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Christian leaders deliver message to governor on immigration reform

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) President the Rev. Alcena Boozer led a delegation of Christian leaders in a meeting with Governor Kulongoski on Thursday, June 1, asking the governor to elevate his role in the immigration reform debate.

Joined by Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland Chancellor Mary Jo Tully, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon Bishop Johncy Itty, Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Bishop Paul Swanson and EMO Executive Director David Leslie, the Rev. Boozer asked the governor to help set a civil tone to the public debate on immigration reform by embracing a humane and just approach based on religious values.

The delegation raised concerns about recent anti-immigrant sentiments in the Oregon gubernatorial primary and asked the governor to use his

office and candidacy to dispel exaggerations and myths about the impact of undocumented residents on public services.

In a letter delivered to the governor at the meeting, EMO representatives said, "We believe that by publicly embracing religious principles on immigration reform, you will send a message to our national leaders that Oregon supports a compassionate, humane and practical approach. We believe the state has an important role as it pertains to federal immigration policies. ... Immigrants often serve as the scapegoats of our fiscal and economic woes."

The delegation also noted that many charitable agencies in Oregon such as Catholic Charities, Lutheran Community Services NW, William Temple House and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon provide social services for immigrant populations. The



On June 1, 2006, Christian leaders met with Governor Kulongoski to discuss immigration issues in the state. From left: Phillip Kennedy-Wong, EMO director of Public Policy Advocacy; David Leslie, EMO executive director; the Rev. Alcena Boozer, pastor of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church and president of EMO Board of Directors; Governor Ted Kulongoski; Mary Jo Tully, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Bishop Paul Swanson, Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Bishop Johncy Itty, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon.

services work in conjunction under a broad array of state and federal programs. Changes in state and federal policies would dramatically affect

religious agencies' ability to serve immigrants. Special concern was expressed about a new Medicaid proof of citizenship requirement

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Community leaders honored at EMO's annual celebration

On May 9, over 320 individuals representing the faith community and community organizations came together at the Portland Hilton to celebrate the work of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregonians who are making a difference at EMO's Annual Community Awards and Celebration Dinner.

Community Awards

As in years past, special recognition and awards were given to honor ecumenical and interfaith leadership in the state. The Venerable James Mosier was named "Ecumenist of the Year," which is presented in

recognition of outstanding efforts to promote ecumenism through a commitment to theological education and dialogue, community ministry and justice advocacy.

Mosier is a deacon at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Ontario and archdeacon of the Episcopalian Diocese of Eastern Oregon. He also sits on the Ontario City Council. During his many years of service, Mosier worked in the juvenile justice system, began a youth development ministry partnership and was instrumental in the formation of Love in the Name of Christ, or Love INC., a faith-based

organization that helps troubled families in the community get the services they need. His newest projects include volunteering religious services at the prison and developing the Citizens Review Board, which is designed to advocate for children caught in the public system and juvenile court system.

The "Vollum Humanitarian Service Award" was presented to Robert Morris Smith in recognition of his outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced ecumenical efforts in the state and quality of life for all. The

award is named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife, Jean.

For the last 25 years, Smith has donated his time as treasurer and advocate to various nonprofit social agencies in the fields of child care, mental health and job training. He has also been an advocate for peace and justice in the religious and social arenas locally and nationally. Smith has been a member on the boards of the American Friends Service Committee Northwest Region and EMO, and he also served for 10 years on EMO's Public Policy Committee. Smith was chair of the Multnomah County

Continued on back page

The religious call for immigration reform

Jesus said, "For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

Sadly, the tenor and tone of the current debates about immigration are not characterized by compassion, charity and the concern for the poor. This



David Leslie

is seen clearly when undocumented immigrants are referred to as "those people" or "illegals," best dealt with fences, military and vigilante watch groups and denial of services, no matter one's life circumstance.

Fortunately, however, there is a growing movement of religious people and communities who believe that there is a more humane, equitable and realistic approach to immigration reform. This scriptural-based approach is human centric and built upon principles of justice, fairness and compassion. As policies are crafted in Congress and state legislatures, the religious call is for immigration legislation to include the following:

First, an understanding that immigration is directly tied to the sense of one's economic and political well-being. When people are able to live dignified lives in their own country, they tend to want to stay home. As such, we should expect that U.S. foreign investments and economic aid benefit all people and not simply those in the upper class and in power. We should also expect leaders in nations where we make investments and do business to use these resources to the benefit of all their citizens. Peacemaking and global poverty reduction efforts are directly linked to the dynamics of immigration.

Second, temporary worker provisions are needed in this country, and they should allow people to

travel between the United States and their countries of origin, change jobs as needed and have the full protection of the law.

Third, there needs to be a mechanism for those who have spent years working in this country and who have contributed to our economic growth and development to apply for permanent residency and citizenship. For those immigrants who are citizens, there needs to be expedited means to reunify families, reducing the time and bureaucracy to get immigration visas for family members.

It is imperative that our immigration policies ... affirm the worth and value of all people—citizens, as well as documented and undocumented immigrants alike.

Fourth, there needs to be a recognition that militarizing the United States-Mexico border is not in the best interest of the United States or Mexico. Self appointed border patrol groups like the Minutemen combined with National Guard troops do not heighten security. In fact, an increased military presence has the potential to increase tensions and even deaths. Needed are more trained immigration officials, not military personnel.

Fifth, it is important to recognize that our country is dependent upon foreign labor and that the economies in other countries, such as Mexico, are not as strong as ours. As such, people will continue to come to this country, legally and illegally, to improve their lives. As the Rev. Sam Rodriguez,

president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, notes, "At stake in immigration policy ... are the fates of about 12 million families whose undocumented relatives migrated so they could survive. What if you have no means of feeding your family? How long do you wait (to immigrate legally)? Do you wait until after your second child dies? How violated do we have to be to justify crossing borders without papers?" (*USA Today*, 4/27/06)

This country and civilizations through the millennia were built with immigrant labor. Our past is our present, which will be our future. As such, it is imperative that our immigration policies recognize this reality and be developed in ways that affirm the worth and value of all people—citizens, as well as documented and undocumented immigrants alike. To do less will not be in the best interest of the future of this country, nor honor Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, who said, "For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."



Double your support: Collins Foundation offers matching grant

The Collins Foundation recently awarded \$155,000 for the programs and projects of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). The grant will support the general operating fund, technological improvements and the Collins Lectures.

An exciting part of this award is the \$70,000 challenge grant for EMO's Annual Fund. The Collins Foundation will match all contributions by new donors and any amount given by previous donors over the amount they gave last year, dollar for dollar, up to the designated amount. The purpose of the challenge grant is to not only raise contributions from individual supporters but also help increase awareness of the ministries and services of EMO.

The Collin Foundation was founded in 1947 and provides funding for religious, charitable and educational purposes in the state of Oregon. The Collins Foundation has a rich history of supporting community organizations like EMO.

We are blessed to have a collegial partnership with The Collins Foundation in effecting change in the lives of so many Oregonians.

For more information on the challenge grant, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg, director of Development and Communications, at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@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 2006 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Bailey Investment Group	NE Emergency Food Program
Better World Fund	2006 Annual Fund
The Black United Fund of Oregon	NE Emergency Food Program
The Collins Foundation	2006 Annual Fund
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	2006 Annual Fund
Energy Trust of Oregon	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon	2006 Annual Fund
The Equity Foundation	HIV Center
Gilead Sciences	HIV Center
Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society	NE Emergency Food Program
The Jackson Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program & Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership
National Environmental Trust	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Northwest Health Foundation	HIV Center
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems	Russian Oregon Social Services
The Oregon Community Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Donald G. Paulson	NE Emergency Food Program
PGE Foundation	HIV Center
Polk Family Charitable Fund	HIV Center
Presbytery of the Cascades	2006 Annual Fund
Pride Foundation	HIV Center
Providence Health System	2006 Annual Fund
The Ralph L. Smith Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Saint Luke Lutheran Church	NE Emergency Food Program
Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church	NE Emergency Food Program
The Susan G. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ	2006 Annual Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church	NE Emergency Food Program

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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

“Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership” connects growers and consumers

EMO’s Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) is in full swing, as spring crops take root throughout the Willamette Valley. From Corvallis to Portland, volunteers, students and passionate eaters involved with the Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns’ newest project are actively seeking ways to strengthen our region’s local food system.

“We are actively dialoging with local family-scale farmers,” said project coordinator Liv Gifford. “Meanwhile, we’re looking for creative ways to link small farmers with the faith community, so that congregations play a direct role in supporting farmers and bringing wholesome food to the hungry.”

Step one of IFFP is to complete community food assessments in Benton County, north and inner northeast Portland, and the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham. As relationships are built between growers and consumers, IFFP is developing direct marketing strategies such as a “That’s My Farmer” coupon program in Corvallis. Coupons are sold through five congregations (with several more considering joining the program) for use at local

farmers’ markets and farm stands. Ten percent of the proceeds are used to generate vouchers for low-income households.

“As one of the only steady, organized groups in our community, I see congregations as an important vehicle for helping farms on all kinds of levels,” explained Harry MacCormack of Sunbow Farms in Corvallis, who is participating in IFFP’s coupon program.

There are several ways congregations can get involved in IFFP this spring, including handing out a “Local Food Survey” to members to gather information for our community food assessment. Congregations can also urge their members to buy local, seasonal produce, join a Community Supported Agriculture farm and get to know small farmers in their area. IFFP also is developing educational materials and is starting a monthly e-mail list on food and faith that features stories that can be cut and pasted into congregation newsletters and bulletins. Go to www.emoregon.org to subscribe.



Photo credit: Liv Gifford

“That’s My Farmer Coupons” are used at local farmers’ markets and farm stands. Ten percent of the proceeds are used to generate vouchers for low-income households.

For more information on the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership, contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054.

OIPL helps congregations tap the sun



The financial incentives for solar energy in Oregon are considerable, but most congregations are not aware of the options to tap into them. EMO’s Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) project is finding ways for congregations to go solar affordably through a pilot project. The second grid-tied solar congregation in Oregon—the temple of Jewish Community of Central Oregon—came on line this June with OIPL’s help.

OIPL is currently working with Forest Grove United Church of Christ and is looking for a third congregation to work with as part of its 2006 pilot. A guidelines and case studies will be developed from the pilot. If your congregation is interested in participating in the pilot, please call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054.

Religious leaders, legislators dialog on Oregon’s energy future

On June 13, over 60 religious leaders and legislators gathered at the State Capitol in Salem for the “Energy Stewardship Luncheon” to discuss Oregon’s energy future. The goals of the event were to educate legislators and religious leaders on fostering constructive dialogue across faith and party lines and to consider the kinds of policies needed for a prosperous and sustainable energy future.

The gathering was organized by the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, coordinated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and co-sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Portland, the New Wine, New Wineskins program of Multnomah Biblical Seminary and Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth.

Keynoter Jack Graves—chief cultural officer of The Holland Co., which owns the Burgerville

chain—talked about how the company’s commitment to the community led to its commitment to purchase 100 percent renewable energy for all of its restaurants. In 2006, the company showed record profits while paying 15 to 20 percent extra on utility bills for 100 percent wind power.

The Oregon Interfaith Energy and Climate Charter was presented. It provides a vision, guiding moral principles and suggested policies for a just and sustainable energy future. A similar gathering will be held in early 2007, when the state Legislature convenes.

To get involved in the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, sign the Charter and get an invitation to the next gathering, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

Measure 37 and the common good

In February, Measure 37 was upheld by the Oregon Supreme Court. The measure requires state and local governments to compensate private property owners for any reduction in the fair market value of their real property that results from land use regulation. With limited funds, governments must wave restrictions.

Recognizing that Measure 37 will change Oregon’s state land use laws, the EMO Environmental Ministries Committee met recently in Yamhill County to explore the impact of the measure on stewardship of the land. Using Yamhill County as a case study, the committee met with County officials and local farmers and learned the County had already approved housing and business development for 18,000 acres, with more requests coming every day.

Such large scale development threatens the viability of agriculture, stretches government services, undermines quality of water and pressures habitat for wild life. The committee asked, “Why did Measure 37 happen? Can we find a balance

between property rights and the common good? How does our faith inform us?”

The Environmental Ministries Committee will continue to develop resources to help the faith community understand and respond to the impact of Measure 37. With one million additional residents projected by 2025—most in the Willamette Valley—the need for responsible stewardship of the land will only become more acute.

We would do well to keep in mind the words of Governor Tom McCall, who said when signing the Beach Bill—another landmark land use law—“In the administration of this God-given trust, a broad protective policy should be declared and maintained. No local selfish interest should be permitted, through policies or otherwise, to destroy or even impair this birthright of our people.”



Photo credit: Dan Sundseth

The Environmental Ministries Committee met with County Commissioners, land use planners, farmers and local religious leaders to discuss Measure 37.

Power of writing helps transform lives

Through a unique model of writing workshops, coupled with published anthologies and community readings, "Write Around Portland" helps people transform their lives. In partnership with social service agencies, the organization offers workshops for people affected by HIV/AIDS, survivors of domestic abuse, people in recovery from drug/ alcohol addiction, people with physical or mental disabilities, teenagers living on the street, low income adults and others who might not have access to the power of writing and community because of income, isolation or other barriers.

The following is a piece from one of the published anthologies, written by Dwight Mons, who was a client of EMO's HIV Services. Mons was one of three people who passed away this year to whom "Write Around Portland" dedicated their latest anthology, *Behind Me the Sun*. They also used a quote from his piece in the dedication: "I'm flying home hopefully to peace, fulfillment and love. May the approach be settling. Let the landing be safe. Let there be rejoicing when I have arrived."

For more information about "Write Around Portland," visit www.writearound.org or call (503) 796-9224.

I'm Flying Home

By Dwight Mons

I'm flying home and it could be great and it could be dreadful. Trying to get where I want to be has been a long process. There has been much interference in the past, preventing me from flying home. Home for me now is a state of mind, a destination, a feeling. In many ways I do feel

"I'm flying home hopefully to peace, fulfillment and love. May the approach be settling. Let the landing be safe. Let there be rejoicing when I have arrived."

Dwight Mons

free, I feel up in the air, a straight, speedy line without stops and traffic lights. An "I'm on my way" sensation has been imbued. But the exact destination, the last goal post has not been reached.



Alas I am caught in a holding pattern circling round and round trying to land in home's back yard.

But apparently I am flying too heavy, a landing with this much extra baggage would be dangerous. I am defeated. How much more can I subvert?

That special place home, where it is calm and relaxed, chilled and refreshing like a beautiful early November day in the Pacific Northwest, and all is bathed in an enchanting golden sun. Home is the target, the place to be true to purpose, to be feeling like the ultimate version of myself. No wonder flying home is scary and anxious. It's hard to know how those aspects will manifest when for so long one has been flying away from home. Away to adventure, trouble, romance and danger. All the things that are so exciting when one is young. But I'm flying home hopefully to peace, fulfillment and love. May the approach be settling. Let the landing be safe. Let there be rejoicing when I have arrived.

Patton Home Phase 2 in the home stretch

\$165,000 Amount needed to complete project: \$24,000

\$141,000 Total amount raised to date: \$141,000

EMO's Patton Home Redevelopment Project is on the "home" stretch to completion. Of the \$165,000 total amount needed to complete the project, \$141,000 has been raised to date, which includes an \$82,000 challenge grant from Meyer Memorial Trust. With only \$24,000 to go, it is exciting to envision a debt-free facility, complete with office space available to bring in organizations that can enhance the quality of life at Patton Home for residents and others in north/northeast Portland.

To make a donation for the Patton Home Redevelopment Project, call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

EMO Community Ministries by the numbers (Jan. - March 2006)

HIV Services – Provided 8,030 meals and served 201 clients.

Northeast Emergency Food Program – Served 1,414 families representing 4,181 individuals.

Patton Home – Provided drug- and alcohol-free housing to 55 individuals.

Portland International Community School – Served the educational program needs of 47 students (six students graduated in June).

Russian Oregon Social Services – Served 240 clients with direct services, including 74 clients who received domestic violence assistance, 30 who attended ESL classes and 29 who received dental assistance.

Shared Housing – Made 120 housing matches and provided 433 months of housing.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees – Resettled 64 refugees from the Former Soviet Union, Cuba, Somalia, China and Burma.

Local therapists form organization to help war veterans

Returning Veterans Resource Project Northwest is a nonpolitical group of mental health professionals in the Portland metro area who have come together to create a program offering free and confidential counseling services to veterans and their families returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Returning Veterans' mission emanates from a shared belief that it is society's collective responsibility to create a healing environment for those who are now returning from combat.

In the United States, veterans experienced not only the psychological trauma involved in participating in the Vietnam War, but also from the hostile or, at best, indifferent environment that greeted those returning soldiers. Psychologists note that trauma is passed down in profoundly painful ways, affecting war's veterans, families and our society-at-large in manners both vivid and obscure. A recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* quotes Colonel Charles Hoge, director of the Division of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He states, "Veterans returning from Iraq experience more psychological distress than those returning from the conflicts in Afghanistan,

Bosnia and Kosovo. In Iraq, there is no front line. Individuals who patrol the streets are at a higher risk of being involved in combat. Everyone in a convoy is a target. Soldiers in Iraq have a higher probability of having witnessed people being wounded or killed, and have more aggressive and suicidal thoughts than those returning from other wars."

Those who counsel veterans state that returning to civilian life presents a huge challenge. After being exposed to the stress of deployment and combat, it is often difficult to come home and reconnect in the same old way with family and friends who may not understand the experience and may have unrealistic expectations. The same responses that helped the soldier survive in the war are no longer appropriate, and after facing the constant threat of death during deployment, the dramas of daily life at home or at work can seem frustratingly insignificant. Sleep difficulties, hyper-vigilance, memory lapses, depression, anxiety, irritability and anger are among the most frequently reported symptoms. Post traumatic stress disorder and addictions are common. The frequency and length of deployments have put an intolerable strain on many individuals and their relationships. The November 2005

edition of *Military Officer Magazine* reports the latest statistics showing that the divorce rate among military officers has risen by 78 percent in the last few years. Among all enlisted people, the statistic has risen by 53 percent since the year 2000.

Returning Veterans Resource Project Northwest has the expertise and caring necessary to address these problems and help these soldiers regain a feeling of control in their lives. This organization is a legal non-profit corporation with a Web-based directory of licensed clinicians who will provide free and confidential counseling services to veterans and their families. Some are specialists in working with children. Returning Veterans expects to be providing these pro-bono services for many years as an alternative and adjunct to the Veterans' Administration and other military-related post-combat treatment services.

Please visit Returning Veterans' Web site at www.returningveterans.com for more information. If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone at Returning Veterans Resource Project Northwest, call their voice mail number at (503) 402-1717.

Clergy and laity gather to learn about building addiction team ministries

Clergy, staff and lay leadership interested in addressing addictions in their congregations and faith communities assembled at Westminster Presbyterian Church on the morning of May 23 to learn about building addiction team ministries in faith communities. The 65 participants came from around the state for the consultation, presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute in conjunction with the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, the Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Partnership and Volunteers of America.

“Healing places for individuals and families touched by addiction are possible when congregations start the conversation, learn facts, avoid judgment, practice love and offer support.”—The Rush Center

The consultation was convened to raise awareness about addictions and learn how faith communities can initiate addiction prevention and recovery programs. According to Trish Merrill, director of the Texas-based Rush Center and the featured speaker at the consultation, “Conversations about alcohol and other drug use, misuse and addiction are rare despite nearly a fourth of people reporting that addiction problems have touched their family.” Clergy are overloaded, she acknowledged, and may not have the resources or knowledge to run an addiction ministry. But, with the help of a team of trained, committed members of the congregation, this situation can change.

Merrill presented the “Faith Partners Team Ministry” approach, which applies research-based prevention and recovery strategies to the faith context, with clergy and lay people working together to provide recovery support, education and early intervention. The Rush Center, Merrill described, supports faith communities in building congregational involvement in addiction ministry teams, provides training for team leaders and members, and offers many resources for addiction ministry.

A panel of local clergy spoke about the need for addressing addiction in the faith community. Panelists included the Rev. Rod Landes, Ph.D., president of the Pastoral Counseling Associates of Portland; the Rev. JoAnn Leach, chair of the Recovery Commission for the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon; the Rev. Tim Baker, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Salem and the “Celebrate Recovery” program; and the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., pastor of Allen Temple CME Church and founder of “Resurrection, Prevention, Intervention and Support Group for Drug Abuse Program.” The panel was moderated by Judy Cushing, executive director of Oregon Partnership, a state-wide, non-profit organization dedicated to substance abuse prevention and treatment referral.

Panelists reminded the group that people suffering from addiction are in every congregation. They and their family members are scared, ashamed, unsure of what to do and turn to their clergy for help. Prepared or not, nearly all clergy address problems associated with addictions. “God has created programs and community to help those in addiction and it’s up to us to use them,” Leach asserted.

Several speakers touched on the idea that many congregations still need to open their minds and arms to people suffering from addiction. The key to doing this, they stressed, is realizing that addiction is a disease and not a weakness. Congregations can offer healing and hope to members suffering from the disease and eliminate the stigma and isolation associated with it.

The consultation was the first step in building an Oregon network of faith-based organizations committed to effective addiction ministry. Organizers hope that the burgeoning network will continue to grow, strengthen and support each other in their ministry. EMO plans to develop web-based resources for the network. The Rush Center will continue to offer resource kits, consultations and trainings and will hold a team leadership training in Oregon in late 2006 or early 2007.

For more information about building addiction team ministries in your faith community, contact EMO at (503) 221-1054 or visit www.emoregon.org. The Rush Center can be contacted at (888) 451-9527 or visit www.rushcenter.org.



Photo credit: Mark Ohlson, Christ Episcopal Church in Lake Oswego

Featured presenters at the consultation included David Leslie, EMO executive director, and the Rev. JoAnn Leach, chair of the Recovery Commission for the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon.

Community Ministries Wish Lists

HIV Day Center

- Vinyl and/or leather furniture that is in good condition
- A group sponsor for the Day Center’s annual trip to the coast, which would include transportation to the coast and the cost of box lunches (an optional bonus would be \$5 spending money per client)

To make a donation to the HIV Day Center, contact Kristen Sage or Lowen Berman at (503) 460-3822.

Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP)

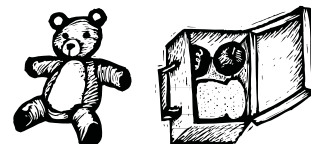
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soups
- Canned Veggies
- Pasta
- Tomato Sauce
- Personal care items (bar soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products)

To make a donation to NEFP, call (503) 284-5470.

Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS), domestic violence program

- Items for battered women and their children:
- Women’s and children’s clothing
 - Children books and toys
 - Bus passes
 - Diapers

To make a donation to ROSS, call (503) 777-3437.



Fundraising efforts for NEFP

Celebrate “Christmas in July”

A grandmother from Louisiana came into Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) the other day, seeking food for the first time since coming to Portland several months ago. What a great spirit about her! She has care of her two grandchildren, who are both under 10 years old. “We have no word on my daughter, their mother. Sometimes I imagine the worst, but mostly I’m grateful that no word means there is a chance that we’ll see her again,” she said.

If you would like to help people like this grandmother and so many other local families, Northeast Emergency Food Program is conducting its annual “Christmas in July” food drive. Twenty churches from around the area are helping collect food, personal care items and money to get the



shelves stocked for the summer months.

You can collect food in your neighborhood or workplace and call NEFP to arrange a time to drop it off. Call (503) 284-5470 for more information. NEFP is located at 1912 NE Killingsworth, Portland.

Join NEFP at Alberta Arts Walk

Come out and support the Northeast Emergency Food Program during the always popular Alberta Arts Walk on the last Thursday of each month. NEFP has a donation/information booth at the corner of NE 29th and Alberta St. each month. At the last Arts Walk on May 25, NEFP received over \$340 in donations.

The next Alberta Arts Walk will be Thursday, June 29, beginning at 6 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, contact John Elizalde, NEFP program manager, at (503) 284-5470.

EMO to launch interfaith campaign to overcome poverty in Oregon

Although there have been recent reports of the United States' economy improving, poverty is still a problem throughout the country. The national poverty rate has increased for four consecutive years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, close to 12 percent of Americans are in living in poverty. The cost of living continues to outpace wages. People are living paycheck to paycheck. Just look at the explosion of payday loans in Oregon and across the country, the number of medical bankruptcies and the growing homeless population.

Oregon is not immune to poverty. Over 600,000 Oregonians are without health insurance, and health insurance rates continue to rise. Approximately 190,000 people each month eat meals from emergency food boxes, according to the Oregon Food Bank.

This can change. This fall, EMO will launch the "Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty," an effort to engage and unite the religious community to address the root causes of poverty in Oregon. Congregations of all faiths will be asked to take action in several different ways. Your congregation will get a letter in the fall asking it to join the campaign. In it you will be asked to

consider the following:

1. Signing-up your congregation as an official sponsor of the "Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty." By signing-up, your congregation will get an anti-poverty action kit.
2. Hosting a state legislative candidate's forum on poverty. Find out what people running for office are saying, or not saying, about poverty. Make poverty an important issue that politicians should care about.
3. Dedicating a worship service focused on poverty during February 2007.
4. Creating a banner for your congregation's sanctuary with a message that states poverty is a matter of justice.
5. Bringing that banner and your congregation to the State Capitol on Interfaith Advocacy Day, Feb. 19, 2007. Lobby your lawmakers and display your banner in the Capitol.

You can help by supporting EMO's "Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty" by making a donation to EMO. To make a donation, call (503) 221-1054 or make a secure on-line donation at www.emoregon.org.

Poverty Facts

- Oregon Poverty Rate = 12 percent
- Full-time job at minimum wage = \$15,800/annual
- A Living Wage for Oregon is \$10.77/hour = \$22,404/annual
- Federal Poverty Level for a family of four = \$20,000/annual
- Oregon Median Family Income for family of four = \$61,570/annual
- Oregonians without health coverage = 615,000
- Fair Market Rent in Portland metro area = \$795 month for two-bedroom
- Fair Market Rent in Rural Oregon = \$520 month for two-bedroom

Immigration reform

Continued from page 1

that is set to begin July 1 and its impact on immigrants. Over 300,000 Oregonians on Medicaid will be required to provide a birth certificate or passport before receiving Medicaid services. People such as the elderly, mentally ill, disabled and others would receive delayed coverage or lose coverage. "In the attempt to address the flow of undocumented immigrants, people who are eligible for Medicaid may lose coverage," said David Leslie. "This is an unacceptable bi-product of federal policies on immigration."

The delegation also gave the governor "EMO's Statement on Immigration Reform," which joined with religious leaders and organizations throughout the country, calling for policies that recognize and acknowledge the inherent humanity of undocumented residents. The EMO statement ends with a Biblical quote: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

The delegation pledged that EMO will continue to raise a compassionate and humane voice for immigrants through the November election and beyond.

Payday lending bill signed



After extensive advocacy from EMO, the Oregon Legislature passed a bill that capped interest rates on payday loans during the April Special Session. Governor Kulongoski signed the bill at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Salem with several representatives from the religious community present.

Photo credit: Our Oregon

Pre-order the 2006 EMO Ballot Measure Guide

For over 20 years, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has produced high-quality ballot measure guides with recommendations from a faith-based perspective for Oregon voters. The guide is an informative tool used by many, including non-religious groups.

EMO is excited to include something new and different in this year's guide. There will be a new section that will contain the responses to an EMO questionnaire on poverty and the environment from candidates running for the Oregon Legislature. The questionnaire is part of EMO's Interfaith Campaign to End Poverty (see story above) and the Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns.

A donation of \$1 per guide is suggested. A donation of \$0.75 is suggested for orders of 50 or more. A donation of \$25 is suggested for a one or two-hour EMO staff presentation for your congregation. Guides and presentations are free for members of EMO's Christians for Peace & Justice Advocacy Network. Annual membership dues are \$25 per individual and \$100 per congregation or organization. Membership comes with an advocacy kit and e-mail alerts during the Oregon Legislative Session.

To order copies of the Ballot Measure Guide or to request an EMO presentation for your congregation, please fill out the form below and check the appropriate box(es). To join Christians for Peace & Justice, please check the appropriate box. Mail this form to EMO, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, OR 97239. For more information, call (503) 221-1054.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Congregation / Organization _____

Please send me the EMO Ballot Measure Guide.
_____ copies @ \$1 per copy (or \$0.75 if over 50 copies) = \$ _____

I wish to schedule an EMO presentation for my congregation.
 \$25 suggested donation Other \$ _____

Please sign me/my congregation up for "Christians for Peace & Justice Advocacy Network."
 Individual, \$25 Congregation or Religious Organization, \$100

Enclosed is a check made out to EMO for \$ _____.

Or charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Save the date—Collins Lecture on Oct. 18 “Earth on Edge: Choosing Our Future”

The 2006 Collins Lecture, titled, “Earth on Edge: Choosing Our Future,” will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Portland.

This year’s topic will center on sustainability and the environment. The featured speakers will be Bill McKibben and Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda. McKibben is author of *The End of Nature*, a classic work on the environmental crisis. His most recent work is *Wandering Home*. Moe-Lobeda is an associate professor at Seattle University and author of *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God and Public Church: For the Life of the World*.

On the same day and location from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., EMO’s Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project and the Oregon Interfaith Power and Light will sponsor the “Oregon Faith Forum on Energy and Global Warming.” The forum will explore the moral dimensions of global warming and national policy with Bill McKibben and the staff of Oregon’s congressional delegation and Oregon business leaders. Dinner will be included.



The 2006 Collins Lecture on Oct. 18 will feature Bill McKibben and Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.

For more information about the Collins Lecture, call Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, and for the “Oregon Faith Forum on Energy and Global Warming Policy,” call Jenny Holmes at the same number.

Peace journey to Middle East slated for fall

A group of local Jews, Muslims and Christians will journey to the Middle East this fall to visit sites that are holy to the three faith traditions, as well as meet with organizations that are promoting peace in the area. “An Interfaith Journey of Peace to Israel & Palestine” is co-sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), Institute of Judaic Studies, Muslim Educational Trust and Oregon Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East.

The co-leaders of the journey will be the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, former executive director of EMO; Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Congregation Neveh Shalom; and Frank Afranji, board member of the Muslim Educational Trust. The group hopes to take equal numbers from the three religions, as well as students who represent the Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths. The sponsors are seeking scholarships

to fund the students. Serious negotiations, not yet finalized, are now underway with Oregon Public Broadcasting to send a film crew with the tour. They hope to create an hour-long program on Oregon’s role in the world peace movement.

The journey will begin with two days in Tel Aviv, but the majority of the trip will be spent in the Jerusalem area. Highlights of the trip will include seeing the sights of Bethlehem, a tour of the Old City and visits with peace organizations such as Rabbis for Human Rights and Badil, a resource and advocacy center for Palestinian residency and refugee rights.

Space is limited. If you are interested in joining the tour, which departs Oct. 20 and returns Nov. 2, please contact Jan Elfers at EMO at (503) 221-1054 or download a registration form at www.emoregon.org.

People of faith gather to pray for peace in Iraq

People of faith gathered together outdoors under a canopy on a stormy Sunday afternoon on May 21 to pray for peace in Iraq and to lift up their mutual commitments to resolve conflict in the world through efforts at reconciliation, not war.

A rainstorm, complete with thunder and lightning, ensued as Imam Mikal Shabazz, president of the Oregon Islamic Chaplains Organization, passionately spoke of the courageous efforts of people throughout the world, particularly women, who work for peace despite horrendous acts of violence committed against them.

The fifth in a series of “Interfaith Prayer Services for Peace in Iraq” was held at the Muslim Educational Trust in Tigard. The prayer service was a testament to the determination of the followers of various faiths to meet with one another on a regular basis in order to reaffirm a resolve to work together to bring peace among religions of the world. Each service has been held at a different location and has included reflections, music, readings and prayers from the major faith traditions.

On the May 21 service, Annette Pritchard of Military Families Speak Out opened the service with a musical selection on the harp. Wajdi Said, executive director of the Muslim Educational Trust (MET), gave a warm welcome, and Salman Almakky, a member at the MET, recited from the

Quran in both Arabic and English. The recitation was followed by reflections on peace by the Rev. Lynn Smouse Lopez of Ainsworth United Church of Christ; Carolyn McKnight, a Theravadin Buddhist; Fred Delgado of the Baha’i Faith; Imam Shabazz; and Peter Berghel, executive director of Oregon Peaceworks. Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld offered a Jewish song of peace on the guitar and Julie Ahmed of the MET read a poem.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was an African mask dance and story performed by Mythobolus Mask Theatre. The Rev. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church ended the service by exhorting the attendees to go out into the world in peace. The service flowed into the Muslim afternoon prayers and a potluck dinner. Knutson commented, “It was a very powerful time of worship together for all of us at a critical time in our world.”

The five peace services, which began in January, were organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Interfaith Alliance, People of Faith for Peace, Muslim Educational Trust, Augustana Lutheran Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church’s Peace and Justice Group, United for Peace and Justice, First Unitarian Church, St. Andrew Catholic Church, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Tualatin United Methodist Church, Veterans for Peace, and Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq.

Genetics seminars to begin second year

Participants from 10 denominations and 11 churches met for this year’s final “Faith Forum on Genetics” at Christ Church Episcopal Parish in Lake Oswego on May 6.

The speakers at this seminar included Dr. Michael Banner, director of the Genomics Policy and Research Forum and professor of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland—who also spoke at the kickoff event in January. The second featured speaker was Dr. Joseph L. Graves Jr., dean of the University Studies program and professor of Biological Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University. About 85 people attended the morning seminar and lunch.

The second set of seven seminars, also made possible by a grant from the National Institute of Health, will begin in January 2007. The next sessions will be formatted in the same way as the 2006 forums, with each participating congregation holding 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 at a central location.

The Pacific University’s Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy is partnering with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to identify the congregations.

If your church is interested in being a part of the 2007 sessions, which are focused on pastoral care and ethical issues related to stem-cell research, pre-natal screening and privacy and genetics testing, please call Jan Elfers at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon at (503) 221-1054 or e-mail jelfers@emoregon.org.

Children’s Sabbath resources available

The Children’s Defense Fund is offering the 2006 National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths Manual, *Congregations Stand for Healthy Children: Bringing Hope and Healing*, to help congregations plan worship, education, service and justice activities for the Children’s Sabbath weekend, Oct. 20 to 22, 2006. The manual includes Catholic, Protestant, Episcopal, Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, Unitarian Universalist, Buddhist and interfaith materials, and more!

Single copies are \$10 each plus \$3.50 shipping and handling; discounts available for larger orders. To order, call (865) 457-6466, ext. 105, or mail a check payable to CDF to: CDF Haley Farm, Attention: Ken Libby/Fulfillment, P.O. Box 840, Clinton, TN 37717. For more information, go to www.childrensdefense.org.



Calendar of Events

July 20 to 22

Northwest Institute of Addictions Studies 2006 Summer Institute Weaving Spirit & Science: Technology for Effective Practices in Recovery. At Lewis & Clark College, Portland. For more information, visit www.nwias.org.

July 21 to 23

Single-Parent Family Camp. At Tilikum near Newberg. The retreat is designed to encourage single parents and their families. In addition to family-related activities, sessions will be available to speak specifically to the challenges single parents face. Author and former single parent Joanie Yonker, of Camano Island, Wash., will be the retreat speaker. Children and youth will have the opportunity to attend age-appropriate programs with trained summer staff. Families will also have the opportunity to enjoy fishing, canoeing, campfires, swimming, crafts and camp activities. The cost is \$30 for ages 0-5, \$57 for ages 6-17 and \$92 for adults. The fee includes overnight accommodations, meals and program fees. For participants choosing to stay in the Northridge platform tents instead of retreat center lodging, discount prices are available at \$25 for ages 0-5, \$45 for ages 6-17 and \$65 for adults. Scholarship assistance is available. A ministry of George Fox University, Tilikum is an interdenominational retreat, educational and camping center located in the Chehalem Valley seven miles northwest of Newberg. Its pastoral setting includes 92 acres of tree-covered hills and green pastures, with a 15-acre lake, hiking trails, and a recreation building. For more details or registration information, visit www.camptilikum.org or call Tilikum at (503) 538-2763.

July 30 to August 5

Taizé: A Journey into the Heart of God (Six-Day Retreat). At the Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Highway 211, Eagle Creek, Ore. Withdraw from the world for a week with an ecumenical community of spiritual leaders dedicated to the vision of peace and reconciliation of Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé Community in France. Cost: \$795 per person (double occupancy). For more information or to register, visit www.living-prayer.com or call Vivian at (503) 706-2201.

October 27 to 29

Weekend with author Jack Rogers. Lecture on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.; workshop on Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and sermon on Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock St., Portland. Dr. Jack Rogers' profoundly challenging new book, *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, was published in March by Westminster John Knox press. 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. "I want to heal the church," Dr. Rogers says. A video of an early version of one chapter, *What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say About Homosexuality*, is available through the Covenant Network Web Store at www.covenantnetwork.org/store.htm. Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to attending, if possible, so they might be prepared for discussion. The book will also be available for sale on Friday and Saturday. There is no cost to attend the events, but registration is required for the workshop on Saturday. To register or for more information, contact Westminster Presbyterian at office@westprespd.org or (503) 287-1289

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

Upcoming EMO sponsored/co-sponsored events

October 20 to November 2

An Interfaith Journey of Peace to Israel & Palestine. Please see story on page 7 for more information. If you are interested in joining the tour, please contact Jan Elfers at EMO at (503) 221-1054 or e-mail her at jelfers@emoregon.org.

October 18

2006 Collins Lecture – Earth on Edge: Choosing Our Future. 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. On the same day and location, the *Oregon Faith Forum on Energy & Global Warming* will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Please see story on page 7. For more information on either event, call (503) 221-1054.

October 21

Energy Stewardship Workshop: Save Your Congregation Energy & Money. 12 to 2:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene. Geared to the needs of congregations, the consultation will cover key principles of energy stewardship for congregations, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy costs, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. 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 OIPL and past-president of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon. Sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) and the Oregon Department of Energy. Cost: \$8 per person, \$10 for two people, or \$15 for three to six members of the same congregation. A light meal will be provided. Call (503) 221-1054, ext. 203, to register.

EMO Annual Celebration

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Commission on Aging, now Elders in Action, and chairperson for Portland's first anti-war march during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the AFSC Peace Project to the Middle East in 1992.

Pacific University's Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy was honored with the Louise Hunderup Religious Education Award, which was given to honor the Pacific Institute's renowned "Faith Forum on Genetics." Made possible by a grant from the National Institute of Health, the "Faith Forum on Genetics" project, in partnership with EMO, is designed to increase congregational awareness of the emerging field of genetics, and to enhance pastoral care skills in both clergy and laity.

Dr. Marc Marengo, director of the Pacific Institute, and Dr. Lisa Sardinia, associate professor of biology at Pacific University, have developed the project and trained facilitators in each of the 10 participating denominations to lead group discussions.

EMO Board Installation

Outgoing president, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bryant, senior pastor of First Christian Church in Eugene, installed the Rev. Alcena Boozer, rector of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in Portland, as president—the first female clergy person to be elected to the position. The Rev. Dr. Bryant also installed the following officers of the board of directors: president-elect, the Rev. Kent Harrop, pastor of First Baptist Church in McMinnville; treasurer, Trudy Bradley, business manager of First Christian Church in Portland; and secretary, the Rev. Robert L. Ned, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Portland.

A native Portlander, the Rev. Boozer has served the local community as an educator and as a priest of the Episcopal Church. As an educator, she had a 26-year career in Portland Public Schools as a teacher, counselor, vice-principal at Grant High School, assistant director of Alternative Education and principal of Jefferson High School. She retired from Portland Public Schools in 1997. As a priest, the Rev. Boozer has served as an associate at St. John the Baptist, St. Stephen and Grace Memorial parishes in Portland and as vicar of St. Augustine in Clatskanie and Emanuel in Birkenfeld, Ore.



The Rev. Alcena Boozer (left), EMO board president, and David Leslie (center), EMO executive director, congratulate the Rev. James Mosier on being awarded "Ecumenist of the Year."

Photo credit: Phillip Kennedy-Wong

Expanding Ministries and Membership

At the event, David Leslie, EMO executive director, announced that the board of directors recently approved the expansion of EMO membership to Christian denominations, congregations, cooperative ministries and interfaith organizations who are fully supportive of EMO's mission and organizational principles. The membership process includes the filling out of a request for membership form and approval by the board.

The expansion of membership goes hand-in-hand with the growth of EMO's ministries throughout the state. During the event, Leslie showed the attendees a map of the unchurched regions in the United States. Oregon was one of the least churched. In contrast, a map of EMO's services and programs showed the expanding statewide outreach throughout Oregon.

The event concluded with closing remarks by the Rev. Boozer, who asked that everyone take a moment to envision what kind of community will emerge as we work to strengthen the spiritual, moral and ethical foundations of this state on ground that is common to all of our faith traditions. "Do we not all seek justice? Are we not all called to be merciful? Are we not all called to be peace makers? We can bring about the beloved community that God intends by working together on structures built upon our common understandings and moving outward until we accomplish the work God has given us to do in this state."