



Island Passages

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

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Service 10am: A Clear View (p2)	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8 9 am: Calendar Workshop at Trinity: Committee Heads and other interested parties
9 Service 4-5pm: Returning Home to UUCWI (p2) 5pm: Building Our New Home, followed by Salmon Bake/Potluck (p.2)	10 9am: Worship Committee at Trinity	11	12 9am: Board of Trustees at Trinity 7pm: Women's Group (p2)	13	14 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch (p7)	15 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch (p7)
16 Service 4-5pm at Trinity: Choosing Hope (p2) CRE Begins for the year (p6)	17	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 9am-12 noon: Lay Leader Workshop at Trinity (p.5)
23 Service 4-5pm: Source #1: Direct Experience of Mystery and Wonder (p2)	24	25	26	27	28	29 7pm: Conversation about Source #1, at Rev. Kit Ketcham's home (p7)
30 Service 4-5pm: From Fundamentalism to Freedom (p2)						

September 2: A Clear View

UUCWI thespians will present a reader's theater version of "A Clear View", a short play by Amanda Aikman, which addresses with gentle humor the challenge of acceptance of differing beliefs. Following the play we'll include the audience in a discussion of some of the issues raised. Sandy W., Mavis C., and Dave C. will fill roles as players, lay leader, and discussion facilitator. Rev. Ketcham will provide refreshments. Note that this is the last 10 am service of the summer. It will be on the property.

September 9: Returning Home to UUCWI, held on the church property

Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

4 pm: Our annual Water Ceremony and inter-generational ingathering means the beginning of the new year in our congregation. You are invited to bring a small amount of water from a place that has been important to you spiritually this past summer. We will pool our waters, tell some stories, and enjoy being together again as a community.

5pm: A short public ceremony with community leaders and visitors will celebrate the beginning of work on our new building, to be followed by our annual salmon feast and potluck. Robert Simon Siegel on African Drums will entertain us.

→Please bring a side dish to share and your own table service. \$5/person or \$10/family for salmon. RSVP to Mary G.

September 16: Choosing Hope (4pm at Trinity)

Speaker: Fritz Hull

What is the role of hope at this critical time in Earth's history? Could this be the crucial factor necessary for us to survive and thrive? Choosing power-filled hope (not false optimism) could lead us to a new explosion of creativity and dedicated hard work, making possible a healthy future.

Fritz Hull is Director of the Spirit of Legacy Project, Founding Director of the Whidbey Institute at Chinook, Editor of "Earth & Spirit – The Spiritual Dimension of the Environmental Crisis," a graduate of the UW and Princeton Seminary, and has a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Seminary. He has been a Whidbey Island Resident since 1972.

Lay Leader: Malcolm F.

September 23: Source #1: Direct Experience of Mystery and Wonder

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Our Living Tradition draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which move us to a renewal of spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about this Source and what it means to our spiritual lives.

Sept 30: From Fundamentalism to Freedom

Speaker: Marc Adams

Award winning author Marc Adams shares his journey from being a fundamentalist Baptist preacher's son to his time as a student and employee of Jerry Falwell's university, to his coming out and also of coming out of fundamentalism, and how he became a Unitarian Universalist. Marc Adams lives in Seattle and is the author of nine books. His autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, garnered him much critical acclaim, and the 2007 edition of his book, *Do's and Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right* has recently been released. (All of Marc's books and resources will be available at the service.)

Lay Leader: Kit Ketcham

News and Events**Women's Group: Wed., September 12**

The first Women's Discussion Group of the new fellowship year is on Wed., Sept. 12th. The topic is "The UU Principle That Speaks to You Personally." Take a look at the back of our "Order of Service" in the next few Sundays and think about the principle that means the most to you. We will meet at Debbie Z.'s home. If you need directions, call Debbie. New people welcome! Coffee/tea at 7pm. Discussion starts at 7:30 Bring a folding chair if you can, in case of a crowd!

~Camille L

Building Committee News Flash!!

The county has approved our building permit! So as soon as it can be scheduled, contractors will start digging for the foundation. Foundation work should take about 3 weeks, to be followed by framing, which will be an additional 5 weeks or so.

Meanwhile, basic grading of the loop driveway is complete and minimal gravel has been spread. Since trenches for the ground-source heat pump will be dug under the drive, final graveling will not be done until that trenching is complete. A work party of intrepid UUCWers worked in the rain to trench and lay a water line to the building location.

We've settled on a lighting plan for the meeting hall. The building will have almost exclusively fluorescent lighting — including the pendants and wall sconces in the meeting hall and foyer, fluorescent downlights in the kitchen, fluorescent vanity and ceiling fixtures in the restrooms, and basic fluorescents in the classrooms and office.

Also, we've installed a separate Building Schedule on our website, www.whidbey.com/uucwi. Clicking on that option on our home page will bring up a calendar of building related milestones. You're invited to use this tool to stay informed about what's going on and what's upcoming.

With the building permit in hand, we're ready to make speedier progress!

~Mavis C.

**Book Group: rescheduled to
Tuesday October 9th, 6 pm
Potluck Dinner, Movie, and discussion of
*The Painted Veil***

Read this wonderful book published in 1925 by Somerset Maugham; then come and enjoy the movie and a pot-luck dinner at the C's. Following dinner and the movie, we'll discuss the book and the movie and compare. We'll take a close look at Maugham the writer too and, of course, there's lots to talk about with respect to how and why the film director John Curran handled Maugham's story the way he did.

Already seen the film on the big screen? Come anyway! Never participated in our book group before? Make this your first time!

Dinner and the movie will begin at 6pm. Mavis will make lasagna for all. Please bring a salad, a dessert, some bread or a beverage to share with others. Wine is OK.

Please RSVP if at all possible so that Mavis knows how many to make lasagna for!

See you there!

~Joan G.



From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey friends,

The summer has been wonderful, but I'm so glad to be back home and looking forward to spending my time with you and with the larger community of Whidbey Island. I got my son married off successfully to a lovely young woman; I enjoyed General Assembly in Portland and Eliot Institute in Seabeck; I spent almost a month away from home on my various travels and it's so good to be back again, with few travels ahead of me for the next several weeks.

As we look ahead to the coming year together as a congregation, we will be thinking about how to open our arms and hearts to those who will come looking for us as our building takes shape; we will be considering how we can welcome them most effectively; and we will also be reaching out to each other, to bring us closer as a congregation of like-minded folks.

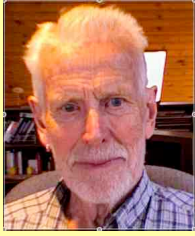
One of my undertakings for the year will be helping the Worship Committee develop a theme for our services. We have chosen to use the Unitarian Universalist Sources as our theme and I will be speaking on each Source during the coming year. In addition, I will offer an evening of wine and cheese and conversation about each Source, using a variety of supplemental materials to help us in our consideration. Look for more information in this issue of the newsletter about the September Source and its follow-up Conversation Evening.

On September 9, we are inviting the community to join us in dedicating ourselves to the new building, receiving the encouragement and greetings of Island community leaders, and feasting on salmon. Mark your calendars for our Ingathering Water Ceremony at 4 pm, an intergenerational service, and our public gathering at 5 p.m., followed by our annual salmon feast.

See you in September!

Much love,

Kit



The Prez Sez . . .

Roy B. showed up at the Building Committee Meeting on August 17, 2007 with a Building Permit for our Meeting Hall, an auspicious day indeed! How lucky we are to have such knowledgeable and good people pitching in under Sandy W.'s leadership. They are meeting weekly on the church property.

At 5pm on September 9, after our 4pm special Ingathering church service, we will introduce the plans for our future facility to the community leadership and the press, to be followed by our salmon bake. We need a rousing turnout for the salmon bake. Members and friends, of course, but bring a guest too. Let's share our dreams in high-spirited fashion.

What about FAITH? Each week when I read the seven principles on the back of the Order of Service I am uplifted by their promise: The promise of a better world, Justice and Equity, the inherent worth and dignity of all persons. What a different world it would be if we had equality of the sexes worldwide. If one's sexuality was respected and sacrosanct.

So often one has to have faith to believe in fantastic notions and allegories. I have FAITH that working with our religious principles will make for a better world.

Shalom,
Baird B.

Results of Worship Committee Survey

This last spring, the worship committee requested your opinions and suggestions regarding speakers, topics/themes and the structure of our weekly services. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond. Your ideas matter to us, and we are using them to develop the next year's roster of speakers and programs. And for those of you who did not respond, I hope you will consider doing so this next year, especially if your ideas differ significantly from what you are about to read below.

We asked who were your favorite speakers, and as you might imagine nearly every speaker was a favorite of someone's. Kit was praised for the diversity of her topics and the warm way she

embraces all comers to the church – members, friends and visitors. The “most favorite” speakers after Kit were Sharon Parks, Tom Walker, Rachel Taber-Hamilton, Larry Daloz, Chris Highland, Jamal Rahman and Bill Graves. Especially popular non-sermon programs were the Soap Box Sundays, This I Believe, the intergenerational service on Earth Day, Hymn Sing, our Christmas program, and Mary G.'s poetry sharing. Suggested topics for next year were as diverse as our population – more science, contemporary global issues like coping with diminishing resources, tyranny, and Africa's orphans. We were asked to bring a more personal emphasis, like expanding consciousness, simplifying our lives, feminism, non-violent communications, living our beliefs and building community. And we were invited to explore myths of our times, reincarnation, mysticism, goddess cultures, and Buddhism. And how many weeks do we meet next year??? Goodness but we are going to be busy!

In the general category of “what should we know” we had further expressed appreciation of Kit and joyful anticipation of her being in the pulpit fully 1/2 of our services. We were asked to inspire you, to be especially welcoming to children and visitors, to limit the services to one hour so rumps were less likely to ache, to appeal to members from other religious traditions and to use more of their readings, to bring more local ministers from other faith traditions, and to not scold on environmental issues.

Finally we inquired about the balance of our programs – whether you wanted more/fewer/the same of visiting UU ministers, other guest speakers, member sermons and member-created non-sermon programs. Here are the results of that inquiry:

Other UU ministers: 6 wanted more, 7 wanted the same, 2 wanted fewer;

Other guest speakers: 2 wanted more, 7 wanted the same, 3 wanted fewer;

Member sermons: 3 wanted more, 9 wanted the same, 1 wanted fewer;

Non-sermon programs: 4 wanted more, 7 wanted the same, 3 wanted fewer.

(Yes – if you added the votes you will notice that the numbers do not match. No, there is not an error. Not everyone voted in every category.)

So... what do we make of this survey? What do YOU think? I am reminded of the diversity of expectations we bring to this congregation. Many of us come here fleeing other traditions so we know what we do NOT want. Others are attracted to this community especially because we are non-traditional but want our own rituals to become strengthened and "traditional". The scientific perspective that intrigues one member is off-putting to another. The folksy down home warmth of a lay leader that appeals to one member is perceived as non-professional by another.

We on the worship committee live with more questions than answers: Do our invited musicians provide background and mood, or is their music a performance? Do we ask a very few people to be lay leaders so they get polished, or do we invite the most participation possible so everyone who so desires gets to make their personal contribution to the worship service? Should we have a consistent pattern for every service or should we create variety to appeal to all tastes? How do we create services where every congregant can find what they want but are not put off by aspects of the service intended to appeal to other members?

As you can see, answers are not simple. What generates inspiration in one person is likely to generate apathy in another. And perhaps that's the best cause of celebration for us all! Our UU congregation offers us diversity of content, of appeal, of intent, of message. Hopefully we are a shelter to all, and you can each find something compelling to bring you back week after week.

Please continue to talk with us. We are here to serve your interests, and we can only do so with your feed-forward. ~Terri A.

Membership Volunteer Opportunities

A large element of "membership" in UUCWI is participation. We're a community pledged to support each other, and that in part depends on your assistance in church life. *We need EVERY member (and interested friend) to help us make services enjoyable celebrations by volunteering to bring refreshments at least once each year. We also need members to usher (set up and put away the sanctuary) once each year.* Your personal participation will make a difference – to your fellow members and friends, and to the visitors who cross our threshold and are met with warm,

organized welcome. Mavis C., our church coordinator, will be contacting you to see when you would be able to do this. Or contact her to schedule your days. Many thanks!

~ Baird B., President

~ Lois C., Membership Chair

~ Terri A., Worship Chair

Lay Leader Workshop: September 22

Please join the worship committee on September 22nd, from 9 am until noon, in the sanctuary at Trinity, for a lay leader workshop. We will spend time in reflection about what we most appreciate in our services, what resources are available to us for stories, opening words, etc. We'll share our best practices and learn from each other's experiments and successes. We will review the list of "duties" that comprise a lay leader's job, see a video by Dr Marcia Mcfee examining what makes worship appealing to the wide variety of tastes embodied by UU's. So come, come, whoever you are. Come with your questions as well as your best ideas. Whether you are an experienced lay leader, a curious lay leader, a lay leader want-to-be, or are simply wondering what a lay leader does – you all are welcome. Your presence will enhance all our learning.

~Terri A.

Choir News

We're filling the calendar for our lay-led choir. I'll be leading in October. We'll rehearse Oct. 7 and rehearse and perform Oct 21. Please mark your calendars, 2:00 at Trinity. I'll be phoning each choir member, so please decide which month you'd like to be leader, and the dates in the month that are best.

Thanks to these folks for volunteering to be lay-leaders for choir:

Frank A.: November

Nola A.: December

Mavis C.: February 2008

Peggy B.: March 2008

Marilyn S.: April 2008

Michael B.: May 2008

So that leaves only January to fill.

We've been enjoying CRE music together. I try to fit it in before the service, 3:30-3:55. It is always nice to have anyone else who feels like singing join us, like Baird has done, with enthusiasm! "You've got to shout when the spirit says SHOUT." Several of our youth are learning piano, so we often practice in Grigware Hall. I'm also trying to involve instrumentalists.

Heidi has accepted a position as Music Director for West Seattle UU, so will not be available to accompany this year. We wish her the best.

~Linda G.

Religious Education News

With August comes September and the start of the 2007-2008 Children's Religious Education (CRE) session. We have some great things planned for the coming year for every level of religious education, including adult RE. Classes for children resume September 16th!!

We'll start the year with registration for classes following the service on September 9th. We'll have a table set up where you can get more information on the exciting programs planned for the year, volunteering your time and energy to the children's program, finding out more about our curriculum and just about anything else you're curious about regarding religious education.

Music will continue to be a big part of our program thanks to UUCWI music director Linda G. She is starting off this year's session with a small program September 9th. The children have worked hard to learn the music; well actually, they have had a lot of fun learning the music including a special mini CRE music class/potluck at Freeland Park August 28th. The children will also be sharing their musical talents with us throughout the year. We have some wonderful inter-generational services planned this session.

Here is a basic outline of what you can expect in this year's session:

- Childcare with Niki S. (newborn to 2).
- Preschool using the UU curriculum "Chalice Children" for the first half of the session and then kick off our new Spirit Play program coming in January 2008 with DRE Lorie W. (ages 3-5).
- Elementary Class using UU curriculum "Free to Believe" with Jennifer T. (ages 6-10).

- Youth Class using UU curriculum "Compass Points" with John L. (ages 11-14).

Adult RE – things are still in the works, so keep checking back, but one item I can share with you is that we will be offering a Spiritual Parenting class (date to be determined).

We will also be starting a youth program for our middle-school youth. We will be partnering with other UU Congregations in nearby communities as well! We're hoping to send our two youth to the UU Middle School Conference in late September.

The elementary children will be introducing their new service project. I will let them tell you all about that in the upcoming weeks. I'm sure we'll all be eager to support their endeavors in these worthwhile projects!

One of the most exciting prospects for the 2007-2008 session is the addition of Spirit Play to our program. Spirit Play is a widely used UU curriculum that is based on Montessori methods. I encourage you to take a look at the website: www.spiritplay.net to get more information. Nita Penfold, D. Min., will be coming to UUCWI (Thank you Frances W. for the use of your home and Mavis C. in helping orchestrate all of the logistics!) to bring this training to the Northwest. We have DREs and instructors coming from all around Puget Sound and Oregon to attend this one-day training.

More to come in the upcoming months!
With warmth from the flame,
~Lorie W., Director of Religious Education

Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

North End: 1-3 pm, Saturday, Sept. 15, the North End Koffee Klatch will meet in the Whidbey General Cafeteria. This is a week later than we have been meeting. Depending on attendees' preferences, this may be a temporary change, but in September, it will work better for some.

South End: 10am-12noon, Friday, Sept. 14, the South End Koffee Klatch will meet at Rockhoppers in Clinton. Rockhoppers will be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning in September, and Rene has suggested that we move to Monday, Tuesday, or Friday. In September, we'll try Friday!

Conversation Evening about Source #1

On September 29, at 7 pm, you are invited to join Rev. Kit Ketcham and others to discuss our Unitarian Universalist Source #1, which states “The Living Tradition we share draws from many sources, (including) 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.”

The gathering will be at Kit’s home; phone for directions if necessary. Kit will provide wine and cheese and other beverages and snacks. To prepare for the evening ahead of time, if possible please watch the movie “Smoke”, starring Harvey Keitel, William Hurt, Stockard Channing, Forrest Whitaker, and others. We will talk about the movie’s themes of spirituality and how they inform the lives of the characters.

Spiritual Direction Opportunity

Christine Betz Hall, a friend and classmate of Bill G. at Seattle University, will be offering spiritual direction on Whidbey Island in September, 2007. Christine is of the Quaker tradition and will be fulfilling requirements for her spiritual director's certificate so there will be no charge. Christine describes spiritual direction as "a companionable relationship in which one person helps another to notice and name experiences of the transcendent in everyday life, and to discern how Spirit might be inviting change or transformation—personally."

For more information, call Christine at 360-341-1994 (christine@whidbey.net).

~Bill G.

UUCWI Directory

The new directory will be printed and distributed in late September. PLEASE inform the church administrator (Mavis at uuwhidby@whidbey.com) about any changes to your entry ... Or with other ideas about how to improve the content and value of our directory. Thanks!

~Mavis C.

Did You Know...?

We Unitarian Universalists want to be effective trustees and stewards of our great liberal religious heritage. We want future generations to inherit and enjoy this free faith, and we know financial support is vital to this hope. You can now make a “legacy gift” to UUCWI and/or UUA.

The most common type of legacy gift is a bequest, also called a testamentary gift, by including in your will, language such as the following: “I give _____ [\$ amount, description of property, or % of estate] _____ to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island, a church located in Freeland, Washington, for its unrestricted use.” When your estate is settled, upon your death, UUCWI will benefit from your generosity.

Another type of gift is a “life income gift” such as a charitable gift annuity. A charitable gift annuity is one type of arrangement whereby you contribute cash or stock now in exchange for a pledge by the UUA, as trustee, to pay one or two people a guaranteed income for life, at a rate based on the age(s) of the annuitant(s). The UUA invests the funds in socially responsible investments and handles all the mechanics. Upon your death, UUCWI will receive what remains of your gift. If you are planning for retirement or want to increase income, reduce capital gains taxes, secure a fixed income, and make a significant gift to the future of Unitarian Universalism, then you may wish to consider this option.

There are several other life income gift options; check them out at:

www.uua.org/giving/plannedgifts/index.shtml .

You can call the UUA toll-free at 888-792-5885 or email giftplans@uua.org for more details and application forms. You should talk to your estate planner and tax advisor to clarify the tax benefits of legacy gifts. Consider leaving a legacy of generosity to support and inspire succeeding generations. Your gift to UUCWI can keep the chalice fires burning.

~Dave C., Finance Committee chair

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2007 - 2008 Board of Trustees

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Pat L., Secretary

Paula K., Treasurer

Frank A., Trustee

Lois C., Trustee

Mary G., Trustee

Camille L., 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 (360-341-1772);

Our minister and chaplains 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.

Communications Committee:

Rebecca S., Newsletter Editor

Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dave C., Webmaster

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