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*EMO's 2004
Annual Report
included in this
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Local musicians and artists will weave their creative talents together at *Tapestry of Peace*

Concert violinist Aaron Meyer, along with multi-instrumentalist Bill Lamb—whose original music fuses classical, world and popular music—will be the headline performers at the second annual *Tapestry of Peace Concert & Silent Art Auction* on Nov. 14 at the Newmark Theater in Portland.

The evening will bring together a diverse community of people—musicians, poets and visual artists—who celebrate a common vision of peacemaking in our community and the world. The event is a fundraiser for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Wholistic Peace Institute, whose peace program focuses on sponsoring

the visits of Nobel Peace Laureates to Oregon.

Meyer has released four albums in collaboration with producer and composer Bill Lamb. He has held solo appearances with major U.S. orchestras and ballet companies and performed internationally in concert halls around the world. He has also opened for or performed with several major artists and bands, including the platinum selling rock band Everclear, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and Aaron Neville. In 1999, Meyer performed songs from one of his first projects, *Seasons of Peace*, at the World Peace Conference held at the United

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Concert violinist Aaron Meyer will be a featured performer at *Tapestry of Peace* on Nov. 14 at the Newmark Theater.

Against all odds: *Faith community keeps witness in the Legislature*

The Oregon Legislature adjourned the second longest session in its history in early August. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) kept witness to the very end to ensure that the common good was not forgotten.

There were many issues that competed for the attention of the lawmakers. Over 3,400 bills were introduced during the seven-month session and 20 percent passed both legislative chambers. The Legislature dealt with the recent spike of methamphetamine-related crime, veteran support during wartime, civil unions and

K-12 education. Missing from the session were significant steps towards tax reform, poverty reduction and health care access. Despite this, EMO played a role with its Christians for Peace & Justice network in advocating for Oregon's poorest and most vulnerable residents.

EMO lobbied successfully for modest tax relief for low-income families with a first ever refundable earned income tax credit. Oregon now joins 18 other states that refund a portion of a federal tax credit, eligible to people with very little earned income, as way to offset a

disproportionate tax burden. To maximize the refundable credit's benefit to low-income families, EMO helped pass disclosure requirements that educate consumers of their rights when considering tax refund anticipation loans. Without disclosure, many individuals might be led to believe that they are actually receiving their tax refund, when in fact they are receiving a loan based on anticipation of a tax refund. The high fees would reduce the benefit of the refundable earned income tax credit.

Passage of hunger relief legislation was limited to the

expansion of the summer food program in school districts with a majority of low-income students and backfilled funding for the Farmers Market Program for clients in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program and low-income seniors. The Legislature did not consider restoring cash assistance programs such as Emergency Assistance and General Assistance. Both programs were critical to preventing homelessness because families used the assistance to help with rent, utilities and food.

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Keeping witness in a time of uncertainty

So often when writing about public finances in this column, I usually write about the sad state of affairs in the public arena. Suffice to say that with an anti-tax, limited government ideology dominating politics, Oregonians did not do well by the Oregon Legislature. Party posturing and political bickering prevented saving the Oregon Health Plan and other health services, ensured that the working poor will continue to be gouged by an unregulated payday lending industry with no accountability for loan terms and high interest rates, and left the future of public school funding for all Oregon districts more uncertain.



David Leslie

Nationally, growing deficits and increasing military costs threaten the fiscal foundation of this country and undermine important safety net programs like Social Security and Medicaid.

Uncertainty is a state of being that all too many people understand.

The impact of this uncertainty places great stress and demands on the limited resources of local congregations, community ministries and social service agencies to fill the many social needs of our communities. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has not been spared this reality. We continue to serve more people through our programs, reaching record numbers at the HIV Day Center and Northeast Emergency Food Program. Our advocacy to repair Oregon's unraveling safety net and to protect natural resources is needed as much as anytime in history. There is a need for both ecumenical and interfaith relationship building that allows us to join together in dialogue and service.

These demands on EMO are outpacing the resources available to meet them. Today, more than ever, we need your prayers, volunteer hours and financial support. Our ability to meet the demands of our mission is directly proportional to the gifts we receive from our

supporters. A gift to the Collins Foundation Challenge will provide support for EMO's Annual Fund, which in turn supports much of our communication and education programs. A gift in support of the Rodney Page Community Ministry Center Capital Campaign will help us build out support offices at the Patton Home, allowing us to better serve residents who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Dedicated gifts to our Community Ministry programs are much needed, as are gifts to Public Policy Advocacy, Environmental Ministries or Theological Dialogue programs. Through the EMO Endowment, we are in the position to receive planned gifts, as well as large gifts dedicated to long-term support of EMO.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is blessed to be called to serve God's people and creation in so many ways. At this moment, we know just how important our ministries and services are. We are doing all we can to keep serving

people in need at our doorsteps. Toward this end, I invite you to pray for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, to volunteer time and to donate to EMO and other faith-based organizations as you are able.

As the state of affairs in this world produces more uncertainty, the testimony to the certainty of God's love and hope for the present, as well as the future, is needed more than ever.

As the state of affairs in this world produces more uncertainty, the testimony to the certainty of God's love and hope for the present, as well as the future, is needed more than ever. With your support, EMO will continue to witness to this call in new, creative and relevant ways.

Donate online!

You may now make a secure donation to EMO on our Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Leave a legacy to EMO

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) invites you, our donors and friends, to explore the various benefits you can receive by establishing a charitable life income plan in conjunction with EMO and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation. By working with a qualified advisor, your gift may provide you with an immediate tax deduction, and it can furnish you with an income for life. After your lifetime, the remaining portion of your gift will be given to EMO to help ensure the continuation of the quality programs that EMO supports throughout Oregon.

Testamentary gifts to EMO, or other charities, can take many forms, either through a new will or through a "codicil," an amendment to your existing will. The following are examples of bequest gifts:

Charitable Bequest allows you to support either the general operations of the organization or designate a specific program or focus area for support. Another possibility is to direct that your charitable bequest be added to an endowment fund. The principal of an endowment fund is retained and invested in perpetuity, and only the income is expended for the organization's benefit.

Gift Annuity provides lifetime annuity income to the donor or a loved one. The maximum annuity income is based on the age of the annuitant when the gift is made. After the annuitant's lifetime, the charitable remainder of the annuity is used by EMO for its programs and services.

Charitable Remainder Trusts, like charitable gift annuities, are life income gifts: you transfer assets now, receiving a charitable deduction for a portion of the transfer, and you or a beneficiary receive income for the rest of your life or a fixed period of time. Both Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and you can benefit from life income gifts such as these. You can also set up a testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust, to be established upon your passing. While you will not receive a charitable deduction, your estate will.

For more information about planned giving, contact Bob Baker, director of EMO Development and Communications, at (503) 221-1054 or bbaker@emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates recent grants and gifts

EMO's Board and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO's ministries. The following is a list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the February 2005 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Abbott Laboratories	HIV Services
Bank of the West	NE Emergency Food Program
The Black United Fund of Oregon	NE Emergency Food Program
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	HIV Services
Centennial High School	NE Emergency Food Program
Children's Trust Fund of Oregon Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
City of Beaverton	Shared Housing
The Collins Foundation	2005 Annual Fund
Energy Trust of Oregon	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
The Equity Foundation, Inc.	HIV Services
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Gilead Sciences	HIV Services
The Jackson Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns & NE Emergency Food Program
National Council of the Churches of Christ	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Northwest Health Foundation	HIV Services
The Oregon Community Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Pacific University	2005 Annual Fund
PacifiCorp	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
PGE Foundation	HIV Services & Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Polk Family Charitable Fund	HIV Services
Presbytery of the Cascades	2005 Annual Fund
Pride Foundation	HIV Services
The Ralph L. Smith Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
The Regeneration Project	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Research into Action, Inc.	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
SAFECO Insurance Companies	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
The Swigert Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
The United Methodist Church	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
United Way of the Columbia - Willamette	HIV Services
Wells Fargo Foundation	Portland International Community School

Workshops to feature energy stewardship and solar options for congregations, homes and businesses

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, is offering workshops for congregations, businesses and individuals on energy stewardship and renewable energy (see below for workshop information). The keynote speaker for the workshops will be Doug Boleyn, PE, who has over 20 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The workshops are co-sponsored by Pacific Power and Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc.

Solar Energy: Using the Creator's Daily Gift in Homes, Congregations and Businesses for Stewardship and Energy Security. Sept. 28 in Medford, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. (6 p.m. registration). Topics include introduction to solar energy, incentives for congregations and households, and solar for all budgets.

Save Your Congregation Energy and Money: A Consultation on Energy Stewardship for Congregation Facilities Managers, Clergy and Building Committee Members. Sept. 29 in Medford and Oct. 12 in Pendleton, from 12 to 2:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. registration). Topics include key principles of energy stewardship for

congregations, building operations with low-cost, no-cost measures to save energy and money, troubleshooting and recordkeeping to reduce costs, and funding your congregation's energy efficiency project.

Energy Stewardship Workshop: A Dynamic Workshop Empowering Individuals and Congregations to Save Energy, Money and the Earth. Sept. 29 in Medford and Oct. 12 in Pendleton, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. registration); on Nov. 5 in Portland, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration). Topics include household energy efficiency, how your household or congregation can produce no global warming pollution, the ethics of energy stewardship, and renewable energy options that are clean and affordable.

The workshops in Medford will be held at Medford United Methodist Church, 607 W. Main Street; Pendleton workshops will be at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 SE Second; and the Portland workshop will be at St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1704 NE 43rd Ave. The cost per workshop is \$7 per individual, \$10 total

for two individuals or \$15 for three to six members of the same congregation. Youth are free! A light meal and materials are included. The registration deadline is Sept. 26 (Nov. 3 for Portland workshop). If space is available, registration will also be accepted at the door. Scholarships are available.

For more information or to register by phone, call Dana Bussey at (503) 221-1054, ext. 203. You may also download a registration brochure at www.emoregon.org.

EMO's Environmental Ministries director receives lifetime achievement award



Photo credit: Michelle Bush

Jenny Holmes, director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Environmental Ministries, was honored with the William E. Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award for her ecumenical and interfaith work with EMO, as well as service to denominational environmental ministries with Presbyterians for Restoring Creation (PRC) and the Presbytery of the Cascades. Holmes received the award on June 11 at a PRC 10th Anniversary celebration in Lake George, N.Y.

The award recognizes Holmes' broadly creative ministry in the cause of eco-justice. She possesses comprehensive knowledge of the eco-justice field based on both environmental and theological studies, and uses this knowledge in networking and motivating on state, regional and national issues. Her many contributions include her leadership with the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, work as program director of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and service as Stewardship of Creation Enabler for Presbytery of the Cascades. Since the Klamath water crisis erupted in 2001, Holmes has brought leadership to the long process of seeking reconciliation, bringing together farmers, ranchers, Native Americans, environmentalists and church people for discussion.

Holmes is a longtime PRC member who worships at First Presbyterian Church in Portland. PRC works for environmental wholeness and justice and speaks with a prophetic voice on environmental issues and related policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The organization supports networks of Presbyterians who work to restore and preserve creation, and collaborates with other groups involved in eco-justice issues.

Energy programs that work for you

If you're an Oregon customer of Pacific Power, Portland General Electric or NW Natural, Energy Trust programs are just a call or a click away. Their team of experts can help you save with energy evaluations for your home or business and cash incentives to make improvements affordable. They can also help you tap into the power of the sun and other renewable energy technologies.

Help for homeowners

Home Energy Savings program – Owners of existing homes and apartment buildings can take advantage of free energy-saving recommendations, cash incentives for improvements and referrals to qualified contractors.

Efficient New Homes program – Invest in an Energy Star qualified new home to assure that it meets the highest levels of energy efficiency and comfort.

Efficient Home Products program – Conserve energy and save with incentives on Energy Star qualified efficient appliances and lighting.

Help for businesses (and congregations*)

***Building Efficiency program** – The Energy Trust offers energy surveys and cash incentives on qualified energy-efficient improvements to help you get started on customized projects. They also offer contractor referrals, project management and post-installation assistance to help your business get the most out of your investments.

***New Building Efficiency program** – New buildings and major renovation projects can benefit from the financial incentives, technical assistance and other services offered through this program.

*Building Operation and Commissioning Services

– This program provides assistance and incentives to ensure new buildings perform at peak efficiency once they're completed.

Production Efficiency program – This program is designed to help improve the efficiency of manufacturing processes, water and wastewater treatment and agriculture. They offer technical assistance and financial incentives for qualified equipment such as motors, pumps, compressed air systems, fans and refrigeration.

Help tapping renewable energy

Heating programs – Designed to bring solar electric and solar water heating systems within reach for homeowners and businesses, these programs include financial incentives, service and support.

Other Renewable Energy programs – In addition to their solar programs, the Energy Trust supports utility-scale wind and other renewable energy projects and small-scale, community-level wind development. Each year, they also fund four to six innovative projects that generate renewable energy from hydro, biomass and geothermal resources. Though they do not invest in bringing new technologies to market or in research and demonstration projects, they welcome new ideas for enterprising, forward-thinking renewable energy applications.

Help with tax credits

Some energy projects qualify for state of Oregon and federal tax credits. Energy Trust will help you understand your options and prepare your application.

For more information, visit the Energy Trust Web site at www.energytrust.org.

It's not over ...

HIV/AIDS continues to spread

By Lowen Berman, program manager,
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Services

HIV/AIDS has fallen off the radar screen of many media outlets in the United States today. If there is a story about AIDS in the newspaper, it is usually about AIDS in Africa. However, neither the domestic epidemic nor the international pandemic are over or under control.

In the United States, because new infections continue at an increasing rate and new medications keep people alive much longer, the number of people living with HIV disease grows each year. Domestically, the new medications have been a Godsend to the community, keeping many people alive for many years. However, the medications are not a cure, and they carry terrible side effects of their own. People continue to die of HIV/AIDS and accompanying complications. In the past few months, seven clients of EMO's HIV Services have passed away. Three more are currently in hospice care.

AIDS is more and more becoming a disease of poor and minority communities in the United States. Nationally, more than 75 percent of new infections are in the African American and Latino communities. In Washington DC, one in seven African American men are infected, a rate comparable to parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Internationally, HIV disease is exploding across southern Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Today, more than 40 million people are living with the disease, 9,000 die of AIDS each day and nearly 2,000 of these are children. The number of new infections is increasing every day.

Even as the number of clients that we serve continues to grow rapidly, government support for HIV service programs is shrinking. EMO's HIV Services program saw one reduction in government support earlier this year and expects to see more in the year ahead. If we cannot replace and supplement these funds, we will be forced to reduce services. If you are interested in helping with donations or volunteer time, please contact Lowen Berman, HIV Services program manager, at (503) 460-3822.

Christmas in July collects over 5,000 pounds of food

Summer is the time to enjoy life with picnics, children playing in the park and family vacations. Unfortunately, there is also less focus on charity during the summer months, even though many people go hungry, including families with children.

In an effort to spur compassion and giving during the summer, the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) sponsors *Christmas in July*. The annual project offers churches and community groups around the Portland metro area an opportunity to participate directly in a local ministry and ensures an adequate supply of nutritious food to the increasing number of area residents in crisis.

Last year during the *Christmas in July*

program, participants gave the program \$2,179 and 3,584 pounds of food. This year, the 15 churches and community groups supporting the program gave \$2,436 and 5,224 pounds of food. A 10 percent increase in cash is impressive; a 45 percent increase in food and personal care items is off the charts!

With several months left until the holiday giving season, and the demand for food increased by 10 percent over last year, NEFP will need to stretch these donations until November. If your community group or congregation would like to participate next July in this event with NEFP or at any point throughout the year, please call John Elizalde, program manager, at (503) 284-5470.

Jesus calls you into service

Disciples General Assembly mobilizes volunteers

During the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly in July, all registrants were encouraged to serve in the local Portland community. Of the 5,300 assembly registrants, 4,500 were involved in some form of volunteer service. Part of this service, commonly referred to by participants as "getting dirty for Jesus," was hands-on involvement, such as working at food banks and community gardens.

Many Disciples volunteered at three of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's programs. One group took clients of the HIV Day Center on a field trip to the Oregon Coast. Others worked at the Patton Home Community Garden.

At the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP), the Disciples sent 28 people over a three-day period to volunteer. John Elizalde, NEFP program manager, commented, "Our



"Getting dirty for Jesus": Several participants volunteered at the Patton Home Community Garden as part of the Disciples of Christ General Assembly service project.

food house was rocking! It was nice to get the work done, but the spirit was really the best part of their service."

PICS has a new home

Over the summer, the Portland International Community School (PICS) moved to Grant Park Baptist Church, located just a few blocks from Grant High School, at NE 34th and Knott, in Portland. The facility has space for classrooms, a computer lab, cafeteria and kitchen, as well as use of a full-sized gym.

"PICS has been searching for a new building for five years," said Skip Adams, PICS program manager. "We found not only a building, but also a home and family at Grant Park Baptist Church. This is a win-win for both PICS and the church."

PICS will host an open house on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 3 to 7 p.m. Anyone interested in touring the new facility and meeting the staff and students is welcome to attend.

For more information about PICS or the open house, call (503) 232-5334.



One of the classrooms at the new facility for EMO's Portland International Community School.

Knickers for Success

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Transition Services Unit (TSU) is asking for your support to assist recently released offenders into the community. They need donations of men's briefs, boxers, socks and t-shirts, as well as sheets and pillowcases. TSU provides a comprehensive system of services designed to prepare, equip and sustain an offender upon community re-entry from prison or jail within the first 90-180 days. *If you are interested in donating any of the items listed above, please contact Liv Elsa Jensen, manager, Department of Community Justice TSU, at (503) 988-4054.*

Tapestry of Peace

Continued from page 1

Nations in New York and at the 1999 World Peace Conference held in The Hague, Holland. In 2001, Meyer performed for the visit of the Dalai Lama at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"My interest in peace work is very strong," says Meyer, which developed, he says, during his years of traveling to remote areas of South and Southeast Asia. He spent time in Burma and Cambodia—two countries in the midst of civil war. He was inspired by the courage of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Burmese Nobel Prize winner who spoke from her home where she was under house arrest. The energy she transmitted to her people in the midst of repression and military dictatorship led Meyer to find ways to help the cause of peace with his musical talent.

Also performing at *Tapestry of Peace* will be Cappella Romana, a vocal chamber ensemble dedicated to combining passion with scholarship in its exploration of the musical traditions of the

A mother's one dream comes true

After 13 years, refugee family is reunited

It's a cloudy April day in Portland, but the smiles on the faces of Collette Bahati's family radiate like sunshine. "I'm so happy, you cannot imagine," says Collette as she beams over her two boys.

The journey that brought the family together in Portland—so far from their native Democratic Republic of the Congo—lasted 13 years. That's when Collette separated from her husband in the capital of Kinshasa and moved to another province. Her husband kept Joseph, their only son at the time, but Collette was already expecting their second child. She had been completing the legal work necessary to obtain custody of Joseph when the convulsions of war forced her to flee for safety to Nairobi, Kenya. There, she gave birth to her second son, Jeannot, and lived for two years in a state of limbo and cut off from Joseph.

In February 2000, Collette received news that she had been cleared to be moved to the United States through the Church World Service (CWS) Refugee Resettlement Network. Though she was elated at the possibility of starting a new life, she also was aware that she would be even farther from her son Joseph. Her hope was that one day he could join her.

Collette arrived in the United States on Sept. 9, 2000, and faced the struggles of a single mother. She was assisted by the local CWS affiliate, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), a program of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. With the help of SOAR and the Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Collette was placed in affordable housing, given an orientation about life in the United States and connected to programs to help her improve her English and find employment.

Collette adapted well. She found a job with Wellesley Inn Suites, and Jeannot did well in school. But, she longed to see Joseph. "This was a very big worry for me, and every single day and every single second, I thought about my son and when he would come," she remembers. Her ex-husband, who had remarried, agreed to let Joseph join his mother. Collette consulted with the Immigration Counseling team at SOAR,

and they began the process. "I'm very patient in everything," said Collette about the wait, "I always believed I'd be here with my son."

The process was excruciatingly slow, but finally, on March 31, 2005, 13 years after fleeing her country, Collette's dream was fulfilled. She recalls waiting in the airport for her son's arrival. "My heart was beating so fast I thought I would faint. I asked God to please help me to not collapse right there and to keep me strong for my son!"

Asked if he felt nervous about coming to a new country, Joseph replied, "I was happy to leave Kinshasa. Life was very difficult there. Besides that, all I felt was happiness to know that I would be seeing my mother for the first time since I was a baby, and that was all."

Now that she is reunited with both her sons, Collette says, "I am so happy, you cannot imagine. This was my one dream for 13 years! I feel so lucky and so thankful for this moment. Now I am living this dream."

Jeannot is also happy to be with his brother whom, until recently, he had only seen in photographs sent from their father. Jeannot worries about how Joseph will do in school without speaking English, but Collette and Joseph are confident he will learn quickly so that he can fulfill his dreams to be a doctor.

Now that she is reunited with both of her sons, Collette says, "I am so happy, you cannot imagine. This was my one dream for 13 years! I feel so lucky and so thankful for this moment. Now I am living this dream."

According to Joel Lieberman, the supervisor



Photo credit: Patrick Morgan

After 13 years of waiting, Collette Bahati and her son Jeannot (center) were reunited with older son Joseph (right).

of SOAR's immigration program, it is not unusual for refugee families to be separated for many years. In addition to Collette's case, SOAR has recently reunited other families from Ethiopia, Haiti and Congo—all of whom were separated for more than 10 years. It takes perseverance and patience, and the entire process is very stressful for the family. There are many stages in the reunification process, and at each stage there is the possibility that the case may be denied. There is no relief from this anxiety until the long-awaited relative actually arrives at the airport in the United States.

In addition to refugee family reunification, SOAR's immigration program also serves the broader immigrant community by helping immigrants to obtain green cards, work permits, travel documents, citizenship and political asylum. The political asylum program, sanctioned by the Oregon State Bar, utilizes volunteer attorneys in the Portland metropolitan area who represent low income asylum applicants for no fee. Since 1991, this program has helped hundreds of asylum seekers from such diverse countries as Somalia, Haiti, Burma, Ethiopia, Fiji, Chad, Rwanda and Colombia. Once someone is granted asylum, he or she is then entitled to apply for their spouse and children.

For more information about SOAR, or if you interested in volunteering or sponsoring a refugee family, call (503) 284-3002.

Christian East and West, with emphasis on early and contemporary music. Cappella Romana consists of some of the finest professional singers in the Pacific Northwest. The ensemble has a special commitment to mastering the difficult Slavic and Byzantine repertoires in their original languages, thereby making accessible to the general public two great musical traditions that are little-known in the West.

Cappella Romana made its debut in April 1991 with two enthusiastically received concerts of "Orthodox Music: Ancient and Modern" in Portland and San Francisco. Since that time, the ensemble has offered seven annual concert series in Portland featuring works ranging from medieval chant and polyphony to 20th century choral music and chamber music.

Other musical performers will include the No Kidding Choir, Marilyn Keller and the Aurora Chorus.

Another important aspect of the evening will be peace-related writings read by poets and local

religious leaders. These written-word segments will be woven through the musical acts.

Before the concert begins, a silent art auction will be held in the lobby of the theater. Participating artists include San Francisco painter John Musgrove and mixed media artist Lillian Pitt, one of the indigenous people of the Columbia River Gorge. Pitt has chosen to work in clay, bronze or precious metals, incorporating wood, copper, glass, shell, leather and feathers.

The Newmark Theater is located at SW Broadway and Main St. in downtown Portland. The silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. and will close at 6:45 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Tickets can be purchased in advance through Tickets West at (503) 992-8499 or at the Newmark Theater ticket office, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event. For more information, call (503) 221-1054.



Cappella Romana, a vocal chamber ensemble, will explore the musical traditions of the Christian East and West, with emphasis on early and contemporary music.

6 Public Policy Advocacy

Christians for Peace & Justice activism continues to grow!

This legislative session was the first opportunity for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Christians for Peace & Justice advocacy network to mobilize and advocate in the Oregon Legislature since forming in 2004. The network continues its growth, emerging as an effective way for people to put their faith into action. There is much excitement for the network and for EMO to expand its witness in ever larger numbers in statewide and national advocacy.

During the legislative session, Christians for Peace & Justice was a critical quick response network to timely legislative proceedings. The network was incredibly effective in generating postcards, letters, e-mails and phone calls in response to EMO's witness in the Oregon Legislature. The network was effective in generating a massive postcard campaign for consumer protections in payday loans. Three Protestant bishops and the Chancellor at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland filled out postcards as well.

The Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners and Call to Renewal wrote a letter on the network's behalf during the session, asking Oregon's Christian community to join together to advocate for the common good (go to EMO's Web site, listed to the right, to read the letter).

Wallis struck a chord among many Christians

with his book *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*.

Last year's Presidential election inspired many Christians to get involved politically. Many Christians were frustrated by politicians who limited their religious references to controversial and divisive theological issues in order to drive wedges within the Christian community. Now there is an outlet in Oregon for Christians that want to elevate issues like fighting poverty and hunger, protecting the environment, promoting health care access and opposing unjust wars as important moral values. Without the network, the Christian voice for the common good would not be heard in the state Capitol.

Membership dues for the Christians for Peace & Justice advocacy network are \$25 per individual or \$100 per congregation or organization. To join or for more information, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org/publicpolicyadvocacy.htm.



Congress gears up for fall Social Security debate: Study guides available to churches

The U.S. Congress is preparing to debate the privatization of Social Security as a way to protect the program this fall. In response, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has made available on its Web site study materials on Social Security as educational tools for congregations interested in learning about the program. The materials were developed by several organizations including Call to Renewal, the National Council of Churches, Oregon AARP and EMO.

Fourteen Oregon congregations celebrated Social Security's 70th anniversary on Aug. 14 using the study materials.

If your congregation is interested in hosting a town hall meeting or discussion group this fall, please call EMO's Public Policy Advocacy director, Phillip Kennedy-Wong, at (503) 221-1054 or Ed Yoon at (503) 235-3693 with Oregonians United to Protect Social Security.

To download materials, go to EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org/publicpolicyadvocacy.htm.

Faith community keeps witness in the Legislature

Continued from page 1

The latter program assisted people who are permanently disabled with little or no income. These programs ended in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Many churches and religious charities will feel effects of the cuts with increased requests for cash assistance from low-income families.

EMO advocated for several important health-related bills. The passage of long overdue legislation that requires equal insurance coverage for mental health services in health insurance plans, commonly referred to as mental health parity, was a huge victory for mental health advocates, people in recovery and people who suffer mental health disorders. Premiums for Oregon Health Plan recipients were eliminated for people below 10 percent of the federal poverty level. Despite passage in the Oregon Senate, legislation to expand the state's bulk purchasing pool for prescription drugs failed to pass out of the House of Representatives. The expansion would have made the program available to a greater percentage of low-income residents and the private sector.

EMO helped the Legislature make a strong statement for peace in Sudan. Inspired by the recent visit of retired South African Bishop Peter Storey, EMO led the lobbying effort to get the Oregon Legislature to adopt a law that calls for economic divestment from the Sudan to help end the violence and religious persecution. The bill was modeled on the anti-apartheid policies of the 1980s.

One notable disappointment from the

legislative session was the absence of passing meaningful consumer protections from predatory practices in the payday loan industry. Despite over 500 postcards generated in less than two weeks, countless letters, e-mails and phone calls from Oregon's religious community, legislation stalled in the House despite passage in the Senate. Other disappointments included the lack of consensus on civil unions and civil rights protections for sexual minorities.

Work is already underway for EMO's Public Policy Advocacy program to form working groups with partner organizations to develop policy initiatives for the next legislative session in 2007.

Without the support of the community, EMO's Public Policy Advocacy program would not be possible. If you are interested in being a part of EMO's advocacy, please call Phillip Kennedy-Wong, director of Public Policy Advocacy, at (503) 221-1054 for more information.

To see EMO's report from the legislative session or to join Christians for Peace & Justice, go to www.emoregon.org/publicpolicyadvocacy.htm.

Donate online!

You may now make a secure donation to EMO on our Web site at www.emoregon.org.

The Center for Spiritual Development announces new programs in 2006

Seeking Justice in the 21st Century

The Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland is now accepting enrollment for a new class of *Seeking Justice in the 21st Century*. Classes will be held one Saturday a month from January to June 2006.

The program includes a lecture and workshop on Feb. 24 and 25 with the Rev. Dr. James Forbes. This program is designed in partnership with EMO.

Seeking God in the 21st Century

The Center is also enrolling for another new class of *Seeking God in the 21st Century*, an intensive curriculum for the serious seeker who wants to explore the contours of spiritual life, and what it means to seek God and to be Christian in the 21st century amidst the complexities of religious pluralism and globalization.

The first two years of the program provide a theological foundation for exploring the spiritual direction of our lives individually and corporately. The optional third year is a practicum year for those wanting to explore the art and practice of spiritual direction.

Cost for the program is \$1,100 per year and includes attendance at The Center public lecture and workshop series. Scholarships are available.

For more information about either class or to register, contact The Center at (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

Ecumenical leaders gather to discuss the role of Christianity in the Pacific Northwest

On July 26, over 30 ecumenical, interfaith and denominational leaders gathered at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland to discuss ecumenism in the Pacific Northwest, and across the world, with the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the World Council of Churches. The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, chair of the National Council of Church's Justice and Advocacy Commission, was also a guest speaker. Kobia and Kinnamon were in Portland to speak at the General Assembly Meeting of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Participants in the consultation included the Rev. David Alger, executive director of Associated Ministries of Tacoma/Pierce County; John Boonstra, executive minister of the Washington Association of Churches; and David Leslie, executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

The gathering was designed to brief Kobia on the ecumenical dynamics of the Northwest and



Photo credit: Michelle Bush

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia (left) with the Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran, host church for the ecumenical gathering.

for participants to learn about current happenings at the World Council of Churches and hear Kobia's perspectives on important topics such as the growth of Christianity in the southern hemisphere, HIV/AIDS in Africa and the status of ecumenical relations throughout the world.

Kobia noted that the world is afraid of U.S. policies like the doctrine

The "center of gravity" of the world-wide church is moving to the southern hemisphere, and Kobia suggested that North American churches "need to adjust to a new position within the wider church of Jesus Christ."

of pre-emptive war and the Bush administration's reluctance to support international initiatives against global warming or the Millennium Development Goals. He said it is the role of the churches to "speak truth to power," even when the message is not welcome.



Photo credit: Mark Knutson

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia (center) met with faith leaders to discuss ecumenism in the Pacific Northwest.

The "center of gravity" of the world-wide church is moving to the southern hemisphere, and Kobia suggested that North American churches "need to adjust to a new position within the wider church of Jesus Christ."

At the same time, he acknowledged the leading role of North American Christians in the modern ecumenical movement, and stressed the role of U.S. churches in providing an alternative voice and taking a leading role in fighting hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS, racial discrimination and violence.

To read the full text of Kobia's speech at the General Assembly Meeting of the Christian Church on July 26, visit www.emoregon.org/ted.htm.

Children's Sabbath resources available

The Children's Defense Fund is offering the 2005 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Manual, *Putting Our Faith into Action to Seek Justice for Children*, to help congregations plan worship, education, service and justice activities for the Children's Sabbath weekend, from Oct. 14 to 16, 2005. The manual includes Catholic, Protestant, Episcopal, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Unitarian Universalist and interfaith materials, and more!

Single copies are \$7 each plus \$3.50 shipping and handling; discounts available for larger orders. To order, call (202) 662-3602 or mail a check payable to CDF to: CDF Publications, 25 E. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; to order on the Web, go to www.childrensdefense.org.

EMO partners with the Pacific Institute to bring discussion over genetics to communities of faith

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has awarded Pacific University's Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy a two-year \$257,000 grant to address the ethical, legal and social implications of genetic technology within the context of a faith-oriented community understanding.

The Pacific Institute in partnership with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is identifying 20 congregations interested in convening seven study/dialogue sessions focused on pastoral care and ethical issues related to stem cell research, pre-natal screening, privacy and genetic testing. The goal of the project is to increase congregational awareness of this vast and quickly emerging field and to enhance the pastoral care

skills of clergy and laity.

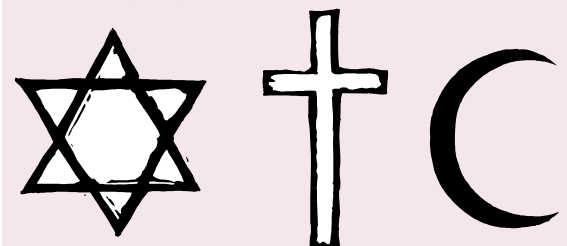
In addition to Dr. Marc Marengo, director of the Pacific Institute, and Dr. Lisa Sardinia, associate professor of biology at Pacific University, resource people include nationally renowned ethicists Rev. Dr. Audrey Chapman, director of the Science and Human Rights Program for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Dr. Ted Peters, professor of systematic theology at the Graduate Theological Union.

For further information about the project and becoming a congregational study site, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@emoregon.org.

2004 Collins Lecture to focus on peacemaking in the Middle East

The 37th Annual Collins Lecture, "Peacemaking in the Middle East," will take place on Friday, Dec. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., in Portland. Muslim, Christian, and Jewish peacemaking perspectives will be presented at the event. Confirmed speakers at press time include Rabbi David Rosen, the director of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Department in Jerusalem, and Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, leader of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Lands. Additional information about other speakers and further details regarding the event will be forthcoming.

Please check out our Web site at www.emoregon.org for more information or call EMO at (503) 221-1054.



Calendar of Events

September 16 to 18

Voices for Freedom and Transformation: An Immersion into the Gospel Stories. Located at Still Meadow Conference Center, near Portland. During this weekend-long workshop, the Gospel stories will come alive and accessible, providing a fresh, relevant expression of them for our time and helping us recognize that we do not need to be Biblical scholars to connect with and be energized by scripture. Cost: \$235; includes housing, meals and resources. For more information or to register, visit www.journeyintofreedom.org or call (503) 244-4728.

September 16

Spiritual Care for Behavioral Health Patients. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Southern Auditorium and Classroom (first floor, east end), Portland. No fee to attend. Please RSVP by calling (503) 216-2261. Sponsored by the Pastoral Services Department. (Continuing education credits available.)

September 24

Workshop with Kate Campbell and Marcus Borg. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Kate Campbell, singer/songwriter, and Marcus Borg, historical Jesus scholar, will share their own stories, explore the importance of personal narrative and the influence of the Biblical story on their own stories. Cost: \$50. For more information or to register, call (503) 478-1218.

September 24

SELAH: A seminar for women. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at George Fox University, Bauman Auditorium, Newberg. Inspiring Christian women will share from their personal and professional lives. Cost: \$25 per person; includes lunch. Register by Sept. 20 at www.selah.georgefox.edu.

October 2

Christian Peace Walk. 2 to 5 p.m. beginning at United Methodist Church, 544 NE Second St., McMinnville. Christians from many churches and faith communities are invited to join in ecumenical worship, a peace walk to the county courthouse and a communion service. For more information, e-mail sallygoddard@earthlink.net.

October 7 to 9

Through Breath and Voice, Movement and Play, Silence and Prayer: Embodying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Located at Cedars Retreat Center, near Portland. During this workshop, work with "how the Word is made flesh today" by using movement, expressive imagery, voice, worship and play to embody the truth of Jesus' words. For more information or to register, call (503) 244-4728 or visit www.journeyintofreedom.org.

October 8

Climate Change Forum. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marylhurst University, 17600 Pacific Highway (43), Marylhurst. A no-charge, non-technical, open-to-the-public Climate Change Forum for those interested in what is happening to our precious earth. Scientists will present studies they have conducted regarding Pacific Northwest forests and fire potential, changes occurring within the viticulture industry, Pacific Northwest glaciers, decreasing snow pack and marine ecosystems including the salmon industry.

October 10

Speak Peace: Putting Compassion at the Center of Civic Involvement with Marshall Rosenberg. 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Kempton Hall, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Join spiritual leaders, community activists, local Compassionate Communication trainers and Dr. Rosenberg in an interactive seminar and round-table discussion. Requested fee: \$25 (dinner included). Preregistration preferred; go to www.spiritualcityforum.org. Limited seating.

Upcoming EMO sponsored/co-sponsored events

October 4

Public Lecture with Dr. Richard Payne: "Dying in Black, Brown and White: Responding to Disparities in End-of-Life Care." 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union, Room 327-9, Portland. This free presentation will discuss the impact of race, culture and the socio-economic characteristics of patients and providers as they impact the management of pain, the access to palliative care and hospice services, and the care of the dying in the United States. The data paint an alarming story of racial- and gender-based disparities in health care. Strategies and programs designed to overcome these deficiencies will be discussed. Richard Payne, MD, is director of Duke Institute for Care at the End-of-Life. Presented by Providence Center for Health Care Ethics. Co-sponsors: EMO, Portland State University, Oregon Health Care Association and Oregon Hospice Association.

November 14

Tapestry of Peace Concert & Silent Art Auction. Silent Art Auction from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. and Concert from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Newmark Theater, SW Broadway and Main, downtown Portland. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Tickets can be purchased in advance through Tickets West at (503) 992-8499 or www.ticketswest.com. They may also be purchased at the Newmark Theater ticket office, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the door on the night of the event. For more information, call (503) 221-1054. (Please see story on front page for more information.)



December 2

The 37th Annual Collins Lecture: Peacemaking in the Middle East. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. Jewish, Christian and Muslim representatives will speak about the challenges and opportunities for peace in the Middle East. Confirmed speakers include Rabbi David Rosen, director of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs in Jerusalem, and Dr. Munib Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Lands.

The Muslim speaker, who will round out the panel, will be announced as soon as the confirmation has been made. For more information or to register, call (503) 221-1054.

October 10

Speak Peace Seminars with Marshall Rosenberg. "Compassion: Reconnecting to the Divine Intention of Spiritual Practice" from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and "The Surprising Purpose of Anger: Finding the Gift" from 1:30 to 5 p.m., at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 NW Everett, Portland. Dr. Marshall Rosenberg presents enlightening, non-denominational seminars based on the internationally acclaimed Nonviolent or Compassionate Communication process. Requested fee for each seminar: \$80 - \$40 sliding scale. Register at www.ORNCC.net or (503) 450-9909.

October 19 to 21

Home for Good in Oregon Re-entry Conference: "A Gathering of the Village." To be held at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino, 6823 Highway 8, Warm Springs, Oregon. This conference will focus on community and highlight faith-based partnerships and emerging strategies that promote an effective re-entry process to ensure community safety and justice. No conference fee, but attendees must secure their own hotel accommodations. For more information or to register, call (503) 945-0929 or e-mail jennifer.a.lief@doc.state.or.us.

October 21 & 22

Nature and the Sacred Lecture and Workshop with Marcus Borg and Kathleen Dean Moore. Lecture on Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and workshop on Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Borg and Moore—established authors, nationally known presenters, colleagues and friends—will help us see the sacred/secular with new eyes, move us to keep alive the natural world's "fierce green fire" and remind us how much we have to lose if we do not. Costs: Lecture \$15 in advance and at the door; Workshop \$50 (includes lunch). To register or for more information, call (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

October 21

Cappella Romana Concert: Women in Byzantium. 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1716 NW Davis, Portland. Featuring soprano sensation Patricia Rozario and an ensemble of over 20 professional singers. Single tickets \$25 adults, \$22 seniors, \$12 students, plus service fees. Tickets available through TicketsWest; call (800) 992-8499 or visit www.ticketswest.com.

October 22

Creation Celebration. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. An interfaith, intergenerational gathering to celebrate, learn about and honor God's Creation. Celebration includes speakers, 12 workshops, information tables, children's activities and interfaith worship service. Free admission, donations accepted. Lunch can be purchased; made from local, sustainable ingredients. For more information, call (541) 752-3517.

November 18 & 19

Lecture and Workshop with Rev. James W. Lawson, Jr. Lecture on Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and workshop on Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Lawson will speak on his life-long work in civil rights and economic justice. Costs: lecture \$15 in advance and at the door, workshop \$50 (includes lunch). To register or for more information, call (503) 478-1218 or visit www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.



Upcoming Denominational Meetings

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. Oct. 7 to 9 at Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters. For more information, call (541) 298-4477.

American Baptist Churches of Oregon. Oct. 14 and 15 at Grant Park Baptist Church in Portland. For more information, call (503) 228-8394.

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. Nov. 3 and 4 at the Salem Convention Center in Salem. For more information or to register, go to www.diocese-oregon.org.

Presbytery of the Cascades. Nov. 4 and 5 at First Presbyterian Church in Medford. For more information, call (503) 227-5486.

voice

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