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Channels

The monthly, award-winning publication
of The Pacific Northwest Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Issue #71, March 2014

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PRAYING & ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS



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Learning
Together for
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of the World

CWU Ellensburg
July 11-14, 2014



The Superintendents
Scriven
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Climate Justice
Seminar 2015



Channels

The monthly, award-winning publication of The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church



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Channels is a monthly publication of the Office of Connectional Ministries, The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, 816 S. 216th Street, Building 2, P.O. Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198-1009 • Channels is also available for download at www.pnwumc.org/channels • For any photo or article contributions, questions, comments, or letters to the editor, e-mail channels@pnwumc.org • Submissions are due by the 1st of each month for publication the following month • All submissions are reviewed by members of the Office of Connectional Ministries and the Staff of the PNWUMC • We reserve the right to reuse, modify, or decline any contribution to this publication • The opinions expressed in Channels may or may not reflect the views of the producers of this publication, the PNWUMC or The United Methodist Church • Please give courtesy credit(s) when reprinting articles or photos from Channels. Let us be good stewards of the earth; please recycle.



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Whenever you see **The Shelf** icon beside an article in Channels, Regional Media Center Manager Ellen Johanson has carefully chosen a video that complements the story you are reading in an effort to help further your interest in a particular topic or theme.

NEWS NOW

Connecting with stories making headlines from the UMC into March



A view from the Seattle/Tacoma District Training @ Kent UMC

Clergy and laity gather together in a discussion group at one of two discussion workshop sessions at the Seattle/Tacoma District Training on March 1, 2014 at Kent UMC.
Photo by Pastor Karen Yokota of Milton, Whitney Memorial UMCs.

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Cara Scriven to serve as Tacoma District superintendent

By THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE



Bishop Grant Hagiya has announced the appointment of the Rev. Cara Scriven as the new Tacoma District superintendent effective July 1. Scriven currently serves as pastor of Redmond United Methodist Church.

"Throughout her ministry, Rev. Cara Scriven has demonstrated the ability to grow and move churches toward vitality," said Bishop Hagiya. "This ability, coupled with her keen intellect and high emotional intelligence, makes her a logical choice for the Tacoma District Superintendent. I have also seen the need for the Cabinet to reflect a younger demographic, and Cara is one of the strongest leaders of our young clergy in the annual conference. I am excited by the vision and energy she will bring to the annual conference and district!"

A native of Massachusetts, Cara graduated from Northland College in Ashland, Wis. and spent several years working in marketing positions in Boston and then Portland, Ore. She was a member of Vancouver First UMC as she began work toward an M.Div. from Iliff School of Theology. In Denver, she was student pastor at Englewood UMC.

In the PNW, Cara has served as associate pastor at Wenatchee First UMC from 2007 to 2009; pastor at Seattle: Magnolia UMC from 2009 to 2011; and Senior Pastor at Redmond UMC since 2011. During this time she has chaired the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM), served on the site advisory board at Lazy F Camp, and spends part of each summer as a camp pastor for various age-level camps.

Cara and her husband, Patrick, enjoy spending their quiet time raising three adorable, but not so quiet, children.

The Tacoma District covers a geographical area from Auburn south to Littlerock, east from Bonney Lake and Eatonville to the west including Silverdale and Shelton and up to Kingston. A diverse area with a diverse church membership including inner city, suburban and rural churches, the Tacoma District is one of six missional hubs that comprise The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church. ☰

Rapanut appointed as Alaska Conference superintendent

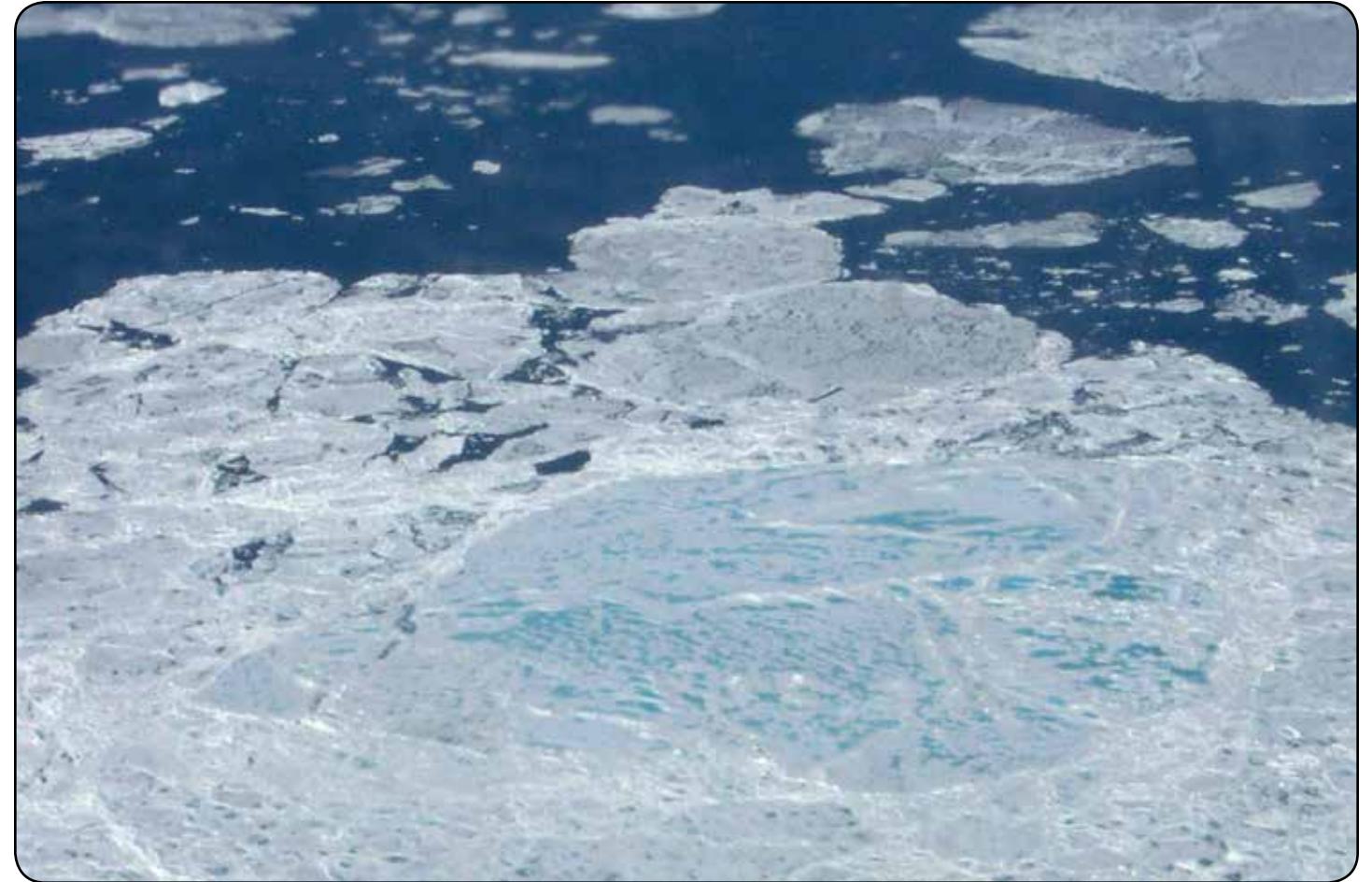
By THE ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE



Greater Northwest Area Bishop Grant Hagiya intends to appoint the Rev. Carlo Rapanut as superintendent of the Alaska United Methodist Conference effective July 1, 2014.

The Rev. Rapanut served three appointments in the Philippines including assistant to the bishop from 1998 - 2008. Since 2008 he has served as senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Chugiak. Carlo and wife Radie have two boys, Caleb and Titus. ☰

Notes of welcome can be emailed to pastorcarlo@mcchugiak.org.



UM Seminar on Climate Justice in May 2015

Seminar to be held in Washington, D.C. and will be an opportunity to learn more on how the UMC addresses issues on climate justice and promises to be formative, educational and importantly - fun!

By ANN EACHUS | Photos by WIKIMEDIA COMMONS [<http://bit.ly/NzYlik>]

A United Methodist Seminar on Climate Justice is planned for members of the PNWUMC May 12-15, 2015 in Washington, D.C. A seminar trip is educational, interactive, faith-forming, thought provoking and fun. Each one is custom designed for the group, helping it examine a social issue from the perspective of faith. It answers questions, challenges assumptions and opens group members to reflection on a chosen issue.

About UM Seminars

United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs are held in New York City and Washington, D.C. Those held in D.C. take place in the United Methodist building just across the street from the U.S. Capitol and adjacent to the Supreme Court. They are sponsored by UMW and GBCS. There may be field trips to places that connect to the seminar theme. The last

one from PNW was in April 2005. It focused on public education.

- Plan 3 days/4 nights for the seminar. Extend your visit for sightseeing if you wish.
- Budget \$40-\$60 per night for lodging plus \$50 for the seminar program.
- Add the cost of food and transportation for the total trip.

"Of hundreds of programs and relationships offered by The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Seminar Program serves to engage in global education, citizenship and understanding and to form and transform generations to come for faithfully living in the world."

-The Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe
former Dean of Chapel at Emory University and the new General Secretary of The General Board of Church and Society. ☰

How would you like to participate in 2015?
E-mail Joan Hackett (revkeithjoan@hotmail.com) or Ann Eachus (ann@eachus.org) for more information.

60 YEARS OF SHARING Through The Advance

1939	WORLD WAR II CREATES MASSIVE RELOCATION OF MISSIONARIES
	World War II begins, and Methodist mission and personnel are disrupted. Political upheavals force missionary evacuations and relocations around the world.
	The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South unite to form the Methodist Church. Mission work is centralized.
1941	THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II
	The United States enters World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
1944	\$27 MILLION IS RAISED FOR MISSION
	A world traumatized by World War II is in dire need of new vision and new hope. Amid the hunger and want of ruined cities and scorched villages, hope seems lost.
	Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam requests \$25 million over four years for the "crusade for Christ" to finance war relief and evangelism efforts. An unprecedented 1.6 million new members join the Methodist Church in one year. Fund-raising and evangelism efforts go hand in hand. More than \$27 million is collected for the Board of Missions, predecessor of the General Board of Global Ministries.
1948	GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITS TO WORLD-WIDE MISSION
	General Conference declares a commitment to "a world-wide Advance in which Methodists may share in a ministry of relief and in carrying the Gospel of Christ to the peoples of the earth." Because United Methodists from all over the world are connected by doctrine, practice and mission, we are positioned to do the work of Jesus Christ both within and beyond our immediate reach.
	General Conference approves the "Quadrennial Plan for Christ and His Church," with an educational component and "The Advance Fund." Projects authorized for giving through The Advance receive designated funds from churches and conferences directly. World Service is raised by 33 percent, and a channel of giving for churches—the "Week of Dedication"—is established.
	Gifts are generous, with \$10.5 million for The Advance, \$2.5 million for the Week of Dedication and \$27 million for World Service.
1952	SPECIAL CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIPS ARE ESTABLISHED
	The Advance continues for four more years, with a provision that 10 percent of funds raised will go to conference-initiated projects in the United States.

1956	THE ADVANCE IS ESTABLISHED AS A PERMANENT STRUCTURE OF CONTRIBUTION
	By 1956, General Conference solidifies The Advance as a permanent structure and a continuing source of funding and begins to regulate the ways in which contributions are collected and designated. Local churches collect and send funds to the conference treasurer, who forwards the money to The Advance.
1968	THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS FORMED. ADVANCE CONTINUES.
	The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) unite to form The United Methodist Church. The EUB Church had a similar second-mile giving channel. The Advance continues as the two structures merge.
1999	ADVANCE PROJECTS RECEIVED \$44 MILLION
	Contributions to Advance projects totaled \$44 million in 1999, compared to \$30 million in 1998. The previous record for annual giving to the Advance was \$34 million in 1985.
2001	ADVANCE RESPONDS TO SEPT. 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS
	By the end of November, UMCOR had received a total of \$22.3 million through general Advance specials, including "Love the Midst of Tragedy," the church's special offering in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
	In addition, Advance specials to other mission program areas totaled \$13.2 million. Almost \$1 million had come in for bishops' appeals.
	Together, these three areas of Advance specials had received nearly \$36.4 million.
2004	UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL HIV/AIDS FUND ESTABLISHED
	The United Methodist Global AIDS fund has awarded a grant to Chienkuo Rural Hospital.
	The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund was established at the 2004 General Conference to raise \$8 million by 2008. Funds are to be used to support programs offering HIV and AIDS education, prevention, treatment and care services in the United States and around the world.
	THE ADVANCE IS ASSIGNED A NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
	General Conference votes to dismantle the General Council on Ministries and replaces it with the Connectional Table. Oversight for The Advance is changed to The Advance Committee of the Connectional Table and the General Board of Global Ministries.
	THE MINISTRY OF THE ADVANCE TODAY
	Your gifts through The Advance make a difference! Thanks to your generosity, Bibles are printed, children receive vaccinations, pastors get bicycles for ministry work, wells are dug and much more is accomplished. Lives are transformed daily in Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. You serve in Christ's name through The Advance. More than 2,000 mission projects are funded every year because of your partnership with missionaries and mission organizations in more than 100 countries.

The Advance: Did you know?

By JOAN HACKETT

Thanks to the generosity of United Methodists around the world, including some from the PNW, more than 880 projects and missionaries will receive a financial boost to help them meet their mission goals.

The denomination's General Board of Global Ministries announced that the first-ever UMC #GivingTuesday generated a record \$6.5 million online on December 3. Nearly 11,000 donors in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts through The Advance to mission and ministries they believe in. Global Ministries matched the first \$500,000 received.

Building on the recent US shopping traditions of Black Friday, Local Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday, UMC #GivingTuesday offered an opportunity to start the holiday season by giving instead of get-

ting, while supporting organizations that are transforming the world.

"We were overwhelmed by this giving that went far beyond our dreams," said Thomas Kemper, the head of Global Ministries. "The people called Methodists once again have exceeded themselves in love and solidarity."

One donor wrote "I am so happy to be a Methodist Christian!" and shared that she had made a gift to Alternative Rite of Passage #3020448, an organization that is working to eliminate female circumcision in Kenya.

The Advance is The United Methodist Church's giving channel which ensures that 100% of each gift supports the project designated by the donor; it is a link that connects the church in mission. The Advance encompasses more than 850 Methodist-related projects and more than 300 missionaries, all of them reviewed and monitored

by Global Ministries staff.

Kemper said, "By promoting UMC Giving Tuesday, conferences and local churches significantly helped educate their members about The Advance—a giving channel that would not be possible without apportionments to cover administrative costs." He added, "Having matching funds available not only directly benefited the projects, but helped build momentum for the campaign."

Choose a project and donate online in the name of your church, give to your church treasurer with the Advance Project number or ask for a special offering to be sent from your church and fulfill another of the 5 Columns of Mission for 2014.

Thanks to everyone who has supported The Advance. ☺

Joan Hackett serves as the Conference Secretary of Global Missions for the PNWUMC.



Learning Together for Transformation of the World

CWU Ellensburg

July 11-14, 2014

EARLY BIRD COST (Must be postmarked by May 30, 2014)

Full Time • July 11-14
\$290.00

Weekend Package • July 12-14
\$240.00

Scholarships are available - especially for first timers, for young people under age 31, and those from churches without a UMW.

WHAT IS THE ALL-SCHOOL STUDY?

"How is it with your soul?"

Led by study leader: The Rev. Dr. Keith Hackett

This study gives an overview for the question - in Methodist class and band meeting - and moves in a trajectory for the individual to the church then to the world. This study seeks to discuss biblical text, Wesley and the early Methodists, faithful women - past and present - and spiritual practices.

AND

The Church and People with Disabilities

O
R

**The Roma of Europe,
with an emphasis on Eastern Europe
(2nd Year)**

This text increases awareness of issues around disability by discussing barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities. The book covers ways to enhance full participation of persons with vision and hearing loss as well as people with mobility loss. The book leads readers to engage in advocacy to help the church become more welcoming and accessible to those with disabilities.

Youth: Disabilities and Our Response

5 COLUMNS OF MISSION		
Collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing (March 30, 2014)		Give to UMCOR
Contributing to The Advance (listed in "2013-2016 Giving Opportunities" through The Advance)	Attend or Send Someone to Mission u (formerly known as Cooperative School of Christian Mission)	Have a Covenant Relationship with a Missionary (\$5 per member, per year. See "2014 Funding Ministry and Mission Outreach" booklet from Conference office)

**Registrations forms
are available at
www.pnwumw.org
Plan now to attend!**

Members of the United Methodist Immigration Task Force sent a letter to President Obama Feb. 25 stating the policy of mass deportations is "morally reprehensible and must end."

The letter follows an act of civil disobedience by 32 faith leaders who were arrested in front of the White House on Feb. 17. Undocumented immigrants stood and prayed with ecumenical faith leaders and members of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

United Methodist Bishops Julius Trimble, Iowa, and Minerva Carcaño, California-Pacific, led the peaceful demonstration and signed the letter to bring focus to the 1,100 deportations that are happening daily.

"The Obama administration will reach 2 million deportations soon, that's 2 million people since 2009," said Bill Mefford, executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

The letter to Obama states United Methodist churches across the country "have witnessed firsthand the devastation that results from raids that take place in homes, workplaces, and even in places of worship."

Often, United Methodist churches are the first to respond when young dependent children are suddenly left alone after their parents are taken to detention centers.

Kneeling with the bishops on Feb. 17 were two family members who spoke of sudden arrests and threatened deportations of their loved ones.

Pilar Molina is speaking out, hoping for the quick release of her husband, Israel Resendiz-Hernandez, who was arrested Jan. 27 and is on a hunger strike at a Pennsylvania detention facility.

"We have two U.S. citizen daughters who ask every night, 'When will our father be home?'" Molina said, tears in her eyes.

Hermina Gallegos Lopez



Devastation of deportations must end, bishops declare in letter to President

By KATHY L. GILBERT | Photos by JAY MALLIN

United Methodist Bishops Julius Trimble, Iowa, and Minerva Carcaño, California-Pacific, led a peaceful demonstration and signed the letter to bring focus to the 1,100 deportations that are happening daily.

said her 20-year-old daughter, Rosy, is in the Eloy Detention Center in Phoenix and is sick.

"I'm fasting for my daughter because she has been in detention for over five months. My daughter is sick and she is not getting the proper treatment she needs. I am fasting because every day that my daughter is in detention is a day that her health is in danger, if I don't do anything she can die."

Carcaño said United Methodists have mobilized tens of thousands in public witness events advocating for Congress to pass genuine immigration reform.

"Ultimately, we believe deportations will not convince Congress to do what is right by enacting genuine reform. Only by modeling what is just and right and stopping all deportations immediately will Congress

and the rest of the country be convinced. You have done this once in a limited way through DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and we believe you can and should do it again for all." ☰

*Gilbert is a multimedia reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

BISHOPS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On Monday, February 17, the United Methodist Immigration Task Force, led by Bishop Julius Trimble and Bishop Minerva Carcaño, along with ecumenical faith leaders and immigrant members of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network peacefully protested your continued dependence on mass deportations of our immigrant sisters and brothers. As people of faith we are committed to following the biblical mandate to welcome the sojourner. Therefore, we engaged in civil disobedience because we find the policy of mass deportations to be morally reprehensible and one that must end. We believe you have the authority to end deportations.

Deportations under your Administration have torn apart families and created distrust and fear among immigrant communities and in our churches. United Methodist churches across the country have witnessed firsthand the devastation that results from raids that take place in homes, workplaces, and even in places of worship. United Methodist churches have been among the first to respond to the needs created by the sudden removal of parents from their families, which often include young dependent children. Deportations have created undue hardship on immigrant families and the communities of faith who are faithfully responding to the many needs created by the removal of family members. As a consequence, many of our churches are overwhelmed by the needs with whom they minister and their resources are being exhausted.

We have heard your challenge to Congress to pass humane immigration reform and we agree with you that legislation will provide the only permanent solution. We are committed to advocating for genuine, solution-based reform that grants citizenship to undocumented immigrants and reunites separated families. We have led the faith community in mobilizing tens of thousands of United Methodists in public witness events advocating Congress to pass genuine immigration reform. We will continue to do so.

However, your policy of deportations must end and we respectfully ask for it to end immediately until just and humane immigration reform is passed. This has been our belief for quite some time. In 2008 The United Methodist Church passed a resolution that calls upon "the United States government to immediately cease all arrests, detainment, and deportations of undocumented immigrants" until such just and humane reform has been passed. (2012 Book of Resolutions)

Ultimately, we believe deportations will not convince Congress to do what is right by enacting genuine reform. Only by modeling what is just and right and stopping all deportations immediately will Congress and the rest of the country be convinced. You have done this once in a limited way through DACA and we believe you can and should do it again for all.

We believe that all people, regardless of their legal status, have inherent value imbued to them by God, and therefore, as people of faith, we can only support policies which uphold the humanity and dignity of our immigrant sisters and brothers. Deportations violate these core principles and values. Therefore, we urge you to end all deportations until a just and humane immigration reform is passed.



Sincerely,
The United Methodist Immigration Task Force

Bishop Julius C. Trimble **Bishop Minerva Carcaño**
Resident Bishop Resident Bishop
Iowa Area Los Angeles Area

BISHOPS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA



During the "Day of Kisses" in Moscow, LGBT activists protest against the passing of the State Duma's homophobic law, ending with the protesters' arrests and imprisonment.

Global Ministries Statement on Human Rights for All People

By MELISSA HINNEN | Photo by WIKIMEDIA COMMONS [<http://bit.ly/1c30AGc>]

United Methodist people are increasingly aware of the violation of human rights through the criminalization of homosexuality in countries such as Uganda, Nigeria, Russia, and India. These unjust measures reflect a concerning trend as reports indicate that five countries make homosexuality a capital offense and imprisonment is possible in 66 countries.

This kind of legislation predictably is leading to increased marginalization, harassment, and exploitation in our global civil society. Whatever our understanding of sexual orientation, the criminalization of homosexuality is not compatible with the United Methodist Social Principles including the one that states that basic rights and civil liberties are "due to all persons...regardless of sexual orientation" (BOD par. 162J).

As part of a church with a strong commitment to the full human rights of all people in all societies and under all forms of government (BOD, par. 164A), the General Board of Global Ministries supports the human rights of those being oppressed and threatened on the basis of sexual orientation. Two of Global Ministries' goals are to alleviate human suffering and to seek justice, freedom, and peace. Recognizing our role as a global

mission organization that has a history of speaking up and condemning persecution, the General Board of Global Ministries:

1. Reminds all United Methodists of our church's strong insistence on the fundamental rights and sacred worth (BOD, par. 161F) of all persons in all places;
2. Urges all United Methodists to advocate for full human and civil rights in their respective countries and on the international level; asking ourselves how we can best protect our family members and neighbors from unjust treatment;
3. Requests all United Methodists to pray for the victims of repression and deprivation; to pray that all political and economic systems will respect and advocate human rights for all, and to pray for civil discourse on ways to achieve peaceful reconciliation when ethical concepts are in disagreement.

Respect for human rights enhances and extends our Christian opportunities to share the love of God through mission and ministry.

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, President
Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Melissa Hinnen serves as the Director of Content and Public Information United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

It's a cold, rainy day at the Washington State Capitol. Inside a warm, diffused, outdoor meeting tent, Janjay Innis is zigzagging through the limited space with staff and program participants of Tacoma Community House. Innis and others are scrambling to get their groups together as they prepare to meet with Washington State representatives during Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day. On February 11, 2014 seasoned and newly-arrived immigrants visited the State Capitol and introduced themselves to the leaders in Washington – important people who make decisions affecting the everyday lives of Washingtonians (including new and undocumented Washingtonians).

Groups from TCH were organized by different ethnic backgrounds, including those from Eastern Europe to Southeast Asia to Central America. Innis' group was comprised of low-level English-speakers who are Vietnamese. To help soften the language barriers, groups included advanced-level English translators to communicate effectively to government reps. The key strategy in connecting government leadership with the people they serve involved sharing each others' stories as immigrant people.

Who else could be better in leading a day trek through the Capitol than Janjay Innis? As a US-2 young adult missionary for the UMC, the 27 year-old is developing her leadership as a social justice advocate at the historic Tacoma Community House. As an American of African parents and a daughter of Methodist Bishop John G. Innis (Liberia Conference), her calling is also an immigrant story.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., she moved back to Buchanan, Liberia with her family. During her father's tenure as a pastor and principal of Camphor Mission Boarding School, she experienced community in a profound way. "Camphor Mission came about as a vision of village people who though uneducated, saw the value in education. Affluent as well as poor children went to school there and while these differences were known, it never hindered the formation of community. Faith was the medium that held us together as we used it to share, hold and own each other's greatest joys and deepest pain," shares Innis.

Her family moved back to the US in 1996 for work and for the opportunity to obtain a better education. After completing her undergraduate degree, she attended Boston School of Theology to gain a greater sense of how faith - the sus-



Social Justice Advocate and US-2 Missionary, Janjay Innis prepares her group before meeting with Washington State legislators.

Reclaiming the Spirit of Mission: Immigrant Advocacy in Olympia

Methodist US-2 Missionary Janjay Innis and Tacoma Community House lead members of immigrant communities to share stories with State representatives in hopes of planting seeds of change among civic leadership.

By JESSE N. LOVE with JANJAY INNIS

Editor's Note: This article serves as part 2 of a 2-part report. Visit bit.ly/RSOM_us2 to read "Reclaiming the Spirit of Mission: Living Faith Out Loud" on The PNW News Blog.

taining factor in her life - could be used to respond to some of the most pertinent social issues of our day.

She entered into the US-2 program to partner with agencies and to grow in faith and in leadership. "The US-2 program is very intentional in saying 'mission is no longer about the west imposing its ideals to other parts of the world in a paternalistic way. Mission is not about taking God anywhere, because God is already everywhere. Mission is about walking beside our brothers and sisters who are oppressed across the globe and in our neighborhoods. Innis shares.

As a social justice advocate for TCH, Innis wishes to serve "with", working alongside other staff to support education classes, providing places to meet and organize, and to offer help to Asians, Latinos, Blacks, and others, linking social service with social change. "We are a people who celebrate inclusivity and are intentional about social justice, partnerships, and recognizing the gifts of program participants," she shares.

At the State Capitol, Innis walks her ESL group through the Legislative Build-

Continue to the next page

Sharing stories: a time to understand one another

Continued from the previous page

ing to meet with representatives - bridging these two groups together for the greater good. For the representatives, there is the hope that by meeting with some of the people affected by policies from Olympia, they can develop a connection and support programs that help immigrants and refugees. For the ESL participants at TCH, there is the hope that by meeting with reps they will understand that they have a voice and that services they participate in are funded by some of the decision-makers in the State and don't just come 'out of thin air'. This window of opportunity is when people can share stories that need to be told.



During Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day, participants from Tacoma Community House meet with Reps. Steve O'Ban and Dick Muri of the 28th Legislative District. The group consists of low-level English speaking students who visit TCH to take ESL classes and improve their skills for better opportunities for the future.

For the representatives, there is the hope that by meeting with some of the people affected by policies from Olympia, they can develop a connection and support programs that help immigrants and refugees. For the ESL participants at TCH, there is the hope that by meeting with reps they will understand that they have a voice and that services they participate in are funded by some of the decision-makers in the State and don't just come 'out of thin air'.

Innis' group first met with Rep. Tami Green (D-28th Legislative District). TCH participants introduced themselves and shared where they were from and how long they have been in the US. A program participant from TCH shared his success story of how he is taking classes to learn English, is working at a grocery store, and hopes to become an American citizen. Green was very receptive of his message; it is a common story about hard work and sacrifice in leaving one's country to begin a new life in another. "We knew we were talking with someone who'd taken the time to understand the issues, she'd visited the Community House and had some sense of the importance of investing in naturalization programs as well as K-12 and bilingual programs – giving the children of immigrants special attention that would allow for smooth transitions into US

classrooms," shares Innis. Later on, Innis group met with Reps. Dick Muri and Steve O'Ban (both R-28th Legislative District). Again, TCH participants introduced themselves and shared their personal stories. The State reps. also shared how they understood some of the challenges they were going through as immigrants to the US. Muri emphasized that learning English is needed in order to make a living and to have success in the US. Muri and O'Ban were both interested in learning if funding for TCH was through the federal government. "It was overall a good visit although it felt like our program participants were being told what to do to get to a better place instead of being affirmed for what they have done thus far," Innis shares.

Sharing stories with each other is more than reflecting on the past. It is a time to understand one another – and for

those at TCH, it was a time to have people with influence and power understand people with unmet needs who are struggling to build themselves up in this country. Innis shares more about the importance of sharing our stories: "Often when we are on our journeys and have arrived at a particular place, it's easy to forget about what that journey was like - or of those who helped us on the journey to the point where we are living comfortably. Stories connect us over time and generations. They ground us and help us understand our connected humanity. Through our work, we can help explain funding, educational needs, and address the root causes in ending the cycle of living on government assistance."

During their meeting with Rep. Tami Green, Innis asked, "Why is it that funding for programs that support agencies (like Tacoma Community House) are the first to be cut from the budget?" Green's answer illustrates the challenges in seeking funding for these organizations: 1) reps don't care and see issues around low-income/immigration as not a priority 2) the lobby for these issues are not large enough hence it doesn't make a big impact 3) they are "just plain racist".

Innis shares, "(Legislators who don't support our issues) believe people should pull themselves up from their bootstraps. It's this idea that certain kinds of people, like people of color, are seen as not hard-working; there is a sentiment that if they work harder, they will enjoy the benefits of what it means to be an American. But, it's ironic that these representatives are cutting funding for support services and resources that actually help immigrants live a prosperous life as citizens who enrich our communities."

Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day may not have been a revolutionary event creating overnight change in the way

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Coupeville UMC continues 160 years of ministry

By DEBBIE WYSOMIERSKI

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it.

-1 Corinthians 3:10 NIV

Coupeville United Methodist Church embodies this scripture in action. In 2013, CUMC saw the congregation celebrating its church's 160th anniversary. Yes, over a century-and-a-half of standing firmly and faithfully on the corner of North Main Street - its spire visible to all who visit, its bell ringing out to all.

Today, the Church continues its faithful service to God and the local community. The Rev. Jin Ming Ma leads the Coupeville church serving as its 59th pastor. "I am so proud that the people of our congregation demonstrate their love of the Lord through their faithful actions to support, to care, to help, to love, and to work toward His purpose. In order to serve God in the name of Jesus Christ, the pastor, congregation, community and world must join together," shares Ma.



How Coupeville has served its community

Coupeville United Methodist Church is one of the most active churches on Whidbey Island serving the Coupeville community.

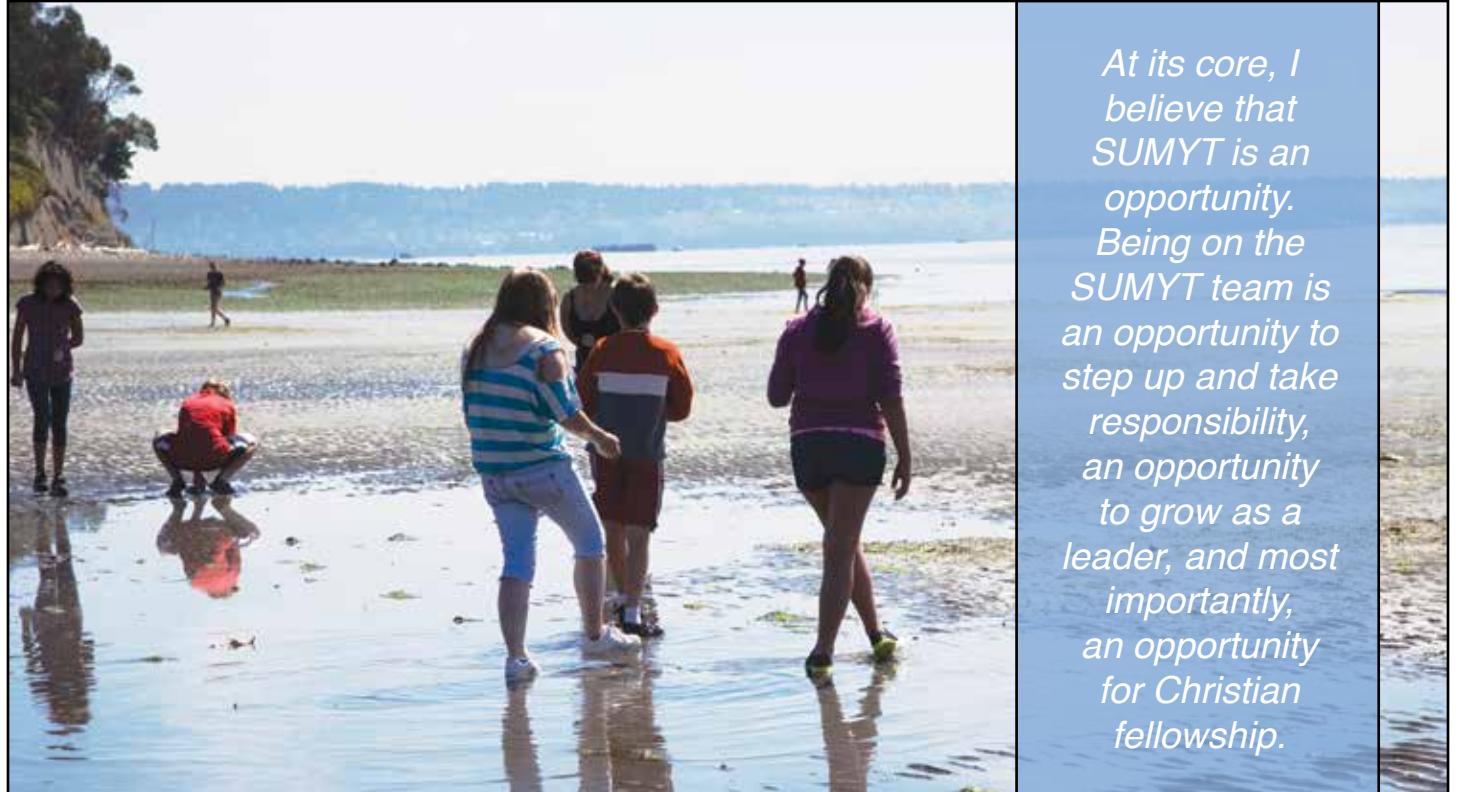
- Members of the Church are volunteer supporters at the Gifts from the Heart Food Bank. The congregation provides fresh eggs and toothbrushes & toothpaste to the food bank clients each year through its annual Lenten and Advent giving, in addition to ongoing food drives.
- The church partners with Senior Services of Island County to deliver lunch and fellowship to local seniors every Wednesday.
- The United Methodist Women is a vibrant part of the church with many activities including sponsoring a Young-at-Heart luncheon each month for seniors living alone or unable to come to church.
- The Strawberry Social, a mission fund raising event that benefits missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, held for over 100 years, is going strong.
- The Monday morning Sewing Group has lovingly made and delivered hundreds of quilts to the American Hero Quilt Project ministering to our wounded military personnel.
- Prayer shawls are knitted by a small group of women for those needing to know and feel the comfort of prayer.
- In 2013, gifts and offerings of almost \$10,000 went out into the world and local community to provide support, aid and comfort to those in need.
- The congregation reached out to local organizations such as Small Miracles that helps with medical bills, Ryan's House serving local homeless youths, Margie's Place for women hurt by domestic violence and many others.
- In addition, the Pastor's Community Fund responds to the needs of people within Coupeville providing them with assistance for housing, food, clothing, utilities and gas.



Yes, Coupeville United Methodist Church has faithfully served for 160 years. We trust in the Lord that we will continue our mission of serving ALL people through the spirit of the resurrection. ☺

Debbie Wysomierski serves as the Church Life Coordinator for Coupeville UMC.

— Ideas & Inspiration —



What SUMYT means to me!

By **ASPEN BROOKS** | Photo by **CAMP INDIANOLA**

The Seattle United Methodist Youth Team, or SUMYT, could technically be described as a group of youth from the Seattle area who plan a retreat every year in March under adult guidance. However, there is so much more to SUMYT than that!

At its core, I believe that SUMYT is an opportunity. Being on the SUMYT team is an opportunity to step up and take responsibility, an opportunity to grow as a leader, and most importantly, an opportunity for Christian fellowship.

Whether you are a participant at the retreat, or a member of the team, you are immersed in a loving and welcoming atmosphere. The retreat provides a chance to reconnect with old friends, and forge new friendships at the same time.

The retreat itself is an opportunity as well, for fun and laughter, for music and dance, and for friendship and support. Camp Indianola provides not just a gorgeous backdrop next to the Puget Sound, but also a variety of engaging activities - from the adrenaline rush of the rope swing, to musical jam sessions, or a soccer game on the grassy field.

We also have an aptly-named Amazing Race that will bring

out everybody's competitive side and send youth and adults alike racing all over camp! That was definitely one of my personal favorites from the retreat last year. Not only are these activities available for the youth from 6th-12th grade to enjoy, but also for our awesome adult chaperones.

Additionally, SUMYT is a huge opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God. Personally, I have found that in my own life, I walk away from retreats feeling more confident in my faith and closer to God. Why is this? I think that it's a combination of the powerful messages delivered at rallies, the deep conversations in small groups, and the ability to interact with others in an immersive Christian environment. I remember at the SUMYT retreat last year almost the entire room being brought to tears by one of the moving faith talks.

Being part of SUMYT has been a life-altering opportunity for me. I have grown closer to youth all over the state that I wouldn't even know otherwise, grown as a leader, and grown closer to God.

You could describe SUMYT as a group of youth who plan a retreat, but it is so much more than that! ☺

Editor's Note: This is going to be an exciting year at the SUMYT retreat. The SUMYT retreat will be held on March 14 to 16 – for the first time in over 10 years, the retreat sold out! That's over 120 youth and adults from Marysville to Selah to Pasco to McCleary that will come together for what is sure to be an amazing weekend of faith, community and fun!

Aspen Brooks is a high school junior from Bothell UMC.

ON THE SHELF

By **ELLEN JOHANSON**

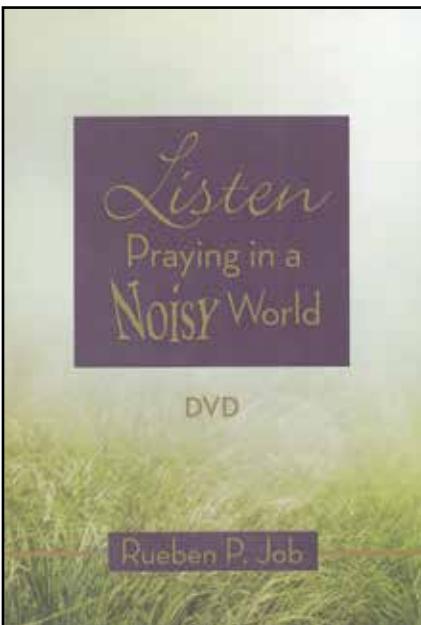


By the time you read this, we will be in Lent, the season of the liturgical year preceding Easter. Lent is traditionally a period of somber reflection, penitence, abstinence, charity and preparation for Easter. In most Western churches, Lent is observed as a 40-day period from Ash Wednesday through Maundy Thursday (not counting Sundays).

Three traditional spiritual practices are given heightened importance during Lent. These are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self) and charity (almsgiving) representing justice towards neighbor. Many people give up something, perhaps a bad habit or a favorite food or activity during Lent. Others may feel that taking on a task or activity may bring one closer to God than practicing self-denial. Regardless of whether you take on or give up something, this time of preparation traditionally has been one of grief that ends with the joyous festivities of the Easter celebration. This period is known in Eastern Orthodox circles as the time of "bright sadness". I love that paradoxical oxymoron.

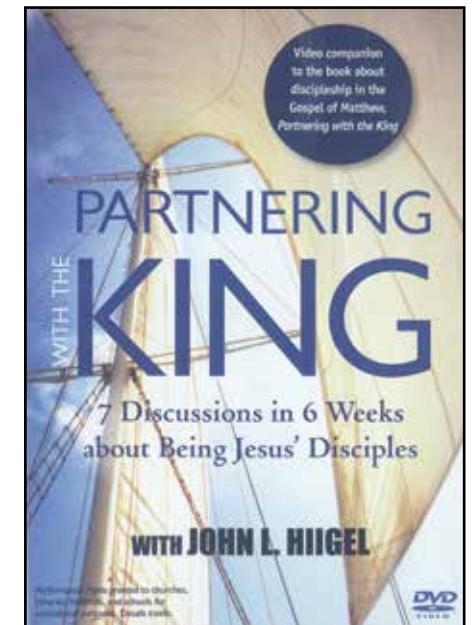
Let's take a look at what resources the Media Center offers that may be helpful during this period of bright sadness. We will focus on some new resources as well as existing resources for group and individual use.

NEW RESOURCES



Listen: Praying in a Noisy World

Whether you want to start a discipline of daily prayer or want to re-invigorate your prayer life, this resource by retired Bishop Rueben P. Job is a helpful journey in learning how to listen for God and understand God's guidance and direction in your life. Designed as a group study with individual daily practice, this study can be used any time of year, but may be particularly helpful during Lent as a 40-day journey that includes a spiritual practice for the week, daily prayer, silence, scripture, reading, discussion, reflection, response, prayers of petition and blessing. Journaling pages are also included in the participant booklet which each group member needs. There is also a leader guide and a DVD.



Partnering with the King

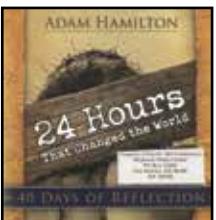
This discipleship resource from Paraclete Press involves daily reading and weekly group meetings for a six-week study that is perfect for Lent and or other times of year such as Easter to Pentecost. John L. Hiigel, Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has written this study based on a full reading of the Gospel of Matthew as a model for becoming a disciple of Jesus. The group format includes ice-breaker discussion questions, watching and discussing the DVD and prayer. Using this in a house-group may be a great way to include a meal and fellowship. Keeping the group small is helpful to encourage greater levels of sharing. Remember Jesus chose 12 disciples! As a spiritual discipline, the goal is not to feel obligated or guilty (if one gets behind in the reading) but to strengthen us for service with Jesus.

FOR DEVOTIONAL USE



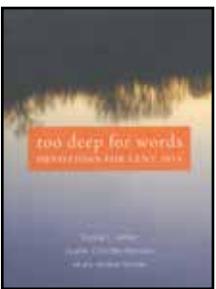
Lenten Journey: Beyond Question (from The Book of Faith series by Augsburg Fortress)

This book is designed to help readers become immersed in The Bible, to experience the transformative questions of Jesus while on a personal journey through scripture. Why do you believe what you believe? If you can't answer that, this book can help you discover it. Using a process of journaling along with daily devotions that challenge you to ponder, question, read, reflect, and pray, you will encounter Jesus' questions for us, followed by a reflection, then biblical wisdom, a transformative thought, silent meditation, a Psalm and more questions that can be used individually or in a group discussion.



24 Hours That Changed the World, 40 Days of Reflection

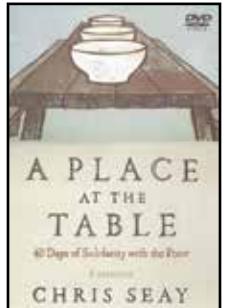
This is a companion book for the print and video resource of the same name by Adam Hamilton. The reflections include scripture, thoughts about the events that took place on Jesus' final day on earth, prayers, stories and insight from Hamilton's own ministry.



Too Deep for Words Devotions for Lent 2014

Based on the book of Romans, this small booklet provides short meditations suitable for individual devotions. Consisting of a photo image, a passage of scripture, a "to ponder" section of spiritual quotes, a pastoral reflection, and a prayer, this little book may spark new insights for long-time believers or those just interested in beginning on the path of following Jesus.

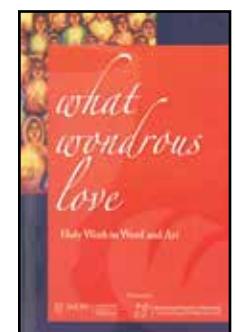
DVD RESOURCES



A Place at the Table

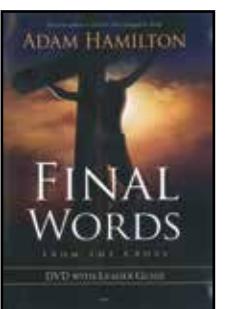
Our society is built on consumption. When we consume and over-consume it becomes easy to forget that Jesus cared about the poor and wants us to do so as well. This resource invites us to challenge ourselves to eat like the poor for 40 days and donate the money we save on groceries to a charity or project that serves the poor in concrete ways (think UMCOR). The DVD includes six sessions shot on location in the Holy Land, Haiti and Ecuador to help small groups (and entire churches) take a journey of radical faith, personal action, solidarity with the poor, and extravagant grace. The companion book includes 40 short chapters with scripture, reflections, prayers, and encouragement. You can also download free resources and connect with others at www.chrisseay.net. A Place at the Table can be used any time of year, but may be particularly helpful during Lent.

D2035



What Wondrous Love D2028

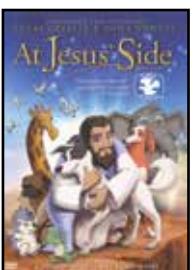
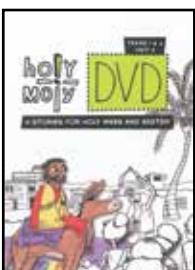
This DVD presents the powerful story of Holy Week as told in the four gospels. Each scripture passage is illustrated by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson, along with commentary by members of the Candler School of Theology faculty. Enjoy an artistic and spiritual Lenten journey as you explore the beauty and power of art and sacred text.



Final Words from the Cross

D5606

This is a follow-up resource to 24 Hours That Changed the World. In this video, the Rev. Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Perfect for Sunday School or small groups, this DVD contains 7 sessions featuring the teaching and preaching of Adam Hamilton not only on Jesus' final words while on the cross, but also on Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and those who were witnesses to the Resurrection.



RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Holy Week & Easter D1094

(part of the Holy Moly curricula by Augsburg)

Jesus, the Savior D1016

(part of the Connect curricula by Augsburg)

At Jesus' Side D4301

MUSINGS & YOUNGER PERSPECTIVES

By THE REV. EMMA DONOHEW
Photos by WIKIPEDIA



Do Young Adults Exist?

Church at its best is intergenerational, and welcomes everyone regardless. Period. End of statement.

As a young Millennial pastor (1980-2000), when another young person enters the church often there is an assumption that I must know this other young person, because of course I know all of the young people in the city of Seattle. The assumption being made here is that all young adults are the same and connected by some vast social network where we know everything about everyone else (I digress). While I am fortunate that we have a young adult population in the area I serve, many churches are not as lucky and young adult visitors are either pounced upon, ignored or asked if they are the Sunday school teachers (no really, I have seen this happen on numerous occasions). Even in the face of this deeply embedded ageism I am still deeply passionate about serving the younger population, and yet I realize how challeng-

ing this can be. So I will pose a question.

Do young adults actually exist? My short answer is that there is no such thing as a young adult, or at least as one homogenous category. I make a joke with my colleagues that if the trends keep continuing in the church (dwindling populations under the age of 50) that they will keep upping the age category of what it means to be a "young adult" and I might be able to stay young forever. Although humorous, those jokes are a painful reminder of both our declining membership and also our future if we keep trying to keep people stuck in one-size-fits-all categories young OR old.

Young adults are a diverse population. Although Meth-

odism defines this category as folks between the ages of 18-40, imagine all the different places and life situations young adults are within this huge swatch of an age group. We are not the same. We are students AND professionals, we are single AND in relationships, we live at home AND we live on our own, we are Gay AND we are straight, we have children AND we have pets, we favor modern AND traditional worship, and most importantly we are not of one mind. Now imagine how each of these life situations would lead to a unique type of faith and need within the church. Just shoving all "young adults" in to one category ignores the nuances and challenges of being present in a church that is becoming largely

uniform in age and belief (Baby Boomers I am looking at you). Each young adult has a unique story that can contribute much to the church's ethos and future, if only we would stop to hear them and let them be heard in our communities of faith.

Church at its best is intergenerational, and welcomes everyone regardless. Period. End of statement. Young adults are not going to save the church, partially because they do not exist as a uniform category, but their stories do need to be heard. Some of their ideas and stories will be challenging, Jesus was a young adult and dare I say many of his stories were rather radical. So instead of trying to lump us into one well defined group onto which you can peg all our hopes and dreams on, lets listen to their stories, hear what type of church will speak to them, and work together to find the reality of a truly intergenerational community where all are heard. ☺

The Rev. Emma Donohew serves as pastor of Greenlake UMC (Seattle, Wash.).

NURTURING ELDERS AND OTHERS

By THE REV. PAUL GRAVES [elderadvocates@nctv.com]
Photo courtesy of WIKIMEDIA COMMONS [<http://bit.ly/1c54zCL>]

Older adults may be the "perfect" group of people to push for peace! We don't have to compete in our jobs, so we don't have to protect our job security. We can step back from the normal "tug-of-war" contests in our families, our churches, our community, and even our world. We can say loud and proud: "Is this what is really most important to you?"

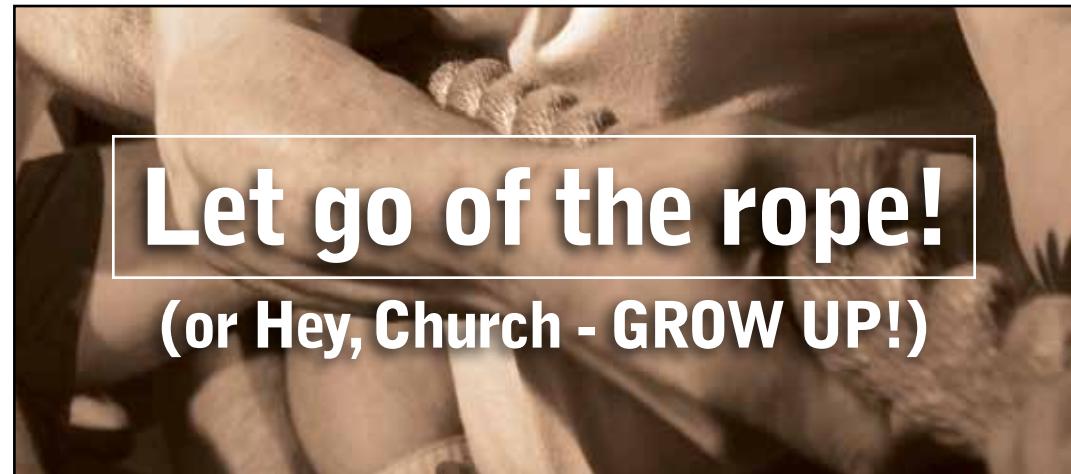
Of course, we still can hardly resist holding one part of the rope or another in those nasty tug-of-war efforts. We rarely pay attention when Jesus comes along to encourage us to "Love our enemies" (That's another way of saying: "Drop the rope!").

About three years ago, I mentioned a drop-the-rope insight of Dr. Bill Thomas in his book "What Are Old People For? How Elders Will Save the World". He spoke clearly about one of the tasks of Elderhood: Peace-making. He wasn't referring to any namby-pamby effort to avoid conflict.

He referred to the hard work of bringing a sense of "wholeness" to relationships in families, in society, and within elders themselves. At this point in our denomination's history, we are far from whole. We are fractured, even broken.

One of the primary signs of that brokenness is our faithless, destructive battle over homosexuality! I contend that Older Adults have a great opportunity to "drop the rope" and call our church to grow up and into the faith we claim to have. So let me say this as clear as I can:

In 1972 (over 40 years ago!), General Conference first declared itself opposed to the



We older adults must be willing to drop the rope ourselves so we can focus our attention on the "weightier matters" that the Faith (trust) God has in us calls us to attend to. Why do we let ourselves pick up a rope that draws us into a tug-of-war?

practice of homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching". Factions since, from local churches to the floor of General Conference, have used this issue as a tug-of-war rope.

On both sides of the mud pit - with mostly condemning rhetoric - we have paraded our incomplete spiritual awareness in front of the world both within and beyond the church.

Our default strategy of church trials suggest to me we're not ready to move beyond accountability to "the Law" in search of Grace's power of transformation. Our individual and corporate egos are not ready to drop the rope in favor of re-membering (putting together) a mature Christian witness that is much more than legal maneuvers and unexamined obedience to the UMC Discipline.

In early February, I was reading a section of Richard Rohr's

book "Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality". He spoke of how Paul used Romans and Galatians to put a new spin on Jewish Law. (Remember, he was a law-abiding Pharisee before his conversion.)

Both of his books addressed the complex limitations of the Law. Rohr refers to Romans 3:20 and 7:7-13 to illustrate this insight: "Laws can only give us information, and even helpful information, but they cannot give us transformation." (p. 79). That single statement prompted me to write a question in my book.

How does the fighting over homosexuality in today's UMC contribute to the UMC Mission Statement to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"? It doesn't.

Somehow, while we still hang onto the tug-of-war rope to fight with each other, we've also

made gay ordination, same-sex unions performed by our clergy, and who-knows-what-else related to homosexuality, into very distasteful, churchy red herrings.

When we can be courageous enough to drop the rope, we might see Jesus' challenge to the Pharisees' pride and its hypocritical result as our primary moral dilemma also: "You have neglected the weightier matters of the law – justice, mercy and good faith" in favor of temple tithes." (Matt. 23:23).

We older adults must be willing to drop the rope ourselves so we can focus our attention on the "weightier matters" that the Faith (trust) God has in us calls us to attend to. Why do we let ourselves pick up a rope that draws us into a tug-of-war?

God calls us to be peacemakers. That means we must drop the rope! ☺

The Rev. Paul Graves serves as the chair for the Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries for the PNWUMC

How to dismantle systems of fear: We must draw strength from God

Continued from the previous page

people look at the struggles of immigrants - but it certainly was a good exercise in civic engagement. As a social justice advocate, Janjay Innis invites us all to consider, "How prepared are we if comprehensive immigration form is to pass, knowing so many people deal with issues involving learning English, getting work permits, and wanting to be citizens. How prepared are we as a community?"

The need to advocate for immigrant services and resources is an important mantle for different reasons – to develop a stronger workforce, to uplift immigrant communities through education and job opportunities, and to exercise God's grace to those in the margins. Helping immigrants acclimate to this country has very real benefits.

"It's easy for people of faith to be so overwhelmed or helpless about the world's problems that we say, 'Suffering has always existed in the world' as a mechanism to disengage with those on the fringes. While some suffering comes as a result of being human, other kinds of suffering occur because of systems that have been created out of fear of difference. But in order to dismantle these systems, we must draw our strength from God - our source of hope, love, reconciliation, peace and justice. We are an Easter people – we believe that God will make things new right now and in times to come. It is my prayer that such a belief allows us to lead all of God's people into the promise of abundant life."

Janjay Innis continues to serve a two-year stint at Tacoma Community House. Innis sees her work as a source of strength as a Christian and a United Methodist. If you would like to support Innis, learn more about her at bit.ly/janjay. Also, if you are interested in supporting Tacoma Community House, tours are available and volunteers are welcome to help with participants involved with the various programs offered. ☺

Visit www.tacomacommunityhouse.com to learn more about its services.

Jesse N. Love serves as the print & publications manager of the PNWUMC.



BISHOP'S BLOG

Visit http://bit.ly/bishop_blog for insights from **Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**.

Subscribe by e-mail, contacting channels@pnwumc.org

CALENDAR

Note: Events on this calendar may have been added or removed from the time of publication. For an updated calendar, including local church events, visit www.pnwumc.org and click "Events" > "Calendar Layout". For questions or details about events on this calendar, e-mail channels@pnwumc.org.

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
			• Commissioning and Ordination Interviews @ Dumas Bay Center			• Visionary Leadership Project @ Red Lion Hotel
						• Board of Pensions @ PNWUMC • Certified Lay Minister Training @ Moran UMC • Seattle & Tacoma District Training Day – 2014 @ Kent UMC
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
• Visionary Leadership Project @ Red Lion Hotel	• Western Jurisdiction Disaster Response Academy @ Palisades Retreat Center			• Connectional Table @ PNWUMC • Vancouver District Retreat @ Ocean Park Camp		• The Gathering @ TBD
				• Módulo III: Historia del Metodismo I Module III: Methodist History @ Lazy F		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
• Vancouver District Retreat @ Ocean Park Camp	• Greater Northwest Younger Clergy Gathering @ Alton Collins Retreat Center	• Board of Congregational Development @ PNWUMC		• SUMYT Youth Retreat @ Camp Indianola	• Conference Board of Global Ministries @ PNWUMC	• Vancouver District Leadership Day @ Vancouver Heights UMC, Chehalis UMC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
• SUMYT Youth Retreat @ Camp Indianola	• Annual Conference Worship Team @ PNWUMC		• Board of Discipleship @ PNWUMC		• Rocks & Ripples @ Simpson UMC	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					• General Council on Finance and Ministry @ PNWUMC	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	• PNW Cabinet @ PNWUMC					

APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	• PNW Cabinet @ PNWUMC				• Campus Ministry Spring Retreat @ Lazy F	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
• Campus Ministry Spring Retreat @ Lazy F		• Board of Congregational Development @ PNWUMC • Annual Conference Worship Team @ PNWUMC			• Extension Pastors Healthy Boundaries Training @ TBD	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				• Engaging the Mission Field, Church for All People @ PNWUMC		
				• Board of Discipleship @ PNWUMC	• Make It Happen: Faith, Hope, Love in Action – 2014 Assembly @ Kentucky International Convention Center	
					• Conference Council on Youth Ministries @ Renton First UMC	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
• Make It Happen: Faith, Hope, Love in Action – 2014 Assembly @ Kentucky International Convention Center						
• Conference Council on Youth Ministries @ Renton First UMC					• Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry @ PNWUMC	