



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

May 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service: Saint Francis and the Birds | 3 8:30a World Events Discussion Group 9:30a Social Action Committee meeting at Trinity | 4 | 5 7:30p Membership Committee meeting | 6 coffee order due (p. 5) | 7 | 8 9:00a -3:00p rummage sale (p. 2) 11:00a -1:00p Building Site Visit (p. 2) 7:00p Movie Night (p. 3) |
| 9 4:00p -5:15p Service: In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens | 10 8:30a -10:30a Board of Trustees meeting at Trinity | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 9:00a -1:00p Work Party at the church property (p. 3) |
| 16 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service 5:30p Congregational Meeting (p. 3) | 17 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe | 18 7:30p Book Group Meeting (p. 3) | 19 7:30p Worship Committee meeting | 20 newsletter deadline | 21 | 22 |
| 23 4:00p -5:15p Service: Finding the Sacred in the Profane | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 4:00p -5:15p Service: Hymn Sing | 31 | Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's web site: http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/ | | | | |

May 2nd — Saint Francis and the Birds: The Value of a Close Connection to Nature

with guest speaker Frances Wood

Explore the life of Saint Francis of Assisi and spiritual aspects of connecting to nature.

Whidbey Island naturalist and writer Frances Wood has studied birds for over three decades. Her award-winning column on birdwatching appears regularly in the *South Whidbey Record*. Frances Wood's first book on the topic of bird watching, *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West*, will be published in September.

Facilitator: Ken M. ; Usher: Bill G.;
Refreshments: Peggy B.

Membership Representative: Roy B.

May 9th — In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens with the Reverend Kit Ketcham

On this Mother's Day, we celebrate the mothers and mother-figures in our lives, the history of this holiday, which traces its roots back to ancient Greece, and how it is related to Unitarian Universalism.

Facilitator: Baird B.; Usher: Patricia B.;
Refreshments: open

Membership Representative: Baird B.

May 16th — Surprise Topic with guest minister Jamal Rahman

Reverend Rahman is a member of "Circle of Love", an interfaith group of friends who gather together in search of global spirituality and community. This diverse collective is actively engaged in education, music, interfaith worship, healing, fundraising, and service projects. "Circle of Love" passionately believes in harmony and unity in diversity.

Facilitator: Mavis C.; Usher: Elaine W.;
Refreshments: Bill G. and Francie W.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

May 23rd — Finding the Sacred in the Profane with guest minister the Reverend Barbara Davenport

There are no inherently sacred objects, spaces or events. They are made sacred by the power and

belief people invest in them. The sacred has been set apart from the secular in modern society, by relegating the sacred to religious institutions. We can reclaim the sacred in our ordinary every day lives, if we pay attention and open our hearts to those deeper dimensions of reality.

Facilitator: Sandy W.; Usher: open;
Refreshments: open

Membership Representative: Roy B.

May 30th — Hymn Sing

A year ago we had our first favorite-hymn-sing service; it got very high ratings in the end-of-year services rating, so we have scheduled another one. As before, please get your selection to Linda and Malcolm by May 26th. And offer a reading or two, please, if you like.

Facilitator: Malcolm F.; Usher: open;
Refreshments: open

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Congregational News & Events

Rummage Sale: May 8th

Last call for rummage. This is a great opportunity to do your spring cleaning and clear out all those things you don't need as well as to support a fundraiser for UUCWI. Especially valuable are tools, books, and furniture. The sale is Saturday, May 8th from 9 to 3. We need more volunteers for transport and set-up on Friday, the 7th and sales help for the day of the sale and clean up afterward. Please call Marjorie or Paula to volunteer or have rummage picked up. This sale can really add funds to our tight budget but we do need to put some time and energy into those two days to make it work.
~ Marjorie L.

Building Site Visit: May 8th

The Building Committee will host a site visit on Saturday, May 8th from 11am to 1pm to answer any questions and to provide tours of the site. This is in addition to three information meetings which the committee has already conducted.

~ Building Committee

Movie Night: May 8th

Our monthly evening of film, food, and discussion will be held Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dave and Mavis C. (for directions or to RSVP call Mavis or Dave). Our film will be Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's haunting and visually stunning tribute to classical ballet, *The Red Shoes* (UK 1948). Based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, the film explores the struggles of a young ballerina (Moirra Shearer) torn between love and success. The film won many awards for its use of color, score, and art direction. This is the third Powell/Pressburger film we've screened (the others being *A Matter of Life and Death* and *Black Narcissus*) and is a fine example of their visual style and use of music. This film makes many critics top-ten lists, and is rumored to be Mavis' favorite film. As always, bring whatever munchies and beverages will enhance your viewing pleasure and we'll make the popcorn.

~ Ken M.

Work Party at the Church Property: May 15th

9am to 1pm. Bring shovels, shears, etc. and we will clean up, rake up, and cut blackberry vines (lots of fun!). Hot dogs at noon. See you there!

~ Roy B.

Annual Congregational Meeting: May 16th

Members of the congregation are requested to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting at 5:30 pm Sunday, May 16, 2004. The agenda includes discussion and voting on four subjects pertaining to the 2004-2005 fiscal year beginning July 1:

1. Officers and trustees
2. Nominating committee
3. Operating budget
4. Approval of a site plan for developing the congregation's land north of Freeland (see below).

The proposed budget will be available nearer the time of the meeting, after the canvass concludes. The slate of candidates for next year's Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee, as proposed by this year's Nominating Committee, is detailed in an accompanying article on page 5.

~ Dave C., Board President

Site Plan Consideration: May 16th

On the May 16 Congregation Meeting, the agenda will include an item for consideration of approval of the site plan proposed by the Building Committee. The wording of the statement:

"The UUCWI Congregation approves the site plan presented by the Building Committee, dated _____. The site plan specifies the location of the entrance to the site from Hwy. 525, the location of driveways on the site, delineates parking locations, including handicapped spaces, specifies building location, septic field location and major play area. No substantial changes to the plan may be made without the approval of the congregation; minor adjustments may be proposed by the Building Committee and presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. The original site plan is to be dated and signed by the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, indicating Congregation approval."

As noted above, there will be a site visit May 8th. We hope to see you at the congregation meeting to consider this important step as we plan for our new church home.

~ Building Committee

Book Group Meeting: May 18th

The Book Group will read *The Little Friend* by Donna Tartt. A best seller two years ago, this is a thriller about a remarkable 12 year-old who tries to solve a mystery and has a lot of adventures in the process. It's very well written and a real page-turner. All are welcome to the gathering to discuss the book on May 18 at 7:30 at the Bs. Please let them know if you plan to attend.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup: June 5th

Mark your calendar for our second litter pick-up along Mutiny Bay Road. Volunteers need to view a safety video before participating; if you didn't see the video last fall and want to help, please contact me for more information.

~ Nancy S.

The Joys of Membership

By Dave C., President,
Board of Trustees

Thank you for your pledges of support and volunteered help in the Canvass just completed. Your support and participation are essential to the health of our community, and key, as well, to your sense of belonging to it. As with many endeavors, what you get from UUCWI has a direct relationship to what you put in. One of the nicer aspects of this math is that we can each get a lot more out than any of us individually put in!



Are you active in the congregation but not a member – what we call a Friend of the congregation? The bylaws reserve certain privileges to those who are members, such as the ability to vote in congregational meetings on issues such as budgets, calling ministers, buying land, and building on it. While we appreciate all you like-minded individuals who join with us in our projects and offer financial and other support, you could, by joining, help make these important decisions that define the life and the directions of the congregation. Board members, committee chairs and lay leaders are required to be members. Since our group is small, we would benefit from enlarging the pool of talent from which to draw for these responsible roles.

You undoubtedly already recognize the unique value of liberal religion in your life and your community. A member is someone who has put his or her time and money where his or her heart is, to coin a phrase. The marginal cost to include a member (mostly UUA and PNWD dues) is about \$100 per year. The average cost per member of all our programs is about \$900 per member – that's \$25 per week (excluding summers). Even if you're unable to contribute, your talents and time are important to us. If you share our values, we want you as a fellow member anyway, and will willingly share the extra cost.

You're already a member? Please attend the annual congregational meeting on May 16. We will, as usual, elect board members and officers and approve an operating budget.

Unique to this occasion, however, we will approve a plan for the development of our property two miles north of Freeland. Quite apart from the bylaws requirement for a quorum – only 30% of the members – this needs to be a community decision – preferably a clear majority if not an outright consensus. Please do your “homework”: Find out what the Building Committee has planned on your behalf. Ask your questions. There have been three public meetings so far and good questions have been asked. The site plan has evolved in response to some of the excellent points made. Later, there will be meetings to consider plans for building structures on the property.

Mark September 18 on your calendars for another unique and uplifting occasion. For this we need 70% participation! Rev. Nan Geer will lead us in a “Mission/Vision/Covenant” workshop. This is an historic moment in the life of our congregation, when we explore as a group why we come together, what we want to be when we grow up, and how we intend to change the world. While this isn't about money or building, the mission and vision are important things to understand about ourselves and to agree upon, prior to embarking on capital campaigns and building planning later in the fall. It will be a lively and fun event, and you'll enjoy Nan's leadership. See you there!

Kickoff Dinner News

The annual dinner to kick off the start of the Canvass Campaign was a great success. Let's hear it for Peggy B.'s Soup and Brownie Brigade: Bill G., Carol B., Sarah R., Gail A. and Sandy W. Erin C. provided the delicious Sushi hors d'oeuvres. Thank you Malcolm and Wendy for the great guessing game during the social hour. The pre-dinner music was provided by Linda G., Elaine W. and Don B. The choir did their part — thanks Heidi H. Ken M. did his usual fine job as MC. The Jam session made light work of the Cleanup. Jammers included Linda, Heidi, Kit and Ken. It put us in the mood for generous support of our church and to let Our Little Light Shine.

~ Baird B.

Financial Update

The March 31 financial report shows income and expenses for the first nine months of the fiscal year (from July 1), and we have projected income and expenses thru the remaining three months (to June 30) as follows:

| | Jul 1 to Mar 31 | thru Jun 30 (estimate) | Budgeted |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Income | \$31,360 | \$36,250 | \$36,700 |
| Expense | \$30,211 | \$40,850 | \$44,996 |

As you can see, it appears that income through the remainder of the year will be close to the original budget, and that expenses will be considerably less. The congregation has been successful in limiting expenses while maintaining quality programs with our minister, worship, music and religious education efforts.

Thanks to everyone for the great support this year.

~ Roy B.

Report of the 2003-2004 Nominating Committee

Candidates for the 2004-2005 Board of Trustees:

- Dave C.—Board President
- Baird B.—Secretary
- Roy B.—Treasurer
- Paula K.—Trustee
- Marjorie L.—Trustee
- Kent V.—Trustee
- Ron .—Trustee

Candidates for the 2004-2005 Nominating Committee:

- Peggy B.
- Toyon C.d
- Ken M.

~ Sandy W., Carol B.,
and John A.

Choir Schedule

The choir will rehearse on May 2nd and 16th and June 6th and 13th. Performances will be on May 16th and June 13th.

Choir will recess during the months of July and August, to resume in September.

~ Heidi H.

From Our Minister



Dear Islanders,

As we cruise into May and then on into summer, I've been particularly enjoying the sights and sounds of Puget Sound. Sailboats and yachts making their way through the Ballard Locks, longer ferry lines, sunsets over the Olympics and Cascades, soft air and the scent of lilacs as I walk, all remind me of how lucky we are to live in the Pacific Northwest, where spring comes early and lasts long.

As Mother's Day approaches, I have been remembering my mother and her quirks and her wisdom. When I was younger, I didn't appreciate her as much as I do these days. Now, with an adult son, I often wonder if he is having a similar experience! I remember how much smarter my parents became as I grew older and wiser. I hope my son is realizing that about me.

Those of us who have been mothers or have been in a mothering role know that there is a protectiveness and fierceness to our love for our children, no matter how old they are. And when we lose a child, whether that is to stillbirth or miscarriage or rebelliousness or other factors, we are heartsick and grieve that loss for a long time.

My heart goes out to all those mothers and would-be mothers who grieve at this time of year, even as they carry on, doing what must be done, finding solace and even joy in daily life, but always missing the child who is only present in the heart. May your sorrow diminish and your joy in life increase.

And may all who know mothers of any age and stripe do something extra to make that mother's life richer and more joyful.

Much love,
Kit

Coffee Orders

Please e-mail or call your order to Mavis C. by noon on the 6th for delivery at the service on the 9th. French Kiss, Peru Organic and Sumatra Organic varieties are available in 12-ounce bags for \$7.50.

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PO BOX 1076
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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2003-2004 Board of Trustees

Dave C., President
Baird B., Secretary
Roy B., Treasurer
Paula K., Trustee
Elaine W., Trustee
Al G., Trustee
Marjorie L., Trustee

If you wish to contact any of the Board
members, call
UUCWI voice mail at (360) 321-8656.

Minister: Kit Ketcham (206-931-6709)

Chaplain: Al Grapel (678-0919)

Both our minister and our chaplain are available
for rights of passage ceremonies (including
ceremonies of commitment or union) and
pastoral visits.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
general interest to members of the congregation
should be submitted in writing by the 20th of each
month to editor Nancy S., uucwi@whidbey.com.

Short faxed

items may be acceptable; call for more
information. Items submitted after press time will
appear in the following month's newsletter if
appropriate. Time-sensitive late items will be
posted with the announcements and/or on the
calendar on our web site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are
available online at [http://www.whidbey.com/
uucwi/newsletter.html](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html). Last names, phone
numbers, and addresses are deleted from the online
version for members' privacy.

Newsletter Committee:

Nancy S., Editor
Mavis C.n, Church Coordinator