



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 _ 360-321-8656 _ www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Service 10-11am at the church property: "A Sense of Place" Speaker: Malcolm F.(p2)	6	7	8 9 am Board Meeting at Trinity 10 am-12.noon South End Koffee Klatch p6 7 pm: Women's Group p4	9	10	11 North End Koffee Klatch: 1-3pm p6
12 Service 10-11am at the church property: "The Homeless God – A Place to Belong" Speaker: Chris Highland (p2)	13 9am Worship Committee at Trinity	14	15	16	17	18
19 Service 10-11am at the church property: "An Attitude of Gratitude" Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham (p2)	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 10 am-3pm Board Retreat	23	24	25
26 Service 10-11am at the church property: "From the Musings of Archy and Mehitabel" Speakers: Peggy and Baird B. (p2)	27	28	29	30	31	1

August 5:

“A Sense of Place”

Speaker: Malcolm F.

This service, the first of three on the topic during August, will be on how we evolve a sense of place. This is the first service on our land since the congregation committed to proceeding with our new building. Malcolm F., a long-time member of UUCWI, will discuss how we develop and establish a sense of belonging to the land, as we evolve a feeling of community. We are creating history! The Marimba Group will provide special music, Linda G. will be the accompanist, and Mary Goolsby will provide refreshments.

Lay Leader: Frank A.

August 12:

“The Homeless God—A Place to Belong”

Speaker: Chris Highland

Chris will draw from his time as chaplain to the homeless to address issues including: What does it mean to be in relationship with the land? How might that influence our ethics and values, our behavior and choices? Chris is author of *My Address is a River*, a collection of his chaplaincy stories, as well as of books about John Muir, Emerson, Thoreau, and others. Frank A. will provide special music and Mavis C. will bring refreshments.

Lay Leader: Mavis C.

August 19:

“An Attitude of Gratitude”

Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

What does it mean to us to be a community? How can we foster a sense of belonging to the community of UUCWI, as we embark upon our new church year, with a building project well underway, many opportunities to serve and to participate in our growth, and to consider our commitment to one another and to the larger world. Our sense of belonging together is enhanced by our gratitude for what we have created together. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about a culture of appreciation and gratitude and how this strengthens our covenant with each other. Dan A. will provide special music, Linda G. will be the accompanist, and Terri A. will bring refreshments.

Lay Leader: Terri A.

August 26:

“from the musings of archy and mehitabel”

Speakers: Peggy and Baird B.

Don Marquis first introduced Archy the cockroach and Mehitabel, a cat in her ninth life, in his newspaper column in the New York Sun in 1916. In a previous incarnation Archy was a free-verse poet, while Mehitabel's soul once belonged to Cleopatra. She is *toujours gai* while Archy is more philosophical. (Archy's musings are typed at night on his boss's typewriter ... but in lower case without punctuation because Archy is not strong enough to operate the shift key.) The B.'s will explore Archy's philosophy of life. Michael B. will provide special music and be the accompanist.

Lay Leader: Mary G.

** August services are at 10 am outdoors on the church property — 20103 State Route 525 between Bush Point and Mutiny Bay Roads. No CRE or childcare at the outdoor services.*

News and Events

Adult Education

Beginning this fall, all members and friends of UUCWI will have an opportunity to participate in an adult program called Small Group Ministry. This program involves joining a small group [a covenant group] that meets on a regular basis for several months to discuss such topics as spirituality, trust, fear, forgiveness, aging, money, faith, and community. The list of possible topics is infinite! Trained facilitators will help guide the discussion. Each session is for two hours. Look for the brochure describing this program in the hall outside the chapel. With the brochures, you will also find a sign up sheet. Sign up now to be included in one of these covenant groups. If you are interested in becoming a group facilitator please contact Lois C.

Music News

We've completed 8 months of lay-led choir, which is a tribute to the dedication of a few singers, volunteer leaders and two professional conductors, Michael B. and Vern O. It has been a learning experience, and has helped us appreciate all that Heidi did.

Recently Gladys H. donated a bag of choral materials, which I'm trying to integrate into our library. Since I'm now leading the CRE music

program, I'm hoping we can do more services where we combine voices, like on Earth Day where the adult choir members were "buddies" with the children. Also Evan W. is in training to be a musical youth leader--he's learning songs from "Let Your Heart Sing!" on piano. I'm making a resolution to include the choir schedule in the newsletter, so we can note it in our calendars. Thanks to everyone who has been sharing musical gifts, both vocal and instrumental.

~Linda G.

Women's Group: Wednesday, August 8

The next Women's Discussion Group will take place on Wed., August 8 at Lois C.'s in Freeland. The topic is "Books That Have Changed My Life." (Or, if that is too extreme, "Books That Have Meant a Lot to Me.") Come for coffee/tea at 7 pm and discussion will start at 7:30 pm.

~Camille L.

Book Discussion Group

Here's your opportunity to get a jumpstart on the UUCWI Book Group reading list for the next church year, as well as to occupy those long summer days at the beach or on an airplane! The group will experiment with some new formats this year to encourage your participation even if you have not read the listed books.

Three of the meetings (including the first one!) will be potlucks so we can start a bit earlier to watch a movie based on the month's book. In November you're invited to read any book by or about a political candidate and join in a sure-to-be-animated discussion on the state of current politics! And each meeting will provide an opportunity for brief "book reports" on other books you have read.

Normally the group meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come to the discussions! To get on the distribution list for email reminders, email Dave C.

So, here's the lineup:

September 11: *The Painted Veil* by Maugham (movie/potluck 6:00 pm @ Mavis C.'s home)

October: *The Soul's Code* by James Hillman

November: Books by or about political candidates

December: Holiday potluck and book exchange

January: *The Welsh Girl* by Peter Ho Davies

February: *Possession* by A.S. Byatt (movie/potluck) Yes, some read it previously, but we're revisiting.

March: *The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston

April: Elizabeth George night (movie/potluck). We'll discuss George's latest book, *What Came Before He Shot Her*, and watch one of the BBC Mysteries based on the George novels.

May: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

June: Potluck and book selection for the following year.

~Dave C.

Building Committee News

The work has begun! As this is written, the "loop" driveway and building site have been cleared and the drive is being graded. (See Marjorie L.'s article on site issues, below.) We hope to receive approval of our building permit at the beginning of August. A contractor is ready to dig and pour the foundation once the permit has been received. We have also submitted a request to PSE for power to be brought into the site – but it may be 6 or more weeks before we bubble to the top of their list.

Meanwhile the church property has an address: 20103 State Route 525, Freeland. (Our mailing address remains P.O. Box 1076.)

We've obtained Builder's Risk and Worker's Compensation insurance for the project. When we begin sweat equity work, be sure to sign in and out! This is a safety issue and is required for our insurance.

The committee meets every week and at the moment is scouting electrical and heat pump contractors. We're also talking to sources for the paralams, kerf plates, and trusses to go in the sanctuary. Very soon we'll need to order windows and the SIPS (structural insulated panels) to be used in the roof of the meeting hall. Ideally, the structure will be "closed" by November.

Sandy W. is now chair of the building committee and it's a pleasure to work with her. It's very exciting to make visible progress toward having our own facility!!

~ Mavis C. for the Building Committee

Site Work at the Church Property

If you've been out to visit the church property lately, you know it is looking a bit chewed up. We

might be in the hardest stage of building our new church home. It's just not possible to put a building in the middle of a forest without cutting trees and disturbing the understory. The building committee is of one mind about saving all possible trees and preserving the beauty of the land, but roads must be built and trees that grow in the building site or are close enough to present a hazard in wind storms must be removed.

As an environmental activist in southern Oregon in the 70's I wore the "tree-hugger" label with pride and I still do. As a member of the building committee since 2004, the integrity of the land has always been my major concern. One of the first things the committee did was hire a forestry consultant to advise us on tree health and stewardship. Lately, Paula K. and I have been discussing our visions for the future of the property. We envision encouraging all the healthy young spruces, cedars and madrones to grow and replace the lost trees. With less competition and more light they will shoot up. Where plants need to be replaced we favor using mainly native plants such as mahonia, salal, snowberry, flowering currant, service berry, blue and red huckleberry, vine maple, ocean spray, etc. You get the idea. These plants are available from the County Conservation District for a very low price. Perhaps some of you have purchased them from Sandy W. I expect that some of you also have plants you want to clear from your own place.

So, we'll form a sub-committee to work on restoring the land and making a really beautiful site. Anyone who wants to be included will, of course, be welcome to take an active part. If you have present concerns that need to be discussed, please contact me.

~ Marjorie L.

How Do I Become a Member of UUCWI?

If you've visited us a few times or have been attending our Sunday services regularly for several months and have decided you want to make UUCWI your spiritual home, you may be wondering how to take that next step – i.e. how to become a member. Once you recognize that the Unitarian Universalist principles are in line with your own values, the steps to UUCWI membership are quite simple. You sign the membership book, fill out a pledge card, and

attend one of our new member classes. These classes are held only a few times each year, but you don't need to wait for the next class to let us know that you want to become a member! Talk with Kit or someone on the Membership Committee if you wish to join. Membership Committee members include: Baird B., Earl B., Lois C., Ken Me., and Debbie Z. We hope you will decide to join us!

~Lois C. for the Membership Committee

Canvass Report

Thanks to all who worked on the 2007/2008 pledge drive! And thanks also to all members and friends who so generously pledged their financial support to UUCWI for this church year! Forty one household units have pledged a total of \$45,326.00 in cash or in-kind contributions for this year. The median pledge was \$850. If you have not yet signed a pledge card for this year, it is not too late. Please contact me and we can arrange a time to meet. Call me. I would love to chat with you about your wishes and dreams for UUCWI and how we might work together toward our goals.

~Lois C., Stewardship Chair

Children's Religious Education News

It's hard to believe another CRE year has passed, and what a year it has been! We had many 'firsts' this year – a preschool class, a special pre-coming of age program (Up and Coming Program) including mentors and a vision quest, a successful Earth Day intergenerational celebration, a CRE music program led by Linda G., a fundraiser for our service project, the purchase of a lamb through Heifer International and the implementation of some really good curricula.

It's been wonderful watching our children become UUs. They've not only learned our Seven Principles, but they have found ways to implement them in their daily lives. I encourage you to ask our children in the elementary class how they bring any one of the Principles into their lives. You will truly be amazed at their answers.

Again, I want to thank EVERYONE for their support of the CRE program. It truly "takes a congregation to raise a CRE program," and the support and warmth I have seen given to our

children have touched me deeply. It gives me such joy to see our children being greeted warmly by the adults in our congregation. I know it means the world to the children

My heartfelt gratitude goes to John L. for heading up the Youth Program and to our Up and Coming Program mentors – Dave C. and Camille L. The Up and Coming program allowed many of us to know Evan and Juli a bit better through the various activities and the sharing of their credos. As a mom and Director of Religious Education, I look forward to the day when my daughter and the other members of the elementary class will get to participate in this program. I know Juli and Evan found it very rewarding.

And I absolutely must say a huge THANK YOU to Linda G., who has worked so hard to bring music to our children. She has done a phenomenal job and comes in early every Sunday to help the children learn new songs. For those of you who have heard me try to sing, you know what a blessing this is!!

I'm also very grateful to everyone who has volunteered time in the classroom, signed up to be "in the wings" in case we need an extra hand, bought the handcrafted items from the children's fundraiser, brought aluminum in for recycling or materials for our craft projects or simply extended a warm hello to our children.

I also want to thank the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who have brought their children to participate in CRE. Because of your faith in what we could be, it is happening. We have a solid CRE program for our children, one we can be proud to offer newcomers and young families, and this is just the beginning. We have some very exciting things just on the horizon, and many of them will become firsts in our 2007-08 CRE session. Thank you again to everyone!!

With Warmth from the Flame,

~Lorie W., Director of Religious Education

From our Minister

Dear Whidbey Friends,

I hope you're enjoying your summer as much as I have been enjoying mine. It's been quite busy---I've been to Reno for my son's wedding, to General Assembly in Portland, to Moses Lake for the Fourth, and now I'm finally home for a couple of weeks before I leave again---for Portland for a wedding, to Astoria to preach, and then to Seabeck for August Eliot. Of course, here on the island there are zillions of things to do, with some kind of festival every weekend!

The new church year brings some interesting changes for us and I think you'll find them worthwhile. The Worship Committee and I have decided to create a smoother flow to our worship experience by connecting our worship to a Unitarian Universalist theme. This year we will use our UU Sources as the theme, and each month I will preach at least one sermon on one of the sources of our tradition. Other services during the month may also connect to one of our UU sources of inspiration.

The Sources are wide-ranging, as you might guess: direct experience of mystery and wonder; words and deeds of prophetic women and men; wisdom from the world's religions; Jewish and Christian teachings; Humanist teachings; Earth-centered teachings; and, one that influences us greatly but is not yet an official source, the arts. To augment this series, I hope to offer a monthly adult religious education class on the "theme of the month." More details will be forthcoming in the September newsletter. Our September class will address our first source: "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life." Be thinking about how this source relates to your understanding of religion and spirituality.

I'll look forward to seeing you at services in August, when we celebrate our lives together every Sunday morning on the land. And I hope you'll all be present on Sept. 9 when we invite the whole island to visit us to dedicate the building project which will (we hope) be well underway by then. See you soon!

Much Love, Kit



Up and Coming Class a Big Success

On June 10, UUCWI celebrated the successful completion of an Up and Coming (aka Coming of Age) class for our youth, Juli S. and Evan W. Juli and Evan both took part in the June 10 service, sharing their Credos and receiving the congratulations of the congregation for their accomplishment in a special reception after the service.

During this six month course, Juli and Evan studied our UU heritage, learned about spiritual practices, undertook some social action effort, served as layleaders for worship, participated in the Earth Day service, met with mentors Dave C. and Camille L, walked the Lavender Wind Farm labyrinth before spending a silent time on the beach writing in their journals, and discussed their beliefs and created their Credos in preparation for the June 10 service.

Rev. Kit Ketcham and DRE Lorie W. conducted the class and worked closely with Evan and Juli and their parents, Sandy W. and Ken M. and Rebecca and Jim S. They hope to continue a Youth program in the coming church year under John L.'s guidance.

~ Rev. Kit Ketcham

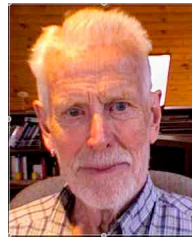
Community News

Thanks from Marilyn S.

As many of you know I got hit with pneumonia in mid-June, spent 6 days in Whidbey General, and have been home recovering ever since. Huge thanks to all of you for your thoughts and prayers, your cards, your food, your help with transportation, and your overall support.

Special thanks to Joan G. and the Caring Connections Committee for organizing so much of this help for me. What a community this is! I don't know what I would have done without you. I'm happy to report that as of this writing (July 17), I'm getting better and better and expect by the time you read this, I'll be back among you.

Love to all, Marilyn



The Prez Sez . . . Salvation

Peggy and I were visiting our daughter Lisa and her family on Martha's vineyard a few weeks back. I was struck by its history of revivalist fervor which started in the mid eighteen hundreds and continues to this day. The main meeting place is large with open sides and a metal roof surrounded by immaculately painted Victorian houses. These camp-meetings were originally Methodist and tens of thousands have visited. Many have been "saved" from hellfire and damnation.

Thank goodness we UUs have cast aside the original sin idea with all of its associated fear and guilt. But we still have a great responsibility to help raise our children to be responsible, caring and happy adults. Here at our Whidbey Congregation we are committing a lot of energy, money and time to have a vibrant CRE (Children's Religious Education) program in place. Hopefully we'll soon grow enough to the point where we can offer the UU sexuality curriculum, "Our Whole Lives", or OWL.

In the meantime many thanks to those who make our CRE programs go: Lorie W. (our Director of Religious Education, or DRE), Frances W. (Chair of the CRE Committee), John L. (the youth program), Mary G., Linda G., and Rev. Ketcham. Our CRE Programs are our future. Cheers,

~ Baird B., UUCWI President

Koffee Klatches

South End:

August 8, 10 a.m. to noon
Rockhoppers in Clinton

North End:

August 11, 1-3 p.m.
Café at Whidbey General Hospital
Coupeville

of Whidbey Island

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham (360-331-2163)

Chaplain: Bill Graves (360-341-1772)

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites 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 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. Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are deleted from the online version for members' privacy.

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Rebecca S., Newsletter Editor
 Mavis C., Church Coordinator
 Dave C., Webmaster

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