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The Power of Hope: EMO’s Annual Celebration honors faith & community leaders fostering hope for those in need

Every year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) friends and supporters gather from around the state to celebrate and honor ecumenical partners who have accomplished extraordinary things in Oregon. The *EMO Annual Community Celebration and Awards Dinner* is a joyful and informative celebration of the work our churches and people of faith do together. This year’s dinner will be held on May 6 at the Governor Hotel in Portland.

Our major dinner sponsor is Providence Health Systems, which to date is joined by Legacy Health Systems Northwest, Augustana Lutheran Church,

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon, ELCA Oregon Synod, First Baptist Church in McMinnville, First Christian Church in Portland, First Congregational UCC in Portland, First Unitarian Church in Portland, Income Property Management, OPUS Northwest, Oregon Food Bank, USI Northwest and Wells Fargo Foundation.

The event will also include a Silent Auction, with the proceeds going to support EMO’s ministries. We will also continue our tradition of an offering collection for our ministries around the state.

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Tom O'Connor, Ph.D., administrator of Religious Services for the Oregon Department of Corrections, will be honored as “Ecumenist of the Year.”

Event volunteers needed!

If you are interested in volunteering for EMO’s Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or cstbigg@emoregon.org.

Religious leaders call torture a moral issue

by Kevin Finney, EMO Public Policy Advocacy director

On Monday, Jan. 28, a delegation of faith leaders visited the Portland office of Senator Gordon Smith. They were there to meet with Kerry Tymchuk, the state director for Senator Smith.

They also delivered the “Oregon Interfaith Letter Opposing the Use of Torture by Any U.S. Agency,” that was signed by more than 175 religious leaders from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities in Oregon. The letter outlines the religious case against torture. It reads in part:

Torture is universally condemned by people of faith

and conscience as contrary to our most deeply held values. For Christians, opposition is based, in the words of the National Council of Churches, “on our fundamental belief in the dignity of the human person created in the image of God and in the rights accorded to all persons by virtue of their humanity.” This view is also expressed by the National Association of Evangelicals, which has endorsed “An Evangelical Declaration Against Torture.”

The letter goes on to also summarize Jewish and Muslim statements and principles, which ground their religious opposition to torture.

The Oregon faith community response to this letter has been strongly supportive and broad-based. More than 175 signers represented many faiths and many different denominations. Christian clergy, rabbis and Islamic leaders all agreed—torture is a moral issue, and the use of torture must be opposed in all circumstances. The full letter listing all the signers can be found on

the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon initiated the interfaith effort to oppose the use of torture, after being contacted by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), with a request that we urge Oregon’s U.S. Senators to vote for an Act that would ban the use of torture by the CIA.

On Feb. 13, the Senate voted 51-45 to pass the Intelligence Authorization Act, containing the clause that bans the use of torture by the

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The transforming power of hope

So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth. Job 5:16



David Leslie

I write this column at the convergence of three events that don't usually share the same calendar space: the Presidential primary season, the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq and Holy Week—the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. As such, I have had the opportunity to hear a lot about “hope.” From the campaign trail, there is *The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama's book; “Hope for America 2008,” Ron Paul's campaign slogan; *From Hope to Higher Ground*, Mike Huckabee's book that resurfaced during his short-lived campaign; and the many “last hopes,” according to news pundits and bloggers, that hold the keys to keeping Hillary Clinton's campaign chances alive: the Ohio primary, Texas Hispanics and blue collar women. From the battlefield, there is a hope that soon the conflict in Iraq will be over. And from the pulpit, there is told the ultimate story of hope for Christians found in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hope, however, is often simplistically purveyed in our society. It is all too easy to say to folks, “Don't worry—be hopeful.” Likewise, it is tempting to dismiss not only today's but tomorrow's hardships with a smile or even a stern look and set jaw, saying, “Yes, today is bad, but my friends, hope is around the corner, and I'll make things better.”

Yet, as the Scriptures teach, real hope is not so easy to come by. When there is no change of the systems and practices that crush one's ability to hope—especially hope in temporal terms—

then injustice prevails and despair wins the day. For example, it is a disservice to speak about the day when all Americans have health insurance, all children have access to excellent public schools and all neighborhoods are protected by adequate police coverage when there is no will—and in some cases no intent—to address the root causes that keep us from realizing these just and equitable objectives.

... When we are able to change our behaviors, modify our beliefs and reorder our priorities, such that the least among us are treated with dignity, then hope will be manifest in this world.

One of the major factors that keeps us feeling less than hopeful is the military buildup in this country. It is simply unjust to spend hundreds of billions of borrowed money on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while sacrificing quality health care and education for today's citizens and saddling future generations with a massive debt. The MIT Center for International Studies notes that military spending in this country is so massive that the “United States accounts for nearly half the world's military expenditures, outspending on defense the next 14 largest military powers combined.”

Furthermore, the MIT Center goes on to report, “The Bush administration's defense budget for fiscal year 2009 requests \$514.4 billion to fund the peacetime costs of the Department of Defense (DoD). In addition, the administration requests \$70 billion for expenses related to the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan (or the ‘Global War on Terror’). Additional funding beyond this \$70 billion will almost certainly be required to cover war-related costs for the full year” (http://web.mit.edu/cis/fpi_military_spending.html). The size and pervasiveness of these expenditures make it difficult to envision a different reality where the war on terror, national defense and homeland security are not the first and seemingly only priorities of our country.

Fortunately, there are those who believe so deeply in the power of the hope found in the risen Christ and its demands that they will not live into or affirm the status quo. I am mindful of the people of faith who, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq, marched and prayed for the end of the war and made public their belief in the possibility of peace throughout the world. I am mindful of the mothers and fathers in our congregations who have lost sons and daughters to war who speak out against these conflicts, driven by the commitment that what happened to their children should never happen to anyone else's children. And I am mindful of the veterans of earlier conflicts, doctors, psychiatrists, clergy, social workers and addiction counselors who provide support to returning veterans, both as humanitarian acts and important acts of peace, laboring in faith to do their part to call for an end to conflicts throughout the world. It is in these acts of faith that the needy amongst us are served and hope is made real.

As Job testifies, when “injustice shuts its mouth,” hope is indeed possible. In other words, when we are able to change our behaviors, modify our beliefs and reorder our priorities, such that the least among us are treated with dignity, then hope will be manifest in this world. This is the type of real hope that we all so desperately need.

EMO's Annual Celebration

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Community leaders honored

Thomas O'Connor, Ph.D., administrator of Religious Services for the Oregon Department of Corrections, will be honored as “Ecumenist of the Year.” O'Connor works with a team of 30 professional religious staff and over 1,400 volunteers from a very diverse group of religious traditions, as they seek to help prison inmates discover and practice their authentic spiritualities and increase public safety in Oregon. His department's “Home for Good” reintegration program helps men and women exiting prison to successfully and permanently reintegrate into society through strategic partnerships between state, faith and community-based organizations.

Mercy Corps will receive the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award,” which is named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife Jean. Mercy Corps is being honored for their work to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. The organization focuses on disaster response, sustainable economic development, health services and emergency and natural disaster relief.

The Rev. Dr. William Apel, author, professor of Religious Studies at Linfield College, and friend of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey in Lafayette, Ore., will receive the “Louise Hunderup Religious Education Award.” Apel is being recognized for his leading work on the life and witness of Thomas Merton and theologian Howard Thurman. His latest book is *Signs of Peace: The Interfaith Letters of Thomas Merton* (Orbis Books).

“Ecumenical Service Awards”—given in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon—will be presented to *Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (ORVOAD)* and *Saints Peter & Paul Episcopal Church* in Portland. ORVOAD is an association of 31 active community groups—including the faith community, non governmental organizations and businesses—that meet to prepare and be ready to respond once Oregon receives a Presidential Declaration, such as the counties affected by the December 2007 flood in northwest Oregon. Saints Peter & Paul Episcopal Church is being honored for their direct services in the community, which include ministering to the homeless through “Brigid's Table” and to women in prostitution through “Rahab's Sisters.”

Sponsor a table

For \$600 you can sponsor a table of 10 at the event. Ask nine friends to join you in sponsoring and attending for a fun and worthwhile evening—or treat friends and business associates to a place at your table. Table sponsors can also designate seats at their table for EMO guests who otherwise could not afford the event fee. Individual tickets are \$60 each. To register or sponsor a table, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054, or visit www.emoregon.org.

Donate or solicit auction items

We welcome the donation of Silent Auction items. All money raised from the items will go to support EMO and its programs. A wide variety of items are welcome! Examples include: works of art and jewelry; personal services like manicures, haircuts, professional massages, accounting, consulting, auto maintenance; recreation items such as a weekend at a beach house, overnight accommodations at a hotel, restaurant gift certificates; and retail gift certificates and gift baskets. Your favorite service business, restaurant or shop can attract new customers and free publicity while doing good for our community.

Please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at EMO, (503) 221-1054, for solicitation materials and receipts.

Food justice efforts thrive in Corvallis

As the days lengthen, farmers, chefs and organizers are laying plans to improve local food access for low-income residents in Corvallis. Under a new, three-year USDA Community Food Projects grant awarded to EMO's Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP), project staff and partners are seeking ways of using common assets of faith communities—kitchens, land and volunteers—to build community food security.

Lessons from congregation-based projects will be published in a manual and shared nation-wide with other faith communities and organizers as projects progress. All programs will emphasize low-income leadership and empowerment rather than a traditional charity model. Jenny Holmes, project director, said, "This project represents a major step forward in empowering low-income people in shaping a community food system, one that benefits all people, not just a few."

Intaba Liff-Anderson, chef/proprietor of FireWorks Venue in South Corvallis, joined the EMO staff in January to develop a community kitchen. She will lead regular hands-on cooking classes for low-income people using fresh, local produce at Corvallis First United Methodist Church. A congregation will offer community gardening opportunities for low-income neighbors. Liv Gifford, IFFP coordinator since

2005, will launch a campaign advertising the newly available food stamp access at local farmers' markets and organize a bulk buying club for Latino parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

This new phase of work builds on past successes in Corvallis, including a regional community food assessment and the "That's My Farmer" coupon program, now a collaboration of 10 faith communities, 10 farms and several local food banks. "That's My Farmer" will be coordinated this year by L.I.N.K.S Americorps Member Anna Cates.

In 2007, "That's My Farmer," administered by St. Mary's Catholic Parish and coordinated by EMO, sold over \$13,000 in farmers' market coupons to members of congregations; 91 coupon booklets, worth \$1638, were distributed to low-income families through four agencies.

All projects are designed to solve the complex question of how to build a just and sustainable food system. Shopping at farmers' markets, preparing meals with fresh produce, growing a garden, and buying local, culturally appropriate food at affordable prices are options IFFP strives to bring to all.

As one low-income "That's My Farmer" coupon user said of her visit to the farmers' market, "I checked out all of the different booths, I was able to get both fruits and



Photo credit: Liv Gifford

Participants learned to prepare meals with locally-grown foods at last year's cooking classes in Corvallis, hosted by First United Methodist Church.

vegetables. We got a few things that we wouldn't ordinarily get. We got berries and made blended jam with strawberries, Marionberries and blueberries. It was great."

For more information about IFFP projects in Corvallis, contact Liv Gifford at (541) 207-2001 or lgifford@emoregon.org.

Support strong for national climate legislation

The Lieberman-Warner Safe Climate Act will be likely debated and voted on in Congress in April or May of 2008. It represents an important step forward but needs to be strengthened. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and its Oregon Interfaith Power & Light steering committee concur with ethical principles and policy recommendations of "Religious Agenda on Poverty and Global Climate Change" (view at www.nrpe.org/pressmaterials/nrpe_design04.doc). We encourage you to write to Oregon's Congressional Delegation to urge them to strengthen the Safe Climate Act and to share why, as a person of faith, you believe global warming is a moral issue.

Empowering food literacy

This spring in Portland, Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) is offering a series of three four-week cooking classes for low-income individuals and families. Each series will focus on how to incorporate fresh vegetables into emergency food boxes. All produce will be provided from local farmers, thanks to an anonymous grant. Generous donations from Mirador Community Store, Trader Joe's and Fred Meyer, will allow us to provide a "kitchen kit," comprised of kitchen equipment and pantry items in reusable bags.

The first series took place in March at First Presbyterian Church for the residents of Alder House, a single-resident occupancy building downtown, and Julia West House, a drop-in center for homeless men and women. All meals for this series were cooked in the microwave, as that is the primary means of cooking for this

population. Participants in this series will receive coupons for First Presbyterian's summer farm stand through the "That's My Farmer" Coupon Program.



The second series, at EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP), will focus on kid-friendly meals that can be prepared healthily from foods in NEFP's emergency food boxes. A third series is being organized for a Latino audience in the Cully neighborhood. Through these classes, we hope to demonstrate that it's possible to cook healthy food with very few resources.

Another aspect of the project is farm to congregation partnerships. New is a community supported agriculture (CSA) project—where produce is paid for in advance and delivered weekly—between newly immigrated farmers from the Ukraine and Lincoln Street Methodist Church in southeast Portland. The church has a mission partnership in the Ukraine, so the partnership is especially meaningful. Some CSA shares will go to low-income families. IFFP's former interim project coordinator, Heather Burns, has started farming on Sauvie Island and will be providing a traditional CSA for members at Redeemer Lutheran. First Presbyterian and First United Methodist will continue farm stands after Sunday services.

For more information about IFFP in Portland, contact Cristina Stella at cstella@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054.

Taking regional action on climate change

The Western Climate Initiative (WCI) engages seven Western U.S. states and two Canadian provinces in formulating regional climate solutions. Oregon is a lead state. In addition, there are 10 observer parties, including three additional Canadian provinces and Sonora, Mexico.

The WCI has the potential to create a strong platform for the development of national climate policy, which is a precedent to American involvement in international agreements. A major decision point will be in August 2008 on the design of a market-based system to reduce carbon emissions. EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light believes that it is vital for this system to be designed, so that significant funding is channeled toward renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation and low-income needs. Support is coming from the Bullitt Foundation.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light is playing a lead role in a coalition of Interfaith Power & Light faith groups in the West who are educating the faith community on the WCI and mobilizing input at critical times. A religious leader sign-on letter will be circulated for signatures from April to May 20 and will be presented at the next regional meeting on May 21 in Utah.

On June 5 and 19, Climate Justice Trainings will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Interchurch Center in Portland. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 214, or go to www.emoregon.org/power__light.php.

State Legislature funds preservation of affordable housing But lack of other state and federal funding could undermine community plans to end homelessness

The recent February meeting of the Oregon Legislature took two important steps to help retain affordable housing. First, it approved an increase in the cap on the Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit—raising the cap from \$13 million to \$17 million. This \$4 million increase is projected to leverage more than \$100 million in preservation of existing affordable housing.

Second, in response to a proposal offered by the Housing Alliance, the Legislature allocated \$2 million for a Housing Acquisition Fund. This fund would leverage money from private foundations and banks and provide an estimated \$48 million in affordable housing preservation over the next two years.

The Oregon Legislature, however, was unable to find funding to assist the state's counties in developing 10-year plans to end homelessness. The Housing Alliance had urged an allocation of \$750,000 to help counties develop these plans, but with revised revenue projections that showed a likely decrease in state revenues, legislators balked at this additional allocation.

The idea of developing 10-year plans to end homelessness has been promoted at the national level since the year 2000 by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. They hoped this approach would revitalize a movement to eliminate homelessness by engaging local communities in new efforts to move the chronically homeless off the streets and into

permanent supportive housing, while also promoting strategies to reduce the number of transitionally homeless individuals. The idea was picked up by the Bush administration and has been promoted by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

More than 15 Oregon counties have either completed or have started the development of 10-year plans to end homelessness. Portland has a completed 10-year plan and reported impressive progress in implementing its plan (see www.portlandonline.com/bhcd/index.cfm?c=30140). Washington County has begun the process of developing a plan. And last year, both Clackamas County and coastal Lincoln County completed their 10-year plans. The Lincoln County effort was led in part by County Board of Commissioners Chair Bill Hall.

Hall is also the co-chair of a little-known Oregon state body, the Ending Homelessness Advisory Council (EHAC), which has been quietly developing a statewide 10-year plan to end homelessness. EHAC (pronounced EE-Hack) members include individuals representing non-profit agencies providing direct services to the homeless, representatives of key state agencies including Oregon Housing and Community Services, representatives of the state Legislature, and representatives of city and county governments. David Leslie, the executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), serves on the council as

a representative of faith-based organizations. EHAC has now put online a first draft of its 10-year plan and is soliciting public comment. To review the draft plan, go to www.ehac.oregon.gov.

Estimates of the number of homeless persons in Oregon vary. One estimate, based on Oregon's one-night shelter count in 2007, found that there were 13,020 who were homeless. Of these, 59.8 percent were homeless families. This count, which has been conducted since 2002, shows a 75 percent increase in the number of homeless in Oregon since 2002.

Both the rising overall numbers and high percentage of homeless families may be the result of a growing housing affordability crisis. Recent census bureau data has documented, for example, an increase in the percentage of renters who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. This increased from 45.5 percent in 2000 to 54.9 percent in 2005.

In light of a deepening affordability crisis and pessimistic revenue projections at the state and federal levels, it is not clear that even with the best 10-year planning, homeless service agencies will be able to keep ahead of a rising tide of homelessness.

Other analysts have argued that a long-term decline in federal support for building, maintaining and subsidizing affordable housing explains, at least in part, the rise of

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Faith leaders call torture a moral issue

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CIA. Both Senator Smith and Senator Wyden voted for the bill. President Bush vetoed the bill on March 8 because of its restrictions on the use of torture by the CIA.

The return of torture as an issue

Until the infamous photos from the Abu Ghraib Prison in Bagdad were splashed across the evening news in 2004, many were unaware of current U.S. use of torture. Once those photos were made public, however, we quickly became aware of the accounts of torture, abuse and sexual humiliation carried out by U.S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib.

Subsequent investigation has made clear that the activities at Abu Ghraib were the result of a policy commitment at the highest levels of the U.S. government to the expanded use of what the administration likes to refer to as "enhanced interrogation techniques."

Now that a media spotlight has focused on the U.S. use of torture, the public has also learned of the use of "extraordinary rendition"—an extra-legal process whereby the United States hands over suspected terrorists to another country for detention and interrogation. Human rights groups charge that extraordinary rendition is a violation of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), because suspects are taken to countries where torture during interrogation remains common.

ABC News has also reported the existence of CIA "black sites" maintained in other

countries where terrorism suspects are taken to be secretly tortured during interrogation. And, more recently, CIA Director Michael V. Hayden acknowledged that the CIA had destroyed videotapes that showed agency operatives in 2002 subjecting terrorism suspects—including Abu Zubaydah, the first detainee in C.I.A. custody—to severe interrogation techniques, which Hayden acknowledged included waterboarding.

Since the United States ratified the U.N. Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1994 (UNCAT), these activities would seem to be in violation of international law, and on Feb. 6, 2008, Amnesty International called for a "full independent and prompt criminal investigation" into the use of these interrogation techniques by U.S. personnel.

Is the use of torture always immoral?

Torture has been defined as the unwanted imposition of intense physical or mental suffering or cruelty, in order to gain information, force confession, or for purposes of coercion or punishment. According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, torture is generally considered to be a moral evil because it involves the infliction by one person on another of intense pain or suffering and because it consists in and aims at the intentional destruction of individual autonomy and will.

But, while torture is generally recognized to be a moral evil, some have argued that its use is justified under some circumstances to prevent an even greater evil. And indeed, several

According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, torture is generally considered to be a moral evil because it involves the infliction by one person on another of intense pain or suffering and because it consists in and aims at the intentional destruction of individual autonomy and will.

post-9/11 polls found that from 35 to 46 percent of Americans thought that torture was justified under some circumstances.

One of those Americans is Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard Law School Professor, who has argued that the president or a Supreme Court justice should be able to issue a "torture warrant" that would allow torture in a "ticking bomb" type scenario. In this scenario, U.S. government officials have custody of a known terrorist mastermind, and he is believed to have knowledge of a bomb that is set to detonate in a crowded public place. Non-coercive interrogation techniques have not been working, and it is believed that time is running out. Shouldn't interrogators be empowered to use waterboarding, electric shock or whatever may be helpful to induce this known terrorist to reveal the bomb's location?

This is a compelling argument, but many human rights advocates, religious leaders and others reject it for several reasons. First, the use

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Affordable housing

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homelessness during the 1980s. According to the report “Without Housing,” issued by the Western Regional Advocacy Project, federal responses to homelessness “have failed and will continue to fail unless and until they include a serious and sizable federal recommitment to funding affordable housing.” This report, issued in November of 2006, noted a dramatic decline in HUD’s budget from \$83 billion in 1978 to \$18 billion in 1983—a 78 percent decline in funding. Not coincidentally, the report argues, it was 1983 when emergency shelters for the homeless began to operate in cities nationwide. The full report is at www.wrphome.org/wh/index.php.

In a report examining the causes of family homelessness, the National Alliance to End Homelessness has also acknowledged this problem:

Today approximately five million households receive federal assistance to pay for housing—mostly in the form of a Section 8 housing voucher, which families can use to rent housing on the private market, or through the public housing program. *But there are 10 million families eligible for housing subsidies that do not receive them because of lack of funding.* Most cities have long waiting lists—from two to five years—for housing units or rent subsidies. [Emphasis added. Available online at www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/999.]

And the Center for Budget and Policy

Priorities has issued a February 2007 report demonstrating that a decline in federal funding for low-income housing assistance programs is undermining local communities in their efforts to implement 10-year plans to end homelessness (www.cbpp.org/2-1-07hous.htm).

Increased action from the faith community is needed in response to the rising numbers of homeless families and individuals. Many churches and faith-based organizations are already active in providing food, shelter and other services to the homeless, but more needs to be done. There are, for example, opportunities for churches and faith organizations to get involved in their counties in the development or implementation of 10-year plans to end homelessness. In Washington County, for instance, the Interfaith Committee on Homelessness (<http://ahotown.com/>) has been active in this process.

This is also a great issue for legislative policy committees or social justice committees at your church to focus on. EMO can help provide support and assistance to help church committees support state and federal policies that expand low-income housing assistance and homeless programs.

Several faith groups, including EMO, participate in the Oregon Housing Alliance. To find out more about the Housing Alliance, go to www.oregonhousingalliance.org.

For more information on the work of EMO on homelessness and affordable housing, contact Kevin Finney at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204, or kfinney@emoregon.org.

Advocacy resources

*Can congregations do lobbying?
What about elections?*

Is your congregation or religious non-profit considering getting more active in efforts to promote public policies that reduce poverty, promote social justice, environmental stewardship or other important values? If so, be sure you start by familiarizing yourself with the federal tax laws and regulations that govern the lobbying and political activities of religious organizations and other non-profits.

To understand the federal tax regulations that govern this issue, go to: www.irs.ustreas.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=120703,00.html.

You should also take a look at the IRS “Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Non-Profits,” available at www.emoregon.org/pdfs/IRS_Tax_Guide_for_Churches.pdf.

The Pew Center on Religion and Public Life has also published a helpful study, entitled “Politics and the Pulpit 2008: A Guide to the Internal Revenue Restrictions on the Political Activity of Religious Organizations.” You can find it at <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=280>.

Faith leaders call torture a moral issue

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of torture in this type of scenario is extremely rare. It is much more typical for torture to be used more indiscriminately—in situations like Abu Ghraib, the detention center at Guantanamo Bay or in secret CIA interrogation centers—and it is very likely that some innocent people end up getting tortured along with the “known terrorists.”

Secondly, even if one agrees with Dershowitz that in a rare case torture might be morally justified, that does not necessarily mean that torture should therefore be legalized for use by an agency like the CIA. When a nation legalizes the use of torture by an agency like the CIA, it thereby sets up an institutional apparatus of torture, and most of history shows that once an institutional apparatus of torture is in place, it will come to be relied on more and more, displacing more reliable interrogation techniques.

Moreover, as most intelligence and military experts admit, torture is rarely an effective means of garnering reliable intelligence. In December 2007, 31 retired U.S. military leaders wrote to Congress in support of a ban on torture at the CIA, and they made this point in their letter. They also argued that any use of torture by the United States puts U.S. military personnel at greater risk:

We believe it is vital to the safety of our men and women in uniform that the United States not sanction the use of interrogation methods it would

find unacceptable if inflicted by the enemy against captured Americans. That principle, embedded in the Army Field Manual, has guided generations of American military personnel in combat. The current situation, in which the military operates under one set of interrogation rules that are public and the CIA operates under a separate, secret set of rules, is unwise and impractical.

Many religious leaders believe that to justify the use of torture, even in the limited case of the ticking bomb scenario, is to engage in a line of reasoning in which the end justifies the means—even if the means is itself clearly a moral evil. They argue that it compromises the very soul of any person or nation that engages in torture. The organization Rabbis for Human Rights, for example, has circulated a *Rabbinic Letter Against Torture*, which includes this statement:

We understand that the most fundamental ethical principle, which results from our belief in God as Creator of the world and Parent of all humanity, is that every human being is seen as reflecting the Image of God. Torture shatters and defiles God’s Image. The purpose of torture is to remove a person’s pride, humiliate that person, or make his or her life so painful that the person does or says whatever the interrogator wants. Torture “works” by attempting to deprive a human being of will, spirit, and personal dignity. The humanity of the perpetrators, as well as the

victims, is inevitably compromised by the use of torture.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture takes a similar approach in its Statement of Conscience on the issue of torture.

EMO joins the National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon recently become a participating member of the *National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)*. NRCAT was founded in January of 2006 at a conference held at the Princeton Theological Seminary, and convened by Dr. George Hunsinger, who is the McCord Professor of Theology at the Seminary.

In the short period of time since its founding, NRCAT has built a broad base of religious support. NRCAT now has 151 religious organizations listed as participating or endorsing members. A full list is available on their Web site at www.nrcat.org. Individual congregations are also encouraged to join NRCAT.

NRCAT has been collecting individual endorsements for their “Torture Is a Moral Issue Statement of Conscience.” To endorse this statement, go to the NRCAT Web site.

For more information on how you can support the campaign against torture here in Oregon, contact Kevin Finney at kfinney@emoregon.org or Jan Eifers at jelfers@emoregon.org, or call Kevin or Jan at (503) 221-1054.

6 Community Ministries

EMO social worker honored for service to the HIV/AIDS community

The Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has awarded EMO's HIV Day Center counselor Jay Elbrecht the "Paul Starr Memorial Award" for Social Work. The award was presented March 7 at the Association's luncheon in Portland.

"I'm very surprised that I am the recipient of this award, since there are so many people doing such hard work in these hard times," commented Elbrecht. "I'm grateful for my co-workers and collaborators who are working with me to help people live."

Given in memory of social worker and anti-HIV/AIDS activist Paul Starr, the award honors a social worker who has made a special contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Elbrecht has been a leader in this fight for more than 20 years. He was involved in organizing ACT UP in upstate New York in 1985 and 1986, organized and facilitated support groups for gay men affected and infected by AIDS throughout the mid-1980s, and organized a gay/lesbian student association at Broome Community College, with a focus on HIV education and prevention. Elbrecht made his first quilt panel in 1987 when his childhood friend died of AIDS, and he was

arrested in 1993 in Washington DC while demanding health care for HIV positive individuals, and again in 1994 at the U.N. while protesting the closure of U.S. borders to HIV positive individuals. While attending Eastern Washington University, he fought to have the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance recognized as an official student group and led a drive to establish an HIV prevention program on campus.

After receiving his MSW in 1998 and working as a housing coordinator with Cascade AIDS Project, Elbrecht joined the staff of EMO's HIV Day Center in 2006. He provides the Day Center's low-income, HIV positive clients with formal, informal and crisis counseling.

"Jay's respect for, and commitment to, HIV Day Center clients is extraordinary," says HIV Services program manager Lowen Berman. "He often visits clients on his own time when they are hospitalized or residing at Our House of Portland. He is a powerful advocate, problem solver and friend to the people he serves. He treats all clients with great compassion, dignity and respect. It's an honor knowing and working with Jay."



Photo credit: Lowen Berman

Jay Elbrecht, EMO's HIV Day Center social worker/counselor, is the 2008 recipient of the "Paul Starr Memorial Award" for social work.

Walk with us and show your support for millions of refugees around the world!

Join us on June 21 at the South Park Blocks in downtown Portland for "Footsteps to Freedom: World Refugee Day Walk." Registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m., with the 5K Freedom Walk beginning at 10 a.m. A Resource Fair with music, food and community members will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$20 for participants 11 years and older, \$10 for children 10 and under, or \$15 for adults registering as part of a team of five or more. Members of the refugee community are invited to walk for free.

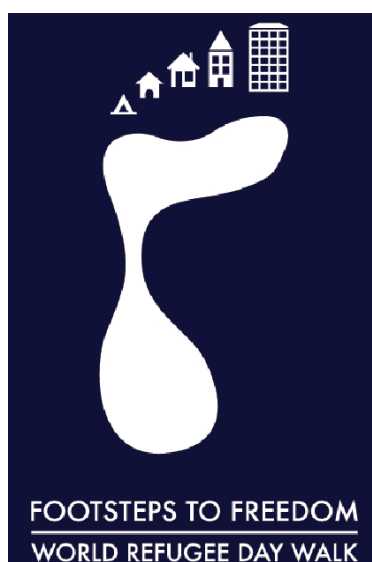
Proceeds from this event will benefit the refugee and immigrant programs at Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), Catholic Charities and EMO's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR).

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees established World Refugee Day in 2001, in an effort to honor the courage, resilience and strength of the over nine million refugees and 20.5 million internally displaced peoples worldwide. Every year on June 20, thousands of organizations around the world come together to focus global attention on the lives of refugees, the causes of their exile and their determination to survive.

Since 1975, the state of Oregon has become home for over 55,000 refugees! They have come to make a new home because of religious, ethnic or political persecution. Many of them left with next to nothing, have lost many family and friends, and will never be able to return to their native homes.

LCSNW, Catholic Charities and EMO's SOAR are working to alleviate the suffering and make the transition easier for refugees being resettled in the Portland metro area. We do this by offering the following services: sponsorship and resettlement, case management, certified and notarized translation of documents, refugee rights and education classes, multicultural mental health counseling, advocacy and referral, and housing and transportation support.

For more information or to register for the World Refugee Day Walk, contact Megan Schaefer at LCSNW at (503) 731-9553 or mschaefer@lcsnw.org. For more information about EMO's refugee and immigration ministries at SOAR, contact Yin Liu at (503) 284-3002 or soar@emoregon.org.



Family drug and alcohol prevention program available to congregations

The 2007 Oregon Legislature set aside a small amount of funds for a state-wide implementation of the Strengthening Families Program, a research and evidence based drug and alcohol prevention program. The key to the program is that both children, ages 10-14 years, and their parents come together using a "love and limits model." In other words, we let our children know that we love them by setting limits for their behavior, as well as modeling the behavior. Many of us feel that this is an easy concept, but many parents feel they should be their children's *friend*.

When parents make a statement like this in parenting classes, the counter-question oftentimes is whether or not the parents have friends. Most parents say they do have friends. The next question becomes, "Do you tell them when they have to be home at night?" If we see ourselves as adult friends to our children, it is very difficult to set limits and follow through on consequences. Children have friends—what they need are loving parents with solid limits.

Some counties, including Multnomah, have chosen to partner with the faith-based community in their drug and alcohol prevention efforts. If your faith community has interest in doing active work in this area, contact your local Commission for Children and Families. If you are in Multnomah County, LifeWorks NW is the contractor that will be working specifically with the faith community. They will be providing materials, training and grants to implement this program.

If you would like to know more about forming a partnership, please contact Linda Sneddon at LifeWorks NW at (503) 627-9194.

Souper Bowl of Caring fights hunger and poverty in local communities

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a yearly event held on the same weekend as the Super Bowl football game to raise money to fight hunger and poverty in local communities. The idea for the Souper Bowl of Caring originated in 1990 with a young Presbyterian seminarian, Brad Smith from Columbia, S.C. Smith imagined using the Super Bowl weekend, a time many Americans celebrate with food, fun and football, to unify the youth of the nation for a higher purpose—to invite congregations to collect donations that support charities fighting hunger and poverty in their local communities. That first year, 22 Columbia churches participated, collecting \$5,700 for local non-profits.

Every participating congregation or school chooses the local charity it wants to support, and 100 percent of collected donations are sent directly to that program. Since 1990, thousands of congregations and schools around the country have become involved in this effort to fight hunger. In 1997, the Souper Bowl of Caring broke \$1 million and gained 501(C)(3) non-profit status. Most recently in February 2008, with 14,446 reporting groups nationwide, the Souper Bowl of Caring collected \$9,438,913!

St. Michael & All Angels Church in northeast Portland is one longtime supporter of

the Souper Bowl of Caring, this year breaking a new parish record, collecting \$2,045 on the morning of “Souper Bowl Sunday.” Each year, St. Michael’s sends its Souper Bowl of Caring donations to the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) at Luther Memorial, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Part of the reason for St. Michael’s great success with this event is the high level of participation from the children and youth of the parish who love to collect the donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring. On the Sunday of the Super Bowl game, children and youth stand in front of the congregation while holding big soup pots clearly labeled “Souper Bowl.” The young people explain what their version of “Souper Bowl Sunday” is all about and invite the congregation to support NEFP. They remind everyone that cash and checks are both gratefully accepted and that they will be stationed at the exits of the church at the conclusion of the service, ready to receive donations—and the young people always, always thank the congregation in advance for their generosity!

Just to be sure that the congregation really “knows how it works,” St. Michael’s clergy enthusiastically demonstrate by reaching into their wallet for some money (most of the time the rector finds a \$20!), and they readily put it



Photo credit: Leslie Sackett

During “Souper Bowl Sunday,” St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church—with the help of the children and youth of the parish—raised \$2,045 for EMO’s Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial.

into the soup pot. This kind of joyful giving is contagious, and the St. Michael & All Angels community delights year after year in the opportunity to support their neighbors and NEFP.

All the information needed to participate in the next Souper Bowl of Caring is at www.souperbowl.org. Congregations will receive packets with posters and organizational material well in advance of the next “Souper Bowl” weekend to help plan and host their own Souper Bowl of Caring. More information about NEFP can be found at www.emoregon.org.

Long-term recovery brings helping hands Interfaith organization provides disaster relief services in Oregon

The immediate response to a disaster is provided by emergency management in local communities. Soon, they are joined by state and federal responders, whose focus is the safety and security of individuals and communities. But following those first days, households are left with long-term cleanup and rebuilding. That is when they need Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (ORVOAD).

ORVOAD has been serving the Oregon community for over 30 years. ORVOAD is an association of 31 active community groups that meet to prepare and be ready to respond once Oregon receives a Presidential Declaration. Once there is a disaster activation, ORVOAD can grow to over 100 participating groups including the faith community, non-governmental organizations and business. They work closely with FEMA and state and county emergency management.

While some activities occur during immediate cleanup, ORVOAD prepares to work with those who do not have the resources to recover from the event. Services include rebuilding, continued cleanup and seeking financial, case management and product resources. Supporting the Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) in the impacted counties is a key role.

ORVOAD has established a 30,000-square-foot warehouse in Portland filled with furnishings that are dispersed to



Photo credit: The Oregonian

Vernonia, Ore., was hit hard by the December 2007 flood. Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster has provided a wide variety of support to meet community needs and is forming teams for rebuilding efforts this spring.

persons registered with FEMA and impacted by disasters. In the future, ORVOAD plans on using pods or containers in local areas.

After the disastrous flood in northwest Oregon last December, six counties received a Presidential Declaration (PD), including Clatsop (Astoria area), Columbia (which includes Vernonia), Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk and Washington. Three other counties were impacted by the flood but did not receive the PD—Coos, Curry and Lincoln. ORVOAD is responding to the needs in all these counties, especially the six counties that received a PD—from supporting relief centers, to bringing extra food resources; from repairs to roofs,

to seeking building supplies; from providing case management training/systems, to seeking volunteer teams.

Some of the faith communities currently working in collaboration with ORVOAD and the LTRCs are: Adventist Community Services, Baptist Men, Catholic Charities, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Church of the Brethren, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Episcopalian Disaster Relief, Foursquare churches, Jewish Community Services, Latter Day Saints, Lutheran Disaster Response, Mennonite Disaster Services, Presbytery of the Cascades, Salvation Army, Scientologists, St. Vincent de Paul, United Methodist Committee on Relief, community churches, and many local non profits.

This spring, the organization is in need of rebuilding teams. If your church has members who have served in Katrina projects in the Gulf Coast, participated in Habitat for Humanity projects, been part of the PISO teams building in Mexico, or other hands-on examples, please encourage them to lend a hand to help their neighbors in Oregon. ORVOAD is also in need of financial resources to purchase some building materials.

For more information, contact Norene Goplen, president of ORVOAD, at LutheranAdvocate@aol.com.

Shared Housing moves to First Baptist Church in Portland

In November, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Shared Housing program moved from its location in northeast Portland to downtown Portland in the First Baptist Church building at SW 11th and Taylor.

Barbara Stone, Shared Housing program manager, reflecting on the move, said, "The new location is everything we could ever have hoped for. The office has more than twice the floor space of the previous site, allowing for more than one client to be seen at a time, and for more volunteer and intern staff to be added as appropriate. MAX, Portland streetcars and any number of bus lines run within easy walking distance of the new location, making client access much easier for the majority of clients and allowing program staff to commute via public transportation."

"The staff at First Baptist Church have been very welcoming and are very supportive of our work," says Stone. "We were also fortunate to



Photo credit: Sylvia Callaway

Barbara Stone, Shared Housing program manager

have the help of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral volunteer Curt Clugston, who assisted with the move." Stone hopes to be able to build a closer relationship with downtown congregations now that the program offices are more easily accessible to churches, home providers and homeless people alike.

To further the success of the program, Stone is seeking more professional volunteer help to put the program's process documentation in better order and get new marketing materials put together. She is in the process of listing both in-office and virtual (can be done from a volunteer's home) general skills volunteer opportunities on www.volunteermatch.org and on EMO's Web site. In addition, the following items are needed to outfit the larger space and make it more comfortable:

- two two-line telephones
- two bookshelves
- small office copier
- four to six side chairs for clients/visitors
- coat rack
- small table

For more information about how to become a volunteer, donate items or offer a home share, contact Shared Housing at (503) 225-9924 or housing@emoregon.org.

Helping to keep marriages healthy for the long haul

Two people meet; it is love at first sight! A wedding is planned and the happy couple marries in front of family and friends. After a couple of years, the relationship seems to have changed, and not for the better. As many couples try in vain to return to a happier time, they become disillusioned with the constant unresolved bickering and lack of connection. Before they know it, they are heading for divorce, becoming a sad statistic and sign of our times.

In an effort to help couples develop healthy marriages, the Samaritan Counseling Center has developed premarital counseling, as well as services targeted for all couples. Research shows that giving young couples the opportunity to learn practical skills that help them communicate and navigate conflict more effectively ensures a longer, happier marriage—and with divorce rates that continue to hover around 50 percent, this is good news for the American family.

Premarital education is the most effective way for couples to learn the skills and behaviors that make a successful marriage. For many

young people, learning how to communicate in a way in which they feel heard and understood is revelatory. Incorporating their differences into their relationship can be inspiring, and even enlightening, for many new couples—who are too often caught up in the "honeymoon stage" to consider conflict as possible, let alone inevitable.

Most importantly, finding ways to foster friendship, intimacy and commitment are also encouraged and cultivated in premarital classes, including discussions of what is most important to a new family in the way of morals, values, shared goals and dreams. Talking about the role of faith traditions is seen as a way for young couples to connect to what is most important to them as a family—whether it is private beliefs or traditions, or thinking about ways for them to connect as a family to a larger caring community of others. For many couples, their faith is the glue that holds them together when times get tough, and it acts as a positive constraint when considering separation. Encouraging couples to express soteriological sentiments—such as

admiration, gratefulness, apology, forgiveness and love—are often a direct route to a more heartfelt, strong and committed pairing.

With a wide variety of programs, classes and counseling services targeted towards all couples—married for five months or five years—Samaritan Counseling Centers in Portland is becoming "the relationship center" in the community. Taught by state-licensed counselors and Masters-level educators, the classes are informal, interactive and lively. An increasing interest in the community for relationship skills training supports the idea that "relationship school" is a valid and respected way to champion the institution of marriage, and support young people in living long, loving lives together.

For more information on premarital counseling, contact Samaritan Counseling Center at (503) 281-3318. Samaritan Counseling Centers promotes psychological and spiritual health and wholeness through accessible, highly competent counseling, education and skill-building services.

Interfaith group responds to the mental health crisis in our community

As an interfaith member organization of EMO, the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon (IDNO) combines the resources of faith-based advocacy organizations to encourage and assist individual religious communities to become more welcoming and inclusive of people with disabilities.

The organization carries out this mission by providing information, support and training on disabilities to faith-based groups, so that everyone can enjoy participation in their religious community. For example, IDNO held a week-long event last November, "An Interfaith Approach to Mental Health: Spirituality, Companionship and Outreach." Held in Portland, the conference was hosted by one of IDNO's programs, the Interfaith Council on Mental Health. Featuring the Rev. Dr. Craig Rennebohm, founder of the Mental Health

Chaplaincy in Seattle, the conference's eight workshops were attended by people living with mental illness, family members, local clergy and congregational support team members, mental health professionals and service providers.

The overwhelmingly positive reviews mentioned by the 84 conference participants were that the workshops offered encouragement, practical advice, helpful materials and numerous opportunities for networking. Attendees indicated that they came away with a greater understanding of ways in which their religious communities can be more effective in helping people coping with depression, other mental illness or homelessness to be more valued and involved within their own religion. The "Companionship Trainer Training" workshops were especially helpful in learning approaches to forming supportive

relationships with members living with severe mental illness.

Up next for IDNO will be its conference on May 2, "Beyond the Ramp: Engaging People with Disabilities in Faith Communities," to be held at St. Anthony Village in Portland. Keynote speakers for this one-day event include the Rev. Dr. Brett Webb Mitchell and the Rev. Chuck Currie. Separate workshop tracks will be available for their target audience—clergy, people with disabilities, families and congregational lay leaders, and social workers. In addition, exhibitors representing a wide variety of local support services will be available to discuss their respective programs.

For more details about the conference, a registration brochure is available at www.jfcs-portland.org/pdf/INDOConference_brochure0408.pdf or contact idno@msn.com.

Achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula through forgiveness Kim Dae-jung to speak in Portland this April

Kim Dae-jung, former South Korea president and 2000 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will speak in Portland on April 17 and 18. Kim's visit is hosted by the Wholistic Peace Institute and co-sponsored by the University of Portland and the World Affairs Council.

Kim will give a free lecture on April 17 on his personal faith journey and philosophy on human rights. The lecture is at 7 p.m. at the Chiles Center, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. For tickets, contact Christina Sigler at events@up.edu or (503) 943-7523.

On April 18, at 12 p.m., a luncheon and

"Peace, reconciliation and love are all Christian values, and since this has been my motto throughout my life, one could say that the foundation for the Sunshine Policy is Christian values. However, the wisdom of the East has also played a role, e.g. Buddhist ideas of mercy and Confucius ideas of tolerance. Peace in Asia is directly related to peace in the world. Peace on the Korean Peninsula is also directly related to the economic development in the region, which is turning into a huge market globally."

— Kim Dae-jung

lecture by Kim will be held at the downtown Portland Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave. Titled "Doing Business in Asia and the Prospect of Peace on the Korean Peninsula," Kim will offer guidance as a former president of a key U.S. trading partner on how to work in the China and South Korean markets. He will also discuss how he pulled South Korea out of a severe recession and how his policies might be relevant to the United States today. The cost to attend is \$125 per person or \$1,000 for a table sponsorship (tables of 10). For tickets, e-mail worldpeace@canby.com or call (503) 266-8996.

Also on April 18, at 7 p.m., Kim will give a lecture, "Challenges on the Korean Peninsula," at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland. For tickets, visit www.worldoregon.org.

A Roman Catholic since 1957, Kim has been called the "father of democracy in South Korea" and the "Nelson Mandela of Asia" for his long-standing opposition to authoritarian rule. He spent 40 years opposing repressive, militaristic governments and has seen his share of adversity. Kim has been imprisoned multiple times, sentenced to death (later commuted) and survived five assassination attempts.

As president of South Korea from 1998 to 2003, Kim sought to consolidate a democratic

government and promote internal reconciliation within South Korea. He also made attempts to overcome more than 50 years of war and hostility between North and South Korea through his "sunshine policy," based on the value of forgiveness.

Kim won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for this dramatic step towards peace and reconciliation with North Korea, and his lifetime of work for democracy and human rights.



Kim Dae-jung, former South Korea president and 2000 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will speak in Portland on April 17 and 18.

Religious communities commemorate the fifth anniversary of the War in Iraq

In March 2003, President George W. Bush authorized the United States military to invade Iraq and topple the government led by Saddam Hussein. As the war in Iraq enters its sixth year, churches, religious organizations and peace activists across the country commemorated this solemn event with services, candlelight vigils, educational opportunities and peace marches.

In Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) co-sponsored three

events relating to the anniversary. "Visions of Peace"—an interfaith service remembering those who have died in the war and proclaiming our hope for peace—was held at the First Unitarian Church on Sunday, March 9. Participants from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Unitarian, Scientology and Baha'i faiths united their voices in a call for an end to the violence.

On Friday evening, March 14, in collaboration with "Christian Witness for Peace in Iraq," a candlelight vigil and service of reflection called "One Night for Peace" took place at First Congregational United Church of Christ in downtown Portland.

On Saturday, March 15, a peace fair in the South Park Blocks featured nine "action tents,"



A series of four peace banners were unveiled at a March 9 interfaith peace service, "Visions of Peace," at First Unitarian Church in Portland. Artist Carolyn Gillen, pictured, created the two banners on the right, "flowering branch" and "chalice." The "fire in broken window" banner on the left was designed by Janis Wells, and Katie Borden created the "barbed wire" banner.

Photo credit: Jan Eifers

including People of Faith for Peace's (PoffPeace) tent titled, "Visions of Peace, Building Bridges of Faith to a World without War." The event also included a faith leader's panel discussion in the Parish Hall at the First Congregational Church on the Park Blocks. The day-long effort concluded with a rally and peace march titled, "Stop the War in Iraq: Bring the Troops Home Now."

Other state-wide events included an all-day event titled, "On the Fifth Anniversary of the War in Iraq: Sow Seeds of Peace," sponsored by peace activists in Eugene on March 16. Activities included a rally, community parade, candlelight vigil and a gathering for peace and justice followed by a community dinner celebration.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at PSU benefit features the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page

Portland Campus Christian Ministry (PCCM) at Portland State University—an ecumenical partnership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Methodist Church—is holding a gala benefit to help underwrite the annual budget of PCCM on May 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock, Portland.

The evening will feature the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, former executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. His presentation will be "Reflections on a Journey in Ministry: From PSU Campus Ministry ... to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon ... to the National Council of Churches/Church World Service."

The evening festivities will also feature Bethany Reeves, soprano from New York City, with accompanist Gayle Gaddis of Portland.

The ticket price is \$20 general, \$10 students, and free for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at EMO, the Presbytery of the Cascades, the Regional Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon, the Spiritual Life Center of PCCM at PSU and numerous congregations of the PCCM member partners listed above. Tickets will also be available at Westminster Presbyterian on the evening of the event.

For more information, contact Rod Reeves at rallenreeves@yahoo.com.

EMO membership is growing

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) growing list of members (listed below) reflects the vibrant community of faith in Oregon and enables us to establish partnerships, so we can better serve the needs of people in our state.

One of the many benefits EMO offers to its members is eligibility to enroll in our group health plan. We received the following note from one of our congregational members, Prince of Peace Fellowship, which participates on the health plan..

"I wanted to say thank you so much for enabling our pastor to have medical coverage under your organization. We are a very small fellowship of about 30 people, which means we would not be able to purchase medical on our own. So, I would like to extend thanks for being so generous to us."

With each issue of the Voice, we will list our new members. For information on how your congregation or faith organization can become a member of EMO, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208.

Member Denominations

African Methodist Episcopal Church, American Baptist Churches of Oregon, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon, 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) Presbytery of the Cascades, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Member Congregations

Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland; Bethel Baptist Church, Salem; Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard; Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Portland; Christ Church Episcopal Parish, Lake Oswego; Christ United Methodist Church, Portland; Clackamas United Church of Christ, Milwaukie; Community of Christ, Portland; Family Worship Center, Gresham; First Baptist Church, McMinnville;

First Christian Church, Eugene; First Christian Church, Forest Grove; First Christian Church, Portland; First Christian Church, Silverton; First Congregational United Church of Christ, Portland; First Congregational United Church of Christ, Salem; First Presbyterian Church, Bandon; First Presbyterian Church, Portland; First United Methodist Church, Portland; Forest Grove United Church of Christ; Highland Christian Center, United Church of Christ, Portland; Irvington Covenant Church, Portland; Junction City United Methodist Church; Keizer Christian Church; Lake Grove Presbyterian, Lake Oswego; Lake Oswego United Church of Christ; Milwaukie Presbyterian; Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland; Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton; Open Door Baptist Church & Christian Academy, Troutdale; Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, Portland; Portland Mennonite Church; Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, Portland; Prince of Peace Fellowship, Portland; Redmond Community of Christ; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton; St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Portland; St. Bartholomew's Episcopal, Beaverton; St. Helens First Christian Church; St. John Presbyterian, Camas; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Portland; St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Grants Pass; St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland; St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Sherwood; St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Portland; St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, Portland; Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland; Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland; Tigard United Methodist Church; Tri-City Baptist Temple, Gladstone; United Church of Christ Congregational, The Dalles; Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland; Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, Portland; Vermont Hills United Methodist Church, Portland; West Linn Lutheran Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland; Woodburn United Methodist Church; and Woodland Park Baptist Church, Portland.

Ecumenical Organizations

Benton County Habitat for Humanity, Corvallis; Church Women United in Oregon; Faith Bible Christian School, Aloha;

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon; Operation Nightwatch, Portland; Portland Campus Christian Ministry; Providence St. Vincent Medical Center Pastoral Services Department, Portland; Snowcap Community Charities, Gresham; and Ten Thousand Villages, Portland.

Interfaith Partners

Atkinson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Oregon City; Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, Portland; First Unitarian Church, Portland; Greater Vancouver Interfaith Association; Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon; Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vancouver, Wash.; Samaritan Counseling Centers; and West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Portland.

Collins Foundation offers matching grant

Double your increase or your new gift now!

Our profound thanks to the Collins Foundation, for leading the way once again in our annual fund drive with a \$70,000 challenge grant. All new gifts to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will be matched at 100 percent by the Collins Foundation, as will any increase over the previous year's gift.

The Annual Fund supports EMO's general operations and is used to support new and ongoing programs and initiatives. Through this challenge grant, the Collins Foundation encourages all EMO supporters to join them in faithful partnership with EMO's work in bringing the faith community together for service, dialogue and practical work addressing the pressing issues of the day.

In our interfaith dialogue, peace work, direct service and advocacy against the root causes of poverty and against environmental degradation, the Collins Foundation has been an essential partner.

The funds were allocated for Annual Fund support to enable us to strengthen our ability to engage Oregon's faith community in developing programs in four critical areas:

- Poverty reduction
- Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue
- Environmental stewardship
- Peace and conflict resolution

What a great opportunity for a new donor to double his or her gift or for ongoing supporters to strengthen their support.

The Collins 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.

For more information on the challenge grant, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Please send your gift to:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, OR 97239.

You may also make a credit card donation over the phone by calling EMO at (503) 221-1054 or make a secure on-line donation at www.emoregon.org.

Honor and memorial gifts

Gifts in Honor

Nov. '07 through Feb. '08

In honor of Kent Harrop

Gus Carstensen

In honor of Susan C. Hathaway

Janice Morgan

In honor of Dave Hogan

Bill Hogan

In honor of David Leslie in celebration of his tenth anniversary as executive director at EMO

Frank Afranji

Salma Ahmad

Janet Bennett

John Boonstra

Alcena Boozer

Trudy Bradley

Audre Bratcher

Lori Bocker

Calvin Brockman

Daniel Bryant

F. Wayne Bryant

Rob Closs

Richard Colgan

John Dennis

Jan Elfers

Emily Gottfried

Bill E. Graham

Lowell Greathouse

Bonny Groshong

Kent Harrop

LeRoy Haynes, Jr.

Diane Hogan

Robina Ingram-Rich

Daniel Isaak

Phillip Kennedy-Wong

Mark Knutson

Leigh Leslie

William Lupfer

Margaret Marcuson

Ronald Means

Ross Miller

Billie Mohny

Neil Kelly

Charles Nielsen

Murad Nuryagdiev

Letty Owings

Rodney & Sandra Page

Stephanie Pich

Mary Lee Planer

Donald Purkey

Jeffrey Reingold

Barbara Rice

Pat & Gene Ross

Kathleen Saadat

Dale Sawyer

Stephen Schneider

Brad Shumate

Lynne Smouse López

Carla Starrett-Bigg

Vicky Stifter

Paul Swanson

Temple Beth Israel

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Mary Jo Tully

United Methodist Church, Oregon

-Idaho Annual Conference

Keren Wilson

In honor of David L. Lindsey

Richard Fink

In honor of Ross J. Miller

Dana Miller

In honor of Jane R. Tatreau

Norine Reres

Douglas Wilson

Sally Woodcock

In honor of

Gene Yarnell

Ellen Morrison



Gifts in Memory

Nov. '07 through Feb. '08

In memory of Loren Bromley

John Denner

In memory of Frances Maeda

Kathryn White

In memory of Robert Oga

Rosendo & Leslie Pont

In memory of Josephine Sullivan

Caroline Sullivan

In memory of Jerry A. Thompson

Laura Hamann

In memory of Wilma Zurcher

Douglas Neve

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

EMO's Board and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO's ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the Fall 2007 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
The Autzen Foundation	Portland International Community School
Basalt Foundation, Inc.	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Beaverton First United Methodist Church	2008 Annual Fund
The Black United Fund of Oregon	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Bloomfield Family Foundation	Portland International Community School
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS	HIV Day Center
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon	2008 Annual Fund
Church World Service	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Churches Center for Theology and Public Policy, and the Environmental Protection Agency	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
The Collins Foundation	2008 Annual Fund, Collins Lecture
Collins Holding Company	2007 Annual Fund
Community Health Partnership	HIV Day Center
The Fred Meyer Foundation	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Fremont United Methodist Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Gilead Sciences	HIV Day Center
Glory Foundation	Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation	2007 Annual Fund
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation	2007 Annual Fund, Portland International Community School
Juan Young Trust	Portland International Community School
Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Lake Oswego United Church of Christ	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Legacy Health System NW	2008 Annual Fund
The M.A.C. AIDS Fund	HIV Day Center
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation donor advised by Carolyn & Martin Winch	2008 Annual Fund
Open Society Policy Center	Public Policy Advocacy
Oregon Food Bank	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Oregon Jewish Community Foundation	2007 Annual Fund
The Oregonian	HIV Day Center
Portland Rotary Charitable Trust	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
Presbytery of the Cascades	2008 Annual Fund, NE Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Providence Health System	2008 Annual Fund
Providence Portland Medical Center	Russian Oregon Social Services
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
The Regeneration Project	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
The Susan G. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
United Church of Christ, Central Pacific Conference	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
United Methodist Church, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference	2008 Annual Fund
William R. & Marjory G. Varitz Foundation, Incorporated	2007 Annual Fund
WebMD, Inc.	Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial
Wells Fargo Foundation	2008 Annual Fund, Portland International Community School

voice

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
David A. Leslie, *executive director*
Michelle Bush, *graphic designer, editor*

Telephone (503) 221-1054

Fax (503) 223-7007

www.emoregon.org

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • American Baptist Churches of Oregon
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)–Presbytery of the Cascades • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

12 Calendar of Events

March 29

Thomas Merton: Contemplation and Experience. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Franciscan Spiritual Center, 6902 SE Lake Rd, Suite 300, Milwaukie. Spend a day of prayer, meditation and contemplative dialogue. Explore the life of Thomas Merton, his writings, and how you can draw upon your own life experiences to find a deeper level of understanding and acceptance of your own spiritual group faith sharing. Cost: \$30 (includes lunch and snack). To register, call (503) 794-8542 or e-mail info@francisspctr.com. For more information, visit www.francisspctr.com.

April 12

Information Session: Graduate Studies at Marylhurst University. 10 a.m. at the Marylhurst campus, 17600 Pacific Highway (Hwy. 43), between Lake Oswego and West Linn. Earn your Master of Divinity, Master of Applied Theology or Doctor of Ministry from Marylhurst University. A great opportunity to meet the department chair in an informal setting and learn if Marylhurst University is right for you. For more information or to place your reservation, call (503) 699-6268 or e-mail studentinfo@marylhurst.edu.

April 17 & 18

Kim Dae-jung visits Portland. See page 9 for details on scheduled events.

April 23

Gospel Women Making the Difference – Evening Session. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, 6902 SE Lake Rd, Suite 300, Milwaukie. Srs. Patty Novak, Carmel Gregg and Guadalupe Medina, OSF, invite single Catholic women ages 19-35 to explore more deeply the Franciscan way of life. Cost: Free. To register, call (503) 794-8542 or e-mail info@francisspctr.com. For more information, visit www.francisspctr.com.

April 25 & 26

Lecture and workshop by Philip Clayton, "This Sacred World: Irreducible Complexity in Science and the Emerging God." Friday lecture from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., both at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Philip Clayton holds a Ph.D. in both philosophy and religious studies from Yale University and is the Ingraham Professor of Theology at Claremont School of Theology. He is author of numerous books and articles and a past winner of the Templeton Book Prize for best monograph in the field of science and religion. Lecture: \$15 general, \$5 students. Workshop: \$50 general, \$15 students; includes lunch. To register, contact The Center at (503) 478-1218 or purchase tickets online at www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

May 16

Cappella Romana: "Cyprus—Between Greek East and Latin West." 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, NW 18th and Couch, Portland. Cappella Romana is a vocal ensemble dedicated to combining passion with scholarship

Upcoming EMO events

April 4

MLK Walk. Gather at 11:15 a.m. at the statue of Dr. King on the northeast side of the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE MLK Blvd. (at Hassalo St.), Portland. Join us for a peaceful walk to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 40th anniversary of his death. At 11:30 a.m., walk across the Steel Bridge to the Oregon Battle Ship Memorial in Waterfront Park at Naito Parkway and SW Pine St., and hear speakers who will encourage us to live in harmony with respect for all people. You may meet at the statue of Dr. King and join the walk, or bring a lunch and join us for the speakers at the Battle Ship Memorial. Sponsored by EMO and the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon Commission to End Racism.

April 20

"Celebrating Our Shared Values" Interfaith Service: Sustainability-Sharing the Earth. 4 p.m. at Soka Gakkai International, 1805 SE Ankeny, Portland. This series of services is being sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Interfaith Alliance-NW Oregon, Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County. These services will provide participants with the opportunity to worship with people of different faiths in churches, temples, mosques and synagogues. For more information, contact Jan Elfers at EMO at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@emoregon.org.

April 22

Green Building & Renovations for Congregations. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, 529 NW 19th St., Redmond, Ore. This workshop will provide practical information and inspiration to help congregations lighten their environmental footprint. Topics will include: principles of energy-efficient building; why energy is a spiritual issue; green building case studies; and how to work with contractors and architects. Sponsored by EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light project in partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy. The registration fee is \$30 per individual, which includes lunch for pre-registrants. Call for discount on large groups from same congregation. To register or for more information, download the registration brochure at www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

May 6

EMO Annual Dinner & Silent Auction. At the Governor Hotel in Portland. See page 1 for details.

May 18

"Celebrating Our Shared Values" Interfaith Service: Community of Faith. 4 p.m. at Muslim Educational Trust, 10330 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Tigard. Potluck to follow service. This series of services is being sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Interfaith Alliance-NW Oregon, Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County. These services will provide participants with the opportunity to worship with people of different faiths in churches, temples, mosques and synagogues. For more information, contact Jan Elfers at (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or jelfers@emoregon.org.

June 6 and 7

Environmental Ethics Lecture & Workshop. Lecture on Friday at 7 p.m. and workshop on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Butner Rd., Beaverton. Taught by the Rev. Mark Bocker, faculty of Northwest House of Studies. This workshop will include a basic survey of the environmental problem, a presentation on the biblical and theological foundations for engaging in ethical reflection, an introduction to and a presentation on what it means to be responsible people of faith, both individually and corporately, in relation to the environment. Sponsored by Northwest House of Studies, EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and St. Andrew Lutheran Church. For more information or to register, call Mark Bocker at (503) 646-0629.

June 11

Energy Stewardship Workshops for Congregation and Community. "Save Your Congregation Energy and Money" from 12 to 2:30 p.m., and "Energy Stewardship" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Both workshops will be held at Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st Ave., Portland. Sponsored by EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light project in partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy. The cost is \$20 per person for each workshop or \$35 per person for both workshops. A light lunch and materials will be provided. To register, download a workshop brochure at www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

June 17

Solar Congregations Workshop. 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Dharma Rain Zen Center, 2514 SE Madison, Portland. This workshop is for all congregations that want to know the nuts and bolts of hosting a solar panel and how to use it for education. It will provide key congregation decision-makers, advocates, and building and grounds people with a thorough grounding in how solar electric systems work and how to maintain them. Cost: \$5 per person for congregations that are part of the OIPL Solar Congregations Program and \$20 per person regular. Includes pizza and materials. To register, call (503) 221-1054.

June 21

Footsteps to Freedom: World Refugee Day Walk. See page 6 for details.

in its exploration of the early and contemporary musical traditions of the Christian East and West. To this day, island of Cyprus stands at a crossroads between East and West. Alexander Lingas leads Cappella Romana in an intrepid exploration of 15th and 16th century Cypriot music in both Byzantine and Western styles. For tickets and information, call (503) 236-8202 or visit www.cappellaromana.org.

May 16 & 17

Lecture and workshop by James Finley, "The Interior Castle of Saint Theresa of Avila." Friday lecture from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., both at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. This lecture and workshop will explore Saint Theresa of Avila's classic work *The Interior Castle* with author, contemplative retreat leader and

former student of Thomas Merton, James Finley. A popular speaker at The Center, Finley leads meditation workshops and retreats throughout North America. Lecture: \$15 general, \$5 students. Workshop: \$50 general, \$15 students; includes lunch. To register, contact The Center at (503) 478-1218 or purchase tickets online at www.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

