



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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Fall 2009

Acoustics of water encourages singing

After tuning up in Forrester Lodge at N-Sid-Sen, a newly formed Raggedy Band played “When the Saints Go Marching In” as they walked down the trail to the campfire.

The ensemble with four counselors and four campers accompanied singing for the 2009 senior high aqua camp’s campfires. The first evening they also waded knee-deep in the water, and played, “Wade in the Water.”

“Water is a perfect, reflective acoustic surface,” said Duane Nightengale, a counselor-guitarist of Veradale UCC. “At campfires, we want campers to participate in singing, which they are more likely to

Continued on Page 4



‘Raggedy Band’ provides water music from the shores of N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Camp participants reported ‘breakthrough’ experiences

Camp directors reported that campers experienced “breakthroughs” as they used of the National Council of Churches’ curriculum with the theme, “Breakthrough.”

At Pilgrim Firs, camps—except kids camp—were up in attendance, said Deeg Nelson, managing director. With 65 campers, junior high camp had the most in recent years.

“The presence of 12 youth who had not been to camp before changed the dynamic at the camp, calling the repeat campers to be more intentional about being welcoming,” he said.

Mark Boyd, that camp’s director, said one girl’s breakthrough leaving



Mark Boyd is Pilgrim Firs’ new maintenance supervisor.

Photo provided by Deeg Nelson

with many friends, was contrary to her expectations when she first arrived.

“We mixed the youth in different groups and drew anyone sitting on the fringes into activities,” he said. “Older campers also were mentors to the new campers.”

Mark, who leads junior and senior high youth at United Churches of Olympia, said enjoys the junior high age because they are “testing their wings” and “pushing themselves and us with challenging questions.”

At the end of August, Mark came on staff at Pilgrim Firs as full-time maintenance supervisor. He brings

Continued on Page 4

News can be shared in many ways

Conference Comments

By Mary Stamp
Conference
News Editor

with input from
a proposal
by Jim CastroLang
for using
emerging media

National
and
conference
UCC
communication
media
change
to fill
varied
tastes.

The last national United Church News issue in September announced emerging changes in communication approaches and technologies of the United Church of Christ nationally.

Because the conference was part of the national United Church News—beginning in 1988 as a “wraparound” and then becoming an insert—the conference is exploring options for sharing news and tools for communicating among and connecting congregations to strengthen covenant relationships.

While I was preparing this transitional “Pacific Northwest Conference News,” some ideas about ways we can share the content emerged. In conversation with Jim CastroLang, acting pastor at Colville’s First Congregational UCC, more options emerged.

My role as editor and communication consultant has included content and format—gathering news and photos, writing and editing articles, and preparing camera-ready layouts as PDF files that are on the website. Without the deadline schedule for a bi-monthly United Church News, we can step outside the box. So, with the content in this file, I will begin to provide some sample options and formats:

- **Upload articles, photos and contact information to a web page** I will offer at the figtree.org/pncnews.html. The conference and congregations can link to it, while decisions are being made about website software and other technologies.

- **Format each article** and the newsletter as PDF documents that can be downloaded from the website in 8.5 x 11 or 7 x 8.5 formats for congregations to **forward by email** to their members, **print and hand out**, or **print and include in newsletters and bulletins**.

- **Send text and web-ready photos** to congregations’ webmasters to place on their websites in their formats or to set up a link.

- **Arrange for space on the national UCC website**, and upload the stories there. Submit stories to the national newsmagazine.

- **Prepare a bi-monthly or quarterly news magazine** that compiles articles previously

published and distributed by other means.

- **Format content for emerging electronic media** the Conference chooses to use—blogs, video, e-zines, social networking such as Facebook, cell phones, computers, wireless technologies, Skype, RSS, wiki, twitter, texting, instant messaging and other media.

Initially, we need emails of individuals—in addition to the congregations—who want to receive the information directly.

At the Leadership Retreat, Conference Minister Mike Denton and others suggested a five-year communication strategy to resource churches, increase board/committee participation, share resources among churches, communicate with the wider church, share knowledge about emerging technologies and expand the conference’s technology infrastructure.

At the request of Moderator Dennis Hollinger-Lant, Jim, who promotes emerging technologies in workshops, is proposing to the Board of Directors a “framework for developing new communication strategies utilizing emerging technologies,” a call for the conference to do research and to transition to “inclusive” means of communication and resource sharing.

He will recruit a Communications Technology Strategy Team to consider electronic media the conference might use. That group will help research how congregations communicate now and seek to communicate as new media open options. At the Colville church, he proposes doing a demonstration project on how rural and small churches can develop appropriate technologies to improve connection.

How can print be available to those preferring those media along with all the other choices? How can technologies connect people for meetings and conversations to increase participation? How can media connect people for conversations needed to build covenant community, to share ideas, to provide resources, to build relationships? We look for your ideas and insights.

For information or to offer ideas, email mstamp@qwest.net or jimcl@icehouse.net.

Seattle Taiwanese send \$24,000 in typhoon relief aid

The Seattle Taiwanese Christian Church joined with the Taiwanese Association of Greater Seattle for a dinner benefit at the Taiwan Center and raised \$24,000 for relief and assistance aid following Typhoon Morakot that hit southeastern Taiwan August 9 and 10.

The typhoon's winds of

up to 115 miles per hour and rains up to 60 inches demolished homes, shut down infrastructure, moved mountains, killed 40 people and displaced people and injured people.

Brandon Duran, until recently led the church's English Ministry, said families of some members have been affected by damage to homes

and businesses.

"Many members of the Seattle Taiwanese Christian Church come from cities and villages in the south of Taiwan, the area most affected by Typhoon Morakot," said Brandon.

He has called for people around the Pacific Northwest Conference to join in prayers

for Taiwanese communities that lost loved ones, homes and villages; for the relief efforts by the government, non-governmental organizations and church relief agencies, and for the Taiwanese community in Seattle as it seeks to provide response.

For information, call 206-632-4020.

Associated Ministries' new executive director began in July

In July, Chris Morton, a Disciples of Christ minister, is the new executive director of Associated Ministries of Tacoma Pierce County. He follows David Alger, who served from 1980 to 2008.

Chris considers local ecumenical and interfaith ministry one of the most effective ways to address issues of people living in poverty, helping them "realize their full potential and experience the abundance of life."



The Rev. Chris Morton

Photo by Janet Leng

As director of organizational development for the Minnesota Council of Churches, he oversaw 10 programs, fund raising and communication. He also served as director of the Minnesota Food Association and co-director of development for the Hazelden Foundation. For 10 years, Chris served as an independent consultant for nonprofits, providing fund raising and communication services, interim leadership, organizational development

and strategic planning.

At Lexington Theological Seminary, he studied under the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, who is now general secretary of the National Council of Churches.

Clint Cannon of United Churches in University Place serves on the board of director of Associated Ministries, which has 26 member churches, 12 interfaith partners and 25 staff.

For information, call 253-383-3056.

Conference News Briefs

PNC hires new accountant

Michelle Johansen joined the conference staff as business manager and accountant in mid July. She works from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, said Kathy Youde, PNC treasurer.

Michelle grew up in Ohio, attended the University of Arizona and resided for 17 years in Southern California. She has worked with CPA firms, in private industry and with nonprofit organizations.

Camps announce plans for retreats and camps in 2010

In October, N-Sid-Sen will host the bi-annual national Outdoor Ministries Association Consultation for 50 to 80 colleagues from across the United States. Robbie Paul of Open Door Congregational UCC will be keynote speaker on the theme, "Sacred Places, Sacred Stories," sharing from her Nez Perce background about celebrating the sacredness of sites used by camps and of stories shared there.

The 2010 conference retreat and camp schedules for Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen have been tentatively set.

Pilgrim Firs retreats begin Jan. 8 to 10 with Junior High Mid-Winter and Jan. 15 to 17, Senior High Mid-Winter. The UCC Men's Silent Retreat is Feb. 18 to 19; Men's Retreat, Feb. 19 to 21; Women's Retreat, March 5 to 7; Confirmation Retreat, April 16 to 18; LGBTQ Family and Friends Camp, May 29 to 31, and

Young Adult Retreat, June 26 to 28.

The summer schedule includes Work Camp, May 28 to 30, with Deeg Nelson, managing director, as director. Other camps will be Junior High, July 5 to 11; Senior High, July 11 to 17; Intermediate, July 18 to 24; Kids Camp, July 19 to 22, and Family Camp, August 29 to Sept. 2.

Proposed dates for N-Sid-Sen are Feb. 26 to 28 for junior and senior high Mid-Winter retreat; May 14 to 16 for Women's Retreat; June 6 to 12 for Work Camp; June 27 to 30, Kids Camp; July 5 to 11, Intermediate Camp; July 11 to 17, Senior High Aqua Camp; July 25 to 31, Family Camp #1; Aug. 1 to 7, Junior High Aqua Camp, and Aug. 8 to 14, Family Camp #2.

Randy will lead a Work Camp in New Orleans in February and Bobbi Virta of Ferndale UCC will lead a Work Camp

Camps exemplify covenant community

Continued from Page 1
skills from work with utility and construction firms. He and Deeg are currently checking each cabin to be sure it is up to par.

Planning to assist in the leadership of family camp, Susan and David Morris of Fautleroy UCC in Seattle agreed 10 days beforehand to direct the camp when they learned that Rick and Jennifer Russell of Eastgate UCC in Bellevue were unable to direct it because of Jennifer's health.

"It was a profound experience of the Holy Spirit working overtime through gifts of a covenant community," said Susan. "We pieced together the camp with the help of Deeg and participants."

Susan had planned the adult morning program, so they recruited others to reflect on the theme, while holding "our dear friends, the Russells, in our hearts," she said.

"We created a Family Camp of about 35 folks—ages four to 90 years—who sang, studied, crafted, recreated, played, prayed and cared for one another in compassionate, faithful ways. We left grateful for this 'jewel' of an intergenerational camping experience that embraced families of



Senior high campers at Pilgrim Firs engage in song with motions.

many configurations," Susan said.

"We held the Russells close by creating a mural of favorite Pilgrim Firs sights, and experiences and by sending notes, prayers and love."

It was a "breakthrough" for Susan to realize "we don't have to manage or plan every detail of an event, but can trust in the Holy Spirit and gift of community."

N-Sid-Sen camps were also creative, spirited experiences

that brought alive the theme, "Breakthrough."

Bob Watrous of Shalom UCC in Richland used his theatre props skills to create a brick wall. As part of intermediate camp, the children broke through the brick wall. On the bricks were names of things that hold people back.

John and Mary Lu Hubbe also of Shalom in Richland, appreciated gathering senior high aqua campers at the new Stillwater welcome lodge,

and then sending campers in groups to their cabins. Mary Lu led campers in use of the labyrinth in the floor of the lodge, encouraging them consider new ways of praying—being grateful for the experience at camp, reflecting on troubles at homes, thinking of a phrase while walking through the labyrinth to build inner peace. Some danced in the labyrinth, some wore prayer shawls, said Mary Lu who has been director, counselor or nurse various camps for 19 years.

Accepting nature of outdoor ministry invites participation

Continued from page 1
do if the accompaniment is full and loud enough, so they won't be afraid they will stand out if they sing off key. It's okay to be a beginner."

Duane has played standing in the water with a few others at other camps.

At his first a camp at N-Sid-Sen 17 years ago, the music leader encouraged him not

only to play guitar, but also to sing.

"The accepting nature of the outdoor ministry community forgives if a camp musician or singer plays or sings off key," he said.

"That allowed me to come out and gain confidence over the years to sing," Duane said. "I want to involve everyone so they have fun.

The 2009 ensemble was spontaneous. Campers and counselors are urged to bring instruments.

The musicians were camp director Bob Watrous on the string bass, Max Aquino, fiddle, and Chris Walters, tuba, from Shalom UCC in Richland; Lucas Kreikemeier and Alex Kale, guitar, and Jimmy Austin, trombone, from Com-

munity Congregational UCC in Pullman; Jeremy Taylor of Deer Park Open Door, guitar, and Duane, who has served as musician-counselor for many different N-Sid-Sen camps.

The core idea of outdoor community is to create community, and music is a key element of community building, Duane said.

Camps draw youth and families into community

Intermediate paddlers at Pilgrim Firs, right, and senior-high St. Joe River floaters at N-Sid-Sen, below, reveal the lure of water sports for campers. Sharing in water activities in groups builds friendships and fun.



Outdoor worship, right, and indoor guitar lessons, below, at Pilgrim Firs junior high camp wove faith and song into the daily camp life.



Kids camp crafts at Pilgrim Firs, left, and junior high group discussions at N-Sid-Sen, above, foster tangible creative skills and reflection on questions of life and faith.

Leadership training event models dialogue

'Grace prepares people to discern what they are called to do.'

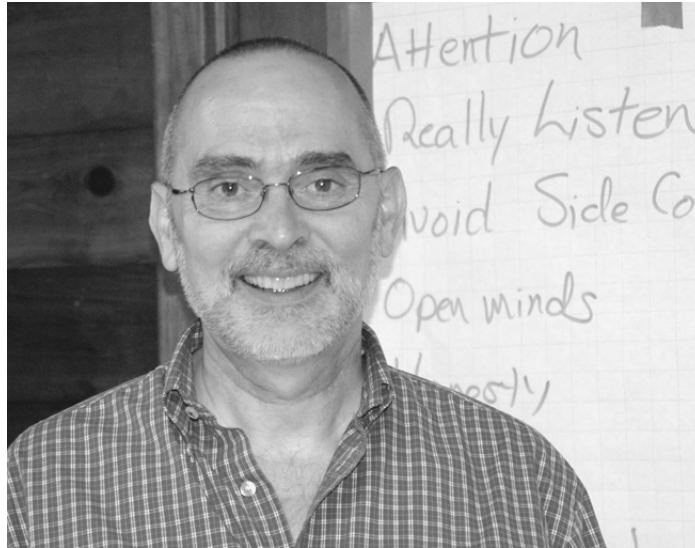
At the June 2009 Leadership Retreat at Pilgrim Firs, members of conference committees met each other and had initial meetings of their committees. They also spent time visioning under the leadership of Larry Pennington, a spiritual director and organizational coach.

"I seek to inspire courage, hope and action for justice for communities by developing spiritually informed leadership," he said, "leaders conscious of and able to avoid damage when people with good intentions become caught in unseen dynamics."

He asked participants to share stories of when they felt loved, trusted, respected, honored and validated, and then to consider how to replicate those feelings in the gathering and for their congregations.

Those gathered shared ideas for community building, strengthening relationships among congregations, moving beyond survival issues and addressing social pressures that keep people apart.

To help meet the goals, they envisioned: 1) having regional gatherings for worship, resource sharing and relationship building; 2) equipping churches for change; 3) supporting clergy and lay leaders; 4) promoting ecumenism and global ministries, and 5) facilitating churches' involvement in their communities.



Larry Pennington facilitates Leadership Retreat.

Larry pointed out the difficulty meeting conference goals with having only one full-time conference minister who has many roles.

Participants brainstormed ideas on communication options, congregational relationships, committee roles and volunteer leadership.

With the conference considering conversations about what it might mean to become an open and affirming conference, he guided participants in modeling ways congregations can engage in discussions and dialogue.

"There are differences of opinions in congregations and strongly held opinions," he said. "Acts 15:1-35 tells of a dispute in the early church. They discussed and moved from debate to consensus."

"Grace helps prepare people to discern what they are called to do," he said. "Gracious space reduces our anxiety so we can experience radical acceptance and be ready to respond to God, informed and

changed," he said. "Dialogue creates a container to hold human energy so it can be transformative."

For dialogue, he said people need to know themselves, understand and appreciate their differences, recognize their connections and relationships, and be ready to create something new together.

"Dialogue creates shared meaning," Larry continued. "As everyone tells their stories, they build a collective sense of something different,

creating a shared experience and discerning shared meaning together. Dialogue is about listening for wisdom."

He suggested starting with some questions: "What is your experience with open and affirming? What are your feelings about open and affirming? What led to those feelings? Who are we justified in excluding? How do we let people know they are welcome?"

Then he encourages people to structure "a container for conversation," such as small groups in which people will feel they can risk. Then, he said, the group gains the capacity to hold more information and to trust.

"I'm bored if everyone has the same opinion," Larry said. "We need to be more honest. It seems overwhelming, but people open up if groups are non-judgmental.

"That means that people are serious about listening with grace and are interested in learning more from someone with a different opinion—without seeking to convert

Continued on next page



Kaila Russell, Susan Andresen and Iris Coover converse after a meal during the retreat.

Mike Denton calls for adapting, preparation

Continued from previous

In the closing worship for the Leadership Retreat, Conference Minister Mike Denton reminded participants that Rosa Parks' sitting on the bus was not a random incident. It grew from 10 years of discussion about the need for someone to be arrested to challenge segregation on busses and in public accommodations.

Organizers wanted someone who would be a symbol to show how unfair the segregation was.

"Rosa Parks was part of those discussions for a year when she went on the bus and refused to move. She was moved to say 'no' to the system," Mike said. "The spontaneous part was that she was sitting in a seat that overlapped the section where whites could ask her to leave. The bus was not crowded, and she did not leave the section. The system was ready to move. The Spirit moves when people are ready to move, usually after discussions and conversations.

"At times, we throw out the seed, and the sun, water, rain and systems are in place and ready to move. When we as the church—local, regional, national, ecumenical and interfaith—plan, we may be surprised with the end results," he said.

"We have to be adaptable to the way the church and technology change. When we move and grow, we do not know what harvest we will reap, but we trust it will be something we need—enough," he continued.

When the bus boycott started, the people did not know how it would progress, what

changes would happen or that changes would happen as fast as they did," he explained. "They still did the preparation.

"Preparation makes us more adaptable to find new things about ourselves, to recognize our limits and to seek new ways to work in the limits of the system so we can find what is possible and move to a solution.

"Meetings are sometimes frustrating and discouraging, but then the Holy Spirit revives us," Mike said. "In the next few years, the work we do may make us tired and frustrated. In the same ways the Spirit was present with Rosa Parks and our forebears moving across the waters, the Spirit is present in this place."

Participants then offered prayers for themselves, the church and the world. Their prayers, Mike said, were reminders of the breath of the Spirit, the prophets and apostles, and those who have spread the word through the ages—teachers pastors, par-



Mike Denton reframes Rosa Parks' story during sermon.

ents, people who "moved us on the path of faith."

Closing with communion, he reminded the leaders gath-

ered that the bread and cup mean many things: "Think of the challenges and what we are called to offer."



Ron Blake and Tara Barber share communion during the closing service.

Oikocredit promotes investing in microcredit

Conference's Global Ministries Committee encourages education about Oikocredit as an investment option for individuals and congregations.

Believing that economic and social justice will promote peace, Terry Provance, director of Oikocredit, said the organization promotes investments in microcredit opportunities for people around the globe.

He told about the 34-year-old organization founded by World Council of Churches at several PNC congregations and at the Annual Meeting in April.

The Global Ministries Committee, which arranged for his visit, is discussing investing part of funds designated for conference global ministries.

Terry described how four years ago, a Filipino woman would send her four children aged two to nine years old from their peasant shack out to the dirty streets of Manila to beg for eight hours. Her husband was too ill to work. They survived on \$1.40 a day.

"Their situation is like 1.4 billion people in Asia and the Pacific," said Terry.

Now she has opened an open-air store. Even though she is not literate and could not qualify for a bank loan because she has no assets or collateral, she was able to receive a microcredit loan of \$35. She bought an old sewing machine and makes slippers.

She goes to town, throws

out a sheet and people buy what she makes. Her family eats twice a day and her husband has gone to a doctor. The children have books and clothes, so they can go to school. She also paid to repair their roof.

She paid back the first loan, and qualified for a second loan of \$100. She used it to hire two sisters and a friend to help her sew things.

"Oikocredit makes \$28 billion in microcredit loans available to 110 million women in the world to help them improve the quality of their lives through barefoot capitalism," he said. "It's a first step out of poverty. We don't romanticize their lives, but it's a step to reduce the global poverty of 3.4 billion of the world's 6.6 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day. To alleviate poverty for 3.4 billion people would take \$300 billion.

The loans go to women, Terry said, because "women are keep their word and pay back if they promise they will pay. Money women earn goes for their family's needs. Only 30 percent of money paid to men goes to their families, he said.

"The poor are reliable borrowers. They participate in their own livelihoods and keep money coming in to pay loans. With every \$1 loan,



Terry Provance spoke at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ in Spokane.

we receive 98 percent back, because people do not want to risk losing their livelihoods and because of peer pressure. In the United States, the pay-back rate on loans is 89 cents on the dollar," Terry said.

It's possible because Oikocredit is nonprofit, keeping costs low and offering below market rates to investors—2 percent. The investor knows where the money goes and has a "high social reward," he said.

The 2008 Oikocredit investors have their money, in contrast with 30 to 50 percent losses by Wall Street investors.

"It's not a donation, because the investor receives the principle back," he said. "We

are asking people in the North to loan money to invest it in a socially responsible business contract that lifts people out of poverty."

Oikocredit, based in the Netherlands, has 32,000 investors. It does not make loans in the United States or Europe, because of the acuity of poverty in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The name Oikocredit for the Economic Development Cooperative Society comes from the Greek word, "oikos," for household—economy, ecology and ecumenism—and the Latin word, "credare," which means to believe.

For information, visit www.oikocredit.org.

United Christian Church joins other churches to make sandwiches

Ecumenical shelter begins feeding people

Yakima churches help make sandwiches to feed homeless people each week.

Six Yakima congregations take turns preparing about 450 ham-and-cheese sandwiches for homeless people on their assigned Sandwich Sundays.

On first Sundays, United Christian Church, the Unity Spiritual Life Center, the Unitarian Universalist Church and Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church provide volunteers, funds and their churches on a rotating basis.

St. Joseph Catholic and Wesley United Methodist take responsibility to make sandwiches on the second and third Sundays.

Organizers seek more churches for fourth Sundays.

The program started as an outgrowth of three churches—Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Stone Church Assemblies of God and First Baptist—taking in homeless people during the winter when temperatures dropped below 30 degrees. Englewood Christian Church replaced Stone Church last year.

Four years ago, the Yakima County Homeless Network provided funds for cots and empowered the churches to open up as emergency shelters and to offer emergency food.

Meanwhile, the network continues to seek long-term solutions for shelter, said David Hacker, director of the network. He is the former director of Campbell Farm in Wapato and founder of a Wa-



Jeremiah and Linda Smith are part of United Church in Yakima's sandwich-making team.

Photo provided by Eric Anderson

pato shelter, Noah's Ark and Generating Hope. 961-4692

David Hansen, a former administrator in county government, led Vineyard Christian Fellowship to offer services to the homeless, setting up the nonprofit Yakima Emergency Shelter Program.

Along with him, David Helseth at Englewood Christian Church and David Roberts, pastor at First Baptist Church, gained their congregations' approval to participate in the overnight shelter program, opening their doors to provide among them space to shelter up to 50 people.

The City of Yakima has given the churches permission to serve as temporary emergency shelters even if they do not have sprinklers or alarms, said Jane Newal, pastor at Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church, which participates in Sandwich Sundays.

While the shelter is only

offered in the winter, Sunday Sandwiches continues all year.

Until a few months ago, a staff member of the Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health Path Program distributed the sandwiches. Since he resigned and was been replaced, the Transitional Treatment program has people give out the sandwiches at an underpass and at a tent city, said. Eric Anderson, pastor at United Christian.

Lunches are stored in a walk-in cooler at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship. They are handed out every day during the week at 8 a.m.

Northwest Harvest donates bread for the sandwiches.

The host church provides ham, cheese, latex gloves, hairnets and packets of mayonnaise and mustard, which are spread by the person eating the sandwich, so sandwiches last longer.

"Recently, about 25 people

from our congregation and 10 from other congregations, worked at four stations to make sandwiches in about half an hour," said Eric.

"During Lent, we discussed Scripture passages about the church's call to be engaged in mission work, lifting up our outreach to the homeless as consistent with our Gospel call," he said.

"People in our churches enjoy working with each other, meeting at different churches each time," Jane said.

The four churches working together, she said, communicate that it's not necessary for such outreach to be done only by large congregations.

"We share resources so none of us is overburdened," said Jane. "The cost each week is \$100 to \$150 for the supplies."

For information, call 509-248-6105.

50-year friendship started at Pilgrim Firs family camp

As part of a reunion of old friends who met at an early Pilgrim Firs family camp 50 years ago when they were 15 years old, Doris Waggoner and Cathie Corlett spent three hours at the 2009 family camp, shared lunch with campers and explored the familiar grounds.

The 2009 campers prepared a brightly colored "Welcome Back!" poster for the women, who came to celebrate Doris' 65th birthday there, as she had celebrated her 15th birthday earlier.

Doris' 94-year-old mother, Rae Waggoner, who attends University Congregational UCC, had co-chaired with John Gibson the conference committee that founded Pilgrim Firs.

"As a family, we went there on many work parties. I remember shellacking around the windows when I was 11 years old and helping my six-year-old sister carry lemonade to the workers," said Doris, who is active at Plymouth UCC. "I have a real sense of ownership about the camp."

The camp opened in 1956 with two senior high camps and a senior high leadership camp. My family was involved in helping create Pilgrim Firs as a place for people to go away into nature and have experiences with different groups of people each year."

In 1959, her mother and father, Bob, were deans of a family camp that drew about 80 participants. Her father, she noted, chaired the conference board of directors when it began talking about building Horizon House, where she and her mother now live.



Doris Waggoner and Cathie Colbert visit familiar spots at Pilgrim Firs, having a pose from 1959 taken again.

Photo provided by Doris Waggoner

At the family camp, she met Cathie, who attended the Vancouver, Wash., UCC church. Cathie's father, a physician, was on many conference committees, active at the conference level as Doris' parents were.

Their friendship bonds have lasted through the years, even though their camp experiences did not overlap again. Doris attended junior high, senior high and college camps, while Cathie usually went to youth leadership camps, but Cathie would stay at Doris' when she came to Seattle for meetings and Doris

would go to Vancouver to visit Cathie. Doris introduced Cathie to her husband on a blind date.

Both taught high school English. Doris taught five



years in Kent, then married and moved to South Dakota and taught a year before going on to graduate school and earning a master's degree in sociology in Ohio. Her one class in computer programming led to a 15-year career in computer programming, moving to Wisconsin. After her marriage ended, she was working at the University of Wisconsin in Madison,

involved with a UCC church.

Eventually realizing that her job was inhibiting her church work, she went to seminary at Eden in St. Louis and residency in clinical pastoral education led her into hospice chaplaincy and a move to Florida about an hour from Cathie, who taught English 20 years.

Over the years, Doris and Cathie saw each other several times a year, phoned and talked for hours and wrote emails. Cathie is active in a UCC church in Gainesville.

Cathie still has family in the Northwest, so she called this spring, reminding Doris that it would be 50 years since they met at camp. She proposed coming and spending four of her 10-day visit with Doris and her mother, and including a lunch-time visit to Pilgrim Firs.

Doris said that she attended University Congregational with her parents and then switched with them to Fauntleroy when the family moved to that neighborhood. Since she moved back to Seattle in 1997 on disability, she joined Richmond Beach UCC until she moved into Horizon House and began attending Plymouth.

"My mother still attends University Congregational, sometimes going by bus," she said.

"Cathie's and my friendship is just one of many friendships that have started at Pilgrim Firs or N-Sid-Sen," said Doris, who now serves on the PNC's Christian Life Service and Action Committee.

For information, call 206-748-7288 or email doris.waggoner@juno.com.

Artist designs prayer cloths with ecology theme

Prayer cloths for Earth Ministry fund-raiser and sermon contest depict ‘this pretty planet spinning in space.’

Winners of Earth Ministry’s 2009 “Celebration of St. Francis Creation Care Sermon Contest Fund Raiser” will receive a prayer cloth made by fabric artist and ordained minister Deborah Rose of Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane.

The People’s Choice Awards go to the contestant with the highest number of votes on donation ballots, after two lay and two clergy preached on Sept. 26 at University Lutheran Church in Seattle.

Deborah said she designed the banners to reflect the first verse of Tom Chapin’s song, “This pretty planet, spinning through space, you’re a garden, a harbor, a holy place.”

The brilliant-colored prayer cloths, which are mini banners, show a swallow flying across the earth surrounded by crescent shapes with different fabric that suggest spinning. At the bottom are hills covered in flowers and the harbor.

In addition to the awards, Deborah is making a limited edition—a total of 35 prayer cloths for people to hang on the wall for a home worship space. Some have already been sold and others will be available for sale at the event.

At the PNC Annual Meeting two years ago in Yakima, Deborah said Leanne Beres, director of Earth Ministry, had a table across from her table displaying and selling stoles.



Deborah Rose combines her interest in ecology with her fabric ministry.

“I did green stoles for the green liturgical season and for ecology,” she said. “I had a sign—‘Got green!’—that attracted interest. Leanne took pictures and proposed that I make a stole for an attorney who entered ministry and was being ordained in Seattle to a specialized ministry with Earth Ministry.”

Next she made stoles last year for the sermon contest winners. Earth Ministry is an ecumenical ministry based in Seattle seeking to inspire and mobilize the Christian community to give leadership to building a just, sustainable future.

Deborah said most of her art pieces—including stoles,

paraments and banners—express her conviction that “God’s signature is the beauty of things”—a quote from Robinson Jeffers in “Look, How Beautiful.”

For information, call 206-632-2426 or visit www.earthministry.org.

CLSA offers training for churches to help veterans

The Clergy and Lay Leader Training to Help Returning Veterans, initiated by the PNC's Christian Life Service and Action Committee, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15, at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, in Renton.

Katy Lloyd, who has been organizing the event, said it is co-sponsored by St. Matthews, the Washington Association of Churches and Valley Cities Clinic. She chose to serve on the CLSA Committee to provide such training so "churches can participate in healing of so much pain and hurt."

Chaplain Billy Hawkins of Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis, a veteran of Iraq, will be one of the speakers. He and other presenters will help participants understand issues, signs of problems, family dynamics and referral resources.

"Medical advances have created new challenges, because people who previously would not have survived are surviving, and surviving broken by both



Katy Lloyd speaks about workshop plans.

seen and hidden injuries," Katy said.

Those injuries include traumatic brain injury, suicide, drug abuse, divorce, domestic violence and post traumatic stress disorder.

"We may disagree with the war, but I believe it is doing the work of peace to

focus on how to help people heal," she said. "It's a statement of faith in the resurrection power, in God's power to heal in putting our resources together so healing can happen."

Katy, who attends Findlay Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), recognizes that churches can't do everything, but they can provide listening, prayers, meals and child care for veterans and for families of people deployed.

She said two members of Wayside UCC in Federal Way have also helped with planning: Pam Taylor, development director of the Valley Cities Clinic, which has a counseling program for veterans and their families, and Dan Parker, an army chaplain at Fort Lewis, have assisted.

Registration for the free workshop is due by Oct. 9 to Doris Waggoner at 206-748-7288 or doriswaggoner@juno.com. For other information, call Katy at 206-935-4733 or email at revkaty@nwlinc.com.

PNC treasurer is one of 12 national UCC women's consultants

Kathy Youde, PNC's treasurer and choir director at Tolt UCC in Carnation, is also serving four western conferences as one of 12 national United Church of Christ women's consultants.

Local Church Ministries chose the consultants last fall and offered an orientation in April in Cleveland.

"We learned about the national UCC's emphasis on mission, justice and peace," she said, "and learned about the past UCC women's ministries, which is in transition because of national staff cuts."

Kathy has a commitment to the UCC mission and to women's ministries.



Kathy Youde

Because of her passion for finances and her 30 years of experience in accounting, until she became pastor at Tonasket UCC, Kathy believes that what churches do with their money is a major part of "what we do with mission,

reaching out to the world to do justice."

So along with helping the PNC reinvigorate its financial processes so it can live into its ministry, she also works with a few accounting clients.

"Many years ago, I was not interested in joining the Association of Women Accountants. I did not like making women distinct," Kathy said. "In the church, however, I see power in what women can do.

As women's consultant with the Central Pacific, Montana North Wyoming, Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain conferences, she work with the conference ministers to identify and meet with

women in the conferences.

She will consult with the conferences and churches about women's ministries or women with ideas for a conference-level women's projects that will help connect women in the churches.

"Globally—as we read in the book, *Three Cups of Tea*, about Afghanistan, women are under-educated," she said.

Churches can do advocacy related to such women's issues. They also need to increase the active involvement of younger women, Kathy said.

For information, call 509-322-3408 or email preacherladky@gmail.com.