



***Interfaith Center for Peace & Justice***

**NEWSLETTER**

***“...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares.”***

Vol. 31, No. 1

Gettysburg, PA

March 2015

**Prison Society, Woods to be Honored on April 20**

On April 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary’s Valentine Hall, the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice will hold its annual ceremony honoring local Peacemakers. The awards are made each year to organizations or residents of Adams County who have made a significant contribution to the pursuit of peace, justice, or environmental sustainability. Last year’s recipients were Mary Kay Turner for her Lifetime of Peacemaking and Strawberry Hill for its contributions to environmental education.

This year, the Peacemaker of the Year Award will be presented to the Adams County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Prison Society. The local chapter provides services to inmates incarcerated in Adams County by listening to inmates’ concerns and advocating on their behalf with the warden, the Commissioners, and the prison board, especially for better rehabilitative programs and the lowering of excessive inmate fees and costs. Additionally the Society helps inmates seek employment, contact families and social services, and provides them with transportation upon release.

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**Peace-Making through Gun Policy**

By Judy Young

All who would be peace-makers grieve over recent deaths and shootings that have marked the U.S. as failing to be the “post-racial society” we had all dreamed of. The lack of sensible gun policies in the U.S. is a huge factor in our national gun violence tragedy, a tragedy which disproportionately kills members of the African American community.

It doesn’t have to be this way. At different times I’ve lived in Canada, England, and New Zealand, where along with everyone in those multi-ethnic societies, I experienced the peace that comes when constant fear of gun violence is not part of daily life. The difference is sensible gun policies. In November of 2014 GlobalPost reported a rate of gun ownership in the U.S. of 88 guns per 100 people, four times the number owned by New Zealanders, three times the number owned by Canadians (<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/americas/united-states/141124/heres-what-the-world-saying-about-ferguson>), and much higher than any

other developed  
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The Lifetime of Peacemaking Award will be presented to Richard and Elizabeth Wood. The Woods have lived in and served Adams County for over forty years. Dick was president of the Gettysburg Area School District Board and helped establish significant programs in education in that capacity. In 1988, he chaired the Gettysburg Peace Celebration Commission, which oversaw a series of events commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. These events included the rededication of the Peace Light in July and the Gettysburg Peace Symposium in September. He also helped found the local AYSO youth soccer league and the Gettysburg Friends Meeting. Liz practiced medicine in Gettysburg, advocated for the establishment of hospice care, and went on medical missions to Honduras after devastating hurricanes left that country in need of medical care and supplies. Among their many activities in retirement, Liz has provided pro bono medical care in Gettysburg, and the two of them, as part of Global Volunteers, have taken medical supplies on their boat to countries in need, taught English in Italy, and worked in a mediation center in Ireland.

The public is invited to join us as we honor and are honored by these local peacemakers. There will be refreshments.

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### **Peace-Making through Gun Policy**

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nation. The number of gun homicides in the US last year was similarly extreme—3.2 gun homicides per 100,000 in our nation. That’s twenty times the number of gun homicides per 100,000 people in New Zealand, where the number was .16 per 100,000. In Canada .51 per 100,000 died of gun homicide. None of the other top thirteen developed nations in the study—the nations that rank from 1 to 13 on the Human Development Index—reached even 1 gun death per 100,000 people.

And these numbers do not include all gun deaths. An ABC report from September of 2013 (<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2013/09/19/u-s-has-more-guns-and-gun-deaths-than-any-other-country-study-finds/>) correlates gun ownership to *total* firearm-related deaths per 100,000 in 26 countries in 2012. Including gun deaths through suicide and accident, the U.S. suffered 10.2 gun deaths per 100,000 in 2012. The ABC study also shows the massive gun ownership of 88 guns owned per 100 Americans, and concludes that “more guns do not make people safer.” The opposite is the case. What these numbers and our failed policies mean is the loss of about 30,000 of our citizens yearly due to gun violence! About 10,000 are murdered, and about 20,000 die from accidents and suicides. In 2012 we lost more than four times as many people to gun violence as we lost to AIDS.

It is perfectly possible to respect the rights stated in the Second Amendment, *and* to have sensible gun policies. The Second Amendment states, in full, “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” Let’s demand that our militias and our citizens be well regulated in our use of guns! Let’s stop wondering if we are really by nature six times as murderous as our next-door neighbors, the Canadians. We aren’t. We just need to follow their example, and that of the rest of the developed world, and put in place sensible gun policies that make all of us safer—starting with universal background checks. It’s a peace and justice issue!

*After serving as a foreign service spouse for 25 years and a United Methodist pastor for ten years, Judy has retired to Lake Heritage with her husband, David Young.*

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## **African Dinner to Be Held March 29**

By Mary Furlong

Celebrating the Motherland and its people at the 9th African Dinner on March 29th at Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 E.High Street, Gettysburg, members of the community are invited to the potluck, beginning at 5:30, and program centered around this year’s theme of Ebola and Hope. Each attendee is asked to bring a dish connected to Africa. The African dinner has earned a reputation for the culinary sharing from all regions of the continent as well as sharing stories of family and

projects. African dress is also encouraged, but all in the community who have an interest in any aspect of Africa is invited to the program.

Among the participants will be a Sierre Leonean who will share on the recent AFCON, the continent’s premier football event held each two years, as well as a Hanover-based sports project that he has initiated for his home country; a Gettysburg physician who will share on her return to the Medical School in Zambia after 35 years and establishing the first alumni-based organization for University of Zambia; a Nigerian religious leader; two Hanover residents who volunteered at a Uganda orphanage for children impacted by HIV/AIDS; and a York woman who provided behavioral services in Rwanda through a project connected with a Shippensburg University professor. An update on adoption in Democratic Republic of Congo will be shared as well as the recent 50th anniversary of the independence of Zambia.

With the first US/Africa summit held last summer in Washington, DC, that focused on economic opportunities and education, the local dinner is a small way to encourage understanding the joys and challenges of Africans in our Adams/Hanover community. Solidarity Uganda, a new NGO based in the United States at Messiah College and in Hanover, may have a representative to share on former Hanover resident Phil Wilmot’s recent detention in Uganda for introducing nonviolent changes at the village level.

For more information or to register for the dinner, contact Wanda



Gallimore at [wanrichgal@gmail.com](mailto:wanrichgal@gmail.com) or  
Mary Furlong at  
[mffurlong2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mffurlong2000@yahoo.com).  
Registrations are due by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

the environment. But what does it mean? And how does it make Catholic environmentalism similar to but also different from broader cultural environmentalism? Dr. Cloutier will suggest two key points central to a “human ecology”: that creation’s order must be carefully tended by human beings, and that human cultures must be oriented toward economic practices of sharing possessions. Both of these ideas suggest humans are participants in the natural ecology, but participants in a distinctive way marked by tending and sharing. Cloutier will conclude with particular concrete steps that would build a more human ecology.

## 2015 Newman Lecture to Address Environmental Theology

“Towards a Human Ecology: Ordering Creation, Sharing Possessions,” is the title of the 2015 Newman Lecture at Gettysburg College. The speaker will be Dr. David Cloutier, Associate Professor of Theology at Mount St. Mary’s University.

The idea of “human ecology” is ~~very prominent in official Catholic~~ statements on

David Cloutier is the author of *Walking God’s Earth: The Environment and Catholic Faith* (Liturgical Press, 2014), as well as a forthcoming book on the moral problem of luxury (Georgetown University Press) and numerous other publications in ethics. He serves on the board of the Common Market, Frederick’s consumer food cooperative.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lyceum of Pennsylvania Hall at Gettysburg College. It is sponsored by Gettysburg College Catholic Campus Ministry. For more information, please call 337-6284.

### **Send a Crew to the Heritage Festival; Earn a \$100 Donation**

The Adams County Heritage Festival is offering to make a \$100 donation to an organization or club who

can send us a crew to help with set-up and tear-down at this year's festival. The festival will take place at the Gettysburg Area Recreation Park on Sunday, September 20, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Set-up takes place between 8 and 10 a.m. It involves erecting tents and placing tables and chairs in booths for vendors, demonstrators, and exhibitors. Tear-down takes place between 5 and 6 p.m. It is the reverse of set-up, but it is usually a little quicker. If your club or organization is the first to send us six or more volunteers for set-up and tear-down, we will give you a \$100 donation.

There are many opportunities for individual volunteers, and we have a desperate need for them. In preparation for the festival, we need people to recruit new food and craft vendors, and people to solicit ads for the festival program. From 9 to around 11 a.m. the morning of the festival, we need volunteers to show participants where to park, and where their booths are. As the festival gets under way, we need people to hand out programs and evaluation forms and to work with children's activities. If you are willing to help us out, please call Bill Collinge at 334-8943.

*ICPJ mourns the death of former board member Noel A. Hart Sr. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.*

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**Community Calendar**

Sunday, March 29, Ninth Annual African Dinner, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Trinity United Church of Christ, Gettysburg.  
Tuesday, April 7, Newman Lecture, "Towards a Human Ecology," Dr. David Cloutier, 7:30 p.m., Lyceum, Pennsylvania Hall, Gettysburg College. Info: 337-6284.  
Wednesday, April 8, ICPJ Board meeting, 7 p.m., Valentine Hall, Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary  
June 15-19, Peace Camp, "Zoo Pals," 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethel Mennonite Church, 2335 Biglerville Rd., Gettysburg. 334-0752.

**Peace Camp 2015**  
**Theme: Zoo Pals**  
**Director: Deisy Salgado**  
**Location: Bethel Mennonite Church,**  
**2335 Biglerville Rd., Gettysburg**  
**Date: June 15-19**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.**  
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*Bill Collinge, Editor*  
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