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EMO celebrates the “Power of Community” Annual event honors ecumenical leadership & service in Oregon

Every year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) friends and supporters from across the state gather for EMO’s *Community Awards & Celebration Dinner*—a joyful and informative recognition of the work of congregations, faith organizations and community leaders who have accomplished extraordinary things in Oregon.

This year’s dinner, with the theme “The Power of Community,” will be held on the evening of Thursday, May 12, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland. Providence Health & Services is our major sponsor, joined to date by Legacy Health, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, and the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell & George Crandall. Over 370 people attended last year’s event, and this year tickets and tables are selling fast.

A silent auction on the theme of

“Art and Spiritual Renewal” will feature travel packages, retreats, services, books, gifts and works of art. Proceeds of the auction will support EMO’s ministries. A special offering will be taken to support EMO’s work throughout the state, and all gifts will be matched dollar for dollar by the Collins Foundation.

Community leaders & organizations honored

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is proud to announce the 2011 *Ecumenist of the Year*, the Rev. Alcena Boozer, rector emerita at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church.

A native Portlander, Boozer has served the local community as an educator and a priest of the Episcopal Church. She retired as an educator in 1997, after a 26-year career in

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The Rev. Alcena Boozer, rector emerita at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church and retired educator, will be honored as “Ecumenist of the Year” at EMO’s annual celebration on May 12, 2011.

Faith community unites at Oregon capitol

As the Oregon Legislature considers cuts to programs for the poor, ill and elderly, *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2011* gathers faith communities to speak out for our neighbors in need

Nearly 200 Oregonians from diverse faith traditions gathered in Salem on Monday, March 14, to protest proposed cuts to critical safety net programs at *Interfaith Advocacy Day 2011*. Participants instead urged passage of legislation that would expand access to health care and human services, and reduce hunger and homelessness in Oregon.

The day began at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Salem, four blocks from the capitol, with a welcome from EMO Executive Director David Leslie and an invocation offered by the Rev. Charles Mantey, pastor at St. Mark Lutheran. This was followed by a panel exploring the roots of concern with justice for the poor in three faith traditions (Jewish, Christian and Muslim), and then workshops on the three key issue areas:

hunger, homelessness and health care, led by experts in each area.

After lunch and a keynote address by Oregon Health Authority Director Bruce Goldberg, M.D., participants marched to the capitol building, where they were welcomed by Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany) and Rep. Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County). The afternoon was spent in meetings with legislators.

Interfaith Advocacy Day is part of an ongoing effort to create an interfaith religious presence in Salem in support of critical safety-net programs. While the economic recession has greatly increased the need for programs to address hunger and homelessness, it has also caused a great decline in state tax revenues, which means many of these programs are facing spending cuts at the very time they are

most needed.

The *Interfaith Advocacy Day* legislative agenda supported six bills and programs, designed to prevent and reduce hunger and homelessness and maintain access to affordable health care services for low-income Oregonians. These included advocating in support of:

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, the basic safety-net program for Oregon families living in extreme poverty.
- **General Fund Food Program** that supports emergency food services through the Oregon Food Bank Network.
- **Senior and WIC farm-direct programs** that provide fresh farmer’s market and roadside stand produce to seniors, mothers and small children.

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Working together in a time of great need

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

On March 2, I had the opportunity to testify before the Oregon House of Representatives Human Services Committee. Co-chairs



David Leslie

Rep. Gilliam and Rep. Tomei held an informational hearing to learn more about how nonprofits and community partners are addressing human and community needs in the current economic crisis.

My message was ecumenically straight forward: “Working together, we are much more likely than working apart to ensure that all Oregonians, no matter their life circumstances, live lives full of possibility and hope.”

Today’s recession is having a very clear impact on EMO’s members and other faith communities throughout Oregon, as well as state and other public and private entities. The prolonged fiscal crisis has led congregations

and faith-based service providers to lay off staff, reduce office hours and cut back on the number of services offered. Economic hardships that were once considered “out there” or “the purview of the poor”—prolonged layoffs, home foreclosure and loss of health insurance—are now realities found in every congregation and community throughout the state. And while internal needs are increasing, so too are the external needs. Demand for services has reached record numbers, while donations have not necessarily grown to keep up with the need.

Yet, in spite of these and many more challenges, Oregon’s faith community is finding new ways to serve both their members and the larger community. First United Methodist Church in Corvallis, for example, opened its kitchen to allow low-income residents to start food-related micro economic development businesses. Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Portland—an at-risk aging congregation, with 38 members whose average age is 79—partnered with Human Solutions to host a warming center for homeless people this past winter. Faith-based community organizations are partnering with the State of Oregon’s Office of Healthy Kids to identify overlooked, and often times hard to reach, families and children without health insurance, ensuring that they sign-up for

access to comprehensive health coverage that can improve their health. Some congregations are supporting nonprofit health clinics serving low income families, while others are developing new partnerships with neighborhood public schools, providing volunteers to help in classrooms and providing supplemental food for the weekends so kids do not go hungry.

“Working together, we are much more likely than working apart to ensure that all Oregonians, no matter their life circumstances, live lives full of possibility and hope.”

The important mark of this wide-ranging service and ministry is the partnerships that are formed between religious communities, other community organizations and public agencies, to ensure that services are delivered to those in need in a cost-effective and community-supportive manner. This type of religious-public partnership happens all over the state and allows us to meet the needs of people who are homeless, living with severe disabilities, facing food insecurity, or struggling

with addictions or reentry to society after incarceration. Simply put, effectively meeting today’s and tomorrow’s challenges rests with the type of collaborative partnerships that recognize that no one sector can solve the problems of the day.

Oregon’s faith community takes seriously its mandate to serve the poor and those at-risk. It also understands the clear need to foster a spirit of cooperative service, knowing that each sector—government, business, philanthropic organizations, and religious and community-based nonprofits—is more effective when we support one another and work together as partners in service.

So in this spirit, my hope is that we will redouble our collaborative efforts that bring together all sectors of Oregon society in service to one another and our neighbors in need. For in doing so, we make real our commitment to one another in a time of great need.

Japan tsunami response

Religious and community organizations throughout the world are responding to the ongoing relief and recovery efforts in Japan. A number of Pacific Northwest-based relief and development agencies are seeking support, including Mercy Corps, World Vision and Medical Teams International.

Denominational and ecumenical relief agencies are also seeking donations for fuel, basic shelter, hygiene and health kits.

InterAction—the largest alliance of United States-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focused on the world’s poor and most vulnerable people—has a full listing of member agencies providing relief in Japan, as well as other areas in crisis around the world, on their website (www.interaction.org).

A link on EMO’s website (www.emoregon.org) has also been established for listing special needs, prayer services and other public events in support of the people of Japan.

Upcoming EMO events

April 28

Dining Out for Life.

At participating restaurants throughout the Portland metro area.

See page 6 for details.

May 12

EMO’s Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner (and Silent Auction).

See front page for details.

May 14

Climate Ethics & Equity Forum.

See page 3 for details.

June 1

Shane Claiborne lecture.

See page 7 for details.

Youth Run-Walk-March

A Benefit for EMO’s Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) at Luther Memorial

April 23—Begins at 11 a.m. at NE 41st and Fremont, Portland.

Run, walk, or march with two cans of food or \$2 to NEFP, located at 4800 NE 72nd Ave. in Portland. Then return to NE 41st and Fremont for free pizza, hot dogs, fruit, drinks, prizes and live music!

No registration required. For groups over five, RSVP to dpietka@msn.com by April 18. Call David at (503) 206-1071 for more information.

Save the date for the Collins Lecture with Fr. Richard Rohr, Oct. 26 & 27

The 2011 Collins Lecture, “*When Great Things Happen: The Convergence of the Contemplative Traditions and Social Action*,” will feature a lecture by Fr. Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 26.

An all day workshop will be held the following day. The workshop will combine experiential learning of various prayer, meditative and contemplative techniques, along with dialogue with Fr. Rohr and discussion about the important interplay between contemplation and action for social justice.

Both events will be held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland. More details will be posted at www.emoregon.org.

“Climate Ethics & Equity Forum” to feature Kathleen Dean Moore

We are called to understand that climate change is a moral challenge, not simply an economic or technological problem.

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

On May 14, Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, the Wayne Morse Center and First United Methodist Church will present the “Climate Ethics and Equity Forum” to explore the most pressing issues of climate equity. It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., in Portland.

Keynoter Kathleen Dean Moore is author of *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril* and a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and University Writer Laureate at Oregon State University. Few people have been in conversation with, and documented so thoroughly, the many different ethically motivated voices calling for climate action.

A morning panel—moderated by the Rev. Dr. David Wheeler, ethicist and senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Portland—will provide a framework for climate equity issues, focusing on the local, regional and global levels. One of the panelists will be Chuck Hudson of Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, who will speak about the impact climate change is having on tribes. Afternoon breakout session



topics will include Green Jobs, International Debt and Climate, Energy Prices vs. Energy Costs, Climate Ethics Initiative, Indigenous Rights, and Biodiversity. Resource people facilitating these sessions include Barbara Byrd of AFL-CIO, energy expert Jim Edelson, Kathleen Dean Moore and wildlife ecologist Warren Aney.

Free but donations welcome for OIPL match grant. Lunch is available for \$10. Register online at www.emoregon.org/lemo_events.php.

Resources connect abundant living, health and Creation

Taking action for health & the environment

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) has joined with state and national partners to create awareness about toxics in everyday life, lift up the ethical issues of toxic exposures, and advocate for policy changes to protect both the young and old.

Go to www.emoregon.org/earth_concerns.php to sign on to letters and petitions rooted in faith perspectives that urge leaders to take action to protect human health from toxics.

Healthy aging for an abundant life

Older adult groups and health ministries are invited to host a presentation on “Healthy Aging for an Abundant Life,” based on a new study resource from the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program. The presentation includes principles for healthy aging, connections between faith and health, and how to protect our families from toxic exposures that lead to chronic diseases. We are partnering with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility on the project.

Call (503) 221-1054, ext. 210, to get the resource and schedule a presentation.

Earth Words 2011: Deadline May 31

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light and Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns are pleased to announce the third annual “Earth Words” contest. You are invited to nominate a sermon, homily, or other written and spoken faith message on care for Creation or send in your own. The top three winners will be awarded gift certificates to Powell’s Books.

For more information on how to enter, go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php.

Weatherize for Good Raise funds & save energy!



Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective and fastest ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the need for fossil fuel, but it is greatly under-used in the residential sector. That’s because homeowners often lack the up-front capital to pay for more costly energy efficiency measures that go beyond things like weather-stripping and caulking, such as high-performance attic, wall and floor insulation, triple pane windows, high-efficiency home heating systems, air and duct sealing, and hi-tech water heating systems.

Thanks to Clean Energy Works Oregon (CEWO), home energy remodels that can cut energy waste by 30 percent or more are now easier to handle financially. CEWO is based on a successful City of Portland pilot project stemming from 2009 legislation. No money down, no-fee financing means there are no out-of-pocket up-front costs, while a low fixed interest rate keeps monthly payments low. Loan payments appear on heating utility bills, so there are no extra bills to pay. For many

homeowners, the energy savings offset a good portion of their monthly loan payment.

To make this program better known, Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) is partnering with Weatherize for Good, a coalition of socially responsible contractors who provide family-supporting clean jobs. OIPL is seeking congregations to undertake a short campaign to educate their members on energy efficiency and Weatherize for Good. Participating congregations will be offered an incentive for each congregational household that selects to install and/or finance a Clean Energy Works Oregon energy efficiency upgrade. Materials and training will be provided.

For information on how to sign-up your congregation for the Weatherize for Good campaign, contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214, or jholmes@emoregon.org.

Congregations receive mini grants to support wellness

This spring, eight faith communities throughout Oregon are launching projects that support healthy eating and physical activity, with the help of the *Congregational Wellness Mini Grant Program*. The funds for the mini grant program come from a grant from Providence Partners in Health for the Congregational Wellness Program. The grants will fund community gardens, kitchens, playgrounds and sports equipment.

The work builds on a recent two-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation faith-based obesity prevention pilot effort in Portland and Corvallis, completed in November 2010. All applicants were required to complete the Congregational Wellness Index (CHI)—an assessment tool to help congregations identify and prioritize areas for change, which can be found at www.faithandwellness.org.

Congregational Wellness staff, Michi Caldwell and Luis Acosta, assisted many of the congregations using the CHI and serve as advisors on implementation and to new congregations using the CHI.

The diverse grant recipients are Joseph United Methodist Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Aloha, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in north Portland, Hood River Riverside Community Church, Westside Community Church in Corvallis, Bethel Baptist Church in McMinnville, Willamette Community Church in Albany and Crowfoot Baptist Church in Lebanon.

For more information about the Congregational Wellness Program, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 216.

“Faith Advocates for Jobs” addresses crisis of unemployment

Woe to him who builds his house on unrighteousness, and his upper room by injustice, who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages.

—Jeremiah 22:13

Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) is organizing with the faith community to address the most damaging social crisis of our lifetimes: the crisis of unemployment. While there are some signs of a return to profitability for certain sectors of business, workers continue to face unemployment and underemployment at levels not seen since the Great Depression.

While the entire society is reeling, the unemployment rate for African Americans, Latinos, youth, and people who live in particularly hard-hit cities and regions is disastrous, which in turn has led to huge increases in foreclosures, homelessness, crime and despair.

Faith Advocates for Jobs is a major new interfaith campaign initiated by Interfaith Worker Justice to address the severe suffering being endured by millions of unemployed workers. The campaign is organizing a nationwide network of congregations committed to supporting the unemployed and their families both spiritually and materially.

Will yours be one of those congregations? If so, IWJ invites you to complete the “Congregational Commitment Pledge” online or fill out a downloadable PDF, both available at the IWJ website at www.iwj.org/index.cfm/ employment. Once you join the campaign’s network of congregations, IWJ will help you get started, provide information on how your congregation can be most helpful to the unemployed, and share what others in the network are doing.

Faith Advocates for Jobs recently published *Standing with the Unemployed: A Congregational Toolkit*, also available as a free download

on the IWJ website. The toolkit provides background information on the campaign, how organizations and congregations can join, worship resources and how a committed congregation can get started.

Interfaith Worker Justice believes that our religious traditions teach that work is a sacred act, that when we labor we are “God’s hands” on earth. Those who work and those who cannot work must be treated fairly. Many unemployed worker support committees already exist in congregations around the country. As the campaign notes, “Together we can help unemployed workers and their families get through this crisis and begin to look forward to a better day.”

For full details about Faith Advocates for Jobs and how you and your organization or congregation can get involved, contact the Rev. Paul Sherry, the campaign’s coordinator, at (202) 525-3055 or psberry@iwj.org.

Interfaith Advocacy Day

Continued from page 1



Photo credit: Carla Starrett-Bigg

Nearly 200 people of faith attended *Interfaith Advocacy Day* at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Salem.

- **Emergency Housing Account (EHA)** that provides emergency rent assistance, support for transitional shelters, and other support to prevent homelessness or help people who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence get back into safe, decent housing.

Health care access was also a major concern, and here advocacy focused on two steps legislators could take to preserve and expand health care access for low- and moderate-income Oregonians. First, legislators were urged to restore or reduce proposed cuts to Oregon’s long-term care programs for the low-income elderly and to fund Oregon Project Independence, which provides many with the assistance they need to remain in their homes instead of going into institutional care.

Secondly, participants urged legislators to strengthen Senate Bill 99—which would establish a state health insurance exchange as part of ongoing federal and state health reform efforts. Believing the current bill does not do enough to make sure that the exchange really functions on behalf of health care consumers, participants urged their representatives to adopt a set of amendments that would give the exchange a more explicitly pro-consumer mandate, strengthen prohibitions against conflicts-of-interest, and give the exchange the authority to negotiate forcefully with insurers in

order to hold down premiums.

One program facing cuts is TANF, one of a handful of “self-sufficiency” programs administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). TANF is the only state program that provides a direct monthly cash stipend to help very poor families meet living expenses.

The Oregon TANF program is designed, when properly funded, to work in conjunction with the JOBS program—the state’s Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program and other supportive services to help very poor families become employed and remain self-sufficient. The TANF program also plays a critical role in reducing hunger and preventing homelessness. Federal limits currently allow recipients to remain within the TANF program for up to five years (60 months), though most Oregon TANF recipients remain with the program for a much shorter period of time.

Unfortunately, the Governor’s Balanced Budget proposal, if adopted, would reduce the 60-month eligibility cap for TANF to 18 months. According to the Governor’s Budget Summary, the 18-month time limit “would begin in October 2011 and would remove about 7,000 cases [families] in the last three months of the 2011-2013 biennium and another 8,000 average monthly case reduction in 2013-2015.” This is a troubling cut to many, since families who remain with the TANF



Photo credit: Michelle Bush

Participants marched from St. Mark Lutheran to the capitol steps.



Photo credit: Michelle Bush

The Rev. Gene Ross (left) led marchers to the capitol steps, where they were greeted by Sen. Frank Morse (center) and Rep. Dave Hunt (right).

program longer than 18 months are those who have the most difficulty obtaining employment.

Cuts to TANF are particularly irksome to advocates for those in need because the program is already a mere shell of what it was in the mid-1990s. Neither the amount of cash assistance provided to families nor the income eligibility cap have been increased or adjusted for inflation since the program was established. To qualify for TANF cash or job training assistance, an Oregon family of three can earn no more than \$616 a month, the same as in 1996. Because of inflation’s effect in eroding the purchasing power of earnings, families today must be significantly poorer in real terms to qualify for assistance than they were 15 years ago.

The largest cut, in terms of dollars saved, would come to the JOBS program, which would be dramatically reduced in the first year of the 2011-13 biennium, and then only partially restored in the second year. Given the difficult budget and employment environment, redirecting JOBS program funding to help pay for maintaining the TANF stipend is accepted by some TANF advocates as the least harmful option available.

For more information, please contact EMO Public Policy Advocacy director, Kevin Finney, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204, or kfinney@emoregon.org.

Gun violence prompts call to action by the faith community

In the United States every year, 30,000 people are killed by firearms, including homicides, suicides and unintentional killings. Over twice as many are injured.

Twenty representatives from the faith community, the Portland Mayor's Office, Ceasefire Oregon, and the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation met on Jan. 10, 2011, to explore ways that local congregations might respond to the incidents of gun violence that have occurred over the past year in the Portland metropolitan area and across the nation. Several options were discussed, including these:

- **The building and property that are used for worship services and related activities can be declared a gun-free zone, meaning that guns are not welcome.** The pioneering church in this regard is Ainsworth United Church of Christ, whose pastor, the Rev. Lynne Smouse López, and Justice Commission are leading the way. On Jan. 23, the congregation voted to be a gun-free zone. The First Unitarian Church of Portland has also acted, by hanging a large banner on its SW 12th Avenue wall that declares, "Gun Free Zone."
- **Congregants can purchase purple light bulbs to use on their front porches, signaling their desire for an end to gang violence.** Bulbs are available at Sunlan Lighting, Inc., 3901 N. Mississippi Ave., (503) 281-0453. Debbra Wallace suggested this action after her nephew's home was



peppered with bullets as young children slept inside. By combining the blue of the Crips gang with the red of the Bloods, a peaceful purple results.

- **Congregations can use pew cards and newsletters to address gun violence and what can be done to prevent it.**

Another way congregations can make a difference is by supporting Ceasefire's gun turn-ins, to which residents bring unwanted firearms that will be melted down, never to get into the wrong hands. Donations earmarked for the turn-in are used to buy Fred Meyer gift certificates, which are exchanged for working guns at the turn-ins.

Ceasefire has collected over 7,300 firearms since 1994 and now partners with the mayor of Portland, as well as the Portland Police Bureau, in sponsoring the gun turn-in events.

Ceasefire has collected over 7,300 firearms since 1994 and now partners with the mayor of Portland, as well as the Portland Police Bureau, in sponsoring the gun turn-in events. The next turn-in will take place on April 9, 2011, in the Benton parking lot at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

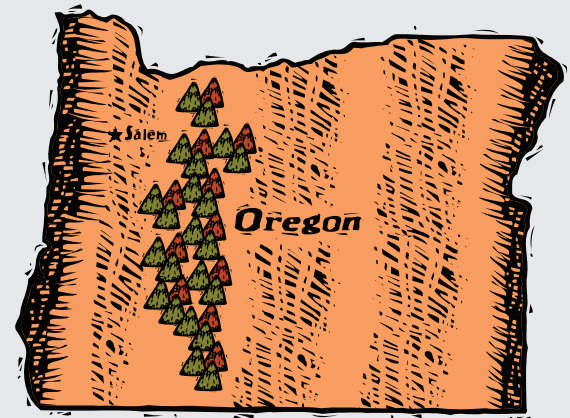
Congregations can also help prevent gun violence by participating in Ceasefire Oregon's legislative alert network. To learn about gun bills moving through the Oregon Legislature and in Washington, D.C., visit www.ceasefireoregon.org (select "Ceasefire Oregon" and click on "Advocacy"). The importance of joining the legislative alert network was stressed at the Jan. 10 meeting and at the group's subsequent monthly meetings.

Legislators need to hear from constituents who favor sensible gun laws, as they hear frequently from those who are opposed to them.

Key legislation in this session includes SB 659, which would mandate chamber load indicators on firearms; SB 917, which would prohibit the sale of large-capacity ammunition magazines in Oregon; and SB 920, which would make it a crime to endanger a minor by allowing access to a firearm.

If your faith community, its staff, board or social action/justice committee would like more information on these proposals or would like to join this faith-based group working to prevent gun violence, please contact Julie Sterling at (503) 280-2590. The group plans to meet monthly for at least the next few months, but attendance at the meetings is not required to help with this important work.

When East Meets West People, Land and Community Connection—A work and learn stewardship experience



From June 9 to 11, join EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns for this unique opportunity. Learn more about the relationship of people, community and land in eastern Oregon through listening sessions with people of faith from eastern Oregon, local ranchers, community and business leaders, and land managers. Participants will also make a direct contribution through hands-on land restoration work on the middle fork of the John Day, as part of a collaborative effort of landowners, public agencies and private groups.

Rustic work group lodging will be provided at Dunstan Preserve of the Nature Conservancy (sleeping bag required). This unique experience is limited to 12 people and the all-inclusive cost is \$40 (scholarships available upon request).

To be considered, prospective participants must send a letter (no more than one page) describing your interest in constructive dialogue among people of diverse viewpoints and your desire to build relationships with people of faith and from other parts of Oregon. Email your letter to ksharinghousen@emoregon.org. Participants will be notified by May 10.

For more information, call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214.

"A New Day" advocates for alternatives to the death penalty

Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP) have set a date for an ecumenical celebration, "A New Day." On the heels of the repeal of the Illinois death penalty, people in Oregon are encouraged by the progress being made to organize an Oregon campaign to make a similar move.

On June 8 at the St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, OADP has been fortunate to schedule Rep. Karen Yarbrough as a main speaker for the event. Yarbrough has achieved national prominence for her efforts as the sponsor of the Illinois legislation to repeal that state's death penalty.

Yarbrough's legislative themes have been public health and public safety. She has been a stalwart fighter to increase assistance for those incarcerated and funding for programs that provide a "second chance."

The progressive tone of the New Day program will be heralded by the popular and entertaining Portland area group, the Aurora Chorus. Since 1992, Aurora Chorus has honored the strength and beauty of women's lives through the fine art of choral singing. The Aurora Chorus was founded on the belief that music can be a powerful instrument of peace—locally, globally, and in the hearts of all who listen and all who sing. The singing of the Aurora Chorus will inspire and reflect the universal yearning for peace, which is an underlying aspect of OADP's work toward repeal of the death penalty.

Other elements of the June 8 event will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Ron Steiner at (503) 990-7060 or info@oadp.org.

6 Community Ministries

April 28: Dine out & fight AIDS

Join EMO's HIV Services on Thursday, April 28, for Portland's third annual *Dining Out for Life*.

Dining Out for Life is an annual dining fundraising event, raising money for AIDS service organizations. Dine out at one of the participating restaurants and a percentage of your bill will go directly to programs serving people with HIV/AIDS. The fundraiser is held in over 55 cities throughout the United States and Canada. In the Portland metro area, *Dining Out for Life* benefits EMO's HIV Services and OHSU's Partnership Project.

Last year, more than 20 *Dining Out for Life* participating restaurants in the Portland metro area donated 20 to 30 percent of their proceeds to both local programs, totaling nearly \$11,000. Diners also had the opportunity to give personal donations that night, raising an additional \$4,000.

At least 23 great Portland metro area restaurants are lined up this year, including (but not limited to) Il Piatto, Red Star Tavern, and Lincoln Restaurant—and more restaurants are signing on daily. Dine out at one of these restaurants on April 28, and be sure to mention that you're there for "Dining Out for Life."

For more information and a full restaurant listing, visit www.diningoutforlife.com/portland, or call Lindsay Ross-Hunt at (503) 460-3822.



Beaverton Youth Second Home: One community's answer to high school homelessness

Increasingly across the nation, youth, as well as single adults and entire families, have been forced into homelessness. For a high school student, having to worry about where he or she will sleep each night produces great anxiety affecting all areas of life.

In a unique and creative partnership that has developed over the past year, the community of Beaverton is working together to support their homeless and unaccompanied high school youth in an innovative pilot program: *Beaverton Youth Second Home*. The program aims to help students find safe and consistent housing, so that they can focus on their school work, graduate from high school and pursue their goals for the future.

Beaverton Youth Second Home is a collaborative effort of the Beaverton School District, the City of Beaverton and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), along with local churches and individuals. The Luis Palau Association provided the seed money necessary to launch the program, and they have been proactive in gathering together church communities and individuals who would like to participate in the program through offering financial support or by volunteering to be home providers. Valley Community Presbyterian and Southminster Presbyterian have also contributed financially to the partnership, and Westside Community Church donated all of the proceeds of a church-wide garage sale to program.

Beaverton Youth Second Home is modeled after EMO's Shared Housing program, modified to fit the needs of high school students. The school district, through counselors and the district homeless liaison's office, identifies students who are without

homes and without adult accompaniment. A *Beaverton Youth Second Home* representative meets with a student at the high school to determine if the student thinks the program is a viable option for them. The City of Beaverton Dispute Resolution Center provides professional mediators to facilitate rental agreements between students and volunteer home providers, in order to ensure that all parties are set up for success.

Students involved in the program interview potential home providers first on the phone and then in-person. References for students and home providers are carefully checked, and background screens and histories are conducted on all parties involved. Open and direct communication is encouraged to ensure that students and home providers alike are prepared in advance for a successful rental arrangement. Students pay rent in the form of responsibilities they take on around the home such as housework and yard work. All provisions in the rental agreement are decided by both parties and are as varied as the individuals which they represent.

Relieving the stress from these students' lives so that they can focus on staying in school and pursuing and developing dreams for the future is a complex task and not without risk. For a community willing to work hard, explore options and muster some courage on behalf of their youth in need, the benefits abound and the rewards are long-lasting.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in *Beaverton Youth Second Home*, please contact Barbara Stone at Shared Housing at (503) 225-9924 or housing@emoregon.org.

Take a stand against hunger Join a CROP Hunger Walk this spring!

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. With neighbors walking together, we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger needs.

Portland Crop Hunger Walk will begin at 10 a.m. on April 9, with the start and finish location in front of the Union Gospel Mission, 3 NW Third Ave. The course is 2.64 miles and will pass several homeless agencies in downtown Portland, as well as Portland City Hall. Seventy-five percent of the funds raised will go to Church World Service's international relief and development programs, 15 percent to EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program, and 10 percent to the Oregon Food Bank.

Other Spring 2011 *CROP Hunger Walk* events in Oregon include: Baker City, April 10; McMinnville, May 1; Milton Freewater, May 15; and Salem, June 12.

For *CROP Hunger Walk* resources or to register, visit at www.churchworldservice.org.

Portland and Scottish students partner for "I Spy Joy" photography project

The *I Spy Joy photography project* is a partnership between South Perth Youth Services in Scotland and "Focus on Youth" in Portland, whose participants are students at EMO's Portland International Community School (PICS).

The phrase "I Spy Joy" was used as a theme for this project to encourage young people to think about positive things in their life. This could relate to positive things they have seen, things they have, or could relate to the perceived joy for potential viewers of their photographs. The Portland area students' photos were taken during PICS field trips as part of a photography class in partnership with Focus on Youth.

Donna Lee Holmes, executive director of Focus on Youth, says "Focus on Youth is delighted to be partnering with young people in Scotland for 'I Spy Joy,' a collaborative photography project where students from both countries are able to share the beauty they see through photography."



"I Spy Joy" photo by Portland student Jasmine Armas.

Gary Brown, Youth Services Community Learning and Development Worker for South Perth, says, "This project has been a great way for young people to express themselves through photography and have an opportunity to be part of an exhibition with peers from the United States."

Working in partnership with Portland Public Schools, PICS is an alternative high school that provides an effective learning environment for students of diverse cultural experiences.

Follow me: Shane Claiborne will explore meaning of being a Christian disciple in the 21st century

Shane Claiborne—founding partner of the Simple Way, bestselling author, prominent Christian activist and sought-after speaker—will give a lecture, “Follow Me: Exploring the Meaning of Being a Christian Disciple in the 21st Century,” at 7 p.m. on June 2 at Imago Dei Community, 1302 SE Ankeny St., Portland.

From dressing the wounds of lepers in Calcutta to living among the homeless in Philadelphia to visiting families in Iraq, social activist Claiborne strives to live an authentic Christian life. In his view, he is an “ordinary radical” in the truest sense of the word—returning to the roots of Christianity by living as Jesus did by doing “small things with great love” and ignoring social status and living unencumbered by material comforts. He describes the Simple Way, located in a destitute neighborhood of Philadelphia, as a new culture that relies on radical interdependence and consists of grassroots organizations, intentional communities and hospitality houses.

Claiborne graduated from Eastern University and did graduate work at Princeton Seminary. His ministry experience is varied, from a 10-week stint working alongside

Mother Teresa in Calcutta, to a year spent serving a wealthy mega-congregation at Willow Creek Community Church outside Chicago. During the recent war in Iraq, he spent three weeks in Baghdad with the Iraq Peace Team.

Claiborne writes and travels extensively, speaking about peacemaking, social justice and Jesus. He is featured in the DVD series “Another World Is Possible” and is the author of several books including *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*, *Jesus for President* and *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*. He speaks over 100 times a year in a dozen or so countries and nearly every state in the United States. Claiborne’s work has been featured in everything from Fox News and the Wall Street Journal to CNN and NPR.

Claiborne’s lecture is presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and cosponsored by the Luis Palau Association and the Oregon Center for Christian Values.

The event is free and open to the public, and a free will offering will be received to support the event. For more information, call EMO at (503) 221-1054.



Photo credit: Erik Stenbakken

Shane Claiborne—founding partner of the Simple Way, bestselling author, prominent Christian activist and sought-after speaker—will speak at Imago Dei Community in Portland on the evening of June 2.

EMO annual community celebration

Continued from page 1

Portland Public Schools as a teacher, counselor, vice-principal at Grant High School, assistant director of alternative education and principal of Jefferson High School.

As a pastor, Boozer has served as an associate at St. John the Baptist, St. Stephen and Grace Memorial parishes in Portland and as vicar of St. Augustine in Clatskanie and Emanuel in Birkenfeld. She was president of EMO from ‘06-07 and continues to serve on EMO’s Board of Directors. Boozer also serves on the Diocese of Oregon’s Commission to End Racism.

State Rep. Dave Hunt will be honored with the *Louise Hunderup Religious Education Award* for outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all.

Hunt is recognized for his dedication to promoting religious liberty and understanding and his continuing support for legislation to reduce hunger, homelessness and lack of access to health care in Oregon. He was the chief House sponsor of SB 786, the Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act. He also worked with a broad coalition of religious organizations to achieve passage of HB 3686, repealing a statute prohibiting public school teachers from wearing religious garb. In addition to Hunt’s Legislative service, he served as the youngest-ever president of the American Baptist Churches USA, from ‘02-03.

The Two Pauls Award—in recognition of outstanding work in the ecumenical spirit of dialogue, service and relations—will be presented to **Salma Ahmad**, president of the Islamic Society of Greater Portland.

Ahmad will be honored for her leadership within the Oregon Muslim community and for her commitment to promoting peace and

cooperation between people of all beliefs. She has been active with many organizations and programs designed to repair and strengthen relations among various ethnic and social groups.

Ecumenical Service Awards—given in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon—will be presented to **Northwest Portland Ministries** and **St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Corvallis**.

Northwest Portland Ministries inspires volunteers from congregations and the larger community to help neighbors live with dignity and purpose by providing food, transportation, recreation and helping hands.

St. Mary’s provides community outreach and a diverse thread of ministries that includes hunger and food security, care for creation, and a Hispanic ministry, while also addressing health and social justice issues. The congregation intentionally brings together Anglo and Hispanic families with its community garden located within a larger ecumenical garden.

Join us on May 12!

The silent auction and reception will begin at 5 p.m., and the dinner and award program at 6:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$60 each; tables seating 10 are \$600. Sponsorship opportunities are still available at the \$2,500 and \$1,000 levels. For reservations, you can download a Response Card at www.emoregon.org.

We welcome the donation of silent auction items; all proceeds will support EMO and its programs. Donate a weekend at a vacation home, tickets to a show, travel miles or request a gift certificate from your favorite service business, restaurant or shop.

For more information about the event, including volunteering, sponsorship and auction item donations, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Chris Siems at (503) 221-1054.

Add your voice to the Oregon faith community

“I would like to say ‘thank you’ for allowing us to purchase medical insurance for my pastor and his wife here at the Prince of Peace Fellowship. We are truly grateful, as we are a small body of about 30 people, and I know this would be much more expensive to purchase this level of medical insurance privately. ...” —Shirley Boyd

Access to EMO’s medical and dental insurance plans for church staff is just one of the many benefits for EMO members. Membership also provides a network for coalition-building with other faith communities and religious organizations who share an interest in ecumenical and interfaith witness and common mission.

EMO welcomes the new members listed below, which have been approved by the EMO Board of Directors. Our growing list of members 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.

Congregations: Community of Christ, Eugene; Metzger United Methodist Church, Tigard; St. Mark Lutheran, Salem; St. Matthew’s Episcopal, Portland; Zion United Church of Christ, Gresham.

Ecumenical Organization: Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro East.

Interfaith Partner: Unity Church of Portland.

For more information about EMO membership, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 208, or download an application for membership at www.emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Board of Directors 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 last issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Black United Fund of Oregon	NE Emergency Food Program
Bloomfield Family Foundation	Portland International Community School
The Collins Foundation	Annual Fund, The Collins Lecture
Irwin Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation	Annual Fund, Portland International Community School
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust	Membership Outreach and Development
Margaret Thiele Petti Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Neighborhood Partnership Fund	Public Policy Advocacy
Oregon Community Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership, Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
The Regeneration Project	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust	Portland International Community School
Trust Management Services, LLC	Portland International Community School

voice

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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

**Help EMO reach the goal of raising \$70,000
for the Collins Foundation 2011 challenge grant.
Double your gift today!**

Name _____
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Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

Visa MasterCard American Express

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Amount: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
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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 & memorial gifts

Gifts in Honor

Nov. 2010 through Jan. 2011

In honor of Terry Moe
Michael & Laurie Sloan

In honor of David & Carolyn J. Lindsey
Richard & Karen Fink

In honor of Concordia University
Bruce E. Richards

In honor of David A. Leslie
Robert Leslie

In honor of Eric A. Jordahl
Twila Jordahl

In honor of Howard Kenyon
John Lake

In honor of Jesse G. Scott
Helen S. Williams;
Trudy S. Bradley

In honor of Jodi Oliver
Andrew L. Oliver

In honor of Karen Martin
Toby Chamberlain

In honor of Lowell R. Greathouse
George D. Rives

In honor of Lowen Berman
Rosalind Babener; John Cox

In honor of Mark
Caroline Litzenberger

In honor of Mark & Jane Cotton
John W. Cotton

In honor of Phil Bernstein
Verna Lee

In honor of Ross J. Miller
Nathan R. Miller

In honor of Steve Stone
Wayne L. Hill

In honor of John Elizalde
Elisabeth Barker; Mark Johnson;
Sophia Kremidas; JoAnn Leach;
Jessica Lukach; Richard North;
Barbara Olson; L. Fraser &
F. Lynn Rasmussen; Michael
Sloan; Richard Vollmer

*In honor of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Inc.*

Patricia Dickerson; Marian
Gilmore; Charlene McGee;
Lela Roberts; Lesley Unthank;
Myrna Yvonne Williams

In honor of Kristin E. Baack
Gail Baack

In honor of Maria Camacho
Mike Camacho & Michelle Bush

In honor of the Lee Stiles Family
Barry Seltzer

*In honor of the marriage of
James & Lea Moiso*
Barbara Hardy; Karen Hawkins;
A. Orwig; John Robinson;
the Taylor Family Trust;
Wayne Vantzelfden

Gifts in Memory

Nov. 2010 through Jan. 2011

In memory of Brian E. Bounous
Brenda Mendiola

In memory of Katherine Weidkamp
Richard & Margaret Brown

In memory of Richard Perkins
John & BeBe Perkins

In memory of Bill Connor
Sonja J. Connor

In memory of Duane C. Lemley
Darleane T. Lemley

In memory of Garth E. Wall
Joan N. Wall

In memory of Hans Hanson
Marilyn K. Hanson

In memory of Virginia W. Cain
Leonard Cain

In memory of Mary Boos
Richard & Carol Boos

In memory of Alyce Emms
Joseph C. Mannion

In memory of Angeline Withers
Gary A. Withers

In memory of Bill Caldwell
Dayna Morrison

In memory of Brandi Dinger
Linda Buerger

In memory of Ed Johns
Lynne Smouse López

In memory of Fred Bozett
Beverly M. Hoeffler

In memory of Helen Hanson
Marilyn K. Hanson

In memory of Jack Lofton
Joanne K. Deazley

In memory of Jim Hopper
Larry Hill

In memory of John Casas
Raymond L. Barnes

In memory of Joseph A. O'Brien
Margery M. O'Brien

In memory of Keeston Lowrey
Kathleen Ugelstad

In memory of Les Sorensen
Eileen A. Sorensen

In memory of Teresa Whipple
Lloyd Johnson

In memory of Tom Schaeffner
Sandy Parks

In memory of Wilma Zurcher
Douglas & Sherri Neve

