

## PREREQUISITE FOR A WORLD BEYOND WAR: Nonviolent Dissent and Accompaniment

During the summer of 2014, Kathy Kelly, founder of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, and Sherri Maurin, from Campaign Nonviolence, lived in Kabul, as guests of the Afghan Peace Volunteers. They and their companions in Voices for Creative Nonviolence believe that "where you stand determines what you see."

They are resolved not to let war sever the bonds of friendship between them and Afghan people whom they've grown to know over many years. They also believe that maintaining special operations forces and drone warfare in Afghanistan and throughout the Middle East will prolong and exacerbate wars on these fronts.

The Afghan Peace Volunteers they have accompanied call for a cease fire on the part of all the warring parties. "Instead of conducting continued drone strikes and pursuing more military solutions to world conflicts, the United States and other powerful nations of the world should take responsibility for their past war crimes and destruction in countries like Afghanistan," says Kelly.

She will speak about the persistent and wrongful notion that U.S. wars are protecting and defending people in the U.S. from enemies that threaten our security. She will also share her experience of the conditions faced by people who bear the brunt of U.S. wars and U.S. supported attacks against civilians, and reflect on ways to practice nonviolent resistance and to build peaceful ties by funding projects decided on by local communities that might take the form of food aid, water filtration, housing construction, soil renewal, sanitation, mine disarmament, or medical outreach."

Sponsored by: Metta Center for Nonviolence

Date: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Time: 7pm

**Location**: Saint John's Episcopal Church, 40 Fifth Street, Petaluma