



December 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 10 - Noon VAC
4 10 am Service: "Magnificat" <i>Congregational Meeting after service</i> Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch	5 9-11 Worship C.	6 7-8:30 pm Chalice Singers at Eileen's	7 10 am Men's Group	8	9	10 1-3 North End Koffee Klatch
11 10 am Service: "Rebellious Gratitude"	12	13 7-8:30 pm Chalice Singers at Eileen's	14 7:30 pm EvenSong "Christmas"	15 Noonish South End Koffee Klatch	16	17 6pm Circle Dinners
18 10 am Service: "All Holiday Music Service" 6pm North End Dine Out	19	20 7pm BOT	21 10 am Men's Group 10 am Membership C.	22	23	24 4pm Christmas Eve Service
25 10 am Service: "Unitarian Universalists and Holy Days"	26	27	28	29	30	31

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As the year winds down, the weather changes, the daylight disappears, and we all stay indoors much more, I find myself thinking about the many ways the old year has blessed us. It's a good time to count our blessings and be grateful for the changes that the old year brought, even the tough ones, the losses and the sorrows.

We've grown strongly this year: in membership, in spiritual maturity, in programming, and in love for one another. We've said goodbye to some beloved friends but have celebrated the leadership legacy of those friends. We've come to terms with the realities of managing our own building. We've reached out into our community and have developed a true music ministry, using our talents and our beautiful space to offer a musical spiritual experience to all.

Our congregation offers a great gift to Whidbey Island with our welcoming community, open to those who are looking for a different spiritual path and a place where they can feel at home. In the past year or so, we have welcomed about 20 new members; our hope is to add 20 more in the new year! Though we have lost several folks to death or moving away, those we have gained have quickly begun to contribute their skills and energy to our life as a congregation.

How blessed we are! Our congregational life in the new year promises to be exciting and stimulating. You will be searching for and selecting a new minister to join you on this thrilling journey together. I will be gradually saying my goodbyes, acquainting you with the collegial responsibilities I have toward your new minister, and enjoying your company and the good work of this congregation. We will work together on the issues that arise in the new year and we will be faithful to each other and to our covenant together. I am looking forward to it all!

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Dec. 4: "Magnificat"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

In one of the ancient stories of Jesus's birth, his mother Mary signifies her willingness to answer "yes" to the Divine Call to bear the son of God and raise him in the ways of righteousness. She has been given a great gift but also a great responsibility and she says "yes" to it. In what ways have we humans been "called" to a life of joy and responsibility? Have we been willing, able, hesitant, afraid, joyous or resistant to answer our Call? We will welcome new members today.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

Dec. 11: "Rebellious Gratitude"

Speaker: Debra Thorne

Most of the world's religions, philosophical positions, and scientific research would agree that being grateful is a good thing. Gratitude calms us, softens our hearts, opens us to the beauty and abundance of the world, and we know at our core we have so much to be grateful for. What happens though, when life throws us a curve ball and it hits us hard? When we are hurting and sore and the first response is anger or revenge, how do we get to gratitude? Is gratitude even possible? Only the rebel knows!

Debra Thorne is the Ministerial Intern at Quimper UU Fellowship in Port Townsend this year. She comes from Vancouver, British Columbia where she has been a UU for thirty years. Debra is an acting instructor, a spiritual director, and a playful and curious seeker into the mysteries of being human.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell

Dec 14, 7:30 pm: EvenSong - "Christmas"

All are welcome at this quiet, contemplative candlelight service of holiday readings, songs, and silent meditation. The service is accompanied by harp music.

Dec. 18: "All Holiday Music Service"

We'll hear the Chalice Singers and there will be three additional "special" music presentations – solos by Ken Stephens, by Kit Ketcham and by the Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band. Of course, the congregation will have lots of opportunities to sing as well. Come and join the singing at this holiday time!

Dec. 24, 4pm: "Christmas Eve"

Our annual Christmas Eve service of carols, stories, and reflections will start at 4 p.m. with candle lighting as the sun goes down behind the trees. We will rejoice in the blessings and gifts of this season that have been celebrated in the northern hemisphere since the beginning of time.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Dec. 25: "Unitarian Universalists and Holy Days"

On this Christmas morning, we will have an informal gathering of stories and memories of holidays past. Wear your pajamas, if you like! Bring a favorite gift of the season to show others. We'll learn about ways our faith tradition has contributed to our holiday customs. The service will be intergenerational; there will be no child care or RE program. Please bring a gift of nonperishable food to contribute to Good Cheer.

Worship Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Jan. 1, 2012: "Fire, a Universal Sacred Symbol"

Fire is a sacred symbol common to the beliefs and rituals of many cultures. We will explore the use of fire in the traditions of the Winter Solstice, Jewish Festival of Hanukkah, African American Kwanzaa Festival and the UU Chalice. Join us as we begin the New Year with a candle lighting ceremony affirming our best intentions for ourselves, our families, our community, our country and our world.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

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Dec. 4, Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City, right after the congregational meeting to elect a search committee. We reserve the big table at the back of the restaurant, order several dishes to share and split the cost. Everyone is welcome.

Dec. 10, 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria, 1-3 p.m. Good food, good coffee, hilarious times with the North End crew. Everyone is welcome.

Dec. 15, Noonish: South End Koffee Klatch

at Living Green in Langley. Super-good vegan/vegetarian menu and great conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Dec. 17, 6pm: Circle Dinners

We have two locations again this month, hosting will be Joan Gerteis and Roy and Carol Bingham. Circle dinners are potluck dinners and are a great opportunity to socialize with other Unitarians. To sign up for the December 17th dinner, email Janis Hummel, jhummel50@yahoo.com or call Janis at 360-632-9847.

Would you like to host a Circle Dinner? I still have open dates: January 21, March 17, April 21, and June 16. Contact Janis Hummel.

Thank you to May-Britt and John Kron and to Mollie Swope and Janis Hummel for hosting the November Circle Dinners.

Dec. 18, 6pm: North End Dine Out

location to be determined. We've been shopping around lately and will send out a note to all on the NEKK list (contact kitketcham@comcast.net to get on the list) in advance to let you know where we'll be. Everyone is welcome.

Announcements

WA State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

At its annual Legislative Conference November 12th, WA UU Voices, our statewide legislative advocacy organization, named the four top issues it will address during the 2012 state legislative session -- a session that will be focused on budget constraints and needs to preserve life-giving services for Washington residents.

The four WA UU Voices 2012 advocacy priorities are:

- Raise revenue
- Protect services for low-income persons
- Economic reform
- Restore the democratic process

Read more about the conference at:

<http://www.uuvoiceswa.org/6thLegConfNotes.pdf>

Addressing these critical justice priorities will take all of us working together. WA UU Voices needs your help more than ever. Subscribe to our email newsletter at www.uuvoiceswa.org. Throughout session, we'll keep you posted on justice advocacy days, let you know when your phone call or email to our legislators is essential. Help us bring a hopeful, justice-inspired UU presence to the 2012 legislature!

From Our President



Occupy Bethlehem!

It isn't unusual to have mixed feelings about Christmas. Childhood nostalgia is often overwhelmed by over-the-top commercialism. Shopping malls, with their superficial Santas and raucous reindeer songs, hawk happiness. Just put it on your credit card.

Yet we know in our hearts that the most precious presents we'll give and get don't come in boxes and don't mortgage our future.

Then there's the problem of all the hoopla about the birth of the baby Jesus. The religious turf of Christmas seems to belong to those who take 2000 year old worldviews more seriously than scientific ones. After all, the Christmas story is about supernaturalism, about magic. Isn't it?

Not entirely. Myths, after all, endure because they touch something meaningful in the human psyche. Christmas is filled with symbols, from humble managers to angelic choirs. The stories need not literally be true. The symbols are about promise, about hope. These intangibles are in short supply again; we need them.

Keeping Christmas doesn't just require us to restrain our incredulity, however; it calls for a complete change of heart. We must set aside our everyday enterprises that blindly take our precious lives for granted. Instead, we are called upon to recognize that every birth is truly miraculous – even ours; to free each other through forgiveness; to heal; to be kind; to be thankful; to awaken to the realities and possibilities of love. This transformation is the real magic of Christmas, the key to finding inner peace.

It is time to take back Christmas – to “occupy” Bethlehem. Let us open ourselves to the spirit of Christmas and allow this story of a stable and a star to illuminate our lives. May we each listen to the celestial music and lead our life as the gift that it is.

“Peace on earth, goodwill to all!” the angels sang. They still do.

Caring Connections Master List of Helpful Members and Friends, Fall 2011

The following people have offered to help with these emergencies. When a need arises, use your directory to locate these helpful people and their location. Contact them yourself if at all possible.

1. Meals Brought due to Illness or Pregnancy:

Kate Scott, Roger Harrison, Kit Ketcham, Dallas Huth, Mollie Swope, Janis Hummel, Jelcy Romberg, Glo Sherman, Marcia and Peter Sill, Judi Nyerges, Case Crumley, Judy Kaplan

2. Transportation to Sunday Services

Roger Harrison

3. Tasks Needing Physical Strength

David Holte

4. Visits to a Bereaving Family

Margaret Harris and Roger Harrison, Mollie Swope, Janis Hummel, Joann Roomes, Glo Sherman, Case Crumley

5. Visits to the Sick or Dying

Margaret Harris and Roger Harrison, Dallas Huth, Mollie Swope, Janis Hummel, Joann Roomes, Shelley Lampman, Shirley Ashenbrenner, Glo Sherman, Case Crumley

6. Emergency Pet Care

Mary Stewart, Janis Hummel, David Holte, Judi Nyerges, Case Crumley

7. Transportation to Medical Appointments

Roger Harrison, Dallas Huth, Jelcy Romberg, Mary Goolsby, David Holte, Case Crumley

8. Emergency Housing for Relatives Visiting for Memorials or Sickness

Joann Roomes, Tess Calhoun and Rick Weiss, Jelcy Romberg, Marcia and Peter Sill

9. Help During Power Outages

David Holte, Tess Calhoun and Rick Weiss, Marcia and Peter Sill, Judy Kaplan

10. Emergency Child Care

Judy Kaplan

Year End Tax Strategies

Now is the time that many people look at their tax situation for the year. There are some things you can do that benefit both your tax situation and the Church. Next year we will begin to work on a planned giving program for the future, but in the mean time, if you want to support the future of UUCWI, please copy the following URL into your browser for an article on the subject.

http://finance.yahoo.com/focus-retirement/article/113737/year-end-tax-saving-strategies-smartmoney?mod=fidelity-managingwealth&cat=fidelity_2010_managing_wealth

Mark Brown, Treasurer

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 3-4.

Barb Hutton

Stewardship Drive Coming in March

We live in exciting times! Our small, but growing, congregation is a-buzz with activity. Our Adult Programs are numerous and varied. Our Annual Auction set another record. Large numbers of interested newcomers are attending our UU101 classes. We have a newly formed Search Committee that will soon be hard at work looking for our new minister.

In order to have a budget for the 2012-2013 program year in place and a new ministerial candidate identified in time for our congregational meeting, we have to move our annual pledge drive forward. Our all-member canvass will take place in mid-March. We want to be able to present a solid picture of who we are and what we have to offer when each prospective candidate is interviewed.

With that in mind, during December and January we will be assembling the various sub-committees needed to make our Stewardship effort successful. Please take a look at the various roles that are to be filled, and contact Lois if you are available to assist.

- **Visiting Stewards:** We need about 30 people who are willing to call on 3 other households during

canvass week to discuss the health of the congregation. (There will be a training session for visiting stewards on Saturday, February 25th.) This is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with a few more members of our UUCWI family.

- **Kitchen Crew:** We need a group of 6 or more who will plan and prepare the Stewardship Kick-off Dinner to be held on March 10th
- **Decorating Crew:** 2 or 3 people who will decorate the hall for the dinner.
- **Clean Up Crew:** 5 or 6 people who will remain after the dinner to clean up.
- **Publicity Team:** 3 or 4 people who will plan the brochure, put blurbs in the e-news, write newsletter items.

There is something for everyone here! And our teams always have such a roaring good time working together that I think you will feel like you missed the party if you don't grab one of these slots!! Join the fun, and help us make this our most successful Stewardship event so far.

Lois Chowen, Stewardship Chair

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell to Speak in January

We are very pleased that Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell of Portland will be speaking at our service on Jan. 15. She will bring a documentary entitled *Raw Faith* which we have arranged to show at the Clyde Theater on Saturday afternoon, Jan 14. *Raw Faith* is an intimate and revealing documentary that follows two years in the private life of Rev. Dr. Sewell, an outspoken and socially progressive Unitarian minister who has re-energized her Portland community. Yangsi Rinpoche states, "Marilyn Sewell is a person who is able to communicate directly to people's hearts. She is fearless where she stands. It is an honor to know someone of her courage and compassion."

Libby Roberts



Board of Trustee News

New Board Policy On Fundraising

After extensive coordination that included forming and hearing from a fundraising task force, the UUCWI Board approved a new policy on fundraising. You can view by pasting the following URL in your browser.

<https://docs.google.com/...>

The new policy provides an application form and a path for approval (or disapproval) for events and activities designed to raise funds for the general operating fund or for special purposes such as social action, assets such as building improvements, a new piano, etc. It also applies to any events that create financial risk to the congregation, even if their primary purpose is not to raise funds. This policy and procedure should reduce confusion and frustration both on the part of those with fiduciary responsibility and also those promoting solutions to fiscal problems through fundraising. It provides the Board with the information needed to judge whether the operating funding needs are going to be met before approving fundraisers for other purposes. Fundraisers must have a sponsoring committee and be coordinated with other committees that may have a stake in the activity.

It has long been our practice not to pay performers in our events who are members of the congregation. (This is also true for speakers and special musicians in our services.) As a small organization with limited resources, we depend upon the many talented individuals who donate their services, and it would be impossibly difficult, and possibly divisive, to decide to pay some and not others. This policy therefore codifies our practice of not paying members for performances, and strongly encourages soliciting donated services from other performers as well. The procedure allows review of whether a fundraiser or event makes financial sense in terms of net proceeds and risk.

In general, we would be healthier and it would be simpler if we could depend entirely on pledges to meet the operational needs of the congregation; your pledges are our "bread and butter". However, our ambitions to build our meetingplace and to have a half time minister while still a small congregation, dictate that we will for some time yet depend upon events such as the annual auction, concerts and book

sales to supplement our pledge drive. There is an additional justification for sponsoring fundraisers that meet special needs or reach out to the community: supporting them becomes an individual choice for members, rather than, as part of the operating budget, a choice delegated to others.

Your generous support of your time and talents, as well as money, for all of these endeavors, is gratifying. Thank you!

*The UUCWI Board of Trustees
submitted by Dave Cauffman, President*

From the Treasurer

As we begin the process of looking for a new minister, some financial facts are in order. Our current budget calls for about \$20,000 in compensation for Kit. We pay her for 1/3 time, but she really works at least half time. The BOD and members who have been interviewed indicate that we want and need at least a half time minister. We have grown and want to continue to grow into our beautiful space, and an excellent minister has been part of that growth.

The UUA salary guideline for a half time minister for a congregation our size begins at \$32,000. That is the total of salary, employment taxes, retirement, etc. - an increase of \$12,000 above our current budget. The current thinking of the BOD is that we will be able to reach this amount in two steps. In our 2012-2013 budget we will propose a figure of about \$25,000 making the assumption that the new minister will probably start sometime in the fall. Then the 2013-2014 budget would include the full \$32,000. We know that this may be a stretch, but given the recent generosity of the congregation, we believe we can do it.

As we gear up for the process of a search, there will be unbudgeted expenses for the search committee. We raised over \$2,000 specifically for this process at the auction. (Thank you, Ken and Libby, for your help.) We also raised about \$1,000 more than our stated auction goal which filled the budget gap of \$1,000 "additional fundraising". I believe that the auction results were so strong because we want to find and appropriately compensate a good candidate.

Our attendance and our membership are growing regularly because of Kit and the work the rest of

us have done. We have demonstrated that we are generous and that we believe in the mission of Liberal religion on South Whidbey Island. That is one of the many reasons that I love this community.

Mark Brown, Treasurer

Committee News

Caring Connections Committee

The CCC is asking the congregation to assist our RE director, Vanessa, and her young family in preparing meals at least twice per week until the first of the new year. She requests meals with no wheat (gluten-free) or cabbage-family plants.

We were successful in providing meals throughout November. Let's continue until the first of the year. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer or you can call Judy Kaplan at 425 404-1886 (new) or email her at peacefuljudyone@gmail.com (also new) to choose a date. She will coordinate this effort. What a warm, loving way to benefit our community.

Judy Kaplan

Children's Religious Exploration

We have been blessed of late with a pretty consistent and growing group of young people attending all levels of our Religious Exploration program at UUCWI. Our teachers and helpers are thrilled to see so many bright, happy explorers coming through our doors. Vanessa continues to enjoy time with Greta during her maternity leave, but she confesses she's getting antsy to bring Greta to church and show her off. I can safely say we feel the same way. Hurry back, we miss you, and the line is already forming to hold the baby.

Wonder Play has been a joyful place these last couple months. For the months of October and part of November, Kim Larson brought a beautiful story of harvest time. The children enjoyed smelling the different herbs and eating the delicious fresh carrots and apples from Kim's garden, and celebrated the end of harvest time with a yummy blackberry jam feast on crackers. We also cleaned lavender buds from the stem, which was a delightful sensory experience. Now, Frances Kenney is the storyteller, as we celebrate the birth of Greta, daughter to beloved RE director Vanessa Kohlhaas with the story *On the Day You Were Born*. The children are filled with wonder at

this amazing event, and we enjoy pondering all the beautiful things that greeted each of us the day we were born. In December, Kim will once again be the storyteller, bringing a story of St. Nicholas, which the children are sure to enjoy. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped make Wonder Play a wonderful place for our children!

We are really fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented people working with our kids. Vanessa has, very wisely, made space in the teacher's schedules so they can attend services from time to time and get to know us better. This is also an opportunity for us to get to know them. So don't be strangers. If you see one of the teachers in a service, thank them and make them feel welcome. Earl Berg has also generously offered to mentor our Youth group and will be leading services with our 12-and-overs. And most important, thanks to all of you who recognize that a vital and growing Children's Religious Exploration Program is essential to our mission and development as a congregation. It is the nurturing support of this congregation that makes this program possible.

Ken Merrell

MALCOLM

He's gone

This man of strong opinions

And many hats

From golfing guru to mathematics whiz,

Dramatic roles, Tartufe to Oberon.

Talking of hats, he wore them with such style,

Trilby to tea-cosy and back!

He lent us all his flair for thought

Encouragement came easy to him

From his position of clarity

Despite his title, penned by me,

Of "favourite irascible Scot"

He was much loved,

Irascibility tempered by gentleness

That came of late to demonstrate

The sweetness of the man.

Moved by brave and noble action

He left us not to weep

But to rejoice in his nobility.

We miss him

Now he's gone

Pat Pritchard

UUCWI 2011 - 2012 Board of Trustees

Dave Cauffman, President

Terra Anderson, Vice President

Mark Brown, Treasurer

Sara Heath, Secretary

Janis Hummel, Trustee

Dallas Huth, Trustee

Ken Merrell, Trustee

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 Kohlhaas

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items
concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU
principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:
Celia Bartram: celiabartram@gmail.com
Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.
Ads will not be printed. The deadline for each
month's newsletter is the 20th of the previous month.

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

Communications Committee:

Celia Bartram, Newsletter Editor

Mavis Cauffman, Church Administrator

Dean Enell, Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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