



Island Passages

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

August 2008

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3 Service 10am: Gearing Up (p2) NOTE: August services will be held outdoors on the church property, 20103 S.R. 525	4	5	6	7	8 BOT	9 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p3)
10 Service 10am: A Personal Journey to Peace (p2)	11 9am-3pm: Worship Leader Training (p4)	12	13	14	15	16
17 Service 10am: My Great Own Determination (p2)	18	19 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch at Rockhoppers (p3)	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 Service 10am: Worth and Dignity 101 (p2)	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Service 10am: A Passion for Social Justice (p2)						

August 3: Gearing Up**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

Let's talk about what the new church year holds for us: new spaces, new experiences, new faces, new ideas. In an informal, outdoor service, Rev. Kit Ketcham will welcome your thoughts and excitement about beginning a new church year in our new home, as we welcome many new folks, get used to meeting in our own space, find new ways of doing things. This will be an interactive service and we will meet on our new front lawn in front of our new building at 10 a.m.

*Worship Leader: Frank A**Membership: Baird B***August 10: A Personal Journey to Peace:****Challenges and Choices****Speaker: Martha Murphy**

Martha will be talking about her personal journey to finding peace in her life. She'll describe her experiences in overcoming some of the hurdles she has faced and how she has experienced adversity as opportunity for transformation. She will draw on her life's work with children to emphasize the importance of finding one's place, of mentors and role models, of spending time with people who inspire, and of choosing to be positive and happy.

*Worship Leader: Marilyn S**Membership: Ken M***August 17: My Great Own Determination:
Defining God & Goals in Route to Heaven.****Speaker: Marta Varea Pearson**

Marta will speak of her life experiences as an African American woman in Louisville, Kentucky, who found the UU church there. She will track her journey from believer to atheist to agnostic and beyond. When belief is not enough, what actions determine our hells and our heavens? What must we believe in and do to make a difference in our own lives and in the world? Marta works part-time for Catholic Community Services while running a training/consulting firm. She regularly attends the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mount Vernon.

*Worship Leader: Bill G**Membership: Lois C***August 24: Worth and Dignity 101****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism are foundational to our liberal, pluralistic faith. We begin with the idea that every human being has inherent worth and dignity. We believe that all human beings have inborn value and that it is the responsibility of the family and the community to shape a new life in positive ways. When this doesn't happen, lives are damaged. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about how this belief is lived out in Unitarian Universalism and at UUCWI.

*Worship Leader: Peggy B**Membership: Earl B***August 31: A Passion for Social Justice****Speaker: John Long**

Our own John Long will share stories from his lifetime of passion for social justice – from teaching youth for 30+ years to his current work with Habitat for Humanity.

*Worship Leader: Joan G**Membership: Mavis C***News and Events****Building Committee Report**

First and foremost, we extend a huge **Thank You** to outgoing Building Committee Chair, Sandy W. Sandy's done a wonderful job leading the effort – she's been effective, knowledgeable, and dedicated. But she needs to put her energies elsewhere right now and we wish her well. Another big thank you goes to Tom Buxton for stepping in as our new chair. And thanks to all the volunteers who are devoting so much time to this project! With our team effort we're going to have a lovely new home for our congregation so we can be an increasing asset to our community.

Again, there's lots of progress to report. All the ceramic tile and grout has been installed. Cabinets and counters are in place, along with a beautiful green marmoleum floor in the kitchen. An intrepid team of women has learned to install the bamboo flooring in the sanctuary and they are more than three quarters done. Decks and stairs outside the kitchen and classrooms are evolving. We're making arrangements for a concrete patio outside the south wall of the sanctuary.

The heat pump is marvelous! On a few really hot days, we tested its air conditioning mode and it made doing strenuous work much more comfortable.

The septic contractor is nearly finished. The electrician has installed most of the light fixtures and it's exciting to flip switches and have lights go on. The plumber is due any day. We're still hoping to receive our occupancy permit in early September, but we'll have a preliminary inspection in mid-August and that will give us a better idea of where we stand and how soon we can move in.

We still have lots to do, including mountains of interior trim to stain and install and then tackling the outdoors – especially preparing an outdoor play area for the children near the classroom wing. So contact Tom Buxton if you have skills to offer or questions about jobs to be done and scheduling. Contact Mavis if you would like to be added to the email distribution list so you can be informed about work parties.

~Mavis C for the Building Committee

Kitchen Shower

Everyone is cordially invited to a Kitchen Shower on Saturday, September 13th at our new (beautiful) kitchen. The Aesthetics Committee is hoping you'll enjoy participating in a potluck lunch (bring a salad - we'll supply everything else). We're also hoping you'll feel like bringing a shower gift (something for the kitchen). To make sure your gift isn't duplicated, or to get an idea of what we need, please call me (Mary) at 579-2838. I have a list of suggestions. We'd be delighted to receive new or gently used items. If I'm not at home, please leave a message and I'll return your call. We don't have a lot of storage space and we wouldn't want you to go out and buy something we don't need, so DO call. Looking forward to seeing you all there! Watch for more details in the September newsletter.

~Mary G

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey Friends,

It's been fun to be part of the work crew that is spending summer days laying floor, varnishing window trim, finishing cabinets, scrubbing newly grouted tile, pulling thistles, and relaxing over a quick lunch.



Though I've been "on vacation" during July, I can't turn off my thoughts about UUCWI and our community. I've come up with a few ideas for the new year that I thought I'd share with you. None of them is carved in stone, but they're things we might consider doing.

How about a talent show and chili or chowder cook-off, just for fun? We have lots of talent in the congregation for both performance and for food!

How about if we get involved with Good Cheer food bank and spend a few Tuesday evenings there volunteering?

How about if we put together a Pete Seeger (he's a Unitarian, you know) celebratory benefit concert in May, to mark his 90th birthday?

How about if we put an Amazon link on our website, so that we can buy our books through Amazon and benefit the congregation to the tune of 4% or so, every time we buy a book?

Other ideas are floating around in my brain as well. Stay tuned!

Much love,
Kit

Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

- *North End:* 1-3 pm, Saturday, August 9, 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, August 19, 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.

The Prez Says:

We are three weeks into the new church year. It promises to be full of challenges:
 1-Dealing with a mortgage on our building. 2-Maintaining the stunning quality of our worship services though moving to a

10am Sunday time slot. 3-Integrating the new members into our committee structures to keep pace with the spiritual needs of a changing congregation.

First I must tell you about Sandy W. She is a designer, contractor and decision maker par excellence. We have had the gift of her chairmanship of the Building Committee for over a year. This committee has met weekly because of the myriad of decisions involved in a building project of this magnitude. After a year of selfless service, Sandy has turned her chairmanship responsibilities over to Tom B who will lead us in the final phase. Thank you, Sandy, for your year of peerless service. And thank you, Tom, for leading us in our final push.

We are grateful to Trinity Lutheran Church, Pastor Lindus, Robin and the whole staff for providing us an affordable meeting space over the last 10 years. Come the end of July, we will have officially moved out. Trinity Lutheran has been kind and generous to us. We are in their debt.

Services on the property will start outdoors at 10am through August. The first service in our new building, our annual ingathering service, will be 10am, Sunday September 7. This service will be followed by an outdoor salmon bake potluck at noon. Tim and Paula will have caught the fish in Alaska. Bring your own plates and silverware and potluck contribution. There will be a charge of \$5.00 per adult and \$10.00 per family. Our Children's programs will start September 14.

We can look forward to having the formal dedication of our facility within the year. We will invite dignitaries from the Pacific Northwest to help celebrate this event.

All things falling into place and if the creek don't rise, we will have a grand celebration September 7. See you then!

~Baird

Worship Leader Training: Monday, Aug. 11

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 chAging 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

Online Slide Show of Work at Our Building

A slideshow of some of Joan G. photos of recent work at our building can be viewed from the home page of our website at:

<http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/>

Click on **Construction Highlights** and then click on the photos to step through the show.

A Note from your Board President and Minister

Dear Whidbey Friends,

Earlier this summer, we received a phone inquiry from a man who wanted to visit us but is a Level II sex offender. Because our first priority in a situation like this is the protection of our youth, children, and adult survivors, we have investigated his situation and have learned some ways of dealing with it.

Kit talked with the man directly, told him that she would talk with his parole officer, and that if he were to visit, it could only be under tightly controlled conditions, and that the congregation would need to be made aware of his presence.

When Kit talked with the parole officer, she learned that he is forbidden to visit any places where youth and children congregate. That means that it is illegal for him to visit us at the present time. The parole officer also stipulated that, in order to be approved to visit a church, he must be in sexual deviancy treatment, in compliance with the conditions of his parole, and have an approved chaperone. Only then will the PO work with him to develop a safety plan for him to visit and will let Kit know if he would like to visit.

This is not an uncommon challenge for churches and we have many resources available to us through the UUA and our district. In addition, our DRE Lorie and RE committee have instituted protections for children in classes; every teacher or helper undergoes a Washington State Patrol process to ensure the appropriateness of all of those who work with our children.

The board has undertaken the challenge of developing a policy for being both protective and kind. All the board members and RE staff have a picture of the fellow, just in case he decides to visit unauthorized. This is highly unlikely, as his PO was upset that he had even called us. He's unlikely to be approved to visit any time soon.

We are confident that we can protect our vulnerable folks adequately and feel that you, our members and friends, will help keep each other safe, while hoping that this man's treatment and the conditions of his parole will help him change what must be a very unhappy way to live. If you have questions or concerns, please talk with Kit or with a Board member.

~Kit and Baird

Linda G's Visit to Revolution Church

Recently I was visiting my daughter Nancye in Brooklyn. She, her husband Paul, grandson Jason and I went to a 4pm service of the Revolution Church in Williamsburg. We were hoping to hear the Reverend Vince, who presided at Nancye and Paul's wedding, but since it was the 4th of July weekend he was away, and instead we heard Jay Bakker. The website is: www.revolutionnyc.com and their slogan is: "As Christians, we're sorry for being self-righteous, judgmental bastards: A church for people who have given up on church."

The Revolution Church has its service in the back of Pete's Candy Store, a club, or bar. It was a new experience for me to be drinking a dark ale and eating chips while listening to a sermon. The room was long and narrow, with a theatrical feel, red-purple velvet walls, and a curved small stage with a drum and sound system. Reverend Jay (son of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker) was fairly young, with a beard, a navy blue cap, a tee shirt and tattoos on his arms.

The audience, or maybe they were members, were mostly young, and sitting at tables along the walls. There was no order of service and I was disappointed there was no music, though Rev. Vince does gospel and sometimes has his Love Choir. Rev. Jay started with a Bible quote from Romans, and talked about Paul saying there was no condemnation in Christ, "Love God as your neighbor with all your heart." The religion he preaches is one of ethics rather than theology. My favorite part of his talk was when he said the Universalists believe that hell is empty. Rev. Jay quoted Thomas Paine as saying: "Religion is to do good." The last part of the hour he picked up speed and his testimonial. "Paul's writing changed my life!" "You don't need to earn salvation, it's free!" "You have to accept yourself as 100% saint and 100% sinner."

The gist of the message was that the evangelicals have values that are judgmental, but that Christ would have forgiven your sins. After the service the club had scheduled an open mic session. Outdoors in the courtyard they had a BBQ.

~Linda Good

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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

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

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
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