

Inside...

Believing in our
“belovedness,”
p. 2

Advocating for
climate legislation,
p. 3

NEFP celebrates
10 years in Cully,
p. 4

Meet our
new program
managers, p. 5

Legislature
wrap-up &
preview, p. 6

Practices to create
a compassionate
community, p. 7

Community
Ministry
fundraisers, p. 8

Answer God’s call to heal creation at the 2017 Collins Lecture: Wounded Earth, Wounded Humanity

What is climate justice and why is it a civil rights issue? The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham and The Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley will explore the moral dimensions of our response to climate change at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) 2017 Collins Lecture, “Wounded Earth, Wounded Humanity: God’s call for climate justice,” on Thursday, Nov. 2, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland.

Climate change disproportionately affects the world’s most vulnerable people, triggering the loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, poor health and forced migration. Polluted air and water, drought and catastrophic weather events harm all of us, particularly those living in poverty. Bingham and Durley compellingly make the case that as stewards of God’s creation, we have a religious and moral obligation to protect the environment.

The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham

An Episcopal priest and canon for the environment in the Diocese of California, Sally Bingham is a passionate believer that religious leaders should speak up about environmental destruction. She founded the Regeneration Project in 1993 to make the connection between faith, the environment and action.

In 2001, Bingham launched the Interfaith Power & Light (IPL)

Continued on page 2



The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham (top) and The Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley will speak at the 2017 Collins Lecture.

EMO launches Metro HomeShare New homeshare program aims to alleviate Portland’s affordable housing shortage

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has a long history of addressing the critical issue of homelessness through both direct service and public policy advocacy.

One of our most successful programs, Shared Housing, matched thousands of homeowners with renters throughout the Portland metro area over a span of 30 years. In 2012 alone, Shared Housing met the housing needs of 474 individuals, many of them older adults and people living with disabilities. Unfortunately, government budget cuts led to the program’s closure in 2013.

Since then, the need for

affordable housing in the Portland metro area has increased dramatically. In response, EMO has joined a network of municipalities, funders and community organizations to reopen a homeshare program. Now in its final planning stages, Metro HomeShare will begin accepting applicants in October 2017.

Affordable housing crisis

Homeowners and renters in the Portland metro area face a daunting housing crisis. Property taxes in Oregon can rise as much as three percent annually, and rent has increased approximately

60 percent in the past seven years, according to *The Oregonian*. Wages are not increasing to match the rise in rent and property taxes, and some residents are disproportionately affected. According to the 2015 State of Portland Housing Report, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and seniors in particular are not able to afford the average monthly rents in the metro area.

The need for increased affordable housing options in the region is undeniable. Unfortunately, the time and resources required to build more affordable units will not ease the burden

immediately. Homeshare programs offer an immediate opportunity for owners and renters alike to meet their needs in a cost-effective way.

What is “homesharing”?

Homesharing is a unique arrangement between two people: one with housing to offer (Home Provider) and the other in need of housing (Home Seeker). The Home Provider charges an affordable rent and the Home Seeker provides services such as cleaning, grocery shopping or pet care to augment their rent payment.

This is not a new idea: for

Continued on page 5

Believing in our “belovedness”

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

—1 John 4:7

I was walking in north Portland on a recent summer morning, when I came across this message on a sign in front of a grade school: *I believe. I belong. I become.*

How important, how foundational a message this is. What we believe informs our ability to engage with one another in the kind of vision and action that brings true societal transformation. Our beliefs make it possible for us to create something altogether new.

In *The Prophetic Imagination*, The Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann writes, “The task of the prophetic voice is to nurture, nourish and evoke a consciousness and perception that serves as an alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture.”

The Aug. 12 murder of counter-protester Heather Heyer—mowed down by a car driven by a man participating in a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va.—is a tragic example of a world view steeped in violence, of a consciousness that destroys the very fabric of our shared humanity.

But it may be that we have reached a tipping point in our culture. Maybe we are finally



Jan Musgrove Elfers
Executive Director

Photo credit: Georkis Ramos Quintana

awakening to the realization that we must work towards a profound shift from the dominant consciousness of a culture of winners and losers, pride and shame, narcissism, and the fear and contempt of the “other.” Maybe we will finally grow weary of hate and the suffering that it causes. Maybe this is the moment to begin to move towards community based on a different paradigm—a paradigm that emphasizes cooperation, connection, trust and a sense of belovedness in our relationships to one another.

I am thinking of alternatives that transcend right and left, progressive and conservative, red and blue. What kind of consciousness and belief inspire turning towards one another rather than away from one another? What would this new community be called?

The word “beloved” is a concept that transcends the old dichotomies. My personal experience of the word is as the tender language of love that my parents used when they referred to one another. The two shared a deep and intimate relationship that spanned almost 50 years, until my mother’s death. “My Beloved” is inscribed on her headstone. It is a concept that suggests intimacy and tenderness—greatly loved, dear to the heart. But it also connotes courage and commitment. In their half-century together, my parents faced disappointments and challenges that tested the strength of that commitment. Yet it was the strength of their mutual dedication to love and serve one another, to honor and seek the best for the other, to forgive and persevere through the inevitable hardships of life that produced the endurance to last a lifetime.

So what would our world become if we

believed in a “Beloved Community,” where everyone and everything belongs?

Philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce coined the term in the early 20th century, stating that the ideal of the “Beloved Community” is made up of all those who would be dedicated fully to the cause of loyalty, truth and reality itself.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. later said in *Facing the Challenge of a New Age*, “The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this kind of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles.”

The challenge is before us. It is time to turn from the cynicism that creates hopelessness and instead believe with Dr. King in the miracles of reconciliation, redemption and building the Beloved Community. A new world consciousness is within our reach.

Northwest denominational annual gatherings:

Oct. 13-15, Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, Bend

Nov. 4-5, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Eugene



2017 Collins Lecture

Continued from page 1

campaign and has since organized 18,000 churches, synagogues, temples and mosques into a formidable national network of faith communities (including EMO’s Oregon Interfaith Power & Light project) who address climate change as not only a policy or technical challenge, but foundationally as an issue of spiritual dimension.

“Eyes are opening across the political spectrum that climate change is about values and a duty to protecting God’s creation,” says Bingham. “At the deepest level, we matter, and our behavior matters.”

She adds, “In this country, we’ve never had the kind of cultural and social change that climate change requires without religious involvement. Anti-slavery, women’s suffrage, civil rights—all of these movements succeeded because of their moral foundation.”

Bingham’s success in mobilizing religious people to put their faith into action has earned her many accolades. The Audubon Society honored her with its Rachel Carson Award—the nation’s premier award for female environmental leaders. The World Wildlife Fund commended her as “a sacred gift to the planet.” She serves on the national board of the Environmental Defense Fund and the advisory boards of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Climate

One. Many national media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Oprah* magazine and *Scientific American* have published stories about Bingham and IPL’s work.

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley

As a civil rights activist in the 1960s, Gerald Durley mobilized fellow students and the greater community of Nashville to nonviolent action for the right to vote and an end to legal discrimination. “In those days there were two words we were not afraid to utter: sacrifice and risk,” he says.

After earning doctorates in urban education and psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Durley became involved in public health advocacy, working for the U.S. Department of Education and then serving as executive director of Head Start programs and the Health Promotion Resource Center at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Gravely disturbed by the decaying moral, social, cultural and family value systems throughout the nation, Durley went on to earn a master of divinity from Howard University. He gained a legendary reputation as a “warrior-prophet” during his 25-year tenure as senior pastor of Atlanta’s historic Providence Missionary Baptist Church. It was then, as he preached about fulfilling the promise of a land of opportunity and leaving a proud legacy for our children, that he came to believe that we are

now faced with a new civil rights issue.

“Climate change is a civil rights issue” is Durley’s message. He states:

We are seeing its impacts in our own communities in the form of record-breaking temperatures, floods, droughts, hurricanes, and the list goes on and on. When your children suffer from asthma and cannot go outside to play, as is the case for many in Atlanta, it is a civil rights issue. When unprecedented weather disasters devastate the poorest neighborhoods in places like New Orleans, New Jersey and New York, it is a civil rights issue. When farmers in faraway lands cannot feed their families because the rains will no longer come, it is a civil rights issue.

I do not doubt that we will succeed in addressing climate change. After all, we have only scratched the surface when it comes to solutions such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and preparedness. But our success rests on the willingness of all of us—all races, creeds and walks of life—coming together with a single purpose.

In the Civil Rights Movement we marched hand in hand facing dogs and fire hoses, risking imprisonment and worse for the sake of future generations. The same question is in front of us today when it comes to climate change.

What are you willing to sacrifice and what are

Continued on page 3

Protect our communities & creation by advocating for climate legislation

As people of faith and as Oregonians, we are called to live out a prophetic vision that prioritizes protection of the most vulnerable communities in our society and the abundant creation in which we have the privilege to live.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) believes our state's approach to addressing climate change falls short of this vision. Our Earth Ministry and Public Policy teams are dedicated to advancing policy solutions that repair our compact with each other and our natural home.

As part of this work, EMO is engaging congregations around the state to help pass legislation during the five-week-long 2018 Legislative Session next February that will curb Oregon's climate pollution. We aim to create a network of congregations and faith leaders committed to contacting their legislators, penning op-eds and letters to the editor of their local newspapers, and reaching out to others via social media.

This effort is central to fulfilling God's call to care for the most vulnerable and creation.

People with low incomes, children, the elderly, communities of color and rural communities suffer the most from climate pollution—the sources of which are often located in communities with little political might. Those of us who live in these communities disproportionately pay the cost of climate pollution through missed work days and medical expenses from lung disease, allergies and asthma attacks.

In rural Oregon, we pay with record-breaking wildfires that destroy the forests that support local jobs and provide soul-nurturing respite, with droughts that hurt farmers and raise food prices, and with acidification of the Pacific Ocean that puts at risk the economic and ecological stability of the Oregon Coast.

Our faith implores us to reach far higher



Participants advocated for climate justice bills at the "Healthy Climate Rally" during the 2016 short session of the Oregon Legislature.

to address these challenges, to meet our responsibility "to till and to tend" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15).

Mindful of our faith traditions and our commitment to one another, we support legislation that devises a well-defined path to curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, Oregon does have limits on emissions in its laws, but they are not being enforced.

We also strongly believe that any climate legislation passed in 2018 must protect the communities hit hardest by climate change. This means investing in programs and projects that create clean energy jobs, and limiting pollution throughout Oregon with a specific focus on marginalized and economically distressed communities. This would enable us to live out the call in the Bible to "pursue justice and champion the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17).

With our advocacy driven by these values and goals, we are working hard to protect our communities and creation by passing climate legislation in 2018.

To be a part of the effort to engage congregations and faith leaders in this work, contact Britt Conroy, Public Policy Advocacy director, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 207, or bconroy@emoregon.org.

Double your impact and meet climate change head-on

In the past 12 months, Oregonians have experienced unprecedented rain—Portland experienced the most wet days per year ever, with 145 days of rain starting Oct. 1, 2016, and a record-breaking prolonged period of freezing temperatures in January 2017. And Portland set another record: the longest stretch of days with temperatures above 90 degrees.

Perceived as primarily an environmental or economic issue, climate change is often only recognized as a social issue when extreme climate events such as droughts or hurricanes occur. But for those who live in poverty, are homeless, or are elderly or sick, prolonged adverse weather conditions can be life-threatening. For those of us not living in these conditions, it is not always easy to understand the threat of climate change on our vulnerable neighbors.

That is where you can personally make a difference! With your gift to EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), you'll be contributing to a statewide coalition of faith-based communities that can (a) clearly connect the impacts of climate change with the social and economic challenges faced by clients served through EMO programs, and (b) advocate for socially responsible state climate change policies. **Every dollar raised for this purpose will be doubled, thanks to our partners at Interfaith Power & Light.**

Join our team today by making a secure online donation at emoregon.org (remember to choose the "Oregon Interfaith Power & Light" button when making your donation), or fill out and mail the donation form below.

2017 Collins Lecture

Continued from page 2

you willing to personally do to hand down a better world to our children?

In 2015, Durley was honored by President Obama as a "Champion of Change" for his work to protect our environment and communities from the effects of climate change. He serves on the board of Interfaith Power & Light and has worked with the Sierra Club, Eco-America, U.S. Climate Action Network, Environmental Working Group, Green Law, Ambassadors for Clean Air, Moms Clean Air Force and Water Keeper Inc.

About "Wounded Earth, Wounded Humanity"

On Nov. 2, an afternoon seminar featuring workshops on topics such as ecotheology, public health, climate refugees, environmental legislation and building spiritual resilience for the journey will be held from 1 to 5:30 p.m. The *Collins Lecture* will begin at 7 p.m. All events are at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral,

147 NW 19th Ave., Portland.

Admission to the afternoon seminar, dinner and evening lecture is \$50 (or \$25 for students with ID). Admission to the evening lecture only is \$25 (or \$15 for students with ID). Registration is available at emoregon.org or by calling (503) 221-1054.

The annual *Collins Lectures* have been a signature EMO event for over 40 years. Underwritten by the Collins Foundation, the series presents emerging and inclusive theological and social perspectives on contemporary issues.

Cosponsors to date include the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Community of Christ, Portland; Deep Green Films; First Unitarian Church, Portland; Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church; Providence Health & Services; Society of Friends (Quakers); St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton; St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland; and West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District.

OIPL Challenge Grant

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Portland, OR 97239.

You may also make a secure online donation at emoregon.org.

NEFP celebrates 10 years in Cully neighborhood

By Travis Niemann, NEFP program manager

November 2017 marks 10 years of EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) making its home in the basement of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in the Cully neighborhood of northeast Portland.

This is our home.

Cully is one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the entire state of Oregon, a feature reflected in the clientele at NEFP. More than 50 percent of NEFP clients speak a language other than English in their household. Cully also has a strong neighborhood culture, with people of diverse backgrounds working together for not only improved economic growth but also fighting to limit the displacement of long-term residents. Cully neighborhood groups have made strong efforts to retain or create low-income housing opportunities, with some mixed results. People in Cully care about their neighbors—that is one of the reasons that it is such a good fit for NEFP.

Relocation

Since 1983, the old NEFP “food house” at Redeemer Lutheran Church at NE 19th and NE Killingsworth provided critically needed services to our north and northeast neighbors. Eventually, the program grew too big to be contained by the limited space. It was clear NEFP needed more room to grow.

Meanwhile, farther east, the congregation at Luther Memorial was finding that their small food pantry and clothing room was quickly becoming overwhelmed by demand from neighbors. Both groups reached out to the Oregon Food Bank, who then connected us together. With the help of our partner congregations and long-time volunteers, we transformed the basement of Luther Memorial into an entirely new space, providing a new experience for our clients: shopping.

With the increased space at Luther Memorial, NEFP was able to create a mini grocery store. The shopping-style model of food pantries is now considered the ideal way to provide food assistance to families in need. Allowing clients to choose their own groceries, the same as if they were in a store, eliminates waste and maximizes benefit, while also retaining a dignified experience for clients.

One stipulation that Luther Memorial made to NEFP was that we had to continue clothing distribution. So we made space in the basement for clients to shop for clothing for the whole family. We now distribute 50,000 items of clothing annually.

Expansion of services

Over the next decade, NEFP stretched and grew, eventually utilizing the entire basement area and the backyard for an on-site garden. Raised beds were built, allowing NEFP to produce our own food to distribute to clients, as well as making a space for future educational endeavors. In turn, Luther Memorial has grown as a community hub—a place where many can gather and share in community and fellowship.

The Northeast Emergency Food Program also does more than just distribute food and clothing. We have a successful job training



Program Manager Travis Niemann with Donna, who is both a volunteer and a client at NEFP.

program, community dinners, and our staff advocate at local, state, and national levels on behalf of our clients and the services on which they depend.

Some of the biggest changes for NEFP at Luther Memorial were to the infrastructure. In 2011, a large, display-style, walk-in cooler-freezer was installed with generous funding from the Swindell Foundation. This not only allowed us to better display the refrigerated and frozen choices to our clients, it also allowed us to store more food.

Outside, we installed a large rolling gate to keep our property and program truck secure at night. Recently, a permanent truck ramp was built for the NEFP box truck, which we use for pick-ups and for our mobile pantry. And, we completed a loading ramp that extends from the driveway to the back door and garden area, allowing another point of access for deliveries. With this change, the clothing room moved across the building to a much larger space, allowing us to display and distribute more clothing.

All of these changes have allowed us to consistently offer more poundage of food to our clients. As of 2016, we are quickly approaching distribution of one million pounds of food each year!

Our “grocery store” provides a comfortable place for clients to select their food. Our waiting room is spacious and inviting, our garden is productive, and the deliveries and donations keep coming. We have come a long way from handing out pre-made boxes of pantry staples from a tiny house!

A neighborhood in transition

The Cully neighborhood is also changing. A former decrepit shopping center with strip clubs and a seedy bar is being transformed into a community center and a future site for low-income housing. Our street will soon get sidewalks and a bike path connecting to routes around the city. Two new public parks have been built, and a community garden is flourishing on a former landfill.

Furthering our connection with the Cully

neighborhood, many of our clients, volunteers and donors are residents of the neighborhood. NEFP staff have also been active members of the Cully Association of Neighbors, Cully Boulevard Alliance, and Central Northeast Neighbors—all of which work towards the continued livability and improvement of the Cully neighborhood and beyond. We are happy to be a part of this inspiring neighborhood.

In that vein, we are developing the *Cully Mobile Pantry*. For the past few years, we have been bringing our box truck to the Sacajawea Head Start School a few blocks away. We are now able to offer the families of that school a weekly supply of fresh fruits and vegetables and pantry staples. In communicating with our neighbors, it has become clear that there are other locations that could benefit from a mobile food pantry. We are in the early process of selecting new sites in Cully to make regular trips with a mobile pantry. We are looking at schools, mobile home parks, apartment complexes and other community centers to ensure that our neighbors are getting their basic needs met.

The future of NEFP

The Northeast Emergency Food Program has a legacy of service to those in need. Starting from a small time operation to distributing nearly a million pounds a year is a great achievement!

Unfortunately, that achievement means that there are many more hungry families. More than 100 families come through our purple door on a typical Saturday at the end of the month. Yearly, we are bringing food to more than 30,000 people. Most of these families have homes and jobs, but it's still not enough.

As we celebrate our long history of generosity, let us not forget that we all have a responsibility to stand up for the forgotten and voiceless in society. Remember to call your city or county commissioner or state or federal officials and voice your concern about our neighbors in need. And please visit emoregon.org to make a donation and designate the Northeast Emergency Food Program for your gift.

It has been a very rewarding experience to grow into our own in this neighborhood and in the Luther Memorial Church. The diversity and resilience of Cully inspires the work we do. We look forward to building connections with our neighbors and within our neighborhood—all while continuing to serve people from across the region three days a week, no matter who they are or where they live. Here is to looking forward to another 10 years in Cully, a special part of Portland that we are happy to call our home!

Be on the lookout for celebrations marking this milestone. There are always more families to help, always more food to move, and more people to make connections with, but we are in the planning stages of events that reflect on the work we do and the length of time we have been doing it.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or check the EMO website to stay up to date on NEFP upcoming events.

Meet our new program managers

**Pauline Burkey,
Metro HomeShare**

Tell us about your background.

My family is originally from South Sudan, and we moved to this country in 1994 as refugees. I grew up in San Diego in a culturally diverse neighborhood of refugees and immigrants, so I feel most at home among a melting pot of people and cultures. I studied interpersonal and organizational communications and journalism at Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles. I've lived in New York City and Rwanda and traveled all over Africa for both work and leisure. I speak Arabic as my first language.

My background with direct services began in the church, where my mom helped initiate a refugee network through the Episcopal Diocese in San Diego. Our church was outreach driven, running food and clothing ministries, refugee resettlement programs, and youth and parenting programs. I grew up with people coming to our home for support, so I developed a deep passion for serving my community and its members. This work seems like a continuation of my life.

Why did you choose to work for Metro HomeShare?

I chose this work because housing is a fundamental necessity for all people of every economic class, age and culture. When I was a child, housing was one of the biggest issues that my mother's clients faced, and we often had whole families living with us in our small apartments. At one time, there were 12 people living in my family's two-bedroom apartment. I also saw how important it was for people to learn how to advocate for housing as a right, and I feel passionate about doing so for people who face the burdens of our current housing crisis. Additionally, I feel that homesharing is vital for a healthy community.

What is your vision for Metro HomeShare?

First, I envision a program that will meet housing needs in a way that is not only strategic and effective, but also human and personal. Secondly,



my vision is that through homesharing people find a community that brings together people who might not otherwise interact, combining lifestyles, cultures, genders and ages.

What do you find most rewarding about your work?

Being able to have one answer to life's many problems is rewarding in itself. In gearing up for Metro HomeShare's opening, it's exciting to be able to tell people that this program could be a good fit and an answer to their housing woes. I know it will feel even better when I can watch two people make a match and move in together!

What can volunteers do to help your program?

Our greatest need is for Home Providers. I encourage anyone considering sharing their home to contact us at (503) 221-1054, ext. 212, or metrohomeshare@emoregon.org to learn more about the program. And everyone can be an advocate for this program by word of mouth and by identifying people who would benefit from it. Metro HomeShare truly is a unique program that can meet the needs of people from different walks of life.

**Mika Mulkey,
HIV Services**

Tell us about your background.

I was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii. There I found my true calling in helping my community. I worked for Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation as an outreach and



prevention specialist. After graduating from the University of Hawaii with a degree in communications in 2014, I began working for Goodwill Hawaii as a youth specialist.

My decision to pursue graduate studies led me to Portland State University (PSU). In August 2016, I started working as a program assistant for EMO's HIV Services—which includes the Day Center and the Daily Bread Express. I was promoted to program manager in July 2017. By the end of 2017, I'll have officially completed my Master of Science degree in educational leadership and policy from PSU.

Why did you choose to work for the Day Center?

I am truly honored to work at EMO's Day Center and call it my second home. My previous experience helping clients of an AIDS service organization in Hawaii gave me the foundation needed to begin such important advocacy work. Starting as the Day Center's program assistant gave me not only the opportunity to connect and provide direct services to our clients, but also helped me engage our volunteers and community members. Now, as the newest program manager, I hope to continue this important work, and to help expand services through fundraising and building collaborative relationships with partner organizations.

What is your vision for the Day Center?

I hope to integrate education and technology with the social services we offer. Because EMO's Day Center offers a safe space and safe-learning environment, I hope to maximize our resources so that in addition to meeting our clients' basic needs, we can also connect them to academic, vocational, and life-skills trainings, workshops and opportunities. I also envision a growing relationship between the Day Center and the community at large. I think it's important for everyone to know who we are, who we serve, and the importance of helping our community—especially those who are marginalized, underrepresented and underserved.

What do you find most rewarding about your work?

Helping clients, listening, sharing stories, getting hugs daily, and being thanked for all that we do on a regular basis by clients, peers, community members, and other service providers.

What can volunteers do to help your program?

Volunteers are essential to the Day Center's operations. Here you can make a real, immediate and positive difference in people's lives. We especially have needs for bakers, activity leaders, holistic healers, peer supporters and tutors for English language learners. Ongoing weekly volunteer opportunities include kitchen crew member, receptionist, delivery driver and clothing closet coordinator. Give us a call at (503) 460-3822 if you would like to help our community grow and flourish.

Metro HomeShare

Continued from page 1

much of modern human history, people have offered services in exchange for housing, and only recently have single-person households comprised a significant portion of the population.

Homeshare arrangements impact the lives of thousands of people throughout the developing world and in many European countries, where the concept has been embraced. Research has shown that in addition to making housing affordable, a homeshare agreement reduces rates of depression among the elderly, creates stable communities, allows seniors to age in place, and fosters independence for both parties. Home Seekers may come from low-income backgrounds, and this unconventional option for housing allows them freedom from restriction by their financial standing in society.

Launching Metro HomeShare

Pauline Burkey joins EMO as the new program manager for Metro HomeShare. This summer, she began redevelopment of the program, partnered with community organizations and agencies, and began outreach to Home Providers (home owners) and Home Seekers (renters) in anticipation of launching the program in October.

"The goals and anticipated successes of Metro HomeShare are the same as those of Shared Housing—to connect individuals and provide support in facilitating homeshare arrangements that meet the needs of both parties," said Burkey. "In addition, I believe this program meets that deeper need for connection and human interaction."

Metro HomeShare is a collaborative effort between EMO and Elders in Action; African American Alliance for Homeownership;

Portland Housing Bureau; Beaverton Dispute Resolution Center; Multnomah County Aging, Disability and Veterans Services; and CareOregon.

Metro HomeShare provides background, criminal and rental history checks for Home Providers and Home Seekers. Once they move in together, the program offers case management support for the next two years in the form of mediation services, if the need arises.

Metro HomeShare invites those interested in becoming Home Providers to contact our team now. Applications for Home Seekers will open in October, when we will begin serving clients from our east Portland office, located at 10011 SE Division St., Suite 314.

For more information, visit metrohomeshare.org or contact staff at metrohomeshare@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054, ext. 212.

Oregon Legislature: Wrap-up of 2017 & preview for 2018

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon believes that a healthy society provides for the well-being of all, particularly the poor, the young, the old and those who are ill. The common good is dependent upon a strong, well-funded safety net and an ongoing commitment to human dignity.

Thanks to your direct advocacy, the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session saw significant victories in informed criminal justice investments, health care and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

The session was also full of heartbreaking disappointments—particularly the lack of progress on funding for affordable housing, protecting tenants from evictions and exorbitant rent increases, curtailing Oregon’s climate pollution, and adequately funding core services.

Stable Homes

During the 2017 Session, the Legislature funded \$40 million in crucial homelessness prevention and assistance programs—a huge victory for Oregon.

Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to pass HB 2004—a bill that would stabilize households by reducing no-cause evictions. Ninety-four faith leaders from around Oregon signed a letter written by EMO and Neighborhood Partnerships asking the Legislature to protect tenants by passing HB 2004. In the bill’s original form, it would have also limited the size of rent increases, preventing displacement.

Ultimately, this important bill needed just one more vote in the Oregon Senate for passage. EMO is working diligently to engage our state’s senators on this issue, with the hope of passing this legislation in 2018.

Our work to pass HB 3357 will also continue. The bill would increase from \$20 to \$40 the fee collected by county clerks to record real estate transactions, bringing in an estimated \$48 million per biennium for affordable housing development, emergency rent assistance

and homeownership opportunity.

HB 2006, the #MIDremedy, also failed to advance this year. EMO joined many partners in drafting a reform to the state’s largest housing subsidy, the mortgage interest deduction—a subsidy that costs Oregon nearly \$1 billion every biennium. Roughly 61 percent of the tax benefits of this program go to the top 20 percent of taxpayers—at a time when over 20,000 Oregon children are homeless and securing affordable housing is more difficult than ever. EMO will continue to work to pass this hugely important housing bill.

Climate Justice

A bill that would cap and price climate pollution and invest in clean energy jobs did not survive the 2017 Legislative Session. Still, we are heartened that the campaign for Clean Energy Jobs has momentum in Salem, with nearly three dozen Oregon legislators cosponsoring SB 1070, and Governor Kate Brown declaring, “We must pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill in 2018. The world should know Oregon and the rest of the nation are going to keep moving forward to tackle climate change.”

We urge you to sign the petition at reneworegon.org, and tell your legislators directly that we need them to help us achieve a climate victory in 2018!

Immigration

The Legislature passed HB 3464, which strives to keep families together by prohibiting the sharing of certain confidential information for the purposes of immigration enforcement and by providing guidance to schools and other public entities about how to handle such information requests.

EMO is also part of a coalition working to pass Inclusivity Ordinances throughout Oregon to ensure that immigrants and refugees feel welcome and that local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration law.



During the 2017 Legislative Session, nearly 500 people of faith gathered in Salem on *Interfaith Advocacy Day* to advocate for vital services for Oregonians in need.

Criminal Justice Reform

The Safety and Savings Act (HB 3078) was a major success this Legislative Session. The bill realigns laws for drug and property crimes to hold people accountable with less excessive sentencing. Shorter sentences keep Oregon from opening a new women’s prison, which allows more families to stay together and saves taxpayer dollars—some of which can be directed toward effective services like community-based supervision, treatment and survivors’ healing.

Tax Reform

The Legislature failed by one vote to raise additional revenue to provide game-changing funds for the programs and services on which the most vulnerable Oregonians depend. EMO will continue to engage our elected officials about the need to undertake this crucial task.

If you are passionate about any of these issues, contact your legislators and express your opinion. You can search online for “Oregon legislator lookup” or call 1-800-332-2313 to be transferred to your Oregon representative and senator. You can also join others in volunteering with EMO’s advocacy efforts by emailing Britt Conroy, EMO Public Policy director, at bconroy@emoregon.org.

Hearing the Cries: Welcome Home Convocation to focus on criminal justice reform

In partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will host a conference on community engagement in criminal justice reform and support for persons reentering society from prison. With an interfaith focus, the convocation will highlight existing work that Oregon groups are doing, emphasizing how individuals and congregations can work for justice and help serve this often-overlooked population.

Not everyone has been to prison. Not everyone even knows someone who’s been to prison. But a lot more of us actually do know and love people who have been to prison than we might realize. And it’s a good bet that your faith community might already have members with criminal records or who have loved ones who are incarcerated—even if they might not feel comfortable sharing that fact. The *Welcome Home Convocation* will equip communities to journey alongside people with criminal

histories, starting by making it possible to talk about it.

While it feels like the criminal justice system operates on the margins of society, a large number of people are in fact impacted by it: individuals in prisons and on probation; staff working in correctional facilities, law enforcement and the judicial system; victims of crime and violence; communities impacted by crime and disproportionate incarceration; and family members with loved ones in prison.

Further, recent political events nationwide have made clear that even if only a minority of the U.S. population sees the inside of a correctional facility, the entire social order—including race and economic status—exists and functions through its use of its criminal justice system. Every taxpayer and voter takes part in shaping a society that decides which actions are deemed right or wrong, and which groups of people are treated as criminals (and which are deemed “too big” to fail/jail).

About the convocation

Hearing the Cries: Welcome Home Convocation will bring together people of faith and goodwill for information, inspiration, and training to engage in prison ministries and understand the deeper social issues behind our legal system. The specific emphasis of the convocation will be to equip and motivate faith communities to engage in the ministry of hospitality for persons returning from prison and supporting families of the incarcerated.

The convocation will be a one-day event on Jan. 30, 2018, held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Ore. A travel stipend will be available for those traveling from eastern and southern Oregon to attend. Admission is \$10, and advance registration is required. Details about the conference and registration will be posted at emoregon.org/welcome-home.php.

The agenda for the day will include an opening keynote panel, highlighting both the

Continued on page 7

New book outlines six spiritual practices to create a compassionate community

“This is a book about how to love.” So begins *Practice Makes PURPOSE: Six Spiritual Practices that Will Change Your Life and Transform Your Community*, the new book by EMO board of directors alumnus Paul Schroeder.

Schroeder developed these practices during his tenure at New City Initiative, a nonprofit organization in the Portland metro area dedicated to helping people who experience poverty and homelessness achieve their full human potential. The book shows how simple actions can help create a more compassionate community where all people flourish. As Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* puts it, “Here is a book that will awaken your heart and help us all to ventilate the world with tenderness.”

The “Six Spiritual Practices” are tools for crafting a life in balance. They enable us to view ourselves and others with compassion, pay attention to what our emotions are telling us, hold healthy boundaries, share our gifts joyfully and without reservation, and live a more passionate, energetic, and purposeful life. The book shows how the effects of these personal changes can ripple outward into our neighborhoods and cities, leading to community transformation and revitalization. With short, easy-to-read chapters, simple instructions, and practical examples, the book gives the reader all the tools necessary to put the six practices to work in everyday life.

Schroeder’s writings are rooted in the teachings of the fourth and fifth century spiritual masters of the Egyptian desert. But the lessons he extracts from these teachings are timeless and universal. This is a book



Paul Schroeder, author of *Practice Makes PURPOSE*.

that is likely to appeal both to people of faith and to those who do not identify with any faith community, but who are seeking ways to connect spiritual practice and community transformation.

If you are looking for material for a book group or class this fall, *Practice Makes PURPOSE* is a terrific resource. The book was released with a workbook that includes questions for reflection, exercises and journaling pages. A free downloadable discussion guide that turns the book into the basis for a six-session study or book group is available at sixpractices.com/resources.

For more information about the book and other resources, visit sixpractices.com.

ways to continue their learning about the legal system and its injustices, and also invitations to volunteer in various prison ministries, including EMO’s existing projects such as the Criminal Justice Sabbath.

Who should attend?

- People of faith and goodwill interested in learning more about the criminal justice system and ways they can get involved in service and advocacy.
- Faith leaders looking to expand their capacity to serve persons with loved ones in prison or with criminal records.
- Persons with lived experience of the legal system.
- People with loved ones in prison or jail.

Welcome Home Network

We especially invite teams of five or more members from a single congregation to attend as a group. If a team of members attend the convocation, their congregation can be designated as a member of EMO’s new Welcome Home Network, which provides official recognition of the congregation’s commitment to be a welcoming place for persons returning from prison or jail, and for

Author Paul Schroeder will make a short book tour through the Pacific Northwest in late October

Thursday, Oct. 26, 7 to 8 a.m., at Taborspace, 5441 SE Belmont St., Portland, “*Heartfelt Listening: Emotional Awareness as a Spiritual Practice*.”

Friday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Ave., Portland, “*Cooperative Building: Leaning into Tension and Conflict as a Spiritual Practice*”; lunch included, registration required.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 10:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 15 W. Roy St., Seattle, “*Intentional Welcoming: Holding Healthy Boundaries as a Spiritual Practice*.”

For more details or to register, visit sixpractices.com/speaking.

Criminal Justice Reform

Continued from page 6

voices of clergy advocating for criminal justice reform as a matter of faith and agency officials who welcome the help of congregations in connecting their “clients” to long-term pro-social communities. Breakout workshops, led by local leaders and individuals with personal experience, will provide in-depth training on a variety of timely topics, including:

- Women in prison.
- Supporting children and families of the incarcerated.
- Recovery and substance abuse.
- Restorative justice approaches in the legal system.
- Human trafficking.
- Immigrant rights in the justice system.
- Mass incarceration and racial injustice.
- Reentry challenges for sex offenders.
- Practical, creative ways Oregon faith communities are serving people impacted by the legal system.

The convocation will bridge both service to individuals and policy change for the benefit of society. Participants will receive resources about

Voice

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church • American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast Archdiocese of Portland • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon & SW Idaho 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 Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference • Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

family members with loved ones in prison or jail. Members of the Welcome Home Network commit to become “communities of support and accountability,” in whatever ways your congregation can do so. EMO staff will provide encouragement and resources to support Welcome Home Network members throughout the year, as a followup to the convocation.

If you or your congregation is interested in learning more, please visit CoSAOregon.org or email cosa@emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who support 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
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon	Annual Fund
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Annual Fund
The Black United Fund of Oregon	NE Emergency Food Program
Central Drug Company	HIV Services
Charis Fund	NE Emergency Food Program
The Collins Foundation	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon	Annual Fund (Criminal Justice)
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon	Annual Fund (Criminal Justice)
Hillsboro United Methodist Church	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Hoover Family Foundation	Second Home
Jouris Family Foundation	Second Home
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals	Refugee Rapid Response
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation	Annual Fund, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Metropolitan Public Defender	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
Meyer Memorial Trust	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Multnomah Bar Foundation	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees
Oregon Jewish Community Foundation	Annual Fund
Pride Foundation	SOAR Immigration Legal Services
The Reser Family Foundation	Second Home
St. Luke by the Sea Episcopal Church	Second Home
Spirit Mountain Community Fund	NE Emergency Food Program, SOAR Immigration Legal Services
The Susan G. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services

Our annual report is paperless!

In an effort to cut back on printing expenses and paper waste, EMO's *2016 Annual Report: Welcome the Stranger* is now available as an electronic document. You may download the report at emoregon.org, from either the home page or About Us page. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please contact the EMO office at (503) 221-1054 or emo@emoregon.org.



Honor & Memorial Gifts

March through August 2017

Gifts in Honor

In honor of all who help at NEFP
Joella Schroeder

In honor of Audre Bratcher
Lorraine Prince

In honor of Jan Elfers
Richard & Elaine Toll

In honor of Anne Foster
Barbara Brooks & Michael Pratt

In honor of Girl Scout Troop 40184
Lori Hokomoto

In honor of Yahya Kane
Beverly Hoeffler

In honor of Howard Kenyon
Jillann Johnson, Elizabeth Kenyon,
Barry Langley, R. Mark Miedema

In honor of Carolyn Lindsey
Peggy Jarvis Woolf

In honor of Gary Logsdon
Audre Bratcher

In honor of Madeline Moore
Andrew Dickson & Susan Beal

In honor of Gloria Orellana
Antonia Forster

In honor of Rodney Page
Letty Owings

In honor of Ben Paroulek
Valley Community Presbyterian Church

In honor of Diane Savage
Karen Breckenridge

In honor of Joe Snyder
Andrew & Julie Wheeler

In honor of Joshua Stampfer
Letty Owings

Gifts in Memory

In memory of Marjorie Abramovitz
Marshall Goldberg

In memory of Don & Delvon Barrett
Marsha Barrett Grosjean &
Ronald Grosjean

In memory of Eva & Edwin Beckley
Eileen Fitzsimons

In memory of Dale Brandt
Barbara Brandt

In memory of Bev Bruender
Lynn & John Humme

In memory of John Casas
Raymond Barnes

In memory of Louis Goeschl
Donna Hammar

In memory of Helloise Hill
Shawn & David Looney

In memory of Warren & Jeanne His
Fremont United Methodist Church

In memory of William Hogan
Diane Hogan

In memory of Norm King
Clifford & Jo Anne Trow

In memory of Hubert & Dorothy Kingham
David Kingham

In memory of Louise Knoll
Robert Knoll

In memory of Henry & Dorothy Lambert
Phyllis & Raymond Krueger

In memory of Manfred & Wilma Morris
Russ Miller

In memory of Kay Musgrove
Jeffrey & Sharon Musgrove,
Mark & Diane Musgrove

In memory of Michael Olson
Frederick Olson

In memory of Steven Pratt
James & Karen Sandberg

In memory of Rebecca Rodgers
Alcena Boozer

In memory of Carleen VanDemarr
Charles Janssen

In memory of Susan Waldman
Jack & Shirley Abdie

In memory of our immigrant grandparents
Judith & Hiram Li

Upcoming fundraisers for EMO community programs

NE Emergency Food Program & the Give!Guide Campaign

Each year, *Willamette Week's* Give!Guide committee selects 145 amazing nonprofits to be highlighted in their print magazine and on their website (giveguide.org), where readers are encouraged to learn more about these organizations and make end-of-the-year donations. EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) is excited to be included in the 2017 *Willamette Week* Give!Guide for the sixth year!

The Give!Guide's purpose is to inspire a spirit of giving and community, which is fueled by individual donations, no matter how large or small. Individual donations are the lifeblood of nonprofits on the front lines of direct service such as NEFP. Our program serves hundreds of individuals and families every day we are open, providing them with food and clothing, along with comfort and care.

We know that many of you are looking for a way to contribute to our community, and we hope you find the Give!Guide a useful tool in making those choices. Our goal is for 250 individuals to donate to NEFP this year. We humbly request your help by sharing giveguide.org on Facebook and with your friends and community members, and spreading the word about NEFP's important work.

With your help, we can make sure that more than 9,000 households get food each year. The people we serve are our neighbors, they are immigrants and refugees, they are people of color and people living with disabilities, and they are people just like you and me.

The Give!Guide launches Nov. 1 and runs through midnight on

Dec. 31, and it is accessible from both computers and mobile devices. You can find NEFP directly at giveguide.org/#neemergencyfoodprogram or by searching for Northeast Emergency Food Program at giveguide.org.

World AIDS Day fundraiser luncheon for HIV Services

Please join EMO's HIV Services for our annual *World AIDS Day Fundraiser Luncheon* on Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Concordia University, Second Floor Hagen Center, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland. This is an opportunity for us to honor and celebrate those in our communities who live daily with HIV/AIDS, and those who support the work we do at EMO's HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express.

Many of the HIV Day Center's most compelling and meaningful moments happen over a shared meal, and we invite you to join us in a meal, sponsored by and held at our neighboring Concordia University. Partners and supporters both new and old will have the chance to hear where this past year has taken HIV Services and where we are headed in 2018. We welcome all to this opportunity to give vital financial support to a beloved community resource. There is no cost to attend; a free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

To RSVP to the *World AIDS Day Luncheon* or if you are interested in hosting a table for your friends, family or congregation, contact Mika Mulkey, HIV Services program manager, at (503) 460-3822 or mmulkey@emoregon.org.