



# 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/)

## December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 4:00p -5:00p Service: Waiting....	4	5 7:00p Women's Discussion Group (p. 2)	6	7 Board meeting	8	9 9:00a -11:00a Conversation on Heating Options (p. 3) 1:00p -3:00p North End Koffee Klatch (p. 2)
10 2:00p Music Rehearsal (p. 3) 4:00p -5:00p Service: Surprised by Joy	11 9:00a Worship Committee meeting at Trinity	12 6:00p Christmas Book Exchange and Potluck (p. 3)	13 10:00a - 12:00p South End Koffee Klatch (p. 2)	14	15	16
17 2:00p Music Rehearsal (p. 3) 4:00p -5:00p Service: Light and Love — A Solstice Celebration	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 4:00p -5:00p Service: Carols, Candles, and Stories 5:00p Christmas Eve reception (p. 3)	25 Christmas Dinner Potluck (p. 3)	26 newsletter deadline	27	28	29	30
31 4:00p -5:00p Service: Soap Box Sunday	<p>Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's website: <a href="http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/">www.whidbey.com/uucwi/</a></p>					

**December 3rd — Waiting....**  
**with guest speaker Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks**

It has been said that one of the most difficult things we are asked to do as human beings is to wait. This season of Advent and Winter Solstice invites us to reflect on the questions: Why, how, and for what do we wait? Can waiting be a spiritual practice?

Dr. Parks is an author and teacher, director of the Leadership for the New Commons at the Whidbey Institute at Chinook. She was formerly a member of the faculty at Harvard Divinity School.

*Lay Leader: Dave C.*

**December 10th — Surprised by Joy**  
**with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

As we enter the holiday season, we have an opportunity to consider the magic and meaning of human life. We may be joyful at the magic and fearful of the responsibilities of life. Reverend Kit Ketcham will speak about the joyful surprises of spirituality and how we can prepare ourselves to receive them.

*Lay Leader: Carol B.*

**December 17th — Light and Love: A Solstice Celebration**

Please join us for a service of music, poetry and community singing honoring the winter solstice and the global celebrations of rebirth. The youth will sing for us; the choir, led by Nola Allen, will present special music; the prelude and postlude will be played by a string quartet with Peggy Bardarson and friends; the growing recorder group will play; there will be rounds and a winter solstice chant so bring your drums if you would like to help supply rhythm for the chant. Readings from several cultures will be included. Bring your singing voice and your listening ears and join the festivities.

*Lay Leader: Mary G.*

**December 24th — Carols, Candles, and Stories**  
**with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

On this Christmas Eve, we will sing carols, hear stories, dedicate several children, and close with candlelight. Reverend Kit Ketcham and DRE Lorie Wood will present this service, with the help of Bill Graves and Cynthia Brix. This is our first child dedication service together. Please make this intergenerational worship service a part of your Christmas, by bringing visiting family members for a wonderful evening. There will be a Christmas Eve goodie-sharing reception after the service!

*Lay Leaders: Bill G. and Cynthia B.*

**December 31st — Soap Box Sunday**

The third such service we've offered, this will have a focus on the third principle: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation." Five members of the congregation will share their thoughts on this topic.

*Lay Leader: Toyon C.*

## Congregational News & Events

**Women's Discussion Group, December 5th**

Please join us on the first Tuesday of each month for discussion of the current topic, getting to know other women, and bringing new ideas for upcoming gatherings. This month the discussion will be suggested by our reading of Mary Oliver's *New and Selected Poems*, pages 1 to 34, but you don't have to have read this in order to be comfortable joining us.

We will meet at the home of Gail A in Langley. You may call her for directions and to RSVP. We meet at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and at 7:30 we open the circle.

**Koffee Klatches, December 9th and 13th**

NEKK (North End Koffee Klatch) will meet at Whidbey General's West Wind cafeteria on December 9th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for good cheap food, good coffee, and wonderful conversation.

SEKK (South End Koffee Klatch) will now meet regularly at Rockhoppers Coffee Shop in Clinton (Hwy 525 and Frost St.) from 10:00 a.m.-12 noon on December 13th. This will be our regular place and the second Wednesday of each month will be our date from now on. Rockhoppers is a fabulous place owned by Rene and Dan Schlangen, who are longtime UUCWers.

### **Conversation: Global Warming and Heating System Options for our Church, December 9th**

Our supplemental capital campaign seeks to raise extra funds to equip our new church with a ground source heat pump for the heating system. This conversation will begin with sharing information about the global warming challenge and the rationale to eliminate fossil fuels as the heating source from our homes and community buildings. After considering the nature of this "moral imperative" we will then look at information on the approximate "economics" of this choice versus a conventional propane heating system at current energy costs and some speculations on future energy costs. The purpose of the conversation is two fold: 1) inform and motivate members to contribute funds for this important aspect of our building program: 2) stimulate your thinking about the heating requirements and methods in you own home — might some changes be appropriate in the near future???

The conversation will take place 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (if available, otherwise at a private residence in Freeland).

~ Tom B.

### **Music Rehearsals, December 10th and 17th**

Attention all those interested in singing with the choir for the special Christmas service on December 17th, we will meet on Sunday December 10th at 2:00 p.m. for rehearsal and again on December 17th at 2:00 p.m. The music will not be difficult and should be fun to sing. I will be directing the music for this service and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

~ Nola A.

### **Christmas Book Exchange and Potluck, December 12th**

The Book Club's annual book exchange will happen at 6:00 p.m. on December 12th at the home of Gail and John Adams. Give your once-read hibernating books new life by putting them in a pool where they can find new owners. Books will be chosen from the 'pool' on a round-robin basis by lottery. Bring food to share for a potluck dinner before the book exchange; beverages will be provided.

Also, think about picking up a copy of January's selection for discussion sometime soon. *Benjamin Franklin: an American Life* by Walter Isaacson, is 590 pages long! There appears to be 12 copies of this book in the Sno-Isle Library System. It is also available in audio format.

~ Marilyn S.

### **Christmas Dinner Potluck, December 25th**

Dinner at Kit's in Freeland. Kit will roast a turkey with stuffing and provide beverages and tableware. You bring the fixings! This potluck is for all those who would like to share Christmas Day with friends. Please let Kit know if you are coming so she knows how big a turkey to get!

### **Eliot Institute, December 28th-January 1st**

The folks at Eliot Institute want to know, "What are you doing for New Year's?" Winter Eliot has become a New Year tradition for many UUs. Relaxing in front of a cozy fire and sharing stories with friends is a peaceful antidote to the mania and stress of the holidays. Read, knit, nap. Be inspired by music and worship. Welcome 2007 with an intergenerational dance followed by a delectable midnight feast. The Reverend Patrick O'Neill, long-time friend of Pacific Northwest UUs, will lead us in considering the implications of living a "reasonable ethical life" in an age of religious extremism and intolerance. Children and youth programs, too. December 28th to January 1st at Seabeck Conference Center on beautiful Hood Canal in Washington. Registration and information at [www.EliotInstitute.org](http://www.EliotInstitute.org), 206-374-2497 and [registrar@eliotinstitute.org](mailto:registrar@eliotinstitute.org).

### **Call to Auction! February 10th**

*Together we'll gather 'round Ken  
All hoping for goodies to win.  
Then having done well,  
With nothing to sell,  
We'll auction the socks off of him!*

Here's a challenge: can you write a better limerick about our annual FUN-raiser coming February 10th? Turn yours in to Joan G., Mary G., or John L. before January 15th and you may win \$25 in free "Auction Money." The auction committee will vote and the best limerick will be published in the February newsletter. While you're at it, start thinking about what you'd like to donate to the auction. We'll be

asking for your "Auction Promises" early next month. This is our biggest gala event and fundraiser. You might want to bring a guest or two to include them in opportunities to connect on a more intimate basis with other members of our congregation.

### **New UU Workshop, January 13th**

Question: What do all the of the following have in common?

- the oldest continuously operating church in the U.S. ( in Salem, Massachusetts)
- three of the five first Presidents of the United States
- the discoverers of oxygen and the theory of evolution
- the first female ordained by a denomination to the ministry in the U.S.
- the founders of Harvard University, the American Red Cross, the NAACP, and the ACLU

Answer: They all described themselves as Unitarians or Universalists.

One of the strongest threads that holds our denomination together is a shared history of innovation and influence out of proportion to our numbers. This workshop will delve into the fundamentals of that heritage, address who we currently are in terms of theology and organization, and discuss some of the benefits and expectations of membership.

The workshop is particularly intended for prospective or recently joined members. In fact our congregation considers this class to be so essential that its bylaws make attendance a prerequisite to membership (unless waived by the chair of the Membership Committee). The workshop is also for anyone wishing to understand more about our movement, whether newcomer or old-timer.

The workshop will be held 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday January 13th at Trinity Lutheran. A light lunch will be provided. The workshop will be led by Bill G. and friends.

### **President's Column**

by Toyan C., UUCWI President

Nothing like a potluck supper to emphasize the need for a home of our own! Just try locating the tablecloths, for example. No place to keep them "on site", so they get passed around. It took four phone calls to figure out when they were last used and who took them home for safekeeping. Please help me remember that the cloths are now with me – waiting for the next event and, ultimately, for their permanent home.

That new home is getting closer. The County is expected to issue a permit during the first week of December to implement the site plan, and the building permit will come soon thereafter. Now we need a final financial push.

Why? Mostly because building costs have been going up and up. We've done quite well considering rough estimates were made some time ago and actual bids are now coming in close to those original numbers. But we do need an additional \$20,000 to provide a comfortable "cushion" in meeting these basic costs. A reasonable contingency fund is a must!

Meeting the goal of the Building Committee and the Board of Trustees to build "green" will also require some additional funds. The bid for a ground source heat pump is expected to show we need an additional \$20,000 for this environmentally friendly system. And a metal roof will be \$10,000 more than the composition one in the original plans.

That's a total of just \$50,000 more that is needed from all of us. We're so close, let's not waver now!

And, especially, let's not let go of our commitment to our seventh principle – promoting respect for the earth and environment. The heat pump will not use fossil fuel. It actually takes the heat out of the earth and transfers it to where we need it! We now know it will cost a little more to install, but it will cost a great deal less to operate. And we can be proud forever after of our decision to do this.

Malcolm F., Baird B. and Tom B. – and many others – are to be commended for their hard work to date in determining which "green" materials, systems and methods will work best for us and our budget.

If you have not already received a mailing from the Capital Campaign Committee about this, you will very soon. Please give very serious thought to how you can participate. Maybe a payment before the end of the year will be a useful tax deduction? Think of it as an

investment in the future of liberal religion on South Whidbey. And as a contribution to taking good care of our Mother Earth. We will all benefit as will many others!

### Choir News

Special thanks to Michael B. for leading our choir during October. Nola Allen will lead in December, and Marilyn S. has agreed to lead in January. We'll continue with lay-lead choir thru May. Then we'll have a meeting to critique and make decisions about next year.

~ Linda G.

### Social Action at UUCWI

Donita, Kit, Marilyn, and Tom have been meeting to develop some new directions for Social Action at UUCWI. Our context is *An Inconvenient Truth*, meaning that we need to look at, and adjust our living to, the changes that are happening around us. How can we make this time of challenge an opportunity to live differently, grow our community, and expand personally? We'll be showing the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, hopefully in several locations and at different times in January and speaking to you from the pulpit on Jan.28.

~ Marilyn S.

## Member News & Notes

### Card of Thanks from Peggy B.

Dear Hearts, I want all of you at UUCWI, who have showered me with get-well cards, phone calls and "good vibes" for my Total Hip Replacement surgery, to know how much it means. I truly appreciate being hovered over by your loving attention. I'm making progress slowly but steadily with my mobility. Baird is a good nurse for a doctor. My local daughters have cooked and baby-sat me too. I feel blessed. Have a wonderful T-day. I look forward to returning to church on December 17th.

Love, Peggy

### March Concert Features UUCWI Guest Musician

On March 3, Devin Ossman will be featured as part of the WICA Local Artist Series, "an evening of solo flute and classical chamber music." More information will be in next month's newsletter.

~ Linda G.

## From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey folks,

We have the opportunity, for the first time since I began serving you in 2003, to spend Christmas Eve together as a special time in our community life. I'm looking forward to this night very much, as Christmas Eve has always been an important time for spiritual reflection.

I would like to invite you personally to this special worship service, a time of carols and stories and reflections. Christmas Eve is not only a religious moment, it is also a family moment, and friends and family are warmly welcomed.

On this special evening, we will have a child dedication ceremony to welcome several children into our community and pledge our support to their spiritual well-being. We believe this will be the first ever child dedication ceremony at UUCWI. Lorie Wood and I will offer this ceremony of commitment to our children. In addition, Bill Graves and Cynthia Brix will participate with us in the service.

After the service, we will have a special Christmas Eve goodie-sharing reception; we hope you will bring a plate of Christmas cookies or other treat to share with others.

Our Christmas Eve offering will be shared with an island charity.

I hope you will all try to attend this memorable evening of song, story, and dedication.

The next day, Christmas Day, I will host a Christmas dinner open to all who would like to come. The plan is that I will roast a large stuffed turkey and will provide plates, tableware, and beverages, and that guests will bring the fixings! We'll enjoy our meal together, maybe sing some songs, play some games, whatever we feel like doing.

I'd like to know how many to expect, in case I need to ask people to bring more chairs, so please let me know if you will be coming.

Much love,

*Kit*

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PO BOX 1076  
FREELAND, WA 98249  
(360) 321-8656

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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)

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder (360-675-3314)

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 Nancy S.

Short faxed items

may be acceptable; call 221-8664 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  
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