

Community Example Set by Church Leadership

Pastors get tested for HIV

Church leaders from Portland's black community gathered Tuesday to get tested for HIV and raise awareness about the virus disproportionately affecting minority populations.

The pastors of the Albina Ministerial Alliance sought to set an example for other African Americans in an effort to end the silence surrounding a worsening epidemic.

"We can no longer accept the status quo," Rev. Leroy Haynes said in a statement to the press. "We must stand up and address this horrendous disease that is killing us and others."

Haynes, of the Allen Temple CME Church, called for community churches to lead a fight against the shame and stigma that prevent African Americans from being tested. Although less than 13 percent of Americans are black, African Americans account for an estimated 50 percent of new cases of HIV.



Rev. Lynn Lopez (from left), Bishop A. Wells, Rev. W. G. Hardy, Rev. T. Allen Bethel, Rev. Leroy Haynes and Bishop Grace Osborne participate in HIV testing at a community event to raise awareness about the virus.

With several other well-known community pastors at

Robert Ned's Bethel A.M.E. Church in northeast Portland, each of the faith leaders took an

oral-swab test for HIV in front of news reporters, photographers and supporters.

Events scheduled to raise awareness about HIV disparities include an HIV/AIDS

prayer service at Bethel, 5828 N.E. 8th Ave., on Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

N.Y. Official Aligned for Governorship

If scandal removes incumbent

(AP) -- Less than two years after he reluctantly ran for lieutenant governor, David Paterson is suddenly in line to be only the third black governor since Reconstruction, and the first in New York.

"He's the next governor and probably quite soon," said Maurice Carroll, director of Quinnipiac University's Polling Institute and a long-time New York political reporter.

Attention turned to Paterson immediately after word surfaced Monday that Gov. Eliot Spitzer had been linked to a high-priced prostitution ring. In a brief

appearance in front of reporters, Spitzer issued a vague apology and did not mention resignation.

If Spitzer quits, Paterson automatically becomes governor and would complete Spitzer's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2010.

There was no immediate comment from Paterson.

Paterson, a 53-year-old Democrat from Harlem who is mostly blind, is well respected by Republicans and Democrats.

Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch recently called Paterson "very capable, notwithstanding

his near sightlessness. It's never impeded his public actions or his personal actions, and he's really overcome it in an extraordinary way."

Paterson, who does not use a cane or a guide dog, can make out shapes and even people up close. He lost most of his sight as an infant when an infection damaged his optic nerve. He still talks of his fragile self-esteem in childhood and recalls not being invited to parties because "people thought I would fall and hurt myself."

Paterson's disability has never been an issue in Albany in his 20-year political career. He has memorized lengthy, impassioned speeches without missing a mark.

"He's knowledgeable about New York state government and politics, and he's a guy who likes to get along with people," Carroll said.



Lt. Gov. David Paterson



The foundation has been poured the walls are in the process of being poured for the new Salvation Army Gresham Corps Community Center.

Salvation Army Grows with Gresham

Construction has begun for a Salvation Army Gresham Corps Community Center to serve the needs of East County

by reaching out and meeting the immediate needs of a growing community, both spiritually and physically.

The project at 194th and Stark Street is phase one of a three-phase development that includes a church, youth center and administrative offices. The second phase is the social-services offices and warehouse, and phase three is the gymnasium.

The Salvation Army has committed donations to complete the initial construction, but subsequent phases are on hold until fundraising is complete.

"We know that the community is behind us in spirit, so we are just hoping they will also get behind us financially," says Bill Hathorn, local Salvation Army pastor.

The Salvation Army provides assistance programs that include food boxes and clothing for all ages, along with prescriptions and other material assistance for seniors. The Worship Center offers youth activities, outreach and spiritual programs for all ages.

Volunteers are greatly needed year-round in all areas of these programs including clerical assistance, maintenance and mentoring.

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The **Portland Observer** Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

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EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

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