; Rev. Gene Ross, United Church of Christ; David Leslie, EMO executive director; Rev. Steven Sprecher, First United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference; and Jenny Holmes, EMO environmental ministries director.

in the state do not know from where or when their next meal may come. EMO, along with others in the faith community, plays a significant role in reducing hunger. Close to 70 percent of the Oregon Food Bank's emergency food distribution network is either faith-based organizations or agencies associated with

religious institutions. EMO has also been active in bringing people together around food security issues and hunger's root causes.

For information on hunger-related bills in the Legislature, visit www.emoregon.org/publicpolicyadvocacy.html.

Itty elected new Episcopal Bishop in Oregon



Photo credit: Diocese of Oregon

The Episcopal Church has elected its first "Generation X"

bishop, a sign of hope for young clergy in a church in which only four percent of priests are under the age of 35. Johncy Itty, 40, was elected bishop of Oregon on May 17. Once Itty's election is confirmed, he will lead 21,000 parishioners in 788 congregations in western Oregon.

Itty was born in Bhopal, India, and currently serves as

the canon residentiary at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York. He has also served on the national staff of the Episcopal Church headquarters in New York.

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, president of the Gathering the neXt Generation network of young clergy, said the church needs more young bishops like Itty.

Generation X is generally described as those born between 1961 and 1981.

The Service of Consecration of Johncy Itty as Ninth Bishop of Oregon will be held on Sept. 20, 11 a.m., at the Salem Armory Auditorium, Oregon State Fairgrounds, with the Very Rev. Frank Griswold presiding at the event.

Source: *Christian Century*, June 14, 2003

A time for healing and peace

“... I will heal them and ... reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.”
—Jeremiah 33:6

On July 1, several hundred people gathered at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church for a “community dialogue” to discuss the fatal shooting of Kendra James by Officer Scott McCollister of the Portland Police Department.

Unfortunately, there was not much dialogue that evening. Nor was there much repentance or peacemaking. Lost somewhere in the stream of disconnected monologues was the fact that one life was lost, another life was forever altered and trust in Portland’s police department was further diminished on May 5 when Kendra James was killed.

The Portland Police Department opened the evening with a very lengthy PowerPoint presentation of the incident and a poor quality video “reenactment” of the possible events that caused Officer McCollister to fear for his safety and pull his gun. The presentation only caused more sorrow and anger and diminished the full impact of Kendra’s death. It failed to produce any evidence that the use of deadly force was necessary. Kendra James was still dead and the circumstances surrounding her death were even more ambiguous and unclear.

Lost also that evening among that anger and bureaucratic

defensiveness was the personhood of Officer McCollister. A 27-year-old officer’s life is now forever altered. Tragically, when he pulled his gun, the worse case scenario played itself out. An unarmed person was dead. Needed that evening were prayers for the victims—Kendra James, Scott McCollister, their families and the greater community. McCollister is not some inanimate object. He is a human being working in a difficult job and in an agency that is facing some serious challenges.

Finally, the forum did not lend itself to building trust between the community and the Portland Police Department. An increasing number of people, especially in the African American and Latino communities, experienced the death of Kendra James as a blow to their souls. For many, Kendra James was another person of color killed by white law enforcement officials. Sadly, the accumulated sorrow and anger only grew at Mt. Olivet; these emotions were not about to be mitigated by high-tech presentations. Only honest apologies, unqualified recognition that mistakes were made, and changes in the system will start the healing process.

I left the evening rather

depressed, tempted to believe there would never be any reconciliation. However, upon further reflection, I discovered signs of hope. Thanks to the efforts of the Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA)—a coalition of churches in north and northeast Portland—the forum took place. It was an amazing moment to have this type of public accountability forum. The AMA has pledged to continue to advocate for systemic changes, such as the policy guiding the use of deadly force, and support further community dialogues.

Additional signs of hope included the ministers, community members and city officials who continue to find ways to work together for the betterment of the city. While at times difficult to create and maintain, these relationships are critical to ensure that improvements happen.

Today, we must pray and work toward the day when there will be no more tragedies like the death of Kendra James. Needed will be true repentance and changes in individual and collective perspectives and behaviors that will keep our young people away from drugs and law enforcement’s unnecessary use of deadly force. Only through these changes and our work together will we be able to reclaim the sacredness of life in our society, ensuring that peace will reign once again.



David Leslie

Founders award received at sustainability conference

EMO’s Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) received its *Founders of a New Northwest* award from Sustainable Northwest at a May 31 conference, which concluded the 2003 Sustainability Forum in Portland. The Founders program was initiated in 1995 to understand how sustainability was being implemented in the region and to recognize and promote models of sustainability.

The award reads as follows: “In recognition of your innovative work to build a sustainable economy in the Northwest. For refusing to sacrifice the good of the people for the good of the land – finding a new path which honors both. For giving of yourself to a vision of the human community working together – able to think beyond itself to embrace the entire biological community and from one generation to many.”

With close to 200 nominees to choose from, the selection committee focused on “those who went out on a limb, taking a personal risk, to get their innovative business or project off the ground.” Profiles of the Founders – including INEC – can be viewed at www.sustainablenorthwest.org.

For more information about INEC, call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

Challenge grant doubles gifts

It’s not too late to double the impact of your gift to EMO! The Collins Foundation has awarded EMO a \$75,000 challenge grant for the Annual Fund. Contributions, up to the designated amount, will be matched dollar for dollar. The purpose of the challenge grant is to increase Annual Fund contributions by individuals, congregations and other donors, and increase awareness of EMO’s ministries.

For more information on the challenge grant, please contact David Leslie at (503) 221-1054 or dleslie@emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates recent grants and gifts

Donor (Fund)	Program
Agouron Pharmaceuticals	HIV Services
The Autzen Foundation	Portland International Community School (PICS)
Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)
The Brainerd Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Marketta Buckler Revocable Living Trust	EMO Annual Fund 2003
John A. & Phyllis S. Courtney Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
June and Julian Foss Foundation	Portland International Community School (PICS)
The Fred Meyer Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
The Hoover Family Foundation	Portland International Community School (PICS)
The Jackson Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program & Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC)
The Susan G. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
Oregon Department of Justice	Russian Oregon Social Services
Polk Family Charitable Trust	Parent Mentor Program
Portland Women’s Union Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
Spirit Mountain Community Fund	HIV Services
The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation	EMO Annual Fund 2003
Wider Church Ministries (United Church of Christ)	HIV Services
Women’s Care Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
Juan Young Trust	Portland International Community School (PICS)

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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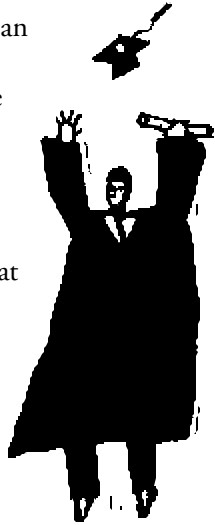
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Fax (503) 223-7007
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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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

International school celebrates seven new graduates

Portland International Community School (PICS), an Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon supported alternative high school for multi-cultural youth, working in partnership with Portland Public Schools, held its third annual graduation ceremony at the Foursquare Church in southeast Portland on June 9. Following the ceremony, community supporter Anne Hughes hosted a reception at her Kitchen Table Cafe at Southeast 12th and Oak.



The mission of PICS is to provide a quality education to immigrant, refugee and first generation youth, age 14 to 21, who have not been successful in the public school system. PICS is the only high school in Oregon dedicated to this mission.

PICS students have special educational needs, due to cultural and language barriers. Immigrant, refugee and first-generation students often experience difficulty in the traditional public school system. Students come from a wide range of domestic environments, and many of their parents do not speak English.

Khemera Chean, Philila Chhay, Maria Granados, Irma Izarraraz, Oscar Martinez, Tuu Nguyen and Sheila Terante form the PICS class of 2003. Their countries of origin include Thailand, Cambodia, Mexico, Vietnam and the Phillipines.

Tuu Nguyen has been at PICS the longest and says that he would not have graduated without PICS. Although Oscar Martinez already has a high school diploma from Mexico, he learned English at PICS and finished some supplementary course work to earn an Oregon diploma as well. Khemera Chean credits PICS with teaching him how to find his own perspective on life, and he will be recognized with a peace award for his active participation in PeaceJam and his contagious spirit of peace.

While Maria Granados is busy parenting her four-month-old daughter, Irma Izarraraz will be attending Ashmead College and training to



Photo credit: Derek Perrina

PICS graduates, top row, from left: Philila Chhay, Sheila Terante, Maria Granados and Irma Izarraraz. Bottom row, from left: Oscar Martinez, Khemera Chean and Tuu Nguyen.

be a massage therapist, and Sheila Terante will be learning the skills of a flight attendant at Vancouver Air Academy. Philila Chhay will be pursuing an associate's degree in gerontology at Portland Community College. Philila proudly stated, "I feel like I have accomplished more than I would have at a public school. I didn't think I would graduate. I didn't want to. Now I'm excited because I know that it's really going to happen." She added, "At PICS, we're a family more than a school."

EMO joins PICS students, staff, families and friends in congratulating this year's graduates and wishing them all the best in the future. For further information about the school, please contact Rachel Baldwin at (503) 232-5334, or rbaldwin@emoregon.org.

Patton Home garden party celebrates community & earth stewardship

To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, a party was held at the Patton Home Community Garden, located on the grounds of EMO's Patton Home, a drug- and alcohol-free, single room occupancy housing facility. The event included a barbecue provided by EMO's Delizioso Catering, as well as a work party to get the garden in shape.

The Patton Home Community Garden is the 26th and newest garden in the Portland Parks and Recreation Community Garden Program. The garden grew from a partnership between EMO and Portland Parks and Recreation with a grant from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development. It serves the north Portland community, as well as residents of the Patton Home. According to Leslie Pohl-Kosbau, director of Portland Community Gardens, "The Patton Home Community Garden, established just a year ago, is becoming a valuable neighborhood resource." EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) was a key catalyst for the garden's development.

For more information about the Patton Home Community Garden or if you are interested in volunteering, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.



Photo credit: Julie Keefe

Earth Day party at the Patton Home Community Garden, left to right: Cicely Bruce, the therapeutic horticulture coordinator and volunteer who is receiving her training and certification through the Legacy Good Samaritan Horticultural Therapy Program by working on this garden; Jenny Holmes, INEC program director; David Leslie, EMO executive director; and the Rev. Eugene Ross, EMO board president.

Community Ministries program highlights

Oregon Recovery Homes reaches the 100 mark!

Since EMO took over this state-funded contract in 1994, Oregon Recovery Homes has administered over 100 interest-free loans to groups of people in alcohol and drug recovery. The loans are used to establish peer-run, self-supporting, drug- and alcohol-free homes, which are based on the Oxford House model.

Oregon Recovery Homes outreach coordinator, Michael Morgester, describes the \$100,000 revolving loan fund used to establish these homes as one of "the most cost-effective investments the state of Oregon has ever made." Members of the houses repay the loan in 24 monthly installments, so the funds are continuously replenished and available to reuse over and over again.

At the present time, there are 106 Oxford Houses in Oregon providing alcohol and drug-free housing and rehabilitative support to over 800 men, women and children in 22 cities and 14 counties throughout the state, making Oregon Recovery Homes and Oxford Houses responsible for the largest statewide alcohol- and drug-free housing network in Oregon.

For more information about Oregon Recovery Homes, contact Michael Morgester at (503) 307-4811. To learn more about Oxford Houses of Oregon, visit www.oxfordhousesoforegon.com.

PICS receives full accreditation

In May, the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities awarded Portland International Community School (PICS) full accreditation. Not only did the school receive accreditation, it was also commended in several areas, including the library and media options that are available at PICS and the high level of commitment by the staff. The school's partnership development was also commended – in particular, for the successful collaboration with Portland State University and the Capstone Program that essentially creates a "big brother, big sister" program for students.

Upon receiving the news from the association's main office in Idaho, Skip Adams, the school's director, stated, "I'd like to thank the staff for their hard work and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon for their support. Our efforts have created a school program that students, parents and the community at large can feel proud of."

Patton Home notified of Section 8 rental assistance

Patton Home was recently notified of project-based Section 8 rental assistance for 16 units from the Housing Authority of Portland, which will further Patton Home's usefulness as a haven for very low income persons. Currently, over 50 of 63 rooms are occupied.

Calendar of Events

August 29 and 30

Laboring for Justice in Palestine and Israel. From 1 p.m. Friday to 5:30 p.m. Saturday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock, Portland. Presented by Friends of Sabelle North America and Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights. Full conference, \$75; one day only, \$45. To register or for more information, call (503) 653-6625.

September 15 and 16

Interfaith Walk for Peace in Washington, D.C. For there to be peace in the Middle East, the sponsors of this event offer an opportunity for a highly publicized expression of moral vision and principle by American Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders who believe working together for peace is fundamental to our faiths. For more information, contact Ron Young, USICPME, at (360) 652-4285 or usicpme@aol.com, or Rev. Charles Biggs, URI, at (415) 561-2307 or office@uri.org.

September 19 to 21

Writer's Workshop. Location in Portland (call phone number below for address). For writers and would-be writers who have a hunger for God, for truth, for getting voice on paper and to experience what happens when words, silence and heart come together. Sponsored by Journey Into Freedom. For more information, contact Dale Stitt at (503) 244-4728 or visit www.journeyintofreedom.org.

October 17 to 31

Wilderness Trip of Perspective to India. This is NOT a tourist trip. One cannot go to places like India without experiencing some of the realities that most of us spend our entire lifetime trying to ignore. This is an opportunity to reexamine our security base, to move out of our comfort zone, to meet some incredible people, and possibly to have our lives changed. There is a three-month preparation process, so contact Journey Into Freedom ASAP if interested. For more information, contact Dale Stitt at (503) 244-4728 or visit www.journeyintofreedom.org.

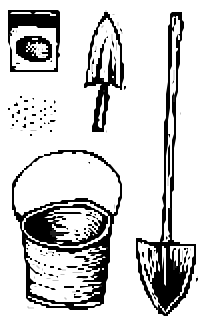
Community Care Day

Let's join together for
Portland Public Schools

August 16, 9 a.m. to noon; there will also be a picnic from noon to 1:30.

Community Care Day is an opportunity for the local community of faith to reach out in support of Portland Public Schools. The day will involve outdoor projects to beautify school grounds such as picking up litter, cutting brush, pulling weeds, raking and edging flower beds, spreading bark dust and planting flowers (if possible, bring your yard tools). Churches will be partnered with a school.

For more information, contact Randy Thomas, Portland Public Schools, at (503) 916-3310 or Rik Skopil, Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, at (503) 614-1531 or visit www.communitycareday.com.



Upcoming EMO sponsored events

September 18

Oregon Faith Leaders' Summit on Climate Stewardship. From 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northwest Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd., Salem. Oregon's religious leaders, clergy and lay leaders from diverse faith perspectives will explore the unique role of faith and earth stewardship, assess the progress of state and interfaith campaigns to slow climate change, and to plan next steps. The summit includes briefings on the latest science on climate change, state and national policies and innovative regional solutions emerging in the Pacific Northwest. An interfaith panel will share insights on the religious issues raised by climate change. Invited and/or confirmed speakers include Dr. Kent Bransford, Physicians for Social Responsibility; K.C. Golden, executive director of Northwest Connections; Gov. Ted Kulongoski; state Rep. Pat Farr (R); and state Sen. Ryan Deckert (D). EMO is coordinating the event with the Northwest Jewish Environmental Project.

For more information, call Jenny Holmes, campaign coordinator, at (503) 221-1054, ext 278.

September 15

EMO Program Tour. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (includes lunch) at the Interchurch Center, 0245 SW Bancroft, Suite B, Portland. EMO offers an interactive tour of our ministries and services in the community. The tour is free and offered to anyone who is interested. To reserve your space, call (503) 221-1054. Special tours can also be arranged for your group.



The Center for Spiritual Development launches Abrahamic Initiative

Beginning Fall 2003, The Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland will offer a new two-year program entitled *Abrahamic Initiative: A Study of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*.

The *Abrahamic Initiative* program is designed to promote greater knowledge, understanding and accord among people of the Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The goal of the *Abrahamic Initiative* is to increase the religious, cultural and spiritual literacy of a concerned and inquiring public about these traditions. The educational focus will be anthropological and historical, social, cultural and religious. The Center will explore the importance of world-view and how religions shape a way of being in the world. It is the intent that this curriculum can help dispel misunderstandings and contribute to an informed and honest conversation for the good of each tradition and the community as a whole.

Abrahamic Initiative events

October 24

Lecture: Abraham – A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths. 7:30 p.m. at The Center for Spiritual Development. Lecture by Bruce Feiler, an award-winning journalist and speaker, and the New York Times best-selling author of five books. Cost: \$15.

November 15

Lecture: When Religion Becomes Evil. 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Center for Spiritual Development. Lecture by Dr. Charles Kimball, a professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. Kimball has made more than 35 visits to the Middle East and is a frequent lecturer and expert analyst on issues related to the Middle East, Islam and the intersection of religion and politics. Cost: \$10.

The three-term per year program costs \$250 per term and offers student and clergy discounts. The full-year fee of \$700 includes six, two-hour Tuesday evening classes per term (beginning Oct. 14) plus four Friday evening Lecture/Saturday Workshops and an end of year retreat. Faculty will be from Reed and Lewis & Clark Colleges, Oregon State and Portland State Universities, and religious leaders from the three traditions. Students can earn two credit hours per term from Portland State University, Continuing Education/ Graduate School of Education for the *Abrahamic Initiative* program.

For more information, please contact The Center for Spiritual Development at (503) 478-1225 or (503) 478-1218. The Center is located at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland.

November 16

Workshop: Claiming the Promises of God; Obstacles and Opportunities for the Children of Abraham. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Center for Spiritual Development. Workshop led by Dr. Charles Kimball, a professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. Kimball has made more than 35 visits to the Middle East and is a frequent lecturer and expert analyst on issues related to the Middle East, Islam and the intersection of religion and politics. Cost: \$45 (includes lunch).

For more information about any of these events, call (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org. The events will be held at The Center, located at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland.

To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please e-mail mbush@emoregon.org.