

# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

## MARCH 2003

*This is my home, the country where my heart is; Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*  
 —"This is My Song," Lloyd Stone

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. 5:30 PM Congregational meeting at Trinity. See item on page 2.	3 1:00 PM Building Committee meeting. 7:00 PM Eco-Footprint discussion at Trinity. See item on page 3.	4	5	6	7	8
9 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	10 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	11	12 7:30 PM Worship Committee meeting.	13 7:30 PM Social Action Committee meeting.	14	15 9:00 AM Canvasser training session at Deer Lagoon Grange. Movie Night See item on page 4.
16 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	17	18 7:30 PM Book Group meets at Gail A's. See item page 4.	19	20 7:30 PM UU information session at Trinity. See item on page 4.	21	22 9:00 AM Work party at the church property—ending with a hot dog feast. See item on page 3.
23 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. 5:15 PM Executive Committee meeting at Trinity.	24 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	25	26	27	28	29 5:00 PM All-Church Musical Potluck at Roy Z.'s. See item on page 3.
30 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	31	<b>E-MAIL CIRCULATION</b> If you are receiving a paper version of the newsletter, but are able and willing to receive it electronically, please contact Mavis ( <a href="mailto:uuwhidby@whidbey.com">uuwhidby@whidbey.com</a> ). It will save money, paper, and effort! Thank you.				

**UPCOMING SERVICES** Services are scheduled for Sundays, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran church. Child care and nursery care are provided during the services (at Trinity) unless otherwise indicated.

**March 2** —“*Abyss Gazing 101,*”

**with guest UU minister, Rev. Mitch Howard**

Mitchell Howard, former UUCWI officer, formally-retired UU minister and full-time innkeeper, returns to our pulpit for the first time since January 2002. Meanwhile this winter, our island world has been shadowed by an international crisis with profound implications. Mitch hopes to strike a balance between shock and awe in his sermon, looking within and without for insight to share on the ways we may best live our lives in parlous times like these. Bring your caring hearts, seeking spirits, and open minds!

A few biographical notes on our pulpit guest: Mitch graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in '74, was ordained in '75, retired in '92 to help wife Gladys run the Inn at Penn Cove, was elected to Coupeville School Board in '97, and re-elected with 67% of the vote in November of 2001. Mitch is now in his second year as President of Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce.

*Facilitator: Malcolm F.*

*Membership Representative: Roy B.*

*Usher: Baird B. Refreshments: Sandy M.*

**March 9** —“*What is My Gift to the Family of Earth?*”

**with guest UU minister, Rev. Barbara Davenport**

Each of us has a gift to bring to the table of life. The family of the earth yearns to receive it. How do we uncover our true gifts? How do we balance giving and receiving? How can we learn to offer our gifts freely and joyfully?

A Harvard Divinity School graduate, Barbara is a consulting minister with the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mt. Vernon and the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation in Surrey, B.C.

*Facilitator: Sandy W.*

*Membership Representative: Malcolm F.*

*Usher: Susan C. Refreshments: Paula K.*

**March 16** —“*Getting Down and Dirty,*” **with guest speakers, Laurel Davis and Merlyn Goeschl**

Laurel Davis is director of the Liveable Communities Coalition based in Seattle. Merlyn Goeschl is a former program director with the Cooperative Capitol Housing Improvement Program (CCHIP), and a past administrator with the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority. These experienced social activists draw on their combined experiences and offer informative and instructive insights into how to organize around social, environmental, and labor issues in an increasingly diverse society.

*Membership Representative: Baird B.*

*Usher: John A. Refreshments: Gail A.*

**March 23** —“*Carnal Capitalism/Souless Socialism,*” **with guest UU minister, Rev. Alan Merson**

Rev. Merson will share his thoughts on the failures of the 20th Century's leading economic systems and a proposal for a new framework that respects the individual's right to the product of his own labor, and his obligation to recognize the interests of his community. It is a system which he has labeled “cooperatism,” based upon cooperative principles and Kant's categorical imperative.

Alan Merson is an internationally recognized mediator and leader in conflict resolution and stress management. He is an honors graduate of Harvard College and holds professional degrees from the Harvard Law School and from the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. As an attorney, he has advised local and state governments on critical public policy issues and has served as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a minister, his pastoral counseling has been directed toward individuals confronting grief and difficult life choices.

*Facilitator: Joann C.*

*Membership Representative: Roy B.*

*Usher: open Refreshments: open*

**March 30** —“*This I Believe*”

Many UU's believe that it is possible to have joy without hysteria, morality without inquisitions, community without conformity, authority without slavery, religion without madness, worship without idolatry, and love without perfection. This Sunday you'll be able to hear several UU's speak about their own beliefs, and through that you'll be able to think about your own.

The “This I Believe” Sunday service idea was started by a church in the greater Portland, OR area and has caught on throughout the continent. For those presenting it provides the spiritual exercise of reflecting on what we really believe and honing it into a brief statement. For the congregation it's a chance to get to know each other in ways we don't in other circumstances.

*Facilitator: Sarah R.*

*Membership Representative: Malcolm F.*

*Usher: Ken M. Refreshments: Sandy W.*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
MARCH 2**

The UUCWI Board of Trustees will host a Congregational meeting on Sunday, March 2 following the service. This meeting, as announced in the February newsletter, will ask the congregation to evaluate and vote on proposed Bylaw changes. This is a very important meeting and will bear directly on our ability to hire and keep a minister, membership issues, and congregational governance. Please plan to attend and participate in our democracy.

## ECO FOOTPRINT SERIES

*from the Social Action Committee*

And what is that, you may well ask. It's an approach whereby we try to figure out the area of the earth that we need to sustain our way of life. Imagine a hemisphere containing your family, or street, or town, or whatever. How long could you survive with just that area to draw from? You'd very soon run out—each of us needs to use significant areas of the finite earth to keep us going. (An American uses eight times as much as an Indian.) How much? How do we figure it out? What goes into the reckoning? What is the eco-footprint of a can of tomato soup?

Come to the first of what we hope will be a series of discussions on this, and other EcoEconomy topics. Monday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. in one of the classrooms in Trinity Lutheran. Bring your pals—this is a crucial topic, and is a way to interest others in UUCWI. Kindly let Nancy S. or Malcolm F. know if you expect to attend. They would like an estimate of how many copies of homework assignments and exam questions to prepare!

## HOT DOGS AT THE PROPERTY

The Building Committee will host a work party on Saturday, March 22 starting at 9:00 a.m. There is a lot of trash to be burned and more brush to be cleared and trails to be improved. Noonish there will be a hot dog feast with beverages all provided by your ever vigilant committee members.

## MUSICAL POTLUCK AND OTHER PASTORAL SERVICES NEWS

The Pastoral Services Committee is pleased to host the second “musical potluck” —this time at the home of Roy Z. on Saturday March 29 at 5:00 p.m. until we drop. Special music will be provided by talented David Tuttle on the tenor and alto sax as well as the clarinet. We'll listen to soft jazz and ballads before and after dinner. Please bring your choice of hors d'oeuvres, salad, side dish, or main dish. Roy loves Mediterranean food, but any type of food is welcome. RSVP to Roy.

If you would like to be a member of the Pastoral Services Committee, contact Gail A. or Carol B.

Our chaplain, Al Grapel, is available to perform rites of passage ceremonies and pastoral visits. We would also seeking a woman who would like to be a chaplain. Contact Al if you are interested (678-0919).

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING

Parents and interested parties—we will meet with Nikki H. who has expressed an interest in working as CRE coordinator. Several years ago she was in the youth group and now is planning a career in early childhood education. We will share our ideas with her about what we want for our kids at UUCWI and get started. The meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. (location TBA). RSVP to Peggy at 331-1081.

## KEN'S COLUMN

I have to admit—last weekend while my peers were protesting, war was the last thing on my mind. I was selfishly basking in bluegrass. It's not that the world went away. I saw the stickers on the guitar cases, “No War in Iraq,” the papers in vending machines with headlines screaming the war at me, the flashing imagery of impending combat on ubiquitous television screens. The world was there, but I was somewhere else.

I was in the place we're hoping to create when we say we don't want a war. This is a place where music and art and community are more important than corporate profits and American interests and political advantage, a place where our diversity can not only be tolerated, but can coexist easily with our shared vision, a place where we're allowed to be both individuals and a collective.

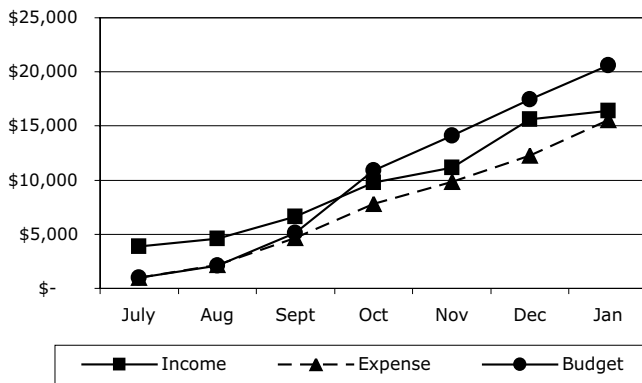
I'm not so naive as to think there weren't people there who would disagree with me completely, who equate supporting our troops with sending them into battle. Bluegrass crowds certainly have their conservative element. The point is that it never came up. We were there for the music. We might have argued whether Gibson or Martin makes the best production guitars or the merits of a two-mic stage set up or even if you could call a band with a drummer and keyboards a “bluegrass” band, but I didn't hear a word about the war.

I feel kind of guilty about that. The millions of people who will be directly affected by the realities of war, should our government do this terrible thing, won't be able to escape it by going to a bluegrass festival. And there I am, pickin' and grinin'.

Late Saturday evening bluegrass legend, Hazel Dickens, brought me back to the world. Eighty-seven years old, past her prime, five-foot-two, ninety pounds soaking wet, she belted out a bluegrass gospel tune, “Will Jesus Forgive You?” It asks the question, will the prince of peace forgive you for engaging in war? Are there some sins—Hiroshima, Dresden, Saigon, Baghdad—even he can't wash away? 500 people came to their feet.

There are many ways to protest this madness. You can carry a sign. You can write congress. You can boycott. You can write a poem. You can paint a painting. You can sing. You can hear.

## UUCWI BUDGET STATUS



Building fund:	\$32,555	Property value:	\$46,280
Ministerial fund:	\$950	General fund:	\$12,913
Social Action Fund	\$1,000		

The chart above shows cumulative values of income, expense, and budget through January 31, 2003 in dollars. The Congregation's income to date is approximately equal to expenses and is under budget. Later in the year we expect the expenses to approach the budget and we will begin to consume our reserves, but probably not reach the \$6168 deficit for the year that was approved by the congregation in the annual budget.

## CHECK OUT THE BOOK GROUP

The UUCWI Book group invites you to read the book of the month and join us for a lively discussion on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be reading and discussing the following books for the balance of the year:

- March 18 at Gail A's. "My Dream Of You" by Nuala O'Faolain, discussion led by Gail (below is a brief description of the story)
- April 15 at Francie W.'s, "Possession" by A.S. Byatt, discussion led by Dave C.
- May 20 at the B.'s, "A Gesture Life" by Chang-Rae Lee, discussion led by Francie W.

In June we'll have a fun potluck and make nominations for next year's reading list. All readers welcome.

Now, here's a little teaser for this month's book, "My Dream of You," by Nuala O'Faolain: At its core is a moment in history. During Ireland's potato famine (1845-1848) when over a million died, an Irish stable groom had an affair with a wife of the English gentry. In the present, Kathleen, a travel writer on the cusp of 50 and on sabbatical after the death of a friend, becomes fascinated with the incident. Alone after a series of failed relationships, she wants to understand how passion could exist and triumph across political and economic divides during so dark a time. So she returns to Ireland for the first time in 30 years to find out. "My Dream of You" weaves the story of the past with Kathleen's present, her search for self. Said the author, "It's not a going-home book, it's a going-back book."

## LET'S TALK ABOUT UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISM

All are welcome to this information session about our denomination and its unique principles. This is particularly aimed at those new to Unitarian-Universalism and those who are interested in membership in our church. UUs have a lot to offer a troubled world. We'll meet on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Chapel classroom. Come and find out about it.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night will take place Saturday, March 15 at the K.'s in Coupeville (call for the address and directions). The movie will be *The Fast Runner* (Atanarjuat) 2001 USA. It is the telling of an Inuit legend of an evil spirit causing strife in the community and one warrior's endurance and battle against it. The film is timeless, beautiful, and strange. Look for more information by email. If you'd like to be on the Movie Night e-mail list, contact Ken M. As always, bring your own beverages and munchies, and we'll make the popcorn.

## JOLLY SERVICES AUCTION IN FEBRUARY

from Sarah R.

On Saturday, February 22, a lively group of people came together to eat and bid on the wonderful services and items donated to our annual Services Auction. These annual auctions are a wonderful investment in our community because not only do we get to gather for the fun of the actual auction, but we gather later during the year to attend the various events or exchange the products and services we bought! What a great idea—two benefits from one event (money for our church and ongoing fun for our members).

There were some items that either weren't sold or that didn't sell out at the auction. There is a Post-Auction Catalog that will be at the church on Sundays. Please be sure to have a look at it when you're there, you may not be able to resist bidding on something fun.

The church gained something over \$2,000 once expenses were taken out. This isn't our highest auction, but it isn't too bad given the state of the economy and people's spirits these days. I'm encouraged.

Thanks go to Carol B., Mavis C., Marjorie L., Gail A., Siri S., Al G., Elaine W., Peggy B., the various people who lent a hand that evening to help set up and clean up, to the people who donated, to the people who came and bid on things, and last, but not least, to Roy B. who stepped up and took on the all-important role as auctioneer.

See ya at the Auction next year!

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS—KEEP THEM HOME!

*from Peggy B.*

“WIN WITHOUT WAR” is my homemade sign at the protest vigils at Bayview Park 'n' Ride. On Saturday, February 15, we had over 200 come out in the rain, witnessing for a peaceful solution. We were at Clinton, Ken's Korner, Bayview, Freeland, and Greenbank. The north end of the island was covered by the Coupeville contingent. Interestingly, the local paper chose to cover the demonstration organized by the Republicans in Oak Harbor, rather than our much larger turnout.

We will now have a “peace table” in the foyer at church each Sunday. There will be yard signs, posters, and bumper stickers available, as well as leaflets and other pertinent info. The Internet is a great source for information about national activities, and it's easy to register your “vote” via e-mail. Try: [www.MoveOn.org/winwithoutwar/](http://www.MoveOn.org/winwithoutwar/). And check out the current UUWorld magazine on page 42 for news of our denomination's activism.

Thanks to all who signed and contributed to the recent petition ad. We were able to run it in both Whidbey papers on February 15. I continue to believe that we are making a difference by witnessing against war on Iraq, as are millions around the world. Pray for the President and his Cabinet that their hearts and minds may be changed for peace without war. And, join us at Bayview Park 'n' Ride every Wednesday, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and Saturdays 11:00 to noon. It's a great connection to the Whidbey activist community, and it makes you feel good.

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2003-2004

*from Baird B., Canvass Chair*

The UUCWI will conduct an every member, face-to-face Stewardship Drive for the 2003-2004 Operating Fund. The theme of the canvass will be “Stone Soup.” The board has been enlisted as part of the canvass team. In addition we will need six more canvassers. All 37 pledging households will be canvassed. The remainder of the persons in the directory and on the mailing list will be solicited by mail to join a path to membership and/or to support UUCWI financially.

### Time Line

March 15—A Stewardship mailier will go out.  
 March 15, Saturday, 9:00-12:00—Canvass training session at Deer Lagoon Grange.  
 March 15-April 12—Canvassers will be canvassed.  
 March 26—Canvass brochure and article go to April newsletter.  
 April 12—Kickoff Dinner at Gregoire Hall.  
 April 13—Appointments begin for regular canvass.  
 April 20—Preliminary Report published.  
 April 20-27—Clean-up of loose ends.

Other leadership/volunteer positions which need to be filled are: Kickoff Dinner Chairperson; Hosts and Hostesses; Set-up and Decoration Committee; Clean-up Committee; Entertainment. If interested, call Baird.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NOTES

The Social Action Committee continues to make progress on a variety of projects. We've ordered baskets for resale from the Bolivian community where congregation member Toyon C. is performing her Peace Corps service. Photos of three small baskets are available on our web site for preview. We hope the congregation and our community will support the sale of these baskets. Profits will be donated back to the Bolivian community for sorely needed educational and medical support. We expect to have much more information about the status of the baskets in the next newsletter.

Other projects include collecting about \$130 from the Guest at Your Table campaign for the UU Services Committee, obtaining about 2 dozen signatures for the Whidbey Island No-Spray Coalition to stop spraying of toxic substances along state roads, and gathering information about service groups for youth. Malcolm and Nancy presented a program on the EcoEconomy and are preparing to facilitate discussions on this and related topics. Other projects that the committee is investigating are support of prisoner education programs and highway litter cleanup.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or in supporting one or more projects are encouraged to call Malcolm F.

## SOME TIPS ON SPEAKING AT UUCWI

*from the Worship Committee*

We have had a wonderful year showcasing lay speakers from our congregation. The worship committee would like to offer a few tips regarding how to prepare for your speech and also how to manage our sound system so that the entire audience can hear what you have to say.

- Pick no more than three or four key points at the most. Focus on learning each point.
- Speak clearly and pace yourself. If you prefer to read from written notes, make sure and remember to look up at your audience. Quotes are fine, to an extent, but people really want to hear what you have to say. One of the best approaches in public speaking is to prepare your material enough in advance so that you know it well enough to work from a general outline. You'll be surprised at what you can remember.
- Sound system check—Come 10 or 15 minutes early. Check the sound levels. Our current sound system is such that some of the audience might have difficulty hearing you if you move your head from side to side to address different parts of the room. Take that into account and speak clearly into the microphone.
- Remember that the facilitator is there to support you. Ask for help if you need it.
- Most of all, be conversational, be yourself and share your passion with the audience.