

RELIGION

Neighborhood Workshops And Food Drive

This year "Christmas in July," the annual campaign to raise food, funds and awareness for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Northeast Emergency Food Program, will launch a series of workshops to help neighborhoods ensure that locally produced food is available to everyone in the community.

The second of the workshops, offered by NEFP and EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, is entitled "Nourishment for Neighborhoods." It will be held July 31, at the Brentwood Darlington Community Center at 7211 SE 62nd Avenue in Portland, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first workshop was held June 26 at Redeemer Lutheran

Church in northeast Portland. Similar workshops will be offered throughout the Portland area and in other Oregon communities. As part of its efforts to encourage the faith community to take action in creating healthy local food systems, INEC is also offering a resource guide entitled, "Toward a Food Secure Portland."

During "Christmas in July," Portland congregations will worship and collect food in a spirit of sharing usually found only during the holidays. The campaign culminates with a celebration on August 1, from 4 to 7 p.m., in Alberta Park, NE 19th and Killingsworth. NEFP provides food to people

in crisis and advocates for an end to hunger in the community. INEC connects, informs and empowers individuals and congregations to work for justice and the care and renewal of the earth. Both are programs of EMO, a statewide association of 15 Christian denominations including Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic religious bodies that respond as people of faith to the needs of Oregonians.

For more information about "Christmas in July," call Drew Hudson at (503) 284-5470. For information about "Nourishment for Neighborhoods," call Jenny Holmes at (503) 244-8318.

Volunteer Mentors/Tutors Needed For Summer Academy

Through the efforts of a partnership ministry with The Salvation Army Moore Street Center, local churches like you, Western Seminary and Servants, Incorporated comes an opportunity for Christians to come together to serve the community in which we live/work.

We need volunteers to help tutor/mentor in the areas of reading and math July 19th - August 27th

from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. The ratio would be one adult with 1-2 middle school students. Prior teaching skills are not necessary; hearts willing to serve the Lord are wanted! We are also looking for any additional volunteers who would like to help supervise/play with the youth daily from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon doing recreation activities.

We recognize that it is not al-

ways possible for each person to dedicate the amount of time and hours described above. As a result we are asking for a minimum of a two-day commitment per week for the programs duration.

If you would be willing to be a mentor/tutor for the Summer Academy and would like more information, please contact Cindy Crowell at The Salvation Army Moore Street Center. Her number is 239-1263.

Why The Churches Are Still Burning

DR. MANNING MARABLE

It was only three weeks after Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his magnificent "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, before one quarter million people at the historic March on Washington, D.C. a bomb exploded at Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on a Sunday morning, killing four little black girls: Addie Mae Collins, Carol McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley.

This murderous assault deeply affected African-American people at the time, and its bitter memory is still quite vivid for millions of us. It was not that the white racists would strike out against us. Being black in America had long since taught us that violence against black folk was "as normal as cherry pie," to paraphrase H. rap Brown. It was not simply that our little children had been targeted for assassination. We remembered the children's march in Birmingham earlier that same year, in 1963, when police chief Bull Connor unleashed vicious dogs and used clubs against black children engaged in peaceful, civil disobedience. What was most striking, perhaps, was the symbolic meaning of the racists' actions. The African-American church has been, since slavery, the central social institution of the black community. It has been spiritual heart of the black experience, through our long sojourn through this nation. To destroy the black church, is to cut out the heart of the black community.

This act of brutality did not occur in a political vacuum. The Birmingham church bombing occurred when white segregationists in Congress were attempting to block the passage of the Civil Rights Act, which would desegregate public accommodations throughout the country. White Citizens Councils were trying to stop voter registration drivers among Southern blacks. Alabama Governor George Wallace was calling for "segregation forever," and blocked the doors at the University of Alabama in an unsuccessful attempt to maintain white supremacy in higher education. The bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was only one aspect of a long racist assault against black people as a whole.

A generation has passed since the bombing in Birmingham. Yet across this nation, the bombings and burnings of churches continue. From January, 1995 to the end of

1998, about 670 churches were burned, desecrated or firebombed. Many of these churches were in the South, and a large number of these were African-American. These examples, which have been documented by the National Coalition for Burned Churches, and the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice, illustrate the scope of the problem:

On February 22, 1997, in Elko, Georgia, the Oak Grove C.M.E. Church, built originally over one hundred years ago, was totally destroyed by fire. Three young white men were later prosecuted and convicted of this crime.

On May 17, 1998, in Waskom, Texas, three white men and a white juvenile broke into the Gainesville Church of God in Christ, pouring gasoline throughout the chapel and subsequently burning it to the ground. They were later arrested and convicted.

On July 2, 1998, in Gould, Arkansas, a 100 year old African-American church, the Rankin Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, was completely destroyed by fire arson.

On August 25, 1998, in the White Haven community of Memphis, Tennessee, the six thousand member Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church was totally destroyed by arson fire.

On September 5, 1998, around midnight in Lisman, Alabama, the Gilfield Baptist Church was completely gutted by fire. This historic African-American church was 124 years old when it was destroyed.

On September 10, 1998, in Dangerfield, Texas, the historic Friendship Missionary Baptist Church was burned to the ground. This church had been established by ex-slaves during Reconstruction. It had also been the target of repeated vandalism for many years.

Why are black churches all over the U.S. being destroyed? In the 1990s, we have witnessed a political assault by conservatives against affirmative action. Minority economic set-aside programs and minority college scholarships are being eliminated. The majority leader of the U.S. Senate, Trent Lott of Mississippi, affiliates himself with a white supremacist organization, the Council of Conservative Citizens, and almost nobody in power or the media condemns him! Police brutality is on the rise in city

Ice Cream And Barbershop Music Featured In Picnic Series

Beaverton Christian Church, 13600 SW Allen Boulevard in Beaverton is pleased to announce a Sizzling Summer Saturday Night Series, Saturday Nights on the Green too, began Saturday, July 10 and running through Saturday, August 28 in the outdoor amphitheater of Beaverton Christian.

Featured in the August 14 series is Flip Side, a local Barbershop Quartet who has taken national honors in several categories. The group will be singing sacred and secular tunes as guests in the amphitheater enjoy ice cream. During a portion of the program Flip Side will stroll through the amphitheater and take requests from the audience as well.

Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic supper. Guest also have the after city. And the number of African-Americans imprisoned has roughly doubled in the past decade. All of these trends indicate the expansion of institutional racism. Whenever institutional racism increases, its cutting edge - white vigilante violence - usually leads the way. Terror and violence are absolutely central to the preservation and maintenance of white supremacy.

The civil rights community and even the federal government have responded to this assault against religious freedom. In June, 1996, President Clinton established the National Church Arson Task Force to coordinate local, state and federal agencies to investigate the burnings and to prosecute these offenders. At the grassroots level, several thousands of volunteers have gone to the South to help rebuild African-American churches.

Yet it continues. On June 18, 1999, in the Sacramento, California metro area, three synagogues were hit by arsonists within a span of 45 minutes. In the worst case, the fires gutted the temple library at Congregation B'nai Israel, destroying collections on Jewish culture and the Holocaust, and causing \$800,000 in damages. Literature was found at one synagogue that blamed the "International Jews media" for the war in Kosovo.

Intolerance never stops with one set of victims, Jews, Latinos, Asians, undocumented immigrants, lesbians and gays - as well as African Americans - all become targets in the political climate of hatred.

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church



Pastor Johnny Pack IV

Please join us to celebrate the 12th Pastoral Anniversary of our Pastor Dr. Johnny Pack IV.

The celebration starts Friday, July 16th at 7:00 P.M. Guest speaker: Pastor A. Wayne Johnson, Morning Star Baptist Church. A Banquet Celebration will be held in his honor on Saturday, July 17th at 6:00 P.M. at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, located at 8235 Northeast Airport Way. Guest speaker: Reverend Helen Haynes, Allen Temple CME Church.

The Grand Finale will be on Sunday, July 18th at 3:30 P.M. at the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, located at 4009 North Missouri Avenue, guest speaker: Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Allen Temple CME Church.

For more information or tickets please contact the Church Secretary, Maretha Hart at (503) 249-0377 or Chairperson Sue Briggs-Mouton at (503) 284-0513. Ticket Donation: \$23.00.

1987 to 1999

Obituaries

In Loving Memory of Cleveland Elliott

SUNRISE August 6, 1913
SUNSET July 5, 1999

Cleveland Elliott was born on August 6, 1913 in Camden, Arkansas. Cleveland's occupation was Mechanic for Grant's Gull Station, he was a charter member, Deacon, and Trustee of Mt. Gillard Missionary Baptist Church for 40 years. Cleveland leaves to cherish in his memory:

- Freddie Elliott, Son Portland, OR
- Mae Rene Kelly, Daughter Portland, OR

In Loving Memory of Theresa Patten

SUNRISE March 29, 1928
SUNSET June 28, 1999

Theresa Patten was born on March 29, 1928 in Rayne, Louisiana. Theresa was a housewife and

- belonged to Soild Rock C.O.G.I.C. Theresa leaves to cherish in her memory:
- Leron James Traham, Son San Diego, CA
 - Larry Jones Traham, Son San Diego, CA
 - Marvin Joseph Patten, Son Portland, OR
 - Jennifer Jane Patten, Daughter Seattle, WA
 - Jerone James Patten Sr., Son Vancouver, WA
 - Darrell William Patten Sr., Son Portland, OR

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