



# 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/)

## July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10-2 Work Party at Property	3	4	5 10-2 Work Party at Property
6 No Service	7	8	9 10-2 Work Party at Property	10	11 9 am at our new building Board of Trustees Meeting	12 10-2: Work Party at Property  1-3pm:North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p2)
13 No Service	14 9 am Worship Ctte at our new building	15 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch at Rockhoppers (p2)	16 10-2 Work Party at Property	17	18	19 10-2 Work Party at Property
20 No Service  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21	22	23 10-2 Work Party at Property	24	25	26 10-2 Work Party at Property
27 No Service	28	29	30 10-2 Work Party at Property	31		

## Building Committee Report for June 2008

We've had another month of good progress. Frank A and his team of volunteer painters have completed the exterior painting. Interior painting is complete and we put an additional coat of semi-gloss on the kitchen walls for durability. We've made a good start on installing the ceramic floor tile in the foyer, bathrooms, and hallway down to the classrooms. Two tons of bamboo flooring for the sanctuary were delivered and is acclimating, thanks to the working heat pump. Installation of the bamboo will begin as soon as volunteers to do that job materialize. We're happy to find that the heat pump is very quiet!

Lots of other things are happening – basement doors are in, more door hardware is being installed, we're making progress on interior window trim, a layer of plywood was installed on the kitchen floor and the kitchen cabinets were delivered June 18. Installation begins June 27.

Work on the septic installation was delayed due to bad weather, but should start soon.

We'll be having work parties every Wednesday and Saturday from about 10 until 2 pm, with a simple lunch provided. There is always site cleanup, aka "yardwork", to be done -- but if you're interested in a more skilled job, contact Tom to see when various tasks are scheduled and to discuss what would best suit your skills.

Stop by the building if you haven't been for a while. Or check the photos on the website at <http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi>

~ Mavis C for the Building Committee

## Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

- *North End:* 1-3 pm, Saturday, July 12, the North End Koffee Klatch will meet. We gather in the West Wind Cafeteria at Whidbey General Hospital in Coupeville, for terrific conversation, cheap eats, and good coffee on the North End. All are welcome.
- *South End:* 10am-12noon, Tuesday, July 15, South Enders meet at Rockhoppers' coffee shop and art gallery from 10 am to 12 noon, for great coffee and wonderful conversation. All are welcome.

## From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey friends,

This is a different kind of summer than we've had in the past few years, and I'm not just talking about the weather! For the last five years, we've gone almost completely on hiatus during the summer, meeting only in August, when we'd get together for outdoor services on our land.

This summer is different because, though we will not have worship in July this year either, we will be seeing each other and working together to finish up our building project, in preparation for moving in this fall. And it may well turn out that next summer we may have worship services all year round, meeting for worship in July as well. That's an exciting prospect, to become a full-service congregation, available to the community all the time. We'll make that decision next year, but I'm hopeful!

July is the month I traditionally go on leave and let go of many ministerial duties for a time. I will always respond to emergencies, no matter where I am or what I'm doing. But I'll take a month's leave from committees, board meetings, preaching, Koffee Klatches, and other such events. You'll see me working on the building or in the grocery store, though!

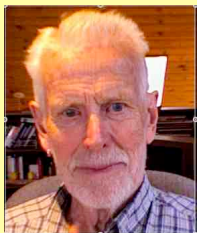
I will be celebrating the Fourth with my family in Moses Lake; I'll go to Seabeck for Eliot Institute from July 12-19. And I do plan to preach twice in July\_ once at Westside UU Fellowship (formerly known as West Seattle) and once at Skagit UUF.

When we begin our new church year in August, I expect I'll be rested and raring to go. I'll be speaking on August 3, our first service of the new year, which will be on the lawn in front of our new meeting house. Our theme for the upcoming year, in anticipation of the many new folks we expect to welcome, will be our Seven Principles, and the worship committee has put a lot of thought into how these will be presented. I hope you'll start thinking of all the friends in your life who would love to be part of a faith community that emphasizes love and justice without dogma.

Have a great summer!

Much love, Kit





***The Prez Says:***  
**Through the Thicket with Gun  
 and Camera**

The annual meeting was short, sweet and meaty. Well over half the congregation made up a healthy quorum. Treasurer Paula introduced the budget proposal for 2008-09 and it was quickly passed. Again, thanks to staff and committee heads for holding the line on budget requests as we enter uncharted waters.

Treasurer Paula, Secretary Pat and President Baird agreed to another term. Trustees Camille and Lois will finish out their two year tenures and Trustees Amy and Joann were slated for two year terms.

The board was elected unanimously. Heartfelt thanks went to our two outgoing trustees, Frank and Mary, for their two years of devoted service.

July is typically our month of rest and no services are held. Please remember that Kit is on vacation. The board is planning a July 11 meeting because there is so much going on.

Our building is being transformed. We have entered a serious sweat equity phase. Whatever your skills, I would ask you to step forward and volunteer for serious duty. Let's try to complete our building by the end of July! See Tom or Roy.

Services will resume in August with 10am starts out of doors on the greensward.

We are hoping to have our first indoor service at 10am on September 7. This will be our ingathering service to be followed by a Noonish Salmon Bake. It will be celebratory, the culmination of seven years of work.

There is no time to waste. Put the shoulder to the wheel.

Have a great summer,  
 Baird B

**Worship Leader Training and Potluck Lunch**  
**Monday, Aug. 11, 9 am – 3 pm**  
**At the new building!**

Do you have ideas for the perfect worship service? Have you secretly wanted to influence the hymn selection, the readings, the flow, the spirit and form of a worship service? The worship committee is looking for passionate, creative and intrepid souls who would like to join the circle of worship leaders. Now is your chance to help make UUCWI worship history!

On Monday, August 11 from 9am to 3pm the worship committee is hosting a workshop and potluck lunch in our new sanctuary (!!!) to explore and refine our roles and responsibilities as worship leaders. All those who are interested in serving the congregation in this way (experienced and new) are invited to attend.

Although the Worship Committee would like to make participation in this workshop integral to anyone's continued role as worship leader, we realize that making this mandatory is not realistic for an all volunteer organization. So instead of this being a "requirement", we hope you will join us in the spirit of excellence and WANT to attend! We feel that this training is crucial to our success next year – not only for what we can all learn, but very much for what each of us can share with others about our personal experiences, both as worship leaders and worship participants.

This workshop will include presentations by Kit and others, sharing of our own best practices and experiences (we welcome the challenging experiences as well as the great ones), an offering of useful resources, and some hands-on activities which will help us develop our skills and express our creativity. Lots of fun is promised in addition to the satisfaction of learning together.

Please indicate your ability to attend by emailing Mavis or Terri no later than August 1 (earlier would be appreciated, of course).

~ Marilyn S for the Worship Committee

### Midwest Flood Relief Collection

On a recent Sunday our congregation collected \$190 to assist UUA Midwest flood relief.

Additional news as well as contact information follows from the UUA message below:

In the aftermath of devastating floods that have wreaked havoc on several Midwestern states, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Prairie Star and Heartland Districts have announced the launch of individual district relief funds to provide assistance to Unitarian Universalists in Indiana and Iowa whose homes have been severely damaged or destroyed by flood waters. As of June 17, no Unitarian Universalist (UU) church properties are known to have sustained substantial damage; however, Nancy Combs Morgan, Acting District Executive of the Heartland District (HD) and Nancy Heege, District Executive of the Prairie Star District (PSD), report that numerous members of local congregations have incurred flood damage.

In Iowa, flooding has come within a block of the Cedar Rapids church. Hundreds of blocks in the city have been impacted, and damage is estimated to be in excess of \$1 billion. The devastation to the city and the resulting damage to the economy of the area will affect the lives of people in that congregation in the weeks and months ahead. In Iowa City at least fifteen parishioners' homes have been flooded, and the property of the University of Iowa, a significant source of employment in the area, was heavily damaged, impacting job security for residents.

In Indiana, the Terre Haute congregation is trying to provide assistance to members—including the retired minister of the congregation—whose homes have been flooded. The city of Columbus has been extremely hard-hit, and a number of congregants have lost everything.

The District Boards of Prairie Star and Heartland have been involved in information-gathering and connecting individuals affected to resources which are available. Relief funds in each district will be administered through processes established by each district; check the district website (below) for current information.

To contribute aid to the district relief funds, please address your check and mail it as follows:

Prairie Star District UUA  
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 303  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
info@psduua.org  
(612) 870-4823

Online donations may be made by going to <http://www.psduua.org/>; updates will be posted at this site as well.

Heartland District of the UUA  
445 N. Pennsylvania St., Suite 510  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1893  
(317) 634-5384  
(toll-free) (888) 948-4883

### UUCWI Book Group Selections for 2008-2009

Get a head start on your reading list over the summer and join the UUCWI Book Group discussions in the fall! The table below lists the books selected for discussion. You are welcome, even if you are just interested in hearing about the book and haven't read it. Meetings are at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month, except potlucks, which begin at 6 pm. Let Dave C know if you'd like to be on the distribution list for reminders and details.

Sept: *Earth: the Sequel* by F. Krupp and M. Horne

Oct: *A Summer at Little Lava* by C. Fergus

Nov: *The Plot Against America* by P. Roth

Dec: Book Swap Potluck

Jan: *Here When You Need Me* by K. Braestrup

Feb: *The Universe In a Single Atom*

by The Dalai Lama

Mar: *You Just Don't Understand* by D. Tannen

Apr: *The Road from Coorain* by J.K. Conway

May: *Saving Paradise* by R. Brock and R. Parker

June: Yearly Book Selection Potluck

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island  
2008 - 2009 Board of Trustees**

Baird B, President  
Paula K, Treasurer  
Pat L, Secretary  
Lois C, Trustee  
Amy C, Trustee  
Camille L, Trustee  
Joann R, Trustee

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

**Minister:** Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

**Chaplains:** Sally Elder 360-675-3314  
Bill Graves 360-661-7289

Our minister and chaplains are available for rites  
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

**Director of Religious Education:** Lorie W

**Newsletter Information:**

News, announcements, events, and other items of  
interest to members of the congregation should be  
submitted in writing by the deadline to editor  
Rebecca S. 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 [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/  
newsletter.html](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html). Last names, phone numbers, and  
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members' privacy.

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