Nationally renowned ethicists kick off

**Faith Forum on Genetics**

The Rev. Dr. Audrey Chapman, director of the Science and Human Rights Program for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Michael Banner, Ph.D., professor at the University of Edinburgh, were featured speakers at the initiation of the Faith Forum on Genetics, held at Christ Church Episcopal Parish in Lake Oswego on Jan. 28. Over 140 people representing ten denominations attended the plenary session.

Following the kickoff of the two-year project, each participating congregation will hold five congregationally-specific dialogue/discussion seminars over the next few months. The first year of the project will conclude with another plenary session on May 6.

The seminars are made possible by a grant from the National Institute of Health. The $257,000 award, given to Pacific University’s Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy, seeks to address the pastoral, ethical, legal and social implications of genetics technology within the context of a faith-oriented community understanding.

The Pacific Institute is partnering with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) to identify 20 participating congregations over a two-year period. Each year these congregations will convene two plenary sessions and five study-dialogue sessions focused on pastoral care and ethical issues related to stem-cell research, pre-natal screening, privacy and genetics testing.

Dr. Marc Marenco, director of the Pacific Institute, and Dr. Lisa Sardinia, associate professor of biology at Pacific University, have developed the program and trained facilitators in each of the ten participating denominations to lead group discussions. The National Institute of Health will use the findings of the groups for their research.

The goal of the project is to increase congregational awareness of the vast and quickly emerging field of genetics and to build congregational capacity to serve as resources in our region. Please feel free to pass on information about the training to outreach and health ministries, youth directors, religious educators and people in recovery.

For more information about this project, go to www.rushcenter.org, call Trish Merrill toll free at (888) 431-9527 or e-mail your questions to trishmerrill@johnsoninstitute.org. If you would like more information about attendance at the May 4 training, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Students of faith are encouraged to attend a kickoff plenary session with program developers, Dr. Lisa Sardinia and Dr. Marc Marenco.

**Equipping people of faith to respond to the risk and prevalence of addiction**

Have you considered developing an addictions and recovery team ministry in your congregation? Faith communities can turn pain and suffering into hope, healing and celebration. If you want to see your congregation grow into a unique and powerful role in prevention and recovery, plan to attend the Faith Partners Addictions and Recovery Team Ministry training on Thursday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (location in Portland to be announced).

The project is sponsored by the Johnson Institute and Rush Center—nationally renowned organizations that have led efforts in developing this resource for more than 20 years—in partnership with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO).

This highly effective and sustainable congregational-based ministry is being used in congregations of multiple faith traditions in five other states. The team ministry:

- Builds on the strengths of the congregation by identifying people with special expertise and life experience;
- Carefully utilizes clergy time and energy;
- Trains and equips team members to do prevention education, awareness, referral assistance and recovery support; and
- Offers the whole congregation the benefits of a network with community resources and other teams.

The goal of the May 4 training include: exploration of the Faith Partners Addictions and Recovery Team Ministry program; connecting to other laity and clergy interested and involved in addiction recovery; and learning more recovery.
A different state of affairs

After watching the State of the Union address earlier this week, I am afraid I am not too confident that the world’s problems will be solved any time soon. St. Thomas More in Utopia captures the cause of my anxiety when he wrote in the 16th century, “(A)llmost all monarchs prefer to occupy themselves in the pursuits of war … rather than in the honourable activities of peace, and they care much more how … they may win fresh kingdoms than how they may administer well what they have got … (and) among royal councillors everyone is so wise as to have no need of profiting by another’s counsel.”

These 500-year-old words speak volumes to today’s state of affairs throughout the world. Specifically, our government’s commitment to increased military appropriations are creating increased stress evident through higher numbers of deaths of combatants and noncombatants abroad, more pressure to cut funding for Medicaid, difficulty in accessing health care and a distressed if not shrinking middle class.

Sadly, the need for power and influence comes all too often at the cost of people in need and the infrastructure at home; costs that are compounded by the reality that those who may be suffering the most are turned away at the doors of those in power.

So how do people of faith, unsettled with the world’s state of affairs, deal with these realities that often seem contrary to the vision of the world rooted in a loving and just God? First, we must never lose hope or stop working for the common good. Second, we must remember that our challenges are not ours alone and not relegated to this time and place. It is important to find insight and inspiration from those who are willing to struggle with the world’s conditions and who, like the prophets and saints of old, work incessantly for peace, minister to those in need and share truth about the world even if it is unpopular. These are people like the late Coretta Scott King, who carried on in the civil rights movement until the end of her life, never compromising the “utopic” quest for peace, racial equality and economic justice. Third, we must be captured by and share another vision for the world that is rooted in the concept of the Kingdom of God. As St. Paul counseled, “We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God,” and thus are compelled to put the honorable ends of peace and wholeness of creation above all else.

Today’s challenges demand that while we must be actively engaged in addressing the needs of this world, our hearts and souls must be firmly rooted in the Kingdom of God.

Today’s challenges demand that while we must be actively engaged in addressing the needs of this world, our hearts and souls must be firmly rooted in the Kingdom of God.

Haynes named “Pastor of the Year”

The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., was awarded “Pastor of the Year” for the Ninth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church. He was honored at the Phillips School of Theology 62nd Founders’ Observance and 10th Annual Pastors’ Conference held near Atlanta, Ga., in January. He was selected for the award out of a group of over 3,800 pastors.

Haynes is the pastor of Allen Temple CME Church in Portland and the Presiding Elder of the Alaska District and the Oregon-Washington District of the Alaska-Pacific Region. He is also president of the North Portland Bible College, vice president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance and a member of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors.

Active in increasing HIV/AIDS awareness in his community, Haynes’ work has been recognized by the Cascade AIDS Project with the “Angel Award.” Other recent honors include The Oregonian newspaper’s “Drum Major for Justice Award” and EMO’s “Ecumenist of the Year,” both awarded in 2005.

Support EMO’s Ministries with planned giving

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) invites you 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 program that EMO supports throughout Oregon.

For more information about planned giving, call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

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 September 2005 issue of the Voice.

**Donor (Fund)**

| Altra Corporate Services, Inc | HIV Services
| Autzen Foundation | Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
| The Brainerd Foundation | Portland International Community School
| Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund | Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
| Gilead Sciences | 2005 Annual Fund
| Herbert A. Templeton Foundation | Patton Home
| Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church | HIV Services
| Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation | 2005 Annual Fund
| The June and Julian Foss Foundation | HIV Services
| MAC Global Foundation | 2005 Annual Fund
| McKenzie River Gathering Foundation | Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
| Meyer Memorial Trust (challenge grant) | 2005 Annual Fund
| Moreland Presbyterian Church | Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
| National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. | The Oregon Community Foundation
| of Christ in the U.S.A. | Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
| National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. | Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
| Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust | Presbyterian Church of Portland
| Spirit Mountain Community Fund | Northwest Emergency Food Program
| The Tides Foundation | Patton Home
| United Methodist Church | 2005 Annual Fund
| Until There’s a Cure Foundation | Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

For more information or to make a contribution, call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Today’s challenges demand that while we must be actively engaged in addressing the needs of this world, our hearts and souls must be firmly rooted in the Kingdom of God.
Food sustainability has been a key focus of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) over the years. This year, INEC's work in this area is being expanded through a new project—Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership—thanks to major grants, as well as significant in-kind support from over a dozen partner organizations, six congregations and many individuals.

The project areas are inner north/northeast Portland, Benton County and Rockwood in east Multnomah County. The central goal of the project is to test and develop a long-term model based in the faith community that can be adapted by other underserved communities to increase access to local, sustainably grown food and support small, new and immigrant low-income farmers through direct farm-to-consumer relationships.

The project objectives include education and training for congregations and community groups, including low-income individuals; increased access by low-income householers to culturally appropriate food; and increased direct-market opportunities for small farms.

The first phase of the project is conducting community food assessments among congregations and surrounding low-income neighborhoods to build relationships, educate and assess resources available and determine food needs. An assessment is underway in Corvallis. The next assessment will take place in inner north/northeast Portland. To equip congregations to participate, a training will be held on Saturday, March 4.

Liv Nevin Gifford is serving as project coordinator for the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership. Her last position was serving as Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign coordinator for the Community Alliance with Family Farmers in Watsonville, Calif. This work included raising public awareness of local food and farming. Gifford is a graduate of the University of California Santa Cruz, in Environmental Studies. She grew up on a small organic farm in Maryland, which fuels her passion for helping local farms remain viable. She appreciates the interfaith nature of the project, having taught Buddhist meditation in Catholic Brazil.

Major project funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Community Food Program, the United Methodist Church Global Ministries and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The March 4 training will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration) at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 8105 N. Brandon, Portland. An organically-grown lunch will be provided. Suggested donation is $7. For more information, please call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278, or (541) 757-1988, ext. 107. You may also download a registration brochure from EMO’s Web site calendar of events at www.emoregon.org.

Some ways congregations can be involved include:
- Participating in the community food assessments in the Corvallis and Portland areas.
- Hosting educational opportunities on food and farming issues.
- Participating in direct marketing alliances with local farmers.
- Distributing information on community ways to access local food and build food security.
- Using land or facilities for community food projects.

Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership launched

Food sustainability has been a key focus of EMO’s Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) over the years. This year, INEC’s work in this area is being expanded through a new project—Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership—thanks to major grants, as well as significant in-kind support from over a dozen partner organizations, six congregations and many individuals.

The project areas are inner north/northeast Portland, Benton County and Rockwood in east Multnomah County. The central goal of the project is to test and develop a long-term model based in the faith community that can be adapted by other underserved communities to increase access to local, sustainably grown food and support small, new and immigrant low-income farmers through direct farm-to-consumer relationships.

The project objectives include education and training for congregations and community groups, including low-income individuals; increased access by low-income householers to culturally appropriate food; and increased direct-market opportunities for small farms.

The first phase of the project is conducting community food assessments among congregations and surrounding low-income neighborhoods to build relationships, educate and assess resources available and determine food needs. An assessment is underway in Corvallis. The next assessment will take place in inner north/northeast Portland. To equip congregations to participate, a training will be held on Saturday, March 4.

Liv Nevin Gifford is serving as project coordinator for the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership. Her last position was serving as Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign coordinator for the Community Alliance with Family Farmers in Watsonville, Calif. This work included raising public awareness of local food and farming. Gifford is a graduate of the University of California Santa Cruz, in Environmental Studies. She grew up on a small organic farm in Maryland, which fuels her passion for helping local farms remain viable. She appreciates the interfaith nature of the project, having taught Buddhist meditation in Catholic Brazil.

Major project funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Community Food Program, the United Methodist Church Global Ministries and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The March 4 training will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration) at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 8105 N. Brandon, Portland. An organically-grown lunch will be provided. Suggested donation is $7. For more information, please call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278, or (541) 757-1988, ext. 107. You may also download a registration brochure from EMO’s Web site calendar of events at www.emoregon.org.

Some ways congregations can be involved include:
- Participating in the community food assessments in the Corvallis and Portland areas.
- Hosting educational opportunities on food and farming issues.
- Participating in direct marketing alliances with local farmers.
- Distributing information on community ways to access local food and build food security.
- Using land or facilities for community food projects.
**Shared Housing, an alternative to living on your own**

*“John,” who has Alzheimer’s disease, and his wife, who provides 10 to 12 hours a week of respite care – time when John can go shopping, see the senior center or just take a walk. Ellen also helps with the housework a couple hours a week. She lives with John and his wife rent-free in return for her help.*

*“Jane” is going through a divorce. She has kept the home, which has four bedrooms. She is having trouble making the mortgage payments each month and rents out a room to help make ends meet. Her housemate is “Karen,” who used to rent her own apartment but found it too isolating. She enjoys living in a home where she feels more connected to the community. Both Jane and Karen appreciate the increased feeling of security they get from sharing housing.*

*The Shared Housing Program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) provides affordable housing opportunities through the process of matching people seeking low-cost housing with individuals who have a house or apartment and would like someone to move in with them. Housing providers may be compensated by the payment of rent. For those who are elderly or disabled, or for any reason require help with household chores, compensation may be in the form of services such as cooking, cleaning, driving or personal care.*

*The program provides housing alternatives for low-income homeseekers, while at the same time helping the elderly and others remain in their own homes. The program makes very efficient use of existing housing stocks and therefore contributes to a sustainable lifestyle. The program also contributes to the development of both interpersonal and community relationships.*

*During 2005, Shared Housing provided over 1,500 months of housing to individuals in and around the Portland metro area. In the fourth quarter of last year, the program began partnering with All Saint’s Episcopal Parish in Hillsboro to do client interviews in the parish hall twice a month. The number of Washington County tenant applicants has almost doubled due to improving the ease of access for those farther from* **Shared Housing’s northeast Portland office location.**

**Funding for the program comes from Community Development Block Grants, individual and congregation contributions, and private grant foundations.**

*Home seekers should call to make an appointment at the Shared Housing office. Home providers can join the program over the phone. All participants are screened for past criminal activity – violent crimes or recent possession convictions will prevent someone from joining the program. There is a one-time program fee of $10 to $30 (sliding scale based on income).*

*To join the program, contact Shared Housing at (503) 225-9924. The office is located at 2906 NE Glisan in Portland.*

---

**Crop Walk returns to Portland to support hunger relief programs**

*Once again, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is co-sponsoring the 2006 Church World Service (CWS) Crop Walk in the Portland metro area.*

*Participants will gather at All Saints Episcopal Church, SE 40th and Woodstock in Portland, at 2 p.m. on May 21. Sponsored by family and friends, participants can join either a four-mile or a one-and-a-half-mile course.*

*Church World Service provides disaster and development assistance around the world and here at home. They are currently in the hardest hit North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, as well as Kashmir, Afghanistan* and India. *CWS has been the largest donor of shelter, food packages and medical care in that area and also serves in 80 countries around the world.*

*Families in the Portland area have the opportunity to support CWS and local hunger relief programs with the Crop Walk. Seventy-five percent of the money that is raised goes to CWS for their many programs. The remaining 25 percent stays in our community for local hunger relief. The goal for 2006 is to raise $10,000.*

**SOAR awarded funding to help new refugee and immigrant students succeed in school**

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) is one of several Volunteer Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGs) to receive a $47,000 grant to implement the Multnomah County School Impact Project. VOLAGs provide services such as reception, basic orientation, counseling, food, shelter and health services to refugees. They also act as referral sources to the appropriate local agencies for employment and English language training.*

*The school impact project will begin in February. Funding will be used to provide school orientation programs for new immigrant and refugee students and their families, ESL during summer months, after-school tutorials focused on helping students understand and complete assignments, school orientation for parents, interpreter services for parent/teacher meetings and conferences, and bilingual/bicultural staff.*

*Awarding the funding to the VOLAGs will help ensure that all newly arriving immigrant and refugee school age children and youth will be enrolled in the project as early as possible in the resettlement process, and that the project will be closely tied to the caseworker’s involvement with the family.*

**Religious witness and commitments to be honored at EMO’s annual celebration in May**

*On Tuesday, May 9, representatives from the faith community, cooperative organizations and community leaders from around the state will come together in downtown Portland for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Annual Community Awards and Celebration Dinner. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the work of EMO, as well as church leaders and people of faith who are making a difference in Oregon. As in years past, special recognition and awards will be given to honor ecumenical and interfaith leadership in the state.*

*The community celebration is also a time to recognize EMO’s board of directors, including the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bryant, outgoing president. New officers and Board members will also be installed during a brief ceremony. New Board officers include the Rev. Alcena Boozer (Episcopal Diocese of Oregon) as president, the Rev. Kent Harrop (First Baptist Church, McMinnville) as president-elect, Ms. Trudy Bradley (First Christian Church, Portland) as treasurer and the Rev. Robert Ned (African Methodist Episcopal Church) as secretary.*

*The event will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the dinner and program beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person or a table of 10 for $500. For more information and advance registration, please contact Dana Bussey at (503) 221-1054, ext. 203.*
Put your faith into action
Volunteer at one of EMO’s ministries programs

Interested in volunteering your time for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon? There are many opportunities for volunteers at EMO! Help feed the hungry, share your wisdom, lend a hand with events, minister to refugees, help keep things running or share a special skill. Come by yourself or with friends. It is a great way to meet other caring and passionate people. Below are just a few of the many possible volunteer opportunities available.

HIV Services, located in northeast Portland
• Day Center Support Volunteer – help with meal preparation and serving, cleanup and ongoing client services.
• Meals Delivery – deliver meals to homebound people with HIV and AIDS in the greater Portland area.
• Other: Arts and Crafts Volunteer, English Tutor, Massage Therapist, Hair Cutter

InterFaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC), located in southwest and north Portland
• Help maintain a community garden
• Administrative assistance, such as researching, tracking information, proofreading, letter writing and more

Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP), located in northeast Portland
• Food Pick-Up – weekly or monthly food pick-up at donation sites around town
• Program Assistant – assist staff with unloading and sorting food, packing food boxes and assisting guests
• Garden Volunteer – help water and weed the 20 NEFP garden beds

Portland International Community School (PICS), located in northeast Portland
• Teach evening ESL classes for either beginning or intermediate levels
• Tutor students one-on-one

Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS), located in southeast Portland
• Teaching opportunities: ESL, citizenship classes, In-Home Tutoring
• Mentor Russian-speaking victims of domestic violence
• Other: legal consultations, child care, office assistance (knowledge of Russian is required)

Shared Housing, located in northeast Portland and Hillsboro
• Help with client interviews (in Hillsboro)
• Office work (in Portland) including answering phones, creating files, making copies and doing mailings
• Make phone calls (from home)

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), located in northeast Portland
• English tutoring for Russian-, Spanish-, Burmese- and Somali-speaking clients
• Pick up clients from the airport and help develop housing options
• Help with various office tasks such as answering telephones, greeting clients, assisting with mailings
• Solicit and pick up donations

For more information about volunteering at EMO, please visit our Web site at www.emoregon.org/ Volunteer.htm or call us at (503) 221-1054.

Meyer Memorial Trust awards challenge grant
Fundraising campaign for the Patton Home Redevelopment Project nears completion

Nearly a year has passed since Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) kicked off the second phase of the Patton Home Redevelopment Project. EMO is excited to report that we have received a challenge grant from Meyer Memorial Trust and are close to reaching our goal of raising $165,000 to remodel the third floor and open the Rodeny Page Community Ministries Center at the Patton Home. To date, EMO has raised $122,295 in cash and grants and $6,650 in pledges, leaving a balance of $36,055 to be raised in cash or in-kind gifts. Our grants and $6,650 in pledges, leaving a balance of $36,055 to be raised in cash or in-kind gifts. Nearly a year has passed since Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) kicked off the second phase of the Patton Home Redevelopment Project. EMO is excited to report that we have received a challenge grant from Meyer Memorial Trust and are close to reaching our goal of raising $165,000 to remodel the third floor and open the Rodeny Page Community Ministries Center at the Patton Home. To date, EMO has raised $122,295 in cash and grants and $6,650 in pledges, leaving a balance of $36,055 to be raised in cash or in-kind gifts. Our goal is to raise the remaining funds by the end of February, enabling construction to begin in March.

The benefits of opening the Rodeny Page Community Ministries Center at the Patton Home include the availability of office space to local community groups and for EMO program offices to be located on site to support residents of Patton Home as well as the community at large. It will also offer the availability of the Patton Home kitchen and meeting rooms to local organizations, businesses and groups. A fully functioning Patton Home and Rodeny Page Community Ministries Center will also enhance EMO’s overall mission to support the poor and reduce poverty in Oregon.

EMO operates the Patton Home as a single-room-occupancy facility serving low-income people, many of whom are in recovery from substance abuse or transitioning from homelessness. The historic building has 64 beds, is 4,100 square feet and occupies one full city block. David Leslie, EMO executive director, said, “Completion of the Rodeny Page Community Ministries Center will allow us to serve Patton Home residents more comprehensively and creatively, allowing people in Patton Home to access more supports needed to live stable and hope-filled lives.”

There are numerous giving options available, including naming opportunities for donors who give $5,000 or more to complete the build out and finishing of the seven offices, as well as reception areas. If you are interested in making a donation to the Patton Home Redevelopment Project, please call Dana Bussey at (503) 221-1054.

April is National Volunteer Month
EMO lifts up volunteers at its annual volunteer appreciation event

All of us at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon appreciate our volunteers’ commitment to serving our community, and we thank them for helping create lives of possibility. To show our appreciation, we are holding a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Wednesday, April 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 NE 17th Avenue in Portland. Thank you volunteers!

Faith Forum on Genetics
Continued from page 1

to enhance pastoral care skills in both clergy and laity. At the January kickoff session, Chapman discussed the need to enhance dialogue between religion and science. As a theologian and pastor, she has been able to do this herself and knows the challenges as well as the benefits. In dealing with genetics, she noted how important it is for people of faith to understand, or at least be interested in, the basic science, as well in the societal implications of emerging technologies.

Banner emphasized the importance of using good scientific information as a foundation to make good ethical decisions. Too often, he said, our fears of the threat of certain kinds of genetic technologies are based on bad science. We must determine what is a legitimate threat and what is simply misinformation. He concluded by emphasizing that because the decision making in our world is frequently based on fear, the faith communities have a very important contribution to make. As Christians, Jesus Christ tells us first of all to “be not afraid.”

In addition to the two keynote speakers, Sadinia conducted a brief introductory course, “Genetics 101,” which introduced the audience to the science that genetics research is based upon. Marenco closed the session with a walk through of the interactive Web site that is available to the participants as they study and discuss both the scientific data and the case studies that place the science into real life situations.

The current seminar for the first year of the project are open to new members. Congregations interested in participating in next year’s seminars may contact Jan Elfers with EMO at (503) 221-1054 or jelifers@emoregon.org.
Rev. Dr. James Forbes returns to Portland
“For the Healing of the Nations: Let Justice Roll”

The Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland welcomes back the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr., for a Friday lecture and Saturday workshop on February 24 and 25.

Forbes is hailed as one of the nation’s foremost preachers and has been called “the preacher’s preacher.” He has taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York and is a retired senior preacher. “He has taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York and is a retired senior preacher.” He has taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York and is a retired senior preacher.

Forbes and is also a community activist, interfaith leader, published author and conference leader for the National Council of Churches. He speaks to national and international audiences on the issues of justice and the need for social, economic and political transformation. Deeply informed by the Biblical tradition, Forbes speaks with passion that this moment in history is a “teaching moment.”

He urges us to listen and learn. Forbes will call on us to take action appropriate in their faith’s traditions.

Leadership from the pulpit or the pew

OPW encourages pastors and other religious leaders to give sermons about the moral implications of the federal budget. Educational activities as a follow-up to the sermons are encouraged. For example, group discussions, letter-writing parties to Oregon’s Congressional delegation, meetings with that congregation’s U.S. Representative’s or Senator’s staff are great follow-up activities.

Lay members of the congregation can take the lead as well by organizing a forum, panel discussion, study group, discussion group or other educational activity using materials that OPW or Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) are happy to provide. Some of these materials can be viewed from the following Web sites:

- OPW at www.opwpeaceworks.org
- Call to Renewal at www.calltorenewal.com
- Oregon Center for Public Policy at www.ocpp.org

The Feb. 24 lecture, “For the Healing of the Nations: Let Justice Roll,” begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs $15. The Feb. 25 workshop, “Teaching Moments in History,” will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and costs $30. Both will be held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland.

The Rev. Dr. James Forbes

The Center for Budget and Priorities at www.cbpp.org/12-20-05bud.pdf

Here’s how it works

You and your congregation do some or all of following:

- Give a sermon on whether federal budget priorities adequately reflect your faith’s values.
- Publish information in your congregation’s bulletin.
- Organize a presentation, forum or discussion for your congregation to examine how well federal budget priorities reflect your faith’s values.
- Take action appropriate to your faith’s traditions and inform your U.S. Representative and Senator of your congregation’s activities on the federal budget.
- Contact OPW or EMO for materials that can be circulated to the congregation, including:
  - Written information, lectionary suggestions and references to your religious leader.
  - Written information for you to pass out to those interested in your congregation.
  - A speaker or discussion leader on the federal budget for your group.
  - A sample bulletin article on this subject.
- Assistance such as planning activities.

Oregon PeaceWorks can be contacted in Salem at (503) 371-8002. Peter Bergel, executive director, can be contacted at pberge@igc.org.

EMO welcomes National Council of Churches General Secretary Bob Edgar on March 3

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will host the seven-term former congressman, ordained Methodist minister and general secretary of the National Council of Churches since 2000 for a morning reception from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 3, in the Fireside Room at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 NE 14th Ave., Portland. Dr. Edgar will address the intersection of the environment and poverty in the United States. The event is open to the public. A collection will be taken. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the event and to support EMO’s Public Policy Advocacy program.

To register, please call (503) 221-1054. Space is limited.

Free training offered on lobbying for churches and non-profits

Unsure what churches and non-profits can do and can’t do in the political arena? Compelled to politically express your faith but don’t want to jeopardize your tax status?

EMO is joining with the Oregon Center for Public Policy and the Northwest Area Foundation in presenting a free workshop on lobbying and advocacy for non-profits and church leaders interested in learning more about how to influence political decision-makers.

The training will expand your understanding about the regulations and capacity impediments that affect lobbying and advocacy with the focus on nonprofits, and you will gain new perspectives on legislative advocacy through dialogue with the presenters. The training will focus on two primary areas: (1) the don’ts and don’ts of nonprofit advocacy, as well as provide you with an opportunity to seek guidance and clarification for your organization, and (2) Legislative Advocacy: Building your organization’s capacity for effective legislative campaigns.

This workshop is ideal for pastors, lay leaders, social action committees or religious social services professionals. The three-hour workshop is free and will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland.

To register, please call (503) 221-1054. Space is limited.

Interfaith Health Forum

The religious community often plays a healing role in society. Whether it’s mind, spirit or body, religions have formed many institutions for the purpose of healing and for living their faith in service. Religious convictions have been the foundation of many of these institutions. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Public Policy Advocacy program has launched, in partnership with other religious bodies, an initiative called the Interfaith Health Forum to bring together Oregon’s interfaith community to promote its unique voice on health matters.

On a regular basis, the initiative will gather together health advocates, clergy, laity and health experts to share ideas, build relationships and partnerships, and advance the ministry of health and healing in society. Whether it is to understand trends in health care, share best practices, learn about different religious perspectives on health and healing, or join together for a common purpose, the Interfaith Health Forum will provide a venue for all of these possibilities to happen.

The forum is modeled on another interfaith effort, the Oregon Faith Based Coalition Against Hunger, which has successfully raised hunger awareness and promoted efforts to stop predatory practices in payday loans. The Interfaith Health Forum, once formally established, will encourage local forums to form in communities across Oregon. Participation is open to clergy, health and social services professionals affiliated with a faith community.

For more information about the next meeting or to join in this effort, please contact Phillip Kennedy-Wong, director of EMO’s Public Policy Advocacy, at (503) 221-1054.

EMO plays key role in launching Interfaith Health Forum

The religious community often plays a healing role in society. Whether it’s mind, spirit or body, religions have formed many institutions for the purpose of healing and for living their faith in service. Religious convictions have been the foundation of many of these institutions.
A series of interfaith peace services marks the third anniversary of the war in Iraq

People of faith filled Augustana Lutheran Church to pray for peace in Iraq on Sunday, January 22. A Prayer Service for Peace in Iraq: A Service of Lamentation and Hope, was the first of five monthly interfaith prayer services focused on the commitment to peace shared by the major faith traditions.

The faith gatherings are an effort to acknowledge the grief and suffering involved in war, as well as to encourage and build up the peace community in the state. The Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, gave the opening welcome and a prayer of lamentation and hope. Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders offered their perspectives on the tragedy of the violence, as well as their hopes and desires for peace in Iraq. Those in attendance included Rabbi Daniel Isaak of Congregation Neveh Shalom, Shahbahr Ahmed of Bilal Mosque, the Rev. Alcena Boozer of Saint Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church and the Rev. Gabrielle Chavez of Christ the Healer Saint Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, the Rev. Alcena Boozer of Saint Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Peter Paulson, an Episcopalian priest and a United Church of Christ minister, passed away at his home in northeast Portland on Dec. 12, 2005, after complications from viral encephalitis. He was 84.

As a result of his participation in the Pastoral Care Commission of the Portland Council of Churches, Rev. Paulson founded the Northwest Pilot Project in 1969, a downtown nonprofit agency for the elderly, poor and homeless. He started the first Meals on Wheels program in Oregon and is known for championing the needs and rights of senior citizens and affordable housing. “He was just one of those quiet fighters for social justice in the community,” said Gretchen Kafoury, a former Portland city commissioner. “He just never wavered from his purpose, which was to give dignity and meaning to every person’s life.”

Born Feb. 27, 1921, in Birmingham, Ala., Rev. Paulson moved to Portland in the 1960s to become chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital. While at Good Samaritan, he observed senior citizens being sent home without adequate follow-up care. The Pilot Project was born out of a wish to meet those needs and a deep caring for other people instilled in him by his childhood church, his wife Linda said. “His favorite thing was just to be in engaged conversation with others in all walks of life, all sorts and conditions of people, in any setting—from the person empying the garbage cans in his hospital room to politicians,” she said.

Since retiring in 1987, Rev. Paulson remained active in community causes, including ministering to farmworkers and working with the Gray Panthers, a senior advocacy group. He also earned a master’s degree in social work from Portland State University. In 1999, EMO honored Rev. Paulson with the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award in recognition of his efforts to enhance ecumenical dialogue and the quality of life for all Oregonians.

Services were held on Dec. 28 at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in west Portland, March 12 at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland, April 23 at Saint Andrews Catholic Church in north Portland and May 21 at the Muslim Educational Trust in Tigard. (See the Calendar of Events page for more details on the services.)

Cosponsors of the peace services include: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Interfaith Alliance, People of Faith for Peace, Muslim Educational Trust, Augustana Lutheran Church, Saint Luke Lutheran Church, United for Peace & Justice, First Unitarian Church, St. Andrew Catholic Church, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Tualatin United Methodist Church and Clergy & Laity Concerned About Iraq.

For more information about peace-making activities, please call Jan Elfers at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon at (503) 221-1054.

OPB Radio adds “Speaking of Faith” to Sunday schedule

Oregon Public Broadcasting Radio will add “Speaking of Faith” with Krista Tippett—public radio’s premiere national program about religion, meaning, ethics and ideas—to its Sunday broadcasting schedule starting February 12 at 7 p.m.

“Speaking of Faith” does not always have “religion” itself as a subject. Week after week, it grapples with themes of American life—asking how perspectives of faith might distinctively inform and illuminate our public conversation. As host of “Speaking of Faith,” Tippett has been credited with creating a new way to discuss religion in America, first by probing her guests on the experience behind their own personal beliefs, then asking them to articulate the important ideas and relevant perspectives that faith can add to private and public life. The result illuminates how perspectives of theology, spirituality and ethics can enrich our common deliberation on topics in the news and in our lives.

Tippett is a journalist and former diplomat with a master’s of divinity degree from Yale University. She is a graduate of Brown University and a former Fulbright Scholar. Before creating “Speaking of Faith,” she consulted with a number of organizations, including the internationally renowned Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at Saint John’s Abbey and University. Earlier in her career, she wrote and reported for a number of international news organizations, including the New York Times, Newsweek, the International Herald Tribune, ABC and the BBC. She is currently at work on her first book.
February 24 & 25

Calendar of Events

Upcoming EMO sponsored/co-sponsored events

February 22

Sustainable Energy and the Power of Faith: The Interfaith Power and Light Movement. 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Interchurch Center, Pamplin Rooms, SW Bancroft and Kelly, Portland. Learn how the Interfaith Power and Light movement to slow global warming as a religious issue got started, hear stories of innovative faith-based renewable energy and conservation projects around the nation, where the movement is headed and what is happening in Oregon. Our speaker is Bill Bradlee, program director for The Regeneration Project and national coordinator for Interfaith Power and Light. Cost: $3 for members of congregations that have signed the Energy Stewardship Covenant; others are $8. Registration deadline is Feb. 20. To register, call (503) 221-1054 or e-mail dbusey@emoregon.org. Please specify whether you want meat or vegetarian for lunch.

February 22

Legislative Advocacy Training for Nonprofit Institutions. 1 to 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St. (parking available and near a MAX stop). Portland. Please see story on page 6 for more information. To register, please call (503) 221-1054. Space is limited.

February 27

Sustainability Café: Linking Local Forms and Congregations. 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th St., Corvallis. Join in a dialogue to explore how we can support local farmers and work together to create a sustainable local food system. Participants will include farmers, congregations and interested community members from the Corvallis area. The evening will offer an opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas as we develop strategies for action and change. Admission is free and a French, local dinner will be provided. Space is limited; please RSVP by Feb. 23 by calling (541) 757-1988, ext. 107, or e-mail lgfood@emoregon.org.

March 4

Community Food Assessment Workshop. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Congregational Neveh Shalom, Portland. Registration deadline is Feb. 13. The workshop will train participants to conduct a grassroots food assessment to improve food security in inner north and northeast Portland as part of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership. Participants will learn the basic steps of Community Food Assessment methods and tools. Case studies of successful assessments will be shared and initial plans developed. An organically-grown lunch will be provided. Suggested donation: $7. For more information, please call (503) 221-1054 or (541) 757-1988, ext. 107. To register, download registration form at www.emoregon.org.

March 14

Fourth Annual Faith-Labor Breakfast. 8 to 10 a.m. at St. Philip Ner Church, Carvlin Hall, SE 18th Ave. and Division St., Portland. Portland Jobs with Justice, Faith-Labor Committee, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council invite clergy, lay leaders and trade union activists to gather for prayer, fellowship and breakfast. Our purpose is simple: to celebrate and build on the long history of our shared prayer, fellowship and breakfast. Our purpose is simple: to celebrate and build on the long history of our shared

Interfaith Peace Services

A series of monthly interfaith prayer services for peace in Iraq will be held, which focus on the commitment to peace shared by the major faith traditions. Each service begins at 4 p.m.

February 19

Christ United Methodist Church, 12755 NW Dogwood, Portland.

March 12

First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1011 SW Twelfth Ave., Portland.

April 3

St Andrew Catholic, 4919 NE Ninth Ave., Portland.

May 21

Muslim Educational Trust, 10380 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Tigard.

Celebrating Earth Day Sunday

The National Council of Churches offers an Earth Day resource focused on environmental justice and the Katrina hurricane. It includes background information, a liturgy, a sample sermon and study resources. The full resource may be downloaded at www.ncccecosojjustice.org. Many Christian congregations celebrate an Earth Day Sunday on the Sunday closest to Earth Day (April 22), which is the Sunday after Easter, April 23, this year.

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