



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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Fall 2011

Campers' install signs to protect grounds

**2011 campers
gain a sense of awe,
learn different ways to pray,
do a service project
and experience much more.**

From seeing the star form of seeds in a cross-wise-cut apple, to feeling the earth under their feet on a hike, to installing signs to protect wildlife at N-Sid-Sen, 2011 campers experiences moved from a spirit of awe to a spirit of empowerment.

Stephen Haddan of Tolt UCC in Carnation saw "amazing transformation" in many of the 30 fifth and sixth graders as the intermediate camp at Pilgrim Firs progressed.

"They grew in their ability to work together, to listen to each other's stories and to be creative, gaining an understanding of mystery and awe through na-



Bob Watrous helps junior high campers Hope Jared of Cheney UCC and Connor Farrand of Richmond Beach UCC in Shoreline install signs to protect grounds and wildlife. Photo by Kim Schulz

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Environmental Justice Center events begin

More than 100 people shared in a worship service Sept. 24 at Plymouth UCC in Seattle to launch the Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center in Port Orchard. At the service, Linda Jarimillo, executive minister for the national UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, said, "It's our responsibility to God to care for creation."

Training events for the center have been set for February, April and October.

Jim Deming, who began in May 2010 as minister for environmental justice with the national UCC Justice Witness Ministries, is developing a 16-hour curriculum for an immersion in biblical and theological core values, in current local-to-national environmental issues,

in a hands-on restoration projects and in advocacy to influence public policy.

"Environmental justice moves us beyond being 'green' by changing light bulbs, installing solar panels or driving a hybrid car," he said. "It's about transforming ourselves and our communities to a new reality of care and justice."

He explained that in the 1980s, the UCC focus was on environmental rac-



James Deming

ism. The UCC wrote the 1987 report, "Toxic Waste and Race," identifying the disproportionate environmental burden on poor and minority communities. In 2007, an update showed that the situation was worse.

"The UCC has been a voice challenging locating toxic waste near people with no voice," Deming said.

After 2000, General Synods expanded environmental justice beyond environmental racism to include climate justice, "because poor people are the first to be affected by climate changes."

The Pilgrim Firs center will train lay and clergy leaders in the UCC and other faiths to train individuals, churches and communities to change their environ-
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Two paragraphs call church to good work

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

**Social justice
is
faithful work
that means
life for the
church and
hope for
the world.**

There are two paragraphs from two different pieces that, within the last month or so, have really stuck with me. The first is from a report from Hartford Seminary and the Hartford Institute for Religion Research titled, “*The Compassionate Congregation*.”

“Congregations working for social justice with a broad array of social outreach ministries are more likely to express that their congregations are vital and alive. A strong, positive correlation exists between having a wide breadth of social ministries and having a high vitality congregation. Almost 90 percent of those with a high level of justice programs are vital, compared to only 46 percent who have little involvement in justice issues. Almost 80 percent of those congregations with a great deal of involvement in outreach show high vitality, compared with 56 percent of those with low involvement and 46 percent of those with limited.”

By itself, this paragraph is an amazing affirmation for many churches and challenge for many others. In the last year, there have been some who have tried to suggest that any faith-based social justice work is an expression of something in opposition to a faithful life.

Many of us may have heard—from some of those we know and love in our churches—the fear that, if we become involved in social justice work, our church-life will somehow fall apart.

There are even the wagging fingers of some who suggest that the church or a pastor has no right to speak up around issues of injustice, inequality and violence. This piece suggests that social justice work isn’t simply important but a *vital part* of a church’s health.

The second paragraph is from an article by Joshua Goldstein in an article from *Foreign Policy Magazine* titled, “Think Again: War,”

“...the last decade has seen fewer war deaths than any decade in the past 100 years, based on data compiled by researchers Bethany Lacina and Nils Petter Gleditsch of the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Worldwide, deaths

caused directly by war-related violence in the new century have averaged about 55,000 per year, just over half of what they were in the 1990s (100,000 a year), a third of what they were during the Cold War (180,000 a year from 1950 to 1989), and a hundredth of what they were in World War II. If you factor in the growing global population, which has nearly quadrupled in the last century, the decrease is even sharper. Far from being an age of killer anarchy, the 20 years since the Cold War ended have been an era of rapid progress toward peace.”

This article ends with these words:

“Similarly rapid shifts in norms preceded the ends of slavery and colonialism, two other scourges that were once also considered permanent features of civilization. So don’t be surprised if the end of war, too, becomes downright thinkable.”

Whereas the first piece names some logical reasons for churches to be involved in social justice work, this article names the moral imperative.

I confess that there have been many days that I have gone home under a cloud of futility convinced that working for a better world was a quixotic, useless, hopeless effort. This article has turned that on its head.

I find myself more excited and willing to do this work, now, than I have for a long time.

It ends up that it was never naïve to believe things could get better. It was naïve to *believe* those who said things *couldn’t* get better.

If churches don’t continue to be part of this good work, we are not just abandoning a “program,” we are denying God’s redemptive presence among us and God’s call to us to be part of that movement.

The church being involved in the work of social justice is no small, easily dismissed thing. It is this faithful work that means life for the church and hope for the world.

Trainers will train others around U.S.

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mental impact and learn ways to advocate for public policies on local, state and national levels. The curriculum will not be limited to Pilgrim Firs, but that site will serve "as the epicenter for empowering people to train others in environmental justice."

Deming wants people to leave the workshops saying, "Get out of my way, I'm going to change the world."

Three workshops are set in 2012 for 12 to 15 participants each. The first training will be

held Feb. 10 to 12 UCC members from different conferences. The second, April 20 to 22, will be for leaders in Northwest UCC conferences. The third will be for Northwest pastors, Oct. 16 to 18.

Participants will sign a covenant to hold two workshops in their communities in a year, so that in two years more than 1,000 will have been trained.

"We need to address environmental despair so people will keep going in face of opposition and the sense that there

efforts may make no difference," Deming said. "We need to discuss what makes us live in hope rather than despair."

The center at Pilgrim Firs will also develop other curricula to take to the whole church.

"It's not good use of carbon for everyone to fly to Pilgrim Firs for training, so we will take the training where people are," said Deming, who has worked in publishing, interim ministry, a rails-to-trails conservation effort, in poverty law and in non-profit issues. He and his wife

Lynne, who met at Emory University, live in Nashville, Tenn.

In 2006, he began working with individuals, congregations and church leaders on how faith and justice can transform values related to sustainability and global warming, working with Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, Tennessee Environmental Council and the National Wildlife Federation.

For information on attending a worship, email demingj@ucc.org, call 360-876-2013 or visit pilgrimfirs.org.

Transitions announced

Brigitta Remole has begun as the new senior pastor at Plymouth UCC in Seattle.

Marsha Williams has been called to serve Blaine UCC.

Lisa Horst Clark is the new associate minister at Bellevue First Congregational UCC.

Judith Rinehart Nelson was installed Oct. 9 as pastor of Zion-Philadelphia in Ritzville.

Russell Clark is being installed Oct. 30 at Newport UCC.

Jennifer Walters, the new pastor at United Church in University Place, will be installed Nov. 6.

Annual Meeting plans set

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC plans to hold the 2012 Annual Meeting April 27 to 29 at the Red Lion in Pasco. Jane Sorenson, who recently served as interim senior minister at Plymouth UCC in Seattle, is chair of the planning committee.

Arlene Hobson returns from three-month sabbatical

Arlene Hobson, executive administrator of the Pacific Northwest Conference in Seattle, spent time during her sabbatical from July 6 to Oct. 5 meeting face-to-face people on local congregations and at the national UCC office.

"I met with pastors, administrators and members of 28 churches to learn what is happening in their churches, and I met in

Cleveland with people I talk with often at Parish Life and Leadership," she said.

FaithTrust offers webinars

The FaithTrust Institute, founded by UCC pastor Marie Fortune, will offer webinars on clergy boundaries and domestic violence issues, often specialized by ethnic and age groups. Some have been developed by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministry's Still Speaking Program.

For information, visit www.faithtrust-institute.org/training/upcoming-webinars.

NYE info ready for PNC youth

The 2012 UCC National Youth Event is next summer from Tuesday to Friday, July 10 to 13, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Susan Andresen, youth minister at Normandy Park in Seattle, has applications. The event will include workshops on "Imagine a Healthy World" and "Imagine a World Where Differences Are Embraced." *For information, visit youth@ucc.org.*

Normandy Park UCC in Seattle joins in Mission:1 program

Susan Andresen, youth leader at Normandy Park UCC in Seattle is planning for Mission:1 at Normandy Park from Nov. 1 to 11. Mission:1 is for the United Church of Christ to be engaged in a shared mission for 11 days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. The hope is that in 11 days UCC churches will collect more

than 1 million healthful food and household items for local food banks; will gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need food-related ministries, and will offer 11,111 letters to Congress to reform foreign assistance to benefit hungry and poor people worldwide. *For information, visit www.ucc.org/mission1/.*

Congregational Leadership NW plans Nov. 12 workshop

Amy Johnson, Kmbri and Kendell Bond, and Tony Robinson will lead a workshop on "The Naked Truth: The Church and Sex," from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at University Congregational UCC in Seattle. *For information, visit www.clnorthwest.org.*

Missionaries speak on Poland

Global Ministries missionaries Doug and Liz Searles are visiting churches in the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference, the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Presbyterian Synod of Alaska Northwest this fall.

From Oct. 31 to Dec. 13, they will visit churches throughout the region to tell of their ministry of accompaniment, supporting outreach of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland in Lodz, including ministries with the Roma (gypsies). They are sponsored by the Presbyterian, Disciples and UCC churches. Since 1997, they have served in global ministries in India, China and Poland. *For information, call 253-852-2957 or email marveck@comcast.net or marympaul@foxinternet.com.*

Conference
News
Briefs

Camp boosters need to contact churches

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ture, listening, storytelling and art,” he said.

Children can't wait for camp

That's what Haddon saw at camp, but he said he also saw a difference in one grade schooler from his church who attended the previous year. There was a stronger connection with the conference.

“The children can't wait to come back to camp and gain a sense about what youth group is about,” he said.

In his 20 years of involvement with intermediate camp at N-Sid-Sen, including directing it since 2005, Bob Watrous of Shalom UCC in Richland, said the number of campers was down for the third year because some are going to family camps, many are on the edge of their comfort zone about being away from home at this age and there are fewer children in churches.

“We need to go out to the churches and talk up the camps, encouraging campers to invite friends and siblings,” he said.

To meet parents' requests, Watrous said that they assured 24-hour supervision with two adults in each cabin and holding counselors' and staff meetings during swim time.

Campers put up signs

An incident in 2010 led to a camp project.

One time when Randy Crowe, managing director, was away, someone with dogs went on the property, hiked the trail and encountered a mother and baby moose. The dogs went after the moose, the person shot it and the calf ran away.

So the campers made six signs with vinyl lettering on aluminum plates mounted on 10-inch-high by 20-inch-wide pine boards. The signs are posted on trees at the entry to

the trails.

The signs say: “For the safety of our camp critters, you are welcome to hike our trails, but please leave your guns and dogs at home.”

Watrous noted that the baby moose survived and is still seen on the property.

Kids like the 'usual' activities

The 26 children at N-Sid-Sen's Kids Camp were introduced to camping with music, games, stories, a scavenger hunt, basket making and tie-dyeing shirts.

“We do the usual activities,” said Trudy Lambert, of Veradale UCC who has co-directed the camp for six years. “The children like continuity.”

John Hubbe said that 62 junior high aqua campers for the second year had a seminary student chaplain, Irene Willis. She led morning worship, a closing prayer at the end of campfire and other worship times.

Campers experience prayers

“One morning program was a collection of worship experiences and spiritual disciplines to introduce to the youth a variety of different ways a person can pray,” he said.

Some lit candles, and others walked the labyrinth in Stillwater Lodge. Some each threw a pebble into the lake and watched the ripples go out and cross over each other.

Hubbe led a “grounded walk” in which the youth felt their contact with the ground under their feet and crawling. He found the grounded walk particularly effective for one boy who had a hard time sitting still.

Others sat at a table and wrote prayers and drew pictures.

“We were working with the idea in the curriculum
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N-Sid-Sen kids campers Zoe Pfeifer, Shauni Haig, Garrett Blomgren and Dalton Wonders give a cheer.



Randy Crowe, managing director, helps Kids campers with tie dying at N-Sid-Sen.



Hannah Russell of University UCC in Seattle an hardens papier maché mask for Nyke Hawkins of Richmond Beach UCC in Shoreline at Senior High camp at Pilgrim Firs.

Basket weaving is regular craft at N-Sid-Sen camps

**Personal hobby
has been basket weaver's
'ticket' to assist
at camps for 12 years**

Nancy Minard's 1990 fall vacation with her mother at the John Campbell Folk School in North Carolina opened Minard to summers since 1999, "vacationing" at N-Sid-Sen as the in-residence basket-weaving instructor for many of the kids, intermediate, junior high and senior high camps.

She learned to make Appalachian egg baskets in North Carolina. Since then she learned to make Cherokee-style baskets, which she likes because they are "beautiful and useful."

For beginners, she uses simple wooden bottom baskets with spokes of reed. Campers then move on to making baskets with woven bases, which lets them experiment with many sizes and forms, she said.

"There's structure and room to play in basketry, as there is in cooking," she said. "You start with the recipe and then decide what to do to change it."

She helped summer 2011 campers make free-form baskets, using Styrofoam cups as the base and then shredding the Styrofoam after it's made.

Campers usually help each other with glitches, especially when the craft room is full and Nancy has many children needing help.

Some older campers who have been weaving since attending Kids camps teach other campers when they go to the craft room in their free time.

Basketry gives children, youth and adults a chance to explore an ancient craft, which some campers have now picked up as a hobby.

Minard has found, particu-

larly for junior and senior high campers, that basket weaving is a means to build community among those who don't go to the beach to swim or do water sports.

"Conversations in the craft room can be both crazy and profound," she said.

"Sometimes, it's where campers who feel out of place come," she said. "It's also where they learn it's okay to make mistakes and work them in."

She offers campers a progression in weaving skills, using wooden bases with holes and spokes for beginners. They begin with one strand. Older campers may use wooden bases to practice variations of patterns and colors.

Minard dyes the reed before she brings it to camp. Dyeing the reed herself is less expensive than buying dyed materials.

"Observing the campers, I'm more adventurous with color now, adding purple, orange and green. Some use orange, yellow and pink—sunset colors," she said.

"The campers encourage each other to try variations. Through the week they become more aware of each other, and through the week, community happens. Community is a work of the Holy Spirit," she said.

Just as learning to swim, canoe and water ski build confidence, completing a basket develops feelings of confidence and competence.

"One fourth grader struggled with his basket, and then it began to take shape, and he gained confidence," she said. "He immediately became and



Nancy Minard packs her car with reed for basket making at camp.

enthusiastic weaver."

Minard, who moved from upstate New York to Hanford in the fourth grade, earned a bachelor's degree in education and journalism in 1958 at Whitworth University and taught a few years in Bellevue before she married, Jim Minard.

They lived 20 years in northern New Jersey, where she worked as a reference librarian.

Camping was new for her. She did not go to camps as a child and New Jersey is one of a few states with no UCC camp.

In Spokane, Minard volunteers and helps with editing The

Fig Tree newspaper.

The Minards moved to Spokane Valley in 1998 and joined Veradale UCC.

A coffee-hour conversation with Randy Crowe, managing director of N-Sid-Sen, led him to invite her to come to camp the next summer to teach basket weaving at junior and senior high aqua camps.

"Teaching basket weaving works for me," she said, pleased that children who catch on help others. "They could work me out of a job."

For information, call 924-6737.

'God is life'

Kids campers explore wonder of God's creation

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that campers come with wide spectrum of 'intelligences' or personalities and preferred ways to solve problems and create. So they respond to different activities.

"At the beginning of camp, I introduce the concept that N-Sid-Sen is a point of inspiration, the name coming from the Coeur d'Alene tradition of young people going on a vision quest as a rite of passage," he said. "They would go to a promontory to see across the landscape so campers can see their daily lives from a different perspective."

Hubbe co-directed the camp with Brooke several years after Randy and Linda Crowe led it. He has led it the last three years with Dana Sprenkle, and has been a counselor for intermediate camps.

"I've learned about myself," he said.

Counselors are former campers

At Pilgrim Firs, Katy Lloyd who co-directed Kids Camp with Kaila Russell, said most of the 14 counselors and counselors in training were former campers.

On Monday, to inspire the theme of wonder about God's

creation, she cut an apple crosswise so the children could see how the seeds form the shape of a star. They took the seeds and counted them and told the children each seed could become a tree.

Rich Porter of United Christian Church in Yakima told how many bushels of apples are on one tree.

Children experience awe

"With each seed in many apples on many trees, what does that tell us about God?" she asked the campers.

"God is life," one said.

Children shared their awe about:

- Jonah and the whale being a reminder of God's power.

- One wondered what it would be like to be a star, why tides rise, why stars glow and more.

"God is a miracle. God created us, nature, animals and the earth itself," a camper said.

Tuesday rain kept campers indoors in the morning, but they decided to swim anyway, and then huddled into the fire-side room afterwards to warm up with hot chocolate.

"We talked about what it means to be a child of God," she said.



Robin Lundsford from St. Paul's UCC in Seattle teaches campers leather work at N-Sid-Sen.



Senior High co-director Jenna Veatch of Everett steps out of the line to dance at Pilgrim Firs.



Rachel Blazevic, Anna Duncan, Agaisha Yancy and Gavin Hashimoto of Plymouth Seattle share a moment at camp at Pilgrim Firs.



Counselors re-enact the parable of the 10 lepers at Pilgrim Firs' kids camp.

Camps set the dates for 2012 summer season

For 2012, the following retreats and camps are on the calendar:

At Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center on the Olympic Peninsula at Port Orchard, Wash.: Junior High Mid-Winter Retreat is Jan. 6 to 8; Senior High Mid-Winter Retreat, Jan. 13 to 15; PNC Men's Retreat, Feb. 2 to 5; Work Camp, May 25 to 27 or by arrangement; Spiritual Renewal GLBTQ, June 1 to 3; PNC Young Adults, June 22 to 24; Senior High, July 1 to 7; Junior High, July 8 to 14; Intermediate, July 15 to 21; Kids, July 22 to 25, and Family, Aug. 19 to 23

At N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, north of Harrison, Idaho, there will be a retirement party for managing director Randy Crowe on April 14.

The MidWinter Youth Retreat is March 9 to 11; Women's Retreat, May 10 to 16; Work Camp, June 10 to 16; Kids, July 8 to 11; Intermediate, July 8 to 14; Junior High Aqua, Aug. 5 to 11; Senior High Aqua, July 22 to 28; Family Camp #1, July 29 to Aug. 4, and Family Camp #2, Aug. 12 to 18.

PNC youth will also participate in the National Youth Event, July 9 to 16.



Tubing and other water sports at aqua camps are fun and build self-confidence. On the tube are Baillie Hirst and Bailey Griffin of Tonasket Community UCC.



Linda Crowe, pastor at Veradale UCC, shows Kids camper Helen Badaruddin her tie dye shirt.



Sophie Ballard and Gwen Lucio of Tolt Carnation, Anna Mahron of Richmond Beach UCC, Counselor in training Anna Oakerland of Tolt, and Kayla Barbosa and Kat Lofffield Garner of Suquamish UCC in the art room at Pilgrim Firs.



Campers build relationships, sense of connection as part of worship by touching each other's backs on dock at N-Sid-Sen.

Conference Facebook reports on Occupy Seattle

Conference Minister Mike Denton recently posted a photo of folks from Plymouth UCC who were participating in an Occupy Seattle march organized by the Faith Action Network. He said he was at Occupy Spokane the week before and plans to be at Spokane's on Oct. 24. Spokane clergy have organized their presence for then, as well as for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14 and 15.

The Seattle event is an encampment, while in Spokane the encampment was closed down. About 500 people have signed up to rotate their presence at Riverside and Monroe, and their email list is 4,000. Jim CastroLang at Colville First and Andy CastroLang of Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane were among an ecumenical group of clergy present on Oct. 15.

Denton said there are also movements in Coeur d'Alene, Yakima and Wenatchee.

"As the strongest and larg-



Tad Anderson, walks behind PNC moderator Brandon Duran and Lauren Cannon, center front, of Plymouth UCC in Seattle.

Photo by Mike Denton

est movement in 20 years, the 'Occupy' movement is taking on the question of greed," he said. "Greed is a moral issue for the church given what greed causes in the lives of people."

While the movement is diffuse, greed is the major topic,

he said, considering it part of the movement of the Arab spring that is perhaps the global 'spring,' spreading through Europe and the United States.

"It's a big deal and it will get bigger," he said. "As a movement it's less about leadership



Linda Crowe of Veradale UCC joins other clergy at Occupy Spokane on Oct. 14.

and more about 'movement-ship'" spread through digital media. The media gather and share information, rather than a person or leader. The church can learn from it."

For information, call 206-622-4865 or 509-624-1366.

NE Area rep starts Facebook group to connect

Marj Johnston just wanted to provide information

The Northeast Area of the PNC-UCC has a facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/127893597288617/. Marj Johnston started it to provide another stream of information for those who use Facebook.

As the representative for the Northeast Area of the Conference, she said she hopes to draw together the geographic area with a simple tool.

"It's a little slow," she said. "There are a number of folks who do use Facebook and other forms of social media, and there are still others who do not.

There are 58 members to the group, which she started on

May 6.

"As a member of the UCC in a local congregation in this conference, it seems we must make every effort to share information in every way possible," she said. "It's too easy for folks to say, 'I didn't know that.' While this will never be a 'cure-all,' it is an effort."

Marj, who has been on Facebook for two years, was resistant but, once she went on, found she was spending quite a bit of time. She said she has learned to use it with moderation as a cheap, fast way to move information.

"The church has been dragging its feet on technology.



Marj Johnston

This is a great way to keep up with people," she said.

On Facebook, Marj alerts people to information about events in the area and to resources, such as reporting that

Oct. 16 is World Food Day and Oct. 24 is National Food Day with resources on global hunger and food security at www.ucc.org.

On Oct. 4, she alerted people to the Christian Faith Formation and Educational survey of the national UCC, and Oct. 2, let people know and ask prayers of support for Linda Crowe, pastor at Veradale UCC, and her husband Randy Crowe at N-Sid-Sen on the recent death of Linda's mother.

She offered a political note that Washington Senator Patty Murray co-chairs the super committee on deficit reduction, preceded by resource information for social justice and outreach ministry leaders.

For information, call 533-1964.

Peace pole greets people at Kirkland UCC

After worship on April 17, Kirkland Congregational UCC processed outside to plant and dedicate a peace pole 30 feet from the front door.

It's beside the sidewalk, so people walking or driving by going downtown nearby can't miss it.

The pole displays the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Hebrew and Arabic for the Holy Land; Hindi, Chinese and Russian for many neighbors; Korean and Brazilian Portuguese for churches renting space, and Braille, said Jason Boyd, pastor.

"We want to be a witness for peace in the community as wars continue around the world," he said. "It's a visible way to say that there's another way."

The peace pole, which also greets everyone who comes to

church, said Gale Peterson, of the Christian Education Board, was an idea of the youth who worked with adults to make it.

While peace poles do come pre-made, she said, the church decided to make the pole and attach the language plaques.

"It's an appropriate metaphor, because peace cannot be purchased. Peace must be made," she said.

"The words of the prayer, 'May Peace Prevail on Earth,' remind us of what God desires from us and remind us that we must all use our hands, hearts and minds if peace is indeed to prevail on earth," Peterson pointed out.

At the peace pole planting and dedication ceremony, Peterson saw the congregation and community coming together: Members of Evergreen Mennonite Church, Northlake



Passersby can't miss seeing Kirkland UCC's peace pole.

Photo provided by Kirkland UCC

Unitarian Church and Kirk-

land's Islamic Center came.

A couple who live two blocks away came with their grandchildren and a local peace activist volunteered his time to film the event.

"All of us together put the soil around the pole so it would stand. That was another metaphor," Peterson said.

"Even though this Peace Pole is a project of Kirkland Congregational Church, it takes far more than just us to create peace," she said.

There are now 200,000 peace poles around the globe, Peterson said.

The celebration was also a beginning for the church's new Peace and Social Justice group.

"Our Peace Pole is planted, and now our efforts for peace must grow from it," she said.

For information, call 425-822-3811 or visit kccucc.org.

Broadview UCC seeks to 'paradise' its parking lot

Broadview Community UCC has been granted \$5,000 by the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to do research on transforming its parking lots and grounds at 125th and Phinney from what it calls "Lake Broadview" into usable space.

Its Paradise-ing the Parking Lot Project has a neighborhood steering committee. The goal is to enhance its usability by the neighborhood by offering it as a gathering place, alleviating flooding—up to 18 inches during the rainy season—and improving drainage with a rain garden, partial permeable surfacing and cisterns.

The standing water is an eyesore and makes access difficult. Planners seek to model practical, green solutions after years of effort and problematic flooding, said Dan Stern, pastor. The area will be regressed for basketball games and picnicking, as well as parking.

The church, which owns the land, is small in comparison to the range of neighborhood and nonprofit groups that use or meet on its premises, including the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference office.

About 1,000 people use the building and grounds each week, Stern said.

Youth, immigrants, lesbian/gay/bi/trans support groups, 12-step and recovery groups and music/arts/drama groups use the facilities. People who work in the area nearby often have lunch on the lawn.

Ethnic immigrant congregations include Bethel Ethiopian Church and the Congolese Christian Church of Faith, Hope and Love.

The church has a history of serving as a neighborhood center, including use for Taoist Tai Chi, 46th District Democrats, SEIU 1199, Mountaineers, Health Screening, Block Club neighborhood nights out and



Broadview UCC's parking lot becomes a 18-inch lake in Seattle's rainy season.

Photo courtesy of Broadview UCC

Prodigal Wisdom, an outreach to homeless men.

The tree-lined grounds are a certified bird sanctuary.

"The church seeks to be an earth-friendly, social-justice seeking community of faith, open and affirming to all regardless of religion, faith or sexual orientation," Stern said.

The steering committee and circle of supporters includes renters and homeowners, neighborhood activists, environmentalists, block club leaders, parents and youth leaders, senior citizens, immigrant

church liaisons, area church leaders and lesbian and gay leaders in the neighborhood.

In addition to the assistance of architects and contractors, planners seek volunteers to share the vision, plan details, implement, maintain and demonstrate the project to others.

They will help with outreach, fund raising, planting and maintaining the rain garden vegetation and leading educational events on the watershed and environment.

For information, call 206-363-8060.

Korean young adults visit conference

About 50 young adults from the PNC connected between July 20 to 28 with six young adult—ages 19 to 22—women delegates from PNC's global partner church, the East Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of South Korea (PROK).

The UCC's Pacific NW Conference (PNC) and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Global Ministries Committee, which have had the partnership since 1992, hosted the visit. Planning for the first young adult exchange was headed by Susan Andresen of Normandy Park UCC, Tu Ha Nguyen of University Congregational Church, and Terry Teigen of Horizon House and Ed Evans of Peninsula UCC.

Andresen, 34, gave an overview of the program and opportunities to intersect with young adults. They were welcomed at a barbeque at Normandy Park UCC on Wednesday and Thursday. Keven Peterson of Wayside in Federal Way and Mark Boyd of United Churches in Olympia took them to Mt. Rainier. Friday morning they did a service project at the Des Moines food bank and toured Tacoma.

Friday and Saturday, the women spent at Pilgrim Firs, meeting counselors from Kids and Intermediate camps. Their time included canoeing, a Bible study on love and friendship, and an exchange of teaching and learning games.

Sunday at Plymouth UCC in Seattle, they experienced leadership of a woman pastor, something rarely seen in Korean churches, said Ed Evans, chair of the Global Ministries Committee. Andresen said they also toured Plymouth Housing and Horizon House, and had lunch with a few young adults. Later, they toured the University of Washington before meeting about 30 young adults at a potluck at University Congregational UCC.

Monday and Tuesday, she said they did sightseeing, shopping and visited a University UCC mission to homeless teens.

Visiting urban outreach and justice ministries in Seattle gave rise to some theological discussions, Evans said.

The visit concluded with a picnic and barbeque with about 30 young adults at Golden Gardens Park in Seattle.

Andresen said the young adults formed friendships that are continuing through exchange of photos and sharing on Facebook.

"It was my first opportunity to meet with Christians from another country and to realize that Christianity is more than



Korean woman and Pilgrim Firs counselor set off for a paddle on the lake. Photo by Susan Andresen

my local church," said Andresen, who has often led trips with PNC youth and young adults. "I was amazed by their passion and devotion to their faith."

Although she speaks no Korean and the young women spoke some English, she was amazed by their ability, sometimes "through a comedy of errors, to converse and even do a Bible study."

Evans said that in discussion with leaders in Korea the following goals for the visit were established to:

- develop understanding of the meaning of "faith" in the two respective cultures;
- discuss issues of morality, justice and

peace wrestled with in South Korea, the United States and the global community;

- explore key concerns of PROK and PNC young adults.

The Global Ministries Committee affirms the value of the exchange and is making plans to sponsor young adults from the PNC for an exchange to Korea in 2012, with the PNC and Disciples region each giving \$650 from committee funds.

A video of the visit is at You Tube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD_uE9YU_JI. For information, call 360-683-4704 or email edevans@aol.com or susan_andresen@hotmail.com.



Five of Korean delegates a goodbye picnic at the Golden Gardens Park.

Photo by Tu Ha

Worship team leader prepares experiential settings

By changing the settings for worship experiences, Admiral UCC's worship team leader helps people experience worship through all of their senses—sight, sound, feeling and touch

Admiral UCC in West Seattle set up a mini forest in their sanctuary as part celebrating "Seasons of Creation," related to its using the Sunday school curriculum, "Seasons of the Spirit" during September.

The "forest" included a 22-foot potted maple tree, driftwood, rocks, a water feature and the sounds of chirping birds.

Children and adults brought pine cones, twigs, acorns, seeds, branches, shells, feathers, leaves and stones to contribute, along with yarn, cloth, string and paper

David Pelton, the church's worship team leader, created the setting to appeal to all senses, because "the experience of worship can come to us through all senses—sight, sound, feelings and touch," he said.

"It was designed to help us celebrate the Earth, and realize we are not rulers of Earth but partners with it," he said.

Each week, worship celebrated a different element, forest, land, wilderness and river. Each week he added something to the altar.

"As a gardener, I brought potted plants from my garden and I created a river with blue



After four Sundays in September, David Pelton and other members had brought plants, fabric and natural items to make a mini forest in the sanctuary to draw attention to creation care.

fabric," he said. "Each week, we had a runner of a different color and an object on the altar to represent what we were celebrating that week."

The first week, the runner was green and the maple and a potted cedar plant were set up. The next week the runner was brown and there was soil in a large glass cylinder. Yucca plants were added to represent wilderness for the third week. A fabric river "flowed" through the setting the final week, with a fountain behind it providing water sounds during worship.

Use of the "Seasons of the Spirit" is growing around the world, he said. The Sunday school curriculum includes worship resources.

"The resources not only helped us celebrate creation, but also challenged us to see ourselves more as a part of it, to recognize that it is a gift from God and we are only stewards of it," he said. So we need to do our part to sustain and nurture the creation all around us. The season has been a big hit, and will undoubtedly be repeated next year."

Pelton has provided such settings to enhance worship at other times. During Lent one year, he set up six dirty, decrepit doors.

"They were an eyesore and stirred conversations," he said. "Then on Easter Sunday, the doors were refinished and repainted in bright, cheerful colors."

Another Lent, he set up mannequins dressed in tight, drab clothing. He moved them around the sanctuary on different Sundays.

"We wanted people to reflect through Lent about who we are open to and to realize that other people are people of God," Pelton said. "On Easter Sunday, they were dressed in bright clothing."

He will help coordinate members interested in working on a display for Thanksgiving to help stimulate the senses and intellects.

A member of Admiral since 1993, Pelton has been on the worship team for five years.

A lifelong UCC member, Pelton grew up on a ranch in Montana. He taught high school, living in various communities in Montana. He was later a letter carrier before he moved to Seattle in 1989.

"I'm spirit filled. I have the energy and creativity I need to share while I'm physically able," said Pelton, who is also event coordinator for the church's annual dinner and auction, and launched a community lecture series, "We Are Family," first Mondays starting in October.

"I am a gay man totally accepted in the congregation. The acceptance fills me with the desire to share my time and talent," he said. "In Montana, I was closeted. It was not safe to be out. I came out after I moved to Seattle."

For information, call 206-932-8662 or email Montana59028@yahoo.com.

Church sparks effort to feed children

In January, the Homeless Advocacy Ministry at Northshore UCC in Woodinville began Totes-To-Go to feed some 182 children the Northshore School District identified as homeless.

"We were shocked, because we did not realize homelessness was so present in our backyards," said Kristen Dickert, chair of the Homeless Advocacy Ministry. "We felt compelled to respond."

"It's an example of how becoming informed served as a call to action," she said.

The church began a partnership with one school, filling backpacks with a two-day supply of food to be distributed Fridays for weekends, when to free school breakfasts and lunches are not available.

"It's a simple idea that makes a difference," she said. "We felt that no child in our community should be hungry, ever. It's a way we can live out our commitment to compassionate justice."

A U.S. Department of Agriculture report on food security says that when children are well fed and nourished, they are sick less, concentrate better, perform well in school, have fewer behavioral problems and are less anxious.

Principal Lew Dickert said that after a few months of distributing Totes-To-Go, he saw positive impact for students and families. It opened relationships between the school and families. Attendance and classroom work improved.

"The children realize how much we care about them as people," he said. "They are more invested in what we ask them to do."

The congregation brings food offerings on Sundays. The food consists of items from the "Top 20" list of nutritious, non-perishable meal and snack items that can be prepared even



Northshore UCC families helping pack food in backpacks are Sophia Dickert, Emery Armentrout, Elizabeth Wilson, Judy McGraw, Maiya Roelen, Liz Ellis, Piper Roelen and Matthew Dickert.

Photo provided by Kristen Dickert

if a family does not have access to cooking facilities. On Sunday once a month after church, members pack the totes and deliver the month's supply to their partner school.

"The program is in a solid growth state now," said Kristen Dickert, "expanding with district support by matching additional community partners—including other faith communities—with other schools in the district. The goal is to support every identified homeless student."

The Woodinville Alliance and Woodinville Unitarian Universalist churches have joined in and are partnering with two other schools.

"As we talk about it in the community, it resonates," Dickert said. "The problem of homelessness, poverty and hunger are intertwined and overwhelming. They can so easily cause us to feel hopeless in bringing about change."

"Totes-To-Go offers a clear and easy pathway for people who want to make a difference

to do so," she explained. "We make a difference, one child at a time. We invite anyone and everyone who would like to help to join us."

The Northshore UCC Homeless Advocacy Ministry's mission is "to act as a source of advocacy, education and support on behalf of the homeless in our community. We aim to provide direct assistance to those who are homeless in a variety of ways. We also strive to raise awareness on topics and issues that lead to and prolong homelessness, so that we can take steps to reduce its occurrence and duration."

In addition to Totes-To-Go, the ministry supports residents of Tent City 4, supports homeless women in Sophia Way, and promotes education and advocacy about homelessness, such as through the recent "Change the World: Grassroots Advocacy, Learn How Now" workshop sponsored by the Social Justice Ministries at Northshore UCC. Participants learned how to advocate for LGBTQ issues, the

environment and progressive Christian values, in addition to homelessness.

"Along with the direct service, it's important for people to engage in the political process. This workshop was designed to give people the tools to speak their passions effectively," Dickert said.

The Homeless Advocacy Ministry also encourages members to participate in interfaith task forces and meetings to stay informed and active in broader efforts to understand and combat homelessness. She recently shared the Northshore UCC Totes-To-Go story at the East-side Interfaith Social Concerns Council.

"It's criminal that in this wealthy nation some of us are living in great affluence and comfort, while others of us are living in poverty, hunger and homelessness. The conditions that reduce some of us to the most primitive existence on the street are the same conditions that can reduce all of us to the most primitive existence on the street," she said.

"By better understanding these conditions, reaching out to our homeless brothers and sisters, and working together to build bridges of understanding and support, we can do the work God calls us to do and in so doing, transform ourselves, our communities and our world," Dickert said.

"I believe people want less talk about God and more God," she said. "This church inspires me to find new ways to do the work God calls us to do."

"Growth of our church depends on our passion and energy for this kind of work, and our ability to reach out into our communities to practice what we preach," she said.

For information, call 425-357-6878, email kldickert@comcast.net or visit www.Totes-To-Go.org.

National UCC offers survey on education, announces changes in prices, personnel

By Lorna Kropp
Pacific Northwest
Conference
Partner in Education
Since 1999



The Pacific Northwest Conference has three Partners in Education. They are Gale Peterson, Lorna Kropp and Don Schmitt. They are trained by the national UCC to help local churches with their education ministries. They inform persons in teaching ministries of resources published by and curricula developed by the UCC. They offer workshops to help local churches plan and provide effective education programs.

Local Church Ministries has launched a survey for all church leaders and members, youth through adults.

The National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education in the United Church of Christ is being conducted from Oct. 1 to Dec. 16 to gather information from UCC members that will assist in shaping the future of faith formation for the UCC. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UCCFaithFormation>

The survey takes about 20 minutes. It's an opportunity for UCC members to share their thoughts about the educational and formation ministries they engage in now and that they should/could promote.

New resources are part of Faith Practices

Last year, the national United Church of Christ rolled out a new set of resources for the church's "Faith Practices: Worship, Learning, and Serving for Vital Congregations."

These are **resources**, not curriculum per se. That means they are date specific and follow either the lectionary or the church year, which is usual for curricula such as "Seasons of the Spirit" and "Gather Round."

Faith Practices are available for subscription on-line.

New prices set for annual subscriptions

This fall, several changes have been announced. First, there is a new price structure for the Faith Practices Re-

sources: The annual subscription for all practices will be \$300 a year, with renewal at \$250 annually. Individual Practice prices are reduced by 50 percent.

The first five modules are available now on the website <http://www.faithpractices.org>:

- Giving and Receiving Hospitality
- Living Stewardship
- Keeping Sabbath
- Playing and Living Joyfully
- Giving Testimony and Witness
- Encountering Scripture (2012)
- Praying and Making Ritual (2012)
- Working for Justice (2012)

New faith formation leader named by LCM

Ken Ostermuller, who was minister for curriculum development within the Local Church Ministries and the leader of the Faith Practices development process retired in the spring 2011.

A new leader has been chosen to continue the work of Christian faith formation.

The Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, has begun work as the minister for Christian faith formation research, within the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship department of Local Church Ministries.

For information, email hajbik@ucc.org.

LCM executive outlines plans with 12 Practices

In a recent letter to conference education leaders, the Rev. Bennett Guess, executive, minister of the UCC Local Church Ministries,

reported on meetings with the education consultants and the new minister of Christian faith formation research.

He pledges to complete the first 12 practices in the cycle and to promote additional "addendum resources that promote the creative use of these resources.

He suggests: "Using Faith Practices to Revitalize Your VBS" or "Using Faith Practices in Worship" or "How Faith Practices Can Jumpstart Intergenerational Ministry."

"There is a factor of folks being overwhelmed with the sheer quantity of what is available and people feeling inadequate to knowing how to utilize Faith Practices in various settings of church life," he said. "Therefore, in short, we envision some new resources and trainings (through investment of additional dollars) that will help people unpack the resource itself."

He indicated that the proposed second set of Practices will be on hold until the current research is completed and studied. When created, additional Practices may be different rather than a second round of the same 12 Practices.

Using the new price structure, these resources become much less complicated to purchase and use and should become a good option for our congregations to use. So, take the time to look over what is currently available, and think of creative ways to engage your congregation. They are meant to be helpful for settings like meetings, congregational workshops, inter-generational activities, workshop rotation events, and more.