

**UMPQUEST**  
**UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**  
**June 2009**

Reverend's Riffs

"Talking to Those Who Are Telling You, You Are Going To Hell"

believe either of those statements would not be true to you. So, what does one do in these situations?

Most of us have been in this situation at one time or another, there you are at a family gathering, or swimming laps at the YMCA, or minding your own business at the Safeway and then it comes, THE QUESTION... "Are you saved," or "Have you taken Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior?" And pushing your cart that has wheels going in all directions and you are late for a meeting, or holding your paper plate of food and the jell-o is now running into the pork n' beans, you stare dumbly at the person who asked the question and wonder what to say as an answer.



Well, one thing one could do is to take a deep breath and ask a question yourself. A couple suggestions could be; "Why is that important to you?" or "When did you feel you were saved, and why did that make a difference in your life?" You see, by asking questions you

accomplish two desired ends. One, it gives you time to formulate a response, and two it does give the person asking the question a chance to explain more clearly, hopefully why these issues are of importance to them. And that's what it's all about by the way, issues of importance.

On the one hand you don't want to be rude. On the other hand, you do want to be honest to the very careful, thoughtful and wonderful spiritual journey you have personally been on. To say no you are not saved or take Jesus as your savior would/could be a put down to their belief system that obviously is taking all this quite seriously. To say yes, if you don't

After they have shared and again you are at an impasse, have a statement of faith ready that explains where you are in your religious journey. If you are pretty clear about who you are as person of faith, maybe not their faith, but faith none the less, it will easier for you to teach them

*(Continued on page 3)*

**UU MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to create and maintain a diverse, caring community that encourages ethical, intellectual, and spiritual growth. To accomplish this mission, we covenant to welcome individuals and families; to share the joys and sorrows of life's passages; to educate children and adults in our UU Principles values and heritage, and to act personally and collectively on our UU principles and values in a larger world.

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**Minister**.....**Rev. Annie Holmes**  
 Director of Religious Education.....Kandie Kato  
 Music Director.....Roberta Hall

**Church Officers**  
 President.....Gary Pischke  
 Vice President.....Anna Slemmer  
 Treasurer.....Doris Heyman  
 Secretary.....Lucy Harrington  
 Member At Large.....Jan Fritz  
 Member at Large.....Gail Spitze  
 Member at Large.....June Ervin

**Committee Chairs**  
 Adult Enrichment .....Paul Zegers & Lucy Harrington  
 Art.....Lucille Alfred  
 Cares & Concerns...Lorrie Agost-Caley & Pat Zemlin  
 Building.....Mel Watts  
 Green Sanctuary.....open.....  
 Membership.....Lori Farmer  
 Ministry.....Jim Pratt  
 Music.....Elizabeth Herbert  
 Office.....Gail Spitze  
 Community Action.....Jim Terry  
 Sunday Services.....Jim Pratt  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Judy Robertson  
 Webmaster.....Bernie Fox

## June Sunday Services

### **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

“Gather the Spirit, Gather the Power”

Rev. Holmes

This Sunday is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ministry in churches including Catholic, Lutheran and Unitarian Universalist. I will walk down memory lane of the past 20 years and share with you some joys and sorrows of this unique and often times opaque profession to which I have been called. And this is the actual anniversary date of my ordination to the UU ministry.

### **Sunday, June 14, 2009**

“The Celebration of the Annual Flower Communion” Worship Leader: Jacie Pratt

At this service, which we celebrate every year, you are asked to bring a flower either from your yard, a neighbor’s yard, the roadside or a florist shop. This flower represents you. All the flowers will be gathered into a basket during the service as we honor and celebrate the diversity of our church community. We will also hear the heroic story of how this ritual ceremony came to be.

### **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

“A Father’s Story: It’s Hidden In The Heart”

Rev. Holmes

Happy Father’s Day. Come and share the power, the humor and the serenity of what it means to be a father in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

“Do UU’s Have a Theology”

Jim Pratt

### **Item: Update on the Rental House**

Action: \$7,500 was spent on the renovation and improvements necessary to improve the property. Stiles Realty Property Management will be representing the UUU Church in all rental arrangements. The Church will be applying for a Chalice Lighter's Grant to make improvements to the church building, purchase new tables and create a handicapped access ramp.

### **Item: Formation of new Committee**

Action: An ad hoc committee has been formed by Jacie Pratt to assist in the formation of a long range plan for our church. Other members include Dean Byers, Jan Fritz and Lucy Harrington. Anyone wishing to join the committee should contact Jacie Pratt.

**The motion to adjourn was made by Larry Flanagan and seconded by Gail Spitze.**

Respectfully submitted by

Lucy Harrington

Secretary



## Congregational Meeting

May 17, 2009

Members Present: 23



### Item: Election of New Officers

Action: The nominees for new positions on the Board are:

Sara Byers - Treasurer

Paul Zegers - Secretary

Marilynn Stephens - Member-at-large

Claire Dalzell - Member-at-large

It was moved by Joyce Swanson, seconded by Larry Flanagan that all members be approved. Further discussion revealed confusion about the appointment of the Treasurer. The motion was amended by Judy Robertson to allow Sara Byers to consider all aspects of the Treasurer position before accepting the approval. Rev. Annie Holmes suggested that if Sara accepted the position but found it difficult to continue, her resignation could be made at the November Congregational Meeting. This was acceptable to Sara, and the motion passed with a majority vote.

### Item: Approval of the Operating Budget for 2009-2010

Action: It was moved by Sara Byers, seconded by Gail Gaston that the Budget be approved. Motion passed with a majority vote.

*(Continued from page 1)*

something about other ways of believing. Now, there are all kinds of people in all stages of their own faith who will asking these questions of you. And I think with fondness and love all those people, when I was searching for a new way to be religious, who took the time and opened up for me with their sharing and their witness, a whole new way of looking at church. I am forever grateful to these brave people who were not put off by my narrow mindedness or my lack of understanding of what it truly means to be interfaith. And because they shared deeply and lovingly with me, I am who I am today religiously and where I am today, at the UU church! Some of this journey I made on my own that is true, but I am savvy enough to know that I did not make this journey alone. And, if you have your religious faith in a sound bite or two that truly explains who you are and what you are truly believe, you too could be an evangelist, a conduit of the good news of our faith.

I like to think of the Unitarians as champions of the idea that God was one. And that reason and religion could, and should go together. If something is not reasonable then they were not ready to swallow it just because someone, or some institution said they should. And they wanted to learn from other religions. The Transcendentalists gave us the gift of

seeing the world's religions as sign posts and gate ways to great universal truths. The Universalists were not going to accept that God was an angry God ready to send you to hell. They preached God was good and loving and wanted all people in heaven with him. So, they took on the fundamentalists of their time and said, "Show us in the Bible where it says we are sinners in the hands of an angry God. And if it's not there, then we won't believe it."

When I am confronted with people who are afraid for my soul going to hell because I don't believe as they do, I thank them for their concern. I accept their prayers and worry for the state of my soul and then I let them know, in no uncertain terms, that it is their hell not mine that they are talking about. I don't have that same hell in my vocabulary. And then I move on. Move on down the aisle of the store, or the living room with my plate of food. Sometimes great and wonderful things happen with the very smallest but powerful truths shared.

And that is what I would say to someone who was devout in their faith and concerned with my soul and hell. And, oh yes, you could always invite them to come to church.

See you in church, Annie



June 2009

# Musings

Gary Pischke  
Church President

We are in that period of time that some of us cry out "Lions, tigers and bears". We have an uncertain economy, unemployment in the local area, and a possible pandemic from a novel flu lurking out there. What to do? Well, even with all of the concerns coming up, we have a stable enough funding base to continue as we have. We just have to be aware of the issues that may come up.

Our board will have four new members with possible new approaches to the church oversight. We have the opportunity to move forward on making a long range plan with possible location changes. That means we may actually move from our somewhat hidden church location to a more central and easily found location. Our hope is that we can find a location more accessible to the community. And a place that we can more readily help the community.

An ad hoc planning committee is being formed. If you are interested in helping plan the future path of the church, and gather the information on how we want to plan that path, please join the committee. Questionnaires will be distributed periodically at the Sunday service to gather your thoughts. So please send in your thoughts on a long range plan. We have the results from Fall 2007, but times have changed.



## 2009 Unsung Hero

**Connie Erickson**

A servant to mankind, with limitless compassion and unending generosity.

Leader, organizer, mother

Grandmother, sister, wife

friend, teacher, lover

story-teller, motivator, worker-bee

humorist, world traveler, athlete

gardener, daughter, mentor

This hero is

deeply spiritual, accepting, confident

creative, responsible, tolerant

truthful, wise, all inclusive-never knowing a stranger.

Just the other day I heard a story of the "Rose Lady". A meeting by phone, a friendship began. Diagnosis of a chronic illness, a work party was organized to tend the rose garden and not just once. Her daughter asked perplexed, "Why would she do that?" because that is how Connie Erickson is.

Connie is not only the UU Un-sung Hero, but a hero to all she invites into her life.



## 2008 Unsung Hero

### Bernie Fox

This year's unsung hero  
was a Unitarian suburbanite  
who brought his traditions  
to share as a UUU ruralite.

Knights of Pythias, Confidence Clinic,  
and Watters Street appetites  
enjoyed circle dinners and twenty years of  
Easter breakfast waffle bites.

While son, Seth, was visiting,  
you went to a downtown site,  
to dig a hole, and pour cement,  
to hold the first Peace Pole tight.

You, and Larry, helped organize  
the men's support group invite.  
Then, for three years, you served as treasurer,  
with your financial insight.

You chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee  
putting our goals in sight,  
as the Building-Search Committee  
eased the church home plight.

While committees built bridges  
to help members unite,  
you, and good ole Gordy Larson,  
built the ramp to the right.

Four times on the Nominating Committee,  
your team brought volunteers into the limelight.  
Two times on the Ministerial Search Committee,  
your team separated the gold from the pyrite.

While others painted walls,  
you conquered a great height,  
to put up picture-frame molding,  
and make the ceiling white.

You ordered carpet from Sears,  
checking that the installers did everything right.  
Fourteen years later, you and Mel  
used born again cleansing to get dirt out-of-sight.

Since coffee is the Unitarian wine,  
you prepare it as black as anthracite,  
In a pot you fixed, and in another you ordered,  
so members can sip their morning delight.

Our small sign was an arrow down the street  
that you posted like a young acolyte.  
You ordered the big sign out front,  
and with Redge, sunk it in the bentonite.

You built the easel for lecture notes,  
since our speakers are erudite.  
You built the stand for sound-system notes,  
Now our music is dynamite.

You facilitated for the pledge drive,  
and the Finance Committee by lamplight.  
You're on the Building Committee and have  
offered to contract the next building site.

In caring for our church's health,  
you are sometimes quite forthright.  
But we have learned to appreciate,  
your knowledge and your foresight.

Bernie, you have fed us, and led us.  
You've shared your milestones with candlelight.  
Behind the scenes, you've cared and repaired for us.  
Tonight, it's your turn in the spotlight.

Laura Brown  
May 16, 2008

## New and Not-So-New Member Bio



### Meet Sharonlee Schwartz

By: Sheila Lawrence

Sharonlee is one of our newest members, and as it is with all of our members, it is with great pleasure that we welcome her.

Spending her childhood in North Carolina, where her parents still reside, Sharonlee is a product of a Presbyterian mother and a Jewish father, curiously raised in the Jewish faith.

Graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in 1993, she spent a year in India, researching human rights decisions by the Indian Supreme Court.

Sharonlee has always worked for Legal Aid, her first assignment was on a reservation in South Dakota for two years, before coming to Roseburg where she has remained for the past 13 years. She is very proud of the fact that her entire career has been devoted to Legal Aid, and as an added thought by the author, it was Sharonlee who devoted much time and energy to the plight of the residents of Saddle Butte Mobile Manor. In the end, the residents were able to lock in a twenty year lease - Legal Aid and especially Sharonlee played a very large part in that success.

Once married, but now a single mother of two, Sharonlee spends her precious time with Sophia, a budding artist, who is six and attends Kindergarten at Cobb Street, and Samuel, who has learned, in his two years of life, to love animals.

Our Unitarian Universal luck still hums along the wires of our existence, attracting vital and energetic peoples from a myriad of places who harbor extraordinary talents that provide our world with learning and love.

## UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

May 12, 2009



Members present: Rev. Annie Holmes, Gary Pischke, Anna Slemmer, Lucy Harrington, Doris Heyman, Jan Fritz, June Ervin, Gail Spitze. Guest: Jacie Pratt

### Item: Update on rental activity

Action: A motion was made by June Ervin, seconded by Gail Spitze to contact Stiles Realty Property Management to represent the church rental property. The motion was passed unanimously. Anna Slemmer will contact Patrice Glasscock and make the necessary arrangements.

### Item: Discussion of Church Audit by State of Oregon

Action: The church will pay \$2,200 because of reclassification of some of our paid employees.

### Item: Discussion of proposed budget/results from pledges

Action: Our goal: \$83,000; current pledges: \$76,000. The church will hold a fundraiser Book Sale on Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4.

### Item: Agenda for Congregational Meeting

Action: These items will comprise the agenda of the Congregational Meeting:

1. Election of four new officers
2. Approval of the operating budget for 2009-2010
3. Update on rental house
4. Any other directives from the floor of the congregation

### Item: Application to the Board for the approval of a new committee

Action: Jacie Pratt proposed the formation of an ad hoc committee to assist the congregation in long range plan formation. In addition to Jacie Pratt, Dean Byers, Jan Fritz and Lucy Harrington will be on the committee. One to two additional members are being sought. Board approved unanimously.

(Continued on page 7)

## UUU AUCTION FUNDRAISER

This is a reminder to all of you who are organizing events, fieldtrips etc. from the 2008 auction. Please be sure to schedule your event and call the participants. Events and fieldtrips have been the best money makers. Everyone enjoys the geology fieldtrips (led by Gary and Elizabeth), the art workshops led by Jemma Crae, the garden tours organized by Dana and Connie and the special dinners!

PLEASE be thinking of an event or fieldtrip that you are willing to organize for the 2009 UUU Auction. The August 15<sup>th</sup> fieldtrip to Aprovecho earned about \$500 for the 2008 UUU auction and the women's trip to Portland earned over \$700. The movie night at Dean and Sara Byers is a great example of an event! This year more than ever we need your creative ideas.

The 2009 UUU Auction is scheduled for Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. We need an event organizer for this year's auction. Connie Erickson has organized the last two auctions. She will be traveling in Guatemala this year in Oct. Connie has agreed to work with the new auction organizer. She has a complete folder on how to organize the auction. Remember this is our biggest fundraising event!



### ART IN THE GARDEN



You are invited to attend the Art in the Garden event on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Connie and Dave Erickson. This is one of two fundraiser events to raise money for 3 different Mayan Cooperatives in Guatemala.

Funds to each of these cooperatives help send a young Mayan girl to school in addition to helping the families purchase water filters.

Dear U3 Family,

Care and Concerns Committee would like all to know that Jody Ahlstedt has been very ill with Shingles. Now that is over, she has another illness that is keeping her home. She has been very sick. Healing thoughts and prayers, we believe, would be very much appreciated.

Lorrie Agost-Caley

## UUUC COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE AT WORK

Our FIRST SUNDAY CANDLE LIGHTING (May 3) featured Tom Baker and son, Toby, and a report on Oregon (and Douglas County) Special Olympics summer activities. Toby is a participating athlete and has been most of his 15 years. We were all impressed by the local and State programs and pleased to collect over \$300.00 for them.

Other "COMMUNITY VOICES" recently heard at CAC Candles other than at a First Sunday were Jim Purchio explaining his plans for his Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Winston and Verne Haas who brought us up-to-date on the FISH program.

The JUNE 7 FIRST SUNDAY CANDLE will feature Douglas County Boys and Girls Club updates.

EARTH DAY activities on Saturday, April 25, were very well attended at the Fairgrounds (estimated 3500 attended). Our booth taught over 300 kids (from 9 to 90 years) how to grow their own sunflowers. Each "kid" planted his seeds in a biodegradable pot made from newspaper to take home and plant in his garden on Mothers Day. Some sunflowers planted from last year's Earth Day grew to over seven feet tall!!

Our faithful volunteer crew worked from before 10 am until after 4 pm to see that so many kids and families had a great "green" experience. Special recognition and thanks go to Sheila Lawrence (and Jay!), Jackie Wagoner, Judy Robertson, Kasha Claire, Hope Lindsay, Anna Slemmer, Jim Terry, and Kandie Rae (who designed and made the wonderful banner identifying the booth as UUU Church's activity). Phyllis Zegers couldn't be there Saturday, but did important "behind the scenes" work.

BUMPER STICKERS are showing up on members and friends' cars and are available on the table with Annie's sermons for \$1.50. BOOK MARKS are free for you to pass on to others we want to interest in our church. The office has them, or ask a Community Action Committee member to get some for you.

Jim Terry and Hope Lindsay CAC co-chairs

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **Item: Nominating Committee Results**

Action: The following nominees will be presented to the congregation for approval: Sara Byers, Paul Zegers, Marilyn Stephens, Claire Dalzell. It is being proposed that (budget allowing) Kara Lompfrey, our church administrator, will assist the incoming treasurer with bookkeeping chores. It is possible, but not confirmed, that she might also take the minutes for future board meetings.

### **Item: Review of H1N1 flu concerns**

Action: It is hoped that congregants will observe good cold/flu hygiene practices.

### **Item: Office Calendar entries**

Action: Lucy is to contact Chairs of all committees to request that they contact Kara Lompfrey to reserve dates on the calendar for their meetings.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 at the UUUC.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Harrington

## CHURCH FUNDRAISER

We will be having a book, movie, video, etc. sale at the church on Friday, July 3rd, and Saturday, July 4th. The sale will go from 9am-3pm. You can begin bringing books to the church beginning Tuesday, June 30th.

Please call Anna Slemmer for more information.



### Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report April, 2009 represents the '08-'09 fiscal year.

Our total pledges for 2008-2009 are **\$ 80,000.**

Fish Contributions in April was **\$ 268.00** plus food collected for the month.

Total pledge income received in April 2009 **\$3,630.00.**

Total Plate Cash income received in April **\$540.00.**

Our plate cash give away in April was **\$322.00** and went to Douglas County Museum.

Total Income **\$8,201.45.** Total expense **\$9,381.56** (Income & expenses include the Pass through money).

Actual Church Income - **\$7,611.45.** This includes **\$3,000.00** taken from the Domini Money Market Fund to cover May expenses.

Actual Church expense - **\$9,069.55.**

Minister salary and expense for April was **\$ 4,443.27.**

Pledges received for 2009-2010 fiscal year so far are **\$75,125.00.** We still have a few calls to make.

**Rental Property Report** - We have spent **\$7,305.74** so far. We still have to purchase window coverings. **\$2,500** was taken from the Domini fund to cover a part of these expenses.

Our Membership is 61 members and 51 friends of the Church.

**Doris Heyman, Treasurer**

### Announcement

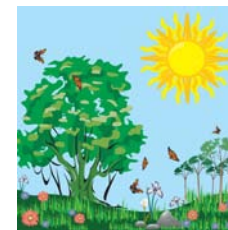
**Rev. Holmes will be out of the office and visiting her children in Wisconsin on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. In case of an emergency please call the church office.**

**Kandi Kato will be gone the last 2 Sundays in June. There will be replacement Sunday school teachers on those days.**

### Open House Invitation

As Rev. Holmes will be celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a minister on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, she and Bille' her partner would like to invite the congregation to a celebration Open House on that day from 3:00 to 5:00. The Open House will be held at their home at 352 N. Comstock in Sutherlin. Please bring a plate of some finger food to share. Beverages will be provided. If you would like to present a gift of some kind to Rev. Holmes, please make a donation to FISH or UCAN in her name.

### Celebration of Life



Please join our family in a celebration of life on Saturday, June 13, 2009, at 1 p.m. for Michael R. Heyman who passed away on April 10, 2009. The service will be held in the Umpqua Unitarian Church, 2167 NW Watters Street, Roseburg. A reception following the service will be held below the stairs immediately following the service.

### Flower Communion

On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the beauty and sacredness of our bond as a congregation with a celebration of Norbert Capek's Flower Communion. For this annual event, bring a flower that will symbolically represent you and your flowering amid our congregation. As explained by Dr. Capek, the flower is something beautiful, something natural, something unique yet commonly shared, and a reminder of the resurrection of life each Spring.



# June 2009

## Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

2167 NW Watters Roseburg, Oregon 97471 (541) 672-2250

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Rev. Holmes returns from vacation	3 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation	4 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	5	6
7 10:30am - Sunday Service	8	9 Rev. Holmes on vacation until June 16th	10 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation	11 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	12	13 1:00pm - Celebration of Life for Michael Heyman
14 10:30am - Sunday Service	15 Newsletter articles due!	16 Rev. Holmes returns from vacation	17 Noon - Mindfulness Meditation 6:30pm - Board Meeting @ Church	18 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	19	20 12:30-3:30pm - Shamanic Journal Circle with Sharon Haag
21 10:30am - Sunday Service	22	23	24 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah	25 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome! General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah	26 General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah	27 General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah
28 10:30am - Sunday Service General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah	29	30				