

NEWS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hinesburg resident travels to Nation's Capital to meet with elected officials

Her passion for justice {and/or commitment to their track issue, ex: the environment} has led Hinesburg resident **Margaret Smith** on a journey to our Nation's Capital. Smith, a member Old South Church and long time resident/new resident of Hinesburg, Vt. will join a thousand Christians from across the country to meet with his/her elected officials on March 10 during the sixth annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community. Its goal is to strengthen the voice of citizens throughout the country and join together to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. As a conference participant, Smith will receive several days of training from experts on issues such as poverty at home and abroad, conflict prevention around the world, environmental justice and development in the United States, Middle East, Asia-Pacific region, Africa and Latin America.

The conference theme, "2008: Claiming a Vision of True Security," will be the focus of discussions on how U.S. policies can conceive new visions of security in our homes and neighborhoods and throughout the world. These new visions will be topics of discussion when Smith is joined by other Vermont residents to visit with their senators and representatives.

These meetings will focus on different aspects of the Federal Budget. In speaking to her elected officials Smith will seek support for a budget that funds diplomatic initiatives and development programs and redefines spending priorities for programs that benefit the common good.

Conference organizer Molly Keane says, "Being an Advocacy Days participant truly says something about a person's commitment to social justice. It takes a very special person to invest the time to come to the Nation's Capitol, learn about issues of justice and bring their message to members of Congress in Washington." Keane continues, "Seeking justice and peace doesn't end at Advocacy Days, participants will learn also how to continue advocacy in their communities."

For more information on Ecumenical Advocacy Days please visit advocacydays.org.

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