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November 2004  
Ballot Measure  
Guide  
&  
2003 EMO  
Annual Report

## “Let Justice Roll”

### Rev. Dr. Forbes preaches about poverty and politics

Preaching before a capacity audience of 700 at Augustana Lutheran Church's Sunday evening Jazz Service on June 27 in Portland, the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr. of the historic Riverside Church in New York City sang the praises of the prophet Amos, “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream.”

Forbes visited Oregon as part of the National Council of Churches “Let Justice Roll” campaign that seeks to get voters and candidates for office to address poverty in this country. Forbes preached at four churches in Oregon during a 12-city national tour. The churches included First Congregational Church in Eugene and Highland United Church of Christ, Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal and Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland.

In his public addresses, Forbes drew on the Gospel of Luke to lift up the cause of economic justice to overcome poverty in the world. He asked audiences why those in leadership wanted to throw Jesus off of a cliff. “Because,” Forbes explained, “he preached the good news to the poor.” He followed with questions that considered why Jesus’ ministry to the poor threatened those with wealth and power.

Forbes said, “Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction” that needs to be found and eliminated. Despite high unemployment and millions of uninsured in the United States, poverty has not been adequately discussed in this year’s election. Candidates running for public office have virtually ignored the issue as if it is unimportant to voters. Forbes countered that poverty

is an important issue to people of faith. Faith communities need to raise their voices for economic justice by getting involved with the electoral process.

EMO has partnered with both the National Council of Churches and the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice to conduct voter registration in Oregon. EMO will assist congregations with help in setting-up a voter registration drive. EMO can arrange pick-up service for voter registration cards, provided it is within five days of when the voter signed the card.

For information about EMO’s voter registration program, call Phillip Kennedy-Wong, Public



Photo credit: Derrick Pereira

The Rev. Dr. James Forbes preached to a capacity crowd of 700 at Augustana Lutheran Church in June.

Policy Advocacy director, at (503) 221-1054. For a list of voting resources, including bulletin inserts, please go to [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org) and click on the Public Policy Advocacy link. For more information about “Let Justice Roll,” please go to [www.councilofchurches.org/letjusticeroll](http://www.councilofchurches.org/letjusticeroll) or contact the National Council of Churches at (212) 870-2298.

## Refugee and immigration programs celebrate 10 years of service

Throughout this year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is celebrating its 30-year anniversary. Additionally, two EMO programs—Portland International Community School and Russian Oregon Social Services—are celebrating their tenth anniversaries.

### Portland International Community School

Ten years ago, EMO was granted a contract from

Portland Public Schools to establish the International Learning Program in a church basement in north Portland. Two locations and a name change later, the school—now known as Portland International Community School or PICS—is a vital member of a thriving network of Portland’s community-based alternative high schools.

As a direct service to Portland’s immigrant community, PICS has served

715 students from families representing 31 nations and seven distinct cultures without nations. Over the last two school terms, the high school program served 62 students who represented 16 countries. At least 90 percent of the students speak another language at home and roughly half are foreign born. Among the languages the students and their families speak are Spanish, Cambodian, Hmong,

Russian, Ukrainian, Bosnian, French, Tibetan and Somali.

For more information about PICS, call (503) 232-5334.

### Russian Oregon Social Services

Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) was established by EMO in 1994 to serve the needs of refugees and immigrants arriving from the Former Soviet Union.

*Continued on page 3*

## Marriage controversy demands extraordinary civility

Today, we have the opportunity to think anew about marriage. Whether we like it or not, the struggle to define marriage is with us and there is no turning back.

During the struggle to define marriage in Vermont, David Moats writes in his book, *Civil Wars: A Battle for Gay Marriage*, "It would become



David Leslie

apparent that the issue of marriage touched a far more sensitive nerve than did the questions of whether a few limited benefits might be shared by a domestic partner. Marriage was about sex and the most profound human passions. It was about how society organized itself. It touched on fundamental religious doctrines and constitutional principles. The Vermont Supreme Court had forced the people of Vermont to confront these issues more directly than anyone had before."

The opportunity to confront these issues has gone national. In Oregon, we are voting on a ballot measure that amends the state constitution to legally define marriage as between one man and one woman. As with most cultural-social issues, there is no consensus. Some Christian denominations believe that marriage is a holy sacrament

reserved for heterosexual couples. For others, same gender marriage is a celebrated aspect of religious life. There are movements afoot in some denominations to change official church teachings to allow for same gender marriage or blessings.

So, how then do we live with differences? Can we avoid a "civil war" that will tear us apart? I believe it is possible, but it will take a lot of prayer, listening and empathy. To start with, it is important that we avoid inflammatory and misleading one-liners such as, "The gay marriage movement is one of the greatest challenges to western civilization." Divorce, war, economic inequity, unaffordable health care, lack of educational opportunity and hunger contribute more to the demise of a civilization than a nation's marriage practices.

It is important we remember that how people express their love and commitment to one another is very personal. It should come as no surprise that gay couples—many of whom are in a long-term relationship—would want to marry. It is important that no matter how we may feel about marriage, we must be careful to express our beliefs in ways that do not denigrate or belittle another person's aspirations or perceived rights. Thousands of couples in Oregon may have their marriages declared null and void. Think about what this would mean to you, your friends or family members. Whether gay or straight, it would

be a painful situation, one that demands empathy.

Finally, like one's love for another, one's love for God and church is deeply personal and must be respected. For many Christians, opposition to same gender marriage is driven not by homophobia, but by deeply held theological convictions. It is important to affirm the right of a person to hold and have his or her beliefs, even if you disagree. Living constructively with our differences is the mark of a mature and civil society. This witness is greatly needed at times of potentially destructive divisions.

Good people do disagree: evangelical Christian Tony Campolo does not support same gender marriage, but his wife does. Somehow they stay together even as they struggle in love for each other's hearts and minds. Can we do the same?

If we can be honest in our debates, avoid fear mongering and denigration, respect the hopes of others and be empathetic, I believe there is hope that we can live constructively in our differences. I also believe this is what Jesus would ask us to do, and as such, we can do no less.



## Legacy gifts keep on giving



Dr. Laurel E. Glass, a longtime friend of former Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) president, Virginia Robertson, establish a charitable remainder trust, which named EMO as a beneficiary. When Dr. Glass passed away in February of this year, EMO received proceeds from the trust.

Dr. Glass was a California native who moved to Oregon in 1996 to reside at the Holladay Park Plaza. She was a trustee at Gaullaudet University and directed the University of California's Center on Deafness. She was an advocate for civil rights, especially for deaf people.

"Dr. Glass' interest in EMO grew out of her attending the 2002 Collins Lectures, featuring the Rev. Dr. Audrey R. Chapman, on stem cell research. She strongly supported the importance of the religious community's engagement with social and political issues and wanted to help EMO in any way possible," said Robertson. "Her support of EMO is an important testimony to our collective ministry and an affirmation of EMO's commitment to social justice and health and wellness. Her gift will provide support in many ways in the years ahead."

*For further information on EMO's Planned Giving program, contact Bob Baker at (503) 221-1054, or talk to your financial advisor about the many options available to you.*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$2,500

\$1,000

President's Club

\$500

\$250

\$100

\$50

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about making a gift of appreciated securities.

*Remember EMO in your will – an estate gift is a lasting memorial to your generosity.*

**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.

## EMO celebrates recent grants and gifts

Donor (Fund)	Program
Abbott Laboratories	HIV Services
Albertson's, Inc.	NE Emergency Food Program
Augustana Lutheran Church	Public Policy Advocacy
Children's Trust Fund of Oregon Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
The Collins Foundation	EMO Annual Fund, Collins Lectures
Columbia Management Company	EMO Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon	EMO Annual Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	NE Emergency Food Program
Irwin Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice	Public Policy Advocacy
The O.L. Moore Foundation	Hopewell House Building Fund
PacificCorp Foundation for Learning	Portland International Community School
Polk Family Charitable Trust	HIV Services, Parent Mentor Program
Portland Women's Union Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
Presbytery of the Cascades	EMO Annual Fund
Saint Luke Lutheran Church	NE Emergency Food Program
The Susan G. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
The Tides Center	Oregon Interfaith Power and Light
United Church of Christ	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference	EMO Annual Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church	NE Emergency Food Program
Women's Care Foundation	Parent Mentor Program



## Oregon Recovery Homes opens first house east of the Cascades



successful recovery, the Blue Mountain Oxford House will be the first of several homes to be established in the region as this outreach continues.

“The energy and enthusiasm of the communities of and near Pendleton and Hermiston who are interested in this development has been wonderful and refreshing,” says Morgester. “They are hungry for this housing opportunity for those recovering individuals in need of a safe and supportive environment to return to.”

The next steps are determining the viability of an Oxford House for women in Pendleton, a men’s home in Hermiston and eventually creating a support system amongst all the area homes to be known as a chapter. Morgester states, “God has truly blessed us with this mission of empowering those once considered immoral or criminal and witnessing lives miraculously change as faith, hope and courage replace the paralyzing fear and despair of addiction.”

*For more information about Oregon Recovery Homes, call (503) 493-6127.*

### Green Congregations Award Applications due Dec. 1

EMO’s Environmental Ministries Committee invites any congregation that has undertaken a congregational greening project to apply to receive recognition.

*For more information and an application, go to [www.emoregon.org/inec.htm](http://www.emoregon.org/inec.htm).*

In July, the Oregon Recovery Homes program opened the Blue Mountain Oxford House in Pendleton, the first house to open in eastern Oregon. The program offers technical assistance to communities and individuals wishing to establish or enhance self-run, financially self-supporting group homes for individuals in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction and is administered by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Outreach efforts by program manager, Mike Morgester, and outreach coordinator, Robin Breckenridge, began in eastern Oregon in April, with community presentations to congregational and social service agency leaders at the First United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

*Morgester states, “God has truly blessed us with this mission of empowering those once considered immoral or criminal and witnessing lives miraculously change as faith, hope and courage replace the paralyzing fear and despair of addiction.”*

With the support of community agencies such as the Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation, Department of Human Services, the Salvation Army and Umatilla County Community Corrections, along with clergy and members of the Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, this first home to seven men is off to a great start.

Morgester and Breckenridge plan on several months of training residents to be self-supporting and self-governing, while learning to live a responsible and productive lifestyle. With the support of peers they live with and community partners advocating for their

## Will your company match your gift to EMO?

Marie Bjerede is a major supporter of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Parent Mentor Program. How does she do it? Through her own personal giving and a company match through her employer, Qualcomm, Inc., where her gifts are matched, dollar for dollar.

Bjerede first got involved with the Parent Mentor Program after having her first child and realizing how difficult it was to raise children, even in the best of circumstances.

Bjerede had strong feelings towards wanting to help underprivileged children. Although family commitments prevented her from becoming a mentor at the time, Bjerede decided to support the program financially.

“The Parent Mentor Program is a valuable program that offers incredible opportunities for young mothers to get support and provide a joyful, meaningful and hopeful life for their children that may not otherwise be available to them,” states Bjerede. She also says it’s wonderful to work for Qualcomm. “They have a long history of philanthropy and it is part of their philosophy to work in the community and financially support the organizations their employees care about and with which they make donations.”

Bjerede found out about her company matching her gift from a number of sources, such as public notifications and Web references, but it is basically known around the office that Qualcomm is an organization that matches gifts. If you make more money and can donate more, Qualcomm will match at a higher level.

Bjerede added, “I want to thank Patti Clothier [Parent Mentor Program manager] for being a good representative for the program. You can see the program and funds are managed well and that your money goes to good use, which makes donors feel secure and comfortable.”

## Refugee and immigration programs

*Continued from page 1*

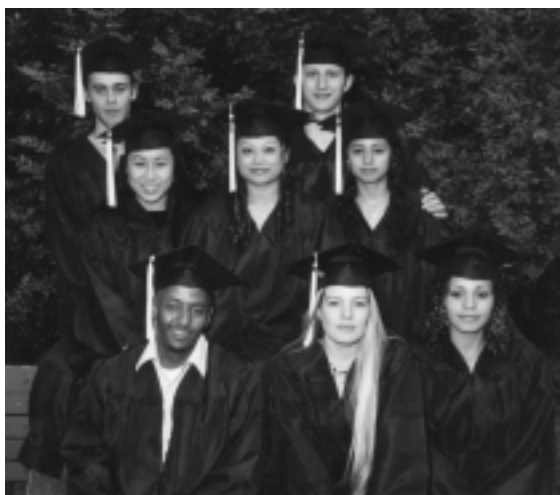


Photo credit: Derrick Pereira

On June 9, 2004, nine students received high school diplomas from PICS, bringing the school’s total number of graduates since January 2001 to 36.

The mission of the program is to assist the Portland Russian-speaking community and help integrate them into American culture. This is done through advocacy and a series of educational programs aimed at increasing self-esteem, economic self-sufficiency and, ultimately, achieving true independence.

The Russian-speaking population has grown to be the third-largest immigrant group in Oregon, consisting of more than 100,000

ROSS is the only agency that works exclusively with the Russian-speaking population in the Portland metro area, filling a huge need for language-specific and culturally appropriate services. ROSS direct services include senior case management, English as a Second Language classes, computer classes, in-home tutoring, citizenship training, a mentorship program, legal assistance, domestic violence services, crisis intervention services, mental health counseling, breast health education, dental care, tax assistance, information and referral, and connections with other providers.

ROSS is a program based on volunteers. During the past ten years, volunteer recruitment and training has resulted in a rich resource of volunteers. Currently, there are over 50 volunteers who are dedicated to the program.

The ROSS program was originally designed as a four-year program in a partnership between EMO, Catholic Charities and Lutheran Community Services (LCS), and it was funded by a federal grant of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). In October 1998, ROSS received a new two-year grant from the ORR. The new grant included expanded services for domestic violence and mental health. These issues had been identified as an area of need by the

Russian-speaking community.

Currently, there are several sources of major funding, including the state of Oregon, Multnomah County, the Oregon Coalition of Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. ROSS also continues to develop new working relationships with various organizations and maintains established fruitful partnerships with LCS, Catholic Charities, Jewish Family and Child Services and NW Medical Teams.

As one of the founders of ROSS who started working for the program 10 years ago, Yelena Hansen, ROSS program manager, says, “I am very proud to acknowledge that ROSS has become a successful, well-known and respected program through my leadership and the entire ROSS staff’s outstanding work and dedication. I can declare without a doubt that ROSS is succeeding in its objective. Together, we have accomplished a lot by serving and educating the Russian-speaking community and making a real difference in many people’s lives. We are looking forward to celebrating our 10-year anniversary, and we are assured that ROSS will continue its success for 10 more years to come.”

*To learn more about ROSS, call (503) 777-3437.*



# Calendar of Events

## September 27

**Northwest Earth Institute presents an evening with author Juliet Schor.** 7 to 9 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock, Portland. Juliet Schor, a nationally recognized leader in the movement to transform our consumer culture, will discuss her newly released book, *Born to Buy*, which examines the impact of marketing on the health of our children, our families, our planet and what we can do about it. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling (503) 227-2807. Tickets are \$5 to \$20 (sliding scale).

## October 10

**"The Wilderness Journey"—A Christian, Muslim and Jew Build Bridges through Art and Friendship (panel discussion).** 12 to 2 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 126 SW Park Ave., Portland. "The Wilderness Journey" is an art exhibit exploring the connections and common ground between Jews, Muslims and Christians; the exhibit will show during the entire month of October at the First Congregational Church. The three participating artists—Anne Shams, Rhoda London and Kanaan Kanaan—will hold a panel discussion about the project. For more information, e-mail [anneshams@earthlink.net](mailto:anneshams@earthlink.net). Funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and endorsed by EMO and P'Nai Or Jewish Congregation.

## October 13

**Dialogue and Concert for World Peace.** 7 to 9 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway, Portland. Please do not miss this exciting interfaith event! The event will bring together senior Oregon faith leaders for a dialogue on how the religions of the world can work for peace. Following the dialogue, concert rock violinist Aaron Meyer and multi-instrumentalist Bill Lamb will perform a concert for peace with opening songs by Katherine Jun. Tickets are \$2 to \$10 (open seating) and can be purchased through Ticketmaster at (503) 224-4400 or at the door. For more information, visit [www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com/concert.htm](http://www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com/concert.htm).

## October 15

**What Is Spiritual Direction?** 7 to 9 p.m. at The Interfaith Spiritual Center, 3910 SE 11th Ave., Portland. This event will offer a chance to have any and all of your questions answered regarding the ancient/new practice of Spiritual Direction. Freewill offering. No registration required. For more information, call (503) 233-2026.

## November 5 & 6

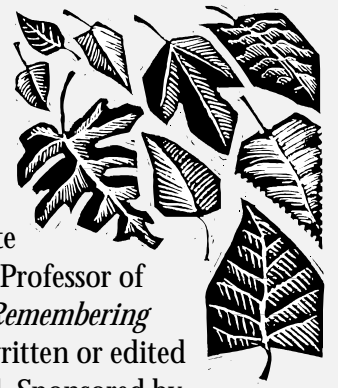
**You Are Not Alone: 2004 Caregiver Conference.** At Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, 4040 Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego. This conference will provide you with information on new caregiving skills and community support resources, spirituality and caregiving, and networking opportunities with many other caregivers. For more information, call (503) 232-3457 or visit [www.newcaredirections.org](http://www.newcaredirections.org).



## EMO sponsored & co-sponsored events

### September 13

**"Destiny, Resurrection and Care for the Dying," lecture by Allen Verhey, PhD, 2004 Providence Visiting Scholar.** 7 p.m. at the University of Portland, Buckley Center Auditorium, N. Willamette Blvd., Portland. Dr. Verhey is the Evert J. and Hattie E. Blekkink Professor of Religion at Hope College in Holland, Mich. He is the author of *Remembering Jesus: Christian Community, Scripture and the Moral Life* and has written or edited nine other books. The lecture is free and no registration is required. Sponsored by Providence Center for Health Care Ethics; EMO and the University of Portland School of Nursing are co-sponsors. For more information, call (503) 216-1913.



### September 18

**Garden Photography 101,** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and **Garden Art 101,** 1 to 3 p.m., both at Patton Home, 4619 N. Michigan, Portland. During the first hands-on garden and food empowerment workshop, learn the basics of nature photography and how to capture moments you can savor the whole year with a local professional photographer. During the second workshop, create stepping stones from recycled materials, nature and stained glass. Free (donations of \$5 to \$10 per workshop appreciated). Space is limited. To register or for more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278. Sponsored by INEC.

### September 30

**Training on West Coast Governors' Initiative on Global Warming** 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Interchurch Center, Hughes Conference Room, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland. Sponsored by EMO's Interfaith Power and Light Program and the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. Learn about the initiative of the governors of Washington, Oregon and California to take regional action on global warming and how to make your voice heard in the public input process with Chris Hagerbaumer of Oregon Environmental Council and others. To register, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278, by Sept. 24.

### October 23

**Christians for Peace and Justice Summit.** See story below.

### November 5

**EMO's Refugee & Immigration 10th Anniversary Celebration.** 4 to 8 p.m., location to be announced. The celebration is free and will include a silent auction, delicious ethnic food and world music and dancing. For more information, call Bob Baker at (503) 221-1054.

### Early December

**As if Salmon Matter: Ethical Choicemaking for Individuals and Congregations.** Portland (exact location and time to be announced). Explore the role of salmon in Northwest culture, ethical and spiritual concerns and the choices individuals and congregations can make to help protect wild salmon. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

## January 27 to 30

**International Conference on Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture.** To be held at the Seattle Center. Nine universities and colleges in the Pacific Northwest are producing this conference that will focus on the issues underlying social and religious conflict. Learn more at [www.networkforpeace.org](http://www.networkforpeace.org).



## Mark your calendar

**2005 Portland Metro Area CROP Walk on March 20.** Congregations or other organizations interested in participating in the 2005 Portland Metro CROP Walk should send a representative to the initial planning meeting set for Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock, Portland. For more information, call Karen Sapio at (503) 246-1759.

## Christians for Peace & Justice to hold summit

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is holding a summit to help more Christians advocate for peace and justice in Oregon and the world. The summit will be on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland.

Law Professor Steven Green of Willamette University will be the featured speaker at the summit. Green is former counsel and director of policy for Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. Workshop topics will include environmental justice and global warming, securing health care for all, faith, labor and economic justice, waging peaceful resolutions to war and terrorism, church and state issues, an interfaith response to hunger, funding the public good and other topics.

To register, please call Jeannie Covell at (503) 221-1054. Registration fees are \$25 per person and \$100 for congregational groups of five or more; includes lunch and materials. Registration after Oct. 16 will not include lunch.

# voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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