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The Award-Winning  
Publication of  
**The Pacific Northwest  
Conference of  
The United  
Methodist Church**

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# WELCOME BACK!

## BISHOP ELAINE RETURNS TO SERVE THE GREATER NORTHWEST

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Sept. Training

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Mirror, Mirror



**FIRST 12: New Church Start  
Core Group Training**



# Register Now! Disaster Response Training, September 23 and 24 in Richland

By KATHY BRYSON | Photo by PNW DISASTER RESPONSE



ver the coming months, and maybe years, many volunteers are needed to help recover from the recent fires in Eastern Washington's

Okanogan County — plus be prepared to respond to other natural disasters locally, regionally and even nationally.

As with anything else, there is a right way and a less than right way to provide volunteer services. Hear from experienced volunteers, participate in hands-on activities and learn the right way to help disaster survivors move towards their "new normal" by attending one or all of the following classes:

All classes to be held at the **Central United Protestant Church, 1124 Stevens Dr., Richland, Wash.** with a light lunch provided on Saturday.



An Early Response Team heads back home while serving in Fairbanks, Alaska to fix houses affected by flooding of the Yukon River back in 2013.

**Friday, September 23, 24 | 5:00pm – 9:00pm**  
**REGISTER ONLINE: [bit.ly/registration-training](https://bit.ly/registration-training)**

(Note: Registration fields will be after the class descriptions.)  
For more information please e-mail Kathy Bryson at [ERT@pnwumc.org](mailto:ERT@pnwumc.org).

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

*Classes are open to anyone over 18 years old.*

### Early Response Team Refresher

*(For previously certified ERT volunteers)*

ERTs are certified and badged by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to perform their duties and provide consistency across the US. Each ERT is required to attend a refresher course and have their background checks updated every three years.

### Spiritual and Emotional Care

This course provides basic information on spiritual and emotional care for survivors, first responders, and UMVIM team members. It emphasizes listening skills, what to say, and what not to say. Spiritual and emotional care is everyone's responsibility, especially following a disaster.

### Connecting Neighbors

The first responders on the ground following a disaster are always your neighbors. This program helps individuals, families, neighborhoods, congregations, etc. develop plans for helping each other in the event of a disaster.

### Early Response Team Basic

*(The required class to join an ERT and obtain a badge)*

ERTs make a survivor's home safe, secure, and sanitary along with preventing further damage. Learn how to "muck-out" flooded homes, remove debris, assist with donations management, perform damage assessments, and respond to requests for help from the local emergency management team while providing a caring Christian presence. Understand how to support a fire response through donations management, sheltering, damage assessment, information gathering and working directly with survivors through their recovery process.

### Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Team Leader Training

Whether you have never led a VIM team or you have led several, this is the training for you. Learn how to lead or just be part of a VIM team who are hoping to help survivors in areas such as the fire recovery in Okanogan County. The course will cover the basics of leading a VIM team within the PNW Annual Conference, including requirements to work with the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group, housing and food, safety, and equipment needed. Team orientation, required forms, and contacts will also be covered. ©

*Kathy Bryson serves as the Early Response Team Coordinator for the PNW Conference of The United Methodist Church.  
Contact Kathy at [ERT@pnwumc.org](mailto:ERT@pnwumc.org).*





*Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Episcopacy, the Western Jurisdiction has assigned Bishop Elaine Stanovsky to Greater Northwest Area for the 2016-2020 quadrennium beginning September 1, 2016.*

## Bishop Stanovsky assigned to The Greater Northwest Area

Courtesy of THE PNW NEWS BLOG

**E**lected in the episcopacy in 2008 by the Western Jurisdiction, she has served for eight years in the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church. While leading the church there, she has made significant connections with the Native American community of the Area and been a champion inside and outside the church for reconciliation with Native People. She has provided an honest telling of the historic atrocities done in the name of the Church.

Jan Nelson, Oregon-Idaho Conference Lay Leader and a member of the Episcopacy Committee shared these thoughts on the assignment, "I wish Bishop Hagiya the best in his new assignment, and I am excited to welcome Bishop Stanovsky to ministry with us in Oregon-Idaho and in the episcopal area. It

will be a pleasure to help her get to know our Conference and to help our members get acquainted with her. I am confident we all will do exciting ministry together."

The Rev. Carlo Rapanut, Superintendent of the Alaska Annual Conference shares, "We look forward to working with Bishop Elaine and look forward to welcoming her to the Alaska Conference."

"Bishop Elaine will bring innate knowledge of the Greater Northwest culture; there are many things about us and the communities we serve that she won't have to learn," offered the Rev. Craig Parrish. "She has a deep care for clergy and for the churches that serve as beacons of God's love. Bishop Elaine has a justice mind and heart that will serve our area well." ©

A full biography is available at [bit.ly/bishop-stanovsky](http://bit.ly/bishop-stanovsky)

## Report: \$15k received for Jars for Jamaa Letu

By BARBARA DADD SHAFFER

**T**he churches and individuals of the PNW Conference are a generous people! Once again the offering called "Jars for Jamaa Letu" or simply "Jars" was generously supported.

As of the end of July, the total received was \$15,350.98. This is nearly 20% or 1/5 of the amount that is sent to the orphanages each year from The Pacific Northwest Conference.

This offering and the generous United Methodists who support it are funding food, housing, school fees, medical care and staffing for the residents of the two orphanages. As of the June 30 quarterly reports, there are 40 girls and 28 boys living at the two orphanages.

A new 8-day old baby boy was brought by authorities to the girls' orphanage in late June. Found in a plastic bag in the market and very underweight, he is now chubby-cheeked and thriving. At the same time, the oldest teens are now preparing to move into the university stage of their



lives, including one young man entering Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Reminder to local church treasurers: If you have not already done so, please send the funds your church has collected for "Jars" to the conference treasurer's office.

The Jamaa Letu Orphanages for boys

and for girls is a ministry of The United Methodist Church in the South Congo Conference (Africa) and The Pacific Northwest Conference. Donations may be made through your local church or directly to the Treasurer's Office of the PNW Conference. ©

*Barbara Dadd Shaffer is the chair for the Bishop's Task Force, Hope for the Children of Africa.*



Pastor Alex Perez (right) of God's New Generation in Pasco, Wash. greets another participant at the church's Car Show.



The Summer Family Car Show connects people within the Tri-Cities area (Richland, Kennewick, Pasco). This is just one summer outreach celebration from GNG/NGD.

## Car Show celebrates family, diversity and faith

By PASTORS ALEX & SALLY PEREZ




A group of friends gather in prayer during the Car Show hosted by God's New Generation/Nueva Generacion de Dios in Pasco, Wash.

**T**he Summer Family Car Show began when a group of people within the church began to envision an annual car show that would bring the community together. The vision was to bring diversity within the cars because that would bring diversity with the attendees. This is exactly what has happened throughout the years. Each year the God's New Generation/Nueva Generacion de Dios Family Car Show continues to grow in success.

The people who attended and supported the GNG Family Car Show were God's New Generation members and volunteers, local car clubs, local

businesses, and the community.

The GNG Summer Family Car show is special because it provides a safe place for families to come together and fellowship while enjoying the different styles of cars.

GNG's ministry and outreach continues to serve the community in many ways. For instance, we partner with local non-profits to further their community work like the Convoy of Hope, Teen Challenge, Jubilee Ranch, Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network and many others. GNG also continues to reach out through their yearly Car Show, Back to School Bash, Fall Fest, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, Outreach Events. 

Get more information about God's New Generation by logging on to our website: [godsnewgeneration.com](http://godsnewgeneration.com). Alex & Sally Perez serve as senior pastors at God's New Generation/Nueva Generacion de Dios in Pasco, Wash.



The Summer Car Show welcomed diverse attendees through diverse cars.





*The Rev. Curtis Brown, Church Planting Strategist at Path1 led the First 12 training event in Des Moines, Wash.*

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

By **THE REV. DR. WILLIAM D. GIBSON**  
Photos by **JESSE N. LOVE**



*The Rev. Troy Carr jots down notes from the First 12 training. Carr serves at Bryn Mawr UMC.*



*Pastor Dione Corsilles serves at Seattle: Blaine UMC. Corsilles attended the First 12 training to help connect younger adults in the community with the local church.*

**B**efore you can begin anything, there are a few things you must do first. For instance, in order to set out on a walk, you must first take a step.

When you begin that new exercise regimen, you first have to decide if it's a priority. Enjoying that much-needed vacation first involves a decision. You get the idea – first things first.

Recently, The Pacific Northwest Conference hosted a new Path1 training called “First 12”, offered by Discipleship Ministries. First 12 is a new two-day training event designed to help leaders gather and grow the first 12 committed, core people. New ministries first need a gathered team of core leaders who are able to pray, dream, discern, and implement new strategies.

Combined with a year of practical coaching follow-up, participants learned the skills, habits, and lifestyle practices that give a new vision the best chance of launching with a team of 12 committed leaders. First 12 isn't only a new training for new church projects. It is equally valuable for existing church leaders who want to start new ministry initiatives that support the local church vision and mission for community engagement. Such ministries can include small groups, new fellowships, new mission outreaches, new worship services, or new gatherings.

“The First 12 training focused on key aspects of engaging others through ‘crashing parties’ and ‘the art of strategically hanging out’ in order to build both a core group of 12 leaders, as well as ‘orbits’ of contacts and prospects targeted for our ministries,” said David Charcas, Chairperson of the Communication and Evangelism Team for Seattle: First United Methodist Church. “As a result, the Communications and Evangelism Team at our church is excited to incorporate these First 12 guidelines into our strategic plans of social justice, advocacy, and other ministries that matter to our thriving downtown Seattle community.”

Hosted by the Office of Congregational Development, the training was facilitated by the Rev. Curtis Brown, who serves as the Path1 new church strategist for the Western Jurisdiction. The training consisted of 20 participants, representing churches and new projects across the Conference, and ranged from new ministry and revitalization initiatives to new church plants. The event also included four assigned coaches who will support our cohorts in the implementation of these learned strategies over the next year.

“I look forward to the opportunity to walk with an amazing group of five pastors who are in varying stages of their process to start new ministries or plant new communities of faith,” said the Rev. Gregg Sealey, superintendent of the Inland District and First 12 coach. “Although the program is a kind of ‘facilitative coaching’ directly related to helping them do whatever they need in order to organize their first 12 leaders, there is an incredible depth and intimacy in this kind of coaching relationship. I can't wait to see what God does with and through them in the next season and beyond!”

Beginning anything new starts with gathering a core group of leaders — folks who passionately share in an emerging and compelling vision. In keeping with the first disciples, First 12 provides a biblical backdrop to the formation of what church can be in our post-Christian landscape.

“The content of the training itself was not only informative, but also transformative in that it captured the heart of both how and why we enter into the work of building a faith community from the ground up,” explained The Rev. Sarah Casey, Second Site Pastor for Bothell United Methodist Church. “In my ministry context as a second site church planter, I was captured by the idea that development of a second ministry site is not simply a ‘clone’ of the already-existing faith community, but rather ‘offspring.’ This imagery encouraged me to consider the ways in which the existing church shares the Gospel effectively, while fully realizing that the church in its current state is deeply disconnected from the larger post-Christian context in which we now find ourselves living. This invites planters to be attentive to the current needs of the community when discerning how the Gospel might be both shared and lived in a way that is accessible in our current context,” added Casey.

First 12 has now held four events — the first in The California-Pacific Conference, the second in The New England Conference, the third (most recently) in the Baltimore-Washington Conference — before coming to the Pacific Northwest Conference August 11-12. @

*For more information, visit [www.firsttwelve.org](http://www.firsttwelve.org) or [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org), or contact Program Coordinator Patrick Ferguson at [pferguson@pnwumc.org](mailto:pferguson@pnwumc.org).*

*The Rev. Dr. William D. Gibson serves as director of Strategic Faith Community Development for the PNWUMC.*

# Who knew?! Impressions by a first-timer at Mission u

By JUSTIN HANVEY Photo by JOAN HACKETT

**W**ho knew that one of the most progressive branches of Christianity was a women's organization in The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church?" So I said to my wife after our first day at Mission u.

I've only been a member of the UMC for a couple years now. So far, it's continued to be some of the best experiences I've had with church in my whole life. I grew up in the church, in Charismatic, Non Denominational, and Mennonite Churches. I did go to Chrysalis as a youth, and really enjoyed it, but I spent very little time among mainline churches until I moved to Washington; I began going to Moses Lake UMC just two years ago.

I had been studying feminism and felt it was right for me as a man to practice submission by submitting to a female head pastor. I am very glad we chose it - we love it there, and love Pastor Jo Ann Schaadt.

My wife was quickly drawn into United Methodist Women. She's found some good friends and good times there. She got to go to Mission u last year and came home with glowing reports. Much of the liberal progressive theology I had been leaning into was being spoken by the leaders at this UMW event. They were talking about social justice in a way I had not heard growing up, in a positive way, and not a negative way. She told me I'd love speakers like the Rev. Keith Hackett, who she's sure I'll be like one day.

Between walking around the beautiful campus of Central Washington University, to the nice city of Ellensburg, to the classes, plenaries, and discussion groups themselves, it has truly been an enriching and enjoyable time.

I tend to be a guy with a lot of questions...

and when those questions don't have answers, I'm okay with that. By learning under Keith Hackett, Jen Stuart, Alethea McGavran and Pat Watkins and by worshiping with a large group of mostly women, I've been given many moments of clarity on some questions that have long plagued me.

I also appreciate the affirming atmosphere when it comes to human sexuality. With friends all over the spectrum, and with the larger UMW atmosphere in contention, it has been refreshing to be a part of something, specifically to be in groups that speak openly and affirmingly of LGBTQIA persons, and of human sexuality in general. I'm sure there's no other church event out there where someone can bring up sex in such a positive and affirming way. I also was very impressed with the vulnerability and wisdom from so many women around me and from the speakers as we talked about sexual abuse and ethics, and of moving forward into a better way of thinking about sexuality in the Church. Ethics of respect, consent, and validation of sex and our bodies as a God-given gift become the new language we use. We stand with each other in solidarity, support and advocacy against sexual abuse in all ways, whether done inside or outside the walls of the church, outside or inside the confines of marriage.

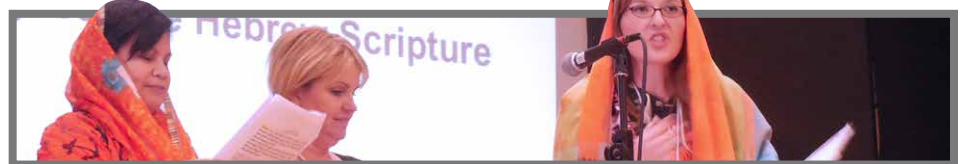
My climate justice classes with Pat Watkins have also been eye-opening. Before I came here this weekend I only

rarely thought about my carbon footprint. I knew climate change was a big thing, but I think there wasn't as much urgency in my own life about it. But talking of not only the environmental impacts, but the theological implications of being stewards of the Earth --called by God to be gardeners and farmers has truly changed my view on how important this is. I'm starting to ask more serious questions about what I can do.

I've met some great people, and learned a lot. But growing up and going to missions events where it was all about evangelism, quick and easy ways to get in, lead people to Christ, and get out, Mission u has truly been a refreshingly different take on what missions means.

How can the church speak more positively and wholly to human sexuality in issues of patriarchal abuse, biblical interpretation and LGBTQIA rights? How can the church be at the forefront of healing and justice in climate change? These are questions this event has given me a few answers, but also more and better questions than what I came in with, and I'm thankful for that.

If you're interested in justice for the world, and funny informative speakers who challenge your world-view as well as just having a more whole understanding of self and others, I can't recommend Mission u more. Hope to see you next year, or hear about you attending your own conference's Mission u. @



Marilyn Reid, the Rev. Jen Stuart, and Lyda Nisbet portray Women heroines in scripture.



## Miss Representation

Includes interviews with Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Lisa Ling, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Rosario Dawson, Dr. Jackson Katz, Dr. Jean Kilbourne and Gloria Steinem and interweaves these interviews with stories of teenage girls to show an inside look at the media and its messages about women. With media being an omnipresent and pervasive, powerful force in our society we are finding that we are yet again teaching a new generation of girls that their primary value lies in their youth, beauty and sexuality rather than in their capacity to lead, obtain leadership positions and reach their full potential. This documentary offers startling facts and encourages all of us to question media portrayals about gender and our values. What can we do to ensure equality? What can we do to empower girls and women?



D1114



**D**own the stairs in a fairly well-lit, fellowship hall at University Temple UMC in Seattle, church members are listening intently about mission as well as the history of Nepal and its future.

Dressed in Nepalese garb, Katherine Parker offered up reflections and insights into her work as a United Methodist Missionary serving with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). She is visiting many churches in the PNW that have been supporting her through a mutual covenant relationship, as many missionaries do. Parker is one of about 400 commissioned United Methodist missionaries around the world doing Christ-inspired work to uplift different and diverse communities.

Parker has been involved with mission since 2000 as an intern and began serving in Nepal in 2013. She has a B.S. and a M.S. in biology from Harvey Mudd College and Cal-State Sacramento, respectively. Her knowledge in this field is an important part of her mission in Nepal, as her focus is on water sanitation and hygiene, maternal health, and sexual/reproductive health & rights for adolescents. In Parker's work with the UMN, six areas they focus on are education, health, peace-building, good governance, integral mission, and establishing/maintaining sustainable livelihoods.

Known for its majestic, mountainous terrain, Nepal is as large as the Iowa. The country has warm, humid, and rainy summers, while winters are cold and dry. The country lies in-between two superpowers, China and India. Nepal is long and features habitations from just above sea level at 200 feet to 14,000 feet, before continuing up to the peak of Mt. Everest at more than 29,000 feet. The majority of the population lives below 3000 feet.

In the late 1940s, Nepal opened up its borders and welcomed travelers who were visiting places such as Mt. Everest. Parker shared a story of how Methodist missionaries Bob and Bethel Fleming asked permission from the King of Nepal to open a hospital. Under these conditions, hospitals and education were allowed, but the teaching of Christianity was prohibited. Thus the United Mission to Nepal was formed in 1954. Many missionaries from Kenya, Hong Kong, Australia, Norway and other nations are still bringing Christ to this region, today.

Expatriates from Nepal, who left home to work in India, found Christianity; they wished to bring back Christ to their homeland. These returnees took the lead



## BRINGING NEPAL TO THE NORTHWEST

By **JESSE N. LOVE** with **KATHERINE PARKER**

in forming new faith communities in their country. UMN, as an organized presence of the international, ecumenical body of Christ has worked in parallel to the Nepalese-led Christian community.

Initially, through UMN, hospitals, hydroelectric dams, technical institutes, boarding schools and other projects were created to uplift the lives of Nepal. As democracy emerged, Christianity developed organizationally. "Today, we don't start new institutions. Rather, we partner with Nepali organizations...we help to build their capacity," shares Parker.

In April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. About 9000 lives were lost as the country endured several high-level aftershocks thereafter. "There were 10 aftershocks per day for the first month. There are 75 districts in Nepal; 25 impacted, 11 severely impacted," Parker shared.

"In the midst of tragedy, God connects us together," shares Parker. Her work as a missionary in the midst of a disaster touched many as the organization reached out to 12,000+ families with food, shelter, hygiene and cooking supplies. Recovery efforts continue through equipping farmers with seeds before monsoon seasons, rebuilding trails, training masons, instructing folks to use chlorine tabs, managing trauma, and overall, working to bring normalcy to the Nepalese reflects the commitment to continue the long walk out of a disaster.

The United Mission to Nepal is currently addressing social issues that affect the country. Along with reinforcing

and stabilizing homes post-2015 earthquake, alleviating those suffering from poverty through food and emotional help, Parker and UMN are working on ways to provide sustainable development goals for Nepal.

Most of the UMN's 65 local partners do community development, not just disaster response (although they also do this when the need arises). Living into the desire not to start its own private institutions, Parker shares there is a better investment into building up the nation by supporting local partners -- such as the Kapilvastu Institutional Development Committee (KIDC) that delivered relief items to flood survivors or the Lumbini Christian Society (LCS) that provided funding, food, and materials after homes were on fire after a windy evening (see [www.umn.org.np/news](http://www.umn.org.np/news) for more.)

Parker is working with the local community to combat early child marriage (arranged marriage, elopement) and human trafficking. The development of 'child clubs' along with social campaigns have encouraged young people to engage in dialogue to form their own standards of behavior -- while allowing those in mission to be responsive (without doing harm) through "positive peer pressure." These clubs worked on planting trees, cleaning the polluted Bagmati River and marched/advocate in their own villages for climate change during the Paris Accords in 2015. Parker shared that children are "change

*Continue to PARKER, next page*



PNW Laity gather for prayer before lunch. Pateros Community Church hosted laity to see how much damage was caused by the Washington Wildfires, both physically and emotionally.



# PNW Laity: Okanogan County Immersion

By **JESSE N. LOVE** with **ROSALEE MOHNEY**



On July 8-9, 2016 laity from The Pacific Northwest Conference participated in a special immersion trip to the Okanogan area in Central Washington.

Rosalee Mohney, lay leader for the Seattle District, helped coordinate this event. Inspired by a previous visit in March 2016 with her fellow district lay leaders, Mohney hoped to share, from experience, an informative and emotional trip through towns affected by the Washington Wildfires from 2014 and 2015.

"To be immersed in both the physical and emotional aspects of the devastation was, at times, beyond amazing," shares Mohney. "I came away inspired and dedicated to do what I can to support the rebuilding of lives in the ways that I can. There is no substitute for seeing the devastations and rebuilding first-hand." ©



Members and friends of Seattle: University Temple UMC gather with United Methodist Missionary, Katherine Parker (third from the left.)

## Parker: Improving infrastructure to provide hope for Nepal

*Continued from previous page*

agents" for this developing country.

There is also work to help increase income. A small increase in locally generated funds helps to provide incentive for locals to not migrate to other places for work.

Improving infrastructures, raising conscious young people to manage social issues, and providing relief to disaster victims are just a few of the ways Katherine Parker and the UMN are providing hope to Nepal through mission. ©

If you would like to learn more about the United Mission to Nepal, visit [www.umn.org.np](http://www.umn.org.np). Follow Katherine Parker through her blog at [bokashi.blogspot.com](http://bokashi.blogspot.com).

For more information on United Methodist Missionaries and projects, visit [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org).

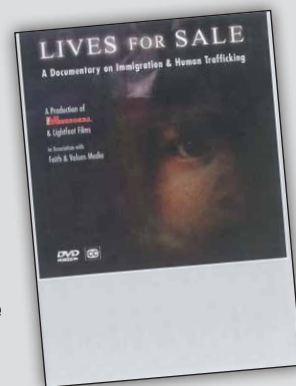
## Lives For Sale: A Documentary on Immigration & Human Trafficking

**D4230**

First aired on public television and the Hallmark Channel, this harrowing film goes beyond the rhetoric to show why immigrants are willing to risk everything—even virtual slavery—for the American Dream. While politicians, activists, and the media wrestle with the thorny issue of immigration, *Lives For Sale*, exposes the painful, rarely seen human side of illegal immigration—especially the growing black market trade in human beings. The documentary also looks at some practical alternatives to these tragic realities.

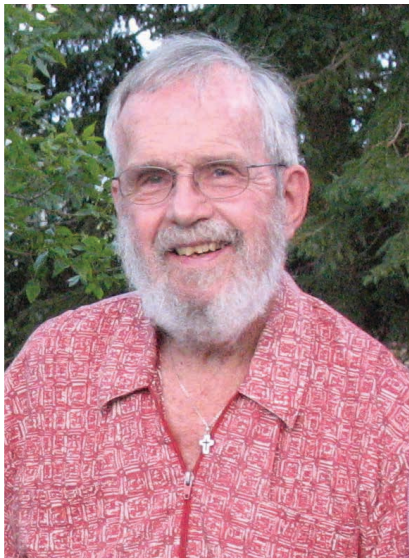
Tracing the stories of two young women who were trafficked, one in California, the other in Florida, the documentary asks why and how this could happen in the United States—and what can be done to stem the most lucrative criminal enterprise after drugs and gun sales.

This DVD contains *Lives For Sale* (58 minutes) along with a study guide and supplementary resources such as fact sheets, discussion questions, educational brochure and listing of additional resources. Some of the funding for this DVD was provided by The United Methodist Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries.



**UMC**  
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# Reflections on a Strange Silence

By THE REV. VINCE HART

Join the discussion on this article at  
The PNW News blog: [bit.ly/strange-silence](http://bit.ly/strange-silence)

About 25 years ago I submitted a paper at the Portland hearing of the UMC Committee for the Study of Homosexuality which had been authorized by the 1988 General Conference and was to report back to the 1992 session. The central point of my paper, reflecting my thoughts as I had followed the controversy, was my belief that at the core of the controversy, yet rarely if ever mentioned, were two distinctly different understandings of the true character of the Bible and the nature of its authority. This was not a deep “fundamentalist-inerrancy” view over against a “modernist-secular” view. But there was enough difference between the two perspectives that their views of “scriptural authority” were almost poles apart. Yet that issue seemed never to get serious discussion! A “strange silence” indeed, given the central role of Scripture in all UMC pursuit of truth and God’s will.

Today I would frame the “unmentionable” core issue somewhat differently. The two starkly contrasting views of the nature of the Bible and its authority still confront us, never fully acknowledged or seriously explored. Yet the deeper (deepest?) issue concerns

the nature and authority of the Bible as a revered but ancient text on the one hand and the nature and authority of our living God on the other! Yet our debates continue to focus on Bible texts or on broad issues of “justice” and “inclusion.”

Why are we not discussing the evidence of God’s present action?

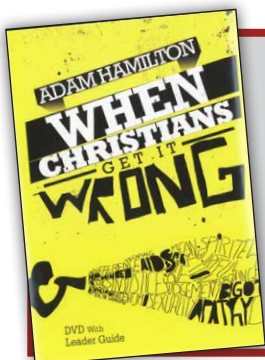
I believe that the closest biblical analogy is found in Acts 10-11, the remarkable little drama of God’s utterly surprising acceptance of Gentiles (pagans) into the new community! The shock is hard to perceive or comprehend 2000 years later. The unconditional acceptance of Roman Cornelius and his whole household, as evidenced by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit just as it had come onto the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost, was extremely controversial, stirring rebuke and great controversy. For us, the hatred, the despising of Gentiles, the conviction that they were enemies of God, an instant source of ritual contamination, is so very far from our present awareness. After all, most of us are Gentiles!

The totally unconditional grace offered to Cornelius’ household, without any prior change of “lifestyle” was a divine act quite

contrary to the tradition and much of the Scripture of Jews at that time. Today that same unconditional grace is evident in the lives of thousands of LGBTQIA persons, many of them United Methodist clergy! Those clergy in particular have been scrupulously examined as to whether they evidence the gifts and graces and fruits which we profess to be the essential evidence of God’s will for all clergy—and they have passed the test in Conference after Conference, at least until they “came out.” As in Acts 10-11, the test is, ultimately, whether God’s present action has revealed God’s present will for these persons. Thus, to reject the present evidence upon the basis of a very few somewhat obscure verses in an ancient text, however highly respected, borders on idolatry—granting divine authority to something created rather than to the Creator! Further, it risks “hindering” God (Acts 11:17).

It is time to break the strange silence on this issue! @

*The Rev. Vince Hart is a retired clergyperson from The Pacific Northwest Conference.*



## When Christians Get It Wrong

D4225

Young adults seem to have opted out of Christianity and the Church in large numbers these days. Why? If asked, they give several reasons, but the most important one is that they don’t see many Christians being truly Christian. Young adults don’t have a problem with Jesus—just with those who claim to follow Jesus—yet live in ways that don’t represent who Jesus is and how he wants his followers to be. Specific attitudes and behaviors young adults mention are Christians being judgmental, hypocritical, condemning other people’s faiths, rejecting science, injecting politics into faith and being anti-homosexual. In this DVD, Adam Hamilton tackles these issues and addresses the “hows” and “whys” of Christians getting it right (and wrong) when it comes to representing Christ in the world.



# Mirror, mirror on the wall...

By **THE REV. PAUL GRAVES**

Photo by **ALLAN WARREN, WIKIPEDIA**

**R**ight up to some months before he died at 91, my dad would occasionally reflect (no pun intended) on looking in the mirror and seeing himself as a much younger man. I can do the same with little encouragement. It's likely you have a mirror that helps you fantasize too!

I was reminded of Dad's mirror memory while reading a new and informative book on aging. "*Disrupt Aging: A Bold New Path to Living Your Best Life at Every Age*", by AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. In a section called "Act Your Age?", Jenkins talks of a mini-dilemma many of us experience:

"When I was growing up it seemed like my parents were always telling me, 'Jo Ann, act your age.' Now, as a parent, my kids are telling me, 'Mom, act YOUR age!'"

So what is age, really? I know it has to do with our chronological age, but only partly. Yet that "partly" is where we too frequently stop! At least we stop until we get older and realize that we may not "feel our age" (even if our bodies aren't cooperating with our attitude).

That's one reason why I focus my own attitude and much of my conversation about aging around being a "geezer-in-training." When I found out that "geezer" began as an English (cockney) word about 1500 A.D. that meant "disguise", I knew the cranky old geezer image was wrong.

For me, geezer describes an older adult young in spirit/attitude who lives in the disguise of gray hair and wrinkles! A geezer-in-training may have gray hair and wrinkles, but is still learning to live into his or her age with renewed passion, curiosity, imagination and hope.

We have a refrigerator magnet that has a photo of an older man trying to ride a tiny tricycle. The quote on the magnet is from Satchel Paige, Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher: "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" Paige lived out his answer to that question.

After 20 years in the Negro Baseball League, he became a rookie pitcher in the Major Leagues at age 42. And still became a Hall of Fame player! His chronological age didn't matter because he knew life was not determined by a calendar.

*Disrupt Aging* author Jo Ann Jenkins has some serious questions that mean to change our attitudes toward aging. Allow me to paraphrase: If you believed 50 was the peak of life and you went downhill from there (a horribly ageist stereotype!), does that mean you are really old if you are over 70?



## Reinventing Aging

**D4751**

This study's lofty goal is nothing less than to revolutionize the way we see and respond to aging in our families, churches and our own lives. The writers and presenters share stories and advice that bring growth, meaning and understanding to the process of growing older. The issues range from bodily changes to financial decisions to preparing for death to rediscovering purpose in life.


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Now a direct quote from her: "If you believe that you can't teach an old dog new tricks (which isn't even true for dogs), does that mean you stop learning when you think you've become an old dog? And at what age does that occur?" (p. 49)

And then an intrusive question for persons who bemoan their aging: "If you believe older people have nothing to look forward to, not to contribute, and are a burden on society, how are you going to act your age when you're older?" (p. 49)

For me, a major part of being a geezer-in-aging is that I refuse to accept the stereotypes of ageism!

In a separate column about the humor of aging that I wrote for the Bonner County Daily Bee (Sandpoint, Idaho), I gave written permission for anyone who hears me tell an ageist joke to call me on it. The same offer applies to readers of this column.

There is some reality to the younger person we see in the mirror regardless of how old we get. That reality is measured deep inside, where our worth as a person is affirmed with every God-given breath we take. Happy breathing (even if that breathing may be labored)! 

*The Rev. Paul Graves serves as the chair for the Conference Council on Older Adults Ministries.*



SEPTEMBER 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 • Labor Day (The Conference Office is CLOSED.)	6	7	8	9	10 • Community Block Party @ Bryn Mawr UMC
11	12	13 • Lazy Daze @ Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center			16 • Jesus' Way of Radical Compassion: Facilitators Training (Part 2) @ Lake Oswego UMC	17 • Seattle District Laity Uprising 2 @ Aldersgate UMC • Christmas Institute Leadership Team Meeting @ Beacon UMC
18 • Greater Northwest Cabinet @ Camp Magruder	19	20	21	22	23 • Disaster Response Training @ Richland Central United Protestant	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 • Quadrennial Leadership Summit @ Vancouver: First UMC	1

OCTOBER 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4 • Greater Northwest Area Cabinet @ PNWUMC	5	6 • Healthy Boundaries 201 @ Millwood Community Presbyterian Church	7 • Certified Lay Ministry: Introduction to Ministry Overview @ Richland CUP Church • Seattle District Theological Conference @ Bellevue First UMC	8 • Family Systems Training for Lay and Clergy
9 • Certified Lay Ministry: Introduction to Ministry Overview @ Richland CUP Church	10	11	12	13	14	15 • Seven Rivers District Training Events 2016 (Visit <a href="http://bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016">bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016</a> for more info.)
16 • Seven Rivers District Training Events 2016 (Visit <a href="http://bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016">bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016</a> for more info.)	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 • Seven Rivers District Training Events 2016 (Visit <a href="http://bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016">bit.ly/Trivers_training_2016</a> for more info.)	24 • Gathering of the Orders @ Wenatchee: First UMC	25	26	27 • Elevate: Youth Leader Training @ Twinlow Camp	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



**Sept. 30 - Oct. 1**  
**Quadrennial Leadership Summit**  
@ Vancouver: First UMC  
More: [bit.ly/pnw-qls](http://bit.ly/pnw-qls)

**CLM**  
**Certified Lay Ministers**

**Oct. 7-8**  
**CLM - Introduction to Ministry Overview**  
@ Richland CUP  
More: [bit.ly/clm-richland](http://bit.ly/clm-richland)



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Des Moines, WA 98198-1009

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# Channels

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

# 95

SEPT2016

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**SPECIAL THANKS** PNW Disaster Response, Hope for the Children of Africa, Patrick Ferguson, the Rev. Curtis Brown, Jim Truitt, God's New Generation, David Reinholz, Katherine Parker, United Mission to Nepal, and the Inland Steeples.

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



## Welcome, Gregg Sealey!

Courtesy of the **INLAND STEEPLES**

*Sealey is the new superintendent for the Inland District!*



Gregg's previous appointment was at Spokane: Covenant UMC. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children. As a family, they enjoy hiking,

biking, lifting weights, yoga, kayaking, and canoeing. Gregg also enjoys reading, journaling, watching films, and practicing contemplative meditation.

Prior to becoming a pastor, Gregg was a physical therapist for seven years. While he enjoyed being a part of peoples' healing journeys, he knew that he ultimately had to follow the tug on his heart to lead whole communities to find healing, health, and wholeness. Gregg followed that passion to seminary in Kansas City, served a church in Leavenworth, Kan., and followed a path back to the Pacific Northwest. Mentoring, coaching and leadership development are a part of

Gregg's vision for how he will serve as a District Superintendent.

"I see myself as this powerful, passionate and playful 'Adventure Guide' who helps people not just get to a destination, but pay deep attention to the steps on the journey toward wholeness," Gregg shares.

Gregg has deeply held values of:

- *Authenticity and Integrity*
- *Playfulness, Curiosity and Adventure*
- *Competition and Engaging Leadership*
- *Prayerful, Mindful Peacefulness and Compassion*

Over the next several months, Gregg will continue visiting the people and churches of the Inland District. He is excited to get to know you and to assist you in the ministry we share together. @



## DOWNLOAD: Retiree Displays

**B**lessings to our Pacific Northwest Conference retirees of 2016. If you would like to learn more about some of our retirees, view displays from The PNW Annual Conference Sessions

**DOWNLOAD:** [bit.ly/retirees-displays](http://bit.ly/retirees-displays)  
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