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& “2006 Ballot Measure Guide”

Earth on Edge: Collins Lecture to explore ethics for a sustainable future

“Global warming presents the deepest challenge not only to our physical survival but also to our sense of the divine. Suddenly human beings find themselves enormously large, enormously powerful; can we summon the humility to be stewards instead of troublemakers?”

Bill McKibben

“Earth on Edge: Choosing Our Future” will be the topic of the 38th Annual Collins Lecture, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Portland, focusing on sustainability and earth stewardship. The lecture will feature Bill McKibben, a scholar in residence at Middlebury College in Vermont and author

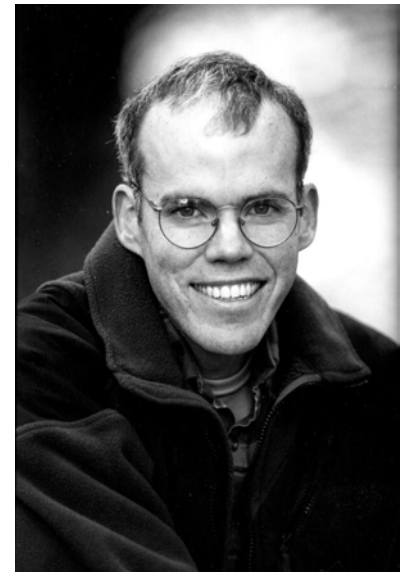
of nine books, and Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, assistant professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Seattle University. The lecture format will allow each presenter to speak for 45 minutes followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers.

Bill McKibben’s first book, *The End of Nature*, was also the first book for a general audience on global warming. Published in 1989, it is now available in 20 foreign languages. McKibben is a former staff writer for the *New Yorker*. His work appears in *Harpers*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Review of Books* and a variety of other national publications. His next book will be *Deep Economy: The Wealth of the Communities and the Durable Future*.

Dr. Moe-Lobeda holds a doctoral degree in Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary, and masters degrees in social work and in theological studies. She lectures and consults internationally and nationally in theology and ethics, and recently served as theological consultant to the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Moe-Lobeda is author of four books including *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*.

“An ancient Christian tradition holds that the God of boundless life-giving, life-saving love dwells within all created things, working there toward abundant life for all,” says

Continued on page 2



Environmentalist and author Bill McKibben will be a featured speaker at the Collins Lecture. His writing often has a spiritual bent, which is not surprising as he is active in the Methodist Church.

Join the campaign!

Faith to Overcome: the Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty

This fall, congregations and religious groups across Oregon will join *Faith to Overcome: the Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty*. This important initiative engages congregations and supports them in confronting poverty in their communities and in the state. The campaign encourages a comprehensive approach to understanding and ending poverty in Oregon with guidance and assistance from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO).

When congregations sign-up, they will receive an anti-poverty action kit that will include many useful resources. Congregations will choose which activities they will incorporate into their ministry and worship.

The following is the *Faith to Overcome: the Oregon Interfaith*

Campaign to Overcome Poverty schedule of activities and events for congregations to select from. As more activities and events are scheduled, they will be added to EMO’s Web site.

Fall 2006

- Hosting a candidates forum with assistance from EMO.
- Leading a volunteer group to a local emergency shelter or food bank.
- Attending the Harvest of Hope Breakfast on Nov. 2 with NCCC General Secretary Bob Edgar.
- Attending the Community Action Director’s Anti-Poverty Conference from Oct. 9 to 11.
- Forming an interfaith forum around health or hunger with assistance from EMO.
- Inviting a speaker on hunger,

health, housing or economic fairness to your congregation with assistance from EMO.

Winter 2006-07

- Conducting an Advent study on poverty and faith using resources from the campaign.
- Dedicating a worship service between January and February with a liturgy and sermon on ending poverty.
- Sharing with others a sermon or liturgy on ending poverty by listing it on EMO’s Web site.
- Creating a sanctuary banner with the theme of ending hunger.
- Signing up for “Christians for Peace & Justice” legislative advocacy alerts.

Spring 2007

- Participating in Interfaith

Advocacy Day on Feb. 19 and showcasing your sanctuary banner at the Capitol. (See article on page 3.)

- Inviting your state legislators to your congregation to discuss how they can help end poverty.
- Offering letters to state legislators in the collection plate during worship services in March and April.
- Attending the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger Conference.

If your congregation is interested in joining the campaign and would like to receive the anti-poverty action kit or if you would like more information for any of the events or activities listed above, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org.

Food assessment puts food system solutions into focus

The Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership completed its first community food assessment in Benton County in August

Have you ever wondered about the major challenges of small family farmers in the mid-Willamette Valley? Have you ever discussed ways in which your congregation might take an active role in supporting these farmers and bringing local produce to low-income families?

Get the answers to your questions when EMO staff and volunteers present the results of their nine-month study on the Benton County food system at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 14. A full report will be available online at the EMO Web site (www.emoregon.org) following the event.

Community food assessments are a solutions-oriented, grassroots organizing tools used to build collaboration and increase understanding of local and regional food-related issues.

The Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership

(IFFP), a project of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, actively seeks ways to strengthen local food systems in the Willamette Valley. The project continues to work on its community food assessment in north and inner northeast Portland. It is beginning similar work in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham.

In collaboration with Snowcap Community Charities and Oregon Food Bank, IFFP will offer a workshop on practical community food assessment basics at the Rockwood Methodist Church on Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with the assessments. Call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214, to volunteer.

For more information on IFFP, go to www.emoregon.org/inec.html or call Liv Nevin Gifford at (541) 757-1988, ext. 107.



Photo credit: Dan Sundseth

In Benton County, volunteers visited farmers' markets and grocery stores to record produce prices as part of the community food assessment. This display of locally grown food was at the Corvallis Farmers' Market.

An Inconvenient Truth shines spotlight on global warming

From Oct. 1 to 8, more than 60 Oregon congregations will join with hundreds of others across the United States to screen *An Inconvenient Truth*, which has been called the most important film to be shown in America this year.

EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light has worked with the national Interfaith Power and Light campaign to set up the Oregon screenings. The film engages viewers intellectually in the science of global warming and moves them to a place of action. The Interfaith Power and Light campaign is a religious response to global warming, and people of faith have a moral obligation to do their best to save the Creation that we love. Each screening will present opportunities for action, including the EPA's *Change and Light, Change the World Campaign*.

Participating congregations across the state include United Church of Christ in The Dalles, First Christian Church in Eugene, First Unitarian Church in Portland, Hilltop United Methodist in Tualatin, Jewish Community of Central Oregon in Bend, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis and Trinity Lutheran Church in Gresham.



Photo credit: Jonathon Brandt

EMO Environmental Ministries Director Jenny Holmes with Al Gore at his Portland presentation in September 2005 on global warming—the basis of his film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

For screenings near you and opportunities for action, call Catherine Rolling at (503) 221-1054, ext. 210, or check the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org. You may also visit www.climatecrisis.net for more information. EMO is considering partnering with NCC and other organizations to develop a unique program to help 50 Oregon congregations install solar electric systems at no or little cost. If you think your congregation might be interested, please call (503) 221-1054.

David Leslie, EMO executive director, is on sabbatical until October. His *Voice* column will return with the next issue.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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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

EMO celebrates recent grants & 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 summer issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Ainsworth United Church of Christ	Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	HIV Center
Community of Christ, Portland Emdeon	2006 Annual Fund
First Baptist Church, McMinnville	Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)
Mary & Henry Bigg Trust	2006 Annual Fund
Moreland Presbyterian Church	Patton Home, Phase II
Oregon Food Bank	2006 Annual Fund
Presbytery of the Cascades	Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)
Westminster Presbyterian Church	2006 Annual Fund
	Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)

NEFP on the move, but where to?

The Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) will lose its building in the spring of 2007. This provides a great opportunity for the program to upgrade its facilities, as the need for emergency food supplies continues to grow in the area.

The ideal location for NEFP would be 2,000 square feet on one level with parking for 30 cars and close to a bus line (within four short blocks). Rent would need to be quite low, unless a donor pool was created to support the building's costs.

NEFP serves an average of 30 families, four days a week; however, busy days have seen over 60 families during the three hours the program is open to the public. This kind of volume means about one ton of food passes through the food house each day—ample reason to avoid another two-level building like the one the program is currently in. The ideal facility may not be possible, but we can dream, can't we?



Photo credit: Michelle Bush

The Northeast Emergency Food Program will need to relocate from its home on NE Killingworth next Spring and is currently looking for a new facility.

If you know of a building or church with facilities meeting NEFP's needs, please call John Elizalde, NEFP program manager, at (503) 284-5470.

2007 Interfaith Advocacy Day will take place at the Capitol on President's Day

For the first time, *Interfaith Advocacy Day* at the state Capitol in Salem will fall on President's Day, Feb. 19, 2007. This is an opportunity for many to attend who could not in the past because of work, family or school commitments.

Every legislative session, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) brings together communities of faith for a day of worship and advocacy at the state



Photo credit: Dana Bussey

Capitol. It is a tradition of putting faith into action and being in solidarity with those who seek justice. *Interfaith Advocacy Day* is a key part of EMO's "Faith to Overcome: the Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty." The legislative focus will be on four issues that affect poverty: hunger, health, homelessness and economic fairness. Participants will get hands-on experience with lobbying their state legislators. Veteran lobbyists will give insight on the legislative process, tips on talking effectively with state legislators, and how to follow-up your visit. Policy experts will also be on hand, covering some of the finer points of policy but not losing sight of the big picture. There will be a display area in the Capitol during *Interfaith Advocacy Day* where sponsoring organizations will have an opportunity to promote their work or events. Congregations signed up for the "Faith to Overcome" campaign are encouraged to showcase their sanctuary banner as well.

To register early, to sign-on as a co-sponsor, or for more information, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org.

2006 Crop Walk raised over \$8,000

The May 21 Portland Crop Walk raised \$8,187 to benefit the programs of Church World Service and two local hunger relief agencies, including EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program. Thirteen congregations from five denominations were represented on the 3.6 mile walk.

Approximately 85 participants enjoyed the sunshine as they walked from All Saints Episcopal Church at SE 40th and Woodstock to Mt Scott Park and back to All Saints, where hot dogs and ice cream were served. Westminster Presbyterian Church raised the most with \$1,552 in pledges, followed by Sunnyside United Methodist Church with \$1,287 raised.

Community Ministries by the numbers (April through June 2006)

HIV Services – The Day Center had 2,027 visits and provided 980 therapeutic encounters for a total of 204 unduplicated clients.

Northeast Emergency Food Program – Received 11,192 pounds of donated food, and provided a three- to five-day supply of food to 4,354 individuals.

Portland International Community School – More than doubled the school's enrollment to 50 students by the end of the school year, and graduated six seniors in June.

Russian Oregon Social Services – Served 151 clients with direct services, including 10 women with free mammograms, 10 clients with legal assistance, and five families and 20 individuals with in-home tutoring.

Shared Housing – Made 96 housing matches and provided 326 months of housing.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees – Received 71 refugees, asylees and secondary migrants from the Former Soviet Union, Cuba, Somalia, Liberia, Sudan, Rwanda, Congo and Eritrea.

"Faith Forum on Genetics" seeks church participation

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is partnering with the Pacific University's Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy to identify congregations interested in participating next year in a series of seminars on genetics technologies. The two-year project is called "Faith Forum on Genetics," and is made possible by a grant from the National Institute of Health.

The second year of the project will begin in January 2007. There will be a series of seven seminars focused on pastoral care and ethical issues related to stem-cell research, pre-natal screening, privacy and genetics testing. Each participating congregation will hold five congregationally-specific dialogue/discussion seminars about genetics technologies over the course of a few months. The first and last seminars will be plenary sessions held together with all participating denominations in a central location.

If your church is interested in being a part of the 2007 sessions, please call Jan Elfers at EMO at (503) 221-1054 or e-mail jelfers@emoregon.org.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

YES! I (we) would like to support EMO.

\$2,500

\$1,000

President's Club

\$500

\$250

\$100

\$50

Other _____

Please send your gift to:

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

4 Calendar of Events

September 10

2006 Walk for Unity. 2 p.m. at Beaverton City Park, 4950 SW Watson Ave., Beaverton. Everyone is invited to participate in the Walk for Unity to celebrate the wonderful diversity of the Washington County community. The three-mile walk and celebration will feature music, a community fair with booths from non-profit community service organizations and much more!

September 17

Festival of Faith. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Portland State University, Smith Student Center Ballroom, SW Broadway and Montgomery, Portland. Great food, free entertainment and "101" style workshops on the various world religions. Keynote speaker will be David McCreery, professor at Willamette University. Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland (ICGP). For more information, contact Janet Leatherwood at kmjls@qwest.net or call (503) 238-1155.

September 21

Jesus and Mary: Christian and Muslim Perspectives. 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner (pork free), 7:30 p.m. Muslim Sunset Prayer, and 7:45 to 9 p.m. program with speakers and Q&A, at St. Mary's Academy, Commons, 1615 SW Fifth Ave., Portland. Aseel Nasir Dyck and Sr. Mollie Reavis, SNJM will speak on the various ways branches of Islam and Christianity respond to Mary and Jesus. For further information, contact Ms. Aseel Nasir Dyck at (503) 579-6621 or Sr. Mollie Reavis at (503) 228-8306.

October 13 to 15

Fall Women's Spirituality Retreat: The Practice of Spirit Nurture with Spiritual Directors LaVae Robertson & Kathy Stewart. At Menucha Retreat in Corbett, Ore. In this retreat, participants will experience the kind guiding of two professional spiritual directors while exploring several spiritual disciplines designed to deepen our faith as Christian women. Program fee is \$25. Five meals are included; lunch on Sunday is an extra \$9. Lodging is \$110-\$140 per person. Registration must be postmarked by Sept. 15. To register, call (503) 695-2243 or visit www.menucha.org.

October 13 & 14

Walter Brueggemann, "A Remembered Beauty" Lecture Weekend. Friday lecture at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Walter Brueggemann, well-known dynamic speaker and author of numerous books on the prophetic tradition in the Old Testament, will give a lecture on Biblical traditions that ponder God's gift of beauty and how violence arises when beauty is not seen as a dimension of God's presence in the world. During a Saturday workshop, he will continue the conversation with three talks. Cost for the lecture is \$15 general, \$5 students; the workshop is \$50 general, \$15 students. For tickets, call (503) 478-1218. Scholarships available.

October 27 & 28

Lecture and Workshop with author Jack Rogers. Lecture at 7 p.m. on Friday and workshop from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock St., Portland. Dr. Jack Rogers is author of *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*. Rogers, professor of theology emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary, spent seven years reviewing the literature on both sides of the issue, including many original church documents. Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to attending, if possible, so they might be prepared for discussion. There is no cost to attend either event, but registration for the workshop is required. To register or for more information, call (503) 287-1289 or e-mail office@westprespd.org.

Upcoming EMO sponsored/co-sponsored events

September 23

Community Food Assessment Workshop. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rockwood United Methodist Church, 17805 SE Stark St., Portland. Congregation members interested in food, hunger and creation stewardship are invited to join EMO's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership to receive training on how to conduct a grassroots food assessment in the Rockwood neighborhood. The day-long training will be led by Sharon Thornberry, Community Food Programs advocate for the Oregon Food Bank and president of the Community Food Security Coalition. Participants will learn about what is currently known about hunger in the Rockwood neighborhood, simple tools for gathering information and how food assessments can lead to action. The suggested donation for the day is \$7. To register, contact Jennifer at (503) 221-1054, ext. 203, or jkam@emoregon.org. Registration deadline Sept. 20 (also accepted at the door, but lunch cannot be guaranteed).

October 18

Oregon Faith Forum on Energy and Global Warming, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and **2006 Collins Lecture – Earth on Edge: Choosing Our Future,** from 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. *See story on page 1 for more information on both events.*

October 21

Save Your Congregation Energy & Money. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene. This workshop provides an opportunity for facilities managers and volunteers and members of congregation boards and building committees to network among themselves, learn key principles of energy stewardship, troubleshoot energy challenges, and learn how to save energy and money through low- and no-cost measures. Also covered will be finding opportunities and resources from local utilities, Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy. Keynote speaker is Doug Boleyn, PE, who has over 30 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency. He is the energy consultant for Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) and past-president of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon. Presented by OIPL. Co-sponsored by Energy Trust of Oregon, the Oregon Department of Energy, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and Emerald People's Utility. Cost: \$8 per person, \$10 for two people, or \$15 for three to six members from the same congregation. Call (503) 221-1054, ext. 203, to register or download a registration form at www.emoregon.org. Pre-registration is recommended by Oct. 18, but registration will be accepted at the door.

October 24

Health Care in the United States and Canada: Divergent Values and Common Challenges (featuring Dr. Nuala Kenny). 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Portland State University, Lincoln Hall, Room 75. Presented by Providence Center for Health Care Ethics and Portland State University Department of Philosophy. Co-sponsored by EMO. Nuala Kenny, O.C., M.D., FRCPC, is founder of the Department of Bioethics at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and internationally recognized as a medical educator and lecturer on important ethical issues in health care and public policy. Dr. Kenny is also regularly involved in policy deliberations, particularly in relation to values and the Canadian Medicare program. In 2002, she completed her first book, *What Good Is Health Care? Reflections on the Canadian Experience*. Her newest book, *Lost Virtue: Professional Character Development in Medical Education* will be published later this year. The lecture is free and open to the public.

November 14

Benton County Community Food Assessment Report. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Corvallis-Benton County Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. *See story on page 2 for more information.*

"Faith and American Values Summit" to feature the Rev. Jim Wallis

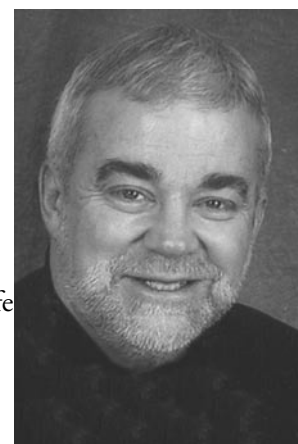
The "Faith and American Values Summit" will take place on Sept. 14 and 16, with a keynote address by the Rev. Jim Wallis at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 14, and full-day conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 16, at First Baptist Church, 909 SW 11th Ave., Portland.

The event is co-sponsored by the Oregon Center for Christian Values and Powell's Books, who are promoting the paperback edition of Wallis' best-seller, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*.

This address by Rev. Wallis will be followed by full-day conference on Saturday at the same location, which will feature addresses by Tom Rinehart, director of Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, and Dr. Paul Metzger, founder of the Institute for Theology of Culture at the Multnomah Biblical Seminary. There will also be workshops on the Christian response to current social-political issues, including wealth and poverty, the environment, war and peace, immigration and health care. The workshops will

be led by local Christian leaders and experienced local advocates. The goal of the Summit is to bring together Christians who want to deepen and improve the ways that "Christian values" should influence public life in America. Participants will be able to network with other citizens leaders and organizations who can help them take action on these issues in their own churches and communities.

To register or find more information please visit: www.occv.org, or call Brian at (503) 307-4119. The Rev. Wallis address is free. Registration for the full Summit is only \$35 (\$10 student/low income) and includes lunch.



The Rev. Jim Wallis