



# Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

Mary Stamp, editor  
editor@pncuccnews.org

325 N. 125th St. - Seattle WA 98133 • (206) 725-8383 or (800) 954-8777 or (509) 535-1813

November-December 2015

## Heifer Project animals make a difference

**Eliza Penick, now 35, has been involved since she was eight years old.**

Eliza Penick, who grew up attending Keystone UCC's alternative gift fair, the Festival of Hope, was first drawn to Heifer International by the rabbit a volunteer had at the booth. This year, she is coordinating the 37th annual festival.

She began running the booth when she was eight and continued, becoming more involved after college.

After graduating from the University of Washington in 2002 with a bachelor's in history and American Indian studies, she wanted to help Heifer, so she contacted the regional office in Sacramento and developed a volunteer group in Seattle. She built the visibility of Heifer International at fairs and events.

In fall 2007, Heifer hired her as community engagement coordinator in Seat-  
Continued on Page 4



Eliza Penick hosts Heifer International table at the Keystone UCC Festival of Hope. This year is the 37th year and will be held Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22.

## People rally to support church after hate incidents

On Sunday, Oct. 25, and since, members of First Congregational UCC in Colville have received messages of support and solidarity following three incidents of hate directed at the church during October.

Expressions of support have come from Colville's Ministerial Association, the Chewelah UCC, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic of Colville and a former member.

Jim CastroLang, pastor there for six years, said he and Eric Ohrtman, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran for eight years, each received a letter in October written to sound like God speaking while overlooking Colville from the cross on hill.

The writer referred to "the battle that is being waged over your community,"

**Ministerial Association  
clergy have been  
building respect  
through dialogue.**

"chants, spells and curses of those who choose to walk in darkness," and "war coming to your land."

The writer spoke of two prayer services at the courthouse on the National Day of Prayer in May: "One stood for the truth. One embraced sin and called it good."

For three years on the National Day of Prayer, there has been a Christian event in the morning and a 5 p.m. inter-

faith gathering, which Eric and Jim have organized.

"Ours, from a progressive Christian perspective, includes Hindu, Buddhist, Sufi, Islamic and Jewish prayers, chants, dances and readings," Jim said.

Then on a Sunday after the church's annual meeting, the moderator's husband was standing outside. A man in his 20s asked if he went to the abortion-loving, LGBT (slur)-loving church of sinners. He shouted obscenities in the member's face.

Another afternoon, when members were unloading food bank food, they saw the the words "lies" and "satan" taped over "Christ" in United Church of Christ on the church's sign. Members took pictures and called the Colville po-

# How might churches interact with new metrics

## Conference Comments



By The Rev.  
Mike Denton  
Conference  
Minister

So, at first, this might not seem like big news.

Every year, our denomination sends out information gathering forms to every local church requesting basic information about staffing, finances, membership, church attendance and more.

This information is compiled within something called the UCC Yearbook, which is used as an information directory, as well as a way of extrapolating information about the state of the UCC.

It has always been important, but not every church's biggest priority to fill out the survey.

A new metric will be added to the next information form called "Total Church Participants." The UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) gives the reason for this addition this way:

"With many congregations creating alternative models of participation and some redefining the historical meaning and criteria for membership, as well as individuals and families opting to participate in a diverse array of programs with varying frequency, the category of Total Church Participants seeks to capture the number of all regular participants in the life of a congregation, active members and active non-members included."

Again, this might not seem like a huge shift, at first. Many of our churches have recognized this as a change in the way we do things.

This is not just something that is a challenge for a church here or there. No church has this as a unique challenge anymore.

Many churches are setting aside the idea of membership as central or as important to their organizational identity. Thirty years ago, it would have been seen as a failure that those participants did not become members.

I remember, on more than one occasion, elder clergy talking about "how to close the deal."

The idea of recognizing participants as a regular part of our communities is such a significant change within the life of so many of our churches that, in order to better represent who are churches are and who is a part of our church communities, we need a new metric.

This is far from the only place within church life that there is a recognition that new metrics are needed.

The Rev. Ben Guess, UCC Local Church Ministries executive minister, has long named that one of the most important numbers in local church life should be how many people a congregation has served in some way.

The Rev. Jeremy Smith, United Methodist Clergy Person and frequent contributor to the blog "Hacking Church," puts it this way, "It seems that the things we should be counting are about transformation, not accumulation."

I'm not so naive to suggest that there is no connection between the traditional metrics and the emerging ones but, well, it's not a strong one.

I have known of churches with less than 50 members that are serving hundreds in their communities and churches with hundreds of members that serve very few.

Although higher numbers may indeed increase the *capacity* of congregation to better serve God and God's people it does not, in and of itself, guarantee that result.

So, how might your church interact with these new metrics?

How might they change your congregational self-perception or even challenge your vocation, governance and spirituality?

**Many churches  
are  
setting aside  
the idea of  
membership  
as central  
to their  
organizational  
identity.**

## Transitions announced

**Leah Atkinson Bilinski** begins as the new settled pastor at Fauntleroy UCC in Seattle on Nov. 29.

**Tom Sorenson** was installed in a four-way covenant with Kirkland Congregational UCC, the Pacific Northwest Conference and First Congregational Church of Maltby, where he will be half-time pastor, on Nov. 8.

Emerge 'N See UCC in Sandpoint, Idaho, installed **Bob Evans** as its pastor on Nov. 1.

**Loren Arnett**, the first executive minister of the Washington Association of Churches, which he helped create in 1975 and served until he retired in 1989, died on Sept. 30 at the age of 90. The WAC was one of the founding organizations of the Faith Action Network. His commitment to justice and ecumenism made a difference in this state and for many across the world. His service was held Oct. 20 at University Christian in Seattle.

**Donald Walter** died on Sept. 25 in Bellingham. He served UCC churches in Massachusetts, Dryden and Blaine, WA, until he retired in 1994, where he became pastor emeritus in 1996. His memorial service was held Oct. 11 in Blaine.

## Churches mark anniversaries

**Tonasket Community Church UCC** celebrated its 100th anniversary on Nov. 1 with a program sharing memories and pictures from the past and the present. For information, call 509-486-2066 or email [helencasey3644@gmail.com](mailto:helencasey3644@gmail.com).

On Sunday Oct. 25, **University Congregational UCC**, Seattle, began celebrating its 125th Anniversary with rededicating its newly transformed sanctuary and pipe organ. The event included a musical feast with selections ranging from J.S. Bach to The Wailin' Jennys, and opportunities for congregational singing.

## Annual Meeting will be in Wenatchee

Rob Leveridge, a UCC pastor and songwriter who creates music about justice, peacemaking and the common good, will be a featured guest for the 2016 Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting April 29 to May 1 at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

His new album, "Sacred Days," is a collection of songs for important moments in faith life—baptisms, confirmations,

weddings and funerals.

The theme for Annual Meeting 2016 is "Out on a Limb."

For information, call 206-725-8383.

## UCUCC offers class on biophilia

"Love and Grief in the Face of Ecological Decline: Siding with Life and Nurturing the Strength to Act" is being offered at 7 p.m., for four Sundays, Nov. 1, 15 and 22, and Dec. 6, at University Congregational United Church of Christ (UCUCC), 4515 16th Ave. NE, in Seattle.

The facilitators are Mike Schut, a UCUCC member, writer, teacher and retreat leader, and Francie Rutherford, a psychotherapist in

private practice who has been attending UCUCC for almost two years.

Mike, who has served in environmental ministry positions for both Earth Ministry and the national Episcopal Church, seeks to connect faith, spirituality, simplicity, sustainability and eco-justice.

Francie is a long-time supporter of Earth Ministry and other local and national environmental organizations. She recently took to the water as a kayaktivist on behalf of sHell No!, an organization trying to keep Shell oil rigs away from Alaskan waters.

Mike cites biologist EO Wilson, who believes "we are all hard wired to love life," what he calls "biophilia." The class guides participants in mourning losses related to the global economy and climate change, while nurturing hope and finding meaningful actions for each to contribute to systemic changes needed.

*For information, call 206-524-2322, or email [mwschut@gmail.com](mailto:mwschut@gmail.com).*

## Plymouth sets concerts

Plymouth UCC in Seattle is presenting two organ dedication concerts at 2 and 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15 at the church, 1217 Sixth Ave.

Plymouth organist Douglas Cleveland will perform world premiere organ composition by George Baker, plus works by Louis Marchand, César Franck, Louis Vierne, Bach and more.

Plymouth's new organ is modeled on the Cavaillé-Coll organ at St. Françoise Church in Lyon France.

*For information and a 2015-16 concert schedule visit [plymouthchurchseattle.org](http://plymouthchurchseattle.org).*

## Conference News Briefs

## Survey results available

The Center for Analytics, Research and Data of the United Church of Christ will be reporting on findings of interest from the 2015 Faith Communities Today (FACT) Survey—nearly 1,000 UCC congregations participated earlier this year. Those who completed the survey will be interested in the results at "FACT Survey Webinar-Oct 21.pdf" at <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/26a0c4da-727a-4676-af71-ef42ff-0c7b6a>.

For information, call Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi at [hajbik@ucc.org](mailto:hajbik@ucc.org).

## Holiday concert planned

A holiday concert, "Sweet Honey in the Rock—Celebrating the Holydays!" will be held at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Seattle.

The a cappella ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock, brings a seasonal 90 minute family concert that includes inspirational and spiritual holiday music from around the world with traditional American holiday spiritual songs and hymns and songs from other cultures and religions, ranging from Africa to Israel.

For information contact Betty Spieth-Croll at 206-551-1721 or email [lecture-series@universityucc.org](mailto:lecture-series@universityucc.org). Tickets are at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

## OWL training at Normandy Park

Normandy Park Congregational UCC, 19247 First Ave S. in Seattle, is hosting Our Whole Lives Young Adult and Adult Facilitator Training Nov. 20 to 22.

The cost of \$225 covers trainers, meals and materials.

Details and registration are at <http://bit.ly/1YVX5qH>. For information, contact Susan Andresen at 206-265-2987 or email [susan@npucc.org](mailto:susan@npucc.org).

## Church plans World AIDS Day

Liberation United Church of Christ is planning to gather for songs and prayers before heading to Capital Hill in Seattle to hand out postcards on World AIDS at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6.

The postcards will have statistics about HIV/AIDS in King County as well as ways people can get involved.

At 7 p.m., there will be a Gospel Drag Tea Party at Liberation, a benefit concert featuring entertainment by Drag Performers doing numbers to their favorite gospel hits. The concert will raise funds for a local HIV/AIDS organization. *For information, email [goodwind@seattleu.edu](mailto:goodwind@seattleu.edu).*



# Eliza Penick believes that justice is faith in action

Continued from page 1

tle, which is now one of 14 U.S. metro areas with full time staff.

“Heifer drew me with the idea anyone can help someone out of poverty by giving animals to provide food and extra income,” Eliza said. “Anyone can buy and give a goat or a batch of chickens to help a family improve their diet by eating eggs and drinking milk, and earn extra income by selling extra eggs or cheese.

“It’s easy for a child to grasp,” she said.

To deepen her understanding of the complexities of poverty and how Heifer helps, Eliza visited projects in Honduras, Peru, Nepal and near Portland.

“Animals are the face of Heifer, but training in community development comes with the animals,” she said. “That’s what transforms communities.”

As people learn how to care for, breed and slaughter animals, they learn to work together to envision and organize as communities. “Social capital” develops as they do that.

An organized community able to advocate for itself is a safety net in the face of poverty, environmental degradation and gender inequity, she explained.

“There is only so much a U.S. agency can do,” she said. “Heifer hires local people abroad to empower people to create lasting change. As communities organize, everyone has a seat at the table.

“In a world with many conflicts, illnesses, accidents and natural disasters, people may lose their homes, but devastation cannot take away their skills in organizing and advocacy. It makes communities resilient and able to bounce back rather than slide back into abject poverty,” she said.

Heifer works in 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and Central and Eastern Europe. Over its

72 years, it has worked in 125 countries, helping 25 million families lift themselves out of poverty. Previously, it did many things in many places, but now it focuses on places where it can have the most impact to end poverty, like in East Africa, Nepal and Haiti.

- **The East Africa Dairy Development Project**, affects a million people in three countries. It connects people to markets to improve nutrition, incomes and opportunities. It helps small farmers meet demand for cow’s milk by forming co-ops to build infrastructure for transportation and marketing.

- **Rural Entrepreneurs for Agriculture Cooperation in Haiti (REACH)** started in 2011. They address poor soil and roads, loss of breeding stock, and lack of resources, tools or transportation to help farmers.

The training includes animal health, women’s empowerment and disaster prevention. From 2013 to 2017, it will train 120 community animal health workers, of which at least 40 will be women.

Seventy-five breeding centers will add 300 jobs to assure goats, pigs, cattle and poultry are healthy for breeding and to teach families accounting and marketing to be competitive.

With partners, they will plant more than 130,000 trees to prevent erosion. The project will help 12,000 rural farmers in 36 Haitian communities.

- **In Nepal, Heifer** worked for several decades in women’s empowerment and now uses social capital to strengthen women’s programs. It offers economic opportunity around goat meat and agricultural production, and helps women farmers build cooperatives and economic opportunities.

In the earthquake, participants were some of the first communities to assess needs and respond. Heifer staff in Kathmandu were among the



Eliza Penick holds goat on a visit to projects in Honduras.

Photos courtesy of Eliza Penick

first to send resources to meet emergency needs in rural areas.

“A community that knows how to mobilize and work together recovers faster,” she said, telling of Heifer’s Facebook page on Nepal and reports on farmers regrouping.

Since February, Eliza has also been on the board for Ten Thousand Villages (TTV) Seattle. It intersects with Heifer. For example, in Peru, Heifer projects raise alpaca and sheep for wool used for weaving. It also helps people gain access to markets, promotes gender equity and starts community banks.

Keystone’s Festival of Hope includes Heifer, TTV, small fair-trade coops and Seattle-based agencies like Northwest Harvest.

“Keystone is a small, but powerful congregation,” said Eliza. “Members pitch in to run booths for hunger relief and self-help projects locally to globally. In recent years, it raised \$15,000 with \$18,000 last year, including alternative gifts.”

Eliza said Heifer receives most of its revenue—\$193 mil-

lion in 2014—between Halloween and New Year.

One way children can be involved is through Heifer’s Read to Feed Program, students ask for pledges to earn money for Heifer animals by reading.

Growing up UCC, Eliza believes “we are to extend our love for humanity through justice, to put our faith into action to provide opportunity for people around the world.

“I am hopeful, because I believe we can end hunger and poverty as communities work together to take care of and support one another here, as well as around the world,” she said.

The Festival of Hope is one of 15 fairs with Heifer International, and one of 18 fairs in the Puget Sound area with Ten Thousand Villages.

Other Seattle-area UCC churches doing fairs are Richmond Beach on Nov. 14 and Magnolia UCC on Nov. 21, both with Heifer and TTV, and Wayside with TTV on Nov. 29.

For information, call 206-547-5696 or email [eliza.penick@heifer.org](mailto:eliza.penick@heifer.org).

## Ten Thousand Villages fair trade store #1 in sales

**K**mbris Bond, who has promoted the Ten Thousand Villages fair trade store in Seattle since 2009, returned in October to her hometown, Wenatchee, to be with family.

“Ten Thousand Villages (TTV) has been my life. It’s about making mission happen globally and regionally,” said Kmbris, who was a store volunteer, joined the board and came on staff at a time many Northwest stores were closing.

The Seattle store sells artisan-crafted home décor, personal accessories and gift items from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries. It is one of 390 U.S. TTV retail outlets.

**For 60 years**, Heifer has developed long-term buying relationships with artisans so they receive a fair price.

It began after Edna Ruth Byler, wife of a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) leader, visited Puerto Rico. Moved by the women artisans’ poverty, she bought needlework and sold it to friends in Pennsylvania. In 1952, the Overseas Needlepoint and Crafts Project started. It became a program of the MCC in 1962. It was named SELFHELP Crafts in 1968. In 1989, it helped start the International Fair Trade Association, and in 1996, became Ten Thousand Villages, opening stores around the country. In 2000, it incorporated as a nonprofit. It began online sales in 2006 and had \$20 million in overall sales. In 2012, it became a partner of MCC.

**The Seattle TTV store** began in the 1970s and incorporated in the 1980s and opened in 1991 at Kirkland as a mission of Seattle Mennonite Church. It moved in 1994 to downtown Seattle near Pike Place Market, then in 2000 moved to 6417 Roosevelt Way NE.

Recent changes helped it turn around, she said.

It is open from noon to 8 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays,



**Kmbris Bond a Phoenician glass vase handmade in Hebron.**

Photo courtesy of Kmbris Bond

and noon to 7 p.m., Sundays.

**Kmbris, who moved** to Seattle in 2009, applied business skills from nine years as an insurance broker in Eugene, Ore. She had never owned a business, run a store, headed a nonprofit, recruited volunteers or led a board.

Rich Trifeletti, a retail management professional, came out of retirement to be store manager, helping Kmbris make the store viable. The store does off-site sales, a book club, community service events, fund raisers and educational events..

Online sales are at [tenthousandvillages.com/seattle](http://tenthousandvillages.com/seattle).

**When Rick and Kmbris** left the store in August, it was top in the country in increased sales for the year.

Kmbris said it’s important that both customers and retail volunteers come from and visit many countries, so they have relationships and connections around the world.

“Many volunteers have traveled on learning tours to visit artisans in their settings to see how the relationships increase their incomes,” she said.

“It’s quite a contrast what Ten Thousand Villages does in fair trade compared with what big box stores do,” she said.

“When big box stores come to an area, they may use child labor, have unsafe working conditions and be inconsistent with suppliers as they look for the cheapest route, rather than using fair trade principles,” Kmbris said. “Ten Thousand Villages promises long-term relationships with artisans.”

At national workshops for three years at TTV headquarters in Akron, Pa., Kmbris met artisans and heard their stories.

**Several UCC churches** have had off-site sales, and Kmbris has brought TTV crafts to PNC Annual Meetings.

“Education is a big piece,” she said, noting that volunteers visit schools and churches to speak and to take products for off-site sales.

Kmbris often visited churches to do infomercials during mission moments.

“Ten Thousand Villages’ Seattle store draws ecumenical supporters and volunteers from 30 churches and groups.

UCC churches that do off-site sales are Keystone, Richmond Beach, University Congregational, Plymouth and Wayside.

UCC volunteers include Eliza Penik of Keystone, a new board member; Vicki Farmer

of University Congregational UCC is on the board, and Don Bolter, former office administrator at University Congregational UCC.

**Kmbris is also known** in the PNC for her work as a certified trainer in Our Whole Lives curriculum for middle school, high school, college, young adults and adults. In addition, she was chair of a recent Northwest Regional Women’s Retreat in Warm Springs and chair of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Business Group.

Through studies at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Kmbris earned a degree in speech communication with a minor in music ministry at Northwest Christian College in 1995.

**While her family** has been involved in Sunnyslope Brethren-UCC church, during 20 years of marriage, she was Presbyterian and Free Methodist, and then attended First Congregational UCC in Eugene.

In Seattle, she has been involved with University Congregational, the Pacific Northwest Conference, the Festival of Preaching and the Roosevelt Business Association.

“I came from the business side and moved into community involvement,” Kmbris said. “My dream is to create community.”

**“I’m UCC because of** the social justice piece in serving God. Each of us makes a difference every day around the world, making mission happen, clothing and feeding people, and educating people on our wealth and privilege,” Kmbris said. “We help people realize our potential to serve and help humanity.”

She expects the next chapter of her life to have some global element, even as she returns to her family’s organic farm and agricultural roots.

**For information, call 541-953-4442 or email [kmbris.bond@gmail.com](mailto:kmbris.bond@gmail.com).**



# Churches, nonprofits, city partner in REACH

After Renton's ministerial association disbanded in the 1960s, a group of mainline churches came together to advocate and work for people in need to be well and safe.

Now 40 churches from 19 denominations—Roman Catholic to Pentecostal—partner with community agencies and the city through REACH, the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches.

Ken Colman, pastor of the United Christian Church of Renton—UCC and Disciples of Christ—was involved in the transformation of REACH in the last 16 years.

**A recent accomplishment** was converting the jail in the Renton City Hall two years ago into a shelter for women and children called the Center for Hope. REACH leases the building for \$1 a year.

"We took a jail that once housed people for crimes and created a safe place for women. It's taking a place of no hope and turning it into a place of hope," he said. "That's a Holy-Spirit thing."

The Center of Hope was opened in May 2013 in the basement of Renton City Hall. The center partners with agencies to ensure clients access every avenue possible as they make their journey from homelessness to stability.

REACH volunteers transformed the space donated by the city for \$1 a year into a comfortable place for homeless women and children. Some experienced domestic violence, so there is a key code to enter.

**Ken, who has served** on the board since he has been in Renton, said REACH also gives volunteers the opportunity to help serve hot weekend dinners for homeless people through the Renton Meal Coalition. Weeknights, the Salvation Army provides meals.

Latter-day Saints missionaries cook hotcakes for Warmup



**REACH volunteers serve supper to homeless people.**

Photo courtesy of REACH

Breakfasts on weekends.

"It's the first encounter many have with homeless people," said Ken, adding that the United Christian Church was one of the founders of REACH.

**He said the church's** outreach chair Pat Auten and the chair of elders James Bruner have shifted the church's focus from just giving to mission to being active in mission.

"We are answering Jesus' call to feed the hungry, care for the homeless and reach out to the least of these," Ken said, "moving beyond theological debate by serving side-by-side."

The city and nonprofits are at the table with REACH to serve the community to have the biggest outreach for each dollar, he said.

**Maggie Breen**, the executive director, is also half-time pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Leigh Weber, who until recently was an intern at St. Andrew's, is on staff with REACH as half-time chaplain to the homeless. Valley Medical Center calls her when a homeless person comes in. Leigh recently started part-time at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Normandy Park, and continues as chaplain.

Six to nine attend board meetings. Mostly lay people are among 45 to 50 at lunch meetings first Tuesdays September through June at different churches.

"This ministry helps build community and relationships that improve the relationship between police, business owners and the wider community," Ken said. "Volunteers learn that homelessness is part of a system and that when we overcome our differences we find our commonalities."

**In her annual report**, Maggie said the ministry provides food, shelter, showers, laundry, vocational resources, a mailing address, and connections to health, wellness, legal, educational and social services.

"Through these services, people we help begin to trust they will be cared for and know their contributions are as important as anyone else's. Our volunteers and partners trust there are actions we can take to better the world," she said.

**The Center of Hope** also includes a day center, night shelter for homeless women and children, a day care and an emergency winter shelter program. The day center pro-

vides companionship, showers, hygiene, breakfast, lunch, laundry services, case management, clothing, housing referrals, employment resources, computer access, support groups, medical referrals and tutoring.

**For the night shelter**, churches host on a monthly rotation up to four families in private sleeping rooms and single women in one room from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. There is a common room for watching TV, playing games, doing homework and visiting. Volunteers stay overnight with guests.

**Homeless men** who may live on the street or sleep in a car, may also be part of ARISE, the Area of Renton Interfaith Shelter Endeavor, founded by REACH in 2004. A partnership between REACH, Catholic Community Services and the City of Renton, it is also a rotating shelter for homeless men.

Intake is from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Anthony's Parish Ministry Center. Men who enter ARISE are provided shelter seven nights a week from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m., a hot evening meal, breakfast and a sack lunch. The program moves each month to a new church and meals are provided by Renton Meal Coalition. A case manager works with individuals enrolled.

**In partnership** with the Soma Community at Harambee, 316 S. 3rd St. in downtown Renton, every weekday, Monday thru Friday from 8 to 10 a.m., REACH hosts people who need a warm place to come inside to warm up, be in community, and enjoy coffee and a simple breakfast.

REACH also sponsors an Ecumenical Easter Sunrise service attended to 100 to 150, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and annual CROP Hunger Walks.

**For information**, call 206-856-8547 or 425-226-3080, or email [pastorken@uccrenton.org](mailto:pastorken@uccrenton.org).

## 'People are kinder because of you,' says supporter

Continued from page 1

lice. The officer said it was not a hate crime unless it was repeated. They reported the letter and other incident.

### Jim shared more history.

In 2012, Eric and Jim worked with the Inland Northwest Clergy for Inclusion to prepare a statement signed by 35 clergy, apologizing to the LGBT community for Christians shunning them and offering affirmation.

"We read it from our pulpits as corporate confession during Lent. It ran in the weekly *Statesman*. Letters to the editor were exchanged for two months. Other clergy published a statement in the newspaper.

**Jim believes it is about more than being progressive Christian and inclusive voice in the community.**

He said it may be because Eric and he have engaged with the Ministerial Association in monthly dialogue and discussions to help the clergy know each other better, understand the basis for their faith stands, and respect each other.

"We realize we have many areas of disagreement, but we do not disagree on fundamentals of God's love," he said.

After the 35-member Colville First Congregational UCC voted to be Open and Affirming in 2012, the Ministerial Association sought to pass a doctrinal statement in favor of traditional marriage.

**"Because of relationships** Eric and I had with other clergy, they wanted to understand how we came to our stands," Jim said.

"That led to forums with each pastor sharing their faith stories and journeys confidentially, and ways others speaking their own faith language may have offended them," he added.

"Those conversations, and the opening and deepening of respect, may have been hard for some in the community," Jim



**Jim CastroLang believes ministers' conversations upset some.**  
Photo courtesy of First Congregational UCC Colville

said.

"Our hearts and minds are more open to each other across our religious differences. It is likely someone is afraid that these conversations may soften some from their hard core positions as other ministers become open to us and learn to love us.

"We agree that hate has no place in the church," Jim said.

**Jeff Moss, the president** of the Northern Stevens County Ministerial Association, said that the Ministerial Association "wants to represent this part of God's country, recognizing our differences and what we have in common as people created in the image of God. We are a Christ-centered organization supporting each other in living faith."

Jeff said Ministerial Association officers "grieve with you over the abuse experienced" and "pray that Jesus Christ will pour mercy out on you to heal your wounds and

strengthen us to overcome evil with good, respond to harm and abuse with grace and a zeal for justice."

**Expressing support** on Oct. 25, Chewelah UCC's moderator and a member said that as "neighbors in a rural area, it's important to stand together," and to honor our covenant as members of the UCC advocating for justice and seeking peace as models of Jesus' love."

Because it was Reformation Sunday, a member of St. Paul's council presented a letter signed by that congregation, quoting Martin Luther: "I cannot and will not recant."

That letter recognized that members of both churches are family members, and "family sticks together. You are not alone. Our homes are yours. Your need is our opportunity to respond. Do what you need in faith. To do otherwise is neither safe nor sound."

**Fr. Tyler Smedley** of Im-

maculate Conception Parish in Colville, wrote later to assure of the Catholic Church's closeness, speaking of the need for Colville to remain "a place where differing views are respected and the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion are assured." He added that "despite all we have that differs, we can still work in common to strengthen our community, to care for those who are most vulnerable and to provide help for those in need."

**A former member,** "Apanakhi" Jeri Buckley, a professor of education and psychology at Heritage College on the Yakama Reservation, sent a thank you to the church, delighted that it "still stands for principles I value." She was in the church from 1960 until graduating from high school in 1968, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school and learning.

"First Congregational welcomed Jewish people into the church community when they had no place else in Colville to worship, Jeri said.

She learned from the pastor about the Hanukkah story, compassion and migrant workers. In college, she carried groceries for blocks to avoid shopping where boycotted grapes were sold. Now half her students are Latinos who work in the fields. Her background is Irish, English, Swedish, Scottish, French, German, Choctaw and Haude-nosaunee.

"First Congregational shaped who I am and what I have done with my life. I'm sure, since you continue to have the courage of your convictions, that you are shaping lives today," Jeri said. "Just think: there are people in this world who are kinder and more compassionate because of you."

**For information, call 509-998-7203 or email [jcastro-lang@gmail.com](mailto:jcastro-lang@gmail.com).**



## Pastor publishes book, teaches on Crimea

Tom Sorenson has recently put to use his studies in the complexities and difficulties of understanding history as it related to the background for the Bible and the dynamics in Ukraine.

When he first started his ministry at Monroe UCC 16 years ago, he found there was no Bible study and started a 9 a.m. Sunday Bible study.

Three years ago, a member of that study brought a book he thought was a good introduction to the Bible. The group decided that book was not what they wanted, but they did want an introduction to the Bible.

So Tom began an 18-month series teaching an introduction to the Bible. Based on the class, he recently self-published a 688-page book, *Liberating the Bible: A Pastor's Guided Tour for Seeking Christians*.

"The intention was to help people understand what the Bible is and is not, to look at what is really there and what is not there, and to identify what people may want it to be and say. What does the Bible say and not," Tom said.

"Many times, I hear about Christians reading the Bible cover-to-cover. I doubt the value of picking it up on one's own and reading it. The Bible is a complex book. It includes history, so people need to be educated on history, cultural context and language issues. Those need to be understood to understand the Bible. Most read it without understanding the complexities.

The self-publishing style Tom chose was print-on-demand through Archway Publishing. It is now available on amazon.com recently, and about 25 copies were printed.

From 2013 through 2014, Tom was co-pastor of Monroe UCC with his wife Jane, ending in December. By reducing his time at the church, he had



Tom Sorenson's history studies helpful for book and class.

time to write the book. In January 2015, he began as half-time at First Congregational Church at Maltby between Woodinville and Monroe in a four-way covenant with the PNC, Kirkland UCC and the church.

He continues teaching a 9 a.m. Sunday Bible study there.

Two years ago, when tension arose about Russia taking the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine, Tom realized that few understood the history of that part of the world or the Russia-Ukraine relationship.

Tom spent a year from 1975 to 1976 with his late first wife, Francie, and son doing research for his doctoral dissertation on Konstantin Pobedonostsev, the overprocurator of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church from 1880 to 1905.

He earned a bachelor's in history in 1970 and a PhD in history in 1977 at the University of Washington. Because there were only two full-time positions to teach imperial Russian history after he graduated, he entered law school at the

University of Oregon in his hometown of Eugene, Ore.

He began to practice law in Edmonds, joining Richmond Beach UCC, and then in 1995, University Congregational UCC. Burned out on law, he started seminary in 1997 at Seattle University's master of divinity program, graduating in December 2000.

Tom, who has taught a few courses over the years on Russian history, updated his information so he could offer a Saturday morning class at Monroe UCC in 2014 on the history of the relationship of Russia, Ukraine and the Crimean Peninsula for the church and community. He offered it again at the Monroe Senior Center.

"The crisis was a manifestation of a long history of tension and Russian occupation of that part of the world back to the 18th century," Tom said. "In 1787, the Russian Emperor took it from the Turks. The Russian Empire expanded to include Ukraine through the 19th century. It did not recognize

Ukraine as a separate language, culture or political entity.

"After the Communists took over in 1922, creating the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, it created the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic," Tom said.

Originally, the Crimean Peninsula was not part of the Ukrainian Republic, but the Russian Republic.

Ukrainian history has been part of events that are central to Russian history and identity: the Crimean war in the 1859 between the British and Russia and the 1905 Revolution against the tsar including the Revolt of the Crew of the Battleship Potemkin. There has long been tension from Russia saying Ukrainians were really Russian, he said.

In 1954, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev took the Crimean Peninsula from the Russian Republic and gave it to the Ukrainian Republic. It was and is the home of the Soviet and Russian Black Sea Fleet, so most people there since World War II have been Russian, not Ukrainian, Tom explained.

"It's not so surprising or outrageous for Russia to say Crimea is ours and take it from Ukraine. It was illegal under international law. In 1991, the USSR broke up and the 15 SSRs became independent nations, recognized by the UN and international community. One was Ukraine with the Crimean Peninsula," Tom said.

"Russia was taking it back, illegally, but historically it is not hard to understand," he said. "It's important to build understanding and historical perspective, because we do not get it from the American press. I do not justify what Russia did, but history is important in understanding what led to it."

For information, call 360-793-1361 or email pastor-toms@msn.com.



# Bob Porter revisits Sri Lanka where he taught

Streets are now busy with traffic, ruins are rebuilt, rail lines are restored, and efforts continue to document human rights abuses during the civil war that raged during most of Bob Porter's time as an education missionary in Sri Lanka.

In February 2014, 17 years since serving there with the United Church Board of World Ministries, he returned to visit Jaffna College and Uduvil Girls' School, where he taught English, plus some classes in German and French, and led the choir and directed student dramas from 1981 to 1998.

Jaffna College is a private school started by American missionaries in 1823 in Vaddukodai six miles outside of Jaffna. Uduvil Girls' School, a private school founded in 1816 by the American Ceylon Mission in Jaffna, today offers grades one to 13. Both train teachers.

**Bob visited former** students, colleagues and friends. At Jaffna College, he also met staff and current students.

The trip came about when Bob met Dr. Mayuran (Mayo) while he studied forensics at Harborview in Seattle. His wife Dr. Sriklakshi studied radiology in Chapel Hill, N.C. They invited him to stay in their home near Jaffna Hospital.

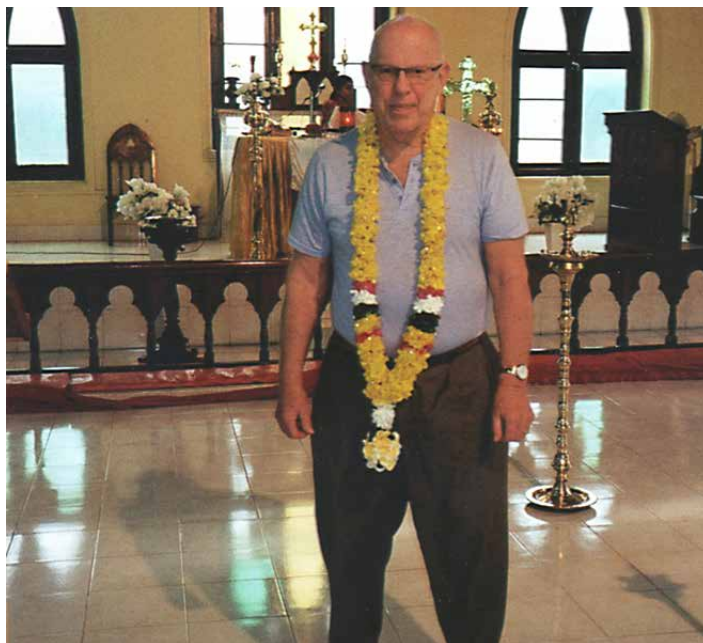
Bob, a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Seattle, lives at Hilltop House behind Harborview.

**In 2014, he was there** for the 190th anniversary of Uduvil Girls' School early in his visit.

"This college was often the scene of multi-college Christmas programs, for which I directed English music," said Bob.

Staying in a neighborhood near Jaffna Hospital, he found much had changed from the ruined city he left in 1998.

**"When I was** in Sri Lanka, there was a civil war between the Buddhist majority government and the predominantly Hindu Tamil Tigers. There



**Bob Porter at the Uduvil Girls College in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.**

Photo courtesy of Bob Porter

were other freedom fighters, too," he said. "In 2009, the government slaughtered Tamil Tigers on the East Coast. The army took over the land."

Because of the war, no gas, hospital supplies, oil or other resources reached Jaffna in the North. Bob rode a bicycle the whole time. The power was off for 10 years. There was no refrigeration. They couldn't use oil stoves. Because he was single, he was able to endure the inconveniences and stay there.

**In 2014, streets were** "jammed with cars, motorbikes, bicycles, three wheelers and stray dogs, a new hazard," said Bob. "For Buddhists, dogs are like cows are for Hindus, so they are not chained."

A rail line is completed to the North Coast, and there's an air-conditioned train to Colombo, the capital.

A friend of Mayo asked Bob and Mayo to dedicate a new school he financed in the Vanni, an area once heavily fought over. They drove back on a new bridge over the Jaffna Lagoon. When Bob was there, the lagoon had to be crossed illegally in small boats, because

the army occupied the only access.

Other trips included a half-day's drive to Batticaloa on the Southeast Coast where he had a reunion with Dr. Ambalavanar, wife of the previous bishop. Bob learned that her son Darshan's wife Marilyn is volunteering to photograph and preserve documents of the many human rights abuses prevalent in the area during the war.

**The final week he spent** in Colombo. From there he went by train to Kandy, where he visited a friend, Innocent Ratwatte. She showed him photos of the Anglican Church's relief work on the East Coast after the destructive 2004 tsunami.

**Back in Jaffna,** he visited a former student, Vasuki Rajasingham, and her father, the former vice principal of Jaffna College. They gave him the program from the 25th anniversary remembrance of her sister, Rajani Thiraganama, in September 2014.

"The government attempted to suppress that event by canceling the use of both the library and the university, where she had been the anatomy pro-

fessor," Bob said. "The Methodists provided a hall."

Bob was there in 1989 when Tamil Tigers shot and killed Rajani for her work on human rights abuses by the Tigers, the army and the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

**During his time there,** he informed the UCC about human rights abuses.

"There were plenty of bad incidents. The poor were badly abused by the war and the Tigers," he said. "I knew the elite in the university system. Some were part of the problem, and some tried to help."

Rajani's book, "The Broken Palmyrah," was published at that time by a brother of a Jaffna University professor who taught at Harvey Mudd College in California.

In Colombo, Bob found a copy of his Dutch friend Ben Bavinck's volume on the war years. "Of Tamils and Tigers" filled in many facts he had not known at the time.

Bob now also has a copy of Rajan Hoole's account of the problems of Tamil people, the growth of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and Rajani's role at the university, work on human rights abuses and support of women affected by the war.

Rajan's book, "The Fallen Palmyrah: From Rajani to War's End," is an account of the destruction of the Tigers in 2009 and continuing problems of restitution and resettlement.

"People in the North complain that soldiers are everywhere and, although it's a Hindu area, Buddhist temples are being built, even in the old Vaddukodai post office," Bob said.

Bob has served on the PNC/Disciples NW Region joint Global Ministries Committee. As part of PNC partnerships, he went to Germany and taught English in Seoul.

**For information, call 206-706-5693 or email yerfdog518@gmail.com.**



# Images of burned areas offer perspectives of damage

By Mary Stamp

Returning from visiting family and seeing how the summer Okanogan Complex Tunk Mountain fire came to the hillside above their home but left vast stretches unburned, I returned to Spokane via the dirt road over Tunk Mountain.

That drive left me with questions and insights about what happened and what will happen as the shift to long-term recovery begins through Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs).

Churches and others become involved through VOADs in assessing needs and assisting with rebuilding.

The Carlton Complex Long Term Recovery efforts are still underway from 2014 fires, said Vera Zachow, as efforts begin to help with rebuilding and assistance through the Okanogan County Long-Term Recovery Group, an umbrella that includes the Omak-Okanogan Long Term Recovery Organization.

Similar groups are helping communities with temporary housing, clothing, fencing, insurance, hay, sheds and rebuilding in Twisp-Winthrop, Tonasket-Oroville, Pateros-Brewster and the Colville Indian Reservation, as well as in Chelan, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.

The Omak-Okanogan group can be reached at [OmakOkanogan.LTRO@gmail.com](mailto:OmakOkanogan.LTRO@gmail.com).

FEMA rejected individual assistance for the second year, so voluntary recovery efforts will be important.

While firefighters saved many structures, many people lost vehicles, farm machinery, crops, timber and livestock.

Governor Jay Inslee's request for assistance said 522,920 acres were burned in the Okanogan Complex, Tunk Block and North Star fires (Okanogan Complex), com-



What trees will be harvested?

Some areas burned out (below), others were scorched (top).

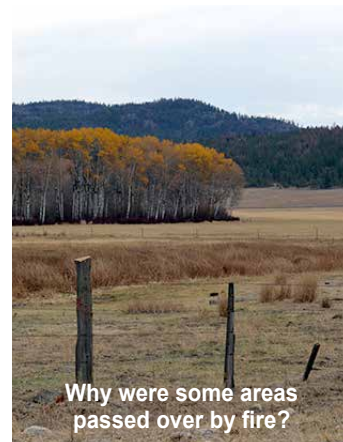


How soon will slopes regrow cover to prevent erosion?

Some areas became moonscapes (top). Others were untouched (below).



What is the role of fires in the natural cycle?



Why were some areas passed over by fire?



What help will there be for rebuilding?

Some homes burned (above and below), others were surrounded and survived (right).



Why were some homes saved and others lost?



How can people join in to help meet needs?

pared with 256,108 acres in the Carlton Complex. People are still searching for housing from that fire, which destroyed 237 homes and 53 outbuildings.

Foursquare and other churches built sheds for several

families to store donated goods while they rebuild.

Vera, who lived in Pateros six years before the 2014 fire, visited a neighbor last year. "Everywhere I looked was black, so I took her a pot

of flowers." This year, she and others are distributing flowers.

We invite UCC churches to send updates on ways they are assisting their neighbors.

*Please send stories to [editor@pnccnews.org](mailto:editor@pnccnews.org).*



# Emerge 'N See shares faith through conversation

By Kaye Hult

The Rev. Bob Evans' passion is to teach the way Jesus did, in conversation and communion—not necessarily from the pulpit.

In Sandpoint, he was recently installed as pastor of EmERGE 'N See United Church of Christ (UCC), which he started with help from Susan, his wife of 26 years. The church was received into standing with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC at its Annual Meeting in April.

The church supports outreach of individual members. Many were doing social work before they began coming.

Some work with Habitat for Humanity. Others help people needing assistance with rent. Some write for a local paper called, "The Reader."

"We support each other in what we're doing," Bob said. "We're small, but salt in the community."

As the church evolves, he expects it may become more liturgical, but a seminar remains central to their gathering.

At 9:30 a.m., Sundays, EmERGE 'N See UCC meets at the Heartwood Center at 615 Oak Street in Sandpoint.

At 9 a.m., some gather in the kitchen, set up coffee and snacks, and catch up with each other. Others sit in silence in a circle in the worship room.

At 9:30, the group gathers in the circle. Bob opens the service by introducing the day's topic. For example, one Sunday in July, he played his guitar, accompanying his wife Susan as she sang a children's song to help the group grapple with meanings of "sacred" and "spirit," and how they relate to each other.

After a gathering prayer, the congregation discusses a topic for the rest of the hour. When he refers to biblical stories, he does not quote chapter and verse, but invites people to



Bob Evans started and serves EmERGE 'N See UCC.

delve into the Bible to find the stories themselves. After the service, worshipers mingle and help clean up.

Bob shares the Christian message through conversations, which he said is how the Gospels depict Jesus teaching.

**Born in Bonners Ferry**, he grew up in Sandpoint. His spiritual journey began early with asking questions like "Who is God?" When his mother recited the prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep," he asked, "What does THAT mean?" She said it was about resting in a safe place.

"That prayer is an introduction to the Mystery ... of Being, of God. I don't want to define it for anyone else," Bob said.

**Music plays a major role** in his life. Since he began playing violin in the fourth grade, he always wanted to play the guitar. Eventually, he learned by watching musicians who played in bars.

"I began playing with them when I was 14," he said. "I had a chance to grow into who I was as a musician. It doesn't happen that way today. It's too commercial now."

In the Vietnam era, Bob served in the Marines but did not go overseas.

"It opened my eyes to the

political system," he said. "I try to see the yin and yang. I hope we are waking up to lessons we learned there and in Iraq."

Back from military service, Bob went as a musician from Sandpoint to Portland to Nashville in two years.

**"Often I was in** the right place at the right time. I played bass with actress and country music singer Barbara Mandrell," said Bob, who played with many others in the music business.

"It was the time in my life when I experienced the deepest spiritual growth, seeing life from both sides of the stage," he said. "I had the chance to be a star, but I had a sense that would be dangerous for me."

Bob did commercial fishing and logging during his teen years. When he left the music business, he went to Alaska to fish with his father and stayed for 17 years.

**Not agreeing with ideas** of conservative churches he encountered, and not knowing about progressive churches, he considered himself Buddhist.

In Wrangell, Alaska, however, he began attending a Presbyterian (USA) church, where the pastor addressed his questions. When he didn't have

an answer, he would say so. He suggested Bob take a lay pastor's course in Sitka. The next pastor guided him to Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine, with Presbyterian sponsorship. The "Bangor Plan" allowed Bob to study for a bachelor's degree and master's of divinity at the same time.

In spring 2001, a senior at the seminary asked Bob to lead a worship service at the Kenduskeag Union Church, a congregation accustomed to having student pastors. He became pastor there while at Bangor.

"The members were thinkers," he said. "They opened up to what I was thinking."

After seminary, Bob returned to Alaska to the Presbyterian church, "but my heart wasn't there," he said.

**He returned** to Sandpoint and joined the Newport United Church of Christ. The then UCC Conference Minister arranged for him to preach at the UCC church in Wallace and American Baptist church in Osborn. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2008 and called to serve there.

Much as he loved these churches in the Silver Valley, he wanted to return to Sandpoint, where his parents lived.

**He advertised a seminar** on the Kingdom of God at the Gardenia Center, a spiritual center in Sandpoint.

That was the beginning of EmERGE 'N See UCC.

Bob reflected on his ministry: "I teach from the depth of the myth that people are hungry for. That's what the church is supposed to do."

He started the congregation intentionally, but casually, believing the church should be a reference point for people's spiritual journey. From there, they reach into the community.

**For information, call (208) 920-3077, email [emergensee\\_ucc@yahoo.com](mailto:emergensee_ucc@yahoo.com) or visit [www.emerge-n-see-ucc.org](http://www.emerge-n-see-ucc.org).**

## Annual Meeting theme 'Out on a Limb' will link with the fruit, orchards of Central Washington

By Andy CastroLang - Moderator

"Out on a Limb," the theme for the 2016 PNC Annual Meeting, is based on a quote from American actor, commentator and humorist Will Rogers: "Of course I go out on a limb, that's where the good fruit is."

Our theme for Annual Meeting in Wenatchee April 29 to May 1 is about more than just fruit! It is about the spirit of daring, of risk taking, and of change and possibility that are needed in the church today. It is about encouraging the spirit of new adventure!

We take as our text the words from the book of Proverbs 25:11: "the right words at the right time are like golden apples in a silver setting."

We enjoy playing off the idea that we are meeting in the heart of "Washington apple country."

You can expect to see apple art, hear apple music, enjoy apple candy while at this Annual Meeting 2016!

We seek "the right words at the right time" to truly create beauty in our churches and in our world.

The planners of Annual Meeting hope that there will be plenty of opportunity to answer the questions:

- "What are you doing, at the right time, in your own setting?"
- "What right words do you speak at this time?"
- "What fruits of the spirit are at work in your church, community and setting?"

There will be a variety of workshops, some shorter and some longer.

Rob Leveridge will lead in singing, and offer a workshop too.

We hope to have an Art Gallery at Annual Meeting 2016, with works from the wonderful creative members of our many diverse churches. We will have a "gallery opening and wine tasting" to meet and greet the artists and buy their work.

We hope to create a joyous, beautiful and inviting atmosphere

- where you will come to greet friends old and new;
- where you can count on being heartened by good music, good worship, good compa;
- where you will be strengthened by words of hope and possibility, singing with gusto, and sharing new ideas and new companions on the path of love and service!

Maybe we will even have a flashmob!

**For information, call 206-725-8383.**

## UCC's new national leader will visit PNC

There is still time to register for activities surrounding the visit of the UCC's new General Minister and President, the Rev. John Dorhauer.

He will share some of what he's been working on and will be in conversation the morning of Saturday, Nov. 21 at Plymouth Church in Seattle.

That afternoon, there will be workshops about local church health; PNC's Justice Leadership Program; best practices for stewardship and financial management; and a new model for small group ministries.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs to 2:30 p.m. with lunch. To register by Monday, Nov. 16, email the Rev. Tara Barber at [barbertara@hotmail.com](mailto:barbertara@hotmail.com) or via the Facebook event page.

John will preach at 11 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Plymouth Church in downtown Seattle.

Then he will preach at 5:30 p.m. at Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane at its new evening service, called "The Lounge."

He will then gather with clergy for dinner at 7 p.m.

Plymouth Church made this weekend possible by inviting the UCC president and general minister and sharing his time during the visit. **To register for the clergy dinner, email the Rev. Andy CastroLang at [pastorandy@westminsterucc.org](mailto:pastorandy@westminsterucc.org).**

### 2016 N-Sid-Sen camp schedule is:

#### Junior & Senior High Midwinter Retreat

March 11 to 13 - grades 7 to 12

Women's Retreat - May 20 to 22

Work Camp - June 13 to 18

Young Adult - June 17 to 19

Kid's Camp - July 3 to 6

Intermediate Camp - July 3 to 9

Senior High Aqua Camp  
July 10 to 16

Family Camp #1  
July 24 to 30

Junior High Aqua Camp  
July 31 to Aug 6

LGBTQ Camp  
Aug 5 to 7

Family Camp #2 - Aug. 7 to 13

**For information, call 208-689-3489 email [mark@n-sid-sen.org](mailto:mark@n-sid-sen.org) register at [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org)**

## Midwinter Retreats set

By Mark Boyd

Midwinter Retreats are open for registrations.

Junior High Midwinter at Pilgrim Firs will be Jan 8 to 10. Senior High Midwinter at Pilgrim Firs will be Jan. 15 to 17.

A \$20 early bird discount is offered through Nov. 30.

The Junior/Senior High Midwinter at N-Sid-Sen is March 11 to 13 with an early bird discount through Dec. 31.

Registrations will be received at [www.N-Sid-Sen.org](http://www.N-Sid-Sen.org) or [www.pilgrimfirs.com](http://www.pilgrimfirs.com) and register. On the Pilgrim Firs website, click on "Events and Registration," then on "Register for Camp."

For information, email Wade Zick, Pilgrim Firs managing director, at [wadezick.pf@gmail.com](mailto:wadezick.pf@gmail.com) or Mark Boyd, N-Sid-Sen managing director at [mark@n-sid-sen.org](mailto:mark@n-sid-sen.org).

### 2016 Pilgrim Firs camp & retreat season

Junior High Midwinter Retreat  
Jan 8 to 10 - grades 7-9

Senior High Midwinter Retreat  
Jan 15 to 17 - grades 10-12

Men's Retreat - Jan 28 to 31

Work Camp - May 5 to 8

LGBTQ Spiritual Renewal Retreat - May 27 to 29

PNC Counselor & Director Retreat - May 20 to 22

LGBTQ Retreat - June 3 to 5

Work Camp June 16 to 19

Senior High Camp  
June 27 to July 2

Junior High Camp  
July 3 to 9

Kids Camp - July 10 to 13

Intermediate Camp  
July 10 to 16

**For information, call 360-876-2031 email [wadezick.pf@gmail.com](mailto:wadezick.pf@gmail.com) register at [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org)**