



Island Passages

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November 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Service: 10 am "The Joy of Pilgrimage" 5:30 pm Dinner at China City	2 9-11 am Worship Committee	3	4	5	6	7 5 pm <i>La Fiesta</i> 
8 Service: 10 am "What Must I do (if anything) to be Saved?"	9	10	11 7:30 pm EvenSong Service	12 7 pm Book Group	13 9-11 BOT	14 10 - noon VAC 1-3 pm NEKK
15 Service: 10 am So- cial Action Sunday 11:30 am SRC Potluck and Meeting	16	17	18	19 4-5:30 pm SEKK	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 Service: 10 am "Abundance in Fearful Times" 11:30 am ZAP Art Opening 5:30 pm North End Eat Out 7 pm Fun on Whidbey	23	24	25 5:30 pm CRE	26	27	28 7 pm Conversation on Theology @ Kit's
29 Service: 10 am Abraxas Service	30					

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From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

As I write, the first rain in several days is beginning to dampen the grass and a breeze stirs the firs outside my window. It feels like autumn today and I'm ready for it!

Our theme for worship this year is "The Great Questions of Human Life" and in November, our question is "How do I become the most whole person I can be?" In evangelical congregations, it's phrased "What must I do to be Saved?" and its doctrinal answer has an other-worldly slant.

We approach this question differently as Unitarian Universalists. We recognize that our lives are not perfect, don't need to be perfect in order for us to be happy, and yet we seek health — in our bodies, minds, and spirits. This is wholeness, this is freedom from dis-ease, this is peace of mind, this is contentment and a sense that our lives matter in the world. We can be whole even if we're terminally ill. We can be whole even if we're grieving a loss. We can be whole even if we're poor or old or lonely. Our services this month will explore this theme.

In other news, we're starting a couple of new events — evening dine-outs on either end of the island, to give us a chance to get together in another way. On Nov. 1, it'll be a reunion of sorts at China City, to enjoy the kind of casual gathering we'd have when we were meeting at 4 p.m. On Nov. 22, a dine-out on the North End will give north-enders a chance to hobnob over a meal, since it's often hard for them to manage two south-end events on a Sunday. I hope you'll check out one or the other — or both!

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Nov. 1: "The Joy of Pilgrimage"

Speaker: Bill G.

Bill is a candidate for the UU ministry sponsored by UUCWI. His sermon grows out of his recent experience walking 250 miles of the Camino Santiago in Spain. The sermon will address pilgrimage as a spiritual practice and as a metaphor for life. Bill's talk will be punctuated with excerpts from pilgrimage poems memorized as he walked and wisdom proverbs of the "Camino" learned along the way.

Worship Leader: Dave C.

Nov. 8: "What Must I do (if anything) to be Saved?"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

This is a hot-button question for us Unitarian Universalists since we have a First Principle which says that we consider every person to have inherent worth and dignity and reject the idea that we need "saving" in the evangelical sense. But we mostly agree that human life has its ways of shaping us in less-than-productive ways and that we have habits and quirks that we need to examine and move beyond, to a happier and more serene, more spiritually satisfying life.

Worship Leader: Judy K.

Nov 11, 7:30 pm: EvenSong Service

This month's candlelight meditation service will focus on Gratitude.

Nov. 15: Social Action Sunday

Speaker: Judith Gorman

Social Action Sunday coincides with Veteran's Day this month, so it is only fitting that we acknowledge our returning veterans and discuss how we can be more involved and supportive in their return to our community. They have made great sacrifices on our behalf, and yet they face severe difficulties in reintegrating with the lives they left behind. Judith Gorman, co-founder of the Veterans Resource Center on Whidbey Island, and friends will tell you what our returning vets are up against and what you can do to help. If you are a veteran, please wear your uniform, a hat, service pins, medals, or insignias that we may honor your contribution. If you are the child of a veteran, bring a memento

for the altar, that we might remember the service of your loved one. Most of all, bring an open heart for the men and women who have freely offered their “greatest devotion” to our freedom and security and learn ways that we might give back to them.

Worship Leaders: SRC

Nov. 22: “Abundance in Fearful Times”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Thanksgiving is coming, a time when we celebrate the abundance of the year, express our gratitude to the universe and to each other for the many gifts we’ve received, and prepare for a winter season of rest and renewal. But it’s been a hard year in many ways. How do we find abundance in life when we are anxious and fearful about the many problems that beset our planet?

Worship Leader: Sara H.

Nov. 29: Abraxas Service

This Thanksgiving Communion Service is adapted from the work of the Congregation of Abraxas, a Unitarian Universalist group in the Boston area in the 1960s -80s who wrote worship resources that adapted traditional liturgies and rituals to reflect UU principles and values. Based loosely on the traditional Eucharist, this service is unique in many ways. Readings from various wisdom traditions explore themes of gratitude for the gift of life, the bounty of the earth, and the renewed commitment to a world of peace, justice and love. Sharing the fruits of the earth with our community both celebrates the abundance in our lives and challenges us to care for those less fortunate.

Worship Leaders: Effie and Mark B.

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Nov. 1, 5:30 pm: Dinner at China City

Let’s get together at China City in Freeland, like we used to do when we were meeting at 4 p.m. This was one of the wonderful features of an afternoon worship service and we’ve missed it. Let’s make it a regular event for those who would enjoy a delicious meal at a favorite restaurant. This month it’s on the First Sunday. We’ll decide later how to schedule it. We’ll count heads at church on Sunday morning before reserving a table. Or you can call Kit.

Nov. 7, 5 pm: UUCWI Auction



Come join the fun. A silent auction will begin at 5pm followed by a scrumptious dinner and an animated live auction. All proceeds go to support our congregation and its works.

¡Olé!



Nov. 12, 7pm: Book Discussion Group

The book to be discussed this month is Joshua Ramo’s *The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us And What We Can Do About It*. Published in March of this year, here is what has been said about this book:

“Ramo pushes the reader into uncomfortable yet exhilarating places with controversial ways of thinking about global challenges (e.g., studying why Hezbollah is the most efficiently run Islamic militant group)” and “lays bare the flaws in current thinking on everything from American political influence to the economy”. “Ramo argues that America needs a new “grand strategy” that resembles an immune system in its flexibility and resilience.”

For more information, go to: <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/unthinkable/index.html>

Meeting will be held at the home of Theo W., beginning at 7pm. Please let Theo know that you are coming by giving her a call. A map to her place will be sent by email a few days before the meeting.

See you there!
Joan G.

Nov. 14, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

Whidbey General’s Cafeteria. Great food and low prices, good coffee, excellent conversation! All welcome.

Nov. 15, 11:30 SRC Potluck and Meeting

All are welcome to attend this month's meeting which will follow the SRC sponsored service honoring veterans.

From the Pres



Spiritual Maturity

Michael Durall's book *The Almost Church Revitalized* includes a brief discussion about "spiritual maturity", and I found that, as I read his book, this concept was the one that most captured my attention and imagination.

He writes

What is the purpose of the church? What should we be about? The answer is unexpectedly simple. Schools educate students. Widget manufacturers make widgets. The purpose of the church is to develop spiritually mature members. This is our "product line", people who find within themselves the courage, fortitude and stamina to stake out better lives for themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens.

Developing spiritually mature members will not happen with people sitting in groups, talking and listening. Right living is more the challenge than right thinking.

Enlightened reason, the hallowed tradition that supports much UU church programming, is insufficient in creating a spiritually mature congregation. Enlightened reason does not define a collective path that a congregation might travel together. UU minister Paul Hull correctly states, "Unitarian Universalism should drop its emphasis on enlightened reason and substitute an affirmation of how people find true meaning in their lives."

Wow! How's that for a challenge? A little later in the book he states "Building meaningful lives is what ministry is all about. Constructing purposeful lives is the calling. What kind of people are we called to become, and how do we become those people in community?"

Durall recommends a few resources to help guide the life-long growth toward spiritual maturity. I will be exploring a few of these. Let me know if you have an interest in pursuing these with me.

As the congregation moves through the process of clarifying our long term goals, I hope we can keep Durall's message in mind.

The Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, minister of All Souls Church in New York City died on September 24th at the age of 61. He had served as minister to that church since age 29. The author of many books, here is a quote from him that fits into this discussion of spiritual maturity: "...generally, politicians try to change society for the betterment of the individual. I like to change the individual for the betterment of society."

Warmest regards,
Lois

Nov. 19, 4-5:30 pm: South End Koffee Klatch

Island Angel Chocolates in Langley. Delicious coffee drinks, chocolate goodies, and fabulous conversation. All welcome.

Nov. 22, 11:30 am: Zimbabwe Art Opening

See VAC entry under Committee News for details.

Nov. 22nd, 5:30 pm: North End Dine Out

San Remo Grill, 421 NE Midway, Oak Harbor. A North End Dine Out, since it can be hard for North Enders to make it to a Sunday evening event in Freeland. The San Remo serves delicious Mediterranean and American food for very reasonable prices. We'll decide later how to schedule it and what other restaurant experiences up north we might sample. We'll count heads at church that morning or you can call Kit.

Nov. 22, 7pm: Fun on Whidbey

We're headed back to Mike's Place for his Sunday Trivia night on Nov 22, at 7:00 for dinner and 8:00 to win prizes in the bundles of laughs, surprises and memories trivia contest. You'll be surprised at how much you know of many different categories in the world. Children are welcome, but may have difficulty with the adult-sized trivia.

Judy



Nov. 28, 7 pm: Conversation on Theology
at Kit's

Conversation on Theology: "What must I do (if anything) to be 'Saved'?" Refreshments at 7, conversation at 7:30.

Announcements

WA UU Voices For Justice Annual Legislative Conference

Join WA State UU Voices for Justice at its 4th Legislative Conference, November 7, 10 am-3 pm, at the Olympia UU Congregation. Representative Dave Upthegrove (33rd Legislative District) is the keynote speaker. He serves as chair of House Ecology and Parks, and a member of the Capital Budget and Transportation committees. He also is a member of the Washington State Climate Advisory Team, which brings together lawmakers, business leaders, and climate experts to identify ways this state can fight climate change.

Coffee, bagels, and socializing begin at 9:30 am; the conference opens at 10 am. Lunch will be provided. Contact Carol McKinley at coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org for information and to register. Regular updates on the Legislative Conference will appear at www.uuvoiceswa.org

Committee News

Choir

For those who have fun singing, please join the UUCWI choir for its November performance. We'll sing the usual Prelude, Offertory Anthem and Postlude November 15. Rehearsals after church Nov. 1 and before church at 8:45 am on Nov. 15. Baird will conduct.

SRC

The Social Responsibility Council has lined up noteworthy speakers for the Veteran's Day service on Nov. 15th. We're also planning speakers for future dedicated services. Another project is creating a local directory of non-profit organizations on Whidbey for voluntary efforts and financial contributions. We are researching children's, emergency, women's, health care services and more. We plan to have that ready for Christmas on our website.

VAC - Art from Zimbabwe at UUCWI Gallery

The Visual Art Committee will present art from Zimbabwe in the Gallery, starting Sunday, Nov. 22. Dick Adams, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Artists Project (ZAP), will introduce the show after the service on the 22nd, starting at approximately 11:30, followed by a reception.

The ZAP is a non-profit organization that assists Zimbabwean artists to become increasingly self-reliant and improve the health and quality of their lives. All of the art comes from the rural village of Weya, and most of the artists are women who are the sole support of children and grandchildren, a huge burden in that devastated country, broken country.

ZAP has made two ongoing commitments to the artists' community. First, they provide free schooling for up to 100 children who've lost parents either to AIDs or any other cause. Second, ZAP provides textbooks for the schools those children attend. This work is supported by the proceeds of sales of art work. Shows of their art are held at churches, and community festivals such as NWFolklife.

UUCWI learned of ZAP when we attended AGM in Salem last February. ZAP art is colorful and vibrant - wonderful folk art. More information about the Zimbabwe Artists Project may be found at www.zimbabweartistsproject.org Please plan to attend the kickoff after church on November 22. The ZAP show will run through Christmas.

To the Congregation

Lay Ministry

The term "lay" refers to anyone who is not a member of the clergy. "Ministry" refers to the act of giving aid or service. Do you come to UUCWI to minister, to be ministered unto, or both?

It's natural to be somewhat self-centered and to seek help for our own needs as a priority. Once we're stabilized, however, it can be life enhancing to reach out and meet the needs of others. Happiness is rarely achieved when we're keeping score of what we're getting; it's much more likely to "just happen" when we help out where we can and put aside concerns about the cost in time and energy.

If we're honest, we'll acknowledge that we often help out because we enjoy the camaraderie, or need recognition. Does it detract from the virtue of our efforts if our motivation for ministering to others is

for our own good? Perhaps, but let's not beat ourselves up over our motivations, as long as we're doing something that needs done. Even hospitals built by masons just "laying bricks" can save lives.

In a healthy congregation ministry is widely shared. Lay roles often include:

- assisting in the conduct of worship services
- teaching or assisting in religious education
- providing leadership by chairing or serving on boards and committees
- coordinating or training volunteers
- volunteering, with a smile, for all those "someone ought to..." tasks
- leaving the facility a bit cleaner and more organized than you found it
- supporting people in crises such as illness or bereavement
- being a listener for those wrestling with spiritual or ethical issues
- providing community welfare services
- communicating in a manner that is timely, accurate, kind, clear, and audible
- resolving differences collaboratively, constructively, and compassionately
- acknowledging the work of others with appreciation and affirmation

The chances are good that if you have been a member of UUCWI for any length of time, you have been drawn into filling many of these roles. Do you see this as your personal lay ministry? You should. If you haven't, consider pitching in. You'll be glad you did.

Thank you for helping with the ministry of UUCWI.

The Committee on Ministry: Kit K., Mark B., Sarah R., and Dave C.

Please Vote to Approve Referendum 71: Protect All families, not just the "traditional" ones

There are over 12,000 people in Washington State registered in domestic partnerships. These families live in every county, in all parts of the state. The domestic partnership law ensures that all of these families have the same protections and responsibilities as their neighbors, regardless of where they live.

Gay and lesbian families need domestic partnership laws to provide essential protections for their families. Committed couples who want to take care

of each other should be allowed to visit each other in the hospital, take family and medical leave when a loved one is seriously ill, and have insurance coverage.

Families with children need the protections provided by domestic partnership laws, especially when a parent dies. Seniors need the protections provided by domestic partnership laws. For seniors, domestic partnerships mean that their hard-earned social security, military or pension benefits are not put at risk. Police officers and firefighters who risk their lives to protect our communities need domestic partnership laws if they are hurt or killed in the line of duty, so that their families are taken care of by their pension or workers' compensation.

By voting to Approve Referendum 71, you will vote to ensure that all families should be treated fairly, especially in times of crisis. Isn't it more important to protect families than to define them?

Ken M.

Community Voices

Let's get to know one another better. This space is dedicated to giving voice to all that we do to further the seven UU Principles. Photos, news of activities church-related or not, poems, questions, musings are all welcome. This space will grow as we hear from more people.

A Word about Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Island County is finishing up house 21 and plans to have our new homeowner and her two kids in by Thanksgiving. We have great volunteers who have generously given over a thousand hours on this house, framing, siding, painting, putting down flooring and many more tasks to provide affordable housing to our partner family. I have spent enough hours on my knees putting down flooring that I feel even older than I look, but the work keeps my spirit young. Like many non-profits in this economy, we struggle to raise the money to keep building. We have families in line for a house, but until we raise the funds, we cannot really put hammers to nails. But we have faith that we will continue to find ways to move forward. If you are interested in learning more about Habitat and how you can help, please contact me.

John L.

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

Minister: Rev. 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.

Director of Religious Education: Vanessa K.

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 Celia B.

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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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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