



# Metro/Religion

**B**lack **H**istory **M**onth

## River watershed is focus of conference

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The thirteenth annual Peace-Ing Together Conference will be held on Saturday, March 18 at the Mago Hunt Recital Hall on the campus of the University of Portland. The theme for this year's conference is "Roots and Imagination: Rivers of Our Memory and Watersheds of our vision." Bishop William S. Skylstad, Bishop of the Diocese of Spokane, will be giving the keynote address.

The Catholic Bishops of dioceses in the Columbia River watershed and its tributaries (British Columbia, western Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon), in conjunction with Catholic colleges and universities in the region, are preparing a pastoral letter on river. Among the several broad purposes of the pastoral letter, two are at the heart of the Peace-Ing It together conference: to be invitation to the Catholic community, and to the wider public, to reflect on their common spirituality and how their history is connected with the rivers, and to promote a vision of just and sustainable way for the people of the region to relate to the rivers and watersheds.

Bishop William S. Skylstad was born in Omak, WA. He holds degrees from the Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, OH, Washington State University, and Gonzaga University. He was ordained a priest in Spokane in 1960, where he served in various assignments until 1977. In 1977 he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima.

## Obituaries

### In loving memory of Earnestine Banks

Sunrise  
March 6, 1932

Sunset  
February 11, 2000

On Friday, February 11, 2000 our community lost one of its most phenomenal women, Earnestine Banks wife of Luther T. Banks, Sr.

Earnestine Banks was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on March 6, 1932 to Hollis and Sammie Willis. As the eldest of 15 children, she cared for her younger siblings. On January 11, 1950 Earnestine married Luther Theardis Banks in Ogden, Arkansas in that same year they moved to Portland, Oregon. To this union they were blessed with six children.

Earnestine accepted the Lord as her personal savior in 1957 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Her love and devotion for the Lord sustained her mission in life to serve the Lord in every way. At New Hope Baptist Church, she served as Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, President of Youth Usher Board, and Choir Member. At Maranatha Church of God she was faithful to several ministries as a Missionary serving Prison Ministries, President of Women's Ministries, and a Church of God Licensed Minister. Her walk with the Lord was genuine. Her devotion continued in the community as foster parent, working with special needs children, at risk youth, drug and alcohol addicted individuals,

extended mother and grandmother to many. Her home was always open to those who stopped by for prayer, a hot meal, conversation, or just needing a safe place to be. Those that stopped by would always head straight to the kitchen.

She is survived by her husband Luther T. Banks; children, Veronica Cantue-Hill, Teresa Banks-Dodson, Luther Banks Jr., Clarice Banks, and Paul Banks; daughter-in-law Ollie Banks; son-in-law Alvin Dodson. Brothers, Joe Willis, L.W. Willis, Homer Willis, J.W. Willis, Carl Lee Willis, and Larry Willis. Sisters, Sarah Deadner, Lafayette Allen, and Vester Willis. Eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Her eldest son, Joe Allen Banks preceded her in death in 1997. Mrs. Banks was an inspiration to her family, friends and community. Her work in life spoke for itself. Indeed she was a perfect example of how she lived.

Mr. Banks, Veronica, Teresa, Luther, Clarice, and Paul thank you for being unselfish and sharing your mother with us. Mama Banks will truly be missed but we will always honor her memory. We thank her for nurturing our community with her unconditional love.



## Black History Month

*Church Leader - The first black woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest, Pauli Murray spent much of her life helping to dismantle barriers of racial and gender discrimination. "I entered law school preoccupied with the racial struggle and single-mindedly bent upon becoming a*



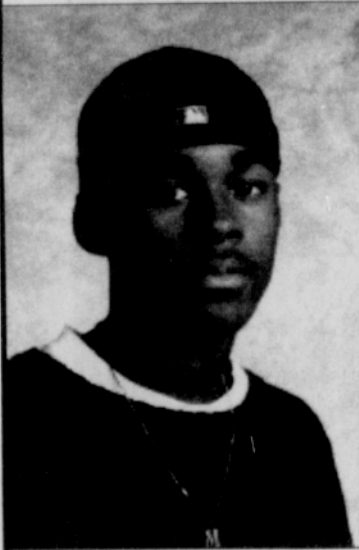
*civil rights lawyer but I graduated an unabashed feminist as well," Murray said in 1956. From her activism as a "freedom rider" and sit-in leader during her law school days at Howard University in the 1940s, to her role as a founding member of the*

*National Organization for Women, Murray took challenges head on. Discussing sexism at Howard, she has said, "The only way I could counter it was to lead my class. Which I did. For three years." She went on to teach at several universities and compile an invaluable reference work on state racial laws. When she was sixty-two, Murray turned her energies to the spiritual, receiving a divinity degree in 1976 and serving as an Episcopal priest in Baltimore.*

### Highland Passion Play 2000

This is an Easter musical with performances in April. Actors and singers of all ages and crew needed. Also looking for keyboardist. For more information please call 669-8974.

Happy  
16th  
Birthday



Marco  
Washington

### Augustana Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am contemporary; 11 am traditional; 1:30 pm Open Circle; 6 pm Jazz/Gospel. Sunday School 9:50 am  
Jazz: Marilyn Keller, Ron Steen, George Mitchell, Kevin Deitz.



Sat. Feb. 26 at 4 pm: Celebrating the Ordination & Installation of Ramona Soto Rank

Rev. W.J. "Mark" Knutson  
288-6174 www.augustana.org  
NE 15th & Knott

Greater Faith Christian Center welcomes the anointed ministry of TBN personality Evangelist Patricia Hyche, to their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Excellence Conference. March 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> at Greater Faith Christian Center located at 3839 NE Killingsworth St. Evangelist Hyche will be bringing the message on "Preparing a People for the End Time Harvest" guaranteed to stir up our pure minds. Recognized as one with a Prophetic calling, she brings encouragement and the Presence of the Lord into the lives of women and men of God.

## A Tisket A Tasket

The place for cards, gifts and baskets

Celebrates the special meaning of  
Black History Month



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Lewis Howard Latimer, received his first patent in 1874. He later became a skilled draftsman for such greats as Alexander Graham Bell and Hiram S. Maxim, founder of The U.S. Electric lighting Co. As a student of Hiram S. Maxim Latimer unlocked the Secret of The light bulb, as we know it today, "Carbon Filaments." Latimer's invention made it possible for Electric lights to be installed in homes.

Today Let's celebrate the fact that Our  
History is your History



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