



November 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10 am Men's Group	4	5	6 10-Noon VAC 5 pm Nifty Fifties 
7 10 am Service: "Hope Has Human Hands" <i>Brief Congregational Meeting</i> Noonish: South End Brunch Bunch	8 9-11 am Worship Committee 7pm Book Group	9 7 pm Building Your Own Theology (classroom)	10 7:30 pm: EvenSong "The Theology of Forrest Church"	11	12	13 1-3 North End Koffee Klatch
14 10 am Service: "Immigration Rights" <i>after svc: BOT</i> 3pm Concert at Trinity Lutheran	15	16	17 10 am Men's Group 7 pm Science Symposium	18 10 am South End Koffee Klatch	19	20
21 10 am Service: "We Gather Together"	22	23	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26	27 7pm Conversation at Kit's
28 10 am Service: "Thanksgiving Communion" 6pm North End Dine Out	29	30				

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

What a lot is going on in our congregational life these days! And how blessed I feel to be able to serve this congregation, with its mix of children, youth, young and older adults! Thank you for being who you are.

As a faith community, we strive to meet the needs of folks who are struggling with health issues, with job loss and other financial woes, with discords in their lives, and to provide a safe haven for people looking for a spiritual home.

Part of our work together recently has been the creation of a Covenant of Right Relations, which is designed to remind us that how we communicate with one another is important. It's easy to shoot off an email or make a remark that has the unintended consequence of hurting someone badly.

Our Great Covenant, as referenced in our Sunday affirmation, states that we "dwell together in peace, seek truth in love, and help one another". I have learned, over the years, to be very aware of how easy it is to hurt someone in these ways and have made many apologies when I have goofed up. It's normal to goof up and hurt someone; it's also important to make amends when appropriate.

We had an excellent session to critique the first draft of the covenant; the task force has taken heed of your input and has modified the Best Practices document to reflect the suggested changes. Almost no changes were required to the covenant itself and we will bring it to the congregation for consideration in the next couple of months.

Thank you for taking it so seriously and providing the excellent feedback.

Much love,
Kit

Calendar Listings

Nov. 7: "Hope Has Human Hands"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

What are our sources of hope in hard times? Is hope just a belief in miracles? Is it mere optimism? Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the experiences that have led her to a new understanding of hope, how we can create hope in ourselves and help others find it too.

Worship Leader: Terra A.

Nov. 10, 7:30 pm: EvenSong

"The Theology of Forrest Church"

During this month's evening service we'll hear brief excerpts from the writings of Forrest Church, Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in New York for almost 30 years. Church was author of over 20 books, including *A Chosen Faith*. One of his most beautiful metaphors is that of the Cathedral of the World. All are welcome at this quiet, contemplative, candlelight service accompanied by harp music.

Nov. 14: SRC Service "Immigration Rights"

Speaker: Dianne Aid

Dianne Aid, who has connections with UU congregations through the New Sanctuary Movement and the "Standing on the Side of Love" movement, will speak at the service. Dianne has been involved in immigration reform advocacy for the past 15 years. She is currently the President of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and serves on the Episcopal National Committee for Domestic Justice.

Dianne will talk about how immigration is woven in to our values--in our stories and traditions as well as in our religious values--and then discuss, by comparison, the messages (e.g. being law breakers/criminals, taking our jobs, etc.) about immigrants currently being voiced in our country. She will also provide truth-telling facts about immigration and review the components of Humane Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Congregation members will have an opportunity to reflect on their own stories of immigration, stemming from their family histories and connections.



Nov. 21: "We Gather Together"

Thanksgiving is perhaps our favorite family holiday, emphasizing as it does the blessings of home and connection. We celebrate the abundance of life's gifts, we express our gratitude for life even when it's hard, and we take pleasure in giving to others out of our full hearts. This Sunday we will begin our Guest at your Table program, to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Worship Leader: Libby R.

Nov. 28: "Thanksgiving Communion"

This 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 includes readings from various wisdom traditions that 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. 7, Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City. We reserve the big table in the back, order several delicious dishes, eat family style, and split the cost. It's lots of fun. All are welcome.

Nov. 8, 7pm: Book Group

Meeting will be held at the church. The book to be discussed, *Stones into Schools*, was written by Greg Mortenson.

The December Book Club meeting will be a potluck dinner and book exchange.

Nov. 9, 7pm: Building Your Own Theology, First Session

Bill Graves will be leading "Building Your Own Theology", An Adult Program of UUCWI. Small groups of UUs will engage in a systematic, disciplined and communal process to build individual credos, or statements of individual beliefs. Everyone is welcome! This curriculum discusses all the important

questions of religion from a UU perspective, allowing each student to come to their own understanding of what makes sense and works. It's a wonderful way to get to know other UUCWI'ers and to begin to explore your own faith.

Goals for Participants:

To determine their values and beliefs about God or ultimate reality, human nature, ethics, and the meaning and purpose of life

To discover what other UUs believe about the great religious questions

To articulate their beliefs in credo statements

To meet the challenge of building their own theology.

We will use the "Building Your Own Theology, Vol. I" curriculum available for \$16.00 at the UU Bookstore: <http://www.uuabookstore.org/>

The curriculum is divided into 10 sessions that the class/leader may decide to expand or contract. Please contact Bill Graves with any questions. This first session will be of an exploratory nature so you are welcome to simply come and discern whether this is for you.

Nov. 13, 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Cafeteria. Good food, good coffee, incredible conversation and lots of laughs. All are welcome.

Nov. 14, 3pm: Concert of French and American Art Songs

Laurie Hungerford Flint, Soprano
Eileen Soskin, Piano

This is the first of the 2010-2011 Winter Concert Series sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island. It will take place at Trinity Lutheran in Freeland.

You are invited to enjoy an afternoon of French and American songs with commentary on the texts and music. Ms. Flint, whose singing has been described as 'ravishing' and 'eloquent' has appeared as a soloist in many venues. She currently lives in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Soskin recently retired to Whidbey Island after a career as an educator and perform-

From the Pres



. . . and to help one another.

You will recognize that phrase as the last part of our “great covenant” that we repeat every Sunday morning during our worship service. I am particularly mindful of this as we approach the winter season.

We are being warned that this winter may be an especially harsh one. I’ve heard some predictions indicating it may be our most severe winter in 50 years. We may very well be called upon to help one another during these next few months.

We each need to be prudent about preparing our own homes and families for harsh conditions, but I would like to also suggest that we make specific plans for how we might help one another.

Do you know which UUCWI members and friends live near you? How about arranging with one or two of them to be disaster buddies. You might compare notes about who will have water and/or heat if the power goes out for long periods of time. What other special needs might arise? If we have a heavy snowfall will you be able to get out of your driveway? Let’s talk with each other about what needs we have encountered in previous storms and how we might be able to help each other if the needs arise again.

November is Thanksgiving month. I am so very thankful to be a part of this amazing UUCWI community.

Warm regards,
Lois

er affiliated with the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and with the University of Iowa, the University of California at Berkeley, and San Francisco State University.

Suggested donations of \$20 will be accepted at the door AND after UUCWI services. Seating will be reserved at the concert for those making early donations. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Good Cheer Food Bank.

Nov. 17, 7pm: Science Symposium – *Ethics, Climate Change and Individual Responsibility*

Please join us for a lively conversation with Lauren Hartzell, PhD, U of Washington. Why and in what ways is climate change ethically challenging? What responsibilities do individuals have with respect to climate change? What difference can I make all by myself? Lauren will help us understand both the complexity of these questions and how we might start seeking answers. She will discuss the ways in which the global and intergenerational nature of climate change raises complex ethical questions and challenges, both at the personal level and at the level of nations and other actors.

Lauren is currently a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Washington where she teaches multiple courses in environmental ethics. When she is not teaching, writing, researching, she likes to spend her time enjoying the wonderful planet we live on - biking, hiking, skiing, kayaking, running, walking.

Suggested donation - \$5. Coffee will be served.

Nov. 18, 10am: South End Koffee Klatch home of Dave and Mavis C. in Clinton.

Nov. 27, 7pm: Conversation at Kit’s

This month's theme is Family and Relationships as Sources of Spiritual Inspiration. Refreshments at 7, conversation at 7:30.

Nov. 28, 6pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba’s new location in Oak Harbor, on the north end of town, at the junction of Highway 20 and Midway/Goldie Roads. We order individually off the menu. Great times! All are welcome.

Announcements

Our UUCWI Library!

About 15 months ago, our minister Kit Ketcham began receiving books for our UUCWI Library from a distinguished individual* she met at the Portland General Assembly in 2007, and together with Librarians Joann R. and Joan G., began to sort through them with amazement and appreciation. Numbering approximately 175, these books form the nucleus of a library about religion, more specifically - using our benefactor's words - books that are "primarily about the religions that are most important in our 21st century context". It is a core collection that will well serve members of our Congregation in their ongoing spiritual journey.

Now that the library shelves are in place, thanks to Sandy W., Dave S. and Ken M., this collection of books on religion is now available to members to check out. Further, a Catalog of all Library holdings, which includes CDs and other media, will be available soon as a link from via UUCWI website so that you can, from home, browse through or search for what you will find on the shelves.

Many of you have asked if you may donate other books for our UUCWI Library. The answer to that question is yes! The procedure for donating books to be considered for our library (for now) is as follows:

1. Contact Joan G., Joann R. or Kit by phone or email to discuss the items you would like to donate and to make arrangements for delivery of them for review.
2. Acceptance of your donated items for the Library will be based on how well they fit into the scope/purpose of the collection.
3. You are requested NOT to drop off books or other items at our building. There is simply no place for storage of such books while they await review.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please don't hesitate to speak with either Joann R., Joan G. or Kit K. Do look forward to an unusual collection of books to add to your reading list!

Joan Gerteis

**You can read about our generous benefactor in a section of the Catalog site called About Our Library.*

Small Group Dinners

There seemed to be so little interest in the dinners that there will be no dinners for the rest of this year. I will try again after the first of the new year.

Karla K.

Peace Activities

The Whidbey peace group meets every Saturday at Bayview Park & Ride from 10-11 am. Come join our friendly, interesting group.

Women in Black, a nation-wide organization, meets the 1st Friday of each month just south of the Bayview Park & Ride on the grass. We display the sign "Women in Black Standing for Peace" from 4-5.

Barb H.

Plan Ahead - Christmas Is Coming

"Gloria! The Many Moods of Christmas II" with the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts Conservatory Choir and the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra Works by Leroy Anderson, Shaw/Bennett and John Rutter

Tuesday, December 7, Langley Middle School, 7:30

Friday, December 10, Oak Harbor HS, 7:30

Tickets at the door.

Covenant of Right Relations

If Living Our Covenant of Right Relations Isn't Enough

This community of seekers is a fabulous, bright, active, and often controversial group of people. We tend to enjoy hashing over ideas and projects, carrying signs, helping each other, the congregation and the building. Just like other people we chatter when we work, we discuss issues in committee meetings, we give instructions. In short, we talk to each other in many ways. Talking with each other, especially when things aren't smooth can sometimes be challenging. That is why the congregation is putting together a covenant of right relations that addresses guidelines on how to be together to keep our community harmonious.

But what happens when we have to admit we or others can't follow the recommendations of our covenant? What do we do if we have troubles communicating with another person in the congregation,

and our usual way of trying doesn't work, even when we follow the right relations guidelines?

What then? We could "fall off the wagon" and resort to whining and gossiping, developing coalitions and fomenting discontent. Sometimes we can feel so self-righteous doing these things that we forget or ignore how hurtful they can be. So, how about if we use some other resources? What would they be?

The first thing to do, with an attitude of humility, is to ask yourself what you've done that helped make this situation difficult. Since none of us is perfect, this first step is very useful in developing personal honesty and accountability. Even if you feel picked on or insulted and you're plenty annoyed, you can probably find some way that you can think about your part that would change the dynamic. Ask yourself, "What do I really want?" "Do I want to be consulted, win, just be heard, end the disagreement, or...?" Decide if an apology from you would defuse the situation. Maybe you need to reflect on areas in which you agree to disagree. If possible, remember that all parties need to "save face" and if you can manage to keep that in mind for the other(s) as well as yourself, that will go a long way to resolving the issue.

After all that reflection, you can try to discuss the situation with the person(s) with whom you are having the difficulty. Approaching a meeting like that with a promise to yourself to engage in "active listening" in which you truly try to understand the other person's point of view is a powerful step toward resolution. With some patience and a willingness to find a mutually acceptable resolution, this step can put the whole issue to rest.

If that didn't work, and the situation is within the working of a committee, you have the option to then go to the committee chair and discuss the situation and possible ways to resolve it. One way or another, this issue will have to be resolved. Often people like to keep it low-key, but sometimes it doesn't feel possible. Once others are involved it can widen the scope of the conflict, the people who know about it, and the consequences to you and others.

Next you can talk to the Minister, or if that isn't possible for one reason or another to one of our chaplains. Ministers & chaplains are trained to deal with issues that come up between people, so consider talking with our minister, it's the right thing to do.

If that doesn't work, you can talk to anyone who is on the Committee on Ministry. The people on that committee are available to work on issues that affect the well-being of the minister/congregation relationship. Right now, the people on that committee are David Cauffman, Mark Brown, and me, Sarah Richards. The committee is charged to bring issues to the group and work up approaches to solving problems. The committee is there for you and for the minister.

Finally, if none of those steps resolves the problem, then the congregation's Board of Directors can ask a third party in to help mediate a situation, or to consult with the congregation. There is a policy in our Bylaws that the Board of Directors can invoke that addresses disruptive behavior. If the Board chooses to engage a third party it can be a person who would mediate between two people. Or that third party can be a task force that performs a congregation-wide assessment to define the problem and suggest solutions. This last option is serious, and will affect the entire congregation, so is not usually called into play until events have progressed to levels that are too highly charged for the congregation to solve on its own.

Back to the beginning, the new covenant of right relations is an excellent plan that we all can use to help guide our actions and words so that all our voices are part of the harmony of the congregation. Don't just "vote with your feet" and leave the congregation. That just leaves everyone sad or mad. Engagement is also a form of respect - both you and folks with whom you have troubles with can give respect to each other in all of this. It's an opportunity.

Bottom line: there is a path to resolution of conflicts:

- ✧ Practice guidelines of the Covenant of Right Relations
- ✧ Look inside yourself
- ✧ Talk to the person with whom you are having an issue
- ✧ Talk to a committee head
- ✧ Talk to the Minister
- ✧ Talk to members of the Committee on Ministry
- ✧ Participate if outside help is engaged

Sarah R.

Committee News

Whidbey in Watercolor

Following our UUCWI Auction the Visual Arts Committee will install a show featuring three local artists. We are very pleased to share some of the watercolors of Margaret Livermore, Ginny O'Neill, and Gary Schallock. Their renditions of Whidbey Island life will remain in our Gallery until the end of December, reminding us all of why we live here in spite of the weather we may be experiencing. If you have any questions about the show or our VAC Committee please ask one of us. We are Nola A., Carol B., Joan G., Mary G., Dallas H., and Christi S.

Religious Education

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

- Rachel Carson

This is one of my favorite quotes and something I live by when working with young children. As adults we see all the issues of our times – pollution, violence, discrimination... But, we have to look beyond these things when working with young children and hold the deep truth that “the world is good.” We have to celebrate with them all the beauty around us. And through this exploration allow children to develop their inherent connection with nature. As children grow rooted in this knowledge, they can grapple with the struggles of our society and help make positive change. But, if they grow up only seeing the problems of our world, they will likely develop fear, frustration, and finally, in an effort to protect themselves, apathy.

As children get older, they can begin to take hold of some of the challenges we, as a culture, pose for the Earth. They can begin to take action using our violet UU principle: Value Nature's Web of Life. This starts in small ways: picking up litter around their neighborhood, composting, reusing and recycling. But, as they continue to mature it can develop into other forms of activism. By the time they are high school students and beyond, they will have the skills to not only identify problems, but have the ability and desire to be a part of the solution.

Our RE program helps to instill this kind of

respect for the world around us. Our youngest students have been listening to the story of “Harvest” – a young girl's experience gardening with her mother and the bounty the Earth provides this time of year. Our older students have designed and created a sacred space outside. As adults we can model for all these children our duty to the Earth not only through our actions, but through our inner attitude that this is a wonderful world in which we live and we are here to help ensure its continued health.

We are lucky to have many incredible volunteer RE teachers who help to guide our students and share with them our UU principles. Here is a brief introduction of one of our Youth teachers:

Paula K. was born and grew up in Alaska. She and her family made Whidbey Island their “winter home” in 1993, but still travel back to Alaska every summer to work as commercial fishers. Paula graduated from UW with a degree in zoology. She feels lucky to be able to spend most of her time outdoors both for vocation and recreation. A lifelong horse-woman and back country traveler, she is mindful of her connection to all life and shares with others the appreciation of our interdependence.

Vanessa K.

Late-Breaking Announcement

New Women's Choir Forming

A New Women's Choir is now forming on Whidbey for all levels of singers. If you are a woman and love to sing beautiful music, join Chanteuse. The director, Cheryl Veblen, will determine placement based on enrollment. The first concert will be a program of love songs in February, 2011. The choir will rehearse Tuesday evenings beginning Nov 2, 6:30-8:30 pm at UUCWI \$75 for 12-week session includes music. Come to the first session and see if this is for you. Veblen has many years' experience teaching choral music and voice. To register call Mavis or email chanteuse.wi@gmail.com



UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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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 concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:

Celia B.

Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.

Ads will not be printed.

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:

Celia B., Newsletter Editor

Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dean E., Webmaster

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