



Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

Fall 2013

From the President of the Council

Dear Friends of The Common Ministry,

The Common Ministry at WSU is dedicated to offering a safe space for spiritual development to WSU students. We strive to provide an environment where all students are welcomed, and where each is free to question and to develop an understanding of their own faith or spiritual position, as well as to learn about other religions and faith traditions. We aim to help students grow into mature, thoughtful, compassionate people. Some of our programs and events from the current year are highlighted in this newsletter.

We have been without a director this past year, and the Common Ministry Council has worked to fill this void by maintaining programs and continuing relationships during this transition time. We are pleased to report that the search process to select a new director has begun. Please review the notice on the fourth page of this newsletter, and help spread the word to those who might be interested in applying.

We are experiencing additional change as the owner of the Interfaith House building, the Presbyterian Synod of Alaska-Northwest, is divesting itself of its assets as part of a broader denominational reorganization. We anticipate the sale of the building at a future date. Thus, we are looking at new ways to continue our ministry as we move ahead.

We thank you for your support of this “uncommon” ministry, and hope that you will continue to do so. Please take a moment to review the enclosed donation form and help support our outreach to college students in ways that transform their lives.

In thanks and peace,

Sue Durrant, President of the Common Ministry Council

Interfaith Mythbusters program is going strong

It is true that the kitchen is the hub of the house. The kitchen in the Interfaith House is packed with students and conversation on Thursday evenings. The Interfaith Mythbusters program is again meeting every Thursday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Interfaith House this school year. A meal is first on our agenda and then we move into the program. Many students who have been active in Mythbusters are joining us again this year along with some new students and community members. The Mythbusters decided to focus on more dialogues this year. We have had some thought-provoking and interesting dialogues. Some of the topics have been prayer, meditation, and the before- and after-life. We also had presentations on Christian Protestantism, Unitarian Universalists, and the practice of meditation. We will continue our dialogue on interesting topics suggested by students and invite more presenters on different subjects throughout the school year. You are welcome to join us on Thursdays! Just stop in at the Interfaith House!



2013 IFH CROP Hunger Walk Participants

Helping the Community through the Pullman / Moscow CROP Hunger Walk

Interfaith Mythbusters participated in the CROP Hunger walk on October 6 to raise funds to fight and raise awareness about local and global hunger. Nine Mythbusters completed the 10k walk and raised over \$600 to contribute to the fight against hunger. It was a great way to support the community. We all enjoyed a walk on a beautiful Fall day. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will stay in the Pullman / Moscow area. Thank you, walkers and sponsors, for making contributions to reduce hunger in the world!



Annual Open House BBQ

The 2013-2014 school year started off with the Interfaith House Open House BBQ on August 19. Approximately 60 students and community members (*see picture above*) partook in the BBQ and enjoyed delicious food provided by the Interfaith House RSO. Everyone enjoyed discussion and conversation, and had the chance to hear about many of the exciting programs that are taking place this year at the Interfaith House.

Space is Available!

We provide space for ongoing and one-time events, 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.

Have extra time and want to volunteer?

Interfaith Mythbusters needs people to provide and cook dinners for their meetings. Our Prayer and Meditation Room needs to be redesigned. 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. More ideas can be found on the Interfaith House website.

Save the Date!

Our 2014 Annual Dinner Auction will be on Sunday, April 5, with the fabulous auctioneer, Austin Booker.

Tickets will go on sale in March, 2014.

To donate items or to help find donations, please contact the Interfaith House office.



Emi Dickens with the student volunteers at our 2013 Dinner Auction

Learn More About Programs at the IFH

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.



Jack-o-lanterns carved by the participants of the 2013 Annual Fall Retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, ID

2013-2014 Common Ministry Council Members:

Alissa Bertsch Johnson—United Methodist
 Rex Burns—Episcopal
 Nicholas Cerruti—United Methodist
 Chad Cook—At Large
 Emi Dickens, Vice President—Presbyterian
 Sue Durrant, President—Episcopal
 Roy Johnson—American Baptist / Disciples of Christ
 Chip Laird, Past President—United Church of Christ

Nancy Nydegger—United Church of Christ
 Arlie Reeves—Student Representative
 Todd Scranton—United Methodist

Staff Members:

Lorraine Mason—Building and Office Manager
 Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark—Community Liaison

Annual Fall Retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude

A weekend away from Pullman gave the retreat participants a unique opportunity for reflection and discovery. The Annual Fall Retreat took place on October 25-27 at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, ID. A diverse group of 13 individuals—Christian, Muslim, Atheist and Buddhist—took part in the retreat. The participants learned about the monastic lifestyle and principles of Benedictine teaching from the Benedictine nuns at the monastery.

Sister Katie welcomed us at the Farmhouse on Friday evening and shared her personal journey to becoming a nun, and the history of the monastery. She also gave us a tour of the monastery on the following day. Sisters at the monastery extended their hospitality and welcomed us as we joined them in daily prayers at noon, evening and the Eucharist on Sunday. We had opportunities to interact with other retreat participants and guests of the monastery during meals. We also had lots of fun playing games and carving pumpkins! I'd like to share what the first-time participants of the retreat said about their experiences.

"The retreat at St. Gertrude's Monastery is definitely one of the highlights in my student life at WSU. The open and forgiving hearts of the sisters at the monastery unveiled a pure example of generosity. To clear my mind from the study is necessary and helpful, especially at such a quiet and peaceful place. The world seems so far away and all you have is the love of everyone. I felt a lot better and relaxed after the retreat and I especially enjoyed their home-made food, which is so rare in modern society."

— Zhen

"This retreat was one of the greatest experiences I had for long time and it was so fun! Other than learning about Monastic life, I also learned a lot of more things about Christianity, its history and saints, and some of their rituals and costumes that I didn't know about them before. I really benefitted from the time I had for myself and enjoyed the spiritual experiences and praying I performed there, whether with myself alone or with others in the church or during the spiritual walk on the trail to the top of the hill watching the stations and chapels and cemetery. I enjoyed our discussion on mysticism. Other than spiritual enjoyment, I enjoyed the most from the time we spend on playing games together. . . . I loved the nuns and sisters there. They seemed so loving that I wanted to spend more and more time with them and even hug them sometimes. I mean, in these modern days, you have few chances like this when you can meet a group of good god-fearing spiritual people. I really crave for that and I found it there."

— Hanieh

We enjoyed good weather, good food, good company, and good conversations. We thank the sisters at the St. Gertrude's Monastery for their wonderful hospitality.

Emi Dickens, Vice President of the Common Ministry Council



Participants of the 2013 Fall Retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude



Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

Interfaith House Building Use

The Interfaith House has been used steadily this Fall semester. On average, nearly 500 people have attended meetings and events here each month! Plus, Read for Life, Hillel, Barbara Aston, and the Jewish Community of the Palouse all have office space here, with Resonate Church utilizing an entire floor for the administration of their thriving church!

In September, we held our 2nd annual Blood Drive at the Interfaith House. Many of the groups who make up the Interfaith House community pulled together to help advertise, donate blood, and host the event. We had many people schedule appointments in advance, and we are looking forward to a huge turnout in 2014.

We have a wonderful community here at the Interfaith House. Alcoholics Anonymous, Hillel, Interfaith Dialog, Jewish Community of the Palouse, Muslim Student Association Prayer Group, Read for Life, and Resonate's Women's Bible Study all meet regularly at the Interfaith House. And don't forget—Zoe Coffeehouse has the entire basement dedicated to their customers' enjoyment of delicious food.

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

Have a blessed holiday season!

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Director Search

The Common Ministry at Washington State University, located in the Interfaith House at Pullman, Washington seeks a full-time director. The Director administers the programs of the Common Ministry and has diverse responsibilities, including active involvement in programs of faith inquiry and development in the WSU community, providing pastoral care, fostering relationships locally with different faith-based groups, and networking and fundraising. The Director reports to the Common Ministry Council, partnering with them to vision, plan and implement the future of the Common Ministry. Requirements include an advanced theology (or equivalent) degree, documented experience in campus ministry with interfaith communities, and effective communication skills. The director's salary package is based on experience, work record and depth of skills.

To apply, send cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references to the Common Ministry at WSU / Interfaith House, office@interfaith-house.com or 720 NE Thatuna, Pullman WA 99163. Visit our website at www.interfaith-house.com for more information.

Keep in Touch!

To be kept up-to-date on the latest happenings at the Interfaith House, "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—or in person—at 720 NE Thatuna St., Pullman, WA 99163.

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

To update your contact information / be removed from this mailing list / stop receiving multiples copies / receive your newsletter electronically, please contact the Interfaith House with all relevant contact information.