

## *Spiritual Formation Opportunity*

The concrete sidewalk, the wooded trail, the waiting room, the sandy beach...all are holy ground.

If you wonder how to spend time praying for the sustenance to walk your daily path with awe, curiosity, courage and grace make plans now to attend the next Northwest opportunity for a **Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation**.

**“Walking on Holy Ground: Journey of Pilgrimage + Discovery”** will be held at Palisades Retreat Center in Federal Way, Washington, **February 21-26**.

Authors Robert Benson and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth J. Canham serve as faculty for a week of exploring together where God is calling us to journey. Rev. Todd Bartlett and Rev. Roberta

Egli, who both completed a two year academy for spiritual formation, are on the leadership team for this event.

**If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Roberta Egli at [robertaegli@comcast.net](mailto:robertaegli@comcast.net).**

**A brochure with further details is available on the Western District webpage: [www.westerndistrictumc.org](http://www.westerndistrictumc.org)**



## *“Ashley’s Closet” a Blessing By and For Youth*

When you see a red high heel shoe, what comes to your mind? For people who knew Ashley Drew (a youth from OCUMC who died in May 2009 at age 14), it reminds them of her spirit, energy and flair. The logo for Ashley’s Closet includes a red high heel shoe. I hope it brings a smile to your face.

Ashley’s Closet is a project being developed among Oregon City UMC youth to promote leadership and community among young people in Oregon City. About a dozen youth, Sara and Nick Drew (Ashley’s parents), and I are working on a clothing drive to benefit low income and homeless children in Oregon City. This will be the first project of “Ashley’s Closet.”

Our commitment and dream is that it will be the first of many projects that youth create in our community to bless others.

You can support Ashley’s Closet and our youth in mis-

sion in several ways. You can bring new and like-new children’s clothing to church and place them in the “Ashley’s Closet” container. You may also make financial contributions to “Ashley’s Closet” through the OCUMC. Future times and locations to receive clothing will be announced soon.

In October we will have an event where low income and homeless children will be able to come and get clothing free of charge.

This vision for offering clothing to children in need was generated by sophomore Kami Weninger. She is committed to the children who ride her bus, and other children in need in Oregon City, having clothing available to them. She sees how having adequate clothing will enhance the lives of these children socially (among their peers) and academically.

Her vision has merged with a vision that Sara and Nick

have of creating a foundation to provide funding for youth who want to do service projects in their community. Their commitment is that Ashley’s spirit of leadership and compassion will inspire other youth to contribute to their community. They are exploring the establishment of a separate foundation that could fund other projects under the name “Ashley’s Closet.”

It is wonderful to me to see how God is working to develop youth leaders who are a blessing to their community. I am filled with gratitude that Nick and Sara are working with our youth on a weekly basis to develop their faith and equip them to serve. In all of this, the Holy Spirit is at work to bring healing, hope and love. Thank you, God, for your faithfulness and steadfast love.

**Gerry Hill, Pastor  
Oregon City UMC  
503-453-7771  
[gerryhill13@me.com](mailto:gerryhill13@me.com)**

