of Oregon



Vol. 33, No. 4 Portland, Oregon October 2000

Compassion Sabbath: October 27 to 29

Inside...

Retired Episcopal bishop of eastern Oregon shares his thoughts; new bishop welcomed. See page 3.

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New ecumenical group forming in Tillamook. Story on page 6.

n the weekend of October 27 to 29, faith communities throughout Oregon will observe Compassion Sabbath, joining together in prayer, education and outreach to support those with terminal illness, their loved ones, and those who are bereaved. The Compassion Sabbath initiative, sponsored by EMO's Community Ministry Committee and its Theological Education and Dialogue Committee, is a statewide, interfaith effort designed to bring together faith communities across differences of theology and geography to pray for, advocate for and support those who are dying.

"Our sponsorship of Compassion Sabbath grows out of our conviction that high-tech health care alone fails to meet the dying person's need for companionship, understanding and spiritual comfort and that faith communities have important resources to offer to dying people and their families," says the Rev. Melinda Smith, who directs EMO's compassionate care and education division.

Faith communities are invited to set aside one service or event on Compassion Sabbath weekend, Oct. 27 to 29, or another meaningful date close to that time, to focus prayers, scripture, readings, speakers, sermons and/or educational efforts on endof-life issues. Providing a faith perspective to

end-of-life care, Compassion Sabbath will offer Oregon clergy, religious educators and faith communities resources to more effectively address the needs of dying people, their families and their caregivers.

United in prayer and concern

Already committed to participating in Oregon's Compassion Sabbath are congre gations and groups as diverse as Presbyterian, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Buddhist, from places as widespread as Lincoln City, Baker City, Eugene and Ashland. "As different as these congregations may be, they all share the common experience of caring for community members with terminal illnesses. Each one knows the struggles of those who are caregiving, or the pain of those who are grieving," says Smith.

"These congregations also share the conviction that the faith community is uniquely prepared to deal with these powerful and sometimes painful experiences. Compassion Sabbath is a time to recognize and recommit ourselves to the spiritual and healing resources each one of our faith traditions has to offer."

Connecting with resources An integral component of the Compassion Sabbath initiative is the opportunity to provide pastors and faith leaders with



A patient and an EMO staff member enjoy a conversation in the Hopewell House Hospice Center garden.

educational resources designed to enhance their ministry to the dying. EMO has compiled a resource packet containing suggestions for worship; an ecumenical adult education curriculum; information about local, regional, and national resources; and additional articles and discussion guides. The packet is available from EMO upon request. The \$10 charge covers postage and copying. "We hope that our resource packet will give faith leaders helpful information about the various resources available to assist people at the end of life, whether the need is medical, social, emotional or spiritual," says Smith. Continued on page 6

EMO's ballot measure guide now available

he EMO board of directors has released a ballot measure guide for the November 7, 2000, statewide general election. The guide is designed to be an educational resource to serve congregations, faith communities, civic groups and individuals seeking to examine the

Collins Lectures set for December

Gustav Niebuhr, religion reporter for The New York Times, will give this year's Collins Lectures in Portland on Sunday and Monday, December 3 and 4. For more information, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

social, economic and political relationship of each measure to the quest for just social structures that support a life of possibility for all Oregonians.

The production of the guide follows a tradition established by one of EMO's predecessor bodies-the Oregon Council of Churches-over 30 years ago. EMO continues the tradition because it is committed to three streams of ministry: theological education and dialogue, community ministry and public policy advocacy. The primary responsibility for research and preparation of the guide rests with EMO's staff, and EMO's position statements reflect a vote of EMO's board of directors based on the recommendation of the EMO Public Policy Committee.

EMO's ballot measure guide is intended to supplement a key resource available to all voters in Oregon, the state Voters' Pamphlet. The Voters' Pamphlet will be mailed to each household during the second and third weeks of October. Additional copies of the Voters' Pamphlet are available at the state Capitol, local post offices, courthouses and all county election offices. Some of the information in the pamphlet is also available on the Oregon secretary of state's Web site, www.sos.state.or.us.

Opportunities for individual and congregational participation

There are a number of ways to participate in the November election cycle, both individually and as a congregation. A few examples are listed below:

+ Hold a voter registration drive at your church, and provide information on the ballot measures

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ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES Of OREGON
Interchurch Center
Suite B
0245 SW Bancroft Street
Portland OR 97201



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Leadership

When opposition means affirmation

s a child I remember seeing a picture of Jesus with children A sitting on his lap and at his feet, inspired by the following words from the Gospel of Mark: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." This picture communicated a clear message of God's accessibility and love for all children no matter what the child's family dynamics or

life circumstances might be. This picture sharply contrasts with a photograph that I saw in a recent edition of Willamette Week-a picture of a young girl, her hair held back by a bandana, wearing a tee shirt with the word "HOMO" in a circle with a line slashed through it. Below this symbol was a passage from Romans 6:23 that read, "For the wages of sin is death." The picture accompanied an article about an anti-gay demonstration at Grant High School in Portland inspired by the Rev. Fred Phelps and his Topeka, Kansas, congregation. You may remember that the Rev. Phelps and representatives of his congregation demonstrated at the funeral of Matthew Shepard, where they shouted anti-gay messages at the family and other mourners.

My reaction to this picture was strong and unequivocal. First, I was distressed to realize that some children are still raised with the belief that God's love is limited and that God hates certain people.

My second reaction was remembering a fact that I had learned: hate speech is often attributed to organized hate movements. The objectives of

these movements include the systematic organization of a society so that those who hate are in control and the objects of their vehemence are

subjected to emotional abuse and relegated to a subhuman societal status or even physical harm or death.

My third reaction was a strengthening of my resolve to work to oppose Measure 9, which would "prohibit public school instruction encouraging, promoting,

sanctioning homosexual and bisexual behavior." While I and some leading Measure 9 opponents do not believe that the sponsors of Measure 9 act on

the same beliefs and principles as the Rev. Phelps, I do believe that Measure 9 only furthers divisions in our society and fuels the potentially lifethreatening antigay movement in our state.

David Leslie

In addition, I

believe that Measure 9 is unnecessary from an educational standpoint and will further stress our public education system. As a father of children in public school, I can assure you that my children's teachers are not "promoting homosexual or bisexual behavior." They are, however, teaching writing, math, social studies and music in a stressful environment enhanced by community ambiguity about the need for and purpose of public education. Measure 9 only enhances the problems teachers face.

Further, I oppose this measure because of the potential negative impact on Oregon's children. Whether or not I agree with a person or couple's lifestyle, I must acknowledge that there are children in our schools whose parents, relatives or guardians are gay or lesbian. If a teacher has a conference with one of these student's parents, compliments the parent or guardian on the study habits of the student, or discusses the student's academic or behavioral problems with the parent, will this be considered "promoting homosexuality" according to Measure 9 and open the door for the teacher's dismissal or possible legal action? Under Measure 9, would a child living

with a gay couple be banned from sharing a story about or pictures of his or her family as part of the school curriculum? If so, would this child experience isolation or ostracism at opposing Measure 9. school?

At a minimum. Measure 9 is not

necessary and makes an issue out of a nonissue. At its worst, Measure 9 is another societal wedge that does not further love, care and compassion, but increases bigotry and hate. In the spirit of the picture of Christ that has as its caption "Let the children come to me," I urge you to join Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in standing for and affirming all Oregon's children by opposing Measure 9.

You can reach David Leslie at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at dleslie@emoregon.org.

New executive of Presbytery named

In August, the Rev. Jack D. Hodges, pastor of Bower Hill Community Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., was named associate synod executive/regional general presbyter of the Presbytery of the Cascades.

Hodges is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest. He served churches in Albany and McMinnville before heading east to Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He began his ministry as director of education at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

Hodges is excited to be back in the Northwest and is looking forward to serving on the EMO board of directors where he can continue working in partnership with other denominations to better meet the needs of all Oregonians.

An interview with Hodges will appear in an upcoming issue of the Voice.

AME Church elects its first woman bishop

The first woman ever elected bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in the United States says she wants to be remembered as one who opened the door of church leadership to African American Christian women around the world.

Bishop Vashti McKenzie, widely recognized as an expert on the theological and historical struggles of African American women in the church, was elected bishop on July 11 at the national AME Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio,

Bishop McKenzie said her election demonstrated to African American Christian women the importance of their role in addressing sexism within the church. It also showed that women had the right to follow the calling of God to the pulpit. "Because of God's favor, the stained glass ceiling has been pierced and broken," McKenzie said in a speech at the conference after she was elected bishop

The AME Church traces its roots to 1787, when, at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, African Americans withdrew in protest against segregation. The denomination was officially organized in 1816, with its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. Excerpted from Ecumenical News

International

AME Church elects new bishop of western region

The Rt. Rev. John R. Bryant has been named presiding bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which covers 14 states in the western region of the United States.

Bishop Bryant is a graduate of Morgan State University, Boston University School of Theology and Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He also holds an honorary doctorate from Paul Quinn College, Payne Theological Seminary and Virginia Seminary. Bishop Bryant pastored in Massachusetts and Baltimore. With an emphasis on church growth, community development and political empowerment, he has taught on more than 25 college campuses and preached on five continents.

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Reflections from a retired bishop of eastern Oregon The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey shares his thoughts

This summer, the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey retired from his 20-year role as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. Bishop Kimsey served as a member of the EMO board of directors and was named Ecumenist of the Year at the EMO annual celebration earlier this year. In this interview, he shares his reflections on his experiences as a religious leader in eastern Oregon. EMO Voice: You were named Ecumenist of the Year at EMO's annual celebration earlier this year. Could you describe some of your ecumenical work during the past 20 years? What part of that work has been most satisfying?

RK: Actually, my ecumenical "light bulb" began to go on nearly 40 years ago when I attended a meeting devoted to furthering the unity of the Christian Church. I vividly remember a Roman Catholic bishop speaking passionately about God's call to unity, not just to Christians but to people of all faith persuasions, and that he believed unity would come with more clarity and more dispatch through our corporate response to mission. In many ways he has been proved correct. Endeavors such as Habitat for Humanity and responses to the needs of the neglected, the abused and the oft forgotten in our communities often bring persons of good will together in concerted efforts that are remarkable. It has been a gift for me to be supportive of such efforts as priest and bishop.

My primary ecumenical focus in past years has been in the realms of theological reflection around doctrinal and historical issues that separate the Body of Christ. My activity within Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon over 30-plus years has reflected this

interest in supporting and offering some leadership in various ecumenical dialogues, particularly the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document which emerged from the World Council of Churches in 1982. EMO sponsored several statewide efforts to engage Christians with that document, and I was very impressed and inspired by the work Christians of varied persuasions did with that important statement. It is also important to note that ecumenism often suffers for having a short memory. The significant breakthroughs which occurred in the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document are faint in our recollection, and the imperative to keep such milestones in our consciousness is obvious. Over the past six years I have chaired the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations, which oversees and executes our church's ecumenical policy emerging from our national general convention. EMO Voice: Could you share your thoughts about the Episcopal Church's July vote to participate in shared ministry and mission with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? How will this affect Episcopal and Lutheran churches in Oregon?

RK: The most significant and far reaching work the Standing Commission has done in recent years involved the proposal for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church to enter an agreement of Full Communion. After an interesting journey through our respective ecclesial houses, this agreement was supported by both churches' governing assemblies this year. Essentially, Full Communion between Lutherans and Episcopalians affirms the biblical, historical, liturgical, doctrinal and creedal beliefs we hold in common; provides for the full interchangeability of our professional clergy; and encourages both churches to enter doorways which open our liturgical and doctrinal gifts one to another and to engage in the planning and execution of joint mission enterprises. The potential for



The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey

both our churches is huge. Not only can we begin to legitimize much of what has been happening locally for years, but we can celebrate the same with deep intent as well as move into arenas which have been restricted by our internal canons and regulations.

I believe the most significant gift of the agreement is its name, Called to Common Mission. If we act out such a mandate with a unified ministry for the world emerging from shared worship, collaborative Bible study and acute theological reflection, we will be able to offer others a stronger and wiser religious experience. I also appreciate this agreement in that it does not intend that we create a new church via a merger. Called to Common Mission respects the individual heritage and identity of both the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions, but it does expect us to share those traditions one with another in ways that will deepen each as well as offer to others a spirit of

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New bishop is welcomed by eastern Oregon

he Rev. William Gregg, who becomes bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon on October 23, feels welcomed by eastern Oregon. "The land sort of opens up and welcomes you in," he says. "I just love it."

Gregg speaks enthusiastically about eastern Oregon's "gorgeous land of colors and textures and shapes" and compares the variety in landscape to the diversity of the people living there. Like the landscape, he says, the people of eastern Oregon have been very welcoming.

In August, Gregg moved to The Dalles with his wife, Kathy, and his son, Nathan, who is attending The Dalles High School. Prior to his move, Gregg served as rector of St. James Church in New London, Conn. While there, he helped the parish "reconnect with the city" by making the church's facility a resource for the community, sponsoring musical events and serving people in need.

The key issues faced by people of faith in eastern Oregon are similar to the issues faced in New London, he says. And the key questions are the same: How does the church embody good corporate citizenship? How does the church participate in community? How do we partner with other denominations in appropriate ways?

Gregg's ecumenical work includes both the theological and the practical. In addition to serving on a Diocese of New Connecticut committee on Anglican, Roman Catholic and Lutheran relations, Gregg's parish collaborated with a nearby Roman Catholic parish over a decade ago to establish a shelter that provides temporary housing to men, women and families. The shelter also connects shelter residents with other community services and opportunities. Gregg was encouraged recently by the creation of a shelter in a nearby town modeled after his parish's collaboration.

"Everyone within the community has something to offer, and all are important."

One recent national ecumenical development is of particular significance in eastern Oregon: Called to Common Mission, an agreement by the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to shared communion between the two denominations. (See story on page 7.) Gregg notes that two Episcopal congregations in his diocese, one in Heppner and one in Burns (see July 1999 Voice), are currently ministered to by Lutheran clergy, who also minister to Lutheran congregations in those towns. Sharing clergy is economically essential to the congregations, and it has also fostered ecumenical understanding. In eastern Oregon, Gregg says, the impact of Called to Common Mission is very concrete. "It's a pragmatic as well as theological move forward in our understanding of church." It provides a model for both "maintaining our particular identities" and being "open to work in a new kind of unity." The communication process leading to the approval of Called to Common Mission, according to Gregg, meant that "Lutherans had to learn how to hear and speak Anglican, and Anglicans had to learn how to hear and speak Lutheran." This "brought to both churches a constructive reflection on our own identities as well as building skills for working with other communities."

The process, says Gregg, will help the Episcopal Church as it continues in dialogue with the Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Orthodox denominations. Even in collaborations on special projects, "learning how to articulate thoughtfully and faithfully" and "how to listen better" will help the denominations work together.

What is on the horizon for the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon? As bishop, Gregg plans to continue the work begun by Bishop Rustin Kimsey, helping people focus on the "covenant understanding that in baptism God calls all of us to a way of life within Jesus Christ." Gregg speaks of a church community similar to the Benedictine model, in which "everyone within the community has something to offer, and all are important."

Gregg sees a movement from the conventional hierarchical model of the church community to one that is collaborative and consensual. "It is," he says, "a model that very consciously and intentionally calls us to work to . . . discern and identify the gifts of the community to proclaim the gospel and do the work that God is calling it to do."

4 Ministries

Shared Housing receives HUD award, expands locally and statewide

MO's Shared Housing program is in the midst of an exciting period of evolution and expansion. In June, the program's success was marked by its receipt of a best practices award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The award honors local programs that address housing issues in innovative ways.

Established in 1982, Shared Housing is a matching and referral service bringing together those who need affordable housing with people who have homes and want help with rent, household chores or personal care. This exchange is beneficial to both the person seeking housing and the one offering it.

New partnerships have enabled Shared Housing to expand services. For example, a new partnership has been established with Elders in Action, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for the elderly and the disabled. Elders in Action's ombudsman program will provide in-home visits for Shared Housing's elderly or disabled participants who can benefit from some added guidance and support while they select a homesharer through Shared Housing. A new partnership with the state of Oregon will allow Shared Housing to receive funding to hire an outreach worker to establish new recovery homes throughout the state. These recovery homes will be self-run communities of individuals who are in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. Individuals in the community will rent a house together, share living expenses and provide a supportive, clean and sober living environment. Shared Housing will also continue administering a loan fund to assist with start-

up costs to open new recovery homes. This community living model will also be duplicated in another new project. The city of Portland has granted funds to open a cooperative household for Spanishspeaking, homeless, single, Latino men. The project is a collaborative effort between Shared Housing and the Hispanic Access Center. Both programs serve these men and have witnessed the barriers they face when seeking housing. A workshop was held that engaged this population in brainstorming solutions, and a clear need was identified to establish a housing situation where a group of men can live in community together, share expenses and learn from one another. A new household is being planned, and it will be operational in November.

Shared Housing is excited about duplicating the community living model to serve a variety of populations. If you have a connection to a population that might benefit from a cooperative household, or if you

nareo

have information about rental properties that could be used for a community living situation, please contact Shared Housing.

Shared Housing's effective partnerships are key to the program's success. If you are interested in partnering with Shared Housing's growing ministry, please call (503) 225-9924, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or contact us at www.housing@emoregon.org.

Patton Home redevelopment project continues

The renovation of Patton Home is still underway. Phase I of the project will be completed in early December, and the home will then be ready to accommodate 63 residents. The \$6.1 million renovation project will improve the comfort and quality of the home's 63 rooms for lowincome, special needs residents, as well as provide space to community groups. Phase II of the project includes renovation of the third floor and basement for EMO offices and community meeting space. It is anticipated that Phase II will be completed in June 2001.



Members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance toured Patton Home on August 1. Left to right: David Leslie, the Rev. Aaron Hamlin, the Rev. Roy Tate, the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr., Mrs. Cornetta Smith, and the Rev. Henry Greenidge.

EMO has received \$4.8 million of support from governmental low-income housing funds, and the Patton Home Campaign Committee has raised an additional \$442,000 from foundations, congregations and individuals. To reach the community fundraising goal of \$1.3 million, an additional \$823,000 is needed.

Ways you can help

In order to reach the goal, the Patton Home Community Redevelopment Project needs support and involvement in the following ways:

- Help identify potential residents for Patton Home. Patton Home residents are low-income individuals with special needs who may need some support, but who live fairly independently.
- Support the capital campaign through small and large gifts.
- Donate furnishings, household items and toiletries for the 63 resident rooms and the community facilities.
- Volunteer at Patton Home to enhance the residents' quality of life.

If you would like to schedule a private tour or would like more information, please contact Gary Logsdon at EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Refugee sponsorship workshop on October 23

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), EMO's refugee resettlement program, will host a workshop on refugee resettlement on Monday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1740 SE 139th St., Portland. The workshop, titled "The Compassionate Missionary," will inform pastors and other congregational members of the benefits of and need for refugee sponsorship. Presenters will include representatives of the Church World Service (CWS) national office in New York, SOAR staff, local church sponsors, and refugees resettled in the Portland area.

Attendees will hear talks by refugees who are building new lives in the Portland area, reports from local churches describing their experiences of hospitality to refugees, a review of U.S. foreign policy and global issues involving uprooted people, and a discussion about what sponsorship entails and how churches can organize for sponsorship. To register or to learn more about The Compassionate Missionary, contact Peter Ilyin, SOAR sponsorship coordinator, at (503) 284-3002.

Support INEC by purchasing a *Chinook Book*

The *Chinook Book* provides great environmental information and over \$5,000 in valuable coupons for food, entertainment, and household items that have less impact on the environment. The coupons are redeemable at well-known retail stores in the Portland-Vancouver area.

When you buy a *Chinook Book* from EMO, half the \$15 price supports EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns. To buy a copy, call (503) 244-8318 or come by the EMO office at 0245 SW Bancroft, Suite B, Portland, Oregon 97201. If you'd like your *Chinook Book* mailed to you, please include \$2 for postage and handling.

Old Town Clinic receives support

EMO's Old Town Clinic has received support from Providence Health System and Friends of Public Health to help the clinic offer medical care to Portland's homeless and low-income citizens. Providence Health System donated a defibrillator to the clinic, and will provide in-kind donations of TB tests and lice medication during the remainder of this year. Friends of Public Health contributed \$3,000 to help provide TB tests and medication for bacterial infections.

The new funding, along with Providence Health System's commitment to donate \$17,000 worth of TB tests during the year 2001, will help ensure that a TB testing program initiated by Old Town Clinic and other health providers will continue to reduce the number of people with active TB in downtown Portland. The testing program requires that anyone who wants to use an area shelter or soup kitchen take a TB test. If the test shows no exposure to TB, the client receives a blue card allowing access to shelters and soup kitchens. If the test indicates exposure to TB, the patient is referred to the Multnomah County TB Clinic for treatment.

If you are interested in more information about Old Town Clinic, please contact Paige Noce at (503) 241-3836.

Public Policy 5

EMO's ballot measure recommendations

The EMO board of directors makes the following recommendations for the measures on the Nov. 7 ballot. For more information about the recommendations and the issues, please refer to the EMO ballot measure guide. To request a copy, please contact EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Measure 83 • Veterans' Loans • No Position

Measure 84 • Local Government Support • No Position

Measure 85 • New Counties • No Position

Measure 86 • Kicker into Constitution • Vote NO

- Measure 87 Zoning Speech No Position
- Measure 88 Increased Federal Tax Deduction Vote NO

Measure 89 • Tobacco Settlement—Referral • Vote NO

Measure 90 • Return on Retired Utility Investments • Vote NO

Measure 91 • Full Federal Tax Deduction • Vote NO

Measure 92 • Payroll Deduction Authorization • Vote NO

Measure 93 • Votes on Taxes and Fees • Vote NO

Measure 94 • Measure 11 Repeal • Vote YES

- Measure 95 Criterion for Teacher Pay Vote NO
- Measure 96 Initiative Process Vote NO
- Measure 97 Animal Traps No Position
- Measure 98 Political Prohibition Vote NO
- Measure 99 Home Care Commission Vote YES
- Measure 1 School Funding No Position
- Measure 2 Legislative Review of Rules Vote NO
- Measure 3 Conviction Before Forfeiture Vote YES
- Measure 4 Tobacco Settlement—Initiative Vote NO
- Measure 5 Gun Show Background Checks Vote YES
- Measure 6 Campaign Finance Reform Vote YES
- Measure 7 Takings Vote NO
- Measure 8 Appropriations Limit Vote NO
- Measure 9 Legalization of Discrimination Vote NO

Ballot measure guide available

Continued from page 1

- Provide telephones and space for volunteer phone banks.
- Host a ballot measure forum for your community, perhaps in partnership with other churches in your area. Focus on selected measures of interest, if desired.
- Devote adult education classes to selected measures.
- Sponsor a debate or an afternoon of moral deliberation on an issue of interest.
- Adopt an issue and work locally to assist the campaign headquarters with information dissemination.
 Enid Edwards, EMO's director of

public policy, and members of the EMO Public Policy Committee are available to facilitate adult education forums through congregations and other groups interested in examining the measures on the November ballot. In addition, EMO staff members are available to facilitate contact with any campaign associated with the ballot measures. Ballot measure forums scheduled

In cooperation with local communities, EMO has scheduled the following forums, designed to bring together individuals to discuss issues on the fall ballot. Please contact Enid Edwards at (503) 221-1054 if you are interested in attending one of the forums or if you would like to schedule a forum for your congregation or group.

- Bend: Oct. 10, noon to 2 p.m., hosted by the Interfaith Ministries of Central Oregon and First Presbyterian Church
- The Dalles: Oct. 11, 7 p.m., hosted by Mid-Columbia Fellowship of Churches
 Florence: Oct. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.,
- Florence: Oct. 18, / to 9 p.m., hosted by Pathways to Peace

How to order a ballot measure guide

To request a copy of the EMO ballot measure guide, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054. The fee for orders of over 10 copies is \$1 each, including postage and handling.

Vote by mail and voter registration procedures

This November's election is a statewide general election. The election will be vote by mail, with the ballots due at the residences of Oregon voters the fourth week of October. The ballots must be returned in person or by mail to a county election office by 8 p.m. on the official election day, Tuesday, November 7.

Any Oregon resident who is at least 18 years old on election day is eligible to vote, but voter registration is required. For new registrants, the voter registration cards must be postmarked or received by the county election office no later than October 17. A registered voter who has moved, changed address or changed name must re-register. This information may be updated through election day at a county election office.

Speakers bureau is formed at EMO

MO is now offering a speakers bureau as a resource to congregations, community groups, and businesses. EMO staff and volunteers have expertise, insights and experiences to share on a wide range of topics, including churchstate issues, ecumenical and interfaith affairs, economic and social justice, and environmental concerns. EMO speakers are available to lead program discussions, serve on panels or give keynote speeches.

Topics on EMO's agenda this fall include the November election and our guide to the 26 ballot measures; our October initiative on end-of-life care, Compassion Sabbath; our October conference on refugee resettlement and sponsorship; and our October workshop for Oregon faith leaders on the impact of global warning.

A few of EMO's speakers are listed here. **David Leslie**, EMO executive director, has a Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and 15 years of experience in interfaith and ecumenical work, public policy advocacy, low-income housing, and refugee resettlement. **Enid Edwards**, EMO public policy director, has an MBA from Yale University School of Manage-

ment and extensive experience in community

economic development, affordable housing, health care, and public policy advocacy. **The Rev. Melinda Smith**, EMO director of compas-

- sionate care and education, has a Master of Divinity from the Divinity School of Harvard University and broad experience in ministry that includes refugee resettlement, parish ministry, bereavement, and end-of-life care.
- Rick Stoller, associate director of EMO, has a Master of Divinity from North American Baptist Seminary and 15 years of experience in pastoral work, adolescent counseling, drug and alcohol program management, HIV/AIDS services, and numerous other direct care ministries.
- Jenny Holmes of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns has a Master of Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary. She has been a leader in environmental justice and faith-based activism nationally for over a decade. Recently she brought the faith community's voice to the committees advising Governor Kitzhaber on environmental sustainability (see July 2000 *Voite*), and she is currently organizing the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign.
- Lori Brocker, Esq., president of EMO's board of directors and a member of EMO's Public Policy Committee, received her Master of Divinity from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary and her law degree from New York Law School. She has worked as a parish minister and an attorney, and has expertise in free speech and church-state issues as well as public policy advocacy.

Rex Lee, a small business owner and technical writer, has volunteered at Hopewell House Hospice Center in the areas of patient care, social work,

and volunteer support. He is available to speak to groups interested in the EMO volunteer experience. These are just a few

examples of the resources available through the speakers bureau. For more information, please call Teri Ruch at (503) 221-1054.



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A Place at the Table November 3 to 4

The theme of the fourth annual A Place at the Table conference on November 3 and 4 will be "Celebrating Portland's Bounty." The event will be held at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 44th and Sandy Blvd. in Portland, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, with an optional field trip on Saturday from 1:50 to 3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, congregations and other organizations, the gathering will celebrate the people and places of the region's food system, as well as empower individuals and congregations to create a more just and sustainable food system. Many of the people and places featured in *Portland's Bounty*, INEC's guidebook to eating locally and seasonally in the greater Portland area, will be represented at the conference. Speakers will include Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, New Seasons Market President Brian Rohter, Wildwood Restaurant Chef Krista Anderson, and the Rev. John Pitney, a musician.

The pre-registration cost for the two-day workshop is \$10–35, based on a sliding fee scale, with Saturday's lunch included in the cost. To register, contact INEC at (503) 244-8318 or by e-mail at inec@emoregon.org.

American Baptist Churches annual gathering

On October 20 to 22, the annual gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Oregon will be held at First Baptist Church in McMinnville. The theme of the gathering will be "Come to the Table, There's Room for All." Dr. Tony Campolo will be the featured speaker. For registration information, please contact Joni at (503) 228-8394.

Presbytery of the Cascades stated meeting

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades will be held November 9 to 10 at First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Washington. This gathering is one of three stated meetings the Presbytery holds each year. One of the featured speakers will be the Rev. William Somplatsky-Jarman, associate for environmental justice of the Presbyterian Church, USA, who will speak about global climate change. For more information, please call (503) 227-5486.

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon annual convention

The annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon will be held November 16 to 18 at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. The theme will be "Open Hands, Open Hearts." The featured speaker will be Bishop Steven Charleston, exbishop of Alaska, who is currently serving as president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass. For registration information, please call (503) 636-5613.

Oregon faith leaders start global warming campaign

he Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, spearheaded by Ecumenical

▲ Ministries of Oregon, will kick off with a training event October 29 to 30 at the Silver Falls State Conference Center. At the event, an Oregon religious leaders' statement on global warming will be released, providing a distinctly religious perspective on global climate change and announcing a call to action for the campaign. Oregon is one of 16 states conducting a campaign in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Christ to engage communities of faith in addressing climate change. One hundred representatives of over 25 denominations and faith groups will receive intensive training to carry out the campaign.

The Oregon training event will address several key questions: Why is climate change a religious concern? Is human-induced climate change a real threat? How will climate change affect Oregon and the world? What can congregations and individuals do to make a difference? Will responding to climate

change hurt the economy? Speakers and resource people include Dr. Jack Dymond, an expert in global environmental change from the College of Oceanic and Atmo-

spheric Sciences at Oregon State University; Dr. Eban Goodstein, Professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College; and the Rev. Sally Bingham of Episcopal Power and Light, a national program that helps congregations reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of green energy and energy efficiency.

If you are interested in attending the training event or participating in the campaign, please contact Jenny Holmes of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns at (503) 244-8318.

preparing to celebrate their unique faith perspectives

tional experiences. TEC members plan to study the

together to meet the social and spiritual needs of the

TEC, which has been provided technical support

from EMO staff, plans to formalize the group soon.

The faith communities currently involved include

United Methodist, St. John's Church of Christ, St.

Alban's Episcopal Church, St. Peter Lutheran, Sacred

Heart Catholic Church and the B'ahai Community.

For more information about TEC, or to discuss

establishing an ecumenical community in your area,

please contact Rick Stoller at EMO, (503) 221-1054.

Tillamook United Methodist Church, Bay City

through joint public worship services and educa-

future of the Tillamook area. They hope to work

coastal community.

Ecumenical group forming in Tillamook

group of pastors and lay people representing several faith groups around the Tillamook area are in the process of establishing an ecumenical group, Tillamook Ecumenical Community (TEC). The community is motivated to work together due to many factors, including floods, faith and fellowship.

Most Oregonians are familiar with the floods that have affected Tillamook over the last few years. The floods have forced people to flee their homes, and the community has incurred significant loss of property and livestock due to flood damage. TEC believes that gathering together as an organized group will better enable the faith community to effectively reach out to those in need.

The faith communities represented in TEC are

Compassion Sabbath: October 27 to 29

Continued from page 1



"Our goal is to provide them with real names, phone numbers and Web sites that can help them connect with caring

partners in the medical, social work and bioethics communities."

In October, EMO will also sponsor a series of workshops in Portland for pastors and faith leaders on topics such as advanced directives and children and grief. In addition, plans are underway for a continuing series of workshops for clergy that will provide them with practical skills to enhance and encourage their ministry to people at the end of life.

The Kansas City experience

Compassion Sabbath's goals of spiritual support, education, and providing resources to faith leaders have their origin in a 1999 survey of more than 350 faith leaders conducted by the Midwest Bioethics Center in Kansas City, Mo. "The survey revealed that only one-third of the faith leaders thought they ministered 'very effectively' to those who were seriously ill and dying," says Melinda Smith. "Futhermore, the typical congregation did not offer programs on end-of-life issues, and almost half the faith leaders were unfamiliar with resources that could help them minister to people with terminal illness."

With this information in hand, the Midwest Bioethics Center launched the Compassion Sabbath project to provide faith communities with additional resources, support and encouragement. The first Compassion Sabbath, held in Kansas City in February, was enthusiastically received, with over 500 faith communities participating. EMO's Compassion Sabbath initiative is inspired by Kansas City's effort in consultation with the Midwest Bioethics Center.

How to participate

To participate in Compassion Sabbath, faith communities simply commit their congregation or group to observe Compassion Sabbath in worship, prayer, education and/or outreach during October 27 to 29. Communities can tailor their observance to fit their needs, resources and faith convictions. Faith communities are also requested to register their participation with EMO. Participants will be listed on the EMO Web site.

You may register by phone at (503) 221-1054 or complete a Compassion Sabbath brochure, which is available at EMO or from EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org. If you have questions or would like more information, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054 or leave a message for Melinda Smith at (503) 736-0838.



Rustin Kimsey shares his thoughts

Continued from page 3

union through which people should be able to see the face of Christ more clearly.

EMO Voice: As chair of the Episcopal Church USA's Standing Commission for Ecumenical Relations, what do you think are some of the most important ecumenical issues the Episcopal Church will be addressing in the near future?

RK: For the Episcopal Church, the agreement with the Lutherans broke us open to some realities that should prove helpful in our relations with other denominations. We discovered that for ecumenism to proceed, there must be ways in which we can move beyond the "sticking points" which prevent us from sharing a full Christian fellowship with other denominations in Word, Sacrament and Action. There are times when we must die to ideas about ourselves which shape some of our identity but in the light of dialogue and prayer are not consequential in the economy of God for the vision the Holy One has for us. And there are other moments in a process searching for unity when we are visited with such awesome revelation that we need but exclaim: "Wow! What was that?" And there are yet other instances when the tradition we carry is the one

Instances when the tradition we carry is the one others need so that they might be more whole. So, the future of the Episcopal Church must include all three of these moments: the ability to allow some things to die, the ability to be open to totally new understandings of ancient issues, and the ability to stand prepared to share our heritage with others. I believe the Episcopal Church has been broken open to these necessities and, as a consequence, is better prepared for the ecumenical journey into this millennium.

EMO Voice: During your two decades as an EMO board member, how have you seen EMO change? What do you think are some of EMO's greatest challenges?

RK: In response, I would begin by emphasizing the stability that EMO has given to our region. The vision employed by the leadership of EMO, rightly being riveted on striving for deeper unity among faith communities and living into a mission of pastoral care and justice, has provided the state of Oregon with a significant religious voice and presence. It is my perception that the changes in EMO leadership have bolstered the organization and strengthened its priorities.

The challenges facing EMO in the next decades will not be new. The conciliar movement among Christians and other faith communities is always a perilous enterprise, as we are too filled with our own ecclesiastical egos, but the extraordinary experiment which is EMO has a formidable history and present reality, and will continue to call us into agreements which stretch us and mobilize us for deeper prayer and more decisive action. Maintaining a balance between unity and prophetic behavior will continue to be a priority question for EMO, and by addressing that predicament well, EMO will help member churches deal with the same issue within their own constituencies.

Perhaps the deepest challenge for EMO in the next decade will be helping the people of Oregon

forge an environment or a spirituality, if you will, which is centered on community building, honoring diversity, reclaiming civility and caring for the powerless in such compassionate ways as to empower them.

"Simply living in eastern Oregon is an entree into holiness that is rare and abiding."

EMO *Voice:* How has the faith community in eastern Oregon changed since you became bishop 20 years ago?

RK: Eastern Oregon, the turf upon which my wife, Gretchen, and I have lived all our lives, is indeed the "other" Oregon. It is a strange, wild country, feeling yet like frontier, knowing population loss in most counties, clinging to a rural culture which is trying to cope with being Baker City or Burns or Canyon City in the midst of being tied to the culture and politic

of the Willamette Valley. Strange and wonderful paradoxes emerge from this collision and melding of cultures, and the Church has an important task in understanding this complex milieu, embracing it and finding ways in which the people of eastern Oregon might know a religious presence which honors their uniqueness and offers them a Christ with whom they can live into it. Over the years EMO has been one of the western Oregon–based institutions which has seen eastern Oregon as a

valued, constituent piece of real estate and has attempted to bridge the Cascades with helpful ministries. To wit, counseling farmers who were going under economically, working with local councils of churches on special events combating racism, sponsoring ecumenical dialogues and study sessions, bringing forums and resources into the hinterlands around ballot measures, offering occasions for dialogue on such difficult issues as dam breaching, and simply being with us in various venues have all given evidence that EMO does know a call to be a statewide organism.

All of Oregon will need to make tough decisions in the coming years as to our use of the created order, the priorities of our corporate life, our balancing of compassion and justice, a reinvestment of our educational resources, the weighing of moral and ethical decisions around health care and cyberspace technologies and the nature of how we live in community.

For me, such decisions deserve an environment of discernment that is prayerful, hospitable, attentive to expertise and obedient to God's call and direction. EMO is in a position of offering resources that would greatly assist such an environment to be entered and embraced.

EMO Voice: What have you found most satisfying about being bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon?

RK: I believe that creation is sacred and that for the Christian, the extending of an awareness of this

Episcopalians approve full communion with Lutherans

In July, the Episcopal Church approved an agreement for full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA had approved Called to Common Mission in August 1999. The two denominations now mutually recognize each other's clergy, ministries and sacraments, and they make a common commitment to evangelism, witness and service.

Leaders of the Episcopal Church and the nation's largest Lutheran denomination said that their historic alliance begins an era of ecumenical outreach that could lead them to engage other churches in similar efforts to share resources and personnel. "Full communion" is not a merger but will bring these American churches into partnership in their ministries.

In several Oregon communities, the Episcopal and ELCA churches have already begun to share ministry, worship and clergy. There are an estimated 5.2 million members of the ELCA and 2.4 million members of the Episcopal Church nationwide.

holiness, by God's grace and human effort, into all of life is our privilege and our responsibility. The life of Jesus Christ and the living tradition of Christian community are turnkeys for me in embracing holiness and sharing it on all sides. As a bishop in the Episcopal Church my life has been filled with ritual moments in which persons chose rites of passage describing their commitments, their struggles, their joys and their laments . . . all wrapped in the holiness of God. What a privilege to be a part of those baptisms, confirmations, anointings, deaths and eucharistic celebrations!

As a bishop I was also a reminder to Episcopalians of the reality of the Anglican Communion, a worldwide fellowship of Christians who share a common history via the Church of England. Within this Communion, Gretchen and I have developed friendships throughout the world which have deepened our lives immeasurably.

Ascension School and Conference Center in Cove, Oregon, has been offering summer programs for youth since 1924 and recently has constructed significant structures to offer adults comfortable dwellings and an environment of spirituality which is unique. The joy in seeing this holy place grow and blossom is high on our list of satisfactions.

Finally, simply living in eastern Oregon is an entree into holiness that is rare and abiding. We drove about 700,000 miles throughout our diocese in 20 years, and we never tired of it. Rather, the insights and catalysts for deeper revelation were ours because of this holy turf. There are places where just "being" is an introduction into the holiness of God's presence, and the "other" Oregon is such a place for us.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming EMO events

October 10, 11, and 18

Ballot Measure Forums. EMO will sponsor forums in Bend (October 10), The Dalles (October 11), and Florence (October 18). Please see page 5 for details.

October 17

Advanced Directives 101 for Religious or Lay Leaders. 1 to 3 p.m., Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland. Learn about advanced directives, the POLST form, and how you can help members of your congregation or community understand these increasingly important documents. Led by the Rev. Fred Sickert, chaplain at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Call (503) 244-7890.

October 23

The Compassionate Missionary: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1740 SE 139th St., Portland. Workshop offers insights into refugee struggles and guidelines for refugee sponsorship. Free, with lunch included. See story on page 4. Contact Peter Ilyin at (503) 284-3002.

October 24

Children and Grief. 1 to 3 p.m., Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland. Workshop participants will explore how children grieve and learn how caregivers and communities can help them work through and come to terms with the loss of a loved one. Led by Barbie Rice of the Dougy Center in Portland. Call (503) 244-7890.

October 27 to 29

Compassion Sabbath. A statewide, interfaith initiative focusing on end-of-life issues in a faith context. See story on page 1. Call (503) 221-1054.

October 29 and 30

Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign Training: Silver Falls State Conference Center. Oregon religious leaders will learn about global warming and how to educate and empower their congregations to help slow global warming through direct action and advocacy. Please see page 6. Call (503) 244-8318.

November 3 and 4

Celebrating Portland's Bounty. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, NE 44th and Sandy, Portland. Fourth annual A Place at the Table conference includes interfaith worship, ethical reflections on food security and sustainability, a shared meal, and a field trip to local urban agricultural projects. Cost is based on a sliding scale from \$10 to \$35 and includes Saturday lunch. Please see page 6. Call (\$03) 244-8318.

December 3 and 4

Collins Lectures. Gustav Niebuhr, religion reporter for *The New York Times,* will give this year's Collins Lectures in Portland. For more information, call (503) 221-1054.



Other events taking place in Oregon this fall

October 11

VOAD (Voluntary Organization for Action in Disaster) Meeting, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford. Meeting will facilitate nongovernmental organizations' action in disaster relief. Call Teri Haines at (541) 774-8113.

October 14

We are One Body. A Jubilee Conference. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Anthony Parish, 3600 SE 79th, Portland. The seminar will reflect on the various meanings of being throughout the life cycle, in marriage and family and in the aging process. Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life and Ministry to the Aging offices. Call (503) 233-8394.

October 14

HOPE (Housing Our People) Walk/Run. 9 a.m. Fundraiser sponsored by several churches in The Dalles to raise money to provide emergency housing. The walk/run begins at Mosier Twin Tunnels parking lot off the Columbia River Highway. Call Tom Summerville at (541) 296-9566.

October 15

Jubilee 2000 advocate the Rev. Dr. David Duncombe. 10 a.m., West Hills Friends Church, 7425 SW 52nd, Portland. All are invited.

October 20

Religion in the 21st Century: Will It Make Any Difference? 7:30 p.m., First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Ave., Portland. The Rev. Dr. Harvey Cox, professor of divinity at Harvard University, will deliver the Oliver Memorial Lecture, preceded by a dinner and reception at 6 p.m. Tickets for the catered dinner and lecture are \$25 per person or \$40 for two. Admission to the lecture only is \$10. Call the Rev. Patricia Ross at (503) 228-7219.

October 20 and 21

Theology, Ecology and Feminism: In Conjunction or in Conflict? Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. A speech by Dr. Joan D. Chitrister, international author and lecturer, the founder and director of Benetvision, a research and resource center for contemporary spirituality.

The Seven Mountains of the Spiritual Life & Spirituality and Culture. Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. With Dr. Joan D. Chittister.

Both events will take place at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Development. Call (503) 478-1218.

October 27 to 29

Re-visioning Christianity: History, Metaphor and Sacrament. Central Lutheran Church, Eugene. Threeday seminar features Marcus J. Borg, Oregon State University. Sponsored by Chi Rho Series. Call (541) 686-8445.

October 28

Understanding Men: Beyond the Myths and Stereotypes. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friends Meeting House, 4312 SW Stark St., Portland. Workshop for men and women led by Judy Brodkey addresses myths and stereotypes about men, describes ways that narrow definitions of masculinity affect us, and offers ways to be allies for men and boys. Cost is \$25 to \$75 on a sliding fee scale. Call (503) 234-1012.

November 4

Housing a New Beginning: 2000. 9 a.m., First Baptist Church, 909 SW 11th Ave., Portland. Housing conference for women in recovery provides resources, including workshops and information, for women as they seek safe and affordable housing. Register by October 20. Sponsored by EMO and the Multnomah County Department of Community and Family Services. Call Sue Phelps at (503) 731-3181, ext. 250.

November 4

Introduction to Centering Prayer. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. Workshop introduces ancient Christian method of prayer recovered and made popular by Father Thomas Keating. Includes five weekly follow-up sessions. Led by the Rev. Canon Marianne Wells Borg. Sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Development. Call (503) 478-1218.

November 9

Kristallnacht Commemorative Observance. 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, SW 18th and Jefferson, Portland. Will include performances by Celebration Tabernacle Choir, Northwest Children's Choir, Portland Gay Men's Chorus, and Portland Jewish Academy Choir, as well as klezmer music by Andrew Ehrlich and Jeffrey Olenick. Sponsored by the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, with co-sponsors Albina Ministerial Alliance, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, Oregon Board of Rabbis, and EMO. Call (503) 531-7072

November 23

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Noon, Saint Mary's Gym, The Dalles. Sponsored by churches, community organizations, families and individuals.

November 30 to December 2

Money and Discipleship, with Ched Meyers Menucha Retreat Center, near Corbett. Workshop will focus on our "Culture of Money" and explore basic assumptions about security, entitlement, need and spirituality. We will ask, "What difference does our desire to be a Disciple of Jesus make in our use of money?" Sponsored by Journey into Freedom. For information, call (503) 244-4728.

December 1

World AIDS Day, Evening, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1805 Minnesota, The Dalles. Candlelight memorial service and display of AIDS quilt. Contact Harriet Langfeldt at (541) 298-1864.