



Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

Fall 2012

From the President of the Council

Another school year is in full swing at Washington State University. On behalf of The Common Ministry Council, I want you to know that our programs are flourishing this year despite the staff changes we continue to experience in our ever-changing ministry. You will see some encouraging reports regarding our operations and programs throughout this newsletter.

Last school year, we searched for a permanent director. In spite of a very successful search process, we were not able to fill the position. Dr. Rob Synder is no longer serving as Interim Director, so we do not have a director onsite at the present time. One of the ways we have addressed some of the onsite duties of the Interim Director is by transferring some of those responsibilities to our Office Manager, now Building and Office Manager, Lorraine Mason. She is handling these duties well and continues to help us make sure our building is used well by a variety of groups. Also, various Council members have taken on leadership of the Interfaith Mythbusters and Meditation programs with good success. We plan to begin another search for an IFH Director in the near future.

The challenges to support campus ministry in these tough economic times continue to increase, and some of our traditional denominational supporters have notified us that they will not be able to provide funds in the future. We will need to replace \$10,000 in 2013 and another \$20,000 in 2014. Thus, your continued support is urgently needed. Please take a moment to review the enclosed donation form to see how you can support our outreach to the many college students who are exploring their faith, seeking knowledge of various faith traditions, and/or searching for a spiritual context. The students at the Interfaith House today are growing into the open-minded, faithful leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for your past support, and we hope you will be able to continue your support in the future.

Sue Durrant, President of the Common Ministry Council

Interfaith Mythbusters

Thursday night at the Interfaith House is the place to be for inquiring minds. We incorporated a "Speaker Series" format to hear first hand from individuals of different faiths, and deepen understanding of our neighbors of different faiths and spirituality. A typical Thursday program starts by sharing a meal prepared by volunteers or by students to nourish our bodies, then moves into a presentation or/and dialogue to nourish our faith and spirituality.

15-18 individuals from different faith backgrounds participate regularly in the program. One of the regular participants, Maria, talks about her experience with the program:



"The Interfaith House is a welcoming place where everyone is able to openly express their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs: spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. Personally, I find the Interfaith House to be a stimulating environment for any type of open discussion. The thoughts and ideas that are expressed have contributed immensely to my own spiritual growth. . . . I have made lasting friendships with people from different walks of life and have found something to look forward to every Thursday evening."

The Interfaith Mythbusters crew on November 8, 2012.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the Interfaith Mythbusters program to witness God's work at the Interfaith House at 5pm on Thursday nights. Refer to our website for an up-to-date speaker schedule

Emi Dickens, Vice President of the Common Ministry Council, Program Coordinator for the Interfaith Mythbusters

CROP Hunger Walk

On October 7, students from the Interfaith House participated in CROP Hunger Walk in Pullman to demonstrate the Interfaith House's involvement with and caring for our community. CROP Hunger Walk is a fundraising and awareness event, in which participants walk 10k to raise money and awareness for hunger in the local and global communities. It was a beautiful fall day and we all enjoyed the walk. The Pullman-Moscow community members raised over \$10,000. 25% of the money raised stays in the local community and the rest is used to help people in developing countries in Asia and Africa through Church World Service. THANK YOU to individuals who made donations on behalf of the Interfaith House.



IFH CROP Walk participants at the halfway point of the 10k.

- **Have extra time and want to volunteer?** We have several one-time and on-going projects with
- which we always appreciate a helping hand! Contact the office for service options and to schedule.
- A partial list of ideas can be found on the Interfaith House website: www.interfaith-house.com.

Meditation: Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient Christian practice that combines reading, listening, praying, and mediation. It is a way to read deeply, allowing ourselves to become more in tune with the presence of God in ALL areas of our lives.

Macrina Wiederkehr, a member of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas, models for us Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) as a way of life. It is based on an incarnation spirituality which finds God fleshed out everywhere. In her many books, she teaches us the art of seeing the presence of God in the midst of our daily activities. One of my very favorite passages is about a moment of beauty spotted by the author in a bus station:

"Taking my head out of my book for a moment proved to be true nourishment. I witnessed a little girl helping her brother get a drink at the water fountain. Attempting to lift him to the proper height turned out to be impossible. I was just at the point of giving them some assistance when quick as lightning she darted over to a shoeshine man, pointed to a footstool he wasn't using, dragged it to the water fountain, and very gently lifted up her thirsty brother. It all happened so fast and it was so simple, yet it turned out to be a moment of beauty that became a prayer for me. So much to be learned from such a little moment. Perhaps what touched me most was her readiness to seek out a way to take care of the need without waiting to be rescued. It was a moment of beauty: a small child with a single heart." Practicing Lectio Divina gave her the awareness of God deep within the words, allowing her to see and enjoy God moments in the everyday.

Wes Howell, Common Ministry Council Member, Meditation Program Coordinator

Meditation: Contemplative Prayer

I offer guidance with a Christian form of meditation called Centering Prayer. It can be paired with Lectio Divina, which is traditionally done with scripture readings, but can also include poetry, art and music. These forms of Contemplative Prayer have their roots in the early Christian tradition. I have found that they have enriched my spiritual journey.

Experience Lectio Divina and Contemplative Prayer! Join us for this quiet and focused time, every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15 to 12:45.

Pam McEachern, Meditation Leader

Keep in Touch!

To be kept up-to-date on the latest happenings at the IFH, "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InterfaithHouseWSU.

We can be reached by telephone at 509-332-2611, by email at office@interfaith-house.com, or by traditional mail at 720 NE Thatuna St., Pullman, WA 99163.

Be sure to check out our website: www.interfaith-house.com!



The students of the 2012 retreat in front of the St. Gertrude Chapel.

Retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, ID October 26-28, 2012

The Monastery welcomed us with an inch of snow on the ground when we arrived Friday evening. After we settled in at the Farm House, Sister Lillian generously offered her time to give us an overview of the Monastery including history, the life of nuns at the Monastery, her personal reason for her commitment to God, and provided a Q & A session. The following day, Sister Lillian gave us a tour of the Monastery and answered more questions. We experienced Benedictine tradition of worship at the beautiful Chapel. Students were encouraged to take time to relax, and to get to know and enjoy each other. We played games, carved pumpkins, and took time to enjoy the outdoors between rains. Rithy, who participated in the retreat for the first time, says:

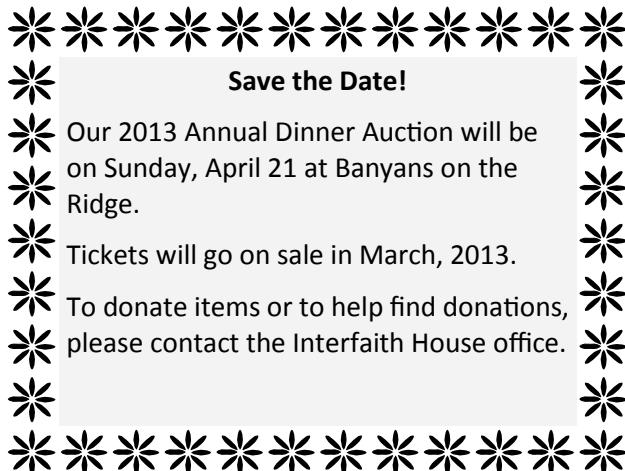
"The retreat, for one, was a great venue to refresh my mind from the daily monotony of school life. I was able to be involved in rituals that I have never done before such as singing hymns and ingesting sacramental wine and bread, and we were able to personally interact with the nuns. . . . I felt very welcomed by all of the Sisters (who smiled or said hello to each one of us), and this retreat allowed me to better understand the members in the Interfaith Group more personally."

Overall, my time at St. Gertrude Monastery was very enlightening because it gave me a first-hand experience in Benedictine faith and it will be an experience that I will not forget."

Another student, Arlie, describes:

"I look forward to the Interfaith retreat every year. I explain to people that the retreat brings a bunch of WSU students together from all different religions and faith backgrounds. I say, 'Imagine a diverse group of people and religions spending the weekend at a monastery with nuns.' It's a bonding experience as we stay up late playing board and card games, carving pumpkins, and laughing endlessly. We go into the retreat often just being friendly acquaintances, and then come away from the trip with strong friendships and unforgettable memories. The Interfaith retreat is a time to escape the stress of school and life, relax, enjoy, and grow spiritually together in the beautiful environment."

Emi Dickens, Vice President of the Common Ministry Council



Participants of the 2012 retreat inside the ornately beautiful Chapel at the St. Gertrude Monastery.



Interfaith House

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Open House BBQ was a Huge Success!

The school year kicked off with the Interfaith House Open House BBQ on August 22. Approximately 60 students and community members joined the BBQ and enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and sides provided by the Interfaith House RSO (Registered Student Organization). This was a wonderful opportunity to open the Interfaith House to students to let them know what we do and what programs are available for them to participate.

Zoe's Café participated by providing a prize wheel to attract students and provided discount coupons for the café.

Everyone sat around and enjoyed conversations and the beautiful evening under the tree in the front yard. It was a great way to start the new school year!

**Thank you for being an invaluable part of our Interfaith House community!
We pray many blessings be upon you this holiday season!**

Interfaith House Building Use

The Interfaith House has been busy this Fall semester. In August, we had 570 people attend meetings and events here! In September and October that number increased to an average of 835 people per month. That's not including our bustling office activity: Resonate Church has the entire third floor for office space; the Korean Evangelical Church, Inspire!, Read for Life, Hillel, Barbara Aston, and the Jewish Community of the Palouse all have office space here as well.

In September, for the first time in many years, we held a Blood Drive at the Interfaith House. The many groups who make up the Interfaith House community pulled together to help advertise, donate blood, and host the event. We had an extremely successful blood drive, and exceeded our donor goals. Our Dinner for Eight, which was raffled off at our 2012 Dinner Auction in April, was also held in September and was enjoyed by our eight guests who dined on delicious food while basking in one another's company.

We have wonderful support from our community here at the Interfaith House. Alcoholics Anonymous, Christian prayer group, Experiencing God, God's Harmony Gospel Choir, Hillel, Inspire!, Interfaith Dialog, Jewish Community of the Palouse, Korean Evangelical Church, Muslim Student Association prayer group, Presbyterian Men, Read for Life, Resonate Band Auditions, and Secular Cougs all meet regularly at the Interfaith House. This is not to mention that Zoe Coffeehouse has the entire basement for their thriving business!

If you are interested in finding out more about a Common Ministry program, or another program that meets here, please call or email the Interfaith House office. Information about many of the programs can be found in our foyer.

We regularly host one-time events here, too, such fundraising meals, holiday dinners, weddings, luncheons, and conferences. If you are interested in hosting a meeting or event here, or would like to inquire about office space, please contact the office for paperwork and scheduling.

Lorraine Mason, Building and Office Manager of the Common Ministry / Interfaith House at WSU

2012-2013 Common Ministry Council and Staff Members:

Alissa Bertsch Johnson—United Methodist

Walt Miller—Presbyterian

Rex Burns—Episcopal

Nancy Nydegger—United Church of Christ

Nicholas Cerruti—United Methodist

Arlie Reeves—Student Representative

Lenore Chambers—Presbyterian

Susie Savino, Treasurer—At Large

Emi Dickens, Vice President—Presbyterian

Todd Scranton—United Methodist

Sue Durrant, President—Episcopal

Dan Warn—At Large

Wes Howell—At Large

Lorraine Mason—Building and Office Manager

Roy Johnson—American Baptist / Disciples of Christ

Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark—Community Liaison

Chip Laird, Past President—United Church of Christ

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