



ESTHER

Empowerment, Solidarity, Truth, Hope, Equality, Reform

140 S. Green Bay Road Neenah, WI 54956

From the Desk of the Organizer

Joseph W. Ellwanger

July 1, 2008

Fox Cities Workforce Housing Public Event II ~ July 22

The second Fox Cities Workforce Housing Public Event is set for Tuesday, July 22, 1:00—5:00 pm., at the Paper Discovery Center, 425 W. Water Street, Appleton, with registration starting at 12:30 pm. The event is intended for housing groups, planners, builders, developers, administrators of cities, towns, and school districts, elected officials, ESTHER members, and the general public.

Videos and presentations will be made, describing examples of mixed-use affordable housing, including the Brown County Farm Project and Nature's Way, as well as visual excerpts from the presentation made by housing expert David Rusk in Appleton, November, 2007.

Two methods used in various parts of the country, to help develop workforce housing, will be explained: Joint exercise of powers and the use of housing trust funds.

A panel, composed of an architect, state legislator, county supervisor, city planner, developer, and builder, will address public policy approaches to enhancing workforce housing.

"Healthy communities, with diversity and excellent schools are communities that make it possible for everyone who works in the community, to be able to live in the community," states David Rusk, former Arizona Congressman, author, and current national housing consultant, who was the featured speaker at the first Fox Cities Workforce Housing Event.

The July 22 event is sponsored by ESTHER; Fox Cities Housing Coalition; Outagamie County Housing Authority; and Appleton Housing Authority, Housing Partnership, with a

grant from the Opportunity Fund of the Fox Valley Community Foundation.

A registration fee of \$5.00 will cover the cost of materials and hospitality.

For more information contact Maynard Beemer, ESTHER President, 738-9566, or Kathy Groat, Chair of the Workforce Housing Project Team, 739-0464. Also see the attached flyer announcing the event.

ESTHER Religious Leaders at Casa ESTHER, Omro ~ July 9

The July ESTHER Religious Leaders Caucus will meet at Casa ESTHER, 102 W. Main Street, Omro, on Wednesday, July 9, 12:00 noon, starting with lunch.

The Religious Leaders Caucus will hear reports from the immigration raid in Postville, Iowa, that resulted in the arrest of 400 immigrant workers in the local kosher meatpacking plant, most of them from Guatemala.

Already on record in support of the New Sanctuary Movement, the ESTHER Religious Leaders Caucus will continue to discuss ways in which ESTHER congregations and leaders can be prepared to effectively support and protect immigrants in the Fox Valley in the event of a sweep by immigration authorities.

The Casa ESTHER location in Omro does not have an eye-catching sign, but it is located at 102 W. Main Street (highway 21) in the four-block downtown business district, on the north side of Main Street. For more information contact Fr. Joe Mattern, 920-410-4263. To pool rides from Neenah, meet at St. Mark's Lutheran, 140 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah. All clergy and rostered leaders of faith communities in the Fox Valley are welcome.

Celebration of 50th Ordination Anniversary for ESTHER President June 1

ESTHER leaders joined the First Congregational UCC Church during and after their Sunday worship on June 1, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Maynard Beemer, President of ESTHER. Joe Ellwanger, ESTHER Organizer, spoke briefly after the worship service, affirming the outstanding leadership that Maynard Beemer has given ESTHER as its president for the past two years. Ellwanger helped to plant one of the five trees that were planted in honor of Maynard Beemer's pastoral leadership of the congregation and in honor of his many contributions to the community and to domestic and global mission trips.



Other representatives of ESTHER who participated in the worship and the tree planting included Joel Schlachtenhaufen, first President of ESTHER and recently retired pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah; Nancy Bourassa, ESTHER Immigration Committee and member of St. Therese Catholic, Appleton; Michele Rupp, ESTHER Immigration Committee; Sara Companik, ESTHER Education Committee; Joan Jensen, ESTHER Secretary, and other ESTHER leaders from First congregational UCC.

"Maynard Beemer's productive pastoral work at First Congregational UCC, his relationships in the community developed over the years, his excellent organizing and people skills, and his commitment to action and to doing justice," states ESTHER Organizer Joe Ellwanger, "have been a major factor in building ESTHER into the formidable 17-congregation, five-issue organization that it is today."

Gamaliel Weeklong Training Dates Announced

Weeklong Gamaliel training in the basic skills of congregation-based organizing will be offered at three different locations this summer and this fall. Current and potential members of ESTHER Core Teams and task forces are urged to consider making this investment of time and commitment to develop your gifts and to further justice in the Fox Valley.

- July 13-19, Camarillo, CA (west of Los Angeles)
- August 10-16, Plymouth, MI (west of Detroit)
- November 9-15, Techny, IL (north of Chicago)

+ Trainers are asked to cover their transportation and a portion of the \$575 cost of the training, if possible.

+ Clergy and other professionals are encouraged to use continuing education funds, when available.

+ ESTHER is eager to have trained leaders in each of its congregations, so ESTHER will subsidize training expenses.

+ Contact Maynard Beemer or Joe Ellwanger for more information.

Keep Ads Coming for 2008 ESTHER Ad Booklet

ESTHER core team members, issues committee members, board members, and clergy caucus members are urged to invite businesses and individuals in their congregations and communities to invest in justice in the Fox Valley, by buying an ad in the 2008 ESTHER ad booklet.

Don Stoegbauer, ESTHER Board member, brought in the first ads to the June Board meeting. Many more need to follow his example, to enable ESTHER to reach its goal of raising \$12,000 through the banquet and ad booklet. Attached is a copy of the 2008 ad order form that is to be completed with every ad that's sold.

For more information, contact Nicole Hull, 734-7160, or Maynard Beemer, 738-9566.

Islamic Society Interfaith Dialog Rescheduled to July 27

The Fox Valley Islamic Society has re-scheduled their interfaith dialog for Sunday, July 27, 3:00 to 5:30 pm. The original date was cancelled because of wet grounds and predicted rain. In the event of rain on July 27, the event will be held at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 900 Geiger Street, Neenah.

The program for July 27 will be the same as the program announced for the previous date, with Dr. Michael Shelley, Co-Director of the Center for Christian-Muslim Dialog, Lutheran School of theology in Chicago, as the main presenter.

The dialog will be followed by a fellowship meal provided by the people of the Fox Valley Islamic Society, featuring foods from many of the countries from which members of the Society originated.

Applications for Position of Full-Time ESTHER Organizer Due by July 15

The following ad for applications for a full-time ESTHER Organizer position has been placed in local papers and may be distributed through various channels, as ESTHER members see fit:



ESTHER, a congregation-based social justice organization seeks a full-time professional organizer. Successful applicant must be a self-starter with ability to initiate activity and build an organization among lay and clergy members of diverse religious, ethnic and social backgrounds. Bilingual (English/Spanish) is a plus. Starting salary \$25-35,000 plus benefits. Submit resume to ESTHER by July 15, 2008 at stmarksneenah@tds.net or mail to Maynard Beemer, 1400 Stead Drive, Menasha, WI 54952.

It should be noted that ESTHER will not be able to hire a full-time Organizer in September, if the capacity-building grant from the Fox Valley Community Foundation does not materialize. We will know about that decision by the end of July.

Newsbytes

- The Core Team/One-on-One Training on June 14 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Neenah, was attended by 11 justice-minded persons, almost all of whom were from the St. Patrick Core Team headed by Tom McCord. Father Larry, priest at St. Patrick participated in the training, and affirmed the value of the one-on-one conversations for strengthening community in the congregation, in ESTHER, and in the larger community. If any congregations would like to host such a training this summer or fall, contact Joe Ellwanger, 414-736-2480.
- The ESTHER Health Care Committee is continuing to collect signatures on a petition calling for a referendum that would be on the November 2008 ballot. The referendum would give voters the opportunity to ask Wisconsin legislators to pass legislation by December 2009 that would grant health care coverage similar to the coverage enjoyed by each legislator, to every resident of Wisconsin. If you are interested in soliciting signatures on such petitions, or for more information, contact Raja Khatib, 749-9258, or Connie Raether, 832-8990, Co-Chairs of the ESTHER Health Care Committee.
- ESTHER members are invited to the service of installation for the new pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah, Tuesday, July 15, 7:00 pm.
- Our thanks to Jean Maas-Pike, St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah, for setting up and running an ESTHER Information booth at the East Central Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Assembly at the beginning of June. She talked with several persons who expressed an interest in ESTHER.
- Special thanks to Green Bay Diocese of the Catholic Church for a \$4,500 grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The funding is to be used especially for training and empowerment of Hispanic leaders in their congregations and the larger community.

Strength for the Journey

The Interfaith Dialog sponsored by the Fox Valley Islamic Society got flooded out on the original date of June 15, and now it has been re-scheduled for July 27. The determination of the Fox Valley Islamic Society to dialog with other

ESTHER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
140 S. Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956

Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Neenah, WI
Permit #16



ESTHER

July 2008

Strength for the Journey Continued

communities is not something to be taken for granted or to be minimized.

The Fox Valley is blessed, and ESTHER is doubly blessed, to have an Islamic community eager to interact with all faith groups and the entire community. Not only are they eager to dialog. They want to develop relationships. They want to be active participants in the larger community, and they want to contribute to the common good of all to help build a society where there truly is "liberty and justice for all."

To Mohammed Rashid, Vice-President of ESTHER, Raja Khatib, Co-Chair of the ESTHER Health Care Committee, and the rest of the members of the Fox Valley Islamic Society, we say *"Thanks for leading the way. Thanks for partnering with ESTHER. Thanks for helping us build bridges and for helping us to live out the goal of our nation—liberty and justice for all."*

ESTHER would like to send the newsletter via e-mail to as many people as possible. If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail instead of a paper copy, please e-mail Marcia Lee at: estheradmin@new.rr.com

Thank you!

The ESTHER Calendar

Monday, July 7 ~ 5:30	Health Care Committee @ St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Tuesday, July 8 ~ 6:30	Immigration Committee @ St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Wed., July 9 ~ Noon	Religious Leaders Caucus @ Casa ESTHER 102 W. Main St., Omro
Tuesday, July 15 ~ 6:30	TIP Committee @ St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Tuesday, July 22 ~ 1:00	Workforce Housing Event Paper Discovery Center 425 W. Water St., Appleton
Wed., July 23 ~ Noon	Leadership Board @1st Congregational UCC Appleton
Sunday, July 27 ~ 3:00	Interfaith Dialog Fox Valley Islamic Society 103 Kappell Drive, Neenah